

SUMMER 2010

COLUMBIA

MAGAZINE

Starry Messenger

Neil deGrasse Tyson brings the
heavens down to Earth



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drink at the club..."



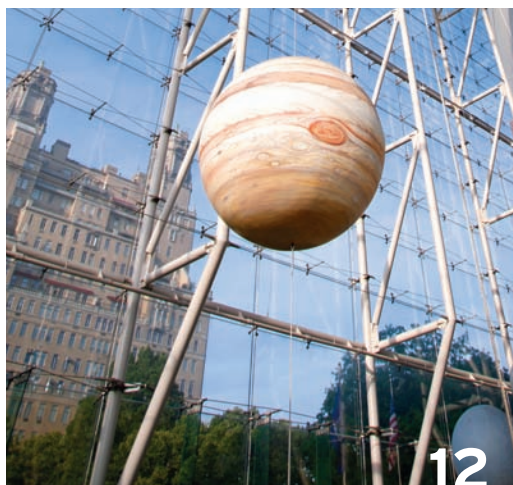
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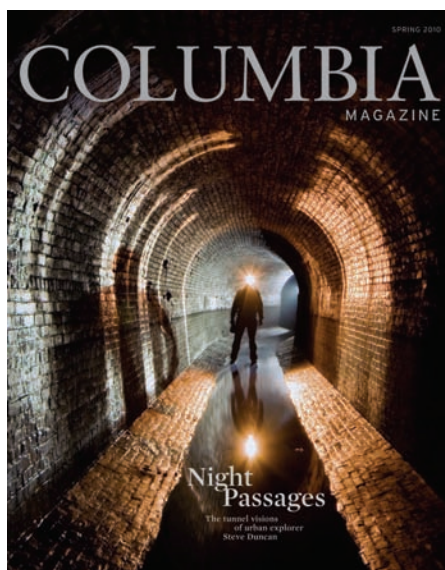


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letters

NETHERLAND

Paul Hond's chronicle of Steve Duncan's urban exploring ("The Night Hunter," Spring 2010) was a delight to read. As a municipal employee, I've had the chance to spelunk the storm sewers underneath Dallas, and have seen undiscovered craftsmanship and hidden beauty dating to the Works Progress Administration. I would be remiss, however, not to offer some caution: Noxious gases are heavier than atmospheric gases, and thus gravitate to low-lying areas, such as tunnels. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration provides guidelines for confined-space entry, which include carrying an oxygen tank and a four-gas meter, to monitor ambient oxygen content, natural gas and combustibles, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen sulfide (sewer gas). There should be a colleague at ground level and a predetermined plan to get out fast should the alarm on the meter sound.

A final tip is to carry an extra-high-powered flashlight. Had I relied on the floodlight on the camera I was carrying (which went dark in the middle of my walk) to record my findings, I would likely still be stranded underneath the Texas State Fairgrounds, 1000 feet from the nearest access manhole.

David Recht '04GSAPP
Irving, TX

I can readily identify with Steve Duncan's emotions about exploring tunnels. As an engineering student in the early 1960s, I attended many classes in Pupin Hall.

I don't quite remember how I discovered the entrance to the tunnel connecting the buildings along the west side of campus, but the secret passageway is etched into my student memories. It was during extreme winter weather that this corridor became particularly handy, helping me to avoid the freezing crosswinds.

I accessed the tunnel through an inconspicuous door inside the School of Mines that I believe is now the Mathematics Building. It was eerily lit by a few light-bulbs emitting a dusty glow, and one would walk along large-diameter pipes, which perhaps may have distributed steam for the heating system.

This provided us weary students with contrasting and comfortable warmth while crossing campus. The trick was to know which of the unmarked passageways led to which buildings. In my case, this tunnel guided me to what was then the mechanical engineering lab in the basement of Pupin. I had arrived home, warm and cozy, ready for an exploration into thermodynamics.

Nicolas Kariouk '61SEAS
Baton Rouge, LA

Your article on Steve Duncan was absolutely fascinating. The photographs of Duncan holding onto a manhole cover with one hand while steadying himself with the other was simply great. Add to that the furtive look in his eyes, as if he were a sewer rat coming out to do some mischief. The photos — all wonderful. The picture of the Fleet River sewer in London shows a wonder of architectural masonry. I would not be surprised if down the line Duncan finds the organ used by the Phantom of the Opera. You never know.

Alfred Hamady '44CC
Battle Creek, MI

SUSPICIOUS MINDS

I read "Defending the University" (Spring 2010) with interest, since after more than a quarter century as a professor I have grown very suspicious of universities. I'm afraid that Jonathan Cole's evasive answers to the *Columbia* interviewer's questions did nothing to allay my doubts. I note, for example, that when the interviewer asked whether the voices of well-informed nonfaculty critics should be heard, Cole's answer was that their freedom of speech should not be restricted. I would have liked Cole to indicate an interest in listening, or, if he thought no listening was warranted, to say so directly.

When Cole said that universities expect the state to allow them to be autonomous, and the interviewer asked, "Are you telling society and the government, you just have to trust us?" Cole replied that he wants our graduates to support universities against "possible" intrusion. Would "Yes, society just has to trust us" have been too honest? The interviewer's question about funding also deserved an answer. It is incredibly disingenuous for a former university provost to suggest that there has ever been an understanding between universities and their financial supporters that universities are to be left autonomous. Any time a scholar, lab, or research center applies for a grant, they describe *in advance* what the money will be used for. Columbia and other major research universities have no problem accommodating themselves to the demands of governments and other institutional patrons. Judging from the interview, what bothers Cole about the U.S. government is the sometimes inconvenient responsiveness of its elected officials to their constituents' concerns. One wonders what kind of government Cole would prefer Columbia to work with.

The interviewer quotes Cole's cliché that great universities "challenge orthodoxies . . . as well as social values, and public policies." Professor Cole: Universities are a public policy. That is why *they* should be challenged *more*, by thinking people within academia and outside — studied critically as social institutions, not hidden behind a self-serving mist of praise.

Cole talks about what universities have produced to change our lives, as if all of it were good. His story about the discovery of the prion narrates how a scientist with an unorthodox idea couldn't get his research funded. Obviously, the scientist's eventual success had more to do with his personal determination than with the academic system, which sent him the signal to give up. Does Cole know how many unorthodox researchers *do* give up when institutions let them know they'll be better supported if they accommodate accepted

agendas? And does Cole deduct anything from the university's ledger of accomplishment when society implements research findings that later prove to be faulty?

I am much less pleased than Jonathan Cole is about the enormous and continually growing role that universities and their research play in our lives. For one thing, as a citizen and a human being, I resent being viewed as a specimen. Jonathan Cole is a sociologist, so he knows what I mean.

Bruce Heiden '72CC
Columbus, OH

Heiden is a professor of Greek and Latin at Ohio State University.

Jonathan Cole responds:

It is unfortunate that after 25 years as a university professor, Bruce Heiden has let his appropriate skepticism about the value of great research universities turn into cynicism. His suspicions are apparent in his response to a brief conversation about parts of my book, The Great American University, with the editor of Columbia magazine.

Heiden makes several points that require clarification. Listening is, of course, a valuable trait, and at universities it is particularly valuable when the voices have enough expertise to make judgements about the quality of a professor's work — not when they don't know what they are talking about.

University leaders should not simply tell society to "trust us." We should earn public trust by demonstrating how the transmission and creation of knowledge has intrinsic value and leads to discoveries, innovations, ideas, and concepts that change our ways of thinking and the quality of our lives. Of course, not all that comes forth from great universities is admirable. But a convincing argument can be made that universities have become essential engines of change and innovation in a knowledge-based society. Most people are not fully aware of how much they rely on discoveries spawned at great universities like Columbia.

I wish that the idea that the mission of great universities is to "challenge orthodox-

COLUMBIA

MAGAZINE

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 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



LETTERS

ies” had become a cliché. Then I could be confident that the public and its legislative representatives would better understand why great universities are open spaces in which radical ideas should be heard while conservative methods of determining their fact basis and truth value should be applied to them.

If Heiden read my book, which I suggest he borrow from the Ohio State University library, he would know that I discuss resistance to new ideas and their consequences for the growth of knowledge.

Who could disagree with Jonathan Cole and his well-argued case defending the great American research universities? At its best, university research supports the courage and determination to ask immense, impossible questions.

My perspectives differ from those of faculty at colleges and universities. I teach at a community college, where my students — who work 40 to 50 hours a week, often at more than one job — show up for a class that runs from midnight until 2:30 a.m. In my 7 a.m. section, students come from work at Boston’s Logan Airport. They all do the homework. They participate in discussions. I offer classes over spring break. Students come and do the extra assignments. Don’t we all — research universities included — want to invest in this level of drive and motivation?

In 2007–08 I was lucky enough to win a fellowship from the Hechinger Institute at Columbia’s Teachers College. I researched and wrote about financing at community colleges. Among the things I discovered — undisputed by experts in higher education — is that research universities and private liberal arts colleges would collapse without the substantial federal support they receive. This support includes tax policy allowing deductions for donations and permitting no taxes on endowments, along with federal research grants, loans, and loan subsidies for students. Assuming even modest endowment growth, the federal subsidy, via tax policy alone, for a Columbia or a Williams undergraduate is \$20,000 to \$30,000. By contrast, students at Bunker Hill Community College, where I teach, usually don’t qualify for even a full federal Pell Grant of about \$5000.

How I wish all the disciplines of a great research university would gather to ask how the nation could offer the 6 million students in 1177 community colleges even a fraction of the everyday opportunities and resources that students get at universities such as Columbia. Isn’t solving the inequity in our educational system in all its dimensions and complexity just the kind of impossible, multidisciplinary question U.S. research universities ought to be able to solve?

Wick Sloane
Cambridge, MA

Wick Sloane teaches writing at Bunker Hill Community College in Boston and writes The Devil’s Workshop column for Inside Higher Ed.

WETZSTEON AND WOOLF

The name of Rachel Wetzsteon, and the tragic account of a gifted young person taking her own life, as described by Eric McHenry in his compassionate article in the Spring 2010 College Walk section, might not have struck me so forcefully had I not recently bought Virginia Woolf’s 1919 novel *Night and Day*. The introduction by Ms. Wetzsteon is beautifully written and

invaluable. I am glad to bring this note as part of her lasting legacy to the attention of readers of *Columbia* magazine.

David Hamerman ’46CC
Bronx, NY

PHILOLOGY

I read with delight Paul Hond’s masterful tribute to one of the Columbia community’s underappreciated treasures, the inimitable music historian Phil Schaap (“Every Day Is Bird Day,” Spring 2010). Hond certainly captured the fascinating and endearing character of the classmate who introduced me to New York City and its cultural richness in 1969. Hond’s article also conveyed the joyful élan that pervaded Low Library on the occasion of Phil’s fourth decade. It was an evening that validated my passion for this amazing academy and its provocative people, most especially my cherished friend, Phil Schaap.

Robert A. Pruznick ’73CC
Nazareth, PA

FAULTY TOWERS

I was surprised that in his review of Stephen H. Norwood’s *The Third Reich in the Ivory Tower: Complicity and Conflict on American Campuses*, Ari L. Goldman did not mention the Ivy League’s long history of quotas for Jewish students, thoroughly documented in Jerome Karabel’s award-winning 2005 book *The Chosen*, in which we read, among other lamentable things, that “the creation of the country’s first Office of Admissions, established at Columbia in 1910, was a direct response to the ‘Jewish problem.’” But I was pleased to read in *Columbia* magazine that, despite the predictable cowardice and complicity of the administration in accommodating Nazism, Columbia’s students, at least, protested.

Frank Salvidio ’56CS
West Springfield, MA

BUYER BEWARE

The news article about the impact of Columbia and its peers on the purchasing practices of Russell may be a bit mislead-



ing ("Universities' Boycott Wins Garment Workers Right to Unionize," Spring 2010).

When Columbia's Code of Conduct is mentioned, it reads as if the code is used by Columbia. Is it in fact applied to Columbia's own purchasing and not only to the purchasing practices of its licensees? If so, it would be excellent news that the University community is walking the talk and being an ethical purchaser, in addition to requiring that licensees be ethical purchasers. Your article said that Columbia's code applies to its "vendors." If so, and if those policies have been in place since 2000, it would be really great for *Columbia* to run an article reporting on the impact of 10 years of ethical purchasing by the University! I look forward to that disclosure, and evidence of implementation, as substantive follow-up to this news item, and also as a story of which the Columbia community can be truly proud.

Eileen Kohl Kaufman '91BUS
New York, NY

Kohl Kaufman is the executive director of Social Accountability International.

ALL OR NOTHING

Richard Cummings's letter about Mark Mazower's book ("UN in the Middle," Spring 2010) perpetuates a myth about UN Security Council Resolution 242 by stating that it called "for Israel to withdraw to the 1967 borders." It is well known that the word "all" was deliberately left out of the resolution's text ("Withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict") because the drafters of the resolution and the members of the Security Council neither demanded nor expected Israel to withdraw to the prewar borders. Resolution 338 said nothing about withdrawal, but rather called for a cease-fire among the parties "in the positions they now occupy," and refers back to Resolution 242.

Michael Frank '89BUS
Atlanta, GA

In his letter, Richard Cummings makes an important point that the United Nations did

not create the State of Israel. But he makes some errors on another important point.

Israel was required to eventually give up territories captured in the 1967 War, but the Soviet attempt to have the requirement be from "all" of the territories was defeated, and omitting "all" meant less than all. In fact, as English was clearer on this point than French ("des territoires" could mean all or less than all), the English meaning was specifically adopted.

This was deliberate. The inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war means by offensive war (which is how Jordan obtained the "West Bank" in 1948-49), and in 1967 Jordan attacked Israel. In giving up the Sinai to Egypt, Israel has returned over 90 percent of the territories it captured in 1967. It can, of course, give up more, but it is not required to by UN Resolutions 242 and 338, or by any other binding document.

Edward M. Siegel '55CC,
'57GSAS, '60LAW
New York, NY

BARNARD MAN

James R. Gaines's review of Alan Brinkley's *The Publisher* is accompanied by a picture of Henry Luce and Raymond Moley on page 53. Your identification of Moley was incomplete: He came to Barnard College from Cleveland as a government professor in 1924, from which position he was one of the original recruits for FDR's Brain Trust, while Roosevelt was the governor of New York from 1929 to 1933. I had the privilege of interviewing Mr. Moley for my senior thesis about Roosevelt as governor. He remembered his days at the College fondly.

Sarah B. White '71BC, '73JRN
Williamstown, MA

I believe your caption implies that Raymond Moley was on the faculty of the law school, but in fact he was a professor at Barnard, where his title might have been professor of public law and government —

Continued on page 65



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Rules of the Game

Six weeks before the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, Sunil Gulati '86GSAS, a dashing, silver-haired blade of a man in a dark blue suit and tie, stood before his class and talked about Pareto efficiency.

"The allocation or distribution of goods or resources is considered Pareto efficient if *what's* true?" he said, and answered: "That it's impossible to make anyone in the room better-off without harming at least one other person." Thus, taking a dollar from Bill Gates and giving it to a poor person would not be a Pareto *improvement*, since Gates would be out a buck. ("We're not talking about fairness and justice yet," Gulati advised.) But if Donald Trump is in the desert and pays someone \$1000 for a bottle of water, the Pareto standard is met, since both parties benefit. "Mutual gains

from trade: *This* is an example of a Pareto improvement," Gulati said. "It's the invisible-hand story: We don't *seek* to make other people better-off, but it ends up happening if markets work well. Strange thing to say in a week when Goldman Sachs is testifying before Congress." Gulati concluded by observing that, despite the grilling on Capitol Hill, "the facts show that there's generally something good about competitive markets." He repeated this for emphasis.

Then he shifted gears. "Put away your notebooks," he said. "What we're about to discuss won't appear on the exam."

There was a loud rustle as the more than 200 students who packed the lecture hall in Schermerhorn each Tuesday and Thursday morning for Principles of Economics shut their laptops and shifted in their cramped

seats. On this, the last day of regular classes, after a rigorous semester of supply and demand, of inflation and stagflation, of slopes and curves and production-possibility frontiers, of Glass-Steagall and collateralized debt obligations, Gulati's order brought palpable release.

As the shuffling died down, Gulati raised his voice. "The United States has an enormous budget deficit and an enormous trade deficit," he said. "My question is this: 'Is the United States a generous donor in terms of international aid?'"

Hands levitated. Gulati pointed to a woman in a middle row. "Yup?"

"In relation to —"

"You're whispering."

"In relation to GDP —"

"You're still whispering."

The student piped up. "In relation to GDP, the United States is at the lower end."

Gulati booted it back: "A proportion of our economic activity — is that your measure of whether we're a generous donor?" It was more statement than question. Gulati selected more hands, with prods of "Louder!" and "Can't hear you!" that were like a coach's kick in the pants. One student criticized the U.S. for attaching conditions to aid. Another felt that politicians needed to justify foreign aid at a time when many Americans were hurting. One young man said, "We're absolutely *not* generous, particularly when a large percentage of our activity that is not donations has negative effects on the rest of the world. Capitalism," he went on, his voice rising, "isn't a walk in the park." Gulati let the comment hang there, and the class, much of it in shorts and Columbia sweatshirts, erupted in laughter that betrayed the anxieties of the political moment.

Gulati brought out some facts. The United States was, in dollar terms, "by far, the most generous donor in the world," but its slice of GDP allocated for international humanitarian assistance — less than .2 percent — was "extraordinarily small" compared to the .7 percent targeted in the early '90s and achieved by some wealthy

European countries. Then, invoking the moral philosopher John Rawls's "veil of ignorance," Gulati posed the following: Not knowing the outcome for yourself or anyone else, would you choose a world in which everyone had a 50/50 chance of being born into extreme wealth (in Scarsdale) or extreme poverty (in Calcutta); or a world in which everyone had a 100 percent chance of being born somewhere in the middle — say, as a lower-middle-class farmer in Argentina? "What rules of the game," said Gulati, "do you want to have for the world?"

As the students explored the hypotheticals (would a 99 percent estate tax create a disincentive to work?), some wondered how any of this would relate, if at all, to the striking photographs that Gulati had projected on a screen at the outset of the class. Those images, bright with blues, reds, and yellows, showed small children in the streets of what appeared to be a city in Mexico. But now Gulati was talking about a different place.

He was talking about India, where he was born in 1959. His family moved to the U.S. when he was five. During Gulati's soccer-filled childhood, in Nebraska and then in Connecticut, the family took some trips to India, which Gulati hated, since it meant missing his games. It was only later, while studying economic development at Columbia, that he went to India on his own. He visited relatives in New Delhi, then took a trip to Calcutta — in part, as he told the class, "to be shocked." He went to Mother Teresa's hospice and saw the dying and destitute.

The class listened as Gulati, his voice lowered, described scenes of poverty and human suffering in faraway places. Rawls's veil fluttered in the room, whispering: *What if you were born on the streets of Calcutta?*

Gulati moved the story ahead a few years. It was 1986, and a journalist friend at NBC called to say that he'd be working at the World Cup, which that year was being held in Mexico. He invited Gulati to join him, promising posh hotels and free tickets to the games. Gulati, soccer nut,

was an easy sell. He went to Mexico, and did not forget his camera.

This past February, Gulati was elected to his second term as president of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), the national governing body for soccer in the U.S. For more than 20 years, he has been driving the growth of the sport in this country. In the late 1980s he helped put together the bid that resulted in the first U.S.-hosted World Cup, in 1994. That event, with its record-setting attendance, led to the birth of Major League Soccer, an enterprise of which Gulati has been a principal architect.

For the USSF, 2010 is a critical year. There's the tournament in South Africa, of course, where the Stars and Stripes hope to improve on 2002's quarter-final finish in Germany. But Gulati's big goal business-wise is to bring the World Cup stateside in 2018 or 2022 — a potential economic bonanza for which the bullish professor estimates \$1 billion in ticket revenues.

In mid-May, Gulati went to the Zurich headquarters of FIFA (the world governing body of *football*) and delivered the U.S. bid. For the Cup to come to the States, 13 members of the 24-strong committee must be swayed by an exceptional American offer that includes 18 proposed cities, soccer-specific stadiums, 5 million tickets available, a ready infrastructure, and no need of public funds. The committee will announce its decision on December 2.

Meanwhile, Gulati continues to work on expanding the game in America. "We've got to make sure we're reaching out to all pockets of the population," he said recently in his office in the International Affairs Building. "It's going to take time, but as the league gets better, and there are more role models, and the returns to being a professional soccer player improve — those are pieces to the puzzle."

His office contains a treasure of soccer memorabilia, including a large photo of the U.S. team in 1994. Above this, a television is tuned to CNBC. (Idea for Gulati bio title: *Kickers and Tickers*.) Behind Gulati's

desk hangs a photograph of Martin Luther King Jr. standing beside a portrait of Gandhi, and high on the wall above the bookshelves is a row of photos of children on the streets of Mexico.

"At a sporting event in a poor country," Gulati told the class, "there are a lot of kids hawking stuff around the stadium."

The '86 Cup opened with Mexico versus Bulgaria, and Gulati and his journalist friend had extra tickets for the match in Mexico City. They approached a small boy and handed him a \$50 ticket. There was an awkward moment. The boy looked confused, and Gulati couldn't understand his words. Then the journalist's driver stepped in.

"The driver says: 'He wants to know what you expect in return.'" Gulati's voice dropped just above a whisper. "Wow. *He wants to know what you expect in return.*"

Gulati, whose wife is from Mexico, then revealed that the pictures he had shown earlier were of the kids outside the stadium.

"Except," he said, "I interspersed them with pictures of my own kids."

As the class pondered the meaning of that, Rawls's veil shook a little more, and Gulati brought things closer to home.

Twenty-five years ago, he was walking near campus late at night when he saw a woman begging.

"The U.S. president at the time," Gulati said, "made an assumption, essentially, that she was there by choice." He paused. "I'm pretty darn sure that the nine- or eight- or seven-year-old kid standing next to her at midnight on a Thursday while she was playing an instrument and trying to ask for money was not there by choice."

"So what does all of this mean? Does it mean we should all hold hands and sing

'We Are the World'? Maybe. Does it mean that you should just skip the job at J. P. Morgan and join the Peace Corps? Maybe. I don't know. But here's some of what I think it does mean."

And then, for the first time in the lecture, Gulati rolled out a sports metaphor.

