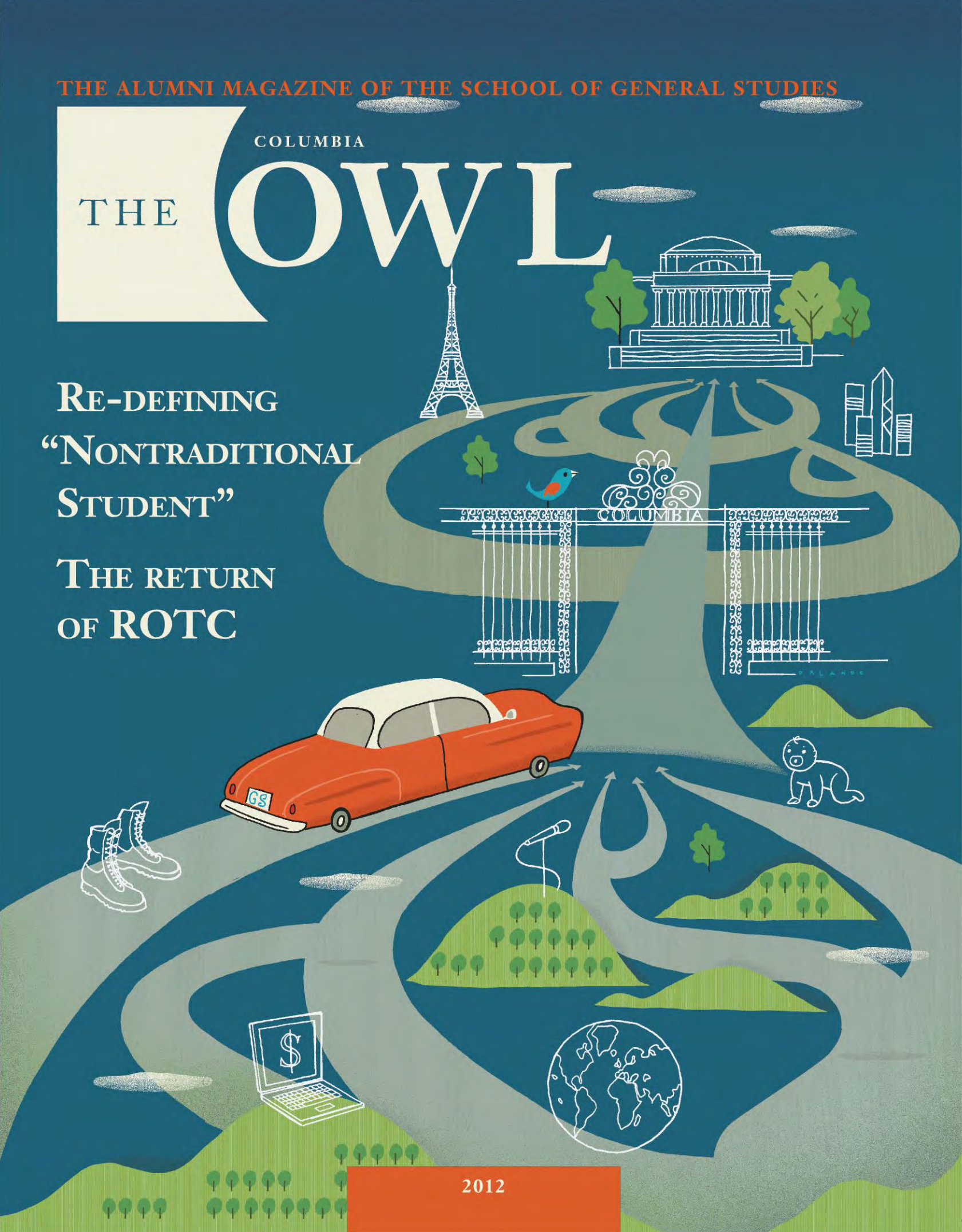
THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

COLUMBIA THE OWL

Re-defining "Nontraditional Student"

The return of ROTC



2012

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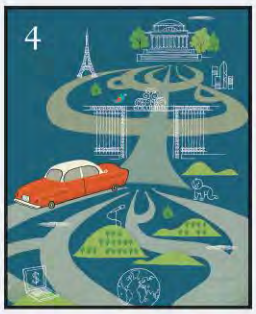

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COLUMBIA THE OWL

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Letter from the Dean

This issue's feature story is about Columbia's leading role in providing access for nontraditional students to elite education. Columbia, through the School of General Studies, has been a pioneer in this area; however, other highly selective colleges and universities across the U.S. run the risk of becoming increasingly irrelevant in the education of students enrolled in American higher education. In short, elite schools are losing their edge.

During my time as dean it has become clear that elite colleges are out of touch with the demographics of American higher education. As far back as 2002, the Condition of Education report from the National Center for Education Statistics demonstrated that over 70% of the college students in two and four year colleges around the country fit the profile of the nontraditional student. "Nontraditional" students take the untraditional path to the completion of their degrees. They are usually older, engaged in a career, attend part-time, and pay their own way. Students who enter college right out of high school, are supported primarily by their families, and work part-time on campus are now a distinct minority. Moreover, the traditional student population has begun to decline.

If elite schools claim as their mission the education of the best and brightest, why then, with the exception of Columbia, do they ignore more than 70% of the potential applicants? By sticking to business as usual, these schools are fighting over a shrinking portion of the applicant pool.

In the past, efforts by the elites to engage nontraditional students have been misguided. Most continuing education models presume that nontraditional students need to be separated from the "real" college population and taught by other than the full-time faculty, creating a separate but unequal educational model. The result of this separation, while perhaps unintentional, is the perception that age somehow correlates with diminished intellectual capacity. The reality is if you want to treat nontraditional students seriously, you have to integrate them fully into the core academic program, not separate them out.

This, however, has serious implications for the whole college admissions process. The successful management of nontraditional applications requires a labor intensive, hands-on, and personal approach. Standardized tests are less relevant than intellectual acumen, potential to succeed, and personal accomplishment. An admissions office that is engaged with its applicant pool, that gets to know the women and men applying for admission, is absolutely essential.

As you will read in this issue of *The Owl*, because of the unique college that is GS, Columbia is well positioned among its peers. The challenge for other highly selective, elite colleges is to deal seriously with the demographic realities and engage the 70+% of the potential college applicants who have been held at arm's length. Only by integrating nontraditional students will these institutions be able to boast that they live up to their mission of recruiting the best and the brightest students in the country, not just the best and the brightest seniors in high school.

With warmest regards,

Peter J. Awn

IS THE **NONTRADITIONAL** PATH TO A DEGREE BECOMING THE **TRADITIONAL** ONE?

GS Pioneers New Programs and Pathways for Increasing Numbers of "Nontraditional Students"

BY ALEXANDER GELFAND

Ask Luis Felipe Morgado '12 about life as a student at Columbia, and he sounds much like any other undergraduate: enthusiastic, slightly overwhelmed, and already thinking about life after graduation. An economics and math major, Morgado says confidently, "I'll probably try to work for two or three years in finance, and after that I want to go to grad school."

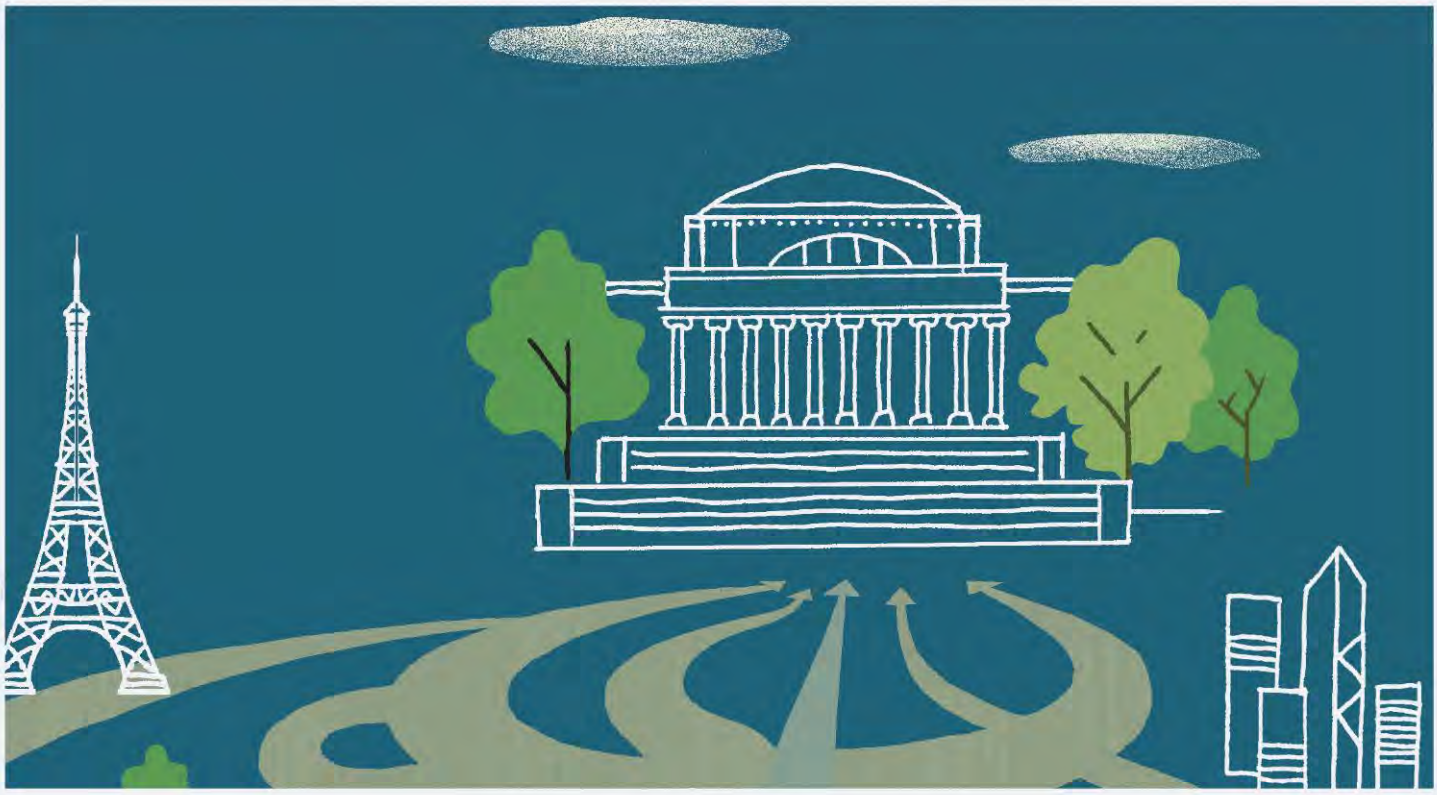
It's only when you ask Morgado about his past, and the path he took to Columbia, that the conversation takes an unusual turn. "I was born and raised in Brazil, and I attended a French secondary school there," Morgado says, his speech inflected with the mildest of Brazilian accents. "I knew about Columbia, but it wasn't really in my college plans." After graduating from the Lycée Molière in Rio de Janeiro, Morgado applied to L'Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris, or Sciences Po, one of France's renowned *grandes écoles*, the handful of universities that have traditionally trained the country's political and cultural elite. Morgado spent two years at the school's "Euro-Latin American" campus in Poitiers, where a select group of 200 undergraduates from 25 different countries take the Sciences Po interdisciplinary curriculum as well as courses in French, English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

In his sophomore year, Morgado heard about the new Dual BA Program Between Columbia University and Sciences Po, in which students from around the world begin their college education in France and conclude it in New York at the School of General Studies, completing each school's undergraduate curriculum. The program gives both Columbia and Sciences Po an infusion of international attitudes and perspectives, while students like Morgado receive two bachelor's degrees from two world-class universities in four years—though thanks to their full integration into the life of the University, few of their fellow Columbia students will ever realize that they are part of a unique program pioneered by GS. "Most people don't even know I'm in GS," says Morgado. "There's absolutely no difference between what students at GS take, and what students from other colleges at Columbia take."

There is a difference however, between the range of innovative programs and the diversity of students that one finds at Columbia and what one finds at other Ivy League institutions, a difference driven in large part by GS. Decades before it began its dual BA program with Sciences Po, GS pioneered a joint-degree program in conjunction with List College, the undergraduate college of The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), the leading institution of higher education in Judaism's Conservative movement. One year later, in 1955, GS established the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program, the oldest and largest program of its kind in the United States. And now, in keeping with President Lee Bollinger's commitment to placing Columbia at the forefront of global education, GS seeks to establish relationships with leading universities from Brazil to Hong Kong.

While all of that might seem to have little to do with GS's long-established mission of serving returning and nontraditional students, it is, in fact, a natural outgrowth of the college's history and purpose. Columbia is the only Ivy League university with a freestanding college that fully integrates such students into the undergraduate classroom. Organized in 1947 as an undergraduate college that catered to GIs returning from World War II, GS has subsequently evolved into an institution that offers people with sufficient talent and drive—whether fresh out of high school, fresh out of the military, or fresh out of their first or second career—the opportunity to take a nontraditional path to a traditional liberal arts degree. GS is the only place where nontraditional students can receive all the benefits of a classic Ivy League education, accompanied by the kind of flexibility and innovation they both need and desire.

There is serendipity here: a college that was founded to serve nontraditional *students* has become a proving ground for nontraditional approaches to the traditional Ivy League *education*. But if there is serendipity in that transformation, there is also great



"A COLLEGE THAT WAS FOUNDED TO SERVE NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS HAS BECOME A PROVING GROUND FOR NONTRADITIONAL APPROACHES TO THE TRADITIONAL IVY LEAGUE EDUCATION."

timeliness and considerable opportunity, for a convergence of factors has made both the education of nontraditional students, and nontraditional approaches to higher education, very much of the moment.

Reasonable people disagree over the relative proportions of traditional and nontraditional students currently enrolled in American colleges and universities, if only because reasonable people also disagree over precisely what the terms "traditional" and "nontraditional" ought to mean. Nonetheless, everyone agrees that the number of nontraditional students is larger than ever before. And it is growing rapidly.

According to Carole Aslanian, senior vice president of Education Dynamics, a consulting firm that provides research and marketing services to colleges and universities, if one takes a strictly age-based approach and defines a "nontraditional" student as someone over the age of 25, then roughly 50 percent of all enrollments qualify. Yet one can also use the criteria employed by the federal Department of Education. It defines as "traditional" those students aged 18 to 24 who live on campus and attend classes full time, and as "nontraditional" everyone else—including those who fall within the18-24 age group yet also have jobs or dependents or attend classes part time. Then the picture changes dramatically; by that reckoning, only 27 percent of all undergraduates in this country qualify as traditional, while the remaining 73 percent are nontraditional.

In other words, according to the federal government, nontraditional students now outnumber their traditional counterparts, a situation that Debra Saunders-White, deputy assistant for higher education programs at the DOE, believes has much to do with money. "The rising cost of college tuition has increased the likelihood that what we have always called the 'traditional student' would become the 'nontraditional student,' Saunders-White says. "Fundamentally, you've got a group of students who are trying to deal with a dynamic of what I would call 'just living.'" Or as Frederick Hess, director of education policy studies at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, puts it: "The assumption that you graduate [from high school] in June, you have your summer to lifeguard, and then you show up on campus in September" now holds true for only "a sliver of students." The rest look far more like those who have historically come to GS: students who have several years of real-world experience under their belts and an armload of competing obligations.

"GS IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS CAN RECEIVE ALL THE BENEFITS OF A CLASSIC IVY LEAGUE EDUCATION."

In addition, Aslanian says, "more and more traditional students are behaving like adults": They want more options and greater flexibility from their educational institutions, along with innovative programs that can help them gain purchase in a highly competitive global landscape. The more closely one looks at the once clear-cut categories of traditional versus nontraditional students, suggests Susan Fuhrman, president of Teachers College, the more one realizes that "the lines are being blurred." This is especially so since the term "nontraditional student" evolved directly out of what now looks like an outmoded focus

on youth in American higher education. "It's been so traditionally organized around the 18-year-old who comes to college directly out of high school that you need some term to talk about anybody who comes in another way," says Claude Steele, former provost of Columbia and now dean of the school of education at Stanford University.

"According to the federal government, nontraditional students now outnumber their traditional counterparts."

The trend toward increasing numbers of nontraditional students, and of traditional students with nontraditional tendencies, has been gathering steam for some time. According to Saunders-White, public institutions and the federal government have responded in recent years by offering more support and resources for nontraditional undergraduates, whom they have begun to regard as but one more component in a diverse student population. "Many institutions understand that the discourse in the classroom can be enhanced by multiple voices from different backgrounds," says Saunders-White, regardless of whether those voices belong to underserved minorities or to older students with richer life experiences and more complex needs than their traditional counterparts.

Yet the country's most selective private institutions have been notably slow to meet the challenge posed by this demographic and cultural shift. Most continue to maintain what Aslanian describes as a "segregated system," in which anyone who does not fit the full-time, fresh-out-of-high-school profile is shunted into a separate and often unequal program of night classes taught by adjunct faculty. The assumption underlying such programs, says Peter Awn, dean of the School of General Studies, is that "if you put an 18-year-old and a 25-year-old in the same classroom, something terrible will happen"; this, despite a study that Aslanian conducted for the College Board some years ago ("Adults in the Classroom") that found that adults make better students overall—a finding that would not surprise most Columbia faculty who have encountered GS students. "They often bring a special hunger for learning," Andrew Delbanco, Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities and chair of the American Studies Department, wrote in an e-mail, "and a seriousness of purpose intensified by the awareness that education is a privilege."

"The rising cost of college tuition has increased the likelihood that what we have always called the 'traditional student' would become the 'nontraditional' student."

The simple fact that GS fully integrates such a large number of nontraditional students into the undergraduate curriculum (roughly 1,500 at last count, or slightly more than 10 percent of the total undergraduate population of the University) is enough to make Columbia unique among selective private institutions. "It's an outlier," says Hess. Saunders-White, at the DOE, concurs. "It's extraordinary," she says, "that an institution like Columbia is so committed to finding strategies to help nontraditional students obtain a degree."

"It's extraordinary that... Columbia is so committed to finding strategies to help nontraditional students obtain a degree."

The failure of its peer institutions to embrace nontraditional students in similar fashion represents both a paradox and a weakness. As Awn notes, no institution of higher learning can claim a commitment to diversity while excluding the majority of aspiring college graduates from its midst—a majority that, one might argue, has the same right to a top-flight education as any other group. "It's incredibly unfair to say that you age out of the private school system," Awn says. Nor, he adds, can any college or university claim to recruit the nation's best students while simultaneously restricting its efforts to less than a third of the total pool, a practice that he describes as both logically inconsistent and highly damaging. "It's a disaster for elite schools. They're becoming more irrelevant."

At Columbia, in contrast, nontraditional students are not only GS's core constituency, but they are also one of the University's greatest assets: a source of strength for the entire Columbia community and a spur to innovation.

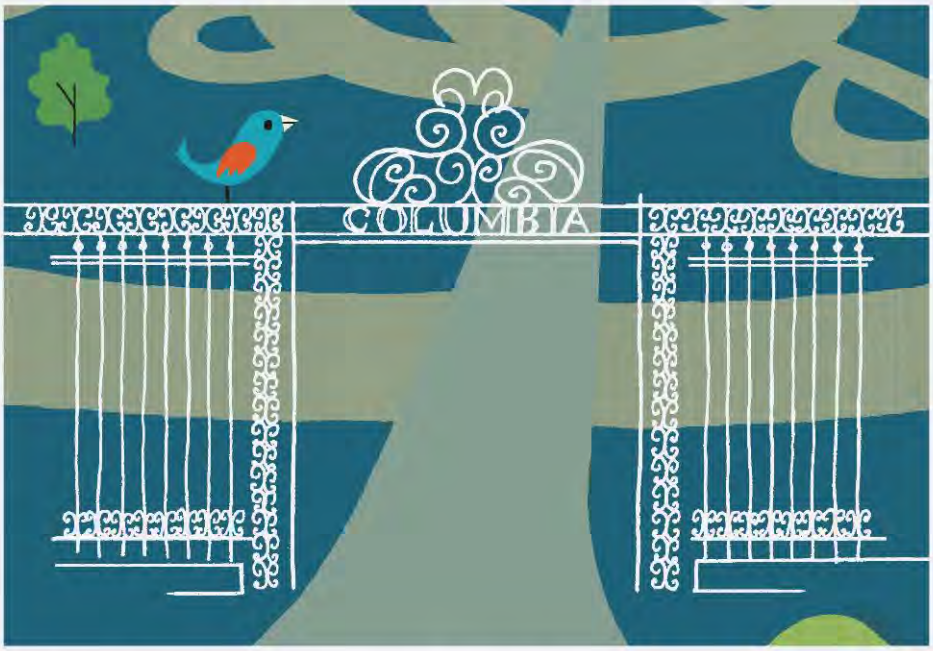
Having spent the past half-century or more figuring out how to provide the most rigorous liberal education possible to military veterans, working professionals, and the parents of small children—students who are forced to deal, in Saunders-White's memorable phrase, with "a dynamic of 'just living'"—GS is uniquely equipped to see and exploit opportunities that other colleges might miss, to attract students whom they might overlook, and to integrate them into the life of the University to the benefit of all.

These are students like Barbara Robey '11, who came to GS to fulfill her passion for biology and medicine—one she had put on hold while raising a family and holding down a job as a Manager of Systems Administration for 20 years. Or there's supermodel Sara Ziff '11, who brought her real life experience on the runway for top designers to her courses in political science. At GS, courses on labor movements and organizing gave Ziff a new lens through which to view her behind-the-scenes knowledge of the often harsh modeling business, spurring her to start a fashion trade organization (See New Graduate Notes on p. 28 for more on Robey, Ziff, and other recent GS graduates).

And, of course, consider Luis Morgado, a Brazilian who came to New York only after having spent two years ensconced in a thoroughly international and multilingual campus at one of Europe's finest universities. The Dual BA Program that brought him to Morningside Heights is helping to fulfill President Bollinger's vision of transforming Columbia into a truly international institution not only by expanding the University's footprint abroad, but also by making the Columbia community at home more closely resemble the wider world of which it is a part. There is little doubt that Morgado's unique cultural perspective and educational experience in France will enrich the academic experience of every undergraduate with whom he comes into contact, both in and out of class. Yet Morgado, who attended a French secondary school in a country famous for its ethnic and racial diversity, seems most impressed by the inclusive nature of Columbia. He says, "The student body is really diverse, and it's not just a question of ethnicity; it's also a question of age and of different backgrounds, especially among GS students. There's probably a lot more diversity at Columbia than there is in any school in Brazil," and he adds, "It really gives you a new perspective on a lot of issues, and it's great for class discussions."

Stanford's Claude Steele agrees. He paints a scenario—typical in GS—of a classroom discussing a classic piece of literature with a group of students whose accumulated life experiences allow them to share perspectives that would otherwise be unavailable to their younger counterparts. "Everyone participating in the discussion is going to benefit from that," he says. "It adds this great dimension of breadth and depth to the undergraduate experience that's hard to get at any other place."

GS students and alumni tend to be highly aware of the exceptional nature of the academic environment at Columbia,



and they often talk about the contribution their fellow students make to the level of intellectual discourse on campus. "We saw people who had these remarkable life stories, people who had totally different outlooks on what we were reading," says Yoni Grossman-Boder ('11 GS/JTS), who sat alongside many GS students while earning two bachelor's degrees—one in history, one in the Hebrew Bible and its interpretation—through the Joint Program. Like Morgado, Grossman-Boder, who currently works at a synagogue in Manhattan and plans to attend Duke Law School, was a traditional student by virtue of his age when he entered college. Yet also like Morgado, the path he chose to pursue was patently nontraditional. The result was a unique, and uniquely valuable, educational experience.

For example, concurrent classes in the Hebrew Bible at JTS and in Roman history at Columbia inspired Grossman-Boder to write a paper comparing Moses and Jesus as typological figures, an idea, he says, "that would not have occurred to me had I not had that Columbia course." Similarly, his exposure at JTS to classic works of Jewish philosophy by the likes of Martin Buber informed his understanding of the material he studied back at Columbia. "It was definitely a two-way street," he says, "and a very intellectually enriching experience"—one that would not have been possible, he hastens to add, without the administrative support provided by GS. "Columbia and JTS schedules don't really line up," explains Grossman-Boder, who averaged seven or eight classes each semester for four years. "I often met with the deans to work it out. It was pretty intense, but they really tried to help us through the nitty-gritty of the thing."

That practical experience with the nitty-gritty of executing ambitious, and at times risky, academic ventures involving a kaleidoscopically diverse student population has made GS the ideal location from which to launch pioneering new programs, and to continue expanding the definition of what constitutes a rigorous liberal education at a top-tier university. And that, in turn, has made the school a source of dynamism and diversity for the University at large.

"It's good for everybody," says Steele, who from his present perch at Stanford's School of Education would like to see the GS model spread to colleges and universities far and wide. "It's good for the traditional student, and for whatever term we're using for the less traditional student. And it has a huge educational advantage for the larger campus." ♔

"At Columbia nontraditional students are not only GS's core constituency, but they are also a source of strength for the entire Columbia community and a spur to innovation."

GS Partners with City University of Hong Kong For Second Dual-Degree Program

BY NANCY J. BRANDWEIN

Two years after the successful establishment of GS's pioneering dual degree program with French university Sciences Po, GS is piloting a dual degree program for the 2012-2013 school year with City University (City U) of Hong Kong. Four students from City U will enroll in Columbia for their junior year this fall and will graduate in 2014 with two degrees from two world-class universities.

The partnership with City U is a natural progression according to Curtis Rodgers, GS's dean of enrollment management, who said, "When Columbia President Lee Bollinger challenged the University to define what it means to be a global university, we responded at GS with the dual degree program with Sciences Po." He added that the dual degree program between Columbia and Sciences Po is really "a model for collaborative, innovative, and truly international undergraduate education. That model can be applied in other regions of the world." When it came to choosing this next region, Rodgers said that East Asia, with its booming development and influence, is an obvious choice.

Launched as recently as 1984—230 years after Columbia University was founded—City U was not an obvious choice; but it may turn out to be the perfect one. While City U did not gain accreditation until 1995, in its short history this comprehensive research university has grown fast and received international acclaim for its academic achievements; it is already ranked 110 among the world's top universities, according to QS World University Rankings. "It's young and innovative and it has great ambition. It's an institution that's going places and has achieved a great deal already," confirmed Rodgers.

City U is equally enthusiastic about GS. Its provost Arthur B. Ellis wrote in an email, "Columbia is an ideal partner because, like City U, it is located in an international financial hub that caters to individuals of all nationalities, and we share common educational values...In addition, our two campuses have already shown they can work together in designing a dual degree program in mathematics that provides a seamless curricular experience for our students." In order to ascertain how well the two Universities' curricula would mesh, the program's planners looked at math majors and mapped the core requirements. "We asked 'how well would a [City U] student transition to GS?'" said Rodgers, "and we were pleased to see that the math majors mapped so well."

Four students who will arrive this fall are in City U's Bachelor of Science Computing Mathematics programme (BSCM). Like all City U students, Quanmiao Gao, Sicong Mo, Hua Tong, and Chenyu Zhou have benefited not only from City U's rigorous core classes but also from its unique Discovery Enriched Curriculum (DEC). "The goal of the DEC is for all City U students to have the opportunity to make an original discovery...students at City U have created commercially successful apps, online businesses and award-winning animations," wrote Provost Ellis. And the four BSCM students jointly stated, "Our BCSM curriculum is well embedded with the Discovery Enriched components. We have ample opportunities to work in groups with professors on mini projects. For instance, in mathematical modeling class, we have to formulate mathematical models and deal with real life problems."

Never divorced from "real life" with its myriad nontraditional students, GS is a fitting launching pad from which this—and future nontraditional pilot programs—can take flight. ♛

The Return of ROTC

Ushering in a New Spirit of Engagement between Columbia and the U.S. Military

BY MAURICE EMERSON DECAUL

Last April, nearly 42 years to the day after a Columbia University Senate subcommittee recommended that the University terminate its association with the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC), the University Senate voted 51-17-1 to bring NROTC back to Columbia, signaling a new spirit of engagement between Columbia and the U.S. military.

Yet, for most of the more than 250 years of the University's history, engagement with the military has been the rule, rather than the exception. Early graduates of King's College fought in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution, and Columbia graduates participated in significant numbers in the Civil War; during World War II, over 20,000 officer candidates were trained for duty at a midshipmen's school located on the Columbia campus, and after the war, Columbia students had the option to participate in NROTC as well as ROTC programs for the Army and Air Force. By the late 1960s, however, tensions ignited by the war in Vietnam led to calls for a reassessment of the ties between universities and the military. At Columbia, demonstrations were mounted against military recruitment on campus and the University's membership in the Institute for Defense Analyses, a consortium of leading universities and government agencies funding military research. After a series of protests at campuses across the country—the most prominent of which occurred at Columbia in the spring of 1968—ROTC programs at many college campuses, in particular those of the Ivy League, were shuttered, creating a recruiting gap in the Northeast that has largely been filled by Southern and Western states.

However, shortly after NROTC was eliminated from Columbia in 1969, attempts to restore the program were made. The first attempt began in 1974 with the Tien Special Committee, which reaffirmed the earlier decision. The issue largely lay dormant for three decades—during which Columbia students had the option to participate in the Army or Air Force ROTC programs—but resurfaced in 2003 via a survey given alongside the Columbia College Student Council elections. Sixty-five percent of survey respondents supported restoring NROTC to campus, contingent upon the repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) policy. An ROTC task force convened by the University Senate in 2005 unanimously agreed that DADT was inconsistent with the University's non-discrimination policy but was evenly split on whether this policy should prevent NROTC's return. In a 2008 survey of the student bodies of Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of General Studies, and Barnard College, 49 percent of respondents voted for NROTC's return.

While the Columbia community debated the impact of ROTC on the University, top military officials addressed the potential consequences of unbalanced recruiting efforts. "If I worry about anything, I worry about the demographics of recruiting," Admiral Mike Mullen, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a question-and-answer session at Columbia's World Leaders Forum in April 2010. "We recruit heavily from the Midwest, the South, the Southwest, etc. And I think the balance of [our recruitment] in the long run has got to be from all over the country."

"It makes sense to focus on places where space is ample and inexpensive, where candidates are most inclined sign up and pursue a career in uniform," former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates remarked in a lecture given at Duke University in September 2010. "But there is a risk over time of developing a cadre of military leaders that politically, culturally, and geographically have less and less in common with the people they have sworn to defend."

In December 2010, following the repeal of DADT, the University Senate convened a task force on military engagement, which, following a series of public hearings, recommended that the Senate formally address the issue of ROTC. The Columbia Senate's vote, while historic, was not *sui generis*:

Yale and Harvard also reinstated ROTC programs in the spring of 2011. Columbia does, however, have the largest population of veterans in the Ivy League—approximately 500 are enrolled for the 2012-13 academic year, with half attending the School of General Studies. GS Dean of Enrollment Management Curtis Rodgers notes that it is "the confluence of two wars, the new Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, the Yellow Ribbon Program, and the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell' that makes 2012 the perfect time for NROTC to return to Columbia's campus."

For a university that prides itself on the diversity of its classrooms, the presence of ROTC cadets is salutary, both for the class and for the cadet, as new graduate Jose Robledo '12, himself a veteran and an Army ROTC cadet, suggests. "You have the cadet sitting there with the veteran, the people who are anti-war, the people who are anti-government, the people who are very pro-government—this cadet can make much more informed decisions about what kind of military leader he is going to be," Robledo says. "The university's role is to continue to expand the opportunities for that conversation to happen."

GS Celebrates Reunion and Dean's Day 2012

Just as commencement crowds finished clearing off of campus, a fresh set of tents was pitched in Morningside Heights—this time, for the 2012 Alumni Reunion Weekend. From June 1-2, generations of General Studies, School of Engineering and Applied Science, Columbia College and Barnard College graduates from classes ending in 2 and 7 gathered for a weekend of activities and celebration.

The weekend ran concurrently with Dean's Day 2012, and over 2,000 Columbia University alumni, friends, and family members participated in the festivities, attending lectures, picnic lunches, and a starlit party on Low Plaza.

GS reunion and Dean's Day participants kicked off the weekend on Friday afternoon at lunch with General Studies Dean Peter J. Awn, who gave a state of the school address. That evening, GS alumni—some celebrating reunion years and others simply celebrating—were treated to a panel discussion with several alumni that discussed Turning Points in GS and the university's history.

"The fabulous dinner in conjunction with great talks with young GSers at the table in Lerner have left me energized," said attendee Phil Ehrlich '88. "It's like falling in love again with GS, which I have never fallen out of love with."

At the dinner panel, making its debut at the reunion, panelists drew from personal and professional experiences to tell GS and Columbia's story. Panelist Lucille Roussin '69 discussed both the 1968 protests and her involvement in the campaign for GS to grant BS and BA degrees. Fellow panelist Nancy Curtin '87 traced CC's transition to a co-educational institution in the 1980s, at which time she was an undergraduate. Speaking on recent GS turning points, Christopher Riano '07, who moderated the panel, highlighted changes to GSSC over the last decade, while Rich Baldassari '12 relayed his experiences as a student veteran.

The dinner panel, like the rest of the weekend's events, was well received. As attendee Wendy Darby '84, '88GSAPP noted, "It was fascinating to hear the history of how GS came to be, its development, and of course, its wonderful present state."

The reunion schedule also included a number of special interest events, including Friday night Tri-College Shabbat Services and Dinner and an LGBTQ Tea the following afternoon. Among Saturday's Dean's Day events were the Public Intellectual Lectures, during which alumni and faculty examined the theme of "Science and Innovation."

"As I have said often, I love Dean's Day," said Elaine Bernstein '72, who co-chaired the event. "The lectures were, as always, interesting and fun, and I did indeed meet classmates and other alums who were interesting and some of whom I fully intend to keep in touch with."

Bernstein's co-chair George Hodge '07 also spoke to the weekend's success and his intentions of staying involved in school events: "Columbia is one the great universities in the country but, more importantly… the institution has had—and will doubtless continue to have—a profound impact on me and my life." ♔

1. Dean's Day attendees with Peter Awn
2. Dick Balkite '67 with wife Susan and Elaine Bernstein '72
3. Agata and Greg Strzelichowski '02 chat with Dean Awn.
4. Student Richard Baldassari, Nancy Curtain '87, Christopher Riano '07, and Lucille Roussin '69
5. Heather Byrne '88, Grace Krumweide '52 and husband Wayne, Cal Reynolds '52, Joan Potter Arnold '52, and Irene Morosov '74
6. Reunion attendees pose with the GS crest.

SAVE THE DATE!
REUNION WEEKEND 2013
MAY 31–JUNE 2, 2013

GS
ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

Susan Feagin: Columbia Alumni Medal Recipient 2011

An Accidental Career Move Leads to a Life in Development—and the Shaping of a New Field

BY ROBERT AST '08

Susan Feagin '74 first came to Columbia in the fall of 1968, a transitional moment both for the University, which was still reeling from the student revolt in the spring, and for her personally. "I was 19 years old, I had one year of college in Texas, I was just married, and I had just been on an airplane for the first time," she recalls.

Feagin planned to work full-time while her husband, a Columbia College student, completed his education. She obtained a job as a "junior, junior, junior secretary" in the president's office and almost simultaneously matriculated at the School of General Studies. "GS was much more of a part-time place then," she remarks. "There were more classes in the evening, more of us who were working full time and going to school part time." At the time, the GS and CC faculties were distinct entities and the GS faculty was made up largely with adjunct and non-tenure-track female professors, she recalls. "What I've realized in retrospect, though" she notes, "is that some of the very best faculty I had were these young women and young faculty members, who I think in today's world would be tenured and would be very senior but at that time just didn't have that opportunity."

She continued working at the University in an administrative capacity until she graduated in 1974 with a degree in sociology, and took a job with Columbia's then relatively small alumni and development office. "I was the first person Columbia hired to do research on potential donors, corporations, foundations," she says. "It was an opportunity for me to move from the administrative secretarial positions to a sort of junior professional one, and so without knowing a whole lot about it I made the move on that basis, because it seemed like a career opportunity. And then over the next three or four years it just became clear to me this was something I enjoyed doing and that I had some aptitude for the various roles the job required, and I would say within five years I thought, 'Okay this is something I think I really want to invest in over time as a career.'"

Over the next two decades she worked in alumni relations and development at Columbia and Harvard, and, consequently, had a firsthand

vantage point as the burgeoning field took shape. "Development as we know it today was really created in the second half of the 20th century," she observes. "Coming into it in the mid-'70s was a wonderful opportunity for me both here and at Harvard to be part of the new ways of thinking about how to connect alumni back to the university and how to engage people in a new way, so that they feel invested and want to make a significant gift back to their school."

In 1998 Lee Bollinger, then president of the University of Michigan, recruited her to Ann Arbor to serve as vice president for development, and his appointment as president of Columbia gave her a chance not only to return to her alma mater, but also to use her own experience as an alumna. "When I came back to Columbia in 2002, Lee and I talked about our experiences as Columbia alumni and the fact that Columbia needed to be very different in its outreach to alumni," she says. "There was so much that could be done and that needed to be done. And so I came back as a vice president on a mission to remake and rethink Columbia's relationships with its alumni and that's been both professional and very personal."

Even before her professional return to Columbia, though, Feagin was active as a volunteer in the GS alumni community, serving on the GS Advisory Council and endowing a scholarship for GS students. "When Gillian Lindt was the dean of GS, we had lunch, and she asked me if I would consider creating a scholarship," she recalls. "I think she knew it was something I'd been thinking about doing—but she asked me for twice as much money as I'd been thinking about giving, and I was so impressed that she did that that I found myself agreeing to it. Every year I get to meet the scholar who's supported by my scholarship and then keep track of some of the ones who've gone before and what they're doing. I think creating a scholarship fund is the best way to stay in very close contact with what's going on in your school over the course of the year, so it's been a thrill for me to be able to do that myself.

"You know, in General Studies we always talk about our nontraditional students, but I don't really like that term. I think we're all students who came to Columbia in nontraditional ways, but we're very traditional in the way we feel about General Studies and Columbia."

Feagin recently stepped down as executive vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations to accept a new position as special advisor to President Bollinger. And while the successes during her nearly decade-long tenure are numerous—including such notable accomplishments as the creation of the Columbia Alumni Association, the establishment of the Columbia Alumni Center, and the $5 billion Columbia Campaign, which has thus far surpassed its fundraising benchmarks—she received the Columbia Alumni Medal at the 2011 Commencement ceremony not for her professional work, but for her volunteer efforts. "One of the things I didn't expect about graduation day was the instant camaraderie among the alumni medalists," she says. "There was a sense of personal pride, but also the shared sense of being part of Columbia and part of this remarkable day."

Watch the video of Susan Feagin on Columbia's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/columbiauniversity.

"It Burns"—How GS Helped Alumnus John Cerrato Realize a Passion for His Profession

BY ANNA O'SULLIVAN

When John Cerrato '76, DMD, then 16, was serving as an orderly at Westchester Square Hospital, he watched a-two-and-a-half-year old die in his arms, which was a serious blow to his thoughts of becoming a physician like his father and great uncle. Despite this traumatic experience, today, Cerrato is a top dentist in his field.

Born into an Italian immigrant family, Cerrato was raised in the Bronx and in Pelham Manor and attended Mount St. Michael Academy. After high school, in 1965, he enrolled at New York University and majored in biology. Upon graduation, Cerrato decided to enter the teaching field, but after four years it lost its luster, and he spent the next year as a sales representative for Pfizer.

Still not satisfied with his career choice, he began to consider his options. Cerrato was always very artistic, sculpting and painting, like his Italian great grandfather, which prompted him to think about how he could incorporate his talents into a career. He then he spoke to a few friends who were dentists and realized that dentistry may be a good choice—he enjoyed working with his hands and wouldn't have to deal with people dying.

Knowing that he needed some additional coursework in order to apply to dental schools, he was in search of way to launch his new career. Part of his Pfizer sales territory was Morningside Heights, and after seeing a New York Times ad for the School of General Studies, Cerrato decided to make a stop.

"I came into the office in a three-piece suit, and was like, 'Here I am.' So Sylvia Basoff — who was an academic advisor and was a little old lady sitting in a chair, a wheelchair, if I remember correctly—starts sizing me up. She then gets up on her elbows, leans across the table, and with her little, boney finger with a long nail pokes me in the chest and said, 'Does it burn? Does it burn in here? Now, if it doesn't burn, don't come back. Get out of here.'"

Cerrato was stunned, and he went home to think what Bassoff had said.

A few days later, he came back to the office, and said, "Sylvia, it burns." And she said, "Okay, then get out of here and go fill out the forms. And that was the start of it," Cerrato said.

Cerrato spent the next two years commuting from Westchester completing his prerequisites for dental school through the Postbac Premed Program, which he describes as his proving grounds.

"I had an organic chemistry professor who told our class that only five of us would receive A's. On the final, he gave us a 20-point question that would decide my grade. I sat there for a half hour, and then finally I got it. And so I was one of the five people. That's when I realized I really had a shot," Cerrato said.

After completing the Postbac Premed Program in 1976, Cerrato was offered a spot in the University of Pennsylvania MD-PhD Program, but stuck with his original plan of pursuing dentistry and spent the next four years at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine while balancing his studies with his family obligations. He went on to complete a one-year general practice residency at Booth Memorial Hospital in Queens, N.Y., before joining his current Garden City, N.Y., practice with Ernest Pelloni, Sr., DDS.

Thirty years later, Cerrato, who has served as Nassau County Peer Review Committee chairman, on the Nassau County Dental Society board of directors and executive board for 25 years, the New York State Peer Review for Dentistry, and is a former Nassau County Dental Society president, said that maintaining balance is his greatest success.

"I attribute a lot of my success to Dr. L.D. Pankey, a controversial yet increasingly influential voice of dentistry. His philosophy focused on the cross of life—your community, your practice, your family, and your religion, and the necessity to remain centered. With that in mind, I've always tried to maintain balance—evening meals with my family, attending everything my children ever did in school as well as coaching them in sports while still dedicated to my profession, religion, and community," Cerrato said.

Cerrato's dedication to his community now extends to School of General Studies alumni. After being invited to attend the GS Scholarship Reception in 2010, shortly after his eldest son died, Cerrato was seated next to Albert J. Blaylock who started a memorial scholarship for his own son, Clayton, who passed away during his last semester at GS. Cerrato's interaction with Blaylock motivated him to not only create scholarship funds at his son's alma maters, both college and high school, but also to serving the School of General Studies.

Today, Cerrato serves on the GS Annual Fund Leadership Committee as a representative of the Postbac Premed Program, and is excited to support both Postbac students and alumni in whatever way he can.

POSTBAC PREMED STUDENTS GAIN INCREASED ACCESS TO TOP-TIER MEDICAL EDUCATION

(Photo left; Left to Right) Lola Grillo, Jesse Koskey, Anna Starikovsky, Kristen Beck, Associate Dean for Admissions, Stephen Nicholas, M.D., Paul Reardon, Margo Lederhandler, and Alison Levy were the first class of admitted students through the linkage program with Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Not pictured: James Rim, Charles Rinehart, and Nicholas Shea.

(Photo above Left-Right) Chelsea Townes, Jason Gordon, and Katherine Fleming were the first class of admitted students through the linkage program with Columbia University College of Dental Medicine.

Columbia University Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program students now have greater access to a top-tier medical education through new linkage program agreements with Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Weill Cornell Medical College. The two Columbia linkage programs are the first and only such programs with any postbaccalaureate premedical program.

These agreements provide top students with the ability to expedite their applications to these schools. According to Peter J. Awn, Dean of Columbia University School of General Studies, all three linkage programs began accepting applications in January 2011 for their entering classes.

"We are delighted about this new partnership, which provides highly-qualified students greater access to the world-class medical education offered at both institutions," Awn said.

Linkage is a formal agreement between a postbaccalaureate program and a medical school that enables exceptional students with a strong interest in a specific medical school to accelerate the application process. In addition to these new agreements, the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program maintains linkage agreements with 11 other medical schools including The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, and Mount Sinai School of Medicine to name a few.

NEW COMBINED PROGRAM OFFERS BIOETHICS FOUNDATION FOR POSTBAC PREMEDS

Bioethics is a rapidly expanding discipline that brings together studies in law, philosophy, religion, economics, science, and history. It seeks to confront the challenges created by rapid changes in biotechnology and biomedicine, from end-of-life care to DNA sequencing to new reproductive technologies. For future healthcare providers, bioethics can provide a crucial and relevant foundation for the practice of medicine.

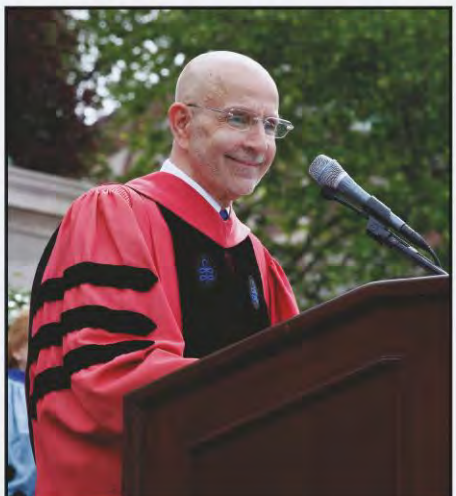
Now Postbac Premed students have the exciting opportunity to use bioethics as the base for their own budding medical careers. They can enrich and diversify their premedical educations, prior to enrolling in medical school, through the new Combined Postbac Premed-M.S. Bioethics Program, offered in partnership with the School of Continuing Education. Students will take courses in the Bioethics program during the second year of the Postbac Premed Program, while completing the premedical degree requirements, and they will continue the program throughout their glide year.

Peter J. Awn, Dean of Columbia University School of General Studies, praised the novel program for providing, "… exceptional students with a crucial and relevant foundation for the practice of medicine." Similarly, Kristine Billmyer, Dean of Columbia University School of Continuing Education, is thrilled with the partnership. She said, "Graduates of the combined program will go on to study medicine through the lens of an emerging discipline that is preoccupied with a range of issues that will change the practice of medicine throughout the world."

For more information about the Combined Postbac Premed-M.S. Bioethics Program and how to apply, please visit www.gs.columbia.edu/postbac/bioethics.

CLASS DAY 2012

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIVITO



1. Gac Filipaj graduated after nearly two decades of coursework.
2. Class Day procession from the steps of the Low Library
3. Faculty, administrators, and student speakers on the dais
4. Dean Peter J. Awn
5. President Lee C. Bollinger
6. General George W. Casey
7. Class Day speaker Thomas Reardon '08
8. Graduates and guests at the ceremony
9. Salutatorian Aliza Kathryn Minogue-Nachison
10. Alexander Ludlam, Ghadeer Mahmoud, and Olivia Mandelbaum
11. President Bollinger conferring a degree
12. Valedictorian Maxwell Bertolero
13. Dean Peter J. Awn, Amanda Raines, and family
14. Jessica Crenshaw and family
15. General George W. Casey with U.S. veteran graduates
16. Biting Fish Brass Band

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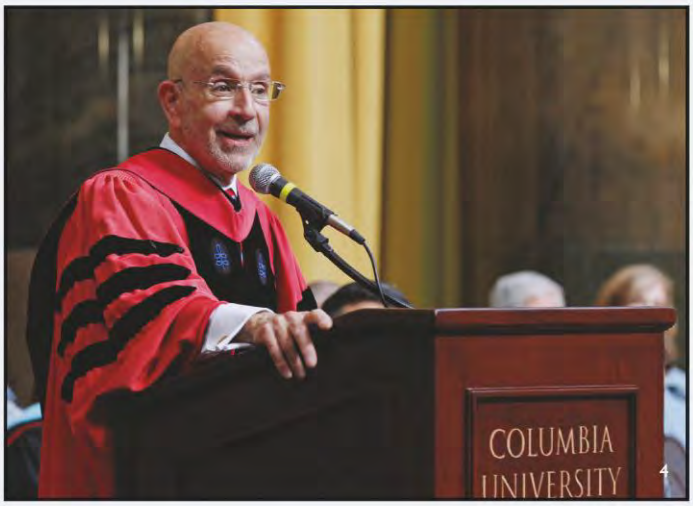
POSTBAC PREMED CLASS DAY 2012

1. *Florence Couvrette and family*
2. *The band plays as the ceremony begins.*
3. *Claire Tobas, Claire Bayan, John Andrews, Laura Rekedal, and Eytan Rasekh*
4. *Dean Peter J. Awn*
5. *Associate Dean Victoria Rosner*
6. *Class Day speaker Dr. Robert Klitzman*
7. *Postbac Director Andrew Sunshine*
8. *Dean Peter J. Awn and Diana Hsu*
9. *Student speaker Jillian Diuguid*
10. *Milna Rufin and Postbac Advisor Limary Carrasquillo*



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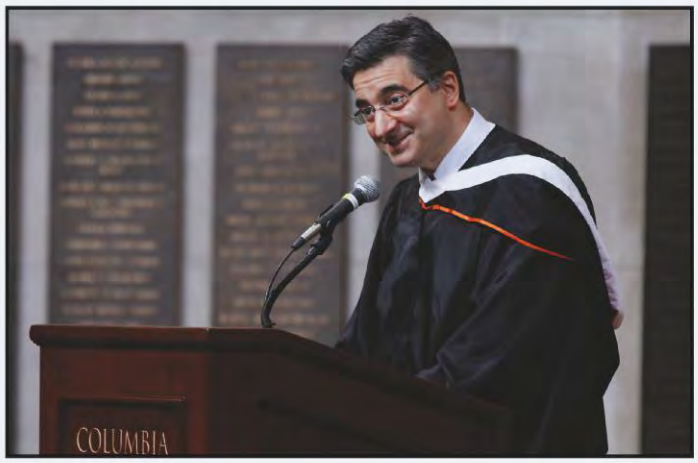

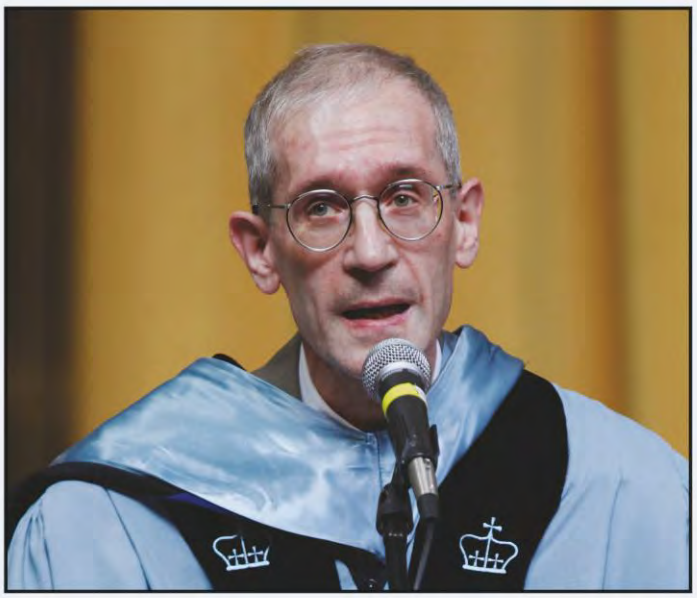

GS ANNUAL GIVING

The School of General Studies experienced a tremendous level of giving to the GS Annual Fund during the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Gifts totaled approximately $661,000, an increase of 21 percent over the previous year.

During its second year, the GS Annual Fund Leadership Committee, chaired by Deborah Marshall '79, raised over $200,000 toward this annual fund total.

Over $105,000 was raised from GS alumni celebrating their reunion year in 2011. The GS Class of 2011 raised an impressive $5,500 through its Senior Gift Fund drive.

The GS Annual Fund is the school's primary vehicle for alumni giving and an important way for alumni to commemorate their GS experience. Each gift is appreciated, no matter the size. The GS Annual Fund supports critical areas such as financial aid, housing, and the dean's top priorities.

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Ms. Carol Goodnow Gray '86
Karen S. Greenberg, M.D. '88
Mr. Ravindra Gupta '02
Mr. Milton E. Hatfield Jr. '50
Joseph J. Jacobs, M.D. '73
Mrs. Jennifer Jacobs-Deutsch
Samuel Lawrence Judice, M.D. '87
Mr. Tae Hil Kang '91, '96BUS
Mark F. Katz, Esq. '69
Mrs. Ellen M. Kealy '83
Mrs. M. Whitney Keen '73
Mr. Robert E. Kenyon III '62
Mrs. Jacqueline Klein-Stroyman '08
Steven Neal Konstadt, M.D. '77, '98BUS
Dr. Robert S. Kruger '69
Mr. Leon A. Lassovsky '75
Mr. Daniel Hampton Law '03
Ms. Jane Dickler Lebow '67
Mr. Andrew D. Lenney '96
Mr. Jonathan Levin '50
Miss Martha E. Lindner '67
Miss Veronica Luard '73
Ms. Rebecca Mandel
Miss Julia Mangan '51
Mr. Charles F. Mansfield '65
Ms. Shannon Colleen McDonald '99
Mr. John L. McGraw '57
Mrs. Kathleen E. McKay '67
Mrs. Marjorie D. Meek '57
Mrs. Patricia F. Mendelsohn '74, '76GSAS
Mrs. Dinah Merkin Mendes '75
The Merck Company Foundation
Mr. Gabriel Meszaros '61

Mr. J. Roger Moody '58SEAS
Michael D. Moon, Ph.D. '79
John E. Muendel, Ph.D. '63
Prof. James I. Nakamura '52, '64GSAS
Mr. Peter Neill
Mr. Christopher Robin Nelson '90, '99 PH
Network for Good
Mr. Khai Hoang Nguyen '97
Mr. Jacques G. Pepin '70, '72GSAS
Mr. Roman Pipko '83
Ms. Loredana Pollonio-Lister '84
Mrs. Marsha G. Potchtar
Mr. Dave Prail
Ms. Porat Saar '01
Ms. Shelley A. Schmokel '95, '97SEAS
Howard L. Schwartz, Esq. '49LAW
Mr. Michael David Scudder '85
SD Apps, Inc.
Secured Asset Management, LLC
Mr. George Warren Shannon '91
Ms. Alice Haynes Stein '87
Mr. Myer R. Strauss '76
Mr. Pavan Surapaneni '06
Mr. Peter Francis Sweeney '84
Mr. Kevin Lee Truex '03
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
Sylvia Rose-Ann Walker, Ph.D. '78
Mr. Leonard M. Wasserman '68
Ms. Sandra Weisenthal '73, '74BUS
Mr. Justin Michael White '05, '07BUS
Mr. Charles C. Windisch '60
Mrs. Caroline Wueschner '71
Mr. Paul Zachary '10
Mr. Zhuo Zheng '07

*	Deceased
BUS	Graduate School of Business
CC	Columbia College
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
GS	School of General Studies
HON	Honorary degree recipient
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
LS	School of Library Service
LAW	School of Law
P	Parent of alumnus
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
PS	College of Physicians and Surgeons
SCE	School of Continuing Education
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
W	Widow/Widower of

ANNUAL GIVING

PARTICIPATE, CELEBRATE, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The GS Annual Fund is the School's primary vehicle for alumni giving. Throughout the year, participants are invited to unique events that enable them to stay connected to Columbia and GS. In addition to the annual GS Scholarship Celebration held in Columbia's Low Rotunda, this past year events were held at the Museum of Modern Art, the homes of Judy Tanenbaum '83PBPM and Heather Byrne '88, and at Landmarc restaurant in the Time Warner Center.

Newcombe Reception, Faculty Room in Low Memorial Library – April 5, 2011

1. Past and present recipients of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation Scholarship gathered on April 5, 2011 to celebrate the foundation's long-term support of School of General Studies students.

Annual Fund Scholarship Reception in Low Rotunda, Columbia University – November 15, 2011

2. Yaw Tachie-Baffour '12 addressed guests at the GS Scholarship Celebration in Low Rotunda on November 15, 2011.

3. Sandy and Malcolm Borg '65 with student Jeremy Hoffeld, recipient of the North Jersey Media Group Scholarship

4. Angela de Lara '78BUS with student recipients of the Juan Jacobo de Lara and Jonne Low de Lara Foundation, Inc., Current-Use Scholarship and the Juan Jacobo de Lara and Jonne Low de Lara Foundation, Inc., Endowed Scholarship

5. Sally and Larry J. Lawrence '69, '71BUS with student recipients Leslie Quade and Yaw Tachie-Baffour '12

Annual Fund Spring Reception held at the Museum of Modern Art hosted by Mike Margitich '99 - June 2011

6. Jackie Klein-Stroyman '08 and her husband, Matthew

7. GS Annual Fund Leadership donors enjoy reception at MoMA.

8. Axel Fougner '12 addressed guests at the reception.

9. Bill Strong, Dean Peter Awn, and Rose Mukhamadyarova '12

10. Maddie and Stephen Tobias '10

11. Mike Margitich '99, deputy director for development at MoMA, hosted the Annual Fund Spring Reception.

First Annual Fund Boutique Lecture Series at the home of Judy Tanenbaum '83PBPM – March 29, 2012

12. Judy, Kayla, and William Tanenbaum with Dean Peter Awn. Judy Tanenbaum '83PBPM hosted the first Annual Fund Boutique Lecture Series at her home on March 29, 2012.

13. Arnab Gupta, spouse of Dr. Maureen Gupta '02 with Scott Meserve, '91CC

14. Senior class representatives Amanda Koch and Gerard Miller '12 chatted with Sheila Brogan-Testa '91, TC'92.

15. Dean Peter Awn delivers his lecture "Unraveling the Arab Spring" as Charla and Paul Croitoroo '79, Dr. Nancy Jaicks '73, Sharon Casdin (sp), Anita Christy(sp) '88, Katharine "Trina" Overlock '73, and Nancy Lewis '78, look on. The event was enjoyed more than 60 alumni.

Second Annual Fund Boutique Lecture Series at the home of Heather Byrne '88 – April 19, 2012

16. Heather Byrne '88 and partner Ron Helmeci hosted the second Annual Fund Boutique Lecture Series event at their home.

17. Dean Awn, Paul Yates '05, Aries Dela Cruz '09 listen to fellow alumna Heather Byrne '88.

18. Dr. Nilda Mesa took guests' questions during her lecture, "Greening an Urban University."

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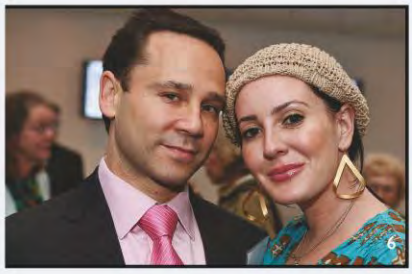
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11

18

Alumni NOTES

EDITED BY ROBERT AST, JEANETTE LEBLANC, AND NANCY BRANDWEIN

1954

Robert Goldfarb, one of the first students to attend Columbia under the Korean War GI Bill, is the president and founder of Urban Directions, Inc., a global consulting firm. McGraw-Hill recently published his book, *What's Stopping Me From Getting Ahead?* The book isolates the 12 top behaviors that keep mid- to upper-level managers from getting ahead. Goldfarb drew on his thirty years as a management consultant, mentoring individual managers and management teams throughout the world.

1954

Joseph J. Duome is the president of ICS Communications and the author, most recently, of a political thriller, *Tyranny of Darkness*. A former New York City journalist and advertising professional, Duome is also the author of *Return to Yesterday*, *Lady in the House*, and *Echoes From the Past*.

1963

John Tauranac, design chief of the official 1979 New York City subway map, recently spoke at the Columbia Bookstore about his book *New York From the Air*.

1964

Wally Wood, who, in 1961, was one of the founding editors of *The Columbia Owl* weekly student newspaper, has just published *Getting Oriented: A Novel About Japan*. The book stems from his experiences as a tour guide in Japan, a job he obtained thanks to the Japanese he learned at GS.

1965

Cathy Robbins published her first book, *All Indians Do Not Live in Teepees (or Casinos)*, in October 2011. In a review, Publishers Weekly dubbed the book "a marvel." Robbins is now working on her second book, *Nobody Travels South of Rome*, about Calabria, the toe of the Italian boot.

1970

Jacques Pépin was recently profiled in the *New York Times* for his 26th cookbook, *Essential Pépin*, which debuted in October 2011. The book features more than 700 recipes from throughout Pépin's career: recipes from his childhood in France, from his apprenticeships, and from his more familiar role, teaching cooking on television.

1973

Diane Falk, an Ambassador for Peace through the Universal Peace Federation, is also a researcher, writer, author, and editor for numerous publications including *The New Word Encyclopedia*. In addition to her writings, Falk lectures for the Unification Thought Institute in both New York and Washington, D.C.

1981

Roger House published his first book, *Blue Smoke*, with the Louisiana State University Press in 2010. A biography of the legendary Chicago bluesman Big Bill Broonzy, *Blue Smoke* was a finalist in the 2011 Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC) Awards for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research. House is currently an assistant professor in American Studies at Emerson College in Boston and has produced documentary programs on African-American history for National Public Radio. His website is bluesmokestory.com

1983PBPM

Bennett (Ben) Pologe is a clinical psychologist licensed in New York. He recently began a website called www.AboutPsychotherapy.com that strives to explain psychotherapy in clear and accessible language without trivializing the subject. The website also includes material from a book Pologe is writing. In addition to the developments in his practice and website, Pologe has recently acted in plays at Avery Fisher Hall.

1983PBPM

Art Papier is Chief Medical Information Officer at Logical Images, a dynamic medical technology company that aims to reduce error in healthcare. He co-founded the company over 10 years ago and is also an associate professor at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

1985

Tina Casey writes on sustainability and is a regular contributor to CleanTechnica.com, TriplePundit.com, and TPM. She is currently Deputy Director of Public Information for the County of Union, NJ, and has authored four books for young people on recycling and sustainability themes.

1987

Photography by **Geraldine (Gerry) Visco** was displayed in "I Check You," an exhibition at the Munch Gallery in New York in 2011. Visco's photography has been showcased in numerous publications and galleries. She won Best of Award as Bravest Nightlife Photographer of 2010. She currently works for Columbia University as an academic department administrator in the Classics Department. Visco also has a weekly column, "The Bash Compactor," in the *New York Press* and was nominated for a Glammy in 2010 for Best Nightlife Journalist.

1988

Donald Unger, currently a professor at MIT, recently published a book entitled, *Men Can: The Changing Image & Reality of Fatherhood in America*. Unger wrote *Men Can* based on his personal experience, real-life family stories, and media portrayal of fathers. The book is a call to action to encourage families to equally distribute domestic labor in a gender-neutral manner.

1989

After serving as deputy registrar at Princeton, **Robert Bromfield** is now the university registrar and assistant dean of academic and enrollment services at the University of San Francisco.

1992

Mark Rotella is a senior writer at *Publishers Weekly*, and is the author of two celebrated books, *Stolen Figs and Other Adventures in Calabria* and *AMORE: The Story of Italian American Song*. His most recent book, Amore, published in 2010, is described by Rotella's website as a "celebration of the 'Italian Decade.'" In addition, Rotella has published numerous articles in *The New York Times* and his blog, "The Enthusiast," chronicles his obsessive interests in culture, food, wine, travel, and more.

1992

Laurie Parise became a clinical professor at Brooklyn Law School in September. After graduating from GS, Parise attended Brooklyn Law School and went on to start Youth Represent, the only youth defense and advocacy legal organization in New York.

1993

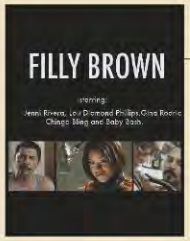
René Aubry founded the Denise Haiti Disaster Relief in the days following the January 2011 Haiti earthquake The new organization sent a group of doctors to Port-au-Prince, coordinated the delivery of medical supplies, established volunteer housing, and a base from which to operate. Aubry also established Ciel Capital Partners, LLC, a socially responsible venture fund whose mission is to significantly increase knowledge-based, value-added employment in Haiti.

1996

Ingrid Bengis-Palei, founder of Ingrid Bengis Seafood, was the subject of a *New York Times* magazine story in October 2010. While highlighting many of Bengis-Palei's accomplishments, such as her nomination for a National Book Award, the story mainly emphasized Bengis-Palei's dedication to delivering quality products and making sure her buyers know the stories of the islanders who provide the seafood they cook. Bengis-Palei's goal is to lessen the space between the people of Stonington, CT who are responsible for catching the seafood and the chefs who prepare the food for the world's elite restaurants.

1997

Stephen Page is the author of *The Timbre of Sand* and *Still Dandelions*. He is the recipient of The Jess Cloud Memorial Prize for Poetry, a Writer-in-Residence with stipend from the Montana Artists Refuge, a full Writer Fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center, an Imagination Grant from Cleveland State University, and an Arvon Foundation Ltd. Grant. He recently published his short story, "The Court Martial of Lance Corporal Jones" on whistlingfire.com as well as several poems on foxchasereview.org.



2000

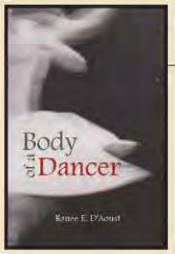
Michael D. Olmos produced and co-directed *Filly Brown*, a movie about a tough L.A. street poet trying to break into the music scene. It was an official selection of the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

2001

Larysa Kondracki directed and co-wrote *The Whistleblower*, a critically acclaimed thriller starring Rachel Weisz. Based on a true story, the film is about a female police officer from Nebraska who served as a peacekeeper in post-war Bosnia and exposed the complicity of local police, UN peacekeepers, and employees of the American private security firm, DynCorp, in sex trafficking. *The Whistleblower* premiered at the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival and was released in the US on August 7, 2011.

2001

Emerson Miller is now a student in the Master's of Public Administration in International Development (MID) degree program at Tsinghua University's School of Public Policy & Management in Beijing.



2001

Renee D'Aoust is the author of *Body of a Dancer*, a collection of essays exploring "the brutal and passionate world of modern dance in New York City," recently published by Etruscan Press. More information is available on her website, reneedaoust.com.

2002

Kevin Turn produced *Arbitrage*, starring Richard Gere and Susan Sarandon, an official selection of the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

2002

Gerald Jackson, Jr. directed his first feature film, *Truly Everlasting*, which is now available on DVD.

2003

Carlos Barrezueta is Executive Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Initiatives at Miami Dade College, which he founded in 2010. The Center gives economically challenged and immigrant students access to academic speakers, government officials, and other extraordinary opportunities.

2003

Allison Smith was granted a Marc Hershman Marine Policy Fellowship in July 2011. She will work with Puget Sound Partnership to help develop the policy and framework for implementing a network of protected marine areas in Puget Sound.

2004

Thomas Ikimi both scripted and directed *Legacy*, a film about a black-ops solider who returns home to Brooklyn after a botched mission in Eastern Europe. The film has been shown at numerous film festivals and won Best Picture at the American Black Film Festival in 2010. Sky Movies praised Ikimi by claiming, "...credit goes to direct Ikimi for...turning in a directing debut that shows potential for future promise." Most recently, *Legacy* won Ikimi a Screen Nation Award for Achievement in Cinematic Direction on October 18, 2011.

2006

Ariel Osterweis Scott is now assistant professor of dance and performance studies at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich. and the proud mother of two boys.

2007

Christopher Riano is the founder and CEO of The Riano Group, a legal and policy consulting firm based in New York, NY with offices in Washington, DC. The Riano Group focuses on serving the diverse requirements of national and international institutions of higher education. Since September of 2010, Riano has served as the inaugural Chairman of the Board of Visitors for the Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate at Columbia University.

2007

Gene Park is the sound designer for *The Comedy*, an official selection of the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

2007

Torah Bontrager appeared in MTV's show "True Life," in the episode "True Life: I'm Ex-Amish."

2007 and 2008 PBPM

Sarah Housman and **Jonathan Grossman** met as postbac students at Columbia and are now married and fourth year students together at Brown's Warren Alpert Medical School. The two were featured in *Brown Medicine* as medical student parents; their daughter, Hannah, was born in 2010.

2008

Ken Barnes recently had an opinion piece published in *The Sacramento Bee*. The piece, entitled "Viewpoints: Racist cartoon of Obama forces me to leave GOP, " discussed the specter of racism in the Republican party and Barnes later on gave a radio interview for "Sacramento's The Capitol Hour" to further discuss this and other topics his article raised.

2008

Robert Brink has co-written and directed a short film called *Devil Deal Blues*. The film is based on award-winning playwright Willy Holtzman's play, *San Antonio Sunset*, after Holtzman gave Brink adaptation rights. *Devil Deal Blues*, set in Texas during the 1930's, reimagines blues genius Robert Johnson and his journey to a record deal.

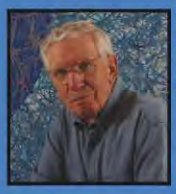
2008

Susannah Karlsson, a recent graduate of Stanford Law School, was featured on the front page of the *San Francisco Chronicle* for her work on the Three Strikes Project, the only legal organization in the country that fights for individuals serving life sentences under California's Three Strikes law.

1957

Edmund W. Pease

Edmund W. Pease has lived a double life since graduating from GS: He pursued careers as a management executive and as a visual artist, simultaneously, and has made his mark in both. While rising up to vice president at Chase Manhattan Bank, Pease, under the *nom de brosse*, or brush name, Lancelott, opened four solo exhibitions in New York as well as shows in Bangkok. Fifteen of his works are held in nine institutional and corporate collections, including a major painting in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Fine Arts in Amman, Jordan and the National Gallery of Thailand. Today he lives on a small island in Thailand and recently published his first book, *River of Silence*.



River of Silence is compilation of music-inspired artwork by Pease and two other artists that was on exhibit at the National Gallery in Bangkok. Alongside the artwork are essays and commentary by a variety of music and art professionals, creating a dialogue on the aesthetic relationship between the two fields. Pease considers *River of Silence* a culminating event in his career as a visual artist. The title of the book and exhibit is taken from a quotation by Khalil Gibran: "Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing."

Moving back and forth between the worlds of banking and art took a special kind of discipline. Pease not only devoted long hours to his executive duties, but he was also a committee volunteer for a number of arts organizations and for GS as well. He said, in an email, "I recall working 60-70 hours for the bank while devoting an additional 20-30 hours per week to volunteer commitments…During this period I was making small-scale works, mainly collages, that could be completed in a few hours at one setting…Sometimes I would awake from a dream in the middle of the night, get up to make a quick sketch, then return to bed, leaving the actual execution of the work until several days later when I had time to complete it." It's not hard to see then, why Pease has taken to heart choreographer Garth Fagan's favorite and oft repeated dictum: Discipline is Freedom.

"The passion and commitment to make art is always present in me!" wrote Pease, and it is the discipline that ensures he completes his artworks—even though he says that the lapse time from initial inspiration to complete, fully realized work might stretch from weeks to years.

2009

Peter Kim, a retiree from the Marine Corps and former president of the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University, was featured in the *Daily News*. The article praised Kim for his efforts of recruiting veterans to Columbia, as well as for being vice president of the New York Marine Executive Association, a mentoring group.

2009

Vivian Papp recently received her MA in British and American Literature from Hunter College. She will be teaching English at SUNY-Westchester Community College as of September 2011.

2009

An article by **Häly Laasme,** "NATO and the European Defense Agency—Not a Zero-Sum Game," was published in the *NATO Review* and distributed to all the participants of the 2010 NATO Summit in Lisbon. A subsequent article, "Estonia, Cyber Window into the Future of NATO," was published by the National Defense University in *Joint Force Quarterly*, the official journal of the US Defense Department.

2009

Constantino Diaz-Duran walked across America. On July 4, 2011 he embarked on a journey to walk across the country to celebrate becoming eligible for U.S. citizenship. The Guatemalan native fled the country in 2001, gaining political asylum in the U.S. He started his walk from New York and has passed through West Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama. After stops in Texas, Kansas, and Arizona, he concluded his trek in Los Angeles.

2009

Sean O'Keefe earned an MSc from the London School of Economics in Operational Research and joined Bridgewater Associates as a data associate.

2010

Lena Park, also known as Park Jung-hyun, is a competitor on the MBC singer survival program "I Am a Singer," a show that appeals to the Korean community. A survey conducted by Ticketlink, an online ticket sales site, asked the public to vote for which contestant on "I am a Singer" they would want to see perform live. Park topped the results at number one. In May 2011, Park did a successful five-day solo concert series called "A Little Closer" to meet public demand at the LG Arts Center. It was her fourth time performing at the Center.

1966

Flora Klein Andreu

Flora Klein Andreu values her Columbia education because it opened her eyes to the challenging facets of linguistics. In turn, as a professor of linguistics for over three decades, she challenged her own students to realize their full potential. "If you want any kind of rigor and quality, you have to test [your students] early on," Andreu said, "so they see how they can do."

Andreu recently retired as an associate professor of Hispanic Languages and Literature at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she taught for 20 years. In 2010 she published her third book, *Spanish through Time*. It is an introduction to the history and development of the Spanish language over the centuries, intended for readers with little or no prior experience in linguistics.

Andreu graduated *magna cum laude* from GS in 1966 with a BS in linguistics. She went on to receive her MA and PhD in linguistics from Columbia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. After a brief stint as a faculty member in the Bilingual Education Program at Hunter College, Andreu served as an assistant professor at Georgetown University from 1973 to 1982. She then took up her post at Stony Brook.

Fluent in Spanish, English, French, and Catalan, Andreu splits her time between New York and Barcelona, where she teaches Spanish and English. An adventuresome lifelong learner, she loves opera and continues to cultivate a strong interest in language pedagogy. To conduct research for her books, which include *Discourse Perspectives on Syntax and Variación Actual y Evolución Historica*, she traveled extensively through Spain on her own – a foreign concept to the Spanish. "How did you get here?" people would ask, surprised to see her unaccompanied. "I was the lone woman driving around," she said. That savoir faire and openness to new experiences has come to define Andreu.

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2010

Jarrod Jordan recently joined the Prudential Center as director of premium seating sales after serving as director of business development at Chelsea Piers. In 2009 he founded Jordan Sports, a sports consulting company.

2010

Tammy Lerner, the vice-president and co-founder of the Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse, recently appeared on *Anderson*, Anderson Cooper's daytime talk show, to discuss child sex abuse in the wake of the Penn State allegations. In December she testified at the Pennsylvania House Judiciary regarding the statute of limitations for sexual abuse cases.

2010

Melissa Muller, a professional chef who concentrates in the different cuisines of the Mediterranean region, has recently been involved in a television series called *Hiroko's Rules*. The series is a cooking competition that features the distinguished Japanese chef Hiroko Shimbo as she challenges nine chefs to study the essentials of Japanese cuisine. Hiroko's Rules will air on public television.

2011

Holstee, a company co-founded by **Fabian Pfortmüller,** was featured in *The Washington Post*, where its inspiring Holstee Manifesto was termed the new "Just Do It."

Friend

Beatrice Ellerstein recently celebrated her 104th birthday. She once served as first lady Eleanor Roosevelt's personal driver and continues to amaze her friends by blazing through crossword puzzles.

Arianna Halima al Tiye is the founder and director of the Bellydance Afro Mosaic World Fusion Arts Inc. (BAMFA) as well as the Nubian Moon Daughters Dance Theater Company (NMDDC). NMDDC-BAM is acknowledged to be the first all-black female Bellydance company in New York. Al Tiye also lectures and conducts Goddess Initiation rites and tours internationally through her company, Mysteries of Isis Tours (M.O.I.T.).

Ellen Gustafson is the founder of The 30 Project, which works to develop an improved global food system. Gustafson was recently interviewed in *The Huffington Post* and discussed the significance of organic foods in a healthy diet. Additionally, she stressed the importance of sustainable food systems to combat hunger and obesity.

2000

Kikka Hanazawa

New American Kikka Hanazawa has achieved success in many fields including education, finance, and fashion. In March 2011, Hanazawi combined all three to help her home country, Japan, after its

east coast was devastated by an earthquake and tsunami. She immediately formed Fashion Girls for Japan, a nonprofit organization that ultimately raised close to $500,000 for recovery efforts.

When tragedy struck the island nation on March 11, 2011, Hanazawa was inherently stirred to help. Born in Japan, Hanazawa had very close ties there. Her father lived fairly close to a nuclear plant near Tokyo and could not leave, and many of her relatives were in Fukushima, which experienced the largest nuclear disaster since Chernobyl. Her mother was evacuated from Tokyo and came to New York.

The idea for Fashion Girls for Japan came to Hanazawa when she realized that she alone did not have the capacity to "raise a significant sum" to help. She reached out to friends in the fashion community, and, within 24 hours, she received an overwhelming response. A week later she organized a sample sale in the Bowery Hotel featuring styles from Alexander Wang, Diane von Furstenberg, and Hanazawa's own line, VPL. With over 70 volunteers and 3,000 attendees, the overnight fashion charity raised $267,000.

The funds raised supported 13 nonprofit organizations working in Japan through the Japan Society. Hanazawa said the Fashion Girls for Japan team was especially conscious of where they would donate the money. "Japan never received money for relief of anything in the past, so there is no system or precedent," she said. "We wanted money to go directly to Japan… We wanted it to be monitored."

Hanazawa graduated from GS in 2000. While earning her undergraduate degree she worked part-time in the fashion industry doing translation and other administrative jobs. Before becoming the business lead for fashion startup Visible Panty Line, or VPL, in 2004, Hanazawa received her MBA from Harvard Business School and worked briefly in finance. Of her transition out of the business world she said, "Women are not heard in these industries. I went back to fashion because I felt that I have more of a voice." Indeed, as president of VPL and pioneer of a major charity effort, Hanazawa has made her voice heard.

MEET Janet Griffin

Associate Director for Alumni Relations

What did you do before coming to Columbia?

Prior to coming to Columbia, I spent six-and-a-half years working in alumni relations and development at a private high school. I organized reunions and fundraising events and managed the alumni communications. Before that I lived in Nashville, Tenn. and worked in non-profit management.

What's your favorite thing about your job?

I love to build programs! It has been a wonderful experience to create a strong foundation for new and existing programs that serve not only GS alumni, but also graduating seniors as they transition into the alumni community. It's very exciting to see attendance increase at alumni events and to work with vibrant alumni committees that are ready to implement new ideas and programs.

What's one thing you've noticed about GS alumni?

The GS alumni community is extremely diverse, but most alumni agree on one thing—they loved their academic experience at the School of General Studies.

IN MEMORIAM

John Henry Sieber '50

John Henry Sieber, a man of many passions and interests, passed away in June 2011. After serving in the Navy during WWII, he moved to New York City and attended the Columbia School of General Studies where he earned an English degree. Sieber later went on to study architecture at Rice University in Texas and built the very house he would live in for the rest of his life as well as a weekend house—called "Pilgrim Point"—near Navasota, Texas.

In the '60s, Sieber served on the Mayor's Committee on Race Relations and assisted in constructing some of the city's first low-income housing. As a committee member, Sieber would go door to door in indigent neighborhoods and speak with residents about their needs. During this time, Sieber became interested in Buddhism, and began a Vipassana mediation group. Later on, he and other Buddhists founded the Margaret Austin Center, known as a "sanctuary for the spirit," near Chappell Hill, Texas. During the past decade, Sieber began to focus on nondualism, or the belief that we are all One, and hosted a satsang group in his home regularly.

Sieber's wife of 51 years, Mary Elizabeth Gilbert Sieber, preceded him in death. He is survived by his daughter Ann, of Houston; his son Jack, of Boston; and grandchildren Sarah and John Henry.

Archibald "Arch" John Wilson '50

Archibald "Arch" John Wilson, a World War II veteran and a charter member and past commander of the Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion, passed away in July 2011 at the age of 87.

In 1943, after enlisting in the Army, Wilson was assigned to the Quartermaster Corps and from there was sent to Europe as an infantry rifleman. After World War II, Wilson was transferred to the South Pacific in preparation for the invasion of Japan. He was honorably discharged at Fort Bragg in 1946. His World War II experiences are documented in the book *My Country, My Right to Serve* by Mary Ann Humphrey, as well as in numerous interviews.

After his discharge, Wilson attended the Columbia University School of General Studies. Following his studies, he worked primarily at the Bank of America in San Francisco.

Wilson had recently served as judge advocate of Post 448 and was known for being a vital contributor in developing this post, the only predominately LGBT American Legion post in the country. In addition, Wilson was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Veterans for Peace as well as belonging to the Victorian Alliance and the California Heritage Council, both historical preservation organizations. Wilson was a member of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Amnesty International, Greenbelt Alliance, and the Interfaith Alliance.

Dr. Howard Robert Weiner '71

Dr. Howard Robert Weiner, a businessman and psychologist, passed away in February 2011. He graduated high school from the Horace Mann School in New York. He later went on to serve in the Army for several years and then attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He received his BA from Columbia University School of General Studies, and in 1976, after many years in business, he returned to school and earned his PhD in Psychology from the University of Hawaii. Dr. Weiner then worked in the mental health field in Connecticut, Hawaii, and California until retiring in 2003. He and his wife lived in Hawaii for 17 years and traveled the world extensively. They moved to La Jolla, California in 1998 to be close to their two children and three grandchildren. Dr. Weiner is survived by Ferne, his wife of 62 years; his son Ken and his wife Peggy; his grandsons Ben, Josh, and Will; and his daughter Laurie.

Earlene Welch '80, '81 BUS

Earlene Welch, an accomplished businesswoman, passed away in June 2011. Welch attended the American School in Manila, the Philippines, and graduated from the International School in Hong Kong. She received her BA in Economics from Columbia University School of General Studies, and her MBA from Columbia University.

Welch went on to work for Nabisco Brands/Planter's Peanuts Division, Kiddie Products/The First Years, and for IBM's Marketing Communications Division. She retired in 1998 to become a full-time mother to her son, Theodore "TJ" Welch.

Morgan Ashe '11 PBPM

Morgan Ashe, a Columbia School of General Studies Postbac Premed student who was enrolled in the Postbac program since spring 2010, passed away in January 2011 after losing her battle with leukemia. Prior to attending GS, she had graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of San Francisco. By the time she became a Postbac student, she was a regular attendee at scientific conferences. Even before her interest in medicine developed, she had a deep concern for the quality of life for human beings and devoted countless community service hours to improving the lives of other people.

Daryl Irene Lee '12

Daryl Irene Lee, age 47, passed away in Stamford, Conn. on Saturday December 31, 2011. Lee was a lifelong resident of Stamford and a member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation of Southampton, N.Y. A member of SAG and AFTRA, she attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and HB Studio before earning an associate's degree in economics from Norwalk Community College and a BA in sociocultural anthropology with a concentration in comparative ethnic studies from GS. Lee was an enthusiastic traveler, avid reader, excellent writer, and she loved to engage others in lively conversation.

New Grad NOTES 2011

PHOTO CREDITS: MICHAEL DIVITO

At twenty-five years old, KOKOU AKPOTO '11 emigrated to the United States from Lomé, Togo, and two years later he enrolled at Bronx Community College. While enrolled, Akpoto won a National Science Foundation scholarship and was named 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year. He was an honors student while he completed his associate's degree in mathematics. Akpoto was awarded with a Program for Academic Leadership and Service (PALS) scholarship. At GS, he participated as a Community Impact volunteer, tutoring GED students in mathematics while keeping a full time job as a yellow cab driver at night. Akpoto secured an internship with Forex Signs Inc. following graduation and is currently pursuing a career as a financial analyst on Wall Street.

CASSIA BURKE '11 is a former professional ballet dancer. Following her time with Miami City Ballet, Burke began volunteering with Children of Uganda where she taught English, music, dance and bible studies. She is also currently the NYC coordinator for the 2012 Children of Uganda Tour of Light, is a performance tour that brings talented performers from Uganda to the United States to raise money and awareness to support their programs. While at GS, Burke contributed her time as an Engineers Without Borders Uganda chapter member. In addition, she was a Ballet Collaborative founding member and was a part of their first performance at Miller Theatre in 2009. Following graduation, Burke, a French and Francophone Studies major, is moving to Seattle with her husband where she hopes to enroll at the University of Washington to get a degree in teaching English as a second language.

ANUPAM MOHANTY '11 immigrated to New York City from India when he was 14 years old. Mohanty enrolled in a variety of schools including SUNY Albany, City College of New York, University of Arizona, Columbia SEAS, and the Columbia School of Continuing Education before attending GS. A series of financial, family, and health problems prevented Mohanty from completing his undergraduate degree, but he was still highly motivated. While enrolled at City College, Mohanty was hired for a position with the Columbia University Computer Science Department as a systems engineer and later on as a systems engineer for Columbia University Information Technology (CUIT), all while enrolled in GS. He has served as a GS Orientation Leader, an editorial board member for the Columbia University Journal for South Asian Studies, and mentor for Project Rousseau. Mohanty plans to continue his position with CUIT and eventually apply to graduate school for South Asian studies.

As a man who has always pushed himself into intense situations, JOHN MCCLELLAND '11 is a former special operations forces combat medic with the U.S. Army's 1st Ranger Battalion. His enrollment at GS did not stop his intense engagement with military and veteran affairs. Since his enrollment, McClelland was the top cadet in the Ram Battalion U.S. Army ROTC and vice president and president of the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University Student Organization. He also lobbied on Capitol Hill for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Yellow Ribbon Program education benefits. He strongly believes that exposure to the veteran experience is one strength that benefits the Columbia community. After graduation, McClelland began working as a business analyst for McKinsey & Company while also serving with the Rhode Island National Guard. He plans to finish writing a novel based on his experience in Afghanistan.

BARBARA ROBEY LS '68, SCE '82, '11 has a passion for education that is evident through the string of educational degrees after her name. After attending Smith College in Massachusetts, Robey settled down as a wife and mother and put her interest for the field of medicine on hold. Later, Robey, not able to stay away from her love of learning, attended the Columbia University School of Library Service where she earned an MLS and was elected to Beta Phi Mu. She then worked with *American Book Prices Current* as an Editor and Consultant in Bibliography. Following the passing of her husband, Robey attended the Columbia School of Continuing Education for computer programming in pursuit of attaining a job that was more financially promising. After graduating SCE, Robey was hired by Columbia as the manager of administrative information systems and kept the position for over twenty years. At GS, Robey majored in Biological/Physical Anthropology where she nourished the passion for living organisms she developed early on in her educational journey.

ELLIOT SHACKELFORD '11 graduated GS as salutatorian. He is also an accomplished pianist and has given more than 2,500 concerts to more than half a million people nationwide, including 19 performances at the White House. While a student at GS, Shackelford served on the School of General Studies Committee on Instruction, representing the academic interests of GS students; served as a GS tour guide; and served on the General Studies Student Council as vice president of policy. A political science major, he was also active in the Columbia University International Relations Forum and the Political Science Students Association. Shackelford was named to the GS Honor Society and is a recipient of the GS Dean's Scholarship and the Arthur T. Ross Foundation Scholarship. He was also inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. After graduation, he enrolled at University of California-Berkeley School of Law.

After a career as a stylist in one of Newport Beach, California's top hair salons, MICHAEL TRAN '11, a first-generation college student, was accepted to the honors program at Fullerton College in California. While enrolled at GS, Tran was a sociology major and a part of the Program for Academic Leadership and Service (PALS), which provided him with a full scholarship. He was also a member of the men's water polo team, a GS Orientation Leader, a New Student Orientation Coordinator and a Community Impact GED tutor. Tran is currently working at California State University, Long Beach as a program coordinator for the Jensen Student Access to Math and Science Center.

SARA ZIFF '11 has made education a top priority following her high profile career as a supermodel. Ziff has been the face of Stella McCartney and has walked the runway for numerous high-end designers. In 2006, Ziff enrolled at GS as a political science major where she became interested in labor movements and community organizing, both of which helped reframe her view of the modeling industry. She combined her interest in labor movements and modeling by co-directing the award-winning documentary film "Picture Me," which takes a behind-the-scenes look at the modeling industry. This achievement also led her to begin work on the formation of a trade organization for models. Partnering with the Fashion Law Institute at Fordham University School of Law she helped form the Model Alliance, a nonprofit organization that strives to establish basic rights and improve working conditions for models. Ziff continues to develop the Model Alliance while still modeling. She is also interested in graduate or law school.

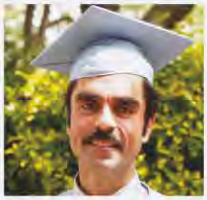
BRIAN O'HAGAN '11 began his studies at the University of Louisville in 1998. After taking a break from school to recover from a family tragedy, O'Hagan moved to New York City to pursue an interest in independent film production, which eventually led him to a position with the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL). At CCNMTL, he works with educational technologists to develop interactive educational technologies that enhance the classroom experience at Columbia University. He also rededicated himself to completing his studies at GS, majoring in psychology, and maintaining a full-time course load while continuing to work full time for the University. O'Hagan continues to work with CCNMTL as a senior technical specialist, leading Columbia's iTunes U and YouTube programs.

New Grad NOTES 2012

BY ALEXANDER GOULD PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIVITO

A native of Tampa, Florida, AZAR BOEHM '12 entered the military after graduating high school in 2005. After five years of service that included a stint in Alaska and a tour of duty in Iraq, he applied to GS while deployed in Afghanