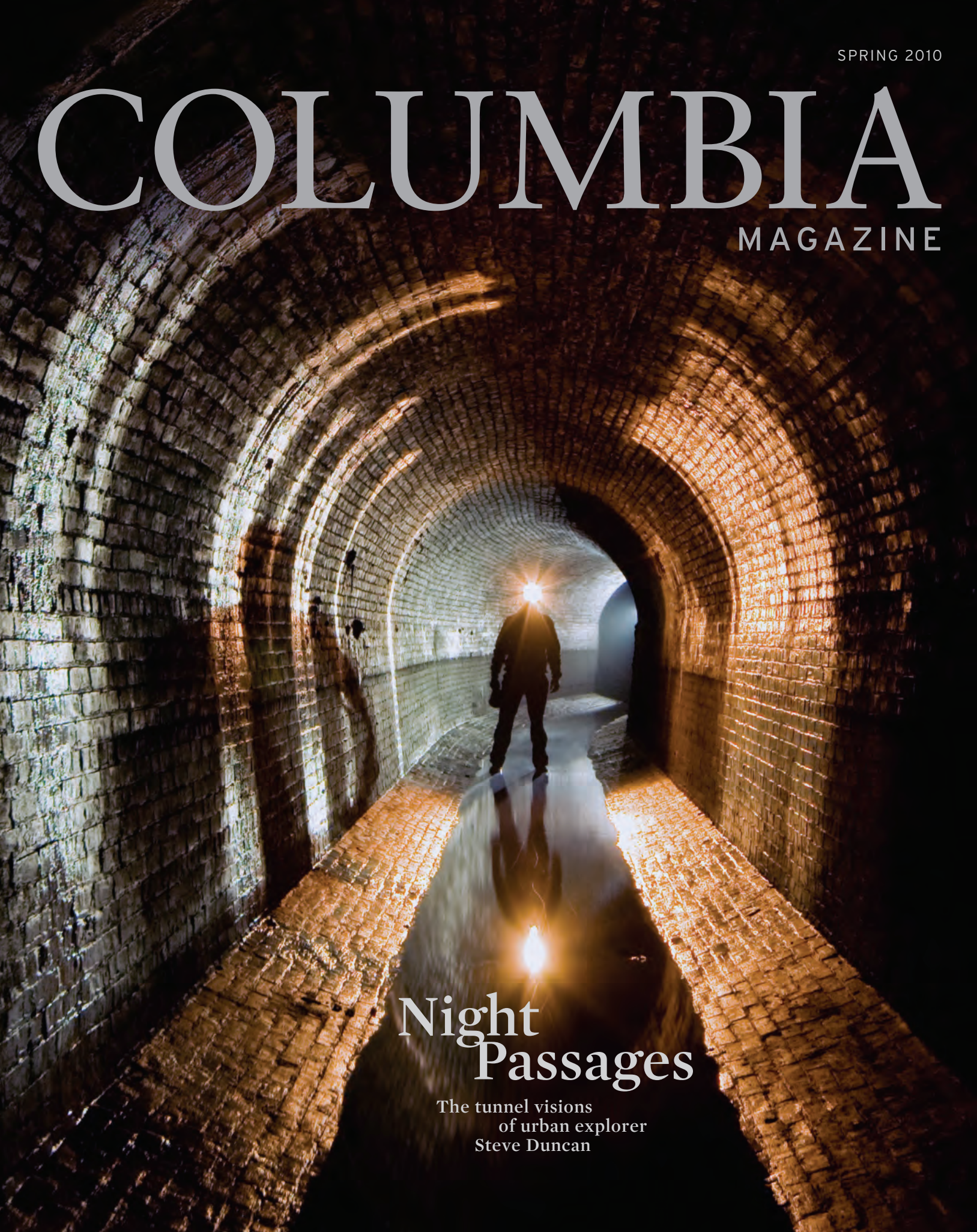
SPRING 2010

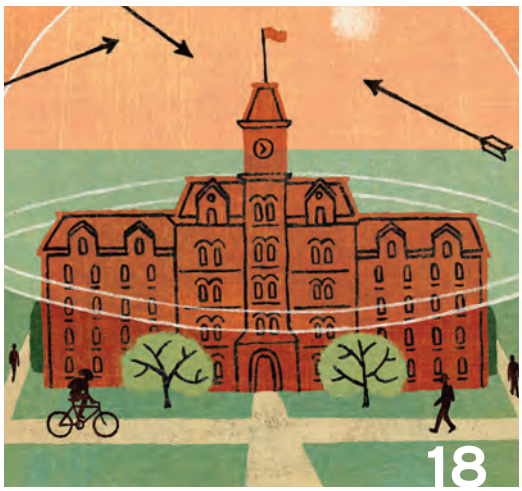
COLUMBIA
MAGAZINE



Night Passages

The tunnel visions of urban explorer Steve Duncan

CONTENTS *Spring 2010*



DEPARTMENTS

FEATURES

Cover: Self-portrait of Steve Duncan, Old Croton Aqueduct, Upper Manhattan, 2006

letters

THE BIG HURT

I enjoyed the feature about Kathryn Bigelow and *The Hurt Locker* ("Shoot Shoot, Bang Bang," Winter 2009–10), especially because I was an ordnance bomb-disposal officer during WWII. *The Hurt Locker* is a great movie and Bigelow surely deserves an Oscar for it.

My novel *A Choice of Evils*, published in 1968 by New American Library, was based largely on my bomb-disposal experience. I wonder if I'm the only alumnus who was so foolhardy.

Paul S. Sandhaus '44CC
New York, NY

AS OLD AS PRINT

I'm surprised that President Bollinger's interviewer was surprised at the "nuttiness" on the Internet ("Freeing the Flow," Winter 2009–10). The same "promotion of crazy ideas" occurred the last time a fundamentally new publishing technology emerged, as Elizabeth L. Eisenstein explained so well in her 1980 book, *The Printing Press as an Agent of Change*.

J. Peter Saint-Andre '89CC
Denver, CO

STALKING CELIAC

I want to compliment David Craig and the magazine on your recent article about celiac disease ("Against the Grain," Winter 2009–10). It was informative, interesting, up-to-date, and — in contrast to many pieces I read about celiac — completely accurate.

Diana M. Gitig
White Plains, NY

Great informative article on celiac disease and the potential of gluten to be a major contributing cause.

Robert J. Lafayette '93TC, '97GSAS
New York, NY

Congratulations on the article about celiac disease. It is exceptional and should be required reading for all physicians and medical students. There are many other shadowy illnesses that are poorly understood by the medical profession that still await a champion clinician like Peter H. R. Green, who understood the symptoms and was able to tie them to celiac disease.

Robert Lerner, M.D. '50PH
New York, NY

ON THE WATERFRONT

The Winter edition's "In the City of New York" had two items of interest to me: floating pools and Governors Island ("She Covers the Waterfront," Winter 2009–10).

I was about 10 when I visited the pool anchored in the Hudson at 96th Street. It was a hot day, and at the urging of my gang, I dared the pool's waters, despite seeing some flotsam there. It was a memorable day because someone had stolen my sneakers. I had to endure the hot pavement in my bare feet from the pool to my home on 104th Street. ("Barefoot boy, with cheek of tan" was not I.)

In 1942, shortly after graduation, I spent the whole day on Governors Island for my pre-induction physical. Normally, the physical should have taken two hours at the most. But I was stuck the whole day because I was unable to give my specimen on command. At the end of the day I succeeded and left Governors Island for Fort Hancock, New Jersey.

Kenneth G. Von der Porten '42CC
Boynton Beach, FL

CRED GAP?

The guide from Columbia's Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED), *The Psychology of Climate Change Communication*, is a far-from-neutral campaigner's handbook ("Changing Minds on Climate Change," Winter 2009–10). CRED assumes that human-caused carbon emissions are the principal cause of climate change (confirmation bias) and that reducing those

emissions is the only way to avoid the consequences of climate change (single-action bias). CRED invokes the precautionary principle to argue that even if the science is not yet certain, failure to act would be disastrous if CRED's analysis of the problem is correct. The report's tone throughout is that the public can't walk and chew gum at the same time, never mind understand climate change.

I'm a believer (not a "true believer") in the fact that climate is changing for the worse. I'm agnostic about the causes of climate change (that is, I'm not a denier, a skeptic, a believer, or a true believer). The contemptible behavior revealed in the University of East Anglia's e-mails moved my belief in climate change and my agnosticism about its causes away from the position advocated by CRED and the scientists CRED admires. The e-mails, which are not addressed by CRED's report, reveal scientists who are themselves unwitting prisoners of confirmation bias and single-action bias.

One hopes that CRED will now turn its efforts to writing a report that will tell scientists how to avoid confirmation bias, single-action bias, and special pleading, and how to leave moral judgements to everyone individually, because scientists have no special access to morality and should probably eschew expressing such judgements in public so as to protect the credibility of their scientific work.

Ian Gilbert '67LAW
Washington, DC

David Craig's comment, "looking to talk sense to the doubters," is incredibly arrogant. Is it possible for doubters to talk sense to the conformers?

Harvey Seline '64BUS
Bedminster, NJ

FAULTY MODELS?

Columbia magazine is an excellent forum for educated discourse on difficult topics like global warming, and I was interested in the discussion between Gordon White '57JRN and Bärbel Hönisch ("Significantly Small," Winter 2009–10). I tend to agree with White's perspective, but what I find most fascinating is the certainty with which Hönisch and other earth scientists discuss the issue. Hönisch's statements about small CO_2 shifts having large impacts, as well as her comments on the earth's atmosphere over millions of years, are made with no room for doubt. In fact, however, they are based on man-made computer models and extrapolated data. I think that, as a journalist, White sees the importance of citing "purported" or "alleged" circumstances, while most of the scientific community seems to have forgotten that rule. If my Columbia education has taught me anything, it is that a "consensus" isn't worth the paper it is written on.

Remember that computer models of the economy, built on real data and tested by smart people, showed that the housing market was solid, mortgage-backed securities were a good investment, and credit default swaps were an excellent hedge. Look at the economy now.

Martin Moskovitz, M.D.'85CC
West Orange, NJ

IN THIS CORNER . . .

Not everyone is as enthralled as Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation dean Mark Wigley is with architect José Rafael Moneo's new science building under way at the northwest corner of the campus ("Northwest Corner Building Takes Shape," Winter 2009–10). If university architecture should be a teacher (as every architect from Thomas Jefferson to Mark Wigley has asserted), then what is the lesson to be learned from the building? Engineering innovations embodied in platform and cross-bracing technology? Design solutions exemplified by diagonally mounted aluminum grating that references the steel crossbeams running beneath them? Perhaps. And yet, there are indeed larger lessons to be learned from the Northwest Corner Building, namely, that planning and historic preservation should play crucial roles in campus redevelopment and deserve an equal amount of attention to those of meeting programmatic objectives.

COLUMBIA
MAGAZINE

Executive Vice President for University Development and Alumni Relations
Susan K. Feagin '74GS

Executive Director of Communications
Office of Alumni and Development
Jerry Kisslinger '79CC, '82GSAS

Editor in Chief
Michael B. Shavelson

Senior Editor
David J. Craig

Senior Writer
Paul Hond

Staff Writer
Cindy Rodríguez

Contributing Editor
Eric McHenry

Designer
Eson Chan

Assistant to the Editor
Allegra Panetto '09BC

Editorial Assistants
Isidro Del Valle, Kylie Rogers, Jay Yencich

Web Editor
Jacqueline Ballantine

Mailing Address
Columbia Magazine
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th Street, MC 4521
New York, NY 10025
Tel. 212-851-4155
Fax 212-851-1950
magazine@columbia.edu
www.alumni.columbia.edu/magazine

Address and Archive Assistance
assistmag@columbia.edu
212-851-4155
To update your address online, visit alumni.columbia.edu/directory or call 1-877-854-ALUM (2586).

Associate Director, Advertising
Taren Cowan
212-851-7967
To download our advertising brochure or submit a classified advertisement online, visit www.columbia.edu/cu/alumni/Magazine/about.html.

Columbia magazine is published for alumni and friends of Columbia by the Office of Alumni and Development.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BPA WORLDWIDE

In 1998 the University commissioned a comprehensive planning study titled *Columbia University in Morningside Heights: A Framework for Planning* that, in the words of then Executive Vice President for Administration Emily Lloyd, would lay "the foundation for future deliberations and discussions and, ultimately, for better-informed decisions" regarding new construction and additions to the University's on- and off-campus historic-building stock. Among the eight planning principles espoused by this study were to "identify the existing area context to inform new building design" and "reflect the characteristics of the architectural setting in new building design."

With regard to the "existing area," one would be hard-pressed to find a more significant crossroads of historic educational institutions anywhere in the country than at the Northwest Corner Building's location of West 120th Street and Broadway, an intersection that boasts Columbia to the southeast, Barnard College to the west, Union Theological Seminary to the northwest, and Teachers College to the north. Given this historically sensitive location of national importance, the planning study's recommendation that existing area context inform new construction was all the more relevant and dire.

Given the enormousness and incongruity of the Northwest Corner Building, one has to wonder about the University's commitment to sound planning and historic preservation practices beyond what it teaches within its studios and classrooms. This is not a building that makes any pretense of respecting campus or neighborhood context, but rather dominates its historic counterparts like an uninvited guest monopolizing the dinner party conversation. If, as Moneo says, the Northwest Corner Building will embody a passageway to Columbia's Manhattanville Campus, then perhaps it is time for the University to revisit its 1998 planning study and rethink *that* project before similarly irreparable damage to that historic neighborhood has been done.

Gregory Dietrich '03GSAPP
New York, NY

"Northwest Corner Building Takes Shape" neglects to point out that the design, while interesting and innovative, is an example of a building that ignores both the history of the campus and the use of materials that have been so important to both the original McKim, Mead & White design and the other buildings added over the years.

I have no quarrel with the interior of the building, or even the scale, but the facade, which can be seen from as far away as Butler Hall, is a shiny, garish, architect's attempt to say, "Look at me!"

Some years ago I read that when Frank Gehry designed the Fisher building at Bard College, President Leon Botstein insisted that the performing arts center stand by itself in a setting that would not clash with the older buildings. With the development to the Columbia campus north of 125th Street, this new location would have been the correct solution.

Peter Krulewitch '62CC
New York, NY

The Northwest Corner Building has intruded onto the campus like architectural graffiti in the midst of the original McKim, Mead & White–designed grandeur and symmetry. I find it to be dissonant. To me it does not reflect a coherent aesthetic framework. It seeks attention rather than trying to blend in. It would fit in better next to the new Xanadu Meadowlands building in New Jersey.

Why was something not designed similar to Bernard Tschumi's Lerner Hall, which tastefully echoes the style, texture, colors, and proportions of the surrounding buildings?

I recognize that others may find the Northwest Corner Building much to their liking and that we needn't endlessly copy the design aesthetics of prior generations. But this was not the place for experimentation. It is rudely imposed Bauhaus reductionism and relativism where custodial responsibility should have prevailed over innovation. Another time, another place, like the North Campus.

Still, I do wish to recognize the innovative engineering design that made the building possible; it will be a great resource for the future of the University, at least if the tenants stay inside looking out at the masterpieces that surround them.

Arthur E. Lavis '61CC
Montvale, NJ

GHOST STORIES

Jay Neugeboren's review of Christopher Payne's *Asylum: Inside the Closed World of State Mental Hospitals* brought back powerful memories ("Ghosts," Winter 2009–10).

In the late 1960s I was able to attend Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons thanks to a scholarship from the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene. I worked at Pilgrim State in Massachusetts during the summer of 1968 and was at Creedmoor State the summer of 1969 as a student and in the early 1970s as an occupational therapist.

Occupational therapists and their assistants were the "shop foremen," in large rooms, where rugs and wall hangings were created on floor looms, furniture was built in wood shops, and the newly admitted (zombielike from electroconvulsive therapy) were guided to tear used fabric to produce stuffing for toys created in another shop. Once or twice a year the hospital sold the items and put the money back into the till to buy supplies for the next year.

This was occupational therapy in its truest form — focus given to people's lives through meaningful work — except that the participants were not there by choice and had little choice in their assignments.

As the large hospitals closed down, patients were moved to adult foster care and welfare hotels. The homeless population was created. People who were unable to find "focus through meaningful work and leisure" on their own now wander the streets.

How poignant to see the photos of the empty halls, peeling paint, and one vacant chair. The buildings are now as anachronistic as the people they once housed.

Susan Salzberg '71OT
Chapel Hill, NC

DINING WITH KOESTLER

Michael Scammell's magisterial biography of Arthur Koestler well deserves Michael Kimmage's enthusiastic review ("Heart of Darkness," Winter 2009–10). In 1954 I went to Paris en route to Munich, the headquarters of Radio Liberty, for which I was a programming executive in the New York bureau. One afternoon I visited Les Deux Magots, the famous café in Saint-Germain-des-Prés frequented by the literary elite, and noticed that Koestler was sitting alone at a nearby table. I introduced myself, he invited me to join him, and he showed interest in my work. In the 1940s, after he broke with communism and attacked "the god that failed," he urged that radio broadcasts to Eastern Europe be set up to counter the powerful propaganda of the Kremlin and its Cominform. This seems to have carried weight in the American government's decision to create Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, which began broadcasts to the Soviet Union and its satellites in the early 1950s.

I mentioned to Koestler that during dinner with friends the night before, we marveled at the musical quality of the French language. Someone recalled that in his book *The Yogi and the Commissar*, he had cited as evidence a sign in railroad coaches: "L'usage du cabinet est interdit pendant l'arrêt du train en gare." Koestler wrote that it "means only that you should not use the toilet while the train is standing in the station, but it sounds like the pure harmonics of the spheres."

Koestler and I discusssed *Darkness at Noon*. Its impact on world public opinion had led to a successful adaptation for the Broadway theater starring Claude Rains as Rubashov, the ill-fated hero. It was made into a radio play in German for broadcast from Berlin by RIAS (Radio in the American Sector), and Radio Liberty aired a Russian version to the Soviet Union.

Gene Sosin '41CC,'58GSAS
White Plains, NY

UN IN THE MIDDLE

Mark Mazower's book *No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire and the Ideological Origins of the United Nations* and Claudia Rosett's review of it are both flawed ("Creation Myths," Winter 2009–10). The United Nations did not create the State of Israel. General Assembly Resolution 181 recommended the partition of the British mandate of Palestine, it did not authorize it. According to the United Nations Charter, General Assembly resolutions are nonbinding and are advisory only. Israel declared its independence unilaterally, and the United States, along with other countries, recognized it. Failing to get the General Assembly to authorize an advisory opinion by the World Court, the Arab nations went to war. Having survived, Israel itself became a member of the United Nations, accepting its charter as law.

Continued on page 60

PHILIP BANNISTER

Preview From the Bridge

As I wedged my way into the lobby of the Cort Theatre in Manhattan minutes before the final preview of *A View From the Bridge*, I ran into a lean figure in jeans, cloth overcoat, and wool hat. I figured he must have been a stagehand. Then the man turned, and I saw the wire-rim glasses and ruddy face and realized I was looking at the play's director, Gregory Mosher.

It would be hard to think of a more unassuming pose for a world-class theater artist on such a crucial evening. On Broadway, the last few previews are more important than opening night. While the party and paparazzi wait for the official premiere, the critics watch these performances to get an early start on writing their notices.

This production of *Bridge*, Arthur Miller's McCarthy-era parable of a longshoreman consumed by jealousy, was the second on Broadway in nearly 30 years for a play generally not ranked among the author's greatest. It marked the Broadway debut of Scarlett Johansson, playing opposite the stage veteran Liev Schreiber. The real-time demands of the theater had exposed the weaknesses of many a movie star in the past.

Now, with so much at stake, Mosher was hanging incognito on the periphery. Most directors would enjoy being recognized, and even expect it. Mosher, though, genuinely preferred a kind of invisibility. He has always been about the play.

"To be a writer's director," Mosher put it to me recently, "is to trust that what you need to direct is on the page, and to have the discipline to try — and, man, it is hard — to fulfill the writer's intentions,

not yours. The main reason to devote your energy to discovering the play is that the play's ideas are more complicated and interesting than any idea you could have about it."

I met Mosher in 1984, when he directed the Broadway premiere of *Glengarry Glen Ross*, the black comedy about real estate sharks by David Mamet. Mosher and Mamet had collaborated many times already at Chicago's Goodman Theatre, but when *Glengarry* came to New York, it encountered a sort of Broadway haughtiness, even disdain. Just what could be so terrific, the whispering went, about this no-name director and his no-name cast from the provinces? Mosher had decided against stars like Paul Newman and Al Pacino in favor of an ensemble of Goodman regulars, several of whom had taken up acting as a midlife second career. After rave reviews and a Pulitzer Prize, the dismissive sniffs vanished, and theater people in New York were enviously asking what was so magical about Chicago.

With that query in mind, the *Times* dispatched me in March 1985 to the Goodman while Mosher was directing Mamet's adaptation of *The Cherry Orchard*. We spent a lot of time talking about *Studs Lonigan*, the great and long-forgotten trilogy by James T. Farrell about Chicago's Irish Catholic working class. Mosher had an appreciation for a novel that was earthy and tough and a million miles from hip. The kind of theater that Mosher and Mamet created at the Goodman was true to the literary tradition of Farrell.

Mosher came to New York in August 1985, hired to resuscitate the two nonprofit theaters at Lincoln Center, the Mitzi E. Newhouse and the Vivian Beaumont, which had been almost entirely dark for the preceding four years. Their previous artistic director, Richmond Crinkley, had claimed that, architecturally, the venues were not viable. Dubious though Crinkley's contention was, the Lincoln Center theaters had in the past defied even the legendary Joseph Papp.

In short order, Mosher had both theaters lit and busy, and his tenure at Lincoln Center saw the "Woza Afrika!" festival of South African plays, a splendid revival of John Guare's *House of Blue Leaves*, and more Mamet.

Over the past five years, Mosher, who is Professor of Professional Practice in Theater Arts at Columbia and director of the Columbia Arts Initiative, has brought Peter Brook and Václav Havel to the University. Through the Arts Initiative, he also has continued a personal tradition begun at the Goodman and Lincoln Center: making theater affordable to students. "The $10 tickets were for everyone, not just students," Mosher recalled. "But the idea is the same — where are the next audiences coming from? Columbia is a part of that search."

With *A View From the Bridge*, Mosher has supplied an ideal destination for that search. I've seen probably 350 plays in my lifetime, and I have powerful memories of the 1983 revival of *Bridge* with Tony Lo Bianco. Yet, when the curtain came down on the final preview of Mosher's production, I looked at my three companions and we all gasped; *Bridge* was that good. The stars stayed in character; every supporting role, large or small, had hand-tooled specificity; and the director's fierce attention to word and action, especially the currents of sexual tension, saved Miller from his own weakness for preachiness.

Two mornings later, when the reviews appeared, Mosher remained nearly as inconspicuous as he'd been in the lobby that night. Ben Brantley in the *New York Times* and John Lahr in the *New Yorker* led a unanimous chorus of praise. They extolled the cast — Schreiber, Johansson, Jessica Hecht, Michael Cristofer — and they upwardly revised their opinion of the 50-year-old play.

As for the director, he received maybe a clause. Which, I suspect, was for Mosher, just the right proportion.

— Samuel G. Freedman

Aftershocks

On a recent Tuesday evening, George E. Rupp, president of Columbia from 1993 to 2002, returned to the University for a public talk with his old Harvard classmate and fellow New Jerseyan Mark C. Taylor, codirector of the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life. After a casual back-and-forth on growing up in the Garden State and discovering Hegel, the subject turned to a problem Rupp now faces daily as president of the International Rescue Committee (IRC): refugee camps.

"I remember the first camp I visited," Rupp told the audience of some 60 students and faculty in the International Affairs Building. "It was for Burundian refugees in Tanzania. I went away completely depressed. People had been there for 20 years. Lots of kids were born there, grew up there. They actually got better education and health care than they would have gotten if they weren't in the camp, but, as a result, they were incapable of going back where their parents came from, incapable of supporting themselves."

Today there are 40 million displaced people worldwide. The IRC, a relief and refugee-assistance NGO founded in 1933 to save

refugees from Nazi Germany and transfer them to the United States, helps resettle the roughly 10,000 refugees of violent political conflicts who are admitted by the U.S. yearly. IRC caseworkers meet refugees at the airport, having already found them housing, and help them learn English, find employment, and get their children into school.

Yet the vast majority of refugees remain without hope of asylum or of returning to their homes. For this reason, the bulk of IRC's work is now with displaced populations outside of the U.S. Its largest programs are in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and now Haiti, where the earthquake has displaced an estimated 700,000 people.

Rupp, who left Columbia in June 2002 to lead the IRC, was at the organization's headquarters in New York when the earthquake struck earlier this year. Immediately, he gathered his staff and assembled an emergency-response team to be deployed to Port-au-Prince: doctors and public-health professionals, water and sanitation engineers, social workers to help children find their families. Another task was to set up community watches to protect women from the kind of sexual violence that often erupts in temporary encampments like those already appearing in Haiti.

Tent cities have cropped up near the Port-au-Prince airport and in large parks, where aid organizations then come to distribute health services, food, and supplies, Rupp said. Conditions are squalid. In the capital's main park, Champ de Mars, thousands of families have made temporary shelters out of sheets and sticks, and people go to the edge of the park to relieve themselves. One of the IRC's main projects is constructing latrines, in order to keep water from getting contaminated and cholera from spreading.

"In the short term, these encampments may be the least bad way to go, but they're not a good way," said Rupp. "We know from experience that once a so-called temporary settlement is set up, it becomes extremely difficult to dismantle it."

While the IRC has helped resettle Haitian immigrants in the U.S. for decades, it did not operate any programs in the island country prior to the earthquake. Now, it finds itself in the position of operating in encampments that, as Rupp observed, can create an intractable cycle of dependence.

So how long does Rupp foresee the IRC continuing these services in Haiti?

"At least the next 10 years," he said after the talk, adding that the IRC will maintain its focus on providing community-reconstruction projects, and employing former refugees to help build infrastructure and provide medical services, as it's done for the Rwandan refugees in Congo.

He added, however, that the organization has decided not to manage any of the camps. When asked who will, Rupp paused and said, "It's unsettled."

— Emily Brennan '03BC, '09GSAS

MARK STEELE

Aliments of Style

Walking along upper Broadway on a cold Saturday morning, Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson notices a sign in the window of a gift shop. "Life is short," it reads. "Eat dessert first. —Jacques Torres." Ferguson pauses to consider the motto from the famous French chocolatier. She scribbles it down on a sheet of paper and continues on her way.

The following Monday, around lunchtime, students file into a lecture room on the seventh floor of Hamilton Hall. As they settle into wooden chairs and pull out their pens (laptops are forbidden), Professor Ferguson reviews her notes at the lectern. On the board is the Torres quotation.

Food and the Social Order, an undergraduate sociology course, is only in its third year. But for Ferguson, food has been a lifelong study — an amour that began, as they often do, in France. "My mother taught me how to eat, and then I went to France and learned more about it," says Ferguson, who received her PhD in French literature from Columbia in 1967.

Ferguson opens the lecture with the quote. Her tone is straightforward, with a hint of amusement. "What does it mean?" she says, walking up and down the side aisle, her arms folded behind her back. A student offers, "There's a sense of urgency in it."

Ferguson then reminds her nearly 50 students of last week's discussion, which covered the structure of the meal. "The Torres quote assumes you know what a proper meal is," she says. "But if you looked at Rome in the first century, you wouldn't have the same sequence of courses as you do today. You also wouldn't necessarily have dessert, as a last course, associated with sweets." Students jot down notes. Someone's stomach growls audibly.

But the course is not just about desserts, or the order of courses in a meal. There's a rich assortment of topics — from cannibalism to Japanese tea ceremonies, table manners to fast food. "I was studying French, and I noticed food is very salient in a lot of French novels, especially in the 19th century," says Ferguson, her dangling silver earrings nodding in agreement. "When I moved from French and literature into sociology, I could see more and more the kinds of questions that make Food and the Social Order a sociology course — questions of national identity, production, distribution."

Krishnendu Ray, a sociologist and professor at New York University's Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health,

admires Ferguson's thorough purview (Ferguson's most recent book, *Accounting for Taste: The Triumph of French Cuisine*, is considered a must-read in the field). "In food studies, we use food as a lens to look at social relationships, gender relationships, ethnic mainstream relationships, minority relationships to natives — but we also look at food in particular," Ray says. "Food matters to us, just as a film-studies person is going to pay attention to the production of a movie. So, even though we do use food as a lens, we also look at the material production of food, its physical nature — which is exactly what I like about Ferguson's work."

The issues that Ferguson's undergraduates write about reflect this connection: a South Korean television show about competitive cooking, coffee through the eyes of a barista, the waiters' choreography at the restaurant Per Se (and it *is* choreography — a professional ballet dancer trained the waiters), and High Holy Day celebrations of food in India.

Sometimes, though, it's hard not to think of food as *food*. Two dinners in particular stick out in Ferguson's mind, one in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and one in southern France. The cook on both occasions was another American who found her passion in France: Julia Child.

Ferguson smiles as she remembers the meal in Cambridge, which consisted of lamb and sautéed green beans. "You realize, sauté in French means jump," she says. "And those string beans were really jumping off the frying pan."

Some food with thought.

— *Allegra Panetto '09BC*

Rachel Wetzsteon (1967–2009)

Rachel Wetzsteon '99GSAS, whom Richard Howard called "the most variously gifted of our young poets," took her own life in late December, at the age of 42. A professor of English at William Paterson University, she had just succeeded C. K. Williams as poetry editor of *The New Republic*.

A full listing of her prizes and plaudits would be long, impressive, and radically insufficient as a record of her real achievements. These include a feather-light critical touch (see her posthumously published essay on "Philip Larkin and Happiness" in the *Contemporary Poetry Review*), and a wise, searching, unfailingly lovely poetic line. Over and over again in her books, one encounters the

chaos of daily urban life made coherent through the pressures of poetic form. For Wetzsteon, writing poetry was a quest for perspective, which she gained by assembling word structures solid enough to stand on.

Nothing *Columbia* writes about Wetzsteon can approach the beauty of the things she wrote about Columbia. Indeed, with her death, the Upper West Side may have lost its fondest and most faithful describer. "Wetzsteon's poems manage to turn Morningside Heights . . . into a theater of romance, an intellectual haven, a flaneur's paradise," the poet-critic Adam Kirsch wrote of her third book, *Sakura Park*. "Her poems evoke the kind of life that generations of young people have come to New York to live — earnest, glamorous, and passionate, full of sex and articulate suffering."

Along with a critical study of Auden, Wetzsteon published three collections of poems. A fourth, *Silver Roses*, from which "Ruins" (below) is taken, will appear later this year from Persea Books.

— *Eric McHenry*

Ruins

I sat on the subway sipping latte,
reading a short history of ruins.

Then, boarding the bus at Ninety-Sixth Street,
grabbed by mistake — such screwball
anti-élan! — a blind man's cane
instead of the post beside his slouching form.

Then home to my journal and ordering in.

There are times when one feels oneself
the star of a movie about one's life,
all nuance and dimension replaced
by scare-quote features, floodlit in plain day.

There are times when one feels a frightful cliché.

And yet the coffee tasted good,
the book set me brooding helplessly,
hopefully, on the folly of recent woes.

To every cliché, a germ of truth.
To do otherwise, a terrible falsehood.
And so, to the unthumbed cookbooks,
to the lavender lipstick bought
in a you-must-change-your-life frenzy,

a gentle not yet: this caffeine high,
this madcap tribute to Hepburn's ghost,
this zeal for aqueducts and abbeys
compose a life, though someday they may rest
in cobwebbed attics, dear ruins of former selves.

(from Silver Roses, *Persea Books, 2010)*

Short Ode to Morningside Heights

Convergence of worlds, old stomping ground,
comfort me in my dark apartment
when my latest complaint shrinks my focus
to a point so small it's hugely present
but barely there, and I fill the air
with all the spiteful words I spared the streets.

The pastry shop's abuzz
with crazy George and filthy graffiti,
but the peacocks are strutting across the way
and the sumptuous cathedral gives
the open-air banter a reason to deepen:
build structures inside the mind, it tells
the languorous talkers, to rival the ones outside!

Things are and are not solid.
As Opera Night starts at Caffe Taci,
shapes hurry home with little red bags,
but do they watch the movies they hold
or do they forego movies for rooftops
where they catch Low's floating dome in the act
of always being about to fly away?

Ranters, racers, help me remember
that the moon-faced fountain's the work of many hands,
that people linger at Toast long after we've left.
And as two parks frame the neighborhood—
green framing gray and space calming clamor—
be for me, well-worn streets, a context
I can't help carrying home, a night fugue
streaming over my one-note *how, when, why*.
Be the rain for my barren indoor cry.

(from Sakura Park, *Persea Books, 2006)*

—Rachel Wetzsteon '99GSAS

COLUMBIA
MAGAZINE

This is your magazine.

Please show your support with a voluntary subscription.

Donate online:
http://giving.columbia.edu/ColumbiaMagazine

Yes! I want to support *Columbia* magazine.

_____
Name (please print)

_____
Address

_____
City State ZIP

___ Check here if this is a new address

_____
Telephone number (including area code)

Enclosed is my payment in the amount of:

___ $50 ___ $100 ___ $200 ___ Other $ _____

___ Check enclosed (payable to *Columbia* magazine)

___ Charge my gift to my: ___ MasterCard ___ VISA

_____
Credit card number Expiration date

_____
Signature

How are you affiliated with Columbia University?

___ Alumnus/a: School and year _____

___ Faculty member: Department _____

___ Staff member: Department _____

___ Friend

___ Other

Submit to:
Columbia Magazine
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113 Street, MC 4521
New York, NY 10025

Telephone: 212-851-4155
Fax: 212-851-1950
E-mail: magazine@columbia.edu

www.columbia.edu/cu/alumni/magazine

Steve Duncan '02CC tracks down history in dark, dangerous places. Then he shoots it.

The Night Hunter

By Paul Hond

Photographs by Steve Duncan

Above left:
Portrait of Steve Duncan by Sacha Maric, Brooklyn

Below left:
Underground spring in the Kissena Corridor Drain, Queens

In the comic book version of Steve Duncan's life, Duncan, aka Spelunkin' Duncan, aka Tunnel Man, aka the Scholar of Subterranea, would have powers of X-ray vision: he could climb to the top of the Manhattan Bridge, look out over Gotham, and see right through the streets, the slabs of rock, into the ancient underbelly of subway tunnels, sewer lines, steam pipes, ghost stations, aqueducts, and buried rivers.

It's not far-fetched. Duncan has indeed ascended the Manhattan Bridge ("It's graceful, it's beautiful, but there's no easy way to get up it"), for that matter

V
V

all the bridges around Manhattan, and is on a mole man's terms with the netherworld of arteries beneath New York, London, Paris, Odessa, and Naples, among others. "It's easy to find history," goes his mantra. "The hard part is to find a different perspective on it."

Duncan, 31, is an urban explorer, a guerrilla historian of infrastructure, for whom the multicolored layers of paint peeling off a beam on a subway platform, or the bright orange water oozing up from a track bed, provides the urban variant of Emerson's "wild delight" that fills one in the presence of Nature. Nocturnal by temperament and expediency, Tunnel Man waits until the express trains stop running to slip around the end of a platform and into the unlit caverns of an abandoned transit project whose substance

Riverside Park Tunnel, Manhattan

confers meanings that a book cannot. In spirit, he's kin to those carefree wildlife adventurers who get up close to grizzly bears, his rugged enthusiasm cloaking the seriousness and volition of the solitary seeker. His nemeses are rain, tides, certain bacteria, the third rail, cops, and gravity. Once, in a storm drain in Queens, he got caught in a hurricane-driven tide, was permeated by pathogens, and almost lost his hand. He has been face-to-face with hordes of rats, cats, and cockroaches. He has used grappling hooks to surmount the crumbling superstructures of world's fairs, has felt the cushion of wind, that warning breath, that precedes the sound of an approaching train, has emerged at night from heavy-lidded manholes into the middle of city streets, and, at sunrise in Paris, in the belfry of Notre Dame, was present at an unauthorized bell tolling that brought a swift visit from *la police nationale*.

"When I started exploring, it was all about the thrill," Duncan says with a mellow southern lilt, "but over time, the stories behind the places became far more important. When I tell the story about going down to the underground rivers in Moscow, for example, the highlights are the moments of fear and of almost getting arrested. But what I *think* about is having been in this river underneath Red Square, having seen this thing that I had previously seen only on maps from 150 years ago, and that most people will never see. That deeper sense of seeing and understanding a city is what matters."

Duncan grew up in the Washington suburb of Cheverly, Maryland. His mother was a practicing Catholic and took in stray animals. The house was filled with dogs, cats, birds, ferrets. As a kid, Duncan read heaps of science fiction and cleaned a lot of cages. There was no television, no junk food, and, at St. Anselm's Abbey School in D.C., where Duncan spent his high school years, no girls. "My mother dragged me to church every Sunday," Duncan says, "and the one thing I was ever really solid and strong about as a young person was that I was not going to be an altar boy." That was about the extent of his youthful rebellion. Never did he sneak into the boiler room of St. Anselm's. "I was too timid to get in trouble," he says.

In the shelter of his childhood, Duncan was captured by the fantasy worlds of Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, Isaac Asimov, William Gibson, Roger Zelazny, and Douglas Adams, so that when, at 17, after being accepted to Columbia, he came to New York for the first time, it was as if the most elaborate cityscapes of his imagination had met their match. "I fell in love from the moment we crossed the George Washington Bridge," he says. "I was blown away by the engineering and physical complexity of New York, partly because I'd read about these imaginary constructs in books."

Columbia would prepare Duncan for his own journey to the center of the earth, supplying him with the crucial event that, like Peter Parker's spider bite, or the bat coming through Bruce Wayne's window, allowed him to become — *Tunnel Man!*

It was at the end of his first semester, during finals week. Duncan, who planned to major in English and engineering, had just learned of a study project that could only be done on a computer program at the math lab. He ran to Mathematics, but by then it

Hellgate Bridge, view toward Queens

Fleet River sewer, London

was midnight and the building was locked. Frustrated, Duncan returned to Carman Hall and sought out a fellow student, "one of those crazy, jaded New York kids who seemed to know everything about the campus," and asked him if there was a way to get into the math lab after hours.

There was.

"I'd heard these bits of gossip or myth about the Columbia tunnels, about the Manhattan Project," Duncan says of the systems of utility conduits beneath Columbia's campus, "and I knew they had some kind of reference in reality. I just wasn't sure exactly what."

The kid led Duncan to an entrance at one of the physical plant areas and said, "Go in that direction and you'll come to the main tunnel. Take that, and follow the steam pipes."

There's always a dragon to be slain. Peter Parker was bullied as a teenager. Bruce Wayne lost his parents to a killer. Steve Duncan, lanky and mild-mannered, stood at the threshold of the Columbia tunnels, gazing into the blackness. He was, and always had been, afraid of the dark.

The hard part is trying to find a different perspective.

"I figured if I could venture alone into this dark and terrifying tunnel, I could be proud of myself," Duncan says. "There was the sense that if I didn't push through with it, I wouldn't be able to look myself in the eye." Duncan reached Mathematics a changed man. He returned to the tunnels again and again.

> "I wanted to be able to put out my hand and touch the tunnel walls rather than just see them through a window."

"The tunnels are a wonderful microcosm of the built environment," he says. "Exploring them was a hands-on way to understand things that are part of New York and all cities."

Duncan delved into other structures in the Columbia area, and became increasingly drawn to urban history as a field of study. He stood at the front of subway trains and peered out at the rusting anatomy and grand murals of Subterranea. He infiltrated the abandoned subway station at West 91st Street, and dug himself into the Riverside Park tunnel, which was built by Robert Moses in the 1930s, populated by hundreds of homeless people in the 1980s, cleared of human dwellers in the early 1990s, though not entirely, and is now used by Amtrak. ("I went through this little hole in the

dirt, just squirmed through, and then suddenly found myself in a space the size of a cathedral.") He got his boots wet in the canal under Canal Street, and shone his headlamp into the oblivion of the Knickerbocker Avenue Extension Sewer, built over a century ago to divert sewage from Bushwick into the East River.

Back on campus, Duncan took Kenneth Jackson's class, The History of the City of New York. Jackson's dynamic storytelling inspired the young spelunker to go deeper into his subject, in every sense. Duncan switched his major to urban history, and is now pursuing his master's degree in public history at the University of California at Riverside. But the classroom, for Duncan, has no particular walls — or rather, those walls can sometimes be 50 feet below the sidewalk. Duncan recalls riding the subway in his early New York days: "I wanted to be able to put out my hand and touch the tunnel walls rather than just see them through a window. Things are more meaningful when there's something you can touch or feel."

The hard part is trying to find a different perspective.

In 2003, Duncan was hiking in Yosemite National Park when he had a minor fall. He injured his right hip. When the pain didn't go away, he went for X-rays. He thought it was a pulled muscle, but it turned out that the hip was cracked. Additional tests revealed something more: an extremely rare, cancerlike syndrome called vanishing bone disease, in which the bone is mysteriously eaten away. At 25, Duncan had a new set of fears to wrestle with. He received radiation. His family prayed. The treatments were effective, and Duncan recovered normal functionality. "Nothing like spending a week on a pediatric cancer ward to make you realize how lucky you have it," he says.

Duncan is now considered cured. The hip will have to be replaced in a few years — the lost bone does not regenerate — and Tunnel Man needs to be careful not to jump down from high places. "People tell me I shouldn't do some of the stuff I do because it might get me killed, but I thought I was going to die from cancer. So if things are that arbitrary, why *not* do it?"

> "I wanted to replicate the sense of awe, capture the feeling of these inaccessible places."

To which some might say, "Because it's not always legal, sir."

That notion elicits further glimmers of the Tao of Steve: "I see myself more like Robin Hood," he says in his laid-back way. "I do what's right, even if it doesn't necessarily conform to the law. It's a crime *not* to look at these amazing views."

To fight this menace, Duncan has enlisted his visual gifts. Not X-ray vision (like Batman, the real-life Tunnel Man has no superpowers, just superior skills), but something close: an ability to capture beauty where it is most hidden.

"I got my first film camera in 2000 and was fooling around with it for years, without much hope," he says. "I wasn't interested in documentation; I wanted to replicate the sense of awe, capture the feeling of these inaccessible places. So one day I dragged a couple of friends who were amateur photographers down with me and we fooled around trying to figure out how to light absolutely dark space. It wasn't until 2005 that I felt like I was taking any pictures worth keeping."

Sunswick Creek, Queens

Now he hardly goes anywhere without his Canon EOS 5D. "I want to share things that are amazingly beautiful, or sometimes not beautiful. Sometimes," he says, "it's just exciting to realize that there's this giant 60-foot diameter brick sewer from the 1880s running under your favorite bar in Williamsburg." Exciting and, to Duncan, edifying. "I think it's worthwhile to understand your environment and where it came from," he says. "Relics of the past and remnants of previous layers of urban development make you realize that the built environment around us was not inevitable, that there are different ways it could have gone, which helps us realize that we have an agency in how our cities develop."

Duncan has presented slide shows of his work at venues in New York and Riverside, California. He has hosted the Discovery Channel show *Urban Explorers* and recently appeared on the History Channel as an expert on New York's underground. His photos have appeared in exhibitions in New York, Boston, Washington, and Riverside.

Still, for Duncan, there's nothing like the real thing.

"I would love it if I could take, one at a time, each night in a row, every New Yorker up to the top of the Manhattan Bridge and show them the view from there."

Victorian-era storm drain, London

Defending the University

Government interference. Watchdog groups. Ingrained orthodoxies. Jonathan R. Cole says they're putting one of America's greatest resources at risk.

In a hefty new book, sociologist and provost emeritus Jonathan R. Cole describes how research universities in the United States became the best in the world — and how they are now under assault from multiple quarters. Cole '64CC,'69GSAS, who is currently John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University, discusses *The Great American University: Its Rise to Preeminence, Its Indispensable National Role, Why It Must Be Protected*.

Columbia magazine: You have written a great deal about universities' contributions to society: the role of universities in medical treatment, breakthroughs in physics and electronics, advances in our understanding of climate and earth sciences. At the same time, you say you are surprised by how little not only the public, but even students, know about those contributions and about how a university is run.

Jonathan R. Cole: It's true. Students are here to take their courses, to learn, and then to go out into the world. No one tells them about the place they have entered, except that it's wonderful. No one gives them a history of the institution. No one explains why we organize universities the way we do. I teach a graduate course on the university in American life and I ask my students, Why does society have universities? What are the missions of universities? Why do we organize them the way that we do? Why do we have a law school? Why do we have undergraduate education? Third-year law students look perplexed. Graduate students look perplexed. They have not really thought about it. The remark-

Illustrations by
James Steinberg

able thing is that most of our own faculty and even some trustees haven't a clue about how universities are organized, how they really work, and — to some significant degree outside their own disciplines — how they contribute to the welfare of American society or to our daily lives.

Columbia: Your book is mostly about graduate schools and research institutions, places that deal more with the discovery of new information than with the transmission of information from one generation to the next.

Cole: One of the extraordinary features of American universities is the close relationship between teaching and research at the graduate level. Many of the discoveries in laboratories at these universities are made by graduate students and by postdoctoral students working under the close supervision of faculty mentors.

Columbia: The European system is quite different.

Cole: Europe made a decision a long time ago to separate the research mission — which they have handed over to government-based laboratories, like the CNRS [Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique] in France, or to institutes like the Pasteur Institute — from the universities. Of course that's the least of the problems of the French system, and the German system, and the Italian system. There are many deep structural problems with European universities today, including the tendency for them to be hierarchical, much less democratic than ours. When the great German physicists and scholars came to the United States as a result of Hitler, they were struck and delighted by the democracy in the laboratory and the classroom — the give-and-take. That does not exist traditionally in German or French universities. For that matter, it certainly doesn't exist in Chinese universities. In China, the hierarchical arrangement of master and apprentice has been a tradition for thousands of years.

"It would be extraordinarily unfortunate if the competition among great American universities for the best and most talented people were to dissipate . . . "

Columbia: In France, in particular, there has been a split for 200 years between the *grandes écoles* and the major research institutes on the one hand, and every other university on the other. The well-funded *grandes écoles* are the elite schools; the other institutions are underfunded, overcrowded, and mostly mediocre.

Do you see the potential of there one day being a two-tiered system like this in the United States? The richest institutions — Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, and so on — and then everybody else?

Cole: The growing inequality of wealth among even the private universities concerns me a great deal. Think about their endowments: Even with the losses of the last year or two, as the markets reequilibrate themselves and the endowments grow again, you're going to have a doubling factor every 7 to 10 years. We could be in a situation that is much more akin to what England has, with Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College of London for certain specialties, and the London School of Economics, and then the rest.

It would be extraordinarily unfortunate if the competition among great American universities for the best and most talented people were to dissipate and we were to find ourselves in a situation where the University of Chicagos, the Columbias, and the Penns of the world have become farm systems for the wealthy elite graduate programs. That would have enormous negative repercussions on the growth of knowledge.

Columbia: One of the key sections of your book is the discussion of academic freedom. Could you explain the distinction between academic freedom and freedom of speech?

Cole: Academic freedom provides faculty with freedom that really goes beyond the normal rights that we have as citizens under the First Amendment. The essential difference is that academic freedom defines the relationship between faculty members and the administration — the trustees, the administrative leaders — and that it defines the rights and obligations of the faculty members. Historically, it began with giving faculty the right to determine the curriculum and the right to evaluate the quality of teachers and students. It is the ability of faculty members to govern themselves in certain areas without interference, whether from the university's central administration or from the government.

That does not mean there are not speech components. Academic freedom allows faculty members,

after all, to determine what will be studied in the classroom, to organize the classroom as they see fit, to engage in conversations about ideas or experiments that might be radical, with the expectation that there will be a set of rigorous, conservative methods used to test the truth and value of those ideas.

I use the case of Stanley Prusiner in the book. For more than 100 years we had believed that there are only two sources of disease: bacteria and viruses. In 1982, at the University of California, San Francisco, Prusiner proposed that there was a third cause of disease, called prions. Well, he was appropriately and strongly resisted — he couldn't get grants from NIH. His radical idea is held up to rigorous standards of evidence, and in the end he proves that he was right and wins the Nobel Prize in 1997. There are still people who resist the idea of prions, but overwhelmingly people accept it. This has happened many times in the history of science. The same thing should go on in other fields.

Columbia: You argue that the essence of the university is to question orthodoxies and state policies. Yet universities receive money from the state.
Cole: It's a paradox. We expect the people who support us not to interfere with our criticisms.

Columbia: You don't want the people who feed you to watch you eat.

Cole: Exactly. We are assuming — because it's very hard to get real evidence on this — that without free inquiry, and without academic freedom, we couldn't do our jobs well. The growth of knowledge would be impeded and our students would be less well trained. Our mission in the society is to generate better-trained students who are prepared for certain kinds of work, to be better citizens in the democracy, and to produce knowledge that will be useful for the society. To the extent we deliver on that, we expect the state to allow us to be basically autonomous.

Columbia: Are you telling society and the government, You just have to trust us?
Cole: There's a tremendous element of trust, and if we lose that trust we will see more government interference. That will lead to the degrading of the quality of these universities.

I want the graduates of our universities to understand what these universities actually do for the society, and why, given the quality of what we've produced and how we have changed their lives, they should support us against the possible intrusion not only by government, but by external organizations that may not like what we're doing.

Columbia: Much of the distress that one senses from your book has to do with the turn of events in academia following September 11, 2001. You write

that we can find a host of examples of attacks on free inquiry during the following years that "may have been more harmful to the structure of the university than we found even during the McCarthy period." Were you being hyperbolic?

Cole: The McCarthy period was devastating. Professors were fired, people who wouldn't sign loyalty oaths were fired, individuals who refused to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee were fired. It was all focused on speech, and on one's affiliations and political sympathies. One of the things that differentiates the current period is that the attack has been less on speech — although there are examples of it — and more on research, which is less visible. But it still has aspects of the anti-intellectualism that was part of the McCarthy period, and which, as Richard Hofstadter taught us, rises up periodically in American society.

The resistance to stem-cell research is one example of this; the unwillingness to allow science to grow in that area for ideological reasons was quite unnecessary. Another example is the ironic halt to immunological research focused on finding cures and vaccines for major scourges and diseases. I quote Cornell's Robert C. Richardson, who won the 1996 Nobel in physics. He describes how before 9/11 and the passage of the USA Patriot Act, the Health, Safety and Security Act, and the Bioterrorism Act, there were some 38 laboratories at Cornell working specifically on what are called select agents — those toxins, viruses, and bacteria that could cause lethal diseases and which bioterrorists might like to get their hands on. Well, the repressive nature of government interference with those laboratories' work resulted in there now being only two laboratories at Cornell continuing to work on those problems. The nation's loss is that we don't have the progress toward vaccines, antidotes, and various ways of dealing with these diseases. So rather than use universities and their research potential effectively as a defense for the nation, the government, through its interference, has effectively eliminated lines of research that were very, very promising.

Columbia: Was it incompetence or do you see actual maliciousness?

Cole: I think there was a combination. There was a level of anti-intellectualism in the broader society. And fear tactics were part of the prior administration.

Columbia: Of course we're more than a year into a new administration.

Cole: I have no doubt that President Obama understands the nature of research universities and values them greatly. Restrictive visa policies that treated foreign students as if they were enemy aliens have

gotten somewhat better and more relaxed. On the other hand, there has been no effort, for example, to change legislation that protects people at universities against library surveillance. Nothing has been changed in the antiterrorism acts. My guess is, given the attempt to bomb the plane on Christmas, nothing will be done. There's such fear in Washington of being soft on terrorism that I don't think that legislation passed in the Bush era is going to be rescinded soon.

Columbia: Could you talk about area studies and Title VI programs?
Cole: These programs were crafted after the Second World War to help the nation improve its expertise about foreign cultures. They included language and culture studies. The great universities have dominated the receipt of grants of those kinds.

There was an enormous outpouring of anger at these centers in the last eight years because there was a perception that they had a strong liberal bias — that they were, in some ways, promulgating anti-American values within the universities in the United States. And the government began to explore — at the instigation of certain private organizations like Campus Watch and others — monitoring these programs and their curricula from the inside. The Bush administration was supportive of this. Members of Congress were supportive of this. They wanted to have committees to look into the curricula, which is normally the prerogative of the faculty at these universities. That is a huge intrusion into the academic freedom of universities and the ability of the faculty and its leaders to choose what is taught and what is not taught. Again, there is the issue of trust. The final piece of legislation, the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, contained language that still allowed, to some extent, government oversight of these programs for ideological reasons. This has a very chilling effect on what goes on at universities.

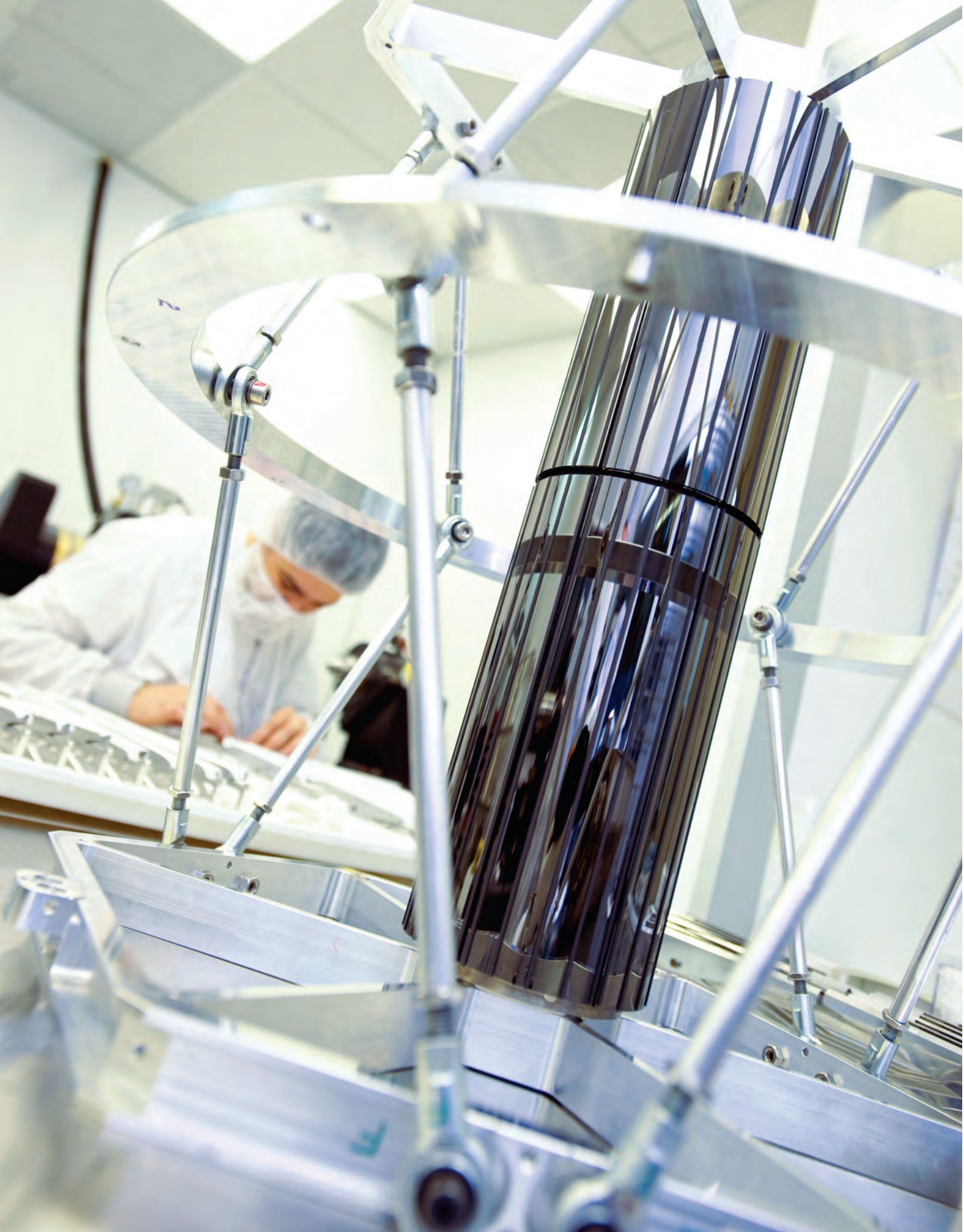
Columbia: Was there *any* legitimacy to the complaints from outside that some departments had become politicized?
Cole: I don't believe so. You hear continually that the faculties of these universities are biased, and that they are trying to persuade students to think in certain ways. First of all, I think that there's much more diversity in faculty opinion than we think. There are many people who hold diverse views about the Middle East in Columbia's faculty, for example. People tend to see the focus on a few members of the faculty who hold critical views of Israeli government policies. But there are people at Columbia and elsewhere who certainly can join in that conversation, and can question whether or not these faculty members are espousing ideas that are false.

Columbia: Still, I don't think you are suggesting that faculty are immune from external criticism. If we assume that some nonfaculty critics — alumni, the press, or anyone else — are well informed and act in good faith, should their voices be heard?
Cole: Obviously, people outside the university have as much right to criticize anything that goes on as people inside the university. I don't want to in any way restrict the freedom of speech and expression of those outside to what people may be doing inside.

However, it's extremely important that the leaders of universities both defend their faculties' right to express ideas and also reinforce the idea that the criticism can come from within and *should* come from within — among peers, students, even among other people in the university community. But the ultimate judge of the quality of the work and whether or not a person should be hired or promoted has to be left up to experts in those fields.

"Great universities are designed to be unsettling. They challenge orthodoxies, and dogmas, as well as social values, and public policies."

Columbia: That brings us back to your point that academic freedom sets the rules of engagement in a classroom or laboratory: "Great universities are designed to be unsettling. They challenge orthodoxies, and dogmas, as well as social values, and public policies."
Cole: It's almost a precondition for greatness. To the extent that you stifle academic freedom, you undermine the university's values and its potential for contributing to the nation and to the world, because you stifle the growth of knowledge. You are also going to stifle the extent to which students are challenged in their own biases and presuppositions. That, after all, is what a university ought to be about.



Columbia astrophysicist Chuck Hailey is building a telescope to view stars so hot they've never been seen

X-ray specs

By David J. Craig

It may look like a polished artillery canister, but it's as fragile as an eggshell. Peer inside and you'll see 133 cylinders, all made of paper-thin glass. The cylinders are arranged concentrically so that, when viewed from either end, they resemble the rings of a halved onion.

Astronomers call this type of optic device a "light bucket," because when it's pointed at a star it will collect every bit of light offered. But this light bucket, designed by Columbia astrophysicist Chuck Hailey, is different from others. Most telescopes today use a dish-shaped mirror to collect light and to reflect the beams back, at slightly different angles, toward a focal point. When Hailey's optic gets launched into space next year, as part of a new NASA satellite telescope, light beams will shoot in one end, through tiny spaces in between its glass cylinders, and exit out the back. In the process, something unprecedented will occur: Extremely high energy light beams known as hard X-rays, which would penetrate straight through the components of any other telescope, will get reflected slightly, and set on paths to converge at a focal point 30 feet away — at the far end of the satellite, called the Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR). There, digital sensors will receive the X-rays and transmit their properties down to scientists who will generate computer images of the stars from which the X-rays came.

This elegant instrument is the first ever capable of focusing hard X-rays. (Hard X-rays vibrate at higher frequencies than the so-called soft X-rays used in medical imaging, which in turn are "stronger" than visible light.) It is a technological centerpiece of NuSTAR, which is scheduled to launch into Earth's orbit in late 2011.

"We want to focus hard X-rays because some celestial phenomena emit no other type of light," says Hailey, who oversees a team of 15 scientists and engineers building the optic at Columbia's Nevis Laboratories in Irvington, New York. "Neutron stars, for instance, can produce flares so hot that we can't see them."

The NuSTAR telescope should lead to spectacular discoveries. For starters, scientists will gain a deeper understanding of the extreme physics that occur on ultrahot bodies like neutron stars, which can be invisible altogether. They'll also get a peek inside gigantic clouds of space dust. The center of our own galaxy, for example, is shrouded by gas and debris generated by the deaths of many stars. Only hard X-rays (and even stronger gamma rays) typically escape the maelstrom that lingers around collapsed stars for billions of years. To glimpse a neutron star inside this region, and to track its movement, will be of great value to scientists. Most notably, it will help them spot black holes, which are identifiable by the circular patterns that celestial bodies chart around them.

Photographs by Vernon Doucette

"I can't wait to see into the center of the Milky Way," says Hailey '83GSAS, who earned his PhD in physics at Columbia. "The galactic center is the real zoo. That's where the black holes *have* to be, because black holes are born where stars collapse. Only a couple of dozen black holes have ever been discovered within our galaxy. This is our chance to discover literally thousands of them and to really study their properties. We're about to lift the curtain."

"We want to focus hard X-rays because some celestial phenomena emit no other type of light. Neutron stars, for instance, can produce flares so hot that we can't see them." —*Chuck Hailey*

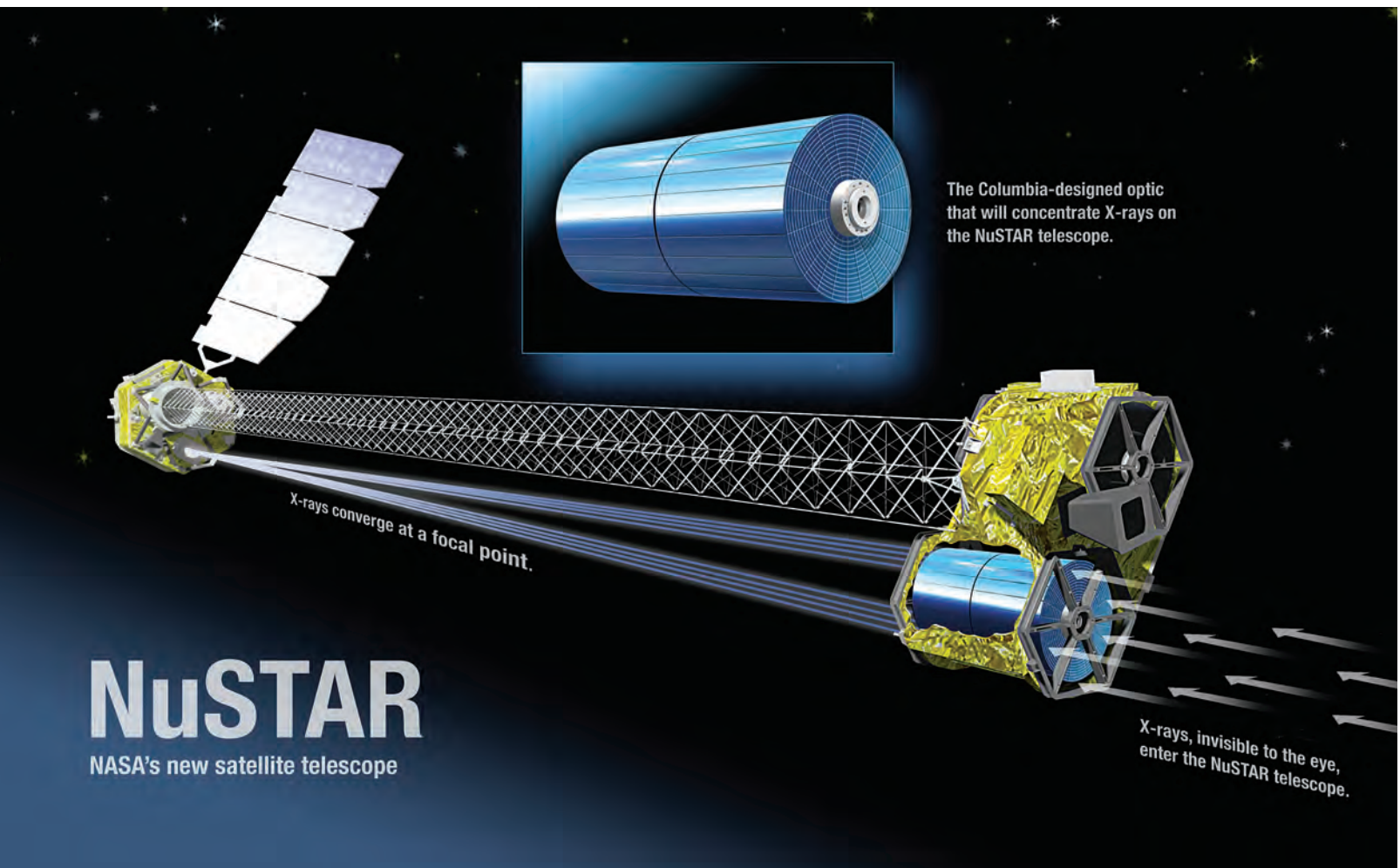
Black-hole hunters

Hailey's invention capitalizes on a curious characteristic of hard X-rays: They lose their penetrative power when they hit a flat surface at a very shallow angle, in which case they'll reflect off the surface, like a rock skipped off of water. NuSTAR's glass cylinders will be positioned nearly parallel to incoming X-rays. The cylinders are skinnier at their tail ends, forcing X-rays to glance off their inner surfaces, not once but twice, reflecting the X-rays inward about a quarter degree each time.

"X-rays have very limited reflective properties," says Hailey, who is Columbia's Pupin Professor of Physics, "but they're made of photons, and just like any photons, they'll bounce off a mirror. You just have to catch them on their sweet spot."

Astronomers have been using cylindrical mirrors to focus high-energy wavelengths of light since the late 1960s. But no telescope has ever achieved the tiny reflection angles necessary to focus hard X-rays. NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, for example, employs four cylinders nested together less tightly than are NuSTAR's, enabling Chandra to focus light only in the soft X-ray spectrum. NuSTAR is unique also for having more cylindrical shells than any existing telescope. Its 133 layers of glass would cover a Little League baseball diamond if spread out on the ground. That represents an exposure area three times as large as Chandra's and it will enable NuSTAR to produce images of stars that emit even the faintest trace of hard X-rays.

The drawback of using a giant aperture is that resultant images won't have exquisite resolution. Every photographer understands this trade-off: if you're shooting in low light, you must sacrifice some detail to get any picture at all. But this fits the exploratory nature of NuSTAR's mission. Whereas NASA launched its Chandra and Hubble observatories in the 1990s in part to make highly detailed pictures of phenomena already observed — which requires moderating the amount of light entering a telescope at any moment —



Chuck Hailey at Columbia's Nevis Labs

NuSTAR's goal is to make useful, but not necessarily beautiful, images of celestial objects never seen before.

Hailey and his NuSTAR colleagues, who include physicists from the California Institute of Technology and Stanford University, view themselves as pioneers exploring a new band of the light spectrum, identifying phenomena that future X-ray missions will observe more carefully. (Their project, as part of NASA's Small Explorer class of missions, has a budget cap of about $110 million; large NASA satellites like Chandra and Hubble cost 10 to 20 times as much.) "We won't be making sharply focused pictures like the big dogs," says Hailey. "For us, the name of the game is to be the first into the hard X-ray band, to pluck the low-hanging fruit in terms of discoveries, and to demonstrate that our method for focusing hard X-rays works."

Glass onion

Hailey was chosen to oversee NuSTAR's optics team in part because of improvements he's made to the way cylindrical mirrors are manufactured: First, thin sheets of glass similar to the glass used in computer screens and cellular phone displays are cut into long strips, heated in an oven, and melted into concave molds. Next, the curved glass pieces are coated with a metal film, which makes them reflective. Technicians then assemble the glass pieces into concentric cylinders, which are separated one layer from the next by tiny graphite spacers whose thicknesses are determined — to the nearest micron — by a computer-driven grinder wheel.

"There's no way you could get 133 layers on this thing if you were determining the spaces between each shell by hand, which is the way this used to work," says Todd Decker, a mechanical engineer at Columbia's Nevis Laboratories. "Every tiny inaccuracy would add up and become huge. Even with the computer's help, this work isn't for the faint of heart."

Perfecting the process took years. Hailey tried hundreds of epoxies before finding one suitable for gluing together the glass strips. "It had to be able to withstand temperature changes in space, even when applied in a layer one-micron thin," he says. "I'm not joking when I say that I'm now considered one of the world's top experts on epoxy. This was never my intention, and some of my physics colleagues think it's pretty funny. But it's what the work demanded."

The assembly of mirror encasements should be finished by this fall. Hailey's team has already built two prototypes, each having about 10 cylinders. Researchers shoot hard X-rays at them every day to see how they perform. "So far, they're perfect," says Jason Koglin, a research scientist in the Columbia physics department. "But when we finish all 133 layers this summer, we'll likely have to do some extremely difficult calibrations to make sure it focuses properly."

This work all takes place in a brightly lit, dust-free room that Hailey constructed in a gymnasium-sized work space at Nevis Laboratories. The space once housed a large cyclotron particle collider and now resembles an airplane hangar. It's cluttered with welding equipment, nitrogen tanks, scaffolding, and small cranes. Hailey strolled about this *Metropolis*-like facility recently and discussed the heritage of scientists, from Sir Isaac Newton to the late Columbia X-ray astronomy pioneer Robert Novick, who, in order to peer into the cosmos, picked up hammers and metal-working tools.

The optic device is assembled in a dust-free room, as any stray particles could hinder its performance.

"If you want to do important work in astrophysics, you can't spend all of your time thinking about neutron stars and black holes," said Hailey. "You also have to think about electronics and mechanical engineering and optics and the physical properties of glass and epoxy. To get the data, you have to go into the garage."

GEOFF MCCORMACK

By Caleb Daniloff

Dateline: Iran

There have been no Western news bureaus in Tehran in a generation, so Kelly Niknejad opened one. Virtually.

Kelly Golnoush Niknejad is ignoring her BlackBerry. No small task. The message light glows every few minutes. The 43-year-old pulls one of her bare feet up on her parents' living-room couch in Newton, Massachusetts, a well-to-do suburb of Boston. In the dim light, her face looks pale beneath a mop of thick dark hair. When she finally turns over her device, a half hour later, she has 10 new messages.

"That's not bad," says Niknejad '05JRN, '06JRN. "Some Google alerts on Iran and Tehran, some people forwarding me things. There's always something interesting."

The curtains are drawn; outside, snow is falling. For more than a year, this room, adorned with a few framed black-and-white photos of Italian village scenes and a watercolor landscape, has served as headquarters for Tehran Bureau, the must-click-to news source for everything Iran. Here, you can read the latest posts from native Farsi speakers who report from inside the Islamic Republic of Iran — contacts that Niknejad made while conducting academic research and working as a reporter for the English-language daily *The National* in the United Arab Emirates.

The Web site, which logged 130,000 hits in January, has drawn the attention of journalists, academics, dissidents, and intelligence analysts. The site's rapid growth has been dizzying. After little more than a year, Niknejad is moving her news operation out of her parents' living room and into an office at WGBH, Boston's PBS member station, where she has formed a partnership with *Frontline*, the investigative program, which now hosts tehranbureau.com on the PBS server.

"I wasn't expecting it to get this big, this fast," Niknejad says of the enterprise. She shuts her Apple laptop and sets it on a nearby chair to let it cool.

Source Material

What set Tehran Bureau apart from the beginning was Niknejad's pool of sources on the ground, an ever-shifting group of professionals who have included academics, scientists, and journalists. When the site posted a reaction piece from inside Iran to Barack Obama's 2008 presidential win, for example, ABC News and BBC World Service got wind of it and cited it in reports. Ready or not, Tehran Bureau — at the time a blog and barely a week old — was out of the gate, even as its proprietor was still trying to figure out her free blogging software.

Fortunately, Niknejad already had two experienced writers on board. Muhammad Sahimi, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Southern California, agreed to write exclusive pieces for Niknejad. An Iranian immigrant and a contributor to the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times*, Sahimi has published extensively on Iran's nuclear program. He recognized that Niknejad had in her sights a nuanced portrait of an often-misunderstood

VERNON DOUCETTE

society, and launched a five-part series, among other pieces, on the upcoming Iranian presidential election.

"I wanted to help Kelly create a Web site about Iran in which things are done objectively, rationally, and away from slogans, hollow analysis, and propaganda," says Sahimi, who also blogs for Antiwar.com. "I wanted to help to give the correct information to people about Iran, good or bad."

Former *Financial Times* Tehran correspondent Gareth Smyth started filing reports, too, attracted to Niknejad's balanced editorial agenda. A veteran Middle East reporter, Smyth was stationed in Iran from 2003 to 2007 and has contributed articles to Tehran Bureau on hard-line political strategy and U.S.-Iran relations. He says journalists covering the Islamic Republic face editorial pressure, and not just from Iranian government censors.

"At the *Financial Times*, the Middle East editor often made it clear I should not be writing certain things," says Smyth. "For example, in 2005, the editor was convinced that [Akbar Hashemi] Rafsanjani would win the election, and I, more or less alone of the Western media in Tehran, was analyzing the situation in a different way." The editor often told Smyth that he was seen as being "pro-conservative" because he spent as much time talking to hard-liners as he did to reformists. "Too often," he says, "there is a line imposed from London or Washington, and this is why so much Iran reporting has been inaccurate and misleading."

In Iran, says Niknejad, the hard-line regime rules the information stream, with opposition Web sites waxing and waning. Foreign journalists are subject to minders and censors, and are routinely expelled. The BBC and Voice of America have added television and Web sites to complement their Farsi-service radio broadcasts, but because Tehran Bureau is not opposition press and reaches out to conservatives and reformers alike, Niknejad says the Web site has become known for its impartiality. "We do our job fairly, and that's probably one reason we're not being filtered by the government."

A New Formula?

The turning point for Tehran Bureau came last summer, during the disputed reelection of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, when hundreds of thousands of demonstrators poured into the streets day after day to protest electoral fraud. Several died at the hands of police, scores were beaten and wounded, and hundreds were arrested. The world was watching, but before long, communications were corked by the government — cell-phone transmission interrupted, BBC broadcasts jammed, and Facebook, popular with the opposition candidates, briefly cut off.

Even Tehran Bureau, despite being the small new kid on the block, was hacked and shut down for several days, Niknejad assumes, by Iranian government agents. She kept the information flowing with Twitter messages, tapping out details from her sources, one 140-character sentence at a time. "It was like using a telex machine," she says.

Tehran Bureau now has more than 21,000 followers on Twitter. Facebook, too, became a conduit, with Niknejad's contacts posting updates that confirmed or refuted what she was seeing in Western media. Soon, the *New York Times* and ABC News were looking to Tehran Bureau.

"I wasn't eating or sleeping," Niknejad says, brushing her hair from her face. "I was being called for interviews. I turned down as many as I could. I lost all track of time."

The content on Tehran Bureau involves more than politics: There are stories covering pet exemptions for dog lovers (canines are considered impure in Muslim culture), the rise of "sexting" in the Tehran metro, Iran's place in the world music scene, and feminism after the 2009 presidential election. Except for the site's popular Press Roundup, which collects the day's top stories from the state-run media, all content is original.

"Golnoush has worked very hard to make Tehran Bureau wide-ranging," says Smyth, using Niknejad's Iranian birth name. "Most Western news outlets rely on the occasional visit to Iran by a reporter. This isn't enough to know what's going on in Iran, and another reason why so much of the reporting has been inaccurate."

THE NEW YORK TIMES / REDUX

Government and opposition demonstrators took to the streets of Tehran on November 4, 2009, the 30th anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. embassy.

Niknejad begins each day with her BlackBerry, launching e-mails from her bed. After combing through messages, she begins coordinating stories, edits articles from the inbox, researches and confirms information, and moderates comments.

"I got chewed out once by a commenter who waited seven hours to see his post," she says. "I'd been sleeping. People think this is a bigger operation than it is."

So does Tehran Bureau represent a new formula for covering repressive regimes? Sree Sreenivasan '93JRN, dean of student affairs and professor of digital media at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, says Niknejad's approach — one realized with little money — can apply to any subject that people don't understand or that the mainstream media don't deem large enough to cover.

"Kelly's doing very important work," Sreenivasan says. "It's shameful that traditional media have abandoned overseas coverage except for a handful of publications and some TV shows. There was a time when even regional papers had foreign bureaus and covered the world. Not any more."

Leaving Tehran

Niknejad spent most of the first 17 years of her life in Tehran. She lived through the 1979 Revolution, which swept away the shah and ushered in Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's theocratic state. She also was there for the first half of the eight-year war with neighboring Iraq. Today she misses Iran "terribly" and carries fond memories of her great-grandmother's home and of downhill skiing outside of the city, and even of the blacked-out copies of *Newsweek* on newsstands. When religious laws stood in the way of her and her siblings' going to college, Niknejad's parents, an air force liaison officer and a housewife, knew it was time to get out. They left in 1983 and settled in San Diego the following year.

After graduating from San Diego State University, Niknejad enrolled in law school. She worked briefly as an attorney before wading into journalism, earning two degrees from Columbia's J-school, where she concentrated in newspapers, and politics and government, eventually making her way to the United Arab Emirates in 2008, a listening post for doings in Iran. While reporting in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, Niknejad met a large cross section of Iranians: merchants, workers, and smugglers from various provinces of the republic. Given the diversity of their backgrounds, she was struck by their uniform lack of support for Ahmadinejad.

"It was weird," she recalls. "I thought if there was a large turnout, there was no way he could win again. Of course, the turnout was spectacular."

Niknejad returned to the States, convinced that the presidential election would mark a defining moment for the country, and resolved to start her own news site right away. Beyond the political contest, she saw plenty of blank spaces in the media portrait of Iran and wanted to counter what she considered the biased agendas, misinformation campaigns, and faulty reporting that were blurring the picture.

On average, Niknejad works with some 20 contributors inside and outside Iran. Some use their real names, while others write under a pen name or simply sign "correspondent." They file their stories through proxies or with scrambling programs. Niknejad plans to begin fundraising so she can pay them decent fees.

Because she works with anonymous sources, Niknejad says she holds herself to higher-than-normal standards and regularly rejects information and turns down unfamiliar would-be contributors, even if that means extra work and sleepless nights — a work ethic she developed at the J-school.

Niknejad takes pains to protect her sources — hard-liners and reformers alike — concealing even gender or the language in which they file. Several times, she politely suggests the tape recorder be shut off. "We're all paranoid," she says, leaning forward on the couch.

Niknejad takes pains to protect her sources, concealing even gender or the language in which they file.

Coming Home

A week later, Niknejad is settling into her new office at WGBH headquarters in Boston. The walls and shelves are still bare, her scarf is draped over an empty file holder, a cardboard lunch container sits on the desk. Within reach, as usual, are her BlackBerry and laptop.

"It feels great," she says, leaning back in her chair. "For a long time, I was saving time by not having to commute or comb my hair. But it's been so nice to come here and be focused, without the interruptions of home life."

In 2007, Niknejad worked as a freelance associate producer on an Iran documentary that *Frontline* was producing in London. This past September *Frontline* began hosting Tehran Bureau and posting its own video documentaries on Iran to the site. While they might collaborate on projects, Niknejad says that Tehran Bureau remains independent and that neither outfit holds editorial sway over the other.

As Niknejad was unpacking at WGBH, the Iranian government was commemorating the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. In the days leading up to it, several protesters from the summer's presidential election were hanged and others were sentenced to death. Opposition figures, journalists, and human rights workers were summoned for questioning.

"The intimidation seems to have been very effective," Niknejad says. "Some of it is just random, and that's when it becomes scary. The Internet slowdown has already started, and people are having trouble logging onto their e-mails."

Niknejad says she has developed a following inside Iran, with Tehran Bureau pieces being translated and circulated, and sometimes ending up back in her inbox. Many comments on the site are posted by Iranians, and one of the top ten countries logging onto PBS is the Islamic Republic of Iran. Niknejad wants to add more video content to the site and would eventually like to publish pieces in Farsi, too. But there's only so much she can do. When she recently posted a controversial wartime letter written in 1988 by the late Khomeini, several readers demanded to know why it wasn't translated into English. When she commented that she lacked the resources, they apologized.

"The expectations are very high," Niknejad says. "I take it as a compliment that they think Tehran Bureau is this well-funded organization, dripping with money and resources. But right now, it's just me."

Caleb Daniloff '99SOA is a freelance writer based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. A 2009 Pushcart Prize nominee, he is at work on a memoir about running, to be published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.


4B
4C

Seven years

A story by Herbert Gold '46CC, '49GSAS

Illustration by Patti Mollica

The beautiful woman next door was moving across the continent from Telegraph Hill in San Francisco to Tribeca in Manhattan. "Can't pass up the opportunity, Dan," she said. "It's time, isn't it?"

This California creature must have been a huntress in her past life. In her present life, Jenny had a passion to work her body — bike, ski, swim, tennis — and largish perfect teeth for biting or smiling and a girlish huskiness of laugh or gossip, which had nothing to do with tempting any prey she had in mind. She gave Dan clearly to understand that she liked him very much, he was fun to talk with, she wasn't interested. Such had been the sum of the case for seven years now.

When she moved into his building on Alta, he had proceeded slowly. Anyway, she didn't frighten. She turned out to be, although seriously too young for him, intelligent. That was the last straw. (The phrase made him think of her straw-blonde hair.)

Sure she would have coffee with him. Over the years they had coffee, gallons of cappuccino.

Sure men were always hitting on her. Often there was no one important in her life. But with their first cappuccino, she said, "Chemistry. I should tell you I started out as a chem major although I turned into a computer person. But from my major in chemistry — "

"Where?"

" — Stanford — I learned that the chemistry between people is not just terrifically important, it's *all* important."

"I understand. I'm too old. And you learned that in *chemistry*?"

Her smile blazed with that conquering California brightness. She would let him believe it was just his age. She wasn't the sort to talk about karmic destiny. But for Dan it seemed part of God's plan to bring injustice into the world that the chemistry could be right for him and for Jenny it didn't matter worth a duck's ass.

My, how irate this situation made him. He even brought God into it.

"Do you realize," Dan said, "that in a hundred years, when you're an old lady of a hundred and twenty-three, I'll be a well-set-up middle-aged gentleman of a hundred and forty-five?"

"How many times have you practiced that line?"

"A few."

She was laughing. Actually, she appreciated it. "You do it so well, though. Like a terrific stand-up at the Holy City Zoo. And it's basically a good point, time passing for everybody and all, seize the day and all." She was grinning into his eyes, shaking her head, her champion hair flying.

"Doesn't change chemistry though, does it? How about letting me buy you a sandwich?"

"A juice, Dan, a fresh juice they make here. So I can fight off the ravages of time."

He learned to like Jenny anyway. He liked her a lot.

Noises came through the wall when she had guests for dinner. He tried for paternal, or at least avuncular, to avoid jealous. It didn't work perfectly; his internal software was full of glitches and viruses. But she was still terrific.

Sometimes it was a couple of couples — he could hear laughter through their shared wall — not just one similarly bike-riding, skiing, aquatic young alumnus of a major university. She never invited him to those little dinners, although once she left a fantastic feast of leftovers at his door ("We're on our way to Squaw for the weekend"). Since he was a bachelor of a certain age, divorced, occasionally subject to gloom, and since she actually enrolled in a cooking school one fall, had taken a year of courses, because that was the practical California girl way she went about things, learning to do them right, and since he bought her coffee many times, sometimes juice . . . Well, it was nice to leave the food at his door. She wrapped it in foil so the neighborhood cats wouldn't get at it.

Sometimes he heard art rock sounds through the wall, a whole season of Talking Heads, and only a low rumble of laughter. And then, despite his resolutions, his avuncular and paternal maturity, he felt an ache of jealousy, unjustified, illogical, the emotion that does no work. Yet he felt it.

Once she seemed sad and explained, "I liked this one. He turned out to be a rat."

"The Iranian?"

"His father was Commander of the Air Force under the Shah, and he has an MBA from Pepperdine, down south."

"What did you expect? His MBA is so he can manage the money his family stole."

"His daddy does that. You're right, I should have known he was a . . ." Lost for words.

"So?"

She smiled heartbreakingly, her eyes misty. Even red-rimmed eyes suited her.

"So?" he insisted.

"The chemistry was right," she said.

It made him feel better. He didn't trust chemistry anymore, preferring biology, philosophy, and beating his head against stone walls. They walked down the hill to the Savoy Tivoli on upper Grant — actually, this time it turned into a light supper — and at the end of the evening she took his hand (my, she did have long, strong California fingers) and said: "I feel so much better. You say just the right things."

He shrugged and shuffled. "Hardly talked. Just listened."

"You're not too old to learn," she said.

So he waited, and their friendship was clean and nice, but definitely not deep. She bounced back. She had more dinner parties without him. She continued biking with a series of tall, lean, broad-shouldered lads. She went sailing with one. With that one, who worked in biotech start-ups, she went away on ski weekends. Once or twice, when they met Dan in the hall, she introduced him to the boater/skier/start-up expert, but somehow he could never remember his name. Something like Russell or Harrison, something very MBA.

He tried to look on the bright side. A lot of men never made love with Jenny. But then he couldn't help noticing there were a few who did, so that wasn't such a bright side.

When the Russell or Harrison deal ended, Jenny didn't come crying for comfort. She shrugged and said, "I'm getting older."

"In a hundred years we'll all be the same age."

"Is this going to go on that long?" she said. "Back to the Holy City Zoo."

She was bumping her bicycle down the stairs. She was snapping it into the bolts on her rack. She smelled of fresh soap and, just a little, of lovely light sweat. She was heading into Marin for some serious roadwork and she wasn't inviting him to get his own bike. Chemistry, oh!

"As long as it takes," he finally said. "If love gets you down — "

She shrugged. True love comes and goes, but a good workout is forever. She was wearing sky blue spandex. Her face was tan and her nose freckled. Despite his advice, she got too much sun.

"If love gets you down, remember that not being in love is the alternative."

"When I get back," she said, "if I'm not too tired, oh wise Baba Danawanda, maybe I'll knock — I'll telephone — and if you're not too tired, maybe we could go out for coffee."

She really liked him. But she wasn't going to knock on his door; she would telephone. And she wasn't going to stay in for a glass of wine. She understood exactly the friendly distance she wanted. Chemistry and computer literacy were both beyond him. Maybe a woman this smart, with this high energy, was beyond him.

She got back too late that night to telephone, knock, or drink coffee. Never mind. He had cancelled dinner with a friend, another divorced guy of his age, but what they had to say to each other could wait 'til next time, since it was what they had said last time. He got a little work done, organized his tax receipts for the year so far, read a piece of a book about the demographic shifts in California since World War II. Wished he could remember what it said. Jenny would use colored highlighters and remember.

A few days later she remembered to give him her answer to his self-serving remark that she should look for a man who was *interesting*. He was trying to use a neutral word. "I'm not into guys that stick up the 7-Eleven to feed their habits, Dan."

"That's not what I mean by interesting. Say, oh, mature, a history in the world, what someone called twice-born —"

"Well, there's got to be something in between the Iranian Air Force commander's son and the biotech start-up kid, but I'm still calibrating. In some ways I'm just slow, I guess. Hey, twice-born, is that like a memory of another life?"

"Exactly. A sense of other possibilities beyond —"

"Good, great, lend me the book, will you? 'Cause I'll bet" — laughing at Dan and shaking her head — "'cause I'll bet it hasn't made it to the movies yet."

Jenny was still in the learning mode. If he gave it to her, she'd even read William James and tell him he was a really neat American philosopher. She had lots of friends, lots to do, activities and routines, but in secret, between the activities, she would take the book and sit in a corner with her cell phone off and put on the glasses she seldom wore.

But some nights during those seven years, in the natural course of things, the thought of mortality would come to Jenny, too. A childhood nightmare would awaken her — in that form the thought came. She had broken up with her lover and she was lonely. She called to say, "Dan? Lonely. I'm lonely."

"Wha-wha?" Because he was asleep.

"It's Jenny. I'm lonely."

"I'll be right over." Because he was instantly awake.

That was the way it was supposed to happen and that was the way it did not happen. The years of her twenties were going by, she was getting too much sun, the dewiness of her skin was passing and he would say, "Don't tan. Tan is out, Jenny."

"Hey! I know! But it feels so good, so can't I just ration myself to once in a while?"

"Do you want to walk down to the Puccini?"

"Love to, love it. But I've this friend from Santa Barbara driving in . . . "

Dan learned not to feel rejected through these years of rejection. She wouldn't look and smile straight into his eyes like that if she didn't really like him. He tried not to notice if she looked into the eyes of other neighbors, passing them with her bike or her racket or her overnight bag. He offered her books and she took them and brought them back, usually stopping at his door, along with a casserole or something in a container which needed to be returned. The contact was maintained. "I'm the steadiest boyfriend of your twenties," he said, "the one who's lasted the longest."

She laughed cheerily. "Because we never."

"We practically live together."

She made a thumbs-up gesture.

"Jenny, you're great."

"Dan, that's what I was going to say about you. You use up all my words."

As the moving process started, the advance cartons going out, the closing down of her seven years in San Francisco, the questions about a good place to sell her Alfa Romeo — "to someone who likes a terrific little steed that needs a lot of service, Dan?" — he felt loss and gloom descending over him. She was a lightness, a sun-dappled shadow in his life, like the tree on the street outside his window, and he would miss her as he missed that tree when the stupid landlord cut it down because of alleged plumbing problems.

"Speaking of a terrific beauty that needs a lot of service — "

"Pardon?"

"That's what you said about your Alfa."

"Oh, Dan! You're too late. I found a buyer yesterday, you know the pro who runs the tennis shop?"

"That's what you are. A terrific beauty who needs no service at all."

"From you, Dan, from *you*. But I'm going to miss you a lot."

In his middle-aged dreaminess, he thought they might cling and embrace, make love just once, maybe on the bare floor of her flat, because of her emotion at leaving her twenties, leaving San Francisco, leaving the nice neighbor who had watched over her for so many years. After all, when he broke up his marriage, that was what happened when Dan and his wife vacated their house. Regret can be a part of desire, can't it? Even if she felt no desire for him, she might feel a bit of regret.

She gave him her address in New York.

"I only saw you here in passing," he said, "so thirty-five hundred miles away, why should I see you?"

"It's close to three thousand," she said. "We fly shorter now. And you *should*, Dan, because — "

"Because why?"

"Because don't you think you're important to me?"

"I don't think so, Jenny."

She considered. She wanted to be fair. She was honest and a truth teller as only a woman who knows her power can be. She put her arms around him. She was tall, but not too tall. Her mouth was at his ear. "Well, you're important, dear man, but you know how it is? Important, but not vital."

The hug was finished. He could still feel her breath on him.

"How do you feel about starting this new life?"

"I'm nearly thirty. I feel like it's good-bye to my youth."

"Same with me. When you go, it's good-bye to my middle age."

"Oh, no!"

"Well, let me ask you something else. Why —"

And her smile began to widen, that glaring smile of perfect health which he had come to consider a weapon. It was a weapon. She thought he was going to ask why, aside from his age (but wasn't that enough?), she kept him in his role of kindly neighbor. "Why," he said, "were all your friends, you know, *jocks*? Those big Stanford gentleman's C types. It's old-fashioned. You're smarter than that."

She was relieved. She lowered the decibels of her smile a little. "First thing, you've been here so many years and you still don't understand they can look like that and still operate like lasers. Second thing, I guess you missed the psychiatrist, I guess you were in love that winter. He said he was a Jungian. He was into tarot, astrology, and playing his drum in the woods with a bunch of savage male bonders, but he was sensitive, Dan. He thought he could fly if he just wanted to enough. He dreamed about it every night — as if he were the only one!"

"Okay, go back to the gentlemen C's."

"Besides, Dan, you should know by now. I'm a jock too, only I got A's."

His heart was pounding. He had to say it. "And you're the most beautiful woman I've ever known."

She shrugged. It was wrong to annoy her like this when she had so many things to do. "Model or cocktail waitress wasn't what I needed. And I'm nearly thirty now, lucky me. I didn't become a victim of my, you know, genes. You've been a nice friend, Dan, but —"

He waited. She blushed. She didn't want to hurt him.

" — but you don't have the least idea about me, either."

She was right. As a boy, he had thought he could fly by just wanting it enough. Strange that, as bad as the Jungian, he still tried — to make the world into what he wanted it to be.

"New York, is that following your bliss?"

"Dan, don't be sarcastic. I'm not a new-ager, I'm an upward by leaps and bounder, if that's a word."

"I don't think so, but I doubt it."

She looked at him with concern. "Are you still upset about something?"

He was upset about the tree in front of their building. He was upset about time passing. He was upset about Jenny.

Herbert Gold's most recent book is Still Alive: A Temporary Condition. *He lives in San Francisco.*

Every Day Is Bird Day

After 40 years at WKCR, jazz guru Phil Schaap is still riffing like there's no tomorrow. // *By Paul Hond*

In the 1993 movie *Groundhog Day*, the protagonist, a broadcaster named Phil, finds himself reliving the same day, February 2, over and over again. To Phil, it's a curse: All he wants in life is to get hired by a network so that he can quit his job as a weatherman at Channel 9 Pittsburgh, where he's forced to do undignified things like cover Groundhog Day. Now, by some cosmic joke, he's stuck forever in Punxsutawney.

Only, what if it's not a curse? What if it's a gift?

But we're getting ahead of ourselves. Let's flip to February 2, 2010, when a formally dressed crowd arrived at the rotunda of Low Library to honor another broadcaster, also named Phil, who joined the Columbia radio station WKCR on Groundhog Day 1970. To stretch the metaphor, *this* Phil never left his hole: after 40 years, he's still on the air each weekday morning, hosting the long-running *Bird Flight*, a program devoted to the music and career of Charlie "Yardbird" Parker. And on Saturdays, he again boards a bus on Hillside Avenue in Queens, switches to a train at the 179th Street station, and arrives in Morningside Heights by dinnertime, to bring us *Traditions in Swing*.

Phil Schaap '73CC is a New York original: a radio host, producer, archivist, educator, storyteller, a virtuoso of jazz history in general and Charlie Parker in particular, whose appearance in Low might thus be more aptly rendered in ornithological terms than in rodential ones. Schaap, tall, broad, with a wave of red hair, entered the room in a black tux, a storklike figure among the penguins (though storks are mute and Schaap is not). He shook hands, thanked the guests, chatted, ordered a Jack Daniel's on the rocks, then headed to the bandstand, next to the dais, and greeted members of Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks, who were warming up for a night of swing.

Over by the bar, the great jazz drummer Roy Haynes, who played with Charlie Parker from 1949 to 1952, and with everyone else since, stood in dark wraparound shades and sipped a bottle of mineral water, looking a good deal younger than his 84 years. Someone asked him what his relationship was to Schaap. Haynes replied, "I woke up this morning and turned him on." A beat. "Musically, that is." Nearby was a lanky, bespectacled man in his 60s, a student at Swing University, the jaunty name of Schaap's series of adult education courses at Jazz at Lincoln Center. "I've taken Hard Bop, the Coltrane class, and Jazz 301," this man said. "And I applauded Phil every session." He called Schaap a "walking encyclopedia" and said that he burns a CD of "Bird Flight" once a month and mails it to his brother-in-law in Cleveland.

In the center of the room, 12 round tables had been set up. The guests sat down to eat a $500-a-plate dinner (this was a WKCR fundraiser, starring the station's golden goose) and to hear encomia from Schaap's radio colleagues, including Sharif Abdus-Salaam '74CC, the drummer Kenny Washington, Jamie Katz '72CC, '79BUS, and current station manager Michael Zaken '11CC. The speakers testified to Schaap's generosity, his warmth, his sensitivity, his humility, his devotion, his football injury freshman year, his steel trap memory, and his prodigious energy — early bird and night owl both. "He can go without sleep for months — almost," Abdus-Salaam told the audience. "He does that so we can get as much as we can from what he has to offer."

Eric Foner, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History and no slouch for dates, noted that the previous day, February 1, was the 50th anniversary of the Woolworth's lunch-counter sit-in. This led to a little badminton between Schaap and his old professor over *Plessy v. Ferguson*, a case that arose, as Schaap observed, in New Orleans, where jazz began. (Schaap often points out that jazz, with its integrated bands and audiences, helped hasten the end of segregation.) "One of the lessons of history," Foner said, glancing at his former student, "is that perseverance is a tremendous virtue." Former station manager Emi Noguchi '10CC unfurled and read aloud an Executive Chamber Citation from Governor David Paterson '77CC that was so long and laden with "Wherebys" that it began to suggest a burlesque of its verbose subject. In contrast, tenor sax colossus Sonny Rollins, a prince of the extended solo, sent a brief and perhaps unresolved telegram, also read by Noguchi: "Dear Phil, and I say 'dear' because you are quite dear to our jazz community."

JOHN ABBOTT

Schaap in WKCR studio, 2010

A defining Schaap moment was provided by Katz, the station manager at WKCR from 1970 to 1971. He recalled the night Schaap knocked on his door at Furnald Hall to inquire about working at the station. Katz invited the tall, friendly stranger inside and gave him a blindfold test. "McCoy Tyner, *Live at Newport*, 'Woody 'n You,'" Schaap answered, quickly and correctly.

Katz was impressed. But now he really wanted to stump this guy. "So I put on a record my father had done," Katz recounted, "and Phil said, 'That's "Cotton Tail" by Benny Carter, off *Further Definitions* on Impulse Records, and on piano, Richard Aaron Katz, born in Baltimore on March 13, 1924.'" Katz paused. "My *father* didn't even know his middle name." The audience laughed knowingly, but tonight it was Schaap's staying power, not his famous memory, that was center stage. Katz said, "You've heard of Pipp and Gehrig?" He hooked a thumb behind him to indicate Schaap on the dais. "That's Lou Gehrig."

Phil Schaap was born on April 8, 1951, and grew up in what he calls the "jazz bedroom community" of Hollis, Queens. Roy Eldridge was a neighbor and family friend. So was Lennie Tristano. So was Milt Hinton. So was Lester Young. Schaap's father, Walter Schaap '37CC, '41GSAS, a French history major, went to France in 1937 as a scholar and translator and befriended the jazz musicians there. He gave English lessons to Django Reinhardt and drank with Coleman Hawkins on Bastille Day '39. Schaap's mother, Marjorie Alice Wood Schaap, was a classically trained pianist. Phil's babysitter was Papa Jo Jones, Count Basie's drummer. Jazz was what Schaap ate for breakfast. It was his milk, his bread, his baseball cards, his grandpa, his weather. He learned things early, and remembered them.

He picked up the trumpet in his teens, then put it down after college ("I knew I sucked"), and focused on his other instrument — his voice. Listening to Schaap narrate, say, the wrenching story behind Charlie Parker's sublime and ruinous recording of "Lover Man" on July 29, 1946, one hears that this, too, is jazz: Here is an improviser with his own sonorous nasality, his own vocabulary, a master of the notes between the notes, a crafter of paragraphs delivered on coffee breath into the morn-

ing ether, a tough yet self-effacing pedant whose solos, often of Rollins-esque duration, thread their way through facts and dates and anecdotes and conjecture ("You don't have to trust me," he'll say, or, "I bet some of you disagree with me," or, "I know for some of you it's a burden to hear a social studies lesson, but . . . ") in their hot pursuit of Truth. He gives you not just words, but feeling, in avuncular New Yorkese — the inflections, the dramatic modulations, the crescendo and decrescendo, and the gravity with which he intones, as if reading scripture, "Charlie Parker was in no shape to play that day. His entire existence was unraveling, and there were many who were thinking the jeopardy was so severe that he would die." A whisper. A hush. It's the sound of awe before the splendid plumage of his subject, one that is largely of his own making. Schaap is a detective gathering evidence, a pointillist using dates for dots, an obsessive aggregator of minutiae who, in the more than 10,000 installments of *Bird Flight*, has constructed an audio portrait of Bird that should stand for all time.

But doesn't he ever get tired of Charlie Parker, day after day after day?

"If something's good to listen to, it's good to listen to more than once," Schaap said before the festivities at Low. "In any music of quality or depth, I find that a lifetime of listening is its own reward. It's not a Charlie Parker thing — Bach would be the same." And to Schaap, a history major, it's not about the dusty past, either: In music, there are no yesterdays. Now really *is* the time. "All music is present tense when it's listened to or performed," Schaap said, echoing Stravinsky, who called music "the sole domain in which man realizes the present." Schaap drew a parallel to sports: "The game of baseball hasn't changed — OK, so the outcome of tomorrow's game is different than today's — but while it's going on, it's in the present. And the only way to contemplate music is in the present. That's one of its charms."

> "In any music of quality or depth, I find that a lifetime of listening is its own reward."

Still, when you play the same artist every day for almost 30 years (*Bird Flight* took off in 1981), the present can be precarious. Schaap's challenge, each morning, is to acclimatize first-time listeners while keeping things fresh for the habitués. "You gotta get both audiences," he explained. "'I don't know what art is, but I know what I like.' You gotta get them. 'I know more about this than anyone on the planet.' You gotta get them, too. When you get both, ya done something. Rembrandt did something. Charlie Parker did something. And those people speak volumes to me."

When the Iron Horse of WKCR was introduced, the crowd in Low rose and applauded, giving back what it could. Schaap thanked everyone for "giving me a bird's-eye view of my own funeral," and for "tolerating a middle-aged man who is soon to become an old man. You made me feel welcome."

Schaap, who lives in his childhood house in Queens, among thousands of LPs and 78s, took a breath.

"I haven't had a real life the way some of you have, and I acknowledge that," he said. "But jazz has provided me my religion. Jazz musicians are my family. WKCR has been my home. I was there when I was 18 years old. I was there today." A beat. "I'm going to take off tomorrow, but —"

Everyone laughed, but the poignancy of Schaap's existence made itself felt. Here was perhaps the most knowledgeable jazz expert in the world, a cat whom Wynton Marsalis calls "an American treasure," whom Jamie Katz calls "an idiot savant without the idiot," a man who's never been paid a cent during his 40 years of volunteer broadcasting at WKCR, even as he helped make the station the first name in jazz radio — and he was thanking his admirers for putting up with him.

Schaap has done much outside the booth as well. He's been a teacher at Columbia, Princeton, and Juilliard, an audio restoration specialist, and a Grammy-winning producer and writer of liner notes. But he remains, at his core, a performer, the man behind the mic, blowing. Spinning. Swinging. Given his early associations, it's no surprise that even his arrival at Columbia was marked by a golden stroke of time: He came a year after the strike of 1968, just as 'KCR was changing its format, expanding

GETTY IMAGES

Schaap with bassist Alvin Raglin, New York, 1975

JOHN ABBOTT

Schaap in WKCR studio, 1991

its jazz programming. Talk about hitting the beat. Papa Jo must have smiled.

But time, alas, can be a funny thing.

Back in Punxsutawney, things change for Phil in *Groundhog Day*. As February 2 recurs, Phil learns how to profit from his foreknowledge of events. He gathers data, memorizes it, uses it for personal gain. But for all his omniscience he still isn't happy. Slowly, he begins to figure things out. He starts using his mastery to help others, and finally makes the breakthrough that allows him to graduate to February 3.

Phil Schaap faced no such difficulties this past Groundhog Day. After the Nighthawks packed away their instruments and the tables were cleared and Roy Haynes put on his hat, Schaap walked through the doors of Low Library. Outside, the nighttime snow fell light and feathery, the softest of notes. From the topmost steps of Low, the view of campus, with the buildings and trees aglow, was magical.

Schaap wasn't ready for bed. He and about 30 undergraduates and recent 'KCR alumni headed down to the Abbey Pub on 105th Street near Broadway. It was an impromptu event, and Schaap was touched by the appreciation of people young enough to be his children.

A few days later, Schaap was asked how late he stayed out. For once, his memory failed to supply the exact time.

"All I know is that it was after midnight," he said. "It wasn't February 2nd anymore."

NEWS

Helping Haiti

It was Mary Choi's third day in Haiti, and the throngs of frail and battered people outside of her medical tent continued to swell. A listless infant wrapped in cotton lay in her arms. The baby girl's extreme dehydration had caused her veins to shrink into threads, too fragile to take an IV needle.

Choi, a physician studying at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, poured a trickle of fluid into the girl's mouth, but she wouldn't swallow. Choi tried again, this time delicately pinching shut the infant's nostrils. It worked.

For two hours, Choi sat on a wooden chair, in the 100-degree heat, giving sips to the baby. Finally, their ride came and took them to a Swiss pediatric tent an hour away. During the drive, Choi sat

Photographer Daniella Zalcman '09CC spent the last week of January documenting life in Haiti after the earthquake. In this photo, taken in downtown Port-au-Prince, people sift through rubble for building materials and lost personal objects.

in the backseat, determined to revive the infant. As they arrived, the baby let out a cry. It was a beautiful sound, signaling that she would live.

"There are so many people dying there that you start to wonder, 'What exactly am I accomplishing?'" says Choi, an international emergency medicine fellow at Mailman, who arrived in Haiti five days after the January 12 earthquake and stayed for nearly two weeks. "But you have to tell yourself you can't save everyone, and the lives you save have to be enough."

As American news crews leave Haiti, taking the spotlight off that country's humanitarian crisis, faculty and students from across the University are contributing to Haiti's relief and reconstruction. For example, about a dozen nurses and physicians from Columbia are there working long hours, treating everyone they can. Both the School of Nursing and the College of Physicians and Surgeons have a rotation list of clinicians committed to practicing in Haiti at least until the fall. Meanwhile, several Columbia public-health specialists are advising relief agencies.

Robert S. Chen, a senior research scientist who directs the University's Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), is co-chair of the University's recently created Haiti Task Force, a group of non-medical faculty who meet every Friday to discuss how their programs can contribute to relief efforts. "There are Columbia experts in agricultural development, energy, disaster, risk management, urban planning, ecological restoration, conflict resolution, and climate forecasting involved in relief efforts," he says. "We want to provide integrated thinking about what's needed. We want to make sure what we're doing on the ground is coordinated."

Lessons from the past

Ronald Waldman, an epidemiologist and Mailman professor, was in Port-au-Prince for six weeks following the disaster, serving as the U.S. government coordinator of medical and health-sector response. A physician specializing in child health in developing countries,

Ronald Waldman in Port-au-Prince

Waldman has worked in complex emergencies in Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Albania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and, most recently, Iraq. "I have seen a lot of disasters, but the destruction of this city is unfathomable," Waldman said days after the quake. "We teach about direct and indirect consequences of disasters and about how they should be approached sequentially, but here they have to be addressed simultaneously."

While several faculty are serving on the ground in Haiti, others are mapping out long-term recovery plans from New York. Neil Boothby, with more than 20 years' experience working with children in crises, has been advising the U.S. government and UNICEF on child protection issues in Haiti. Boothby is the Allan Rosenfield Professor of Clinical Forced Migration and Health at Mailman and director of the school's Program on Forced Migration and Health. He knows firsthand the mistakes and successes that can occur in crisis response: He wrote UNICEF's postprogram review of the 2004 Asian tsunami relief effort. "We have to ensure that lessons from the tsunami be integrated into the Haiti response," says Boothby. "Today, and before the earthquake in Haiti, too many people died because of poor water and sanitation and lack of immunization. We need to help Haiti build public health structures that support a continuum of health, from the home to the clinic to the hospital."

Marc Levy, the deputy director of CIESIN, is among several Columbia faculty members who have long-standing research projects in Haiti and who are now adapting their work to help the country rebuild. When the earthquake hit, Levy was in Haiti with CIESIN colleague Alex Fischer. "The shaking seemed to go on forever," he says. Levy directs the Haiti Regeneration Initiative, a partnership between the Earth Institute and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to restore damaged ecosystems in the country. Levy and his team successfully mapped the watershed surrounding Port-au-Prince. They tested soil to see what nutrients it needed, identified deforested areas prone to landslides, and compiled historical rainfall statistics.

Levy's goal is to determine which crops will grow best in the area and how to provide clean drinking water to the region's 2.9 million people. "It's an ecological focus," Levy says. "Before the earthquake, two-thirds of the country's population lived in rural areas with high levels of poverty and a vulnerable landscape."

Levy and Fischer are now back in United States, but they'll return to Haiti in a few months to assess where the earthquake has disturbed soils and hillsides, increasing the chances of dangerous landslides. "The idea is to get people to grow crops in areas most suitable," he says, "and get trees planted in places most needed."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANIELLA ZALCMAN

Ayiti tomorrow

Other researchers from Columbia's Earth Institute have been in Haiti for about two years creating a comprehensive plan to lift the Caribbean nation out of poverty. Their work is part of the UN Development Program's Millennium Villages Project, which was developed by Earth Institute director Jeffrey Sachs.

Ayman S. Yassa, an emergency medical physician working toward his master's in public health at the Mailman School, treats a Haitian woman about a week after the earthquake.

Tatiana Wah, an expert on the economic development in poor countries, oversees the Earth Institute's work in Haiti, which involves reducing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. Speaking from Port-au-Prince a month after the earthquake, Wah said, "Now we have to deal not just with development, but with the most basic services." She said construction, recovery, and development must be integrated so that transitions are smooth. "The city has to be completely rebuilt."

Ultimately, public health experts at Columbia hope that international relief efforts will help Haitians make long-term improvements to their lives. Similarly, Indonesia was able to capitalize on international aid in order to build public health infrastructures that are better than before the 2004 tsunami, according to Boothby.

"Mistakes were made in Aceh, Indonesia," he says. "But today Aceh is a better place to live. I hope we can say the same for Haiti some years from now." — *Cindy Rodríguez*

Architecture school launches Studio-X global network

The Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) has formally announced plans to create a global network of studio spaces that will promote dialogue among architects and urban planners from around the world. The program, dubbed Studio-X, has already established outposts in Beijing and Amman. The school has plans to launch studios next in Rio de Janeiro, Moscow, Mumbai, and Accra.

The idea is to provide GSAPP faculty and students places to work in foreign cities while making it easy for locals involved in architecture, urban planning, historic preservation, and real-estate development projects to collaborate with experts from Columbia and elsewhere. The studios operate as intensive design workshops and also host lectures, exhibitions, concerts, and social events.

Mark Wigley, dean of GSAPP, opened a pilot Studio-X in downtown Manhattan in 2008 to demonstrate his vision for the program. Studio-X New York, which is located in a building that's home to several architecture firms at 180 Varick Street, has become a vital hub where during the day GSAPP faculty and students work on experimental projects and at night everybody from radical artists to corporate CEOs gather to discuss the future of public space. The Studio-X network will reach its potential, Wigley says, when such exchanges take place across continents; he envisions that people at various Studio-X shops will hold regular videoconferences.

According to Wigley, Columbia architects and urban planners have lots to learn from counterparts in places like China, where half of the world's new buildings are going up. "It's impossible to participate in that kind of explosive growth while sitting in New York," he says. "These cities are laboratories, and we have to be in these laboratories to learn from their experiments."

To read more, visit arch.columbia.edu/studiox.

HO KYUNG LEE

Studio-X New York recently hosted an installation art piece inspired by wildlife seen along the MTA's No. 7 train in Queens.

Seven faculty honored for exceptional teaching

EILEEN BARROSO

Harmen Bussemaker, an associate professor of biological sciences, was among seven professors chosen to receive the Distinguished Columbia Faculty Award this year. Biochemistry major Andrei Dinu-Ionita (right) presented Bussemaker with his award.

Every year, Columbia recognizes top arts and sciences faculty for their accomplishments in the classroom and as researchers by presenting them with the Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards. The awards, which include stipends of $25,000 per year for three consecutive years, are made possible by a $12 million donation by Trustee Gerry Lenfest '58LAW, '09HON.

This year's winners are Germanic languages scholar Stefan Andriopoulos, biologist and genomics expert Harmen Bussemaker, feminist literary and culture critic Julie Crawford, philosopher of music Lydia Goehr, environmental scientist Steven Goldstein '76CC, '86GSAS, chemist Ruben Gonzalez Jr., and anthropologist David Scott.

Crawford, an associate professor of English and comparative literature, says that being an exceptional teacher requires respecting your students: "This means taking them seriously as intellectuals and fellow inquirers, helping them to discover a wide range of skills and tools, and pushing them beyond passivity, quiescence, easy answers, and emulation."

The professors were honored at a Faculty House dinner on February 16. — *DJC*

Jane Winland to direct science and engineering libraries

Columbia recently appointed Jane Winland to direct its science and engineering libraries, a job that includes planning a new consolidated science library in the Northwest Corner Building.

Winland, whose appointment followed a nationwide search, has worked at Columbia libraries for 39 years. Most recently, she was director of the University's social science libraries.

In her new position, Winland oversees the engineering, mathematics, geology, and geosciences libraries. She'll also manage the new Integrated Science Library — combining resources for astronomy, biological sciences, chemistry, physics, and psychology — in the Northwest Corner Building. This 14-story structure, which is scheduled to open in the spring of 2011 at the intersection of Broadway and 120th Street, will be devoted to interdisciplinary science research. Its library, occupying the building's first floor, will be staffed by librarians trained specifically to support interdisciplinary work.

Planning for the Integrated Science Library will require difficult decisions. In preparation for its opening, the University closed the old physics, chemistry, biology, and psychology libraries last summer, transferring those holdings to other campus libraries and to an off-site storage facility. Winland now is working with science faculty to determine which volumes will be transferred to the Integrated Science Library and which will remain in storage. She expects that old science periodicals will stay in storage because scientists today use e-journals for almost all of their research. Most likely to make the move, she says, are books and scholarly monographs published in the past few years.

"Our libraries tend to be crowded, and we need as much space as possible for individual work stations and group-study rooms," she says. "This library should be very popular, and most research here will be conducted electronically."

The new science library will include a digital science center, where users will have access to cutting-edge electronic research tools, including geographic information-system databases, new statistical analysis software, and computer programs that enable researchers to easily share their laboratory data with colleagues.

LYNN SAVILLE

Jane Winland

"Faculty and students tend to think that they're aware of what's available in our libraries today, but very few of them are familiar with all our resources," Winland says. "My challenge is to get the word out, and to make sure the scientists trust our librarians to teach them new ways of working." — *DJC*

MIKE MCLAUGHLIN

Judie Lomax '12BC, seen here scoring against Sacred Heart, led the women's basketball team this semester to their first winning season since joining Division I.

Big bounce back

The Columbia women's basketball team rebounded in a big way this season, posting its first winning record since joining the NCAA's Division I in 1986. The team was 18–10 overall and 9–5 in league play, good for third place among the Ivies.

A key to the Lions' success this season was junior forward Judie Lomax '12BC, the nation's top rebounder, pulling down 14 boards per game. She set a single-game Columbia record with 27 rebounds in the Lions' March 6 season finale, a 54–41 win over Brown. She was also among the top Ivy League players in scoring and in steals. Lomax, who was profiled by the *New York Times* back on November 11, 2008, was the league's player of the week five times this season. She plans to be a child psychologist.

"Her impact on this program can be historic," head coach Paul Nixon told the *Times*. "She is a player who brings the things to the table that, frankly, our team has been missing. She can really help take us to new heights."

Visit www.gocolumbialions.com. — *DJC*

Universities' boycott wins garment workers right to unionize

Executives at Russell Athletic probably expected that U.S. labor-rights activists would protest when the company shut down one of its Honduran factories in early 2009, soon after workers there had unionized. But would the bad PR hurt Russell's bottom line? That was more doubtful. The Atlanta-based apparel company had long been criticized for its treatment of garment workers and yet it retained licensing deals with many of the same colleges and universities that were hotbeds of anti-sweatshop protest.

This time, however, the academic community pushed back hard against Russell. Within weeks of the factory's closing, about a dozen institutions of higher learning, including Columbia, told the company that it could no longer manufacture T-shirts, sweatshirts, and other clothing items bearing their names and logos. By the summer of 2009, more than 80 universities, many under pressure from local chapters of the United Students Against Sweatshops, had dropped their licensing deals with Russell. The boycott was based on solid information about the company's conduct in Honduras: Workers Rights Consortium (WRC), a watchdog group that is funded by Columbia and 185 other colleges and universities to monitor companies with which they have licensing agreements, concluded in a series of investigations last year that Russell was "systematically and persistently" harassing garment workers who tried to unionize. The factory closing in Choloma, Honduras, which cost 1200 people their jobs, was almost certainly retribution for those workers' attempts to negotiate collectively for better conditions, the WRC found.

The boycott — the largest ever by colleges and universities against a clothing maker — eventually pushed Russell to the bargaining table. This past winter, representatives of Russell, the WRC, and the laid-off garment workers announced a plan to reopen Russell's factory in Choloma soon and to give the workers their jobs back. Russell and its parent company, Fruit of the Loom, have also vowed to permit unions at all seven of their Honduran factories, in accordance with Honduran law.

"This is a crucial victory for free-association rights," says Sharyn O'Halloran, a scholar of labor issues and Columbia's George Blumenthal Professor of Political Economy and Professor of International and Public Affairs. "It's going to encourage workers to be more aggressive in

Go to bed!

If you want to ace that midterm exam or nail that work presentation, hit the sack. That's the message behind a new health-promotion initiative at Columbia. On the campaign's Web site, health.columbia.edu/sleep, anyone with a Columbia UNI can fill out a survey to receive personalized tips about how to improve one's sleep habits and time-management skills. The site also contains lots of tips about the importance of slumber. For example: You process information faster, and retain it better, when you're well rested.

COLUMBIA OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES

An initiative to promote healthful sleep habits, organized by Columbia's Alice! Health Promotion Program, invites members of the University community to send friends e-cards like this one.

The initiative was launched in response to a series of campus health surveys and focus groups, conducted between 2006 and 2009, that revealed that a slim majority of Columbia students deprive themselves of sleep regularly. Students who are committed to getting proper sleep every night, moreover, get the best grades.

"Many students put sleep in the category of something-I'll-do-after-I've-done-everything-else," says Michael McNeil, interim director of Columbia's Alice! Health Promotion Program, which is running the campaign. "It's not a top priority for them."

McNeil knows that stumping for shut-eye is a challenge at an Ivy League institution, where people tend to bond over their unusual devotion to work. Faculty and staff, he says, as well as students, may easily fall into the habit of reading into the wee hours. (The author of this article, upon completing the two-minute online sleep assessment, was told that he might sleep more restfully, and hence perform better on the job, if he drinks less tea at night and eats dinner earlier.)

"No one should be shocked to hear that college students get too little sleep, because this is an issue throughout higher education," says McNeil. "And at Columbia, there's certainly pressure to perform. We're trying to teach students that they'll perform better, in every way, if they get good sleep." — *DJC*

articulating their concerns to employers in a collective way."

O'Halloran, who has mentored students advocating for labor rights since the late 1990s, when the anti-sweatshop movement took root on college campuses, says that Columbia students have been especially passionate on this issue and that the University's administration is unusually responsive to their concerns. In 2000, Columbia was among the first in a succession of universities to adopt a "code of workplace conduct," stipulating that its licensees and vendors must recognize unions, pay workers a living wage, grant maternity leaves, refrain from employing children, and observe other basic labor rights. That same year, Columbia was among 44 founding affiliates of the WRC.

JENICA MILLER

The University is making sure that companies that produce apparel bearing its name and logo treat garment workers fairly.

Columbia has typically enforced its code of conduct in quiet ways, according to Honey Sue Fishman, executive director of business services. She says that when her office gets complaints about licensees' or vendors' labor practices — often from student activists — she works with the companies directly, or through intermediaries such as the WRC and the nonprofit Fair Labor Association, to try to bring them in line with the University's code of conduct. "Usually, the company will hear our concerns and take reasonable steps to address the problem," she says, "but with Russell, we had to resort to ending our business relationship."

Fishman says that if Russell is found to abide by the University's code of conduct over the next year or so, her office will consider granting the company a license to again produce Lion-emblazoned sportswear. "We'll be monitoring Russell's progress very carefully," she says, "to make sure it treats these workers the way it's promised to." — *David J. Craig*

Engineering business smarts

La Pregunta Arts Café is one of Harlem's most lively new establishments, bringing together people for poetry, music, and community meetings. The café, which opened in March 2008, is also the passion of owner Yscaira Jiménez '03CC.

Last summer, however, Jiménez found herself struggling to keep up with expenses. Fortunately, word got to Rebecca Rodríguez, director of the Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. The center provides free assistance to local entrepreneurs by pairing them with engineering students trained as business counselors. (Many Columbia engineering students take business courses and go on to to become entrepreneurs themselves.)

Rodríguez dispatched four Columbia students to help Jiménez create an energy-saving plan. This included finding a recycling company to take away old cooking oil for free, switching to fluorescent lightbulbs, and using the café's air conditioner sparingly. Other students conducted a formal assessment of the café's financial value, which will be useful if Jiménez chooses to court investors, take out a loan, or sell. Jiménez, acting on Rodríguez's advice, also launched a catering business.

"I'm still struggling a little," says Jiménez, "but I'm in a much better place now."

So far, SBDC has provided assistance to 176 businesses. Clients have included a moving company, a doctor, a provider of educational services, and a manufacturer of organic health products. They've learned how to create business plans, design Web sites, establish boards of overseers, and attract capital.

Jack McGourty, an associate dean at the engineering school who oversees several public-service programs there, says SBDC has a twin mission: "to help the community while encouraging students to become leaders in science and engineering with a socially responsible lens."

To read more about the engineering school's community-service programs, visit ctice.columbia.edu. — *Cindy Rodríguez*

JENICA MILLER

Rebecca Rodríguez addresses local entrepreneurs at Harlem's La Pregunta Arts Café.

Planning for peace

Gal Bar Dea, a Columbia MBA student from Israel, began his quest for world peace with an e-mail blast. Thirty-five fellow Columbia graduate students responded and together they created SPIRIT Initiative, a Web-based project whose objective is explained by its full name: Students Participating in Resolving International Tensions.

Last fall, the students sought peace proposals from peers at 50 universities around the world. They received 31 proposals, most of them addressing long-simmering conflicts in the Middle East, in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in civil war–torn Colombia. They recruited a panel of experts to choose the best eight; these papers soon will appear on the group's Web site, spiritinitiative.org.

The SPIRIT Initiative's guiding principle, Bar Dea says, is that brilliant ideas will emerge from inclusive conversations. To this end, the group's Web site soon will permit anybody to contribute thoughts and suggestions on specific proposals.

More than 100 students from around the world are expected to attend the organization's April 9 inaugural conference in New York City. Graduate students from Colombia, Nigeria, Israel, and elsewhere will present their papers to invited UN officials and to academics. One plan would create a UN fellowship program to educate Pakistani and Afghani youth. Another would launch a tax-exempt fish-farming industry to give jobs to people in Gaza.

"This whole idea came from wanting to change things in my country," says Bar Dea, whose group has received institutional support from Columbia Business School and the School of International and Public Affairs. "You have new governments, new prime ministers, and nothing happens. We're not trying to replace the decision makers, but we know we can contribute."

— *Cindy Rodríguez*

JENICA MILLER

Graduate students Gal Bar Dea, Heather Gilmartin, and Lennaro Crain lead the group Students Participating in Resolving International Tensions.

New fellowship for oral history

Attorney Sybil Shainwald '72GSAS is a pioneer of women's health law. In the 1970s, she represented plaintiffs in *Bichler v. Lilly,* the first case in which drug manufacturers were held liable for the health problems of children whose mothers took the anti-miscarriage drug diethylstilbestrol, or DES. She has also represented thousands of women in developing countries hurt by unsafe birth-control devices distributed by Western companies in the 1960s and 1970s.

JENICA MILLER

Sybil Shainwald '72GSAS in her Midtown Manhattan law offices

Now Shainwald is endowing a $100,000 fund to provide fellowships for master's degree candidates in Columbia's oral history program. Shainwald chose to support the program, she says, for its focus on preserving the voices of common people and members of traditionally marginalized groups. She also hopes that her gift will bring attention to the plight of men and women today who still suffer from health problems caused by their mothers' taking DES.

Shainwald has named the new fellowship fund for Judge Jack B. Weinstein '49LAW, a senior federal judge for New York's eastern district who handled many of her cases over the years and, in her view, was instrumental in bringing justice to her clients. (Weinstein also taught at Columbia Law School from the 1950s to the 1990s.)

Shainwald developed an appreciation for oral history, she says, while studying consumer movements for her master's degree at Columbia under the famed historian Richard Hofstadter.

"Oral history is vital," says Shainwald, who in 2009 received the dean's award for distinguished achievement from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. "I hope that the oral history department can preserve powerful stories of human tragedy, as well as the voices of people who understood the tragedy and sought to provide justice."

— *Marcus Tonti*

In brief

Global Centers open in Paris, Mumbai

In March, two Columbia Global Centers were launched. The centers in Paris and Mumbai will enable Columbia faculty and students to more easily undertake research, teaching, and service projects not just in these cities, but throughout Europe and South Asia. The centers are part of a network of overseas academic outposts that President Lee C. Bollinger has initiated. Last year, Columbia established its first two global centers, in Beijing and Amman; more centers are planned for Central Asia and South America.

The global centers are located in cities where Columbia already has a research presence. For instance, the Mailman School of Public Health has strong ties to l'Ecole des Hautes Études en Santé Publique in Paris and the Earth Institute does extensive work in Mumbai. The new centers will encourage faculty from across the University to build off the momentum of the Mailman School's and the Earth Institute's partnerships and to launch their own programs in the regions.

Seven for science

Seven Columbia science professors were inducted into the American Association for the Advancement of Science in February. The new fellows are psychiatrist Jeffrey A. Lieberman; epidemiologist W. Ian Lipkin; ecologist Don J. Melnick; epidemiologist Stephen S. Morse; political scientist Robert Y. Shapiro; geneticist Lorraine S. Symington; and biophysicist Liang Tong.

Senior wins Cambridge scholarship

Shlomo Bolts, a Columbia College senior, has been awarded a 2010 Gates Cambridge Scholarship to pursue a master's degree at Cambridge University. This prestigious prize, created by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2002, provides full support for students to attend Cambridge.

Bolts co-founded the campus group Common Ground, which promotes Jewish-Muslim dialogue. He plans to conduct research on conflict resolution at Cambridge.

CAREER advancements

Three Columbia engineering professors have won the National Science Foundation's CAREER award for junior faculty. Biomedical engineer Elizabeth Hillman develops imaging techniques that enable her to study living brain cells; Mark Borden has created a method of injecting tiny capsules of oxygen into tissue, which has implications for treating cancer; and civil engineer Huiming Yin has invented cost-efficient solar panels (see story on page 51).

NEWSMAKERS

Sweet talkin' guys

Doug Morris '60CC, the chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group, received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on January 26 for creating the world's largest and most successful record company. Morris began his career as a songwriter; his credits include the Chiffons' 1966 hit "Sweet Talkin' Guy" . . . Television journalist **George Stephanopoulos '82CC** became a co-anchor of ABC's *Good Morning America* in December, replacing Diane Sawyer.

UPI PHOTO

Doug Morris '60CC

And the winners are . . .

Kathryn Bigelow '81SOA, profiled in the last issue of *Columbia*, won the prizes for best picture and best director at this year's Academy Awards for her film *The Hurt Locker*, which collected a total of six Oscars. Bigelow is the first female director to win either award. Earlier in the year, she took home six BAFTAs, the U.K.'s version of the Academy Awards, including the honors for best picture and best director . . . **Geoffrey Fletcher**, an adjunct professor in the School of the Arts' film division, won an Oscar for his screenplay adaptation of *Precious: Based on the Novel Push By Sapphire* . . . **Eric Mendelsohn**, an associate professor of film, won the U.S. directing award for a dramatic feature at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival for his film, *Three Backyards*.

Bankers to the world

Russell Kincaid '75GSAS, a 30-year veteran of the International Monetary Fund, was recently named director of the IMF's office of internal audit . . . **Brian Wynter '85SIPA** has been appointed Governor of the Bank of Jamaica, which is that nation's central bank.

Street wise

Robert B. Kaplan '89CC has been named co-chief of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's newly created Asset Management Unit, which will investigate illegal activities in the financial sector. Kaplan's unit scrutinizes investment companies, hedge funds, private equity funds, and investment advisers . . . **Lisa L. Carnoy '89CC** was chosen by Bank of America in February to co-head its global capital markets, making her the third most powerful woman on Wall Street, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

SHRAVAN VIDYARTHI

Lisa L. Carnoy '89CC

Straight to the top

Ronald Mason Jr. '74CC, '77LAW, the president of Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, was recently appointed by **President Barack Obama '83CC** to the advisory board of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Mason will advise the president on ways to strengthen black colleges and to increase college attendance among racial minorities.

COURTESY OF JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Ronald Mason Jr. '74CC, '77LAW

In the public interest

Four alumni of the J-school will be presented with George Polk Awards in Journalism, a coveted prize administered by New York University, in April. **Steve Kroft '75JRN** won for a *60 Minutes* segment about Wall Street's growing influence on oil prices; **Craig Torres '89JRN** for several *Bloomberg News* articles tallying the federal government's commitments to banks; **Kathy Chu '99JRN** for her *USA Today* series on escalating credit-card fees; and **Abrahm Lustgarten '03JRN** for

his *ProPublica* coverage of an environmentally hazardous natural-gas mining practice known as hydraulic fracturing.

Helping hands

Ana Lopez '02SSW was named a 2009 Washingtonian of the Year by *Washingtonian Magazine*. She was honored for her work as executive director of Community Bridges, a nonprofit that runs educational programs for minority girls in the Washington, D.C., area . . . Former Columbia soccer captain **Erica Woda '04CC** was profiled in the *New York Times* on February 8 for creating the nonprofit, Level the Field. Her program pairs sixth graders from the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan with Columbia athletes for mentoring.

Ana Lopez '02SSW

Elephants on the march

John Chachas '86CC, a Republican investment banker, has announced that he's challenging Harry Reid for the U.S. Senate in Nevada . . . Republican businessman **Mark Myers Mermel '06GSAS** has taken the unusual step of announcing that he wants to be lieutenant governor of New York.

COURTESY MARK MYERS MERMEL

Mark Myers Mermel '06GSAS

Customarily, a governor picks the lieutenant governor, but state GOP boss Ed Cox is reportedly open to a more public process, having encouraged Mermel and anyone else interested in the post to ask GOP county chairs to support their appointment should a Republican win the next gubernatorial race.

EXPLORATIONS

New chemical illuminates brain activity

David Sulzer in his Columbia laboratory

Brain researchers are now observing synaptic activity in live tissue with a new degree of precision, using a fluorescent chemical invented at Columbia.

The laboratories of Dalibor Sames, a chemistry professor, and David Sulzer, a neurobiology professor, recently developed a type of fluorescent false neurotransmitter (FFN), a glowing substance that can be monitored as it travels within tissue observed under a microscope. The new chemical, which Sames and Sulzer have dubbed FFN511, mimics and moves alongside of dopamine, a neurotransmitter that helps regulate emotion and learning. The chemical glows green so that researchers will see whenever the brain releases dopamine. FFN511 represents an innovation over existing imaging compounds because it is bright enough to be observed as it is picked up and released by individual brain synapses even when used at low concentrations, meaning that it doesn't disrupt normal brain activity.

"This is the first method of looking at individual synaptic activity," says Sulzer.

The chemical is designed to be used in research on memory, learning, and decision making, as well as illnesses that include Parkinson's disease, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and schizophrenia. The international biochemical company Ascent Scientific recently inked a licensing deal with Columbia University to be the first commercial supplier.

"We believe that FFN511 has the potential to become an essential research tool for neuroscientists studying the synaptic transmission of dopamine," says Sulzer, "as well as for drug discovery efforts seeking to identify improved blockers and enhancers of dopamine transporter activity."

Stem cells restore eyesight in mice

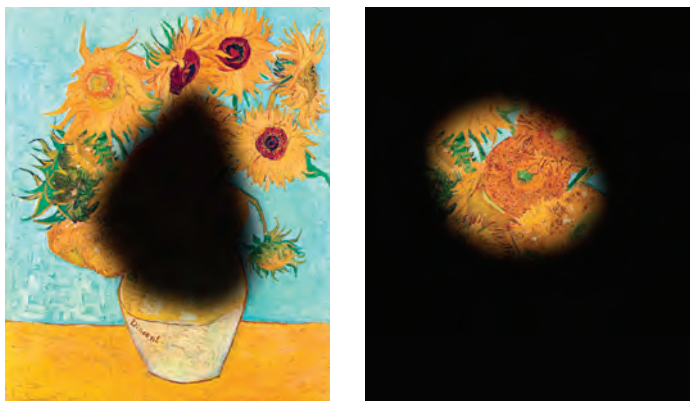
Medical researchers at Columbia recently used stem cells to restore the eyesight of mice, suggesting a new treatment strategy for a common ailment known as retinitis pigmentosa. People with retinitis pigmentosa experience tunnel vision because cells on the periphery of the retina die. The disorder affects about 1 in 3000 to 4000 people, or 1.5 million people worldwide.

"We turned stem cells into retinal cells, and these retinal cells restored vision," says Stephen Tsang, an assistant professor of ophthalmology, pathology, and cell biology. His work appears in the March issue of the journal *Transplantation*.

Tsang and his colleagues restored eyesight in about one-quarter of their mice with retinitis pigmentosa. Some of the animals had complications, however, including benign tumors and detached retinas. Tsang now is trying to eliminate these side effects with the hope of testing the procedure next in humans.

"Once the complications are addressed, we believe this technique could become a new therapeutic approach not only for retinitis pigmentosa," says Tsang, "but age-related macular degeneration, Stargardt disease, and other forms of retinal disease."

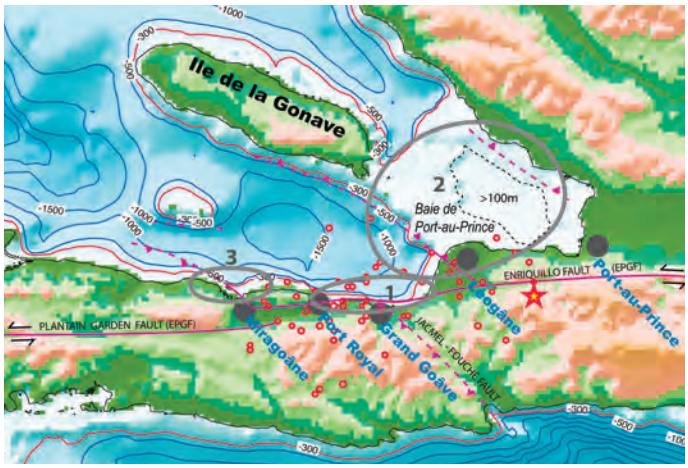
Age-related macular degeneration affects cells in the middle of the retina. Stem cell therapy, Tsang says, would create an unlimited supply of replacement retinal cells, which today must be donated.



Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* as seen through the eyes of a person with age-related macular degeneration, at left, and the same painting as seen through the eyes of a person with retinitis pigmentosa

Seismologists monitoring continued quake threat near Haiti

Only a seismologist could fully understand the implications of something that took place in Haiti on January 12: a tsunami hit Petit Paradis, a coastal village north of Port-au-Prince, shortly after the earthquake. This signaled that another fault line, one distinct from the Enriquillo Fault whose slippage caused the quake, might have shifted during a series of aftershocks. Scientists had never detected a fault in this area, and now they were anxious to see if one existed. They also wanted to assess if this potential fault line, or Enriquillo, would slip again.



LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY

This map shows, in grey circles, areas off Haiti's coast where Columbia scientists are assessing for risk of future earthquakes. The red star indicates the epicenter of the January 12 quake; red dots show aftershocks.

Within days, seismologists and marine geologists from Columbia were organizing a monthlong research trip aboard *The Endeavor*, a ship owned by the National Science Foundation, with scientists from several other institutions. They are traversing Haiti's coast through March, using sonar equipment to scan the ocean floor for recently formed cliffs, hills, or gas pockets — anything to indicate where the earth moved and may move again.

"It's important to do this work now, because we need to characterize what happened on the seafloor before storms and waves wipe out the evidence," says chief scientist Cecilia McHugh, a Columbia marine geologist. "Figuring out how this earthquake worked and where other earthquakes may be prone to occur is critical for a lot of things, including where to resettle people, where to build houses, and how strong to build them."

To read more, visit earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/2512.

Solar heat made affordable

Huiming Yin, an assistant professor of engineering, has invented a solar panel that could make sustainable energy affordable for more U.S. households and businesses.

The panel represents the next generation of solar technology, according to Yin, because it is designed to replace some roofing materials. This could reduce overall building costs, compared to installing a freestanding solar array. The system, in addition to generating electricity, produces hot water by circulating the water in plastic tubes beneath the solar panels.

"The new roof panel is designed for conserving energy, harvesting solar power, and recycling materials, as well as resisting various environmental deteriorations and bearing mechanical loading," Yin says. "The technology will be applicable to new construction and renovation and to a range of building types, from residential houses to large commercial buildings."

Yin's solar panels soon will be installed on the roof of a building at Frederick Douglass Academy in Upper Manhattan. The high school is a partner of the Columbia engineering school's Center for Technology, Innovation and Community Engagement. Academy students will help Yin and engineers from the local building firm Weidlinger Associates install the 6.4-square-meter rooftop system and then monitor its performance.

"Our goal is to develop innovative products toward zero-net energy buildings," says Yin, who recently won the National Science Foundation's CAREER Award, which goes to junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars. "Through this project, we will also train our students to be top researchers and to change engineering practices for sustainability."

COURTESY OF WEIDLINGER ASSOCIATES

Columbia engineering students and local high schoolers examine solar panels to be installed at Frederick Douglass Academy in Upper Manhattan.

REVIEWS

His Life and Time *// By James R. Gaines*

The Publisher: Henry Luce and His American Century
By Alan Brinkley (Knopf, 560 pages, $35)

Henry Luce, the man who created *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune*, *Sports Illustrated*, and a publishing empire that both reflected and helped to define American life for much of the 20th century, waited a long time to get the biography he deserves. I labored in Luce's vineyard for decades but never met the man, so for me Alan Brinkley's *The Publisher: Henry Luce and His American Century* is a real gift.

Luce was more self-regarding than introspective, yet he might have appreciated the wisdom and generosity, if not at times the scholarly rigor, that Brinkley, Columbia's Allan Nevins Professor of American History and provost emeritus, brings to the task.

The Luce of legend was a monomaniacal tycoon, pigheadedly pro-Republican, anti-Roosevelt, pro-business, and pro-war. Brinkley's Luce is a vividly three-dimensional character who comes to life in ways he never did to those close enough to call themselves his colleagues: larger than life but also life-sized, domineering and insecure, dogmatic and incoherent, unbending and manipulable. He was as tough on his wives as he was on his co-workers, he did not understand himself or anyone else, and everyone around him paid a price for that, including Luce himself.

Born in 1898 to missionaries serving in China, Luce was raised to sermonize. At four years old, he would stand on a barrel in front of his father's house in Tengchow and preach. His own true faith, however, was Americanism, which he discovered for the first time four years later — in the first decade of the "American Century" he would later so famously christen — on a long family visit to the "home" he had never known.

After a miserable boarding-school experience back in China, he was sent at 15 to Hotchkiss, a scholarship student among the elite. Ignorance of his schoolmates' common references and sports-field rules earned him the hated nickname "Chink," and he lived in town, away from the other boys, in a boardinghouse with fellow scholarship students. The distinction rankled, and he was determined to break through it, repeatedly being named his class's "First Scholar," becoming editor of the literary magazine, failing only to make the editorship of the more prestigious school newspaper because of "a boy, Hadden, who is already on the Board." This was Briton Hadden, whom he deeply admired and whose editorial ability would daunt Luce again at Yale.

It was with Hadden that Luce founded *Time* in 1923, when both were 25. They planned to call the new publication *Facts*, a "weekly newspaper," marketing it in contrast to the staid, objective, almost assertively bland *New York Times*. Luce and Hadden intuited the need for concision and summary from the popular digests of the day. The publication aimed, as Luce wrote to the woman who would become his first wife, to "serve the illiterate upper classes, the busy business man, the tired debutante, to prepare them at least once a week for a table conversation."

Hadden took first turn as editor, and it was he who elaborated *Time*'s signal style. He instructed editors to avoid Latinate in favor of hard-edged Anglican English and to peg newsmakers with titles (Demagog Hitler, Teacher Scopes). He also mined his translation of the *Iliad* for high-baroque locutions, front-loaded sentences, and compound adjectives along the lines of "fleet-footed Achilles." Brinkley favors us with one especially outrageous example from the introduction to a 1925 story on the Scopes trial:

> The pens and tongues of contumely were arrested. Mocking mouths were shut. Even righteous protestation hushed its clamor, as when . . . a high-helmed champion is stricken by Jove's bolt and the two snarling armies stand at sudden gaze, astonished and bereft a moment of their rancor.

"But even as the magazine matured and shed some of its more egregious excesses," notes Brinkley, "writers . . . forced readers to wade through considerable imagery before encountering any real information."

In 1929, six years after the magazine's launch, Hadden died of a respiratory illness complicated by exhaustion and heavy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Henry Luce in 1937 with Columbia law professor, *Newsweek* columnist, and disillusioned Brain Truster Raymond Moley '18GSAS.

drinking. Although Luce always styled himself editor in chief, he named a new editor for *Time* after Hadden's passing and turned his energy to a new business-magazine idea. (Though Hadden had belittled the idea, Luce told the board that Hadden had been all for it.) In 1930, he launched *Fortune* into the teeth of the Great Depression: an oversized, luxurious anachronism with photographs by Margaret Bourke-White, art by Rockwell Kent 1904CC and Diego Rivera, and text by Dwight Macdonald, James Agee, Archibald MacLeish — hardly the sort of people to toe what became his anti-Roosevelt line.

But Luce always called himself a liberal, and his politics were anything but consistent. From the beginning, Luce and his magazines were progressive on race. Early on he espoused "welfare capitalism." In one memo he described *Fortune*'s editorial mission this way: "Goddamn you Mrs. Richbitch. We won't have you chittering archly and snobbishly about Bethlehem Common [stock] unless you damn well have a look at the open hearths and slagpiles — yes, and the workers' houses of Bethlehem, Pa." In fact, the early issues of the magazine featured investigative stories and progressive politics of such bite that advertisers grew nervous.

Six years after *Fortune* came the instantly and almost ruinously popular *Life* (ad rates were fixed for a year while circulation ballooned into the millions, burying Time Inc. in unmet printing and distribution costs). *Life*'s luminous coverage of World War II (*Time* coined the term) was followed by its pitch-perfect theme song to the '50s, with photo spreads of idealized scenes of America's serene suburbs. *Life*'s Thanksgiving 1954 issue asked: "How can one feel thankful for too much?" and its July 4 issue the next year proclaimed, "Nobody is Mad with Nobody." *Life*'s faithful adherence to such an amiable and popular view of that decade has undermined a better understanding of the '50s to this day.

A prolific writer of caustic memos, Luce earned a reputation for strict, even ham-handed control over his magazines, but among Brinkley's most interesting findings is how many times Luce allowed himself to lose the fights he picked with his editors. When he wanted *Time* to name General Douglas MacArthur as Man of the Year in 1951, the editors declined, naming Iran's new premier Mohammad Mossadegh instead. They fought Luce over his growing distaste for FDR and the New Deal, over his rapturous support for Wendell Wilkie and Dwight Eisenhower, and over his tepid endorsement of Richard Nixon over JFK. They abandoned him on China and, decisively, on Vietnam. The wonder is not so much that he tangled with his staff so frequently as that he did not fire more of them for insubordination. In this fact, Brinkley suggests, lies the key to Luce's greatness as a publisher.

Given Time Inc.'s editorial and financial success, Luce can hardly be faulted for feeling that he and his magazines were somehow kissed by fate. In retrospect, nothing seems quite so quintessentially Lucean as all the meetings and memos in which he agonized over the "purpose" of his magazines — the endless "rethinking" of their ambitions and the role they played, or could play, in creating the American Century. One of his memos was actually titled, "The Reorganization of the World."

His real genius, though, lay in his instincts about his magazines and his people. He hired wonderful writers, photographers, and editors, with whom he struggled mightily and often with pain when, against his stated principles, he let them have their way. When there was a business problem, he assumed it lay in the quality of the magazines, and he worked to make them better.

Luce died in 1967, and he would not recognize the company today. Time Inc. magazines still do fine journalism — *People*'s recent coverage of Haiti, for just one example — but *Life* is a photo

collection, *Time* is no longer a news primer (there are apps for that), and *Fortune* and *Sports Illustrated*, like most other magazines, are to some extent beset. In their day, though, the Time Inc. magazines defined greatness in magazine publishing, and Brinkley has given us the enviable model of a man of his moment who knew what to do with it, even if he did not always know what it was he knew.

I have to confess to feeling an involuntary shock when I first noted the title on the cover of Brinkley's book. *The Publisher* is arguably appropriate, but it is not the title Luce ever wanted. The one he took was that of editor, but that, too, is misleading.

As Brinkley persuasively concludes, Luce was not an original thinker; his magazines portrayed the world more than they shaped it, as much as he may have wished otherwise; he continually worked to cast himself and his company in the role of America's prophet laureate; and he presided over a great deal of the best magazine journalism ever produced.

He was, in short, someone who could have appeared in *Time* under two of its most characteristic early rubrics, "Point with Pride" and "View with Alarm." Though he attributed his success to intellect rather than intuition, he was, for all of that, a man with the music of magazines deep in his lonesome soul.

James R. Gaines is the former managing editor of People, Life, *and* Time, *and the author of several works of narrative history.*

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Hear No Evil *// By Ari L. Goldman*

The Third Reich in the Ivory Tower: Complicity and Conflict on American Campuses
By Stephen H. Norwood (Cambridge University Press, 339 pages, $29)

In 1933, soon after Hitler came to power, the Nazis began expelling Jewish students and dismissing Jewish professors from their universities. On campuses across Germany, Nazis and their sympathizers publicly burned books written by Jews and other perceived enemies (including books by Columbia anthropologist Franz Boas).

Just months after the first book burnings, Columbia president Nicholas Murray Butler welcomed Hans Luther, the German ambassador to the United States, to Morningside Heights, insisting that he be accorded "the greatest courtesy and respect." In Cambridge, Roscoe Pound, dean of the Harvard Law School, accepted an honorary degree from the University of Berlin. Returning from a 1934 trip to Germany, Pound told reporters, "there was no persecution of Jewish scholars or of Jews . . . who had lived in [Germany] for any length of time."

As Stephen H. Norwood '84GSAS forcefully demonstrates in *The Third Reich in the Ivory Tower: Complicity and Conflict on American Campuses*, some of America's top universities adopted a hear-no-evil attitude toward Hitler's Germany that bordered on complicity.

Columbia was one of the few places where that attitude was challenged. The editors of the *Daily Spectator* reacted strongly to what was happening in Europe. In the aftermath of the expulsion in 1933 of 15 Jews from university faculty positions in Germany, the newspaper called on Butler to hire them as Columbia professors. Later, in an editorial titled "Silence Gives Consent, Dr. Butler," the *Spectator* bitterly denounced what it saw as Butler's courtship of the German government and its universities. In yet another, the newspaper wrote, "The reputation of this University has suffered . . . because of the remarkable silence of its President . . . "

Butler responded to criticism from the *Spectator* and other student groups by emphasizing that Columbia's relationships with German universities were "strictly academic" and had "no political implications of any kind." He went on to mock the protests. "We may next expect to be told that we must not read Goethe's FAUST, or hear Wagner's LOHENGRIN, or visit the great picture galleries at Dresden, or study Kant's KRITIK, because we so heartily disapprove of the present form of government in Germany." Butler, who was "a longtime admirer of Benito Mussolini," wasn't exactly apolitical, though. In 1934 he fired Jerome Klein '25CC, '32GSAS, a promising young member of the fine arts faculty, for signing an appeal against the Luther invitation; and he expelled Robert Burke, a Columbia College student, for participating in a 1936 mock book burning and anti-Nazi picket on campus.

Butler was far from alone in his admiration for Germany and in his distaste for those who would allege that it had a sinister side. The *Harvard Crimson*, writes Norwood, was an apologist for the German regime and repeatedly belittled protest efforts against it. After a huge Jewish-sponsored anti-Nazi rally was held in Madison Square Garden in March 1933, the *Crimson* opined that the rally "proved nothing" since Hitler had not been provided with a defense. "Moreover," Norwood reports, the *Crimson* "claimed that the audience, containing many Jews, was 'rabidly prejudiced.'"

The Harvard case was particularly disturbing, most infamously because of the warm welcome extended to alumnus Ernst Hanfstaengl at the 1934 commencement and reunion. Hanfstaengl was a Nazi leader and close friend of Hitler. While much of the

Columbia students stage a mock book burning in 1936 to protest Nicholas Murray Butler's decision to send a delegate to the University of Heidelberg's 550th anniversary celebration.

national press was appalled, most of the Harvard community was delighted. "It is truly shameful," writes Norwood, "that the administration, alumni, and student leaders of America's most prominent university, who were in a position to influence American opinion at a critical time, remained indifferent to Germany's terrorist campaign against the Jews and instead, on many occasions, assisted the Nazis in their efforts to gain acceptance in the West."

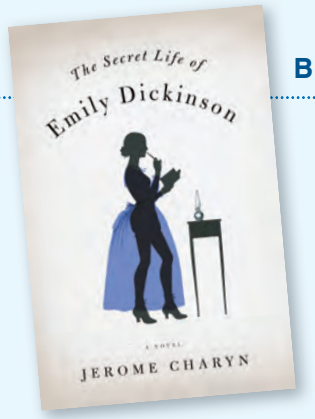
Norwood, a professor of history at the University of Oklahoma, reveals how widespread this attitude was among administrators, professors, and students at some of America's elite universities, who not only argued that academic life should be free of political considerations, but actually supported the Nazi regime. Aside from Harvard and Columbia, Norwood deals with several other colleges and universities, including the Seven Sisters, several Catholic universities, and the University of Virginia. What makes his book all the more chilling is his documentation showing that from the earliest days of Hitler's reign, there was no shortage of people who seemed to notice what was going on: American and British newspaper reporters, political figures, Jewish leaders, and refugees, who offered firsthand testimony.

Meanwhile, he writes, "American universities maintained amicable relations with the Third Reich, sending their students to study at Nazified universities while welcoming Nazi exchange students to their own campuses." In so doing, he concludes, "they helped Nazi Germany present itself to the American public as a civilized nation, unfairly maligned in the press."

One minor flaw in Norwood's book is that he lumps together sins of omission and commission. For example, he writes that university presidents did not urge their students to attend the 1933 Madison Square Garden rallies or other protests. Later, he writes that they "showed no interest" in the nationwide boycott of German goods. The sins of commission are much more convincing in building his case.

The record of the younger generation is more encouraging. Though students of the early 20th century had been conditioned to be complacent and go along with the wishes of the administration, the angry resistance of many Columbians during this period was unlike anything seen before on American campuses. In some ways, the student reaction to Columbia's entanglement with the Third Reich in the 1930s foreshadowed what would happen a generation later when students challenged their university administrations over such issues as the war in Vietnam and civil rights. The 1930s was a more volatile and engaged time for students than most of us may have realized, and Norwood does us a special service by revisiting it in this book.

Ari L. Goldman, a professor at the Graduate School of Journalism, is the author of The Search for God at Harvard.



A Rose for Emily

The book: ***The Secret Life of Emily Dickinson*: A Novel**
The author: **Jerome Charyn '59CC**

Columbia magazine: You often take on historical figures in your fiction. What drew you to Dickinson?
Jerome Charyn: She was the first writer I really discovered. I memorized her poems when I was younger. But the novel only became possible a few years ago, after I read her letters. They were startling, and every bit as original and great as her poems.

CM: What sort of letters were they?
JC: There are three in particular, called the "Master Letters," in which she addresses a hidden lover in a very poignant way. Scholars don't know who the master was, or even if these letters were sent. But they're enormously powerful and heartbreaking. They are her poems novelized; she's just as extravagant, she wears so many masks. I think they're among the greatest letters ever written.

CM: When were they written?
JC: In the late 1850s and early '60s. I quote from one of them in my introduction, in which she writes, "I've got a Tomahawk in my side but that dont hurt me much. Her master stabs her more." She uses the colloquial; she has a music that's utterly her own and that's very different from the music of her poems. And it was when I read the letters that I realized that the novel had to be in her voice.

CM: That was a bold leap.
JC: Well, I knew I had to do it. I didn't know whether I would succeed. You never know whether you can really capture her music and have it not be an imitation.

CM: What about the inclusion of fictive characters and situations?
JC: As it's the secret life of Emily Dickinson, I felt I had the liberty to include fictive elements. And that's where I think certain people will object. How dare I, for instance, bring in this caretaker from the school and make him Emily's lover? But I think that's the most beautiful part of the book.

CM: Did she have any actual love affairs?
JC: We do know that she had a literal love affair with her father's friend, Judge Otis Lord, at the end of her life. The poems to Judge Lord are very sexual. She talks about her moss, her garden. They're profoundly erotic.

CM: It bridles against the image of the lovelorn recluse.
JC: She wasn't as reclusive as we like to think. She became much more so only after her father died, and as I try to show in the novel, her relationship with Edward Dickinson was the most important bond in her life. Her father both loved her and couldn't really comprehend her. He didn't know how to deal with her.

CM: She's known for sticking close to home. How important is travel for a writer?
JC: I quote her in the epigram of the book: "To shut our eyes is Travel." She *did* travel. She traveled in an extraordinary way. Much of her mythology is embodied in the idea of this woman in white sitting at her desk writing these poems, but let's look at her from a different angle — as an incredible adventuress, as a very sexy, ambivalent woman. I did not fictionalize the kind of person she was. I invented a narrative around that person.

CM: And it's a narrative of language as much as events.
JC: Language is a weapon, it's very cruel, and Dickinson uses it in a profoundly cruel way, as great writers do. She's the most modern of all our writers; we still don't understand some of the poems. She was outside of history, and I identify totally with her without any distance whatsoever.

CM: In preparing to write the book, did you make any pilgrimages?
JC: I did visit Amherst several times. The Emily Dickinson Museum was kind enough to take me on a private tour. Just being in her room was absolutely incredible. What struck me when I visited the homestead was the light, particularly the light in her room. I don't think I could have dreamt of writing this book without being in Emily's room. I had to possess it in some way, make it my own.

CM: Do you see Dickinson's life as tragic?
JC: No, because in her own way she had an awful lot of fun. Her inner life was extraordinary, and she was very involved with the family, with her brother's children. We see it as tragic only in the sense that it was tragic for most women who had no voice in their own time. Yet here is a woman who insists on her own voice.

CM: Would marriage have changed her as an artist?
JC: I think the poetry came out of a kind of delirium of imagining what sexuality was like. It's imagining the cruelty of passion. If she had been married and there wasn't love, it wouldn't have made any difference.

CM: In a way, you've been married to her for most of your life.
JC: She's such an exciting poet, such an exciting presence. I can't think of any other writer that I would feel that way about. Maybe Shakespeare.

— Paul Hond

Let's Make a Deal // *By William R. Keylor*

Great Negotiations: Agreements that Changed the Modern World
By Frederik Stanton (Westholme Publishing, 304 pages, $26)

In October 1962 the world came as close as it ever had to nuclear war. An American spy plane had discovered Soviet offensive missile sites under construction in Castro's Cuba. The Soviet foreign minister and the ambassador to the United States denied the sites' existence even as construction crews hastened to complete their work. Once President John F. Kennedy revealed to the world the fact of the missiles and demanded their prompt removal, frank exchanges between Kennedy and Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev to resolve the dispute offered the only hope of averting catastrophe.

The situation was all the more dicey, explains Frederik Stanton '96CC in *Great Negotiations: Agreements that Changed the Modern World*, because the two principals were 5000 miles from each other and had no way of probing each other's intentions in search of a workable compromise. Compelled to exchange negotiating positions in formal statements through time-consuming telexes — the hotline was set up the following year — Kennedy and Khrushchev both realized that misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the written word could have unthinkable consequences. They therefore resorted to intermediaries who could explore a negotiated solution through face-to-face meetings.

Soviet spy Julius Rosenberg's old NKVD handler, Alexander Feklisov, who had resurfaced under a pseudonym as the KGB's Washington station chief, floated trial balloons through the ABC News state department correspondent John Scali. Attorney General Robert Kennedy held top-secret talks with Soviet ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin to hammer out a face-saving deal. A nuclear war was averted with the assistance of these ad hoc, impromptu contacts between third parties, while the two decision makers half a world apart operated in the dark.

In tackling these high-level negotiations, most of which were conducted in utmost secrecy by upper-class white men, Stanton's book is something of a throwback: history from the top down rather than from the bottom up. Diplomatic history, or the history of international relations as it is sometimes called, has been dismissed by many social and cultural historians as an elitist, state-oriented, male-dominated, old-fashioned form of historical inquiry that focuses on the activities of governments at the expense of the broader and deeper dimensions of human history. *Great Negotiations* makes the case that we still need to pay attention to the indisputably important role of individual statesmen and -women who negotiate matters of international dispute at critical turning points in history.

Stanton offers a concise, entertaining account of eight such momentous encounters, evocatively portraying the small cast of characters whose diplomatic skills, as he puts it in his subtitle, "changed the modern world."

Among the most riveting of these involved, again, Soviet and American leaders whose principal topic of discussion was the fate of humanity: the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Reykjavik, Iceland, in October 1986. In contrast to the long-distance improvisations to prevent a nuclear Armageddon 24 years earlier, the American and Soviet leaders sat across the conference table from each other in a cooperative effort to end the nuclear arms race once and for all. The main theme of Stanton's account is the extraordinary personal chemistry between the two men, which enabled them to reach the verge of a stunning agreement that would have eliminated all Soviet and American intercontinental ballistic missiles within 10 years. Reagan later recalled that he and Secretary of State George Shultz "couldn't believe what was happening. We were getting amazing agreements." Even the old hardliner Paul Nitze, head of the U.S. negotiating team, conceded that, "This is the best Soviet proposal we have received in 25 years."

There was a hitch, however. In exchange for Soviet concessions, Gorbachev wanted Reagan to scrap his Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). When Reagan refused to abandon SDI, the agreement collapsed.

But, as Stanton reminds us, the last-minute failure of this bold bid to remove the Sword of Damocles that had hung above the world since the beginning of the Cold War paved the way for two significant arms-control agreements: the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (1987), which eliminated all intermediate-range nuclear weapons from the European theater, and the first version of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (1991), which radically reduced the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union.

France also figures prominently in *Great Negotiations*. Three of Stanton's eight case studies involve Franco-American diplomatic exchanges: Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane's successful negotiation with the Bourbon monarchy that produced the Franco-American Treaty of Alliance (1778); Thomas Jefferson's purchase of the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon I (1803); and Woodrow Wilson's wrangling with Premier Georges Clemenceau of the Third French Republic over the drafting of the peace treaty with defeated Germany at the Paris Peace Conference (1919).

Stanton is right to assert that each of the agreements reached in these three negotiations had important long-term repercussions. The shrewd combination of inducements and threats that enabled Franklin and Deane in Paris to secure the Franco-American Treaty of Alliance on February 6, 1778, for example, provided the Continental army with weapons, ammunition, and supplies, as well as naval and military support at a critical stage of the war. Stanton reminds us that while France proceeded to deal its global rival a

serious blow by depriving it of its American colonies, the costs of the war — three times France's national budget — eventually forced the hapless Louis XVI to seek approval for new taxes from the long-defunct Estates-General, which in turn led to the overthrow of the monarchy and the advent of the French republican tradition.

No less consequential was the Paris Peace Conference of 1919: Stanton paints a vivid portrait of this gathering of the victors of World War I to redraw the map of Europe and forge a new world order. But Stanton's excessive attention to trivial details — the chandelier hanging on the ceiling, the tapestries on the walls — crowds out many of the substantive issues with which the delegates grappled, such as concerns about borders, security, German disarmament, and reparations. When he does turn his attention to these issues, Stanton hews closely to the orthodox historical interpretation of the Versailles settlement offered by John Maynard Keynes, Harold Nicolson, and other disillusioned participants: the sordid story of a vindictive France imposing on defeated Germany a "Carthaginian peace" in violation of lofty Wilsonian ideals. Stanton's assertion that "Clemenceau was quite open about his desire to dismember Germany, and candidly admitted that the more separate and independent republics that were established in Germany the better" is a crude caricature of the French premier's nuanced diplomacy at the peace conference. The old Tiger was reviled by French president Raymond Poincaré, Generalissimo Ferdinand Foch, and the right-wing Parisian press for his *unwillingness* to smash Germany into its pre-Bismarckian pieces and make it pay the full cost of France's war effort. Stanton quotes liberally from Margaret Macmillan's *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World,* but seems to have missed the underlying theme of that book (and of much recent scholarship on the subject): The peace settlement of 1919 was not nearly as harsh or as impossible of fulfillment as its early critics claimed.

All of the negotiating sessions featured in this book have been subjected to exhaustive investigation by several eminent specialists. Stanton neither uncovers new historical facts nor offers novel interpretive insights about his eight case studies of diplomacy. But his lucid, cogent assessments of the daily give-and-take and lively character sketches of the dramatis personae make this book a pleasure to read.

William R. Keylor '71GSAS, '71SIPA is professor of history and international relations and director of the International History Institute at Boston University. The sixth edition of his The Twentieth Century World and Beyond: An International History since 1900 *will appear at the end of this year.*

Stuck in the Middle *// By Steven G. Kellman*

Amateur Barbarians
By Robert Cohen (Scribner, 416 pages, $27)

In "Love of Mother, Glory of Crown," an essay in the Winter 2010 issue of the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Robert Cohen '83SOA examines the return of the Axum Obelisk, an ancient stele that was plundered during Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia and installed in Rome. Asked by a blogger for the magazine what drew him to the obelisk and Ethiopia, where he and his wife adopted a 10-year-old AIDS orphan, he explains, "It just so happens that mixed feelings and tangled motives and the serio-comedy of futile, intractable projects — this is the sort of thing that interests me."

Cohen pursues those same hybrid interests in *Amateur Barbarians*, a tender send-up of civilization's discontents. Though it concludes in the Horn of Africa, his fourth novel begins in fictional Carthage, a small New England college town not unlike Middlebury, Vermont, where Cohen is a professor. In addition to its "eight churches, one movie theater, four restaurants, one supermarket, and two state-run liquor stores," Carthage contains one restless middle-aged educator.

In the opening sentences of the book, 53-year-old Teddy Hastings, the principal of Carthage Middle School, is running on the treadmill in his basement. Shaken by the death of his younger brother Philip, and made restless by British explorer Wilfred Thesiger's *Danakil Diary* and his own 20-year-old daughter Danielle's adventures in China and elsewhere, Teddy becomes unhinged. He snaps at his wife and his other daughter, and he behaves boorishly at a dinner party with friends. After a series of blunders lands him in the county jail and leads the school board to provide a compulsory sabbatical, Teddy flies off to Africa, the unhappy hunting ground of lost Americans intent on saving the world.

As a foolish foil, Cohen offers Oren Pierce, a 31-year-old Proteus who craves the routine that Teddy flees. By the time he arrives in Carthage in pursuit of a woman who dumps him and leaves town, Oren — a vagabond who has dropped out of programs in law, film, rabbinical studies, and social work — is ready for conventional restraints: "His faith in freedom was broken; he wanted to be bound by other

people's schedules, live the unfree inflexible life, like everyone else." In a narrative strategy that is so flagrantly manipulative it must be part of the farce, Cohen has Oren take over Teddy's job, as well as his wife.

A seatmate on Teddy's flight across the Atlantic quotes Ugolino della Gherardesca's speech from Dante's *Inferno*: "*Io non mori, e non rimasi vivo*." Teddy does not understand Italian, but the reader realizes that Teddy, like Ugolino, is neither dead nor alive. With its emphasis on middle-aged, middle-class characters who teach in a middle school, *Amateur Barbarians* is a comic study of the attractions and frustrations of *la via media*. Following a cancer scare, Teddy describes himself as "in the middle. Somewhere between okay and scared to death." He is yet another literary victim of midlife crisis, and his way of coping with it echoes the trajectory of Eugene Henderson, the impulsive schlemiel in Saul Bellow's 1959 novel *Henderson the Rain King,* who insists, "I want, I want, I want!" Teddy's journey by caravan into the arid reaches of Africa makes one think of Paul Bowles's Western travelers transformed by an unmediated encounter with barbarian others.

If this book is about "amateur barbarians," middle-class Americans who recklessly abandon their moorings, then who are the professional barbarians? Wrestlers? Investment bankers? Writers? Cohen is adept enough at the writer's craft to make the tired theme of male menopause not seem tiresome, mostly through a perky style. He is particularly fond of striking similes. After a reluctant conversation with Teddy, a mysterious stranger "zipped her face shut like someone putting away a cello." The ghost of Teddy's brother Philip "floated like a thought bubble over the comic strip of the days." Elsewhere, we are told that "his stomach was rioting like a cellblock." He will later savor a sample of the local delicacy: camel's hump.

A preposterous episode in which Chinese aliens are apprehended in Carthage is an artistic misstep, and a reader can be as impatient as Teddy is with details of domestic life in small-town New England. The novel is most alive when it leaves American soil. About two-thirds of the way through *Amateur Barbarians*, a stranger complains about travelers' tales she has had to put up with: "So many stories and confessions. Everyone shares their little heartbreaks."

"Want to hear some of mine?" asks Teddy. "I've got enough for a whole book."

She replies: "Forgive me, but I think no one wants to read such a book, if I may be honest."

I have, with pleasure, read such a book, a seriocomedy of futile, intractable projects.

Steven G. Kellman is the author of Redemption: The Life of Henry Roth *and is a professor of comparative literature at the University of Texas at San Antonio*.

Continued from page 5

After the 1967 Six Day War, the Security Council, whose resolutions are regarded as binding on member states, adopted a series of resolutions calling for Israel to withdraw to the 1967 borders. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 declared that territory could not be legally obtained through war and were adopted unanimously, which meant that the United States endorsed them. Since that time, Israel has ignored them, violating its obligations as a member of the United Nations.

Rosett's condemnation of the United Nations as somehow conspiring to isolate Israel behind the mask of self-determination is grotesquely inaccurate. The Security Council resolutions stand and have never been repealed. As a matter of international law, Israel's obligations are clear. Since the United States, Israel's strongest ally, has endorsed those resolutions, it cannot be said that the UN is isolating Israel.

Israel is isolating itself. Israel cannot have it both ways, insisting on its right to exist as a sovereign Jewish democratic state and a member of the international community while at the same time exempting itself from the principles of international law that bind all members of the United Nations and the international community. It is not in Israel's long-term self-interest to perpetuate these policies, since to do so will lead to an even greater crisis in the Middle East and an increasing likelihood of violence.

At the same time, Mazower's analysis of the United Nations is also deeply flawed. It was not founded somehow to perpetuate the Western imperium, as Mazower suggests. It was, in fact, the Soviet Union that first endorsed the right of the Jewish people to a homeland in Palestine, in a speech by Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Union's Minister of Foreign Affairs, before the General Assembly at the UN's first home at Lake Success.

It is true that the UN did not stop the genocide in Rwanda, but it did thwart the invasion of South Korea by North Korea and endorsed the repulsion of Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. Certainly, the UN is in need of reform. The Security Council should be expanded, and, as Truman advocated, there should be a standing UN military force. But to denounce the UN from the left and the right, as Mazower and Rosett do, is hardly constructive. They both should have been present at the jubilant reception in honor of Susan Rice, President Obama's choice as America's ambassador to the United Nations, to experience the euphoria among United Nations ambassadors from throughout the world that America had rejoined the international community as a full participant and not as an arrogant unilateralist.

Richard Cummings '62LAW
Sag Harbor, NY

Cummings taught international law and organizations at the Haile Selassie I University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Reviewer Claudia Rosett responds:
Ambassadorial euphoria at the UN over the humbling of America may be a delight to those invited to the diplomatic cocktails. But it is no excuse for ignoring deeply troubling and dangerous realities, which Richard Cummings so lightly sums up and shrugs off with the stock phrase, "Certainly, the UN is in need of reform." Since the jubilant reception last year for America's new envoy, Susan Rice, the UN's performance might be summed up by its failure to stop the nuclear pursuits of Iran — which, while murdering its own dissidents in the streets, has now been emboldened to seek a seat on the UN Human Rights Council.

In claiming that "it cannot be said that the UN is isolating Israel," Cummings himself provides a marvelous example of the same bias with which the UN condemns and isolates Israel (which one most certainly can say, and I did). Singling out Israel for his critique, Cummings ignores the routine and flagrant violations of UN principles by scores of its member states, and in some instances by the UN itself — which, if true to the terms of freedom and human dignity espoused in its charter, would expel such members as, say, North Korea, Syria, and Iran. Nor does he address the reality of continuing terrorist attacks on Israel, and threats to its very existence, all of this de facto tolerated by the UN. Does he seriously believe that if Israel declines to defend itself, the UN will rally to the job?

Finally, in arguing that "the United Nations did not create the State of Israel," Cummings appears more interested in setting up a straw man than in reading the words I wrote to sum up a complex scene: "Mazower's chief beef with the UN is its role in the establishment in 1948 of the nation of Israel."

WRESTLING WITH JACOBS

Josh Getlin's review of *Giant Slayer* ("Wrestling with Moses," Winter 2009–10) states, "The push to preserve older neighborhoods . . . block[ed] construction of much badly needed housing across the country." Actually, the older neighborhoods contained more housing units than the new housing developments built (or planned) on land cleared by demolishing old neighborhoods.

Look at how much space the new housing developments devote to neither housing nor greenery but parking.

Jeanette Wolfberg '80GSAS
Mount Kisco, NY

HEALTH CARE FOLLIES

I was puzzled by the reactions of Brian Wagner, Frederick Schweitzer, and David Blaustein to the "College Walk" article on Betsy McCaughey ("Care Tactics," Fall 2009). Wagner and Blaustein seemed to imply that writer Jeremy Smerd did not treat her with enough disdain, while Schweitzer suggested that an article about someone as heretical as McCaughey should not even appear in *Columbia*.

How are we to understand the objections of the letter writers? In the case of Wagner and Blaustein, do they just not understand sarcasm, or do they consider the passage of this legislation, however seriously flawed it is, so sacred that any opposition must be thoroughly demonized? Or in the case of Schweitzer, that even the acknowledgment of opposition must not be allowed to appear in *Columbia*?

In either case, if opinions like these prevail, the restoration of civil political discourse seems more remote than ever.

Robert Reimers '61SEAS
Gardner, KS

FAIR AND BALANCED?

I am surprised by Stan Edelman's ad hominem attack on me in response to my opinion of the negative tone of *Columbia* magazine compared to the more positive tone of Princeton's alumni offering ("Accentuating the Positive," Winter 2009–10). My message is that *Columbia* magazine is too negative; let's focus on that, not on what kind of a messenger I am. We need balance, with more positive stories that reflect the good news about our alma mater.

Marshal Greenblatt '61CC, '62SEAS
Potomac, MD

GOD AND BUTLER AT COLUMBIA

I was editor in chief of the *Columbia Spectator* in 1933–34 and sometimes had occasion to meet with President Nicholas Murray Butler. On our first meeting he told me that he had just returned from giving a lecture in Toronto. He said he had been approached by a minister who asked him whether there were Columbia faculty members who did not believe in Christ; and if so, would Butler give him their names so he could write to them.

Butler agreed, and he told me he passed along the names of Lionel Trilling, Irwin Edman, and Meyer Schapiro, all of them ethnic Jews like me. Only later, in an esprit de l'escalier, did I think of telling Butler that he should have answered that he did not inquire into the religious beliefs, if any, of his faculty.

Arnold Beichman '34CC, '34JRN, '73GSAS
Naramata, British Columbia

We were sorry to learn of Beichman's death on February 17. — Ed.

CLASSIFIEDS

Books

NOSE KIYASU MONOGATARI, AN AMERICAN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY: Vantage Press, New York, c. 2010, 109 pp., by Steven Kiyasu Nose '81CC. Available at www.borders.com, search under "Nose Kiyasu Monogatari" or Vantage Press direct: orders@vantagepressinc.com; 1-800-882-3273.

PROMOTE YOUR BOOK on radio and TV talk shows. Columbia alumnus offers free consultation. Frank Promotion: 914-238-4604; frankpromo@aol.com.

Professional Services

ATTENTION WRITERS! HOW TO GET YOUR PLAY PRODUCED: Award-winning Broadway producer offers consulting services to help your play reach production. For information: jgordonproductions@gmail.com.

CAREER TRANSITIONS AND EXECUTIVE COACHING: Judith Gerberg — NYC career expert (quoted in NYT, WSJ, Fast Company) and Columbia grad — has built her reputation helping Ivy Leaguers find careers they love, manage stress, and live the lives of their dreams. Call and see what she can do for you: 212-315-2322; judith@gerberg.com; www.gerberg.com.

COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAYS: www.HarvardMassEd.com helps finesse college application essays.

DENTISTRY FOR A LIFETIME OF GOOD LOOKS AND WELL-BEING: Columbia-trained dentist. Impeccably trained staff. Tailored treatment to your needs. We can restore your smile to look the way you remember it and help you preserve it for the rest of your life. Your partner in oral health. Ideally located 2 blocks south of Grand Central Station. Colleen Cournot, DDS: 212-682-0770; www.drcournot.com.

EXPERT FOREIGN-LANGUAGE TRANSLATIONS: Fast, accurate, and confidential translation of legal documents, including for IP, M and A, and litigations. Top firm with hundreds of law firm clients, owned by industry veteran/Columbia graduate. Contact Jeff Mamera '95SOA at Consortra Translations: 877-462-6676; jeff@consortra.com.

FINANCIAL PLANNING: Ralph E. Penny '72MBA, CFP (Certified Financial Planner). Fee-only. No products or insurance sold. Specializing in individuals needing help with investment decision/strategy, retirement, estate planning, or personal budgeting: 914-694-2025.

IMPROVE TEACHING PERFORMANCE: The Instructor Performance Inventory, developed by a TC grad, is an objective, evidence-based method to improve college classroom instruction. Download free at www.facultyimprovement.com.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICES: New York and Connecticut. Morgan Wilton LLC. 860-248-1234 or cdz4@columbia.edu.

Real Estate

ASPEN, CO: Amy Doherty Properties, Inc. Top residential and commercial broker in Aspen. Principal: Amy Connolly Doherty, former investment banker with Credit Suisse, BA Williams '84, MBA Columbia '89: 970-930-5733; adoherty89@gsb.columbia.edu.

CHELSEA, NYC: Large 1-BR apartment with balcony and views of NYC skyline. Secure high-rise; access to all forms of transportation and parking; on-site laundry; neighborhood gym, movie theater, parks, and restaurants. $2,400/month plus utilities. Serious applicants call 917-533-8029.

LUXUS MANHATTAN REALTY: Let our team of experienced multilingual agents help you find NYC home, sales or rentals. Call Susan V. Csikos, Lic. Real Estate Broker; 212-655-9655; www.luxusmanhattan.com.

MANHATTAN, NYC: Columbia neighborhood, 2-bedroom, mint. $549,000. www.552riverside.com.

NANTUCKET, MA: Interested in buying or selling? Summer rental? Residential and commercial investments? Pat Carr Calabrese: patcc@compassroserealestate.com; 917-655-4642.

NAPLES, FL: Houses, condos, land. Nancy Kreisler. www.searchnapleslistings.com.

NEW YORK, NY: Spectacular residences for short-term stays. Weekends, weekly, monthly. Luxurious amenities. '98SIPA: 212-532-0360; www.brilliantflats.com.

PRAGUE: Luxury furnished apartment with terrace. Minutes from castle. $1675 monthly: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhUcH93hDvs; illner@sbcglobal.net.

To Buy or Sell

EDNA HIBEL ARTWORK: johnjsch@aol.com.

YORKSHIRE TERRIER PUPPIES: for free adoption. For more info contact wilsonnice@gmail.com.

Vacation Rentals and Services

ITALY VACATIONS: Dalla zuppa ai nocciolini (from soup to nuts) comprehensive customized vacation planning services since 1961: 301-656-1670 or 888-656-1670; ciao@bethesdatravel.com.

MANHATTAN, NYC: Elegant UES studio with terrace. www.nycstudio.wordpress.com.

MANHATTAN, NYC: Furnished luxurious vacation and business rental apartments: 646-465-5902; info@nyctemphouses.com; www.nyctemphouses.com.

NANTUCKET, MA: Classic beach house with contemporary amenities, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Light, airy, porches, decks, and 2nd-floor water views. 2 acres on pond, 10-minute walk to Surfside Beach. Weekly, monthly. 914-591-5078; stevecalnyc@verizon.net.

NEAR BORDEAUX: Superb 200-year-old farmhouse. 2 private acres overlooking canal lateral. Pool. 2-story living room, 17th-century fireplace; 4 bedrooms, modern conveniences: Chiz Schultz, Princeton '54; www.maisonducanal.com.

PARIS, 7th: Fifth floor, quiet, alcove studio sleeps 3, balcony. View Eiffel Tower. Separate kitchen: 207-752-0285; www.parisgrenelle.com.

PARIS, MARAIS: Luxury rental in center of Paris. Close proximity Picasso Museum, Centre Pompidou, and other historical sites, as well as gourmet shops of Rue de Bretagne. See owner's Web site at www.parischapon.com.

ROME: Spacious, stylish, renovated apartment. Living room, 2 generous double bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen/breakfast room. Central location near St. John Lateran. $850 weekly. Yale '63: 212-867-0489; lm603@columbia.edu; www.casacleme.com.

TUSCANY MAREMMA: Zero emission lodges in winefarm. Magnificent view, nearby spa, beaches, parks, golf-course: 0039-33512-18247; cgasparini90@gsb.columbia.edu; www.montarlese.it.

TURKS & CAICOS: Luxury 3-bedroom condo on Grace Bay Beach, from $3,000/wk: amy@dmimportsltd.com.

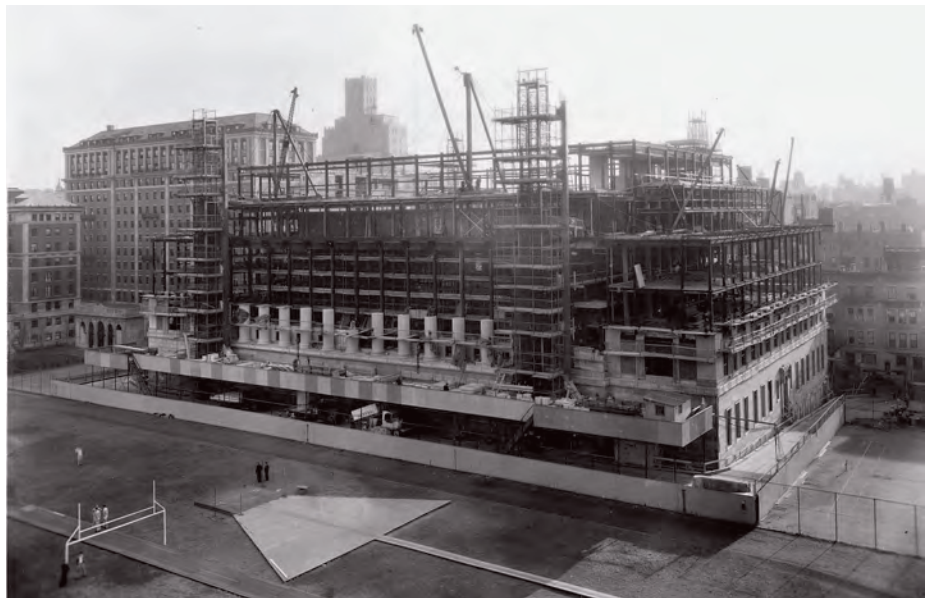
UPSTATE, NY: 1850 farmhouse. 8 acres, apple trees, pond, views. Stunning details. 90 minutes GWB. Weekly/weekend. '91CC: www.givonehome.com, "blue farmhouse."

Stacked

In the summer of 1932, steel beams began rising from a giant crater in South Field. Over the following months, the hulking metal skeleton would be clad in a classical revival–style raiment of brick and limestone, with 14 Ionic columns lining the facade. By the autumn of 1934, South Hall was complete.

"It is distinctly a laboratory library — that is, a library building designed not merely for the storage and distribution of books, but for the constant working with books," President Nicholas Murray Butler told reporters that September. Two months later, on November 30, 1934, Butler presided over the dedication of the building in the main reading room. Columbia, long in need of a larger and more amenable space than Low Library, now had a cutting-edge facility where books would receive all the care that technology could provide: air-conditioned stacks, conveyor belts, and non-glare lighting.

South Hall's $4 million price tag was footed by the philanthropist Edward Harkness, an heir to the Standard Oil fortune and a benefactor of Columbia's medical campus. The architect was James Gamble Rogers, whose credits included the College of Physicians and Surgeons. The Depression imposed its share of compromises on South Hall — the finished building would have room for just under 3 million books, about half of what library director Charles Williamson had envisioned in 1927 when he first wrote Butler about the inadequacies of Low — but that didn't stop the president from calling his new athenaeum "as finely planned and as well constructed an academic building as is to be found on either side of the Atlantic." In 1946, a year after Butler stepped down as president of Columbia, the building was renamed in his honor.



PHOTOS COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

South Hall rising: December 7, 1932

Students in the College Study, 1940s

Now, to mark the 75th anniversary of Butler Library, a permanent photo exhibition is taking shape on the building's third floor, across from the main reading room. Included is a series of 18 photographs that document the library's construction, from excavation to completion, as well as images depicting student life in the library over the decades. (We note a smoker or two in the photo at left.)

Today, Butler, with its private reading spaces, 24-hour access, and coffee bar, has become, in part, an enormous study hall, filled with laptops and headphones and spill-proof mugs. Smoking, of course, is no longer allowed, but one can still do something nearly as quaint: Check out a book.

— Paul Hond and Cindy Rodríguez

Networking 101.

MEET. ASK. LEARN. CONNECT. LEVERAGE YOUR NETWORK
AT THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CLUB OF NEW YORK.

See how the club and its activities could fit into your life.

For more information or to apply,
visit www.columbiaclub.org
or call (212) 719-0380.

The Columbia University Club of New York
15 West 43 St. New York, NY 10036

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CLUB OF NEW YORK
1901

Columbia's SocialIntellectualCulturalRecreationalProfessional Resource in Midtown.

Travel with Columbia

FEATURED PROGRAM: THE BLACK SEA

WITH PROFESSOR KENNETH T. JACKSON
AUGUST 7–18, 2010

The mythic journeys of the Black Sea reach back into the Bronze Age. Join Professor Kenneth T. Jackson this August as we set sail to explore the Black Sea's shores, historic ports, and sites. Sail from Istanbul's Golden Horn through the Bosporus Strait to the Black Sea. Navigate along Crimea's mountainous coast, visiting Feodosiya, Yalta, and Sevastopol before crossing to Odessa. Follow the coast of Romania and Bulgaria before returning to Turkey's storied capital. The intellectual and social connections offered by your alma mater have never been more relevant than today. So if you seek a journey into history, one that will enrich your mind and spark your imagination, don't miss this opportunity to join the CAA and Columbia's own Kenneth Jackson for an unforgettable adventure.

For more information about any of our trips, visit alumni.columbia.edu/travel or call 866-325-8664.

2010 Calendar

Antiquities of the Nile Valley and the Red Sea
with Guest Lecturer
Dr. Margaret Nydell
March 3–13

Wonders of the Galápagos
with Professor Mark Cane
March 5–13

Hidden Corners around the World by Private Jet:

- *Part I: Desert Crossroads and the Himalayas*
  March 21–April 3
- *Part II: Sacred Places of Asia*
  April 5–19
- *Part III: The Ancient Silk Road*
  April 20–May 4

Jungle Rivers and Rain Forests of South America
April 17–May 2

Waterways of Holland and Belgium
April 25–May 3

Venice and the Medieval World
May 13–21

Byzantine Odyssey I (Turkey)
with Professor Richard Sacks
May 24–June 7

Byzantine Odyssey II (Turkey) Alternate departure
May 31–June 14

Celtic Lands
May 25–June 3

From Canada's Maritime Provinces to the Great Lakes
June 7–26

Mediterranean Music Cruise
June 9–19

The Galápagos Islands: A Family Adventure
June 20–29

River Rafting Adventure
June 21–27

Wild Alaska Journey
June 27–July 4

Cruising the Baltic Sea
July 3–11

Great Lakes (Family Friendly)
with Professor Evan Haefeli
July 17–July 24

Into the Arctic
July 31–August 15

Russia: Exploring Moscow and St. Petersburg
with Professor
Deborah Martinsen
August 5–13

Black Sea and the Sea of Azov
with Professor
Kenneth T. Jackson
August 7–18

The Dalmatian Coast
August 26–September 3

The Cradle of Western Civilization (A Musical Cruise in the Classical World)
September 19–29

Legendary China
September 21–October 4

Moroccan Discovery
September 25–October 8

Between Two Seas
September 27–October 7

Village Life in the Italian Lake District
October 2–10

Journey through Vietnam
October 2–17

Empires of the Sea
October 5–18

Sacred Places of the Mediterranean
October 27–November 8

World Highlights by Private Jet
with Professor Peter Awn
November 6–19

Israel: Timeless Wonders
November 26–December 8

Learn more Stay connected
alumni.columbia.edu

COLUMBIA alumni ASSOCIATION | CAA