"One of the ways you evaluate athletes," he said, "is by their tolerance for pain. Can they play through pain? I don't think that's a good measure when we're talking about nonathletes. I think it's not your tolerance for pain, but your *intolerance* for pain — in those around you."

He left the students with a reminder that the "extraordinary gift" of a Columbia education invested them with strong obligations to the world.

"Intolerance for pain in others," he said. "That seems like a pretty good lesson."

— Paul Hond

Chairman of the Boardwalk

About 40 men are seated inside the Refectory, a banquet hall in the Union Theological Seminary. They wear 1920s-era tuxedos, mustaches, and enough pomade to grease a fleet of Model Ts. Some have gathered at a head table occupied by the actor Steve Buscemi. It is, for a few hours, March 17, 1920 — the first St. Patrick's Day of Prohibition.

Standing near Buscemi is Edward McGinty '06SOA. On this day, McGinty is a SAG actor, playing a ward boss named Aloysius Boyd. But his primary role in HBO's new dramatic series *Boardwalk Empire*, based on Nelson Johnson's book *Boardwalk Empire: The Birth, High Times, and Corruption of Atlantic City*, is off-camera. McGinty, a third-generation Atlantic City native, is also the show's head research adviser, charged with reconstructing his hometown's history

one period-perfect scene at a time. From the city skyline to the appropriate degrees of auburn rust on boardwalk signs, he is the gatekeeper of all salient historical details. And he has plumbed his own family history along the way. The real-life Aloysius Boyd was a fishing buddy of his grandfather, and his father, Edward McGinty Sr., worked as a page boy at the very boardwalk hotel where much of the show takes place.

"There's a running joke that no matter how obscure the fact, Ed will know it within five minutes," says Terence Winter, the show's producer. While the cameras roll inside the seminary, Winter is seated inside his trailer, parked at 120th and Claremont Avenue, watching a freshly cut preview for *Boardwalk's* pilot, which was directed by Martin Scorsese. "Honestly, I think this job was Ed's destiny," Winter says as his TV

screen fades to black. "We couldn't do it without him."

Destiny? Perhaps. In 2008, McGinty was living in Los Angeles, after touring the festival circuit with his SOA thesis film, *Morning Fall*. He had cofounded the alumni networking group Columbia University in Entertainment, when in late spring, his classmate Ben Odell '04SOA called to tell him that Winter was working on a show about Atlantic City, and that he'd told the producer, "You *have* to meet my friend Ed." (Odell, it turns out, knew Winter from coordinating an SOA master class in 2002 featuring Winter and *Sopranos* actors Edie Falco and Steve Schirripa.) McGinty quickly launched a campaign to win the job he knew he was born to do. After months of calls, e-mails, and sweat, he met Winter at an L.A. diner, armed with a huge shopping bag stuffed with

2010 COLUMBIA ALUMNI MEDALISTS

*Awarded by the Columbia Alumni Association
Announced by Lee C. Bollinger, President of the University
at Commencement, May 18, 2010*

10 Alumni Who Guide Columbia



Kyra Tirana Barry
1987 B.A. Columbia College



Hajime Kosai
1996 M.B.A. Columbia Business School



Roger Baumann
*1984 I.F. International and Public Affairs
1985 M.I.A. International and Public Affairs*



Larry J. Lawrence
*1969 B.A. School of General Studies
1971 M.B.A. Columbia Business School*



Brenda Johnson Gallagher
1997 M.S. School of Social Work



Simon K. C. Li
1970 M.S. School of Journalism



Barbara Silver Horowitz
*1955 B.A. Barnard College
1974 M.Ed. Teachers College*



Maria E. Shiao-Di Francesco
1986 B.S. Engineering and Applied Science



Gedale B. Horowitz
*1953 B.A. Columbia College
1955 J.D. Columbia Law School*



Sara "Sally" Shipley Stone
1969 B.S. School of Nursing

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MARIA RABINKY

photos and books about his hometown. "I realized you have to brand yourself in this business, and I decided I was going to be the Atlantic City Guy," says McGinty. Winter agreed.

On the Sunday following the seminary shoot, McGinty visits the boardwalk set in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, kept secure by locked gates and a security guard. The weather has a seaside feel this afternoon — mist, light rain, hazy clouds — that makes the scenery all the more convincing. It's as if a slice of the Jazz Age Atlantic City boardwalk has dropped from the Brooklyn sky.

For McGinty, the verisimilitude that he's helped create holds a deeper significance. "When they were building the set, I did feel we had done something pretty special," he says. "It was like the ghost of my grandfather was standing next to me on the boardwalk. That felt good."

— Stacey Wilson '01JRN

Beat the Rap

On a sunlit street in a small desert town outside of Be'er Sheva, a child stops to listen to the coins rattling in his father's pocket. The father, noticing his son's amusement, taps the coins together. A rhythm develops. Spellbound, the child's fingers dance along.

For Gal "James" Sivan, this was his earliest encounter with drumming. "I loved listening to that," he recalls. On the ground, his foot bounces, in tempo, against his Columbia Business School backpack.

In many ways, Sivan '10BUS is your typical MBA student. He keeps eye contact, sits up straight, and speaks directly. But how many of his classmates in Corporate Finance or Marketing Strategy could say they once performed in front of 50,000 people, or opened for Run-D.M.C.?

Flash to 1994. Sivan, then 19, was finishing his mandatory service in the Israeli army. "I was in Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, but for just one night each," says Sivan, who was the drummer in the army's jazz band. "We would show up, perform, and then leave," he explains, likening the visits to Marilyn Monroe singing for American GIs in Korea (all members of the army's jazz band were exempt from combat).

In the U.S., *Rolling Stone* had just run a cover of rap artists Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg. The Beastie Boys were headlining the Lollapalooza festival, and Notorious B.I.G. was in Manhattan's D&D Studios, recording his seminal album, *Ready to Die*. Hip-hop had arrived. But Israel, like the rest of the world, had yet to catch up.

A couple of rap-loving high-school friends in the town of Yavne decided to change that. Their group, called Shabak Samech, was looking for a new drummer. Sivan auditioned and made an impression. "Because of my jazz training, I could learn a song after hearing it once," says Sivan, smiling. "They weren't used to that." Four days later, with Sivan on drums, the group performed at the farewell concert for a popular Tel Aviv rock club. The show was broadcast on the army's radio station Galgalatz, one of the most popular stations in Israel. It was Shabak's big break. "For the first time in my life, people were telling me I was amazing," says Sivan. "I was never the same." Yossi Fine, a bassist who has worked with David Bowie and Lou Reed, and who was Shabak's first producer,

recalls Sivan's transformation: "He used to stop the show, come up to the mic and say, 'I'm the best drummer around' — and then he really became it."

Six months later, the group released the single "Shabak Samech Imperia" from their self-titled album, and Israeli music was forever changed. "Shabak was the first group to combine hip-hop and rock in Israel — to popularize it," says Loolwa Khazzoom '91BC, who chronicled the rise of Israeli hip-hop for *Rolling Stone*.

The video for "Imperia" shows Sivan at his drum set, wearing a surgical mask and a chain-link necklace. A mob of youths in baggy pants and backward baseball caps parade through the sandy streets of Jaffa, a mixed Arab-Jewish district of Tel Aviv. Eventually, for no apparent reason, they carjack an old Cadillac sedan, smash the windows, and flip it over. "We were," says Sivan, "one of the first groups to curse in Hebrew."

This attitude, along with the name, cemented Shabak's raucous reputation with Israeli audiences (in Hebrew, "Shabak" is a deliberate misspelling of the acronym for the Israel Security Agency, which is analogous to the FBI). While most Israeli rap addresses political issues, Shabak's early songs talked about parties, fun, and, of course, ladies. One lyric from "Imperia" loosely translates to, "Shabak Samech is an empire / See how all the females get hysterical." Not exactly Yehuda Amichai, but the kids loved it.

Then, as in many bands, competing personalities led to conflict. "You know, we made a revolution," says Sivan. "It's like Robespierre. You do your damage, and then you end up under the guillotine." After seven years and four albums, Shabak broke up in 2000.

Sivan is now in his mid-30s. "When you're in your 20s," he says, "you think that in order to play music, you have to be

a musician. Now, I still play drums, but I play because I enjoy it." Post-Shabak, Sivan pursued his first love, engineering, at Ben-Gurion University in Be'er Sheva. After a few years developing applications for mobile platforms, he applied to business school to become better suited for management.

Although Sivan cut his once rock star-length hair (he's now a consultant for Booz & Company), every so often, during long hours in Uris Hall, he would look to his hip-hop days for guidance. "Shabak made me realize the value of creating a safe environment for ideas. Spending five minutes brainstorming and not dismissing everyone else's ideas is hard to do in a band *and* in business school. A group can't always identify from the start the value of what it's doing."

He pauses, and taps a couple of coins together in his pocket. "But if you let go and listen, what you think is nothing can turn into something."

— Allegra Panetto '09BC

How to realize leadership potential



1. Recognize Organizational Problem



2. Call for Help



3. Address the Issue



4. Apply Resolution

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● The Starry Messenger

"It's the size of the Rose Bowl," says Neil deGrasse Tyson in his blunt, personable way. "It's going to be the biggest, closest object to pass by Earth in our recorded history."

Tyson '92GSAS is seated in his exuberantly cluttered office at the American Museum of Natural History's Hayden Planetarium, where he is director. Behind his desk hangs Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. The shelves are crammed with globes, books, awards. The desk holds a collection of long, luxuriant quill pens of ostrich and vulture. On a chair rests a pillow adorned with suns and moons, and Tyson's vest is similarly emblazoned.

"If it hits, it'll create a tsunami that'll wipe clean the West Coast of the United States."

Tyson is talking about an asteroid that astronomers named Apophis. In Egyptian mythology, he notes, Apophis is the god of death.

"This asteroid could do a trillion dollars' worth of damage to the West Coast," Tyson says, with a missionary spark. "People want to know about it, and I'm happy to tell them." Frequently, Tyson tells them through the medium of late-night TV, where he performs the

important, often funny, occasionally awkward, always fascinating service of conveying the high concepts of astrophysics in terms intelligible to Jay Leno. As he recently explained on *The Tonight Show* — and maybe a comedic atmosphere is the best place for material this heavy — Apophis will, on April 13, 2029 ("a Friday," Tyson adds with twinkling portent), give our planet a "buzz cut," dipping below our communication satellites. At that point, should the asteroid's orbit thread the center of a 600-meter-wide zone called a keyhole, we'll have to fund a project to deflect the thing — or else seven years later, when Apophis returns, it's sayonara, Santa Monica.

"These are little facts that anyone is going to be interested in, even if you've never cared about science in your life," Tyson says. "If you're not interested, you don't have a pulse. So talking about things like asteroids becomes a very effective means of getting a person to think about the universe, and to understand that Earth is not some island, isolated from cosmic forces."

Tyson wants us to look up. He wants to empower us by communicating ideas about the machinery of the universe — not the names of the stars, or the order of the planets, but truths about

Musings of the Spheres

By Paul Hond

Does space exploration matter? Is there life on other planets? And what about Pluto? Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson '92GSAS tells us what's up.

the natural world as revealed by the laws of physics. To that end, he has published nine books (including a memoir, *The Sky Is Not the Limit*, and the best-selling *Death by Black Hole*) and written scores of essays on science and culture for the museum's journal *Natural History*. He hosts the PBS program *NOVA scienceNOW*, and often materializes in less-rarefied sectors of the tube, from CNN to Comedy Central. There he is on CBS's *The Early Show*, explaining Jupiter's knack for attracting comets (it has more gravity than all the planets combined), or there, on *The Daily Show*, comforting Jon Stewart, who was shaken by Tyson's matter-of-fact report that the expanding universe will scatter the galaxies so far apart into the cold depths of space that all processes will eventually "come to a rest." And then, before you can say Copernicus, he's off to an academic lecture on black holes, or to serve on a presidential commission on space, as he did in 2001 and in 2004. Since last year, he's hosted a weekly radio show called *StarTalk*, aimed at an audience outside of the orbit of NPR: His sidekick is Lynne Koplitz, a salty comedienne who did not major in physics, and *StarTalk* is one of the few programs where you're liable to hear the words "quasar" and "breasts" in the same conversation. Which is to say, Tyson is

taking astrophysics further into the public sphere than anyone since Carl Sagan — all while leading one of New York's most cherished institutions.

Oh, and then there's that little matter of Pluto. But we'll get to Pluto.



Venus Is Burning

A reasonable person might ask: Given all the problems on Earth — war, hunger, poverty, disease, unemployment, et cetera — why should the federal government spend billions of dollars in space?

As a public scientist, Tyson hears the question a lot, and it tends to raise his atmospheric pressure.

"I would just ask you: How much do you think we're spending up there? Here's your tax dollar. How much? Ten cents on the dollar? Five cents? The answer is one half of one cent. That funds the space stations, the space shuttles, all the NASA centers, all the launches, the Hubble Space Telescope, the rovers on Mars. All of it. Half a penny.

"So the question isn't, Why are we spending money up there and not down here? The question is, If we pumped that half a cent back into the 99.5 percent of the budget, would the country be fundamentally different in the ways you want? Do you believe that?"

**"Venus has runaway greenhouse.
It's 900 degrees on Venus.
Something *bad* happened on Venus."**

"NASA should be counted as a force of nature. There is no greater stimulus of the public's interest in science and technology than the ambitions that NASA places in front of the country."

Sure, but why not put more of NASA's money toward studying our own planet? Monitoring for earthquakes, volcanoes, climate change, that sort of thing?

"I don't believe you can fully understand Earth if that's the only planet you are studying. Global climate change did not become a subject until scientists studied the effects of the K-T boundary impact on Earth's ecosystem that took out the dinosaurs. Sixty-five million years ago, the dinosaurs went away rather abruptly. There's an asteroid impact crater off the Yucatan peninsula, 200 kilometers wide, associated with that event. It's under the Gulf of Mexico, and was found by petroleum geologists in 1981. No one was thinking about local events affecting global climate at the time. So here you have an asteroid from space hitting Earth as the first occasion for anyone to think about global climate change.



COURTESY NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

Tyson assembles the telescope he received on his 12th birthday, with help from his father, Cyril.

“The point is, discovery doesn’t come from studying the one object. Give me 10 other objects, and compare and contrast them, and then I’ll know what this one is. Our understanding of global greenhouse comes from Venus. Venus has runaway greenhouse. It’s 900 degrees on Venus. Something *bad* happened on Venus.

“So it is naïve and bordering on dangerous to believe that you only have to study Earth if you want to understand Earth and solve its problems. I would even call it irresponsible.”



Fun with Earthlings

The first time Neil Tyson saw the hotbed of stars pulsing in the dome of the sky theater at the Hayden Planetarium, he thought it was a hoax. “I’d seen the sky from the Bronx,” he says, “and it didn’t look like that.” From that moment he was, as he likes to say, “imprinted by the universe.” He was nine years old.

In 1970, for his 12th birthday, his parents gave him a telescope. The family lived in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, in an apartment complex with the auspicious name of Skyview. While the other kids played ball, Tyson would clamber up to the top of his own private 22-story observatory. “The roof of my building — that was my access to the cosmos. No matter the temperature, as long as the sky was clear, I was there. And while you can’t see many things with the naked eye in the city, the telescope brings you all the planets, the moon, and the sun, too, if you have the right filters.”

The year that Tyson got his telescope, the family sojourned in the Boston suburb of Lexington. Tyson’s father, Cyril deGrasse Tyson, was a sociologist who had served as a commissioner under New York mayor John Lindsay during the civil rights struggle, and had now received a one-year appointment as a fellow at the Kennedy School’s Institute of Politics at Harvard. The Lexington house had a backyard, and that was where Tyson, under a densely jeweled canopy, was able, each quiet night, to “snuggle with the universe.” During the day, he followed the spots on the sun as they made their 25-day trek.

The family returned to New York. Tyson attended Bronx Science, where he became captain of the wrestling team and editor in chief of the school’s prestigious *Physical Science Journal*. He also took courses in astrophysics at the Hayden Planetarium.

In the summer of 1973, Tyson got his first taste of another kind of star power. He was 14 and drifting on the coastal waters of north-west Africa aboard the S.S. *Canberra*, whose cargo of 2000 scientists and other skygazers had come to view the total eclipse of the sun. Present on this floating laboratory were astronauts Neil Armstrong and Scott Carpenter, Hayden director Mark Chartrand III, and sci-fi author and educator Isaac Asimov ’39GS, ’48GSAS. On the return voyage, Tyson, the youngest unaccompanied person on the ship, distinguished himself to these luminaries by winning a trivia contest that hinged on a question about Saturn. Later that summer, he spent a month in the Mojave Desert at Camp Urani-



COURTESY NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

Tyson at 15, attending Camp Uraniborg in the Mojave Desert. He stands beside a large-format astrocamera.

borg, an astronomy program codirected by Joseph Patterson, now a professor of astronomy at Columbia.

When it came time to look for universities, Tyson was given a personal tour of the lab at Cornell by one of his heroes, Carl Sagan, whom he often watched on *The Tonight Show*, sharing insights of the cosmos with Johnny Carson. Ithaca tugged, but in the end, Tyson chose Harvard, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in physics. He then entered the PhD program in astrophysics at the University of Texas, but, as Columbia astronomy department chair David Helfand says, “He wasn’t getting the intellectual support he needed. Joe Patterson came to me and said, ‘Look, I know this kid, I knew him as a high school student, he’s a remarkable person. He’s at Texas, and he’s struggling. Can we do something about this?’ So Neil and I met, and it was obvious he had certain talents.”

With Helfand’s assistance, Tyson transferred into the PhD program at Columbia in 1988. “The astrophysics group at Columbia had just been rejuvenated,” Tyson says. “There was an influx of money, and they were increasing the faculty and participating in telescope projects.” The telescope that Tyson used was located at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory, 7000 feet above sea level in the Andes Mountains. It was there that Tyson conducted his doctoral research into the structure of the Milky Way. Back in the putative center of the universe, New York, Tyson’s fusion of scien-

tific knowledge and personal dynamism came into alignment with opportunity: He received a NASA research fellowship, published four research papers and two popular-science books, attended four international conferences, appeared twice on network TV, and was appointed to a postdoctoral research position at Princeton.

On May 14, 1991, Tyson's Columbia career was at its apex. That day, having been nominated for the honor by David Helfand, Tyson delivered the keynote address at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences PhD Convocation in St. Paul's Chapel. He arrived at St. Paul's after a long flight from the observatory in Chile. "My inspiration for this address," he told the crowd, "actually came from a mountaintop."

Tyson has called it the most important speech of his life. In it, he spoke of his early aspirations of becoming an astrophysicist and "the shattering awareness that there were few parts of society that were prepared to accept my dreams. I wanted to do with my life what people of my skin color were not supposed to do."

He spoke of unprovoked police stops, of being followed by guards in department stores, of being seen by society as a likely criminal whose athletic skills were genetic and whose academic successes were unearned. "Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "to spend most of my life fighting these attitudes levies an emotional tax that is a form of intellectual emasculation. It is a tax that I would not wish upon my enemies. As of this afternoon, my PhD will bring the national total of black astrophysicists from six to seven. Given what I've experienced, I am surprised there are that many."

He concluded by saying, "It is remarkable what can be accomplished when you are surrounded by people who believe in you; people whose expectations are not set by the shortsighted attitudes of society; people who help to open doors of opportunity, not close them. Thanks to Columbia's interest in me, the love and support of my family, and the endorsement of the Department of Astronomy, I have truly lived and fulfilled a dream. Yet I know my life has just begun."

Helfand recalls the reaction. "There wasn't a dry eye in the house," he says. "Jonathan Cole was provost at the time, and after the speech, he leaned over to me and said, 'When do we hire him back?'"



Code Red

As Orson Welles portrayed it in his 1938 radio play, Mars wasn't named after the Roman god of war for nothing. *The War of the Worlds* set back attitudes toward Martians by light years. Today, as the rovers *Spirit* and *Opportunity* explore the red planet, with its dried riverbeds and intriguing evidence of methane gas, Neil Tyson, filling Leno's guest chair in a brown suit and galaxy-spattered tie, offers a twist on the Martian narrative. It's possible, he says, that before life evolved on Earth, an asteroid slammed into a fertile Mars, flinging hunks of microbe-harboring rock into space. Some of those rocks could have landed on our

cooling planet, seeding it with life in a process called *panspermia*. "Maybe," he says, "we're all descended from Martians."

"I'd like to get drunk with you," says the guest to Tyson's right, comedian Jimmy Fallon, who later, when told of Apophis's grim approach, slumps in his seat, toking an imaginary joint. "You're freaking me out, man!"

We can laugh, but Tyson is serious about the threats to Earth from "up there," and sadistic space aliens don't top the list. "Mars once had running water, and today it's bone dry," he says. "Something *bad* happened on Mars." With Venus and Mars as our shining examples of planetary catastrophe, we ought to be on a technological war footing, Tyson believes. He points out that the moon landing in 1969 was the product not of a pure thirst for discovery, but of Cold War gamesmanship; that the species is driven less by curiosity than by survival in the face of existential threats. And as someone who survived an attack we *didn't* see coming — Tyson was living a few blocks from the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, and saw the laws of physics play out in

Members of the solar system hang out at the Hayden Planetarium.



the collision of objects and in human bodies falling as his binoculars darkened with the powder that blanketed downtown, gray and barren as lunar dust — his call for action against the Apophises of the world carries extra weight.

“I don’t want to be the laughingstock of the galaxy,” he says, “when they find out that a species that had the intelligence to stop an asteroid impact simply went extinct.”



Ice Fishing on Europa

In January 1610, Galileo Galilei, a 46-year-old professor of mathematics at the University of Padua, aimed his newly made spyglass at the night sky. He saw awesome, astonishing things that he supposed might be best kept from an uneducated public.

The moon was not a perfect sphere, as church doctrine taught, but had craters and mountains. Venus went through phases like the moon. The sun had spots. Saturn looked — peculiar. And Jupiter had four satellites of its own that wandered around it as the moon circles Earth — hardly a blessing for the geocentrists in Rome.

When Neil Tyson, on a Bronx rooftop, first gazed into the mists of the Milky Way, he “communed with Galileo across time and space,” as he recounts in his memoir, marveling that his own discoveries of the craggy lunar surface and of Jupiter’s smaller pirouetting partners were “as fresh for me in the Bronx, New York, as they must have been for Galileo in Florence, Italy, four centuries

“I don’t want to be the laughingstock of the galaxy when they find out that a species that had the intelligence to stop an asteroid impact simply went extinct.”

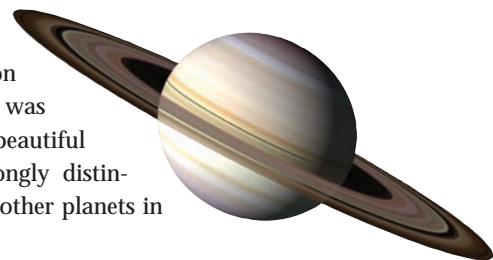
ago.” Galileo would be famously persecuted out of the human frailties of fear, ignorance, and vanity, and Tyson, traveling his “path of most resistance,” as he has described his life’s journey, knows as well as any astronomer that humans still have some distance to go. In his 100th essay for *Natural History*, in 2007, Tyson called for the embrace of “the cosmic perspective” — a humble, spiritual, nonreligious, open-minded consciousness gained from the study of the universe, one that exalts us and lifts us above our egos and lowly prejudices. “Imagine a world in which everyone, but especially people with power and influence, holds an expanded view of our place in the cosmos,” he wrote. “With that perspective, our problems would shrink — or never arise at all.”

Today, in America, science literacy rates are low and calls for budget cuts are loud. Tyson warns that the nation is losing ground in science and technology “just by standing still.” He has a to-do list for the space program that he says will stimulate “intellectual capital.” Among other things, he wants to explore Jupiter’s moon Europa, first seen by Galileo 400 years ago. Scientists believe that Europa contains liquid water. “We should drill through the kilometers of ice on Europa and explore its subsurface liquid ocean for living organisms,” Tyson asserts.

For Tyson, the more evidence that we’re not the center of the universe, but part of a cosmic chain, the more connected we’ll feel to the cosmos and to each other. As he often tells audiences, we are, after all, made of stardust: The most prevalent chemically active elements of the universe — hydrogen, oxygen, carbon, and nitrogen — are the most common elements of life on Earth. “We are not simply in the universe,” he says, with cosmic profundity. “The universe is in *us*.”

Saturn’s Harvest

The final trivia question on the S.S. *Canberra* was this: Other than its beautiful rings, what feature strongly distinguishes Saturn from the other planets in the solar system?

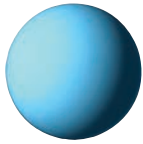


The young Tyson was in his comfort zone. The year before, when asked to build a wooden lamp in his seventh-grade shop class, he ignored the basic design provided by the teacher and instead fashioned a clever instrument in the shape of his favorite planet: Saturn. You turned the lamp on and off by tilting its rings. Saturn was *his*. And so he knew, that night on the high seas, that Saturn is the only planet with a density less than that of water. Find a bowl big enough, and Saturn would float.

Tyson still has the Saturn lamp. It sits on his desk, among his quills and inkpots, a reminder of how the heavens inspire invention, and how those inventions illuminate our everyday lives — one of Tyson’s principal themes.

“They give out grants to medical researchers to find cures,” he says. “And the question becomes, ‘What about the physicists? Are we going to fund them, too?’ ‘Oh no, the days of the physicist are over, they built bombs for us.’ Excuse me, let’s pause for a minute. Yes, physicists were the scientific foundation of the military armament of the Cold War. But the last time you walked into a hospital, what were those machines with the on/off switches that can investigate the condition of your body without cutting you open? Those would be the X-ray machines, the MRI, and ultrasound. And every single one of them exists based on the principles of physics, discovered by a physicist who had no particular interest in medicine. Period.

“True revolutionary advances in our understanding of the natural world issue from the cross-pollination of disciplines. And the problems posed in the investigation of the universe attract people who have the smarts, the ambition, and the perseverance to make the discoveries that will transform the way we live.”



Father of the Sky

It was 1994, and the Hayden Planetarium was in trouble. Attendance was down. Many of the exhibits were outmoded. That year, Tyson, still a postdoc at Princeton, was hired by the Hayden as a half-time staff scientist, and asked to lead the effort to rebuild an institution that opened in 1935.

“I understood that the old facility was not serving the current generation,” Tyson says. “It was a planetarium dome with corridors that had mostly flat-panel exhibits, and that was basically it. The facility was good at showing the night sky, but now we know about black holes and quasars and colliding galaxies. There are more places to explore than just the night sky as seen from Earth.”

But if Tyson was going to help conceptualize the new \$230 million Rose Center for Earth and Space, he had a precondition. “I said, ‘One thing we have to do is build a research department.’ And they said, ‘Oh, we don’t have time for that now, we just want to get this off the ground.’ ‘Well, then you’re not serious about it. Call me when you’re serious.’ And in 1996 came the full offer for me to become director, once the institution committed to building a research department for astrophysics.”

It took two years to vet architects and designers and look at plans and ideas, says Tyson. The new structure, which opened in February 2000 on the footprint of the old planetarium, is a seven-story glass cube that houses the 87-foot-diameter, 4-million-pound Hayden Sphere. Inside the sphere is the Space Theater, where a Zeiss Mark IX star projector floods the vault with a throbbing night sky.

But Tyson takes most pride in the growth of the research department. “We went from one scientist, me, to 18 PhD scientists,” he says. “They’re doing research on the birth, life, and death of stars, the evolution of gas clouds within the galaxy, binary stars and their evolution, stars that might one day explode and what effect it would have on their environments, and the detection of planets orbiting around other stars.” Three of the researchers — Michael Shara, Ben Oppenheimer ’94CC, and Mordecai-Mark Mac Low — have full-time permanent adjunct positions at Columbia.

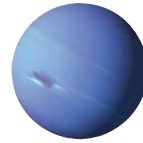
In 2004, Tyson stopped teaching at Princeton, going, as he says, “from a classroom of 200 to a classroom of 1 million.” Via TV satellites high above Earth, Tyson’s message is being carried around the planet.

“Neil is one of the great public spokesman for science and particularly for astrophysics,” says Ellen Futter ’71BC, ’74LAW, the former

Barnard president who became director of the American Museum of Natural History in 1993. “He’s just a master at making a place that most people can’t see, and have difficulty imagining, come alive and be visible, not only in the sense that they’re seeing what it is or might be, but that they’re conceptualizing it intellectually. He makes the concepts accessible, and he relates them to us and to life on Earth.”

Now, in the Rose Center’s 10th year, Tyson is revisiting the exhibits to see what needs updating, modification, or reprioritizing. “Most of the exhibits here are idea-based rather than object-based,” he says. “It’s all too easy to talk about things. It’s much harder to talk about ideas. But ideas are what empower you.”

Ideas also can be divisive. One of Tyson’s decisions for the new facility, which involved an adjustment to the planetary displays, brought some unexpected shock waves: Tyson, the messenger, found himself in the center of a firestorm that spread from U.S. elementary schools to the outer limits of our solar system.



Neptunian Blues and Plutonic Love

Jon Stewart probably captured the feelings of a lot of Americans on a recent airing of *The Daily Show*, when he interrupted Tyson’s litany of reasons for doing what he’d done. Stewart’s face scrunched up in a mask of a child’s aggrieved sense of fairness; he jabbed an accusing finger at his guest and said, choking back a sob, “What did Pluto ever do to you?”

Neil Tyson isn’t cowed by these appeals. “Pluto had it coming,” he told Stewart and the rest of America. No one ever accused an astrophysicist of being sentimental.

In his office, Tyson recalls the morning of January 22, 2001, when the *New York Times* ran a headline on the front page that said: “Pluto No Longer a Planet? Only in New York.” It seemed that a *Times* journalist had discovered, a year after the Rose

**“It’s all too easy to talk about things.
It’s much harder to talk about ideas.
But ideas are what empower you.”**

Center opened, that something was missing from the Hayden’s exhibits of the solar system. That was because the science committee for the Rose Center’s design and construction, headed by Tyson, had decided to classify the major objects of the solar system by like properties: the four terrestrial planets, the four gas giants, and — well, Pluto seemed to have more in common with the countless icy objects out in the Kuiper Belt. And wouldn’t Pluto be happier lumped with its brethren, instead of being a planetary oddball?



Tyson (center) enlightens his fellow earthlings at the Hayden Planetarium.

"If Pluto were as close to the sun as the Earth is," says Tyson, "heat from the sun would evaporate Pluto's ice and it would grow a tail. We've got words for tailed objects in the universe. We call them comets."

This bit of scientific reasoning didn't stop Tyson from receiving hate mail in crayon from third graders, who, like Stewart, couldn't understand why their cute little planet, which shared a name with a Disney dog, should be kicked off the planetary playground.

"It's love," says Tyson. "There's no other way to interpret what happened except that people are connected in a visceral way to Pluto as a planet. I was surprised by the intensity with which people expressed their emotions over what we had done."

With all the angry letters and phone calls, Tyson could hardly focus on his work. For catharsis, he wrote a book called *The Pluto Files: The Rise and Fall of America's Favorite Planet*. A PBS program based on the book aired this past March, starring the telegenic Tyson, who guides us through Pluto's phases, from its discovery in 1930 at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, by astronomer Clyde Tombaugh (the same year, as it happened, that a certain lovable dog debuted in the Disney animated short *The Chain Gang*), to the decision in 2006 by the International Astronomical Union to reclassify Pluto as a dwarf planet — six years after Tyson and the Hayden had gone where no planetarium had gone before.

Pluto's demotion (or admission, if you prefer) to the belt of icy objects ringing the solar system does have a significant impact on



JENICA MILLER

at least one other planet: Neptune, named after Pluto's mythological brother, has been pushed to the end of the line. That's a tough pill to swallow for a gas giant with two moons. But Neptune, like Pluto before it, might do well to heed some wisdom from Tyson himself. The words appear as an epigraph to Tyson's memoir:

Beyond the judgment of others

Rising high above the sky

Lies the power of ambition.

Oh, and Pluto — if you see Apophis out there, tell him we've got enough problems. ●

John McClelland
in Afghanistan, near
the border of Pakistan
in 2006. Opposite, at
his Columbia locker.

COURTESY JOHN MCCLELLAND

From Boots to

IN COLUMBIA CLASSROOMS,

Heads turn as John McClelland strides along College Walk in camouflage fatigues, looking like a guy straight out of a “Go Army” poster. He’s defined by straight lines: perfect posture, Clark Kent eyeglasses, a side part in his shiny black hair.

As he makes his way to Lerner Hall, a voice rings out, “John, is that you?” McClelland turns and smiles. Yes, it’s John, the rosy-cheeked junior who’s usually wearing faded jeans and gray Converse sneakers, his hair in a tousle. But he’s just getting back from his ROTC class at Fordham University and rushing to his locker to change into civilian clothes before heading to his favorite place on campus.

In jeans and a T-shirt, he enters Butler Library. At his usual desk on the sixth floor, he sets down three Red Bulls, pulls several books out of his backpack, and slides into an oak chair. Sunlight flows through the grand windows, offering perfect reading light. “This is my spot,” he says. “If anyone is looking for me, they know this is where I’ll be.” Straight ahead are the 12th-story stacks, thousands of volumes on Middle Eastern, Asian, Persian, and Islamic studies.

McClelland, 26, came to Columbia in 2009 after serving five years as a Special Operations Army Ranger combat medic, an elite soldier trained as a paramedic. During five tours to Iraq and Afghanistan, he helped capture an al-Qaeda suspect, exchanged fire with the Taliban, and treated both fellow soldiers and enemy combatants.

“I wanted to see what war was like up close,” he says, explaining his decision to join the Army. But now, as a student at the School of General Studies, he is on a new mission: to better understand Afghanistan.

McClelland is majoring in history and linguistics. When he graduates in May 2011, he will return to Afghanistan as an officer in the National Guard. Unlike during his three previous deployments, he’ll be able to communicate with Afghans speaking Dari, Pashtun, and other dialects he’s studying at Columbia.

Curiosity brought him to this point in his life from suburban Virginia, and he says he set out to test himself, his values, and what he believes to be the truth. At Columbia, he says, “I am able to engage with people whose ideas I disagree with.” But some aspects of his



Books

THE RANKS OF VETERANS ARE GROWING /// By Cindy Rodríguez

behavior are shaped by the Army. He is always 15 minutes early for class. It allows him to position himself. He likes to sit front and center, not far from the professor. If the board is full, he'll erase it. If there's trash on the desk, he'll throw it away. He wants everything ready when class begins.

He says the Army taught him to always think about his team, in this case, his classmates. It's part of the Army Ranger Creed: "Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong, and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the task whatever it may be, one hundred percent and then some."

A Farewell to Arms

McClelland is part of a growing veteran population at Columbia, a group that has been nearly invisible since the late 1960s, when antiwar fervor led to the dismantling of the ROTC program and soldiers were viewed with disdain.

Unlike their predecessors, this new wave of returning service members are being recruited by administrators and welcomed by

their peers, a profound shift in society's attitude toward veterans. The veteran-population explosion at Columbia began in earnest in the fall of 2009, right after a new GI Bill went into effect, giving returning soldiers the financial means to attend private institutions. In the 2008–09 academic year, there were 169 veterans at Columbia; a year later, there were 230. This fall, that number is expected to jump to 300, says Mathilda McGee-Tubb, a University officer who helps veterans on campus with financial aid and other issues.

"There are veterans who would not have even applied to Columbia if it weren't for the GI Bill," says Sean O'Keefe '10GS, an Army veteran and outgoing president of the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University, "MilVets" for short, a student organization that offers camaraderie and support. O'Keefe says when he left the military in 2007, the only schools that seemed to be recruiting veterans were DeVry University and the University of Phoenix.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, often referred to as the "new GI Bill," pays the tuition of veterans but caps the amount to the most expensive public college in a given

state. (In New York, that's \$12,267 per term.) The bill, however, included a provision creating the Yellow Ribbon Program, which enables participating private schools and the federal government to pay the balance of tuition that is higher than the capped rate.

"We realized very early on that this bill would help veterans in the same way that the original GI Bill did," says Curtis Rodgers, dean of enrollment management for the School of General Studies.

"I wanted to see what war was like up close," John McClelland says, explaining his decision to join the Army. Now the GS student is on a new mission: to better understand Afghanistan.

That bill, signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944, paid tuition for soldiers returning from World War II during a time in which the working class did not go to college. In the first year it was enacted, more than 1 million veterans attended institutions of higher learning, representing about 40 percent of college students across the country. At Columbia, it spurred the formation of GS in 1947, which accommodated legions of student veterans.

As the new bill was being signed in August 2009, Rodgers said administrators at GS saw it as an opportunity to recruit the best veterans. Months before the bill went into effect, Rodgers attended education conferences at two Marine bases in California, Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, and encouraged vets to apply. "If you're looking for the best and brightest nontraditional students," Rodgers says, "the military and, especially within the Special Forces, is a good place to look."

There are vets studying throughout the University: a handful in the law school, several in the schools of business, social work, and journalism, and a larger number in the School of International and Public Affairs. The vast majority are enrolled in GS.

The Embedded Journalist

During a journalism ethics seminar this past fall, Richard C. Wald '52CC, '53GSAS, a former top executive at ABC News who is the Fred W. Friendly Professor of Professional Practice in Media and Society, argued that war correspondents have to stop writing reports from their hotel rooms. They must, he argued, venture into combat zones. Military personnel may order you to stop, Wald told the class of about 60 students, but they are not allowed to bar you.

A hand shot up. Luis Carlos Montalván, a 37-year-old former Army captain who fought in Iraq, had something to say. "That's not so," Montalván told Wald. He says that under orders, he blocked journalists attempting to enter certain combat zones in Iraq. "They didn't get past us."

While students understood Wald's point — that the U.S. military has no jurisdiction over reporters working on foreign soil — they were forced to acknowledge a truth: If armed soldiers insist you back off, invoking the First Amendment isn't going to get a journalist anywhere.

War came up all the time in his classes at the J-school, Montalván says, and he found himself explaining things his classmates don't know much about: why so much of the Iraqi middle class fled and how their leaving further destabilized the country's economy, the fact that combat soldiers wound up serving as guards who protected employees of private U.S. companies, how improvised explosive devices are detonated using wireless technology.

"Luis brings a realism to discussion of issues," says John Martin, a longtime broadcast journalist who taught Montalván in his National Affairs Reporting class. "He's maneuvered in the real world, suffered from it, keeps studying it, and gives a lot of thought to his comments."

Montalván has been an outspoken critic of the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. In 2007, when he was still in the Army, he wrote several pieces, including an op-ed published in the *New York Times*, taking the Department of Defense to



Former Army Captain Luis Carlos Montalván, with Tuesday.

COURTESY LUIS MONTALVÁN

ERIC WEEKS



Montalván with local children during a reconnaissance mission in southern Baghdad in 2005.

task for doing little to weed out corruption among Iraq security forces. That piece led to an interview on NPR. Montalván says a Fort Benning commander told him to stop. A few months later, having served 17 years, he resigned. He had seen some of the worst of war, and was, he says, “physically and psychologically burnt toast.”

When Montalván got out of the Army, he joined Iraq Veterans Against the War and decided to refine his writing skills. In May, he earned a master of science in journalism from the J-school, and is set to resume work on another master’s degree, this one in strategic communications, at the School of Continuing Education.

Speaking Out for Other Vets

After nightfall, during a mission in Iraq along the Syrian border in 2003, two men armed with knives ambushed Montalván and began slashing him. One attacker stabbed him in the arm. During the attack, Montalván fell on his back, fracturing three vertebrae. Subsequently, he received a Purple Heart. Montalván suffers from a permanent spinal injury, among other conditions.

He walks with a cane and Tuesday, his service dog, is always at his side. Each day, he takes 15 to 20 pills for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and recurring pains in his back and leg. Tuesday is trained to sense changes in his breathing and scent that signal that he is about to have an anxiety attack. By nuzzling him,

Unlike their predecessors, this new wave of returning service members are being recruited by administrators and welcomed by their peers, marking a profound shift in society’s attitude toward veterans.

or barking, Tuesday can snap Montalván back to reality, before he goes into a PTSD-induced flashback.

Tuesday has appeared with Montalván on the *CBS Early Show*, *BBC World News*, CNN, and in dozens of newspaper articles, including the front page of the *Wall Street Journal*. After the two of them met Al Franken, a U.S. senator from Minnesota, Franken authored a bill that would provide money to train service dogs for wounded vets.

Montalván has also been on Capitol Hill several times to speak out against what he calls the military’s stigmatizing treatment of soldiers suffering from PTSD. “The military is a culture that promotes the ideal of a strong warrior, and because of that, service members and veterans suffering from trauma are institutionally dissuaded from seeking help and are even chastised for being weak when they seek help,” he says. “This is perhaps the big-

gest factor in the recent finding that 18 veterans commit suicide every day.”

Montalván has been interviewed for thesis projects, once for a documentary about PTSD, another time for a multimedia package on service dogs. Being on campus, he says, has helped him adjust to civilian life after 17 years in the Army. “Studying and doing research brings me to a different place,” he says. “School has helped me find that I have a new purpose.”

Finding a Clear Path

Ester Raha Nyaggah avoids Broadway during rush hour. She strategizes walks through campus when fewer people are out. She shops for groceries at midnight. But stepping onto crowded, noisy streets near campus is unavoidable. It means taking deep breaths as she zigzags around clusters of students. “I’m OK,” she says, “as long as I see a clear path.”

In her dorm room on 120th Street, Nyaggah shuts everything off and climbs onto a platform bed. “I have to just lie in silence for a while,” she says. “I love silence.”

Six years ago, Nyaggah worked in a cubicle below deck on the USS *Nimitz*, one of the largest aircraft carriers in the world. As a

Navy personnelman, she processed human resources paperwork beneath the landing stop of F-18 fighter jets. The touchdowns sounded like explosions, she says, louder than thunder.

The constant booms damaged her hearing and gave her migraines. One day in the fall of 2003, Nyaggah got a migraine so intense it made her black out — while she was driving on a California highway. Her car flipped. She was in shock when paramedics pulled her out of the crumpled wreckage.

After the crash, the migraines stopped, but Nyaggah gets jittery when she hears loud sounds.

Nyaggah, 28, an immigrant from Kenya who grew up in California, is now a General Studies junior and doesn’t talk much about the Navy. She prefers to focus on her schoolwork. This past spring, she signed up for four classes and regretted it. She felt like a hamster on a wheel, trying to keep up. There was no time for play, no time for friends.

Nearly every night, at 6 p.m., when it was less crowded, she made her way to the third floor of Butler. There, she’d cram until 4 a.m. Nyaggah says she can manage on four hours’ sleep for weeks at a time. “When I was in the service, there were times I had to work 18-, 19-hour days,” she says. “It was good training for Columbia.”

Proving the Naysayers Wrong

When Nyaggah arrived, she worried that she wouldn’t measure up to her peers because she didn’t attend challenging public schools. But during her time at Columbia, she learned that while she works harder than some of her peers, she can hold her own.

Last fall, a student in her Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies class argued that undocumented immigrants should not aspire to more than menial low-wage jobs. Students turned their heads to the back of the classroom to see who made the remark. “We all looked at each other incredulously,” Nyaggah said. “Did he really just say that?”

Nyaggah raised her hand, but didn’t wait to be called. She blurted, “The only difference between you and those people is you had opportunities,” she told him, as other students nodded their heads. Many immigrants, Nyaggah explained, came from places where going to high school is a luxury. Others in class continued where she left off. Recalling the incident, Nyaggah said, “I was not going to let it go.”

She says students assume she’s African American, and are surprised to find out she emigrated with her family from Nairobi. Nyaggah was 10 when her mother brought her, her older brother, and her younger sister to Orange County, California, where their father lived. The two divorced shortly after their arrival, but Lydia Nyaggah decided to raise her family there because the schools were good.

For Ester Nyaggah and her family, it meant navigating a vastly different culture. Kids in her neighborhood treated Nyaggah as



Ester Raha Nyaggah



“When I was in the service, there were times I had to work 18-, 19-hour days,” Ester Nyaggah says. “It was good training for Columbia.”

Former Navy personnelman Ester Nyaggah (center) joins University Chaplain Jewelnel Davis (left) and visiting Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife, Deborah Mullen, in April during a moment of prayer near the Butler Library War Memorial.

an outcast. They called her nasty names, including racial epithets — even in class. “The teachers would hear them, but they would pretend they didn’t,” Nyaggah says.

There were few other black students in her classes. Most of her friends were Mexican Americans, who also were ostracized. From them, she began learning Spanish and Mexican slang. Friends nicknamed her a Kenyexican. Even in high school she barely spoke, and she was nominated “most shy student” during her senior year. When she graduated, she didn’t feel ready for college. Looking for an opportunity to travel, she joined the Navy.

There, some male sailors tried to intimidate her. “They would say to me, ‘The Navy is for men. You don’t belong here!’” Nyaggah says. She set out to prove them wrong.

A Purpose-Driven Life

“In the Navy it’s either speak up or get swallowed up,” Nyaggah says. When they were at the base, she would outrun most of the men during the morning runs, and was in such fit condition, she was put in charge of morning fitness exercises.

Those experiences taught Nyaggah to believe in herself. “She is such a strong person,” says her friend Carmen Gómez Ruiz, a 26-year-old GS student from Anaheim, California, who is studying economics and math. “She is very forgiving. She is not the kind of person who lives with resentment.”

Nyaggah says that minorities — whether they are women in the military or dark-skinned immigrants in a predominantly white American city — tend to cluster because they feel marginalized by the dominant group, not because they want to self-segregate. Having been in this situation several times herself, she wants to find ways to help outsiders feel like they are part of a greater community. When she graduates in 2012, she says she wants to dedicate herself to helping others feel included, as part of a greater whole, perhaps by running a community-based agency.

Get on the bird!

John McClelland, the former Army Ranger medic, has a philosophy about sharing information: “What’s the point of experiencing something and keeping it to yourself?” Unlike some veterans who keep things to themselves, McClelland talks freely. If anyone asks about his time in Afghanistan, he’ll tell stories. One he often recounts is about the day he nearly died.

It was around 1 a.m. on June 10, 2006, and McClelland, along with several dozen members of an American task force, had just captured an al-Qaeda suspect in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The soldiers were racing through poppy fields in the dark, heading to the spot where military helicopters were to swoop down and spirit them away.

They began hearing rapid gunfire. Scores of Taliban appeared, clutching Soviet Kalashnikovs. “We were outnumbered five to one,” McClelland says. The American soldiers jumped into a clay irrigation ditch filled with a slush of mud and manure.

McClelland and the others fired their M4 assault rifles. In the ditch, a gunner launched a rocket from his bazooka and the backblast knocked McClelland and several other soldiers standing nearby into the sludge.

Eight hours later, the Taliban stopped firing.

“A sergeant major shouted, ‘Get on the bird!’ You’ve never seen so many people run so fast. We jumped right in, all piled up on each other,” McClelland says. “We were all caked in cow manure, hugging and kissing each other.

“I think about that day every single day,” says McClelland, who was elected the new president of MilVets, taking over where graduating president Sean O’Keefe left off. He plans to help recruit more vets to Columbia, and to explain to those on campus who are interested all that he’s learned during his time in combat.

“When I talk about my experiences, I am not trying to put any mystique around it,” he says. “If anything, I am trying to demystify it. That is, for me, another form of service.”

The causes of autism are multiple and mysterious, but Columbia scientists say the disorder's secrets will soon be revealed.

autism, UNMASKED

By David J. Craig

Illustrations by Gérard DuBois

Avery von Roeschlaub is a precocious seven-year-old. He solves geometry problems at a sixth-grade level, he's obsessed with chess and all things outer space, and lately he's been insisting that his dad, Kurt, a computer programmer, read to him at bedtime about black holes from a high-school astronomy textbook.

When it comes to reading people, though, Avery is out of his depth. "If somebody gets mad at him or tells a joke, he just doesn't get it," says his mother, Diana, an elementary-school teacher. "If another kid lies to him, he's oblivious. He assumes everything you say is true. It makes him very vulnerable."

Kurt and Diana, who live in Port Washington, New York, became concerned for their son when he was three. Avery's vocabulary and speech were exceptional for his age, yet he couldn't put words to his emotions. Unable to communicate if his legs got tired on a walk, Avery would become frustrated and burst into tantrums, writhing on the ground until he was physically restrained. He also seemed incapable of appreciating other people's needs. "For me," says Diana, "the aha moment came one afternoon when, after an incredibly exhausting day of tantrums, I told Avery to take a time-out and give me a rest. I remember him looking up at me and asking, 'Why are you doing this to me, Mom, when I haven't done anything wrong?' That hit me like a ton of bricks. I thought, 'Oh, my gosh, he really isn't aware of what he's doing.'"

Soon, the von Roeschlaubs decided to have Avery evaluated for autism. They were astonished to learn, however, that there are no direct tests. Whereas some mental disorders — such as the common forms of mental retardation, fragile X and Down syndromes — are detectable by the presence of particular genes, autism leaves no apparent fingerprint. All that doctors can do is observe a child and tally up his odd behaviors. If the child displays six distinct types of social and communication problems, then, according to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, he's autistic. That means he's eligible for costly behavioral therapy in public schools. But if he displays five or fewer symptoms, he's likely to get labeled with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), nonverbal learning disability, or any of several other, milder conditions that share many of autism's symptoms.

"It's hard to know when you're dealing with autism versus some combination of other developmental problems, because there's no one symptom or physical morphology that's unique to the disorder," says Bradley S. Peterson, the chief of child and adolescent psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) and a leading autism researcher. "Autism is a bit of a mystery."





That hasn't stopped doctors from diagnosing it. The number of autism cases in the United States has doubled in the past decade, according to a report released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last December. About 1 in 100 eight-year-olds in the U.S. now has autism or a closely related "autism spectrum disorder," which includes the milder Asperger's syndrome and "pervasive development disorder," a nonspecific diagnosis given to children with social and learning problems that don't fit any other condition.

So what exactly *is* autism? Why are so many kids getting diagnosed with it lately? Scientists aren't sure. They know that autism occurs when the brain's memory and learning centers don't develop properly, yet these same brain regions are abnormal in people with dyslexia, obsessive compulsive disorder, mental retardation, and ADHD. They know that physicians are increasingly aware of the condition and hence are spotting more cases, but they can't rule out the possibility that something in our environment is triggering an epidemic. Some suspect that pollutants are contributing to the increase, but they can't say which ones are most dangerous.

Columbia scientists are about to provide some answers. Peterson, for example, has begun identifying small sections of the brain that work differently in people with autism. W. Ian Lipkin and Mady Hornig, meanwhile, are determining which chemicals trigger the condition in children with particular genes. Later this year, these researchers will release findings that they say could

help doctors identify youngsters who are susceptible to developing autism — and possibly take steps to prevent it.

INNER WORK

On a recent Tuesday morning, Avery was eased into the dark tunnel of a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner at Columbia. With both hands, he clutched his favorite stuffed puppy. Diana stood just outside the tunnel, caressing his leg. Once Avery was lying still, he was shown a movie in a pair of video goggles — human faces appeared, one at a time, wearing expressions that were demonstratively happy, angry, frightened, or sad. As Avery watched the faces, and as the MRI machine clanged and thwacked and moaned, a team of Columbia MRI technicians looked down at a monitor displaying an image of the boy's brain.

"This region, here, is the one we're interested in," Peterson explained afterward, pointing to a thimble-sized section at the front of the brain called Broca's area. "It's involved mainly in language and higher-order social functioning." This part of Avery's brain was relatively still for most of the MRI session, but whenever Avery was shown a face, blood rushed into the area — indicating a spike in synaptic activity — and then, when the image of the face disappeared, the brain region got still again.

Over the past year, Peterson has examined the brains of more than 100 children and adults diagnosed with autism at Columbia's Developmental Neuropsychiatry Program (DNP) clinic. He hopes to find distinguishing characteristics of autistic people's brains to

help doctors diagnose the disorder. A timely diagnosis is crucial, he says, because autism's symptoms can be eased with therapies that encourage children to communicate their basic needs, perform simple tasks like getting dressed and going to the bathroom, and empathize with people. "The earlier you start the treatment," Peterson says, "the better chance it has of making a difference. If we can help a child talk about his emotions, for instance, we might alleviate some of the tantrums." Unfortunately, while autism's symptoms are usually apparent by age three, he says, the disorder typically goes undiagnosed for several more years.

Avery's first step as a research subject was to receive a free autism screening at the DNP, which is one of the nation's top centers for autism care. The Columbia experts concluded that he has Asperger's syndrome. "A lot of our clinical work here involves correcting diagnoses made by doctors who aren't trained to make distinctions between autism and similar conditions," says Peterson, who also treats patients. "We've seen autism misdiagnosed as everything from mental retardation to seizure disorders."

In fact, Avery's parents brought him here to participate in the research to shore up his diagnosis. "When Avery was three, doctors told us that he might have a developmental problem, but that it definitely wasn't autism," Diana says. "A year later we were told it could be Asperger's. The process seemed kind of subjective."

Until now, scientists have been unable to find any unique aspects of the autistic brain, according to Peterson, because MRI technology has limited researchers to assessing the size and shape of rather large brain sections. To address this challenge, Peterson has worked with Ravi Bansal, an associate professor of clinical neurobiology, to develop computer algorithms capable of quantifying blood flow and synaptic activity in millimeter-square-sized plots of brain tissue. In 2009, they were the first scientists to describe unique brain features that mark depression; they found that people with depression have 30 percent less brain tissue on the cortex, or surface, of their right hemisphere. And in a paper to be published later this year, Peterson and Bansal will argue that people with autism have less tissue in Broca's area, as well as in nearby brain regions involved in language and social processes, than do people with other mental disorders.

"If you'd asked me five years ago when we would have a machine to spot autism, I would have said 'Never,'" says Peterson, who is also the Suzanne Crosby Murphy Professor in Pediatric Neuropsychiatry. "Now, I think we could be using this technology in our clinic within a couple of years. If we could put a kid into an MRI scanner and determine that he has high-functioning autism versus, say, a combination of ADHD and a speech disorder, that could make a significant difference in the treatment plan we create."

Further research is needed, Peterson says, to verify that the brain abnormalities he's observed aren't present in people who have other mental illnesses. But his preliminary findings are so strong that he and colleagues at the Developmental Neuropsychiatry

Program are already discussing how MRI tests might be used to identify children as young as one or two who are at risk for developing autism. Peterson says that if behavioral therapies are administered to at-risk children this young, it's possible that some cases of autism could be prevented altogether.

He arrived at this conclusion by using a clever study design: Peterson scanned the brains of healthy people who have an autistic sibling and discovered that they share the same malformed brain areas. "This means that the brain abnormality doesn't *determine* you'll have autism," he says. "Rather, it gives you a *susceptibility* to it." Other factors clearly are at play, and this gives Peterson hope that something might be done to prevent autism's onset. "If we get a young kid in here who's showing early signs of developmental problems and he has this brain abnormality," he says, "we might consider beginning treatment before the diagnosis is even made."

UNSIMPLE MINDS

In the past five years, scientists have identified some 10 genes associated with autism. You might think that by now doctors would be able to diagnose the condition with genetic tests. Autism is, after all, one of the most heritable illnesses. Scientists know this from studying identical twins

— when one twin has autism,

the other is much more likely than someone in the general population to have it. Yet, unlike some genetically based diseases, such as fragile X syndrome, whose causes can be traced back to a single gene, autism is suspected to involve as many as 100 genes that are as yet unidentified. That's because autism is what's called a "spectrum disorder," not a neatly defined condition with a single physiological

pathway, but a loose collection of symptoms that often occur together, for reasons that are unclear to scientists. These symptoms may all have their own genetic underpinnings.

To locate genes that cause illnesses, scientists usually work backward, from the physiological traits that characterize an illness to the chromosomes that build and maintain those parts of the body that are broken. And in this way, Peterson's research could provide a map for finding more autism genes. If Peterson can demonstrate that a malformed Broca's area contributes to the disorder, for instance, other scientists likely will examine any

Imagine if your pediatrician could tell you, based on your child's unique genetic or metabolic profile, which pollutants to avoid.



“There’s no one type of autism, just as there’s no one type of cancer. And as we learn how different types of autism work, we’ll figure out ways to help subgroups of these children.” —W. Ian Lipkin

genes known to carry the blueprint for Broca’s area to see if they’re linked to autism.

Most autism experts, Peterson included, believe that genetic tests one day will be an important tool for assessing a person’s susceptibility to the condition. Scientists can already read an infant’s genome by analyzing blood taken from an umbilical cord. “The trick is that we have to figure out what physiological traits distinguish autism before we can find those genes,” Peterson says. “And we’re still a long way from understanding what’s going wrong in the neurological system of an autistic person.”

Today, one of the most ambitious efforts to describe the physiological basis of autism is taking place at Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health, across the street from Peterson’s CUMC laboratory. There, W. Ian Lipkin and Mady Hornig are studying how environmental factors — everything from pollutants to viral infections to certain foods — can disrupt neurological development in ways that lead to autism. But if autism is hardwired into a person’s DNA, can chemicals really be that important? Lipkin says they play a pivotal role. “Genes go a long way in determining how susceptible a person is to autism,” he says, “but you may still need that final straw to trigger the illness.”

Unfortunately for public health efforts, it’s nearly impossible to determine the most dangerous risk factors for a population as a whole, says Lipkin, the John Snow Professor of Epidemiology and director of Mailman’s Center for Infection and Immunity. That’s because chemicals affect individuals differently. “Some scientists today say they’re going to find *the* environmental cause for autism,” he says. “That’s way too simplistic.” Lipkin suspects that certain at-risk children may develop autism from exposure to, say,

ordinary levels of heavy metals, while others may become ill from using plastic containers; still other autistic children, he says, may become sick from an unlucky combination of factors, such as if a child is conceived by parents in their 40s, suffers from a prenatal infection, and then gets exposed to pollutants shortly after birth.

If only scientists could untangle how these genetic and environmental risk factors interact, then doctors might be able to prevent autism in individual children. Imagine if your pediatrician could tell you, based on your child’s unique genetic or metabolic profile, which pollutants to avoid.

Lipkin and Hornig believe this will be possible within a few years, at least for children with some of the better-understood vulnerabilities. And to sort through the swarm of variables, they’re now collaborating with the Norwegian government on an enormous public-health study that aims to discover the causes of many common illnesses, including autism, by tracking the health of some 110,000 people over their entire lives. Between 1999 and 2009, Norwegian scientists, as part of this wider effort, called the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort or *Mor og barnundersøkelsen* (MoBa), recruited to their study pregnant women who allowed scientists to monitor the health of their children beginning in the womb. Scientists who participate in MoBa, such as Lipkin and Hornig, learn about their young subjects’ every illness, immunization, and medical treatment. They’ve also taken blood samples from the youngsters, who today range in age from one to nine, to see what pollutants, bacteria, and viruses they’ve been exposed to.

Lipkin and Hornig, who are medical doctors as well as research scientists, spent years working with the Norwegians to determine

what clinical information MoBa would collect specifically to study autism. Because the MoBa data will be analyzed by scientists around the world, as well as by Lipkin and Hornig's research team at Columbia, the Norwegians are gathering information that could be used to test dozens of hypotheses, some of them rather obscure, about autism's causes. For example, MoBa scientists have asked mothers to document whenever they ate folate-enriched food while they were pregnant, because some scientists have argued that either elevated or reduced levels of this B vitamin may contribute to autism; they've asked parents to report their child's every minor stomach complaint, because certain gastrointestinal problems have been linked to autism.

"If five years down the road, the research community has concluded that autoimmune dysfunction, or abnormal levels of vitamin B, or mercury exposure is a huge risk factor for autism, people will be scrambling to get their hands on our data, because it will show how all of these factors are operating," says Hornig, an associate professor of epidemiology. "There's really no comparison to what we're doing here, in scale or in scope."

SLICING UP THE SPECTRUM

One theory that's received a lot of press in recent years is that measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccines lead to autism, but this idea is now widely dismissed by scientists. Lipkin and Hornig, in a landmark 2008 study, found no association between MMR vaccines and autism; parents may perceive a link, they say, because autistic children tend to show their first symptoms around the same age they get vaccinated.

According to the Columbia scientists, there's better evidence to suggest that autism results from exposure to heavy metals like mercury and lead; phthalates found in some fragrances, shampoos, cosmetics, and nail polishes; phenols used in plastics; and polybrominated diphenyl ethers used as flame retardants in computer keyboards, building materials, and in other common products. Previous studies have also pointed to some pain relievers, anti-inflammatory drugs, and sedatives, as well as to men fathering children later in life. (Columbia epidemiologist Ezra Susser's work has been instrumental in showing how paternal age is linked to autism.) However, most previous studies have been too small to eliminate the possibility that one risk factor was masquerading as another, say Lipkin and Hornig. They're now gathering data, through MoBa, to assess all of these risk factors in a comprehensive way. "If you want to consider the relative dangers of these risks, and certainly if you want to know how they're combining forces," says Lipkin, "you need to conduct a very large population study."


When Lipkin and Hornig began analyzing their MoBa data last year, they looked first at a chemical whose connection to autism had never been studied before: vitamin D. The idea that vitamin D deficiency contributes to autism has been floating around for a

few years. There's plenty of circumstantial evidence to suggest a connection: Rates of both vitamin D deficiency and autism are high among people with dark skin, which acts as an ever-present sunscreen. This is true especially among Africans who live in Europe and North America, where the need to dress warmly presumably limits their sun exposure. Also, there's the fact that autism rates have been increasing during the same period that health officials have been telling us to avoid the sun, which is the source of 90 percent of our vitamin D.

The scientists' hunch was a good one. When they looked for metabolic differences between the Norwegian children who've been diagnosed with autism versus those who don't appear autistic, they discovered that the autistic kids are three times as likely to have elevated levels of a protein found in people who are vitamin D deficient; the body produces it in a desperate attempt to squeeze as much benefit as possible from the vitamin D that it does receive. If Lipkin and Hornig can find further evidence that a shortage of vitamin D contributes to autism, they'll look for genetic markers that could identify a child who is susceptible to vitamin D deficiency. They'll also consider if additional risk factors can combine with vitamin D deficiency to make a child autistic. Hornig's previous research provides some clues about what to look for. She's demonstrated in laboratory studies that mice who experience viral or bacterial infections early in life go on to display autistic-like behaviors: They avoid each other and do back flips obsessively. Hornig suspects that a lack of vitamin D can exacerbate the dangerous effects of an infection, as the vitamin is known to bolster the immune system.

"If this turns out to be true, the clinical implications would be clear," says Hornig, who hasn't yet published the findings on vitamin D. "If your baby has a severe infection, this could tell doctors to watch his vitamin D levels, and maybe even give him vitamin supplements as a precaution."

Only a portion of the autistic children in the MoBa study appear to be vitamin D deficient. But Lipkin and Hornig say that this type of targeted approach to autism research will lead to the best prevention methods and treatments. "There's no one type of autism, just as there's no one type of cancer," says Lipkin. "And as we learn how different types of autism work, we'll figure out ways to help subgroups of these children, one by one."

For parents like Diana and Kurt von Roeschlaub, whose desire to understand their son's suffering hasn't ended with his diagnosis, that's encouraging news. "When you find out your child has autism, you go through denial, anger, depression, and finally acceptance, which means accepting the child you have, rather than wishing he was the child you'd always imagined having," Diana says. "But what never goes away is the desire for an explanation, both for yourself and so that you can validate your experience, and your child's experience, to other people. You want it all to make sense, somehow." 

2010: An Artspace Odyssey

Exploring the mixed-media landscape of this year's MFA thesis exhibition



1



2

Photographs by John Brandon Miller

Bedsheets pour from liquor bottles. A film projector runs on burning firewood. A clock spins in place on a treadmill.

For 25 artists, this spring's MFA thesis exhibition marked the culmination of two years of boundary-blurring exploration in the School of the Arts' visual arts program. For hundreds of visitors to the Fisher Landau Center for Art in Long Island City, Queens, where the exhibition took place, it was a chance to grapple with a mind-bending variety of forms and ideas.

"It's like walking into a party with 25 different personalities," says Gregory Amenoff, the chair of the visual arts program. "Each presentation is designed to give a sense of the world the artist has been inhabiting for the past two years."

Some worlds were so immediate you could step right into them: Dineo Bopape had created a replica of her studio to house her video creation myth; Grayson Cox had designed five modular seating booths that lit up when fitted together, a challenge

to participants' notions of social space and interaction. Other pieces accepted guests by implication, like Haeri Choski's brightly colored oil paintings of public architecture, or Gyung Jin Shin's "pointing machine," made of long needles suspended in a wood frame, aimed at a human-shaped void at the center.

Columbia's visual arts program, unlike most others in the country, doesn't segregate artists by medium. The result is inspired experimentation. Sculptors work in video. Printmakers work in sculpture. And all the artists learn from an unusually wide group of their peers.

"We have 52 artists from all over the world, between the two classes, representing the entire range of contemporary art," says Amenoff. "That community inspires very diverse investigations, and the core of our program is to encourage investigation in as broad a way as possible."

Welcome to the party.

— Joshua J. Friedman '08JRN



3



4

1. Haeri Choski

*Cor ad cor loquitur: Let the light down
the late night diner, sit down
for an old Roman dinner, whisper your
love my beloved one, pray together
before you begin the red wine*
Oil and mixed media on canvas

2. Van Hanos

Portrait of Talia with Lilly on the Couch
Oil on linen

3. Samuel Ekwurtzel

Untitled
Wall clock, treadmill

4. Dineo Seshee Bopape

*They act as lovers: microwave cosmic
background: so massive — that its
decay opened the ultimate hole from
which the universe emerged: effect
no. 55: 2 ends of a bent mirror*
Video/installation with glitter,
artificial plants, a sofa, TV monitors,
and some other things

5



6



10



11



12

5. Jessica Segall

A Selfless, Reteaching Jet

Wood-fueled film projector, wood, downdraft gasifier, Fairbanks Z stationary engine, 16mm film projector, film, marine battery

6. Jared Thorne

From the series The Biggest Show On Earth!

Archival ink-jet print

7. Johanna Wolfe

From the series My Father's Children

Untitled C-print

8. Gyung Jin Shin

Pointing Machine

Wood, antenna, string

9. Murad Mumtaz

Torn with Fire

Opaque watercolor on dollar bills

10. N. Dash

Digits I-X

Ceramic

Supports I-X

Plywood, house paint, and plaster

8



7



9



13



14

11. Grayson Cox

Conversation Booth

Wood, casters, lexan, enamel

12. R&D

Everyman Armor: In Remembrance of Kim Kim Kim

North Korean gourds, eggplant skins, red-pepper paste, plastic, copper, steel, glue, etc.

(Shown with artist Robert Rhee)

13. James Gortner, with Carolina Palmgren,

Fia Backstrom, Lesley Joyce, Villinruri,

Yoojini, and others anonymous

Carolina, Happiness

Oil on canvas

14. Naama Tsabar

Sweat (detail)

Installation with bedsheets, liquor bottles, and shelves



Letter from Warsaw

Poland's Bitter Spring

The April 10 crash of the plane carrying President Lech Kaczynski and scores of other Polish dignitaries put Poland back on the front pages for the first time in years. **Professor John Micgiel** looks at the aftermath — and the significance of the plane's destination.

It has been a dreadful spring here in Poland.

The country was barely coming to grips with the death of its president and other leaders near Katyn in April when intense rains in May and again in early June caused the worst flooding in more than a century — what the prime minister called the worst natural disaster in Polish history. Twenty people died, thousands more had to be evacuated, crops were wiped out, and damages totaled more than \$3 billion. Entire towns remain off-limits. Here in Warsaw, residents nervously eyed the rising Vistula River, which slices through the city on its way north toward the Baltic.

Some people I talk to blame the government for not having strengthened defenses after the terrible 1997 floods. The major political parties, weeks before the June elections, make promises and counter-promises to flood victims. In the midst of all this, the average Pole is mostly worried about how he's going to pay his bills.

If there is one hopeful development this spring, it may be the promise of a thaw in the icy relations between Poland and Russia.

My graduate students at Warsaw University's Eastern Studies Center, where I taught a course this May on the recent history of East Central Europe since the fall of the Soviet Union, have surprising things to say about ongoing events. They are a diverse group. There are Poles, of course, and also Azerbaijanis, Belarusians, Georgians, Hungarians, Ukrainians, and Russians. I ask them what they make of the apparent rapprochement from Moscow, which seems to be the warmest since the days of Boris Yeltsin. Closer relations are a good thing, they tell me; no one could object to that. But, they warn me, Poland needs to be cautious. They ask me if I have seen the article in *Rzeczpospolita*, a Warsaw daily newspaper. I haven't. One of them shows me the paper. Five Russian dissidents have published an open letter warning Poland not to trust Moscow in connection with

the Katyn crash: "It seems that the Polish friends are demonstrating some naïveté, forgetting that the interests of the current Kremlin leadership and those of Russia's neighbors do not converge."

My class agrees. One Russian student remarks, "The Russian government's current policy toward Poland can be characterized as one of soft power, which can quickly change and have an impact on the life of a 'partner.'"

After class, walking along Ulica Krolewska, past the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, toward the subway that will take me home, I am reminded that that kind of exchange is what makes being here from time to time so valuable.

Katyn I and Katyn II

Poles were horrified when they turned on their radios and televisions on April 10 and heard that President Lech Kaczynski, his wife, Maria, and 94 others — a cross section of Poland's political elite — had

been killed when their airplane crashed in the woods of Smolensk, Russia. The delegation had been flying to Katyn, where in April 1940 the Soviet NKVD massacred more than 4000 Polish officers and reserve officers.

On the plane were 2 presidential candidates, 3 senators, 15 parliamentary representatives, clergy, members of the families of the Katyn victims, and the heads of the various services of the Polish armed forces. Two vice ministers responsible for relations with NATO and with Russia also perished in the disaster.

Not since the death of Pope John Paul II five years before had the Polish people been so shaken. Most of them did not go to work for a week. For 10 days they watched the planes come in with coffins and saw the processions of Mercedes hearses. (The country had neither enough hearses nor

caskets; extra hearses had to be brought in from Germany and special caskets from Italy.) But then, no country is ever prepared to have nearly 100 of its leaders killed and then have public funerals for all of them. The sense of disbelief was intensified by the fact that the tragedy had occurred in, of all places, Katyn.

In September 1939, while the Poles were fighting the Germans to the west, north, and south, the Soviets invaded eastern Poland and captured hundreds of thousands of POWs. Most of the Polish enlisted personnel were allowed to go home, while the officers were kept in three holding camps. Andrzej Wajda's 2007 film *Katyn* re-creates the soldiers' confusion and their families' anguish, as many who thought that they were being transferred to different camps and better situations were murdered.

In all, the Soviets killed about 22,000 officers and reserve officers, along with doctors, professors, and other professionals — the elite of Poland — and for decades blamed the Germans. The Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the second-largest party in Russia, blames them even today.

Until 1989, the Communist Party line in Poland was, "We don't talk about Katyn." In Polish schools, children were not told about the massacre unless a teacher was willing to risk the consequences.

Katyn represents part of the battle for Poland's historical memory. In 1992, Boris Yeltsin, president of what was by then Russia, very publicly admitted Soviet responsibility for the atrocity and even pledged to punish any perpetrators who were still alive. But after Putin came to power in 2000, that was the end of that. Along

Krakow's market square during the April 18 funeral ceremony for President Lech Kaczynski and his wife, Maria.



with cancelling the subsidization of energy exports and moving to more commercially oriented dealings, Putin backtracked on Katyn, and Polish-Russian relations went into a deep freeze.

After April's crash, though, the Russians realized that they had a potential public-relations coup in the making. Admitting the truth about what happened 70 years earlier would cost them little, and that acknowledgment might help remove one of the historical barriers that have separated the Poles from the Russians. So Putin met Prime Minister Donald Tusk in Smolensk and gave him a much-publicized hug. In a very short time, the Russian government changed its policy on Katyn: Wajda's movie was shown on Russian TV, it was discussed in Russian newspapers, and the Russian state archives put up on its Web site some of the Katyn documents that Yeltsin had handed over to the Poles in 1992.

Most Poles welcome this change, along with Putin's decision to take charge of the investigation into the crash, which seemed to be a guarantee that the Russians would be taking this very seriously. Others, like my students, urge caution. And some, because of the historical meaning of Katyn, think that this wasn't an accident — that this was somehow the work of the Russians. The conspiracy theories come thick and fast. For these people, no investigation — Russian or Polish — will ever be satisfactory.

Starting Again

In the event of the death of the president, the Polish constitution provides that the speaker of parliament take on the role of acting president and that elections be held within 60 days. Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the late president's twin brother, announced in late April that he would be running for president as the candidate of the Law and Justice Party. Former prime minister and current deputy prime minister Waldemar Pawlak was the first to provide the electoral commission with the necessary minimum of 100,000 supporters' signatures. The Civic Platform's candidate is Acting

President and Speaker of the Parliament Bronislaw Komorowski. Of the roughly two dozen hopefuls who announced that they would try their luck, 10 met the legal requirements to run for the office.

Komorowski and the Civic Platform, which, with its coalition partner, the Peasant Party, now runs the government, are eager to have better relations with Russia. However, that does not mean that they

Until 1989, the Communist Party line in Poland was, "We don't talk about Katyn."

want to have poorer relations with the United States; quite the opposite. Because of their history, most Poles understand that security is exceedingly important and having partners like the United States and NATO, which Poland joined in 1999, is essential.

A few weeks before the presidential election, four out of five of my Polish students think that Acting President Komorowski will defeat the conservative Kaczynski. Residents of economically challenged areas, older voters, and rural voters — a broad cross section of society — think otherwise. As of early June, various polls indicate that Komorowski will wind up just short of the 50 percent plus one vote needed to win the elections in the first round of voting.

Kaczynski is polling in the mid-thirties. As election day draws nearer, both candidates will approach other parties in an effort to have them withdraw their candidates either before or after the first round.

With a second wave of rain and flooding in early June, the weather may well be a determinant in the outcome of the election. A perceived misstep by the government or by Komorowski could have serious consequences. And Poles are notorious for acting contrary to electoral forecasts. (The late president was behind in the polls until election day.) Whoever wins will be part of the team that will not only lead Poland, but serve as the president

of the Council of the European Union from July 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011. This is an unprecedented opportunity to wield real influence on EU decisions, including those that affect relations between the EU and Russia. The stakes are therefore high, as the newly elected Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban demonstrated by choosing Warsaw for his first postinauguration foreign visit on

May 31. Hungary will precede Poland in the EU presidency and the two countries have been discussing and coordinating their priorities since 2008.

As I approach Marszalkowska Street, one of Warsaw's main thoroughfares, a red Ferrari blasts by. For a few years I've been seeing fancy cars, new apartment and office buildings, and well-dressed Varsovians chatting away on cell phones. Poland's economic health is remarkably robust: It is the only country in Europe to show growth in 2009, and both inflation and unemployment are low. People have forgotten that when Lech Walesa became president in 1990, a Polish citizen had to wait 56 years for an apartment in a co-op.

While life in the capital is good, at least for the moneyed class, most Poles, and certainly those in the east and other rural areas, are not driving BMWs. Many are struggling and will continue to struggle after the floods recede, the plane crash investigation is concluded, and relations with Russia warm or cool. That, of course, will be the great challenge once the new president is sworn in. ☛

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Trial and Error

Julie Menin's battle to keep a 9/11 prosecution out of Lower Manhattan. // *By Josh Getlin*

On a cold and drizzly night in February, tempers flare at a meeting of the New York City Community Board representing Lower Manhattan. More than 60 people have jammed into the drab gray commons room of a Beekman Street apartment building: Some sit on folding chairs, others stand, and all lash out at plans to hold the 9/11 terrorism trial of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in their neighborhood. Although the group voted unanimously at an earlier meeting for a resolution opposing Attorney General Eric Holder's decision, new divisions are emerging: "I want that trial held in federal court!" says one member, drawing fire from another sitting behind him, who snaps, "It belongs in a military tribunal!" The room fills with shouts until a trim, dark-haired woman raises her voice.

"We're losing our focus," says Julie Menin '89CC, the chairperson, standing up from her seat at a long table in front of the group. "We want this trial moved, *period*." The crowd quiets down. "We don't want to get sidetracked with what kind of trial it should be. We didn't get this far by being divisive." Community Board 1 moves on to another issue and Menin takes her seat, scribbling notes on a legal pad and whispering to several colleagues sitting next to her.

In the coming weeks the dispute between New York City and the Justice Department over the site of the terrorism case continues without resolution, and the dustup at the community board, a citizens advisory

group, is quickly forgotten. But Menin's name would keep coming up in discussions of the 9/11 trial.

As she sits at a desk in her business office, in a sleek high-rise on Wall Street, Julie Menin gazes out of a 25th-story window at a commanding view of Lower Manhattan. She's making the case for moving the venue out of New York, and points several times to the busy, congested streets below, less than four blocks from Ground Zero. Holding the trial here would be "absolutely crazy," she says. "I can't believe federal officials would do this when there were estimates we'd need more than 2000 police checkpoints in the area for security. The trial could take years and cost a billion dollars. It's an absurd idea."

New Yorkers have come to share her anger over the decision, which Holder '73CC, '76LAW announced last November, to have those "responsible for the attacks of September the 11th . . . answer for their alleged crimes in a courthouse just blocks from where the twin towers once stood." Menin, who is 42 and has lived and worked in the area for 12 years, was the first to oppose it publicly. "I decided I would speak out because no one else was," she says, sorting through a stack of papers and ignoring a ringing telephone. "I feel a deep sense of connection to this community because it has already been attacked by terrorists twice. And now, once again, we're being threatened." She flashes a

broad, engaging smile, and offers her own opinion on the controversy, talking in the smooth cadences and elaborate paragraphs of a trial attorney.

"The trial absolutely should be in a federal civilian court," Menin says. "Let's go back and look at the history of this. Hundreds of terrorists have been successfully prosecuted in federal courts as opposed to a military tribunal. The problem with military tribunals is that the Supreme Court knocked down the first iteration of these panels that the Bush administration created shortly after the 9/11 attacks. They have not been challenged in their new, reconstituted form. My concern, as someone who represents the Lower Manhattan area, is that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed be brought to justice. That's something everybody wants, whether they're Democrats or Republicans. If we reached a point where the Supreme Court once again knocked down the decision of a military tribunal, it would be disastrous. Nobody wants that to happen."

On January 16, she wrote an op-ed piece in the *New York Times*, suggesting that the case be moved to Governors Island, in the East River off of Lower Manhattan. The disruption to the city would be far less, she argued, and the trial still could be held in a civilian setting. Her article offered a solution instead of a complaint. "All of a sudden I got calls from friends at the Justice Department, the Senate Judiciary Committee, from civic groups and real estate



groups,” she says. “We were rolling.” Then she hit a roadblock. When Menin met with New York mayor Michael Bloomberg several days later, he said he was planning to build a school and recreation facilities on Governors Island. It was not available.

She countered with three more sites where a trial might be held in New York’s Southern District: West Point, Otisville Prison, and Stewart Air National Guard

Base. Bloomberg said they were all reasonable ideas, and when he announced his opposition to the Manhattan site several days later, other local politicians began lining up against it. Menin’s already busy life became even more hectic. She met with elected officials in Washington and New York, with real estate, business, and community groups; she discussed the case with newspaper editorial boards, spoke out on

TV talk shows, and wrote articles for the Huffington Post and other online sites. Less than two weeks after Menin’s op-ed appeared, a high-level Obama aide indicated that the administration was looking at other options. Although an alternate site has not been announced, and Holder has not eliminated New York as a possibility, many political observers now believe that option has been taken off the table.

"Julie has shown great loyalty to the people of Lower Manhattan," says Jane Rosenthal, cofounder of the Tribeca Film Festival and another influential neighborhood leader. "She has roots here, and she's been fighting for us all along."

Born in Washington, D.C., Menin has been interested in politics since she was 10. She grew up in the Watergate apartment complex and remembers long discussions with her parents about the Sunday-morning political talk shows. When she enrolled at Columbia in 1985, she was carrying on a family tradition: her father is Robert Jacobs '57CC, a radiologist, and her mother is Agnes Jacobs '65BC, a painter. After graduating magna cum laude in political science, she went to law school at Northwestern and returned east to work as a regulatory lawyer in Washington. She later took a post as senior regulatory attorney with Colgate-Palmolive in New York. By 1999, she had met her future husband, Bruce, who runs a real-estate development company, and was eager to start her own business.

"I loved to cook and I loved food, so I decided to open a restaurant in the financial district," she says. Vine, a brightly

neighbors. "The air was filled with paper, thousands of pieces of paper, fluttering down from the sky," she recalls. "And there was a gray, noxious-smelling smoke. You couldn't even see inches in front of you. We ran back into the lobby, because we were having trouble breathing. We all wondered: Should we stay? Should we go somewhere else? Thank God my kids hadn't been born yet."

Beyond the tragic loss of life, much of Lower Manhattan was also physically and economically devastated. Vine's windows were blown out, and the interior of the 12,000-square-foot restaurant was coated with dust. Outside, the neighborhood was paralyzed: Cars couldn't get past checkpoints, pedestrians had all but vanished, and the air had a choking, acrid smell. Vine reopened six days after the attacks because Menin, joining with other local merchants, wanted to get the community back on its feet. "We had no deliveries, no food," she says. "We cooked pasta in the pantry and we went from having 150 people for lunch to having 3 people. Everyone in the area was facing huge problems."

Foremost was the question of insurance. Even though insurance companies took out large ads in newspapers pledging sup-

ple could do that?" As Lower Manhattan struggled to get off its knees, she hit on the idea of forming a coalition of business leaders, politicians, and advertising agencies to economically revitalize the area. Wall Street Rising, which she founded in 2001, grew to include more than 30,000 members. The group raised \$12 million toward revitalization of the business community in Lower Manhattan after the attacks, using the funds to stage and promote numerous Lower Manhattan events, including arts performances, museum gatherings, and neighborhood festivals. The group also sponsored "Do It Downtown" campaigns that attracted generous media coverage and brought thousands of tourists and residents back to the area.

"When you see the neighborhood you live in completely decimated, you have a sense of duty to give back whatever you can," Menin says, brushing a shock of dark brown hair out of her eyes. She swivels in an office chair and once again looks out the window toward Ground Zero. "I had never done anything like this before, but I'm an organizer, and I like to work hard. I didn't find it daunting to tackle new issues. This was something that took over my life."

The turning point came in 2004, when Menin was appointed to Community Board 1 by former Manhattan Borough president C. Virginia Fields. (Vine closed that same year, when the building in which it was located was sold.) Menin was elected chairwoman in 2005 and has been reelected twice to lead the advisory group. Although its 50 members are volunteers, the board has a small staff of city employees. Most community boards deal with zoning and traffic issues, and they usually don't generate front-page news. But Menin's panel has wrestled with problems generated by terrorism, and her visibility grew as she spoke out. She appeared on cable TV talk shows and was asked last year to host her own. *Julie Menin's Give and Take*, a weekly half-hour show, has featured interviews with former U.S. Homeland Security secretary Tom Ridge, conservative author Ann Coul-

"I represented myself, sitting across a table from five insurance company lawyers, and negotiated my own settlement. But how many other people could do that?"

decorated bistro with continental fare, was chiseled out of an old bank vault and offered an alternative to the dark, wood-paneled steakhouses dotting the Wall Street area. "It was hard work," she recalls. "But it was my baby. It was great." Shortly after its opening in 2000, Vine was given the highest rating for a new restaurant in New York City by the *Zagat* guide.

Menin was in her apartment above Vine on the morning of September 11, 2001. Minutes after the planes hit the World Trade Center, she ran out into the street with

port for New Yorkers who suffered financial losses in the attacks, Menin and other business owners had a difficult time getting their claims filed. When she sought help from her carrier, she was told that since the restaurant had reopened on September 17, 2001, she would be paid only for a six-day service interruption.

"What they did to me and others was despicable," Menin says. "I represented myself, sitting across a table from five insurance company lawyers, and negotiated my own settlement. But how many other peo-



JENICA MILLER

At an April press conference convened by New York City Council speaker Christine Quinn, Julie Menin calls for the creation of a public food market in the South Street Seaport.

ter, Manhattan Borough president Scott Stringer, New York City comptroller John Liu, and former New York governor George Pataki. The program airs on NBC's 24-hour cable channel, New York Non-Stop.

As her star rises, the question is inevitable: Will she seek public office? Menin answers cautiously on an afternoon when she's racing to a downtown meeting in Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's office about school overcrowding. It all depends on the job, the timing, and the obligations to her family, she says (Menin has three young boys). "Julie took a very sophisticated and courageous position on the trials and showed a talent for seizing the right moment in a public debate," says New York representative Jerrold Nadler '69CC, who represents Lower Manhattan. He predicts that Menin has "an extremely bright future" in electoral politics if she wants it.

After the meeting, Menin brings up the subject again. "It's important to have serious people in public office," she says, ticking off a list of local problems. "Ever since 9/11 we all realize how fleeting life can be. And I greatly enjoy public service," she adds, making her way home on crowded sidewalks as twilight falls on City Hall across the street. "What the future holds remains to be seen."

She expands her sights in the weeks ahead. The pace of rebuilding at Ground Zero is too slow, Menin tells her board, and "we need one party in charge, the city or the state. Right now we have too many players and we're living with the consequences of what they're not doing."

In an op-ed piece for the *Daily News*, she argues that millions in unused transit funds should go toward construction of a performing arts center in Lower Manhattan. Congress hasn't implemented all of

the antiterror recommendations made by the U.S. Commission on 9/11, and New York politicians must pressure them to do so. "Here we are in the prime terror target in the country," she says. "It's ridiculous."

But the trial of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed dominates all other concerns. Holder continues to send mixed signals, and until he categorically rules out New York City as a site, Menin remains on the case. "This backtracking is unacceptable," she tells her board. "I feel right now as if we're on the one-yard line, so it's no time to relax. I'm going to be fighting against this until we win. Trust me, I'll be working night and day."

Josh Getlin '72JRN is a former New York bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times. He is currently working on a book about Los Angeles school desegregation, busing, and basketball in the 1970s.

NEWS

University opens newest Global Centers in Paris and Mumbai

Columbia opened Global Centers in Paris and Mumbai this spring as part of what President Lee C. Bollinger calls the University's ongoing effort to "deepen our engagement with scholars, ideas, and challenges across the globe." Columbia launched its first Global Centers in Amman and Beijing in 2009.

The Paris center was inaugurated at Columbia's Reid Hall on March 16 with panel discussions attended by alumni and European educators and administrators. In introducing the program, Bollinger stated what the Global Centers are *not*. "They are

our time. . . . Columbia has enormous expertise about the world and that is something we can build on."

In the initial session, Bollinger asked the panel — four leaders of European academic and research institutions — to answer the question, What is a global university? The responses were wide ranging. Participants spoke of the need for international faculty and students, a set of education norms and values, multidisciplinary research, excellence throughout the institution, global brand recognition, a way to train minds to be adaptable to new conditions, and a will-

famously successful projects in business and government. "The single most powerful characteristic that made the teams perform was co-location of individuals," he said. "I think the issues of your Global Centers are of co-location. You will get overperforming teams if they are physically together, something you won't get with just e-mail and video."

A second panel, moderated by Linda P. Fried, dean of Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, explored challenges in global health at a time when many of the problems of the developed world are beginning to seep into the developing world. Among the panelists was Antoine Flahault, dean of the École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique (EHESP) in Paris, with which Mailman is now working. This is the first collaboration between Columbia and another institution through the new Global Center in Paris.

The EHESP is in essence a new institution and the only one of its kind in France to have what would be considered graduate school status in the United States. It is offering France's first master's in public health, in part with courses taught by Columbia faculty.

"Dean Flahault saw Mailman as a model of what they'd like to become," says Fried. "Our department of health policy and management is teaching some of their management courses in Paris, and in Reid Hall we are training students from both schools in cross-national comparisons of health systems. We have exchange students as well. Collaboration with the French school in particular, and with other schools across Europe, will be a potent partnership because, ultimately, the huge global issues of public health are issues that everyone is going to have to work on together."

The Columbia Global Center in Europe is based in Reid Hall, a 200-year-old build-



President Lee C. Bollinger announces the launch of Columbia's Global Center in Europe during a March 15 Columbia Alumni Association reception for French alumni at the Hôtel Ritz Paris.

not going to be branch campuses of Columbia," he said. "We don't know exactly what they will be. They will become what our faculty, our students, and those who care about what we do make of them."

The Global Centers "should provide a base and a staff for us to be out in the world working on the great problems of

ingness to work with local institutions. The point that all of the participants returned to, however, was having people under the same roof.

Panelist Eric Thomas, a physician and the vice chancellor of the University of Bristol, told the panel that his reading and experience had led to an observation about

ISABELLE NÉRY

ing in Montparnasse that Columbia has owned since 1964. It is located near the University of Paris and other institutions. Over the decades, Reid Hall has hosted innumerable programs for Columbia and other universities. In its new role, said Bollinger, it will “provide a base for Columbia research and teaching that will encompass Europe and connect with centers across the world.”

Another jewel in the crown

The Global Center in South Asia will be housed in a 2500-square-foot office space in Mumbai’s financial district, Nariman Point. Located within a short walk of the University of Mumbai and several government offices, the center, which opens August 1, will be staffed by some 25 academics and administrators.

“If you’re doing international research, there’s a big advantage in having an office where you can host meetings with local academics, government officials, or NGO

leaders,” says Nirupam Bajpai, an economics professor who is a senior development adviser at Columbia’s Earth Institute and the founding director of the Mumbai center. “Columbia faculty members now have a home in South Asia.”

The Earth Institute already has a major presence in India, overseeing several large-scale research projects focused on sustainable development in the country. For instance, Bajpai and fellow Columbia economist Jeffrey Sachs are working with the Indian government to determine how best to improve maternal and child health in rural areas; environmental engineers Upmanu Lall and Kapil Narula are developing water-conservation strategies to alleviate chronic drinking-water shortages in India; and climate scientists led by Shiv Someshwar are trying to improve monsoon forecasting so that farmers can make better-informed decisions about when to plant their crops and what seeds to use.

The new Global Center — like its counterparts in other regions — will help faculty and researchers from across the University undertake projects in India and in countries throughout the region, such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. Providing a physical base of operations is just a start. Bajpai and his colleagues at the Mumbai center also want to broker relationships between Columbia faculty and their local contacts. “Human networking is the whole idea,” he says. “The center’s leadership can introduce faculty to potential collaborators. We can also help them come up with entirely new project ideas by sharing our knowledge of local issues.”

Bajpai says that the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation already has plans to set up an experimental studio space called Studio-X in the region. Additionally, Teachers College, the School of Social Work, the School of Continuing

Education, and the School of the Arts have all shown great interest in working with the Mumbai center.

“If an Earth Institute project in India achieves a major breakthrough in water-management strategies, for example, people in China and sub-Saharan Africa, as



Digvijay Singh, former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh and now the general secretary of the All India Congress Committee, at left, Columbia economist Jeffrey Sachs, and Indu Shahani, the sheriff of Mumbai and the principal of H. R. College of Commerce and Economics in Mumbai, took part in a panel discussion with Lee C. Bollinger in Mumbai on March 22 to celebrate the opening of a new Columbia Global Center.

well as in New York, may want to hear about those advances and share their own experiences working on the problem,” says Bajpai. “And that’s how Columbia is going to become a truly global university: by bringing together people with different perspectives, based in different locations, in a shared conversation. It’s not a matter of Columbia merely engaging in two-way conversations with these overseas centers. These conversations should be three-way, at the least.”

For more information, visit globalcenters.columbia.edu.



Maksut K. Kulzhanov, rector of the Kazakhstan School of Public Health, and Linda P. Fried, dean of Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health, listen to the other panelists during “Coming of Age: Demographics, Disease, and New Directions in Global Health,” one of the March 16 inaugural events at Columbia’s Global Center in Paris. Fried moderated the discussion.

Public-health expert Bobbie Berkowitz chosen as new nursing dean

Bobbie Berkowitz, a nursing professor at the University of Washington and a public-health researcher, has been selected as the next dean of the Columbia School of Nursing. She starts her new job September 1.

Berkowitz began her career as a nurse in the early 1970s in her home state of Washington. She quickly rose to leadership positions in local and county public-health departments. In 1993, she was appointed deputy secretary for the Washington State Department of Health. Berkowitz's most formative professional experience, she says, was directing the national office of the Turning Point Initiative from 1997 to 2006, a program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to promote public health. Berkowitz and her staff traveled across the country, facilitating new collaborations among public-health workers and schoolteachers, business leaders, and clergy in 23 states. "The idea was that the underlying causes of poor health are complex," Berkowitz says, "and that they cannot be addressed by the public-health system alone."

Berkowitz has published dozens of journal articles, most of them about how public-health organizations can best collaborate

with other community groups. She is also an outspoken advocate for increased government investment in health education, pre-



JENICA MILLER

Bobbie Berkowitz, at right, greeted PhD candidate Annie Rohan, at left, and associate dean of nursing Judy Honig on a recent visit to Columbia.

Guardian exec Emily Bell to lead new digital journalism center

British journalist Emily Bell, a major figure in the world of online news, has been hired to direct a new digital reporting center at the Graduate School of Journalism.

Over the past decade, Bell has overseen the digital news operations of Britain's

Guardian newspaper. The left-leaning *Guardian*, despite having a modest print circulation for a British daily, has the second-most-trafficked English-language news Web site in the world, attracting 37 million unique visitors per month. That trails only the *New York Times*.

At Columbia, Bell becomes the inaugural director of the Tow Center for Digital Journalism, which will be launched this fall with \$5 million in support from the philanthropic foundation of Leonard Tow '60GSAS and \$10 million in additional gifts. The center will influence the curriculum of the entire school, training even its print journalism students in video, audio, and other multimedia reporting tools. Bell and her colleagues will also teach students to develop new models for delivering information and create business innovations to support those models.

"We're thrilled to have been able to recruit Emily Bell to come here and to lead the Tow Center," says Nicholas Lemann,

dean of the journalism school. "She has an unparalleled understanding of the toolkit available to digital journalists, and of just how deep and cooperative the relationships between journalists and the public can now become."

Guardian.co.uk, under Bell's leadership, was named the best news site by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2009. It's known for innovative content: As part of its May 18 coverage of the Thai uprisings, for example, readers could view photos and videos shot in different Bangkok neighborhoods by clicking individual streets on a city map. The same day, readers could learn why inflation rates in Britain have risen in recent years by clicking the dips and peaks of a graph that spanned several years and being linked to relevant stories from the *Guardian's* archive.

Bell, in addition to directing the Tow Center, will help oversee a new dual-degree program offered jointly by the engineer-



Emily Bell

ventive medicine, and other public-health initiatives, which, she points out, receive just one penny for every dollar spent on health care in the United States. Berkowitz has written extensively about how public-health services benefit the poor. She promotes awareness of these issues as director of the Center for the Advancement of Health Disparities Research at the University of Washington's nursing school, where she has taught since 1996; she chaired the school's department of psychosocial and community health from 1998 to 2004.

As an educator, Berkowitz says that she aims to inspire nurses to push for better health-care delivery and public policy, as informed by their close contact with patients and their families. "I want nurses to have questioning intellects," she says. "I want them to go into work every day and to be thinking: Is this the right way to do things for my patients, for their families, and for this community? Is the system working? Could it be better? I don't want them to accept the standard ways of practicing medicine, but to be always thinking critically about how to improve care for those patients."

Berkowitz will succeed Mary O'Neil Munding '81PH, who announced last fall that she would step down after 24 years as dean. Munding is credited with building the School of Nursing into one of the country's preeminent institutions of nursing education. The school is widely recognized for its clinical doctoral-degree program, which was the first of its kind when established in 2004. It trains "advanced-practice nurses" who perform duties once reserved for doctors, like diagnosing illness and prescribing medication. Munding will remain on the school's faculty, as the Centennial Professor in Health Policy.

"Columbia has set the gold standard for education of advanced-practice nurses in this country," Berkowitz says. "It was Mary who initially got everybody in the field thinking about what nurses are capable of." Columbia's nursing school also offers a PhD program that trains nurse-scholars who conduct research on the profession and help implement best practices in hospitals and other clinical settings. Says Berkowitz: "I'm committed to making sure that Columbia continues to produce nurses who perform at the peak of their abilities."

— David J. Craig

ing and journalism schools. The master's degree program in computer science and journalism will produce tech-savvy news gatherers capable of developing tools to help their co-workers analyze electronic databases — and thus spot news trends amid the oceans of information that exist online — and to augment stories with new types of graphs, charts, and other visual aids. Columbia will begin accepting applications later this year for the five-semester program, which will begin in the fall of 2011.

"One of the biggest problems journalism has at the moment is maintaining its relevance to an audience that is often ahead of traditional newsrooms in its expectations and use of technology," Bell recently told *Wired* magazine. "Our students will, I hope, have the confidence and skills to bring some of those newsrooms up to date, and more importantly, create their own organizations and models where they see a vacuum or failure."

— DJC

Bhangra blowout



The student dance troupe CU Bhangra was among nine performance groups to participate in the University's annual Tamasha South Asian Cultural Showcase at Roone Arledge Auditorium on April 23. The group's high-energy dance and music spectacle honors a 4000-year-old Punjabi art form, bhangra, while incorporating contemporary musical styles like hip-hop and reggae.

DEHUI

Libraries land new film, arts, and human-rights collections

This spring, Columbia's libraries acquired several collections that will benefit key areas of scholarship at the University.

The acquisitions include the archive of documentary filmmakers Albert and David Maysles; a collection of works by the darkly comic writer-illustrator Edward Gorey; the archive of the Committee to Protect Journalists; and the papers of Fyodor Chaliapin, the preeminent Russian opera singer of the early 20th century, and his son Boris Chaliapin, a prolific midcentury *Time* magazine

cover artist. The Maysles collection was purchased by Columbia; the others were donated.

"I'm always amazed at what we're able to bring in and make available to scholars and students," says Michael Ryan, the director of Columbia's Rare Book and Manuscript Library. "Each of these new collections speaks to a different constituency. The variety is what makes a big research library an interesting place."

— Joshua J. Friedman '08JRN



Albert (with camera) and David Maysles used lightweight cameras and sound equipment to produce documentaries of unprecedented intimacy. This photo from their archives was taken in the 1960s.

GIVE 'EM SHELTER

The filmmaking brothers Albert and David Maysles helped to pioneer the direct cinema movement of the 1960s, which invested the documentary with new realism and intimacy. Their accomplishments were enabled by new technical innovations: lightweight 16mm cameras with portable synchronized sound that allowed the Maysles brothers to slip unobtrusively into people's lives, as they did while making *Grey Gardens*, *Gimme Shelter*, and *Salesman*.

Film historians can gain an intimate view of the Maysles brothers' working methods in their archive, which Albert sold to Columbia in May. (David died in

1987.) Included are production files on completed and unrealized films, decades' worth of correspondence, scrapbooks, clippings, notes, and financial records.

"With each passing year, it becomes more and more apparent that the documentary movement known as *cinéma vérité* or direct cinema revolutionized the way we see the world, and the relationship between filmmaker and filmed subject," says film professor Richard Peña. "As Columbia expands its commitment to the scholarly study of film, original source materials such as the Maysles papers will prove an invaluable resource for students."



In this 1991 photo from the archives of the Committee to Protect Journalists, NPR reporter Neal Conan is shown in Jordan after his release by Iraqi captors.

PRESERVE AND PROTECT

When Terry Anderson, the chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was kidnapped in Beirut in 1985 and held hostage for nearly seven years, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) lobbied hard for his release. And when Cameroonian newspaper editor Germain Cyrille Ngota Ngota died while in pretrial detention this past April, CPJ pressed Cameroon's president for an impartial inquiry.

Since its founding in 1981, CPJ has saved documents, photographs, clippings, and correspondence pertaining to many such cases. Now CPJ has donated its archive to Columbia, where it becomes part of the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, which already holds the archives of Amnesty International USA, the Committee of Concerned Scientists, Human Rights First, and Human Rights Watch.

"This is a record of our own history," says CPJ executive director Joel Simon, "but it is also a history of a global movement that has emerged in the last couple of decades: the press-freedom movement, which is intimately connected to the human-rights movement."



Fyodor Chaliapin is dressed to play Ivan the Terrible in Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Maid of Pskov*, circa 1909. At right, Boris Chaliapin's painting of vice presidential candidate Richard Nixon as it appeared on the August 25, 1952, cover of *Time*.

FATHERS AND SONS

Fyodor Chaliapin was one of the great opera singers of the 20th century, a Russian *basso profundo* whose powerful, emotional voice complemented his novel, naturalistic acting style. At the Met, in 1907, he portrayed Basilio in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* as "a vulgar, unctuous, greasy-looking priest who picked his nose, wiped it on his cassock, and kept spitting all over the stage," wrote critic Harold C. Schonberg. "This was realism with a vengeance, and Chaliapin was taken apart."

The family papers of Fyodor Chaliapin and his son Boris, a gift of the estate of Boris's wife Helcia, are filled with evidence of Fyodor's huge personality. There are photographs of him in elaborate stage costumes, bearing ferocious expressions; correspondence and clippings from his 1933 voyage to Hollywood to make *Adventures of Don Quixote*, his only film; and personally inscribed photos from Toscanini, Puccini, Rimsky-Korsakov, Tolstoy, and Chekhov.

Boris, an artist, never achieved his father's fame, but his portraits were seen by millions on *Time* magazine covers published between 1942 and 1970 — a total of about 400 images commissioned for \$2000 apiece. The Chaliapin papers include a notebook of Boris's exquisite charcoal nudes, portraits of prominent Russian ballet dancers, and an envelope of original costume designs.

The collection will be incorporated into the Bakhmeteff Archive of Russian and East European Culture, the second-largest repository of Russian émigré materials in the U.S.



GOREY'S EPHEMERA

The artist and writer Edward Gorey crafted ominous but playful worlds full of suspicion and languor. Perhaps best known for his animated title sequence for PBS's *Mystery!* series, in which elegant party guests mingle as a corpse sinks quietly into a pond, he also published short, gothic-tinged picture books for adults, with titles like *The Gashlycrumb Tinies*, *The Unstrung Harp*, and *The Doubtful Guest*.

Andrew Alpern, an architectural historian and attorney, recently donated his personal collection of approximately 700 Gorey works to Columbia. Alpern accumulated much of his collection at the same shop that helped Gorey launch his career: Gotham Book Mart, in Manhat-

tan. Alpern and Gorey met at the shop and in 1980 collaborated on a project that Gorey named *F.M.R.A.* (say it aloud): a boxed set of loose printed drawings and lettering on various sorts and sizes of paper. One copy comes to Columbia as part of Alpern's gift, along with nearly every edition of every work Gorey published, plus illustrations for book covers and magazines, original drawings, etchings, posters, and printed ephemera.

"There is so much substance in what superficially seems like some very strange words and some very strange pictures," says Alpern. "You read the little book one time, and then you go back a few months later and it's different. That's the mark of really good stuff."



Edward Gorey created this pen-and-ink drawing to promote the 1977 Broadway production of *Dracula*, for which he also designed stage sets and costumes, winning a Tony Award for the latter. The drawing is part of Columbia's new Gorey collection.

University brass

Military veterans should get access to the best colleges, career opportunities, and support services.

That was the message of Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, when he spoke at Columbia's World Leaders Forum on April 18. Mullen's visit to Columbia marked the first in a series of public appearances he's making around

the country this year to raise awareness of the challenges that many soldiers face after leaving the armed services.

"We have tens of thousands who have gone off and done what our country wanted them to do, faced the perils of war, and seen things they never thought they would see," said Mullen, during a conversation moderated by President Lee C. Bollinger. "Their lives have changed forever, but their dreams haven't changed: Our young men and women still want an education, and they'd like to have families. They'd like jobs; they'd like a piece of the rock."

Mullen praised Columbia's participation in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, through which the U.S. government and some private universities are splitting the cost of veterans' college education. Columbia currently has more than 230 student veterans receiving

tuition benefits, and its College of General Studies sends admissions counselors to military bases to recruit future students.

The relationship between universities and the armed forces could be deepened, Mullen said, if Congress repeals the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that prohibits gay and lesbian soldiers from admitting their sexual orientation. That law is a primary reason many elite universities, including Columbia, ban Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs from their campuses; the universities have said the law runs afoul of their nondiscrimination policies.

"Fundamentally, I believe that we are asking young men and women to come in and essentially lie," said Mullen. "It's counter to what I've valued my whole life in the military, and that's why I personally believe that it's time to change."

To watch a video of Mullen's appearance, visit news.columbia.edu/oncampus/2000.



DEFENSE DEPARTMENT / CHAD J. MCNEELEY

Lee C. Bollinger and Admiral Mike Mullen

Athens in April



PAUL ZOGRFAKIS

Old temples and new: The Parthenon and contemporary galleries were among the many attractions visited by Columbia alumni on a three-day trip this spring.

More than 100 Columbia alumni and friends gathered in Athens, Greece, in late April to visit historical sites, view art, and attend lectures and social events hosted by the Columbia Alumni Association. The trip also provided an opportunity for 14 regional alumni club leaders to meet.

Over the course of the three-day visit, the group was accompanied through the ancient city by Columbia faculty, who included School of the Arts dean Carol Becker, architect Pamela Jerome, and art historian and archaeologist Ioannis Mylonopoulos. The CAA organized a symposium featuring Becker, who considered the relationship between art and globalization; Mylonopoulos, who discussed Athenian art and architecture; and Panos Minogiannis '97PH, '01PH, director of an oncology center in Athens, who described health-care and financial challenges fac-

ing Greece and Europe. Some alumni also attended a private event hosted by Daniel Speckhard, the U.S. ambassador to Greece, and received a behind-the-scenes tour of the New Acropolis Museum, which was



PAUL ZOGRFAKIS

Financial aid the focus of new gift initiative

A new fundraising initiative known as Scholarships 101 is focusing staff, volunteers, and potential donors on financial aid giving to Columbia College, an important component of the ongoing University-wide campaign.

The initiative encourages giving to both the Columbia College Fund and the College's financial aid endowment. Its name refers to the approximate amount of money still remaining in the \$400 million campaign goal for endowed aid.

For the academic year just completed, 52 percent of College students received financial aid packages, with an average value of \$36,100. Overall, the College's investment in student aid has more than doubled in the last five years.

This sizable increase reflects Columbia's commitment to continue bringing the best students to the College without regard to their ability to pay, even though rival institutions can rely on larger endowments for

financial aid. At Columbia College, endowment income funds about 31 percent of financial aid today, with annual giving and tuition supporting the rest.

"At our peer institutions, the funding breakdown is reversed almost exactly, with about 70 percent of the financial aid budgets funded via endowment," says Michele Moody-Adams, the College's dean. "Gifts to the Columbia College Fund from alumni, parents, and friends have trended upward in recent years, and will remain critical in the years ahead for financial aid and other College programs. But it's also vitally important that we build our financial aid endowment to ensure the stability of our overall program."

"The Columbia College experience today is better than ever, better than it was just a few years ago," Dean Moody-Adams says. "Only with the help of our donors can we continue to bring the most tal-

ented, diverse student body imaginable to Columbia College." — *Marcus Tonti*

To hear what Dean Moody-Adams and students have to say about Scholarships 101, visit giving.columbia.edu/scholarships101.



JILL LEVINE

Dean Michele Moody-Adams and Veronica Colón '10CC are among those who discuss the importance of financial aid on the Web site for Scholarships 101, a new fundraising initiative.

designed by former Columbia architecture dean Bernard Tschumi.

"The experience was something that our guests wouldn't get on their own — things they probably wouldn't know about, or wouldn't be able to access," says Ilene Markay-Hallack, executive director for University events and programs. "We knew we could develop a program that reflected a true collaboration between many schools and brought many kinds of Columbia expertise to the experience."

Regional alumni leaders came from across Europe, as well as from Egypt; they participated in a focus group on *Columbia* magazine, discussed possibilities for future events, and exchanged ideas about how to move their clubs forward.

To learn more about Columbia Alumni Association events and activities, visit alumni.columbia.edu.

France's Sarkozy to U.S.: Don't go it alone



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nicolas Sarkozy

On March 29, French president Nicolas Sarkozy addressed a large audience of students, faculty, and international media at Low Library. In a robust style and without a printed script, Sarkozy spoke of French admiration for the U.S., but cautioned that the future needed to be one of cooperation. "No country, no matter how powerful it may be, can impose its views on the rest of the world," he said. "If Europe and the United States don't invent a new world, no one will."

Sarkozy said that capitalism required proper regulation, the absence of which "kills freedom."

When a student asked him what he thought about the U.S. health-care debate, Sarkozy said, "In Europe, when we look at the health-care debate, we sometimes find it hard to believe, since we solved the problem 50 years ago."

Commencement 2010

On May 18, President Lee C. Bollinger stood before a sea of rain-battered umbrellas and promised Columbia's 256th graduating class that, owing to the weather, his remarks would be "abridged." It was one of several crowd-pleasing lines.

"The real world needs to embrace more of the intellectual character we try to practice here," Bollinger told the 12,000 graduates and some 30,000 guests from the steps of Low Library. The president summoned Columbians John Jay and Alexander Hamilton as models of the "coherent, reasoned advocacy" with which he urged the 2010 graduates to confront three areas of discourse: the "denial of expertise," represented by those who would "reject the consensus of the scientific community about human-induced climate change"; the "hardening of

debate that the less said the better, because expression of your viewpoint can only get you into trouble."

The day before, under sunnier skies, NAACP president Benjamin Jealous '94CC also spoke of the wages of intolerance in

"Now is the time for you to declare that we will move this country ever forward and never backward. Now is the time for all of us who believe in the greatness of this country to stand up." — Benjamin Jealous '94CC

his Class Day speech. "These are days of Dickensian contradiction," he said, contrasting the historic rise of alumni like President Barack Obama and Attorney

of us who believe in the greatness of this country to stand up."

Across Broadway, meanwhile, actress Meryl Streep gave Barnard graduates a window into her artistic process, which began during her suburban high-school

years in the 1960s, when by careful study she transformed herself from a messy, opinionated free spirit into the sort of generically pretty, popular, giggly, submissive girl that she had seen in the pages of *Seventeen* — a guise she readily dropped when she got to Vassar. "Women are better at acting than men," she told more than 500 graduating seniors. "Why? Because we have to be. This is how women have survived through the millennia." She said that "empathy is at the heart of the actor's art," and bore witness to evolving gender roles inside and outside of Hollywood: "Cracks in the ceiling, cracks in the door, cracks in the Court and on the Senate floor."



EILEEN BARROSO

EILEEN BARROSO

beliefs and intolerance, as witnessed in the unwillingness of many in public discourse to at least entertain the possibility that others may have better ideas, which inexorably leads to intimations of violence"; and "the corrosive attitude now prevalent in public

General Eric Holder with the expressions of racism seen on signs at Tea Party rallies. "Now is the time for you to declare that we will move this country ever forward and never backward," Jealous exhorted the Class of 2010. "Now is the time for all



EILEEN BARROSO

MICHAEL DAMES



Benjamin Jealous



Meryl Streep



Bill Clinton

Other graduation-ceremony speakers included former U.S. president Bill Clinton, whose audience of graduates at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health included his daughter, Chelsea. "Never before," Clinton said, "have we been in a position to do such good. . . . And public health is at the core of every single dramatic issue."

At the law school ceremony on May 14, Attorney General Eric Holder '73CC, '76LAW held forth. "To return today as our nation's attorney general to the place where I first studied the law, where I first

dreamed of serving the cause of justice, is an extraordinary privilege," he said. He pointed out that the Constitution, "rather than being the product of venerable old sages . . . was actually established at the insistence of, and through the advocacy of, young people, and specifically, young lawyers." He was talking about the Federalists, the oldest of whom, at 44, was George Washington. "Young people," Holder said, "are uniquely qualified to reimagine and, in doing so, reinvigorate the law and the world."

These sentiments harmonized with the remarks by Bollinger, who told his soaked but happy listeners, "You have been steeped in the culture of having to state your views, explain why they make sense, consider alternatives, and abide by a result of a process that transcends your own wishes about what you would like to believe. You have plunged into the complexity of subjects and kept your cool. Now we plead with you to take these intellectual habits of mind into the political arena, leading a new generation."

NEWSMAKERS

Rescuing journalism

Columbia Journalism Review, which focused half of its six issues in 2009 on the survival of serious journalism in the United States, won the Bart Richards Award for Media Criticism in March. The award is presented each year by Penn State's College of Communications. "The future of journalism will be shaped via a great ongoing conversation," says *CJR* executive editor Mike Hoyt. "We did our best in 2009 to further and deepen that conversation."

Rich stories

T. J. Stiles '91GSAS won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for biography for *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*, about the combative railroad and shipping entrepreneur who helped create modern capitalism . . . The Pulitzer for drama went to the rock musical *Next to Normal*, about a mother struggling with a mental



T. J. Stiles '91GSAS

illness, by **Tom Kitt '96CC** and **Brian Yorkey '93CC**. Only seven other musicals have won the award in the history of the Pulitzers, which are administered by the Graduate School of Journalism.

The investigators

When the Pulitzers for journalism were announced in April, two J-school alumni

were among the winners: **Wendy Ruderman '97JRN**, of the *Philadelphia Daily News*, shared a Pulitzer with Barbara



Wendy Ruderman '97JRN

Laker for their investigative series about a crooked police drug squad, and **Matt Rich-
tel '90JRN**, of the *New York Times*, won for his series about the dangers of motorists using mobile devices . . . **Mariana van Zeller '02JRN** and **Darren Foster '02JRN**, a husband and wife documentary team, won a Peabody Award in April for *The OxyContin Express*, which examined prescription drug abuse. Their production aired on Current TV, the network started by former vice president Al Gore . . . **Aaron Scott '09JRN** won a regional magazine writing award in April from the Society of Professional Journalists for an article about the controversy surrounding openly gay Portland, Oregon mayor Sam Adams. The award recognizes collegiate work; Scott wrote the piece for his master's thesis.

Public works

In April, **Jeffrey A. Moerdler '78CC** was named commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Moerdler, a New York real estate attorney, will now oversee all work related to the metro area's three major airports, all bridges and tun-

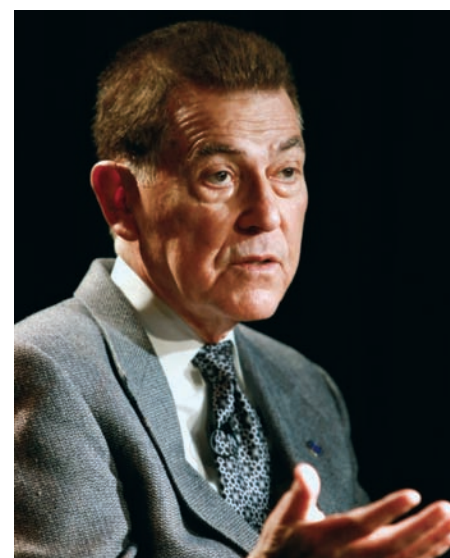
nels that connect the two states, and the development of the World Trade Center site . . . **Michael F. Mundaca '86CC** was recently appointed as the assistant secretary for tax policy at the Department of the Treasury by **President Barack Obama '83CC**. Mundaca served in the treasury under former presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, and has been the acting assistant secretary for the past year.

Legal eagle

Ellen Oran Kaden '77LAW, a Columbia trustee emerita and an executive at the Campbell Soup Company, was recently awarded the 2010 Aiming High Award by Legal Momentum, a women's legal-defense and education fund. Kaden is Campbell's chief legal officer and a principal adviser to the company's board of directors on legal and corporate governance. The award honors those who have broken ground for women in business.

Scientific spirit

Biologist and philosopher **Francisco J. Ayala '64GSAS** won the prestigious Templeton Prize in March for his life's work



Francisco J. Ayala '64GSAS

promoting the notion that evolutionary science is more in harmony with sophisticated religious thinking than is the theory of intelligent design. Ayala is a professor at the University of California at Irvine. The award, which is administered by the philanthropic John Templeton Foundation, comes with \$1.5 million.

New fellows

Four Columbia professors were elected recently to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation's oldest honorary societies. The new fellows are evolutionary biologist **Ruth S. DeFries**, journalism dean **Nicholas Lemann**, philosopher **Christopher Peacocke**, and law professor **Peter Strauss**.



Ruth S. DeFries

Time for a change

Jehuda Reinharz '67GS will step down as president of Brandeis University next year to become president of the Mandel Foundation, a philanthropic organization that funds nonprofits in the U.S. and Israel. Reinharz, who has led Brandeis since 1994, will remain a professor of modern Jewish history.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brandon Victor Dixon '07CC

Hitting Broadway

Brandon Victor Dixon '07CC has been chosen to play Ray Charles in the Broadway production *Unchain My Heart: The Ray Charles Musical*, which begins preview performances in October and opens in November . . . **Katori Hall '03CC**, a 28-year-old playwright from Memphis, won the Olivier Award last fall for the London production of *The Mountaintop*, a play that depicts the last night in the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and is coming to Broadway this fall.



NICOLE BENVENUTO / THE NEW YORK TIMES

Katori Hall '03CC

Green to greenbacks

In March, **Glenn G. Wattleby '75SEAS** was appointed chief executive officer of U.S.A. Synthetic Fuel Corporation, a Cincinnati-based company that aims to produce zero-emission fuel from clean and renewable resources . . . **BlackGold Biofuels**, a company started by **Emily Landsburg '01CC**,



SARAH J. GLOVER

Emily Landsburg '01CC

has developed technology that transforms grease collected from municipal water systems into biodiesel. She is now working on a demonstration project with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and is seeking venture capital to bring her product to market.

Tomorrow's leaders

Engineering students **Nalini Vasudevan** and **Samantha Lauren Ainsley** are among 25 winners of highly competitive Google scholarships that aim to encourage women to pursue careers in computing and technology. They'll each receive a \$10,000 award for the 2010–11 academic year and will participate in a retreat at Google's Mountain View, California, headquarters next summer. Both women hope to finish degrees in 2011: Vasudevan, a native of Bangalore, India, is a doctoral candidate, and Ainsley, who is from Haiku, Hawaii, is working toward a master's degree.

EXPLORATIONS

What holds us together?



Elena Aprile

The universe is one big whirligig, composed of planets, stars, and galaxies that produce centrifugal force as they spin. What keeps all this stuff from shooting outward? Gravity. But there's a problem: All the physical matter known to scientists couldn't generate enough gravity to keep the universe from flying apart. Physicists have a name for the unobserved particles that presumably account for the remaining gravity we feel: dark matter.

This spring, the most sensitive experiment ever to look for dark matter, led by Columbia physicist Elena Aprile, presented its first findings. The project, called XENON100, hasn't yet found the elusive particle. But Aprile and her colleagues, who include three dozen physicists from nine institutions, say that their negative results are important nonetheless, as they cast doubt on other scientists' claims to have already spotted dark matter.

Aprile is using a stainless steel container filled with liquid xenon, which is one of the heaviest elements. This means its atoms are packed tightly together and have a good chance of being struck by dark matter par-

ticles, which are theorized to be all around us and within us. Cameras are positioned inside the container to capture any flashes of ultraviolet light that would result from a collision.

To insulate the experiment from cosmic rays that could be confused for dark matter, XENON100's experiment is taking place beneath 5000 feet of rock in Italy's Gran Sasso Underground Laboratory, in a chamber of lead and copper. Last October, the scientists collected their first data. They say that if earlier claims to have seen dark matter — by scientists at the University of Chicago and the University of Rome Tor Vergata — were valid, the newer and much more sensitive XENON100 experiment so far would have spotted dozens of particle collisions, but it's seen none.

"Dark matter particles continue to escape our instruments," says Aprile, who presented her results at a May 1 workshop and has also submitted a paper on the subject to the *Physics Review Letters*. "Yet, we are getting much more clever in our search, and we feel confident that we will soon unveil them."

Wired for nightmares

A soldier witnesses a horrific scene in battle. Somewhere else, a child is physically abused. Will they suffer from post-traumatic stress? That depends partly on whether their DNA has been altered, according to new research by Sandro Galea, the chair of epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health.

Galea has examined the genetic profiles of people with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and discovered that certain clusters of genes, which usually lie dormant in people who are healthy, show signs of having been "switched on." Some of these genes, when activated, are known to permanently stimulate our stress response. They also seem to compromise our immune system, which Galea says could explain why people with PTSD have high rates of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other physical conditions. He

hypothesizes that the genes in question may get activated by biochemical changes in the body amid emotional trauma.

"Our findings suggest a new biological model of PTSD, in which alteration of genes, induced by a traumatic event, changes a person's stress response and leads to the disorder," says Galea. "Identification of the biologic underpinnings of PTSD will be crucial for developing appropriate psychological and pharmacological interventions, particularly in the wake of an increasing number of military veterans returning home."

Galea's research involved 100 subjects from the Detroit Neighborhood Health Study, a longitudinal project focused on PTSD and other mental disorders. It appears in the May 3 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Kudzu's march

The Asian vine kudzu was introduced to the southeastern U.S. to help control soil erosion in the 1930s and 1940s. The effort was led by federal agricultural officials and soon was recognized as a

disaster: Because kudzu had no insect or animal predators in the region, it spread like wildfire, forming leafy canopies over entire forests and killing all plant life beneath.

Now, Earth Institute postdoctoral fellow Jonathan Hickman has shown that kudzu, which has smothered seven million acres of U.S. forest to date, is also causing air pollution. It does so by sucking nitrogen out of the air and transferring it into the soil. Usually, this is a good thing: Most plants get their nitrogen from the ground and thus depend on "nitrogen-fixing" species like kudzu for their supply. But kudzu is pumping so much nitrogen into the soil in some areas, Hickman found, that chemical reactions are taking place that spew back ozone — a gas that's beneficial in the upper regions of the atmosphere, but when present in the lower regions contributes to smog and causes respiratory problems in humans.

"Air pollution is a risk that hasn't been considered much in discussions about invasive species," says Hickman, whose findings appeared May 17 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. "It's something we may have to pay more attention to."

SOFTWARE STUDIOS ON FLICKR



Kudzu is causing air pollution in addition to killing U.S. forests.

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SPORTS

Fencer Nicole Ross wins national championship



Nicole Ross '11CC

Nicole Ross '11CC won 21 of 23 bouts at the NCAA fencing championships in late March to capture the top prize in women's foil. In the final round, she triumphed over Penn State junior Doris Willette, 15-9. For her efforts this season, Ross secured a place on the All-American first team for the second time in her collegiate career. "She was a dominant force throughout the whole tournament," says head coach George Kolombatovich. Ross, an art history major from New York City, began fencing at the age of nine and today teaches beginners at the Fencers Club in Manhattan, the same club where she began fencing.

GENE BOYARS

Archers shoot straight to silver

This spring, the Columbia archery recurve team won silver for the second year in a row at the U.S. intercollegiate championships. The recurve team, made up of Sarah Chai '12CC, Alexandra Garyn '11BC, and Sara Goshorn '10CC, defeated strong competition from the University of Connecticut and James Madison University at Texas A&M on May 13-16. Goshorn won an individual silver in the recurve and earned a spot on the collegiate national team. In April, Chai, Goshorn, and Anna Harrington '12BC earned spots on the All-East team with their collective scores in three major tournaments — an impressive achievement, since they competed in only two of them. Recurve is a type of archery that uses powerful bows with tips that curve forward, away from the archer.



Sarah Chai '12CC

GENE BOYARS



Sara Goshorn '10CC

GENE BOYARS



Kyle Merber '12CC

GENE BOYARS

Merber breaks four-minute barrier

Runner Kyle Merber '12CC accomplished a rare feat at an NCAA championship qualifying event hosted by Columbia on March 5, becoming only the second Ivy League athlete to run a four-minute indoor mile. Merber won the event with a time of 3:58.52, surpassing his own personal best by four seconds and setting a new Ivy record. Merber's time also ranks him among the top runners in the country this year, with the seventh-fastest mile time nationally. "Crossing the finish line and looking up at the clock was an unbelievable feeling," Merber told HepsTrack.com. "The fact that I was able to break such a barrier at this point in my career is beyond my wildest dreams."

Fastest foursome

The women's 4x400 meter relay squad, consisting of Kyra Caldwell '12CC, Yamira Bell '13CC, Kristen Houpp '12CC, and Sharay Hale '12CC, clocked a startling time of 3:38.04 at the Columbia Last Chance Meet, an NCAA championship qualifying event, on March 5. Their time was the fastest ever by Ivy League women in the indoor 4x400. In fact, no team had ever broken 3:40 indoors; Cornell had come the closest, with a group that ran 3:40.06 in 2005. Later in the spring, the entire women's track-and-field team proved it was among the nation's best when the Lions finished second out of almost 100 teams at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships in Princeton, N.J.



Sharay Hale '12CC

Golfers sink third-straight league title



Clark Granum '11SEAS

The Columbia men's golf team, boosted by the dramatic performance of Clark Granum '11SEAS, won its third consecutive Ivy League championship April 25. On a cold, rainy day at the prestigious Baltusrol Golf Club in New Jersey, Columbia posted a collective score of plus 14, vanquishing Yale by three strokes. "It was a chess match," said head coach Rich Mueller. "We just made all the right moves." Granum, who shot three under par, was named to the All-Ivy League first team for the third year in a row; Michael Yiu '13CC and Brendan Doyle '12CC were named to the second team.

Kyle Smith named men's basketball coach

Columbia has recruited Kyle Smith as its new men's basketball head coach. Smith, a Houston native, is credited with helping turn around the basketball program at St. Mary's College of California, where he served as associate head coach for the past nine years. St. Mary's had won only two games in the 2000–01 season, just before Smith arrived there, but it finished this season with a 28–6 record and a trip to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen. "I think he has the best feel and overview of basketball programs and coaching of anyone I've ever met," says University of Richmond head coach and former colleague Chris Mooney.



Columbia Athletics director M. Dianne Murphy and new men's basketball coach Kyle Smith

Men's tennis tops in Ivy

The men's tennis team won its second-straight Ivy League championship this spring with a 6–1 victory over Princeton at Columbia's Dick Savitt Tennis Center. After winning two of its three doubles matches, Columbia dominated the singles tournament, prevailing in five out of six matches. The team finished the regular season with a 16–4 overall record, 6–1 in the Ivy League. In postseason

honors, three Columbia players were named to the All-Ivy League team: co-captains Mihai Nichifor '10SEAS and Jonathan Wong '10CC to the first team, and Haig Schneiderman '12CC to the second team. To read more about this story and other Columbia sports accomplishments, visit gocolumbiaions.com.

— Sports section edited by Joshua J. Friedman '08JRN

REVIEWS

Brush Up Your . . . Marlowe? // By Julia M. Klein

Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare?

By James Shapiro (Simon & Schuster, 339 pages, \$26)

Shakespeare and the American Musical

By Irene G. Dash (Indiana University Press, 229 pages, \$24.95)

When James Shapiro '77CC began plotting out *Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare?*, a friend unnerved him by asking, "What difference does it make?" Shapiro, the Larry Miller Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia, answered, "A lot," without articulating why. This intellectually passionate book represents his more complete and considered response: The controversy matters, he suggests, because a belief in Shakespeare's authorship affirms the power of the human imagination.

The authorship debate, though mostly ignored by specialists, has long intrigued writers from Mark Twain and Henry James to Helen Keller and the now-obscure Delia Bacon. It has flourished because so little biographical information has survived about the Stratford-upon-Avon-born actor and grain dealer — and the facts that *are* known point to a man of modest education, travel, and life experience. How in the world, the doubters say, could such a man, neither an aristocrat nor an intellectual, write such masterpieces, with their literary sophistication and references to law, foreign languages, courtly customs, the classics, and European geography?

In *Contested Will*, Shapiro has two aims: to provide insight into the debate and to make what is known as the Stratfordian case, which he does with gusto. His account of the theories of skeptics is purposely selective (though a bibliographic essay usefully points readers to more information). "My interest," Shapiro writes, "is not in what people think — which has been stated again and again in unambiguous terms — but in why they think it." Shapiro attempts to take the opposition seriously, locating its origins in the Higher Criticism that undermined Homer's authorship and exposed the piecemeal composition of both the Old and New Testaments. But, in the instance of Shakespeare, he can't help being dismissive of the briefs for Sir Francis Bacon and Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford, the only two claimants to whom he allots full chapters. (The playwright Christopher Marlowe and other alternative bards receive only passing mentions.)

The history of the skeptics, Shapiro writes, is "strewn with . . . fabricated documents, embellished lives, concealed identity, pseudonymous authorship, contested evidence, bald-faced deception, and a failure to grasp what could not be imagined." He uncovers a scam himself, involving what he says is a forgery of a 19th-century manuscript that spread doubt about Shakespeare's capacities.

In Shapiro's view, to believe that anyone but Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare's plays is to succumb to conspiracy theories, weird cryptographic excesses, social snobbery, and incipient lunacy, not to mention the anachronistic fallacy of reading Elizabethan and Jacobean literature as autobiography. This last is Shapiro's particular *bête noir*, and he is lacerating on the subject, indicting such early Shakespeare scholars as Edmond Malone for pointing the (wrong) way. "The plays are not an à la carte menu, from which we pick characters who will satisfy our appetite for Shakespeare's personality while passing over less appetizing choices," Shapiro writes.

It seems ironic that, despite his aversion to autobiographical readings, Shapiro interprets the skeptics' views through the lens of their life experiences — and even prides himself on it. He devotes considerable space, for example, to Delia Bacon (1811–59), an American teacher, writer, and aspiring playwright whose work, influenced by Shakespeare, was never staged. A friend of Emerson and Hawthorne, she would become the first significant proponent of the view that the philosopher-statesman Sir Francis Bacon (probably no relation), in concert with others, was responsible for Shakespeare's plays. In the wake of a scandalous and abortive romance, Shapiro writes, she was set "on showing the world the difference between surface and deeper meaning, . . . a distinction she knew all too well."

More problematic than Shapiro's biographical leaps is his assertion that it is wrong to assume that Shakespeare's psychology resembled ours, "that Shakespeare's internal, emotional life was modern." Evolutionary psychologists would certainly deny that a few hundred years have substantially altered human psychology.



PHOTO BY HANK WALKER. TIME & LIFE PICTURES / GETTY IMAGES

Romeo and Maria: Larry Kert and Carol Lawrence in the fire escape scene from the original 1957 Broadway production of *West Side Story*.

More to the point, why would Shakespeare's plays have retained such currency and psychological impact if they were the product of a psyche alien from ours?

There is no question that *Contested Will*, which has already occasioned considerable debate, lands at a time of great popular interest in the subject. As Shapiro acknowledges, this is a cultural high-water mark for the presumed authorship of de Vere, a celebrated poet and playwright who would have been intimate with court manners and politics, and whose life story evokes incidents in *Hamlet* and the rest of the canon. The progenitor of the Oxford hypothesis was the Englishman J. T. Looney, whose 1920 book, "*Shakespeare Identified in Edward de Vere the Seventeenth Earl of Oxford*," was embraced by Freud, among others. Shapiro reads it as "a product of Looney's profound distaste for modernity," but also calls it a "tour de force."

The most fanciful versions of the Oxford hypothesis include assorted "Prince Tudor" theories, positing that de Vere was either

Queen Elizabeth's son or her lover or both, and sired her son, the Earl of Southampton. Oxford's secret dramatic output supposedly represents an attempt to work through the resulting emotional turmoil. That de Vere died in 1604, before the later plays were produced, is seen as no obstacle, with his advocates suggesting he could have written them earlier. Various Supreme Court justices and the noted Shakespearean actors Derek Jacobi and Mark Rylance are among those who have signed on to the Earl's authorship. Roland Emmerich is directing a movie, *Anonymous*, scheduled for release next year, that imagines Oxford as the true Shakespeare.

In support of the Stratford Shakespeare, Shapiro points to early printed texts of the plays that refer, mistakenly, to actors in Shakespeare's company rather than characters, as well as a few recollections by Shakespeare's contemporaries — convincing enough evidence, however scanty, to satisfy most readers. From a lay perspective, Shapiro's most surprising revelation, though not news in academe, concerns how extensively Shakespeare, especially in his later years, collaborated with other playwrights. His coauthors apparently included George Wilkins (*Pericles*), Thomas Middleton (*Timon of Athens*), and John Fletcher (*Henry the Eighth*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, and a lost play, *Cardenio*). The results fell far short of Shakespeare's best work, raising the question of why he felt impelled to seek out writing partners.

Shakespeare's plays, by whatever author or combination of authors, have long served as an imaginative prod to other writers. Irene G. Dash '72GSAS, a former Hunter College professor best known for her scholarship on Shakespeare's women, has now turned her attention to the impact of his work on the American musical theater. *Shakespeare and the American Musical* hypothesizes that the challenges of adapting Shakespeare helped transform the musical, speeding its evolution into an "organic" entity in which song and dance advanced the plot, and spurring such innovations as the tragic musical (*West Side Story*) and rock musical (*Your Own Thing*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*).

Dash also shows how contemporary mores and the demands of the modern stage precipitated alterations in characters, structure, and stagecraft. In *The Boys from Syracuse*, first produced in 1938, Dash suggests that lyricist Lorenz Hart '16JRN and librettist George Abbott created female characters who were less complex and resonant than their counterparts in *The Comedy of Errors*. By contrast, she argues that Bella Spewack and Cole Porter successfully updated the battle of the sexes in *The Taming of the Shrew*, making *Kiss Me, Kate* a penetrating examination of a modern woman torn between love and vocation.

Dash employs archival research to shed new light on classic collaborations. She convincingly links *Kiss Me, Kate* to a lively

Alfred Lunt-Lynn Fontanne production of *The Taming of the Shrew* and describes how *West Side Story* evolved from *East Side Story*, an earlier version about Jews and Italians.

But Dash's meticulous scene-by-scene, and even line-by-line, comparisons between Shakespeare and five musical adaptations are a bit of a slog, especially in the case of less familiar

works. She can be repetitious, and too often allows her themes to become lost, like errant lovers, amid a welter of detail. We could have done with a bit more forest and fewer trees.

Julia M. Klein is a cultural reporter and critic in Philadelphia and a contributing editor at Columbia Journalism Review.

Let's All Be Americans Now // By Jay Neugeboren

A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs

By David Lehman (Schocken Books, 272 pages, \$22)

By the time Richard Rodgers met Cole Porter — at a 1926 dinner in Noël Coward's rented palazzo in Venice — Rodgers '23CC and his musical partner Lorenz Hart '16JRN were already successes on Broadway. Porter was not. After dinner, the composers took turns at the piano, and when Rodgers showed enthusiasm for Porter's songs, "Porter confided that despite his failures on Broadway, he thought he had finally figured out the secret of writing hits. Rodgers leaned over expectantly.

"I'll write Jewish tunes," Porter said."

Years later Rodgers wrote, "It is surely one of the ironies of the musical theatre that despite the abundance of Jewish composers, the one who has written the most enduring 'Jewish' music should be an Episcopalian millionaire who was born on a farm in Peru, Indiana."

It is one of the pleasures of *A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs*, poet and critic David Lehman's quirky romp through 20th-century American popular song — a book combining history, anecdote, memoir, poetry, and biography — that we can read stories like this about an enduring part of American culture.

"Whether you date the genesis to Irving Berlin and 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' in 1900 or to Jerome Kern and 'They Didn't Believe Me' in the first year of the Great War," Lehman '70CC, '78GSAS writes, "sooner or later you have to explain what is Jewish about American popular song — apart from the simple fact that a great many of the songwriters were Jews."

Is it a certain sound — "the minor key, bent notes, altered chords, a melancholy edge"? Is it "in the plaintive undertow, the feeling that yearning is eternal and sorrow not very far from the moment's joy"? Or is it, in critic John Lahr's words, "crazy jazz" that "incorporated the Jewish wail and the wail of the blues" — a mysterious amalgam that "links Jewish songwriters tonally and rhythmically with black singers and instrumentalists"?

Between 1880 and 1920, 2 million Jewish refugees came to the United States from Eastern Europe, and Lehman speculates on

ways their immigrant experience informed their music. "It may sound like the ultimate paradox," he hypothesizes, "but one distinctively Jewish thing about the authors of the American songbook is [their] determination to escape from their Jewish origins and join the American adventure." Lehman suggests it was often in their "affirmations of American ideals as they understood them" that Jewish songwriters excelled. Consider, for example, that Irving Berlin, immigrant son of a Jewish cantor, wrote "White Christmas," "Easter Parade," and "God Bless America."

Consider, too, Lehman's remarks on the exuberant optimism of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* "It is just possible that in the logic of displacement favored by Jewish songwriters," he writes, "the relation of Oklahoma to the United States as a whole resembles that of the Jewish immigrants to the land that offered them and their kinfolk refuge from the . . . nightmares of Europe."

Lehman defines the "effervescent heyday" of American popular music as 1914 to 1965, when the songs "fed a nexus of other arts and pastimes," including jazz, Broadway musicals, Big Band music, movies, nightclubs, and "real or make-believe ballrooms." He writes knowledgeably about the relations among popular music and jazz, gospel, and opera, and about the complicated relationships between Jewish composers and black musicians. He explores controversies — Jewish musicians being accused of stealing jazz, blues, and spirituals from black musicians; *Porgy and Bess* disparaged for containing "as many stereotypes" as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. And he reports on Benny Goodman breaking the color barrier in 1935 by hiring Teddy Wilson as pianist for his trio, and on Artie Shaw becoming the first white bandleader to hire a black female singer — Billie Holiday — as full-time vocalist.

Lehman chronicles the story of his own romance with American songs, and attempting to put music he loves in historical and personal contexts, he notes, for example, that in the same month that *Oklahoma!* opened, his "maternal grandparents were deported to

Riga. Men in uniforms met them at the station, drove them to the Rumbula Forest and shot them.” Although such a juxtaposition may seem to have significance, Lehman is less than persuasive in suggesting that the significance lies in the fact that it was “important” for composers to “trumpet [their] patriotism . . . at a time when world Jewry faced the specter of annihilation.”

“It was the songbook to which I responded,” he writes more convincingly, “not the Jewish identity of its authors, though this was a source of pride for me, the son of refugees.” And writing about the songs themselves, he is a delightful guide to facts and tales. Who knew that “Over the Rainbow” was deleted three times from *The Wizard of Oz* before MGM allowed it to stay? Or that Artie Shaw, whose eight wives included Ava Gardner and Lana Turner, was a precision marksman, ranked fourth in the country? Or that, at 15, Richard Rodgers “saw the Columbia varsity show and decided right then and there that his life’s ambition was to go to Columbia and write the College’s varsity show?”

Best of all, Lehman invites us to reminisce with him — to remember how, when, and where we first fell in love with certain songs, and to notice the ways we associate these songs with particular moments in our lives. He also laments the decline of the popular music he grew up on, and its displacement by new music that, whatever its virtues, “devalued cleverness and irony, not to mention the clarinet and the trombone.”

Porter, our most sophisticated songwriter, was acutely aware that a preponderance of the songs Americans loved were written by Jews. The popular music we think of as quintessentially American was crafted, for the most part, by immigrants and the children of immigrants — men and women who yearned to be thought of not as foreigners, but as Americans, whose identity they were themselves instrumental in creating.

Jay Neugeboren '59CC is the author of 17 books. His most recent novel is 1940.

The Consolidator // By Samuel McCracken

The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt

By T. J. Stiles (Knopf, 736 pages, \$37.50)

People know four things about Cornelius Vanderbilt: He founded the New York Central Railroad. His nickname, “Commodore,” referred sardonically to his beginnings sailing a one-man Staten Island ferry. He remarked, “The public? The public be damned!” And he inadvertently caused the potato chip to be invented.

Wrong on each count.

Vanderbilt made the New York Central (founded by others) great, but Commodore was the press’s salute to a shipping mogul. He left it to his son William to damn the public, and the irresistible potato chip myth — the crusty Commodore sends back fried potatoes as insufficiently thin and salty, and the equally crusty Saratoga Springs chef says, “I’ll give him thin and salty” — is belied by the fact that the chip got to the restaurant ahead of the Commodore.

These corrections, amid an extraordinary wealth of learning and insight about a great man and his times, can be found in the meticulously researched and brilliantly written *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt* by T. J. Stiles ’91GSAS. Over 66 years, Vanderbilt (1794–1877) devoted himself to one business: transportation. He ended as the master of a railroad empire linking the Hudson to Lake Michigan. En route, he sailed, dominated, and forsook New York Harbor, the Hudson, Long Island Sound, the route from New York to San Francisco via Central America, and the North Atlantic.

A creature of the water from the start, he became an amphibian when he linked Boston and New York by water and rail. He did not crawl onto land for good until the end of his seventh decade, when he sold his empire on water to fund his new one on land.

Although Vanderbilt’s reach occasionally exceeded his grasp, both were prodigious. He projected and nearly built the inter-oceanic canal that the Nicaraguan government pursues today. In 1862, when Washington, D.C., lived in terror of the Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia* (aka *Merrimack*), he pulled his liner *Vanderbilt* off her run, equipped her to fight, and gave her to the Union government. This kept *Virginia* bottled up in Norfolk until fleeing Confederates destroyed her.

As the epic began, in 1818, young Vanderbilt attracted the attention of a steam ferry operator on the New Jersey–Manhattan run. Temporarily short a captain, Thomas Gibbons hired Vanderbilt for a few days. He had acquired not merely a temp but a general manager and consigliere. Gibbons needed the last: Steamboat service in New York Harbor was a legal monopoly. Gibbons defied the monopolists, who harassed him with the law. Vanderbilt encouraged Gibbons to attack the monopoly as an unconstitutional infringement of the interstate commerce clause. With Daniel Webster pleading, Gibbons prevailed.

REVIEWS

For a time, the new opportunities thus opened lay in New York Harbor, but Vanderbilt gradually moved up the Hudson to Albany. From there, he turned to Long Island Sound and the developing sea-land route between New York and Boston. This led to his first tentative interest in a railroad, a short line connecting the Connecticut port of Stonington with Providence.

A greater destination now beckoned: not Boston, but San Francisco. Americans wanted to go to the new state of California, an El Dorado for farmers, even before the gold strike. There were three routes: overland, by sea around Cape Horn, and by sea-land via Panama. Vanderbilt envisioned a fourth, shorter route by water, with a short canal across Nicaragua. He was finally frustrated by William Walker, the American adventurer who improbably seized control of Nicaragua. In their struggle, Vanderbilt functioned more as sovereign than CEO. He organized and funded a coalition of Nicaragua's neighbors to drive Walker out, and when Walker imprudently tried to return, he met a firing squad in Honduras.

The inevitable transcontinental railroad, completed in 1869, would soon render the Central American routes obsolete, and Vanderbilt turned to the North Atlantic, where he more than held his own against subsidized shipping rivals, including Cunard. After conquering on water and dabbling in railroads, the Commodore found his final métier on land.

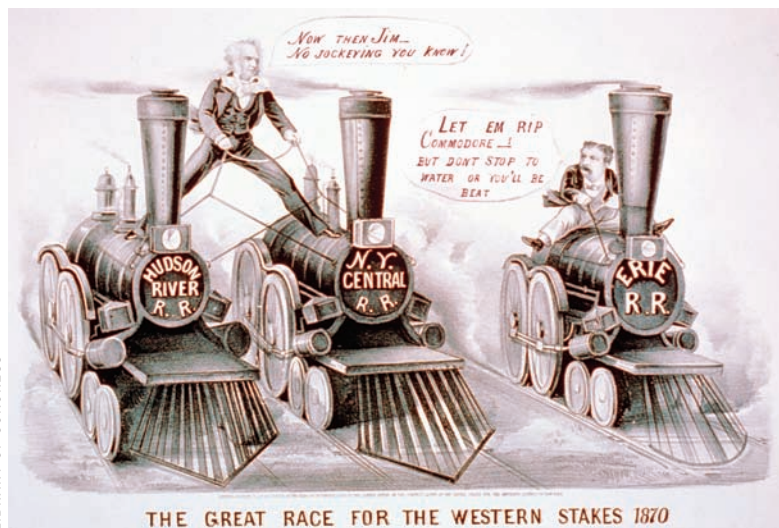
In connecting New York and Chicago, he built little track himself, but had a remarkable eye for track laid by others. He was the Great Consolidator. Our existing rail system, comprising six giant corporations, is simply the logical result of the Commodore's strategy of consolidation, signally embodied in his 1867 purchase of the New York Central. Even now, Amtrak takes people from New York to Chicago largely by the Vanderbilt route.

Stiles argues persuasively that Vanderbilt found the business model in clay and left it in the marble now surrounding us. He transformed the nature of corporations and of the stock market.

Please visit www.columbia.edu/cu/alumni/Magazine to read more reviews of Columbia books.

Through consolidation, he created the first giant corporation. Stiles correctly notes that this achievement transcended the narrower purposes of the railroad itself.

The Commodore also left a more personal legacy: 13 children. The youngest son, next to last in his class at West Point, went to France to recover his health and died there at the start of the Civil War. The middle son, Cornelius Jeremiah ("Cornell" to the family), an alcoholic gambler and Central Casting wastrel, finally ended the comedy by his own hand. William, the eldest son, for many years impressed his father as a "numskull," but Billy became



In this 1870 Currier & Ives lithograph, Vanderbilt races his newly merged railroads against the Erie for dominance between New York and Chicago. At the Erie's throttle, Jim Fisk.

the Commodore's deputy and successor, in 15 years doubling the fortune his father left him. In a legendary 1877 trial, Cornelia and some of the sisters unsuccessfully contested the will. The current value of the stake in the trial is not easy to calculate, but when the Commodore died, he controlled 1 in 20 of every dollar in circulation. On a good day, Bill Gates controls 1 in 138.

The Vanderbilts are no longer super-rich. Although Billy was worth \$200 million when he died and lived almost modestly (for the richest man in the world), his children were spenders, not earners. To see the fortune the Commodore built, you must visit their palaces in Newport and North Carolina.

The Commodore's true legacy is even more immense: the economic structure about us. "The imagined devices of commerce gradually abstracted the tangible into mere tokens, and then less than tokens," writes Stiles. "Money transformed from gold coin to gold-backed banknotes to legal-tender slips of paper and ledger entries of bank accounts . . . Like a ghost, the business enterprise departed the body of the individual proprietor and became a being in itself, a corporation with its own identity, its own character, its own personhood." No philosopher of business (he was too busy making an economy to be an economist), Vanderbilt leads to this day by example.

Stiles takes his epigraph from Salman Rushdie: "To understand just one life, you have to swallow the world." Stiles has swallowed — and, more important, digested — the world through which Cornelius Vanderbilt for eight decades so astonishingly strode. This is biography on the epic scale.

Samuel McCracken is a critic and essayist living in Boston. Stiles's book won the Pulitzer Prize for biography this spring.

Continued from page 5

what now might be styled “public affairs.” He directed the staff of something called the Crime Commission, which Governor Roosevelt headed. It proved to be a producer of campaign issues for the ’32 election. Moley hired his former students as researchers. Once the campaign began in earnest, I believe the staff of the commission, including Moley, worked on electing FDR. Moley was at the Blackstone Hotel when the nomination was secured. My mother worked for him on and off from 1932 into the late ’50s. After the election he said to my mother, “Annie, we are going to Washington.” And she did.

In Robert Dallek’s ’64GSAS bio of President Kennedy, *An Unfinished Life*, there is a wonderful picture of Kennedy sitting in a chair with a bookshelf in the background. Clearly identifiable in that shelf is a copy of Moley’s *After Seven Years*, which was

a harsh critique of what he saw as the Roosevelt administration’s drift to the left. Moley was an old-school progressive, but never a proponent of European-style social-welfare programs. He was close to Nixon and Goldwater. Soon after the *Washington Post* took over *Newsweek* (Moley and W. Averell Harriman ’54HON had started a precursor, *Today*, which Vincent Astor then purchased and merged with *Newsweek*), the Grahams eliminated Moley’s political column.

I spend about five times as long reading *Columbia* magazine as I do the *Cornell Alumni Magazine*.

Jason R. Gettinger ’67LAW

New York, NY

DISARMING GENTLEMEN

Congratulations to, and God bless Paul S. Sandhaus ’44CC and men like him who were involved in bomb-disposal work during WWII (“The Big Hurt,” Spring 2010).

In the horror that was Peleliu, in the South Pacific, in September of 1944, I led my battalion inland to escape the casualty mill the enemy had made of the beach. Less than 50 yards from that body-strewn shore, I chanced to look down, and stopped; not two feet from where I stood, I noticed about four inches of wire. I immediately ordered the battalion to halt, then called for my bomb-disposal man to come forward. Sure enough, it was attached to a seven-foot torpedo. Disarming it was a delicate procedure, but the lieutenant did it with routine precision. Had it not been for him, at least half of the leading company would have been wiped out. Me, too.

Sandhaus may consider himself foolhardy for taking on his assignment, but he had to be courageously cool to do the job with careful efficiency, and survive, while saving the lives of many soldiers and marines.

Vic Streit ’40CC

Tequesta, FL

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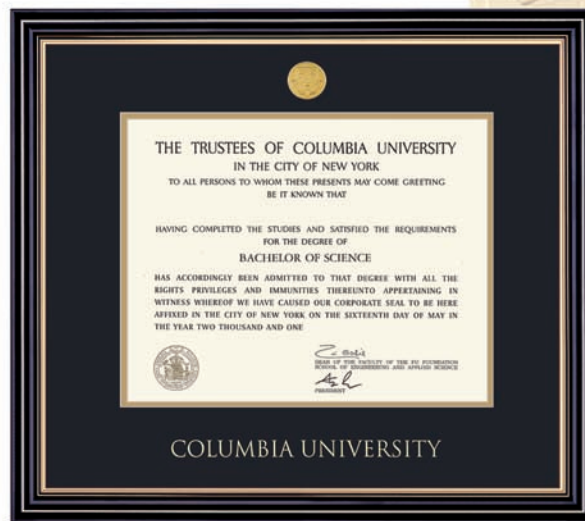
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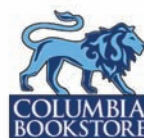
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All Is Not Lost!

Long ago, when automobiles putt-putted across College Walk and South Field's turf was pocked by leather-helmeted footballers and javelin throwers, Columbia received a gift from the Class of 1885: a 16-ton green granite sphere placed upon a pedestal in the center of campus.

Erected in 1914, the Sundial's ball (right) is one of many Columbia structures, small and large, to have vanished over the past 250 years. Some of this history can be seen in "Matilda Ate the Records: Finding Lost Columbia," an exhibition of photographs and drawings from the University Archives on view at the Columbia Alumni Center through October.

Matilda was a goat whose owner, a squatter named Patrick Riley, lived in a shack on Amsterdam Avenue and 120th Street. In the years leading up to the Great War, Riley made Matilda available to Columbia students for pranks and hazing rituals that were probably not always enjoyable for man or beast. Matilda's death in the eventful year of 1914 inspired a student-organized funeral procession, after which the creature was resurrected through the art of taxidermy and displayed for many years in the window of a local drugstore. A children's book, *Matilda the Goat*, published in 1956 and on display, placed the nanny at the center of a Columbia football game (not to be confused with a hazing ritual), wherein she turns from goat to hero by using her horns.

Fortunately, Matilda, in her capacity as hungry browser, didn't eat *all* of the records. Among the images spared are those of Low Rotunda as the main reading room, the flat, U-shaped University Hall (nicknamed "the Steamship" for its two mighty smokestacks),

and the Victorian-Gothic gatekeeper's cottage (a remnant of the old Bloomingdale Asylum), demolished in 1957 to make way for Ferris Booth Hall. And then there are the roads not taken: A color illustration shows a pair of 23-story towers rising from the east and west ends of South Field, dwarfing Butler Library, which lies between the giant bookends like a gilded volume of Herodotus on its side. Happily, architect I. M. Pei's outsize plan was scrapped in 1970 for lack of funds. This was not the case for the old midtown campus (1857–1897, photographed from inside and out), which supplanted the Park Place campus (1760–1857), a long, brick-and-stucco building used as a barracks by both the British and the colonists during the Revolutionary War.

Things change, things fall apart. The old Gould Boathouse, a grand brick structure

with a balcony and white columns located on the Hudson River at 115th Street, burned down in 1927. Two years earlier, further uptown, ground was broken on the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, which was built on land once occupied by Hilltop Park, home of the New York Highlanders (as the Yankees were formerly known) and depicted in its billboard-filled heyday (Morisco Cigarettes, 15¢). Even the Sundial's iconic orb, designed by McKim, Mead & White, gradually developed cracks, and was removed in 1946. Some say it still exists, perhaps in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

At least Matilda didn't eat it.

— Paul Hond

To view a slideshow, go to http://alumni.columbia.edu/newsletter/web_matilda/index.html.





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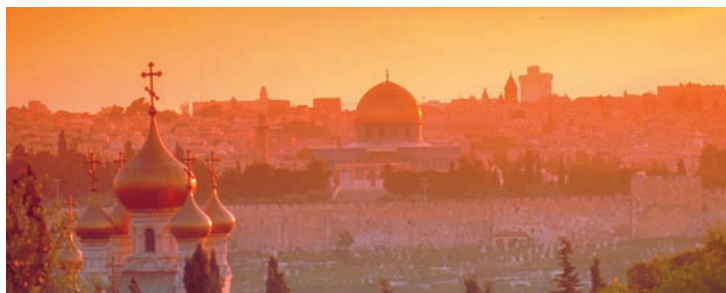
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2011 Calendar

Mystical India
February 3–20

The Galápagos Islands
February 4–12

Namibia and South Africa by Sea
February 14–28

Antarctica
February 15–28

Hidden Wonders around the World
with Professor Pegi Vail
March 1–21

Israel, Nile Valley, and the Red Sea
March 26–April 7

South America by Private Jet
with Professor Terence D'Altroy
March 26–April 10

Insider's Japan
April 13–25

Venice and the Medieval World
April 22–May 4

Historic Cities of the Sea
May 15–29

Byzantine Odyssey
May 23–June 6

Classic Greek Isles
June 6–18

Baltic Sea Cruise
with Mikhail Gorbachev
and Lech Walesa
June 9–20

Village Life along the Dalmatian Coast
June 20–28

Iceland
July 9–17

Cruising Alaska's Glaciers and Inside Passage
July 21–28

The Black Sea
August 5–16

Russia: Exploring Moscow and St. Petersburg
August 11–19

Village Life in Tuscany
September 4–12

Coexistence of Cultures and Faiths
September 6–16

Danube to Istanbul
September 16–26

China, Tibet, and the Yangtze River
October 6–24

River Life along the Rhine and Mosel
October 15–23

French Alps and Provence
October 18–27

North Africa's Mediterranean Coast
November 2–17

Greatest Treasures and Legendary Places by Private Jet
November 3–22

Botswana Safari
November 4–14

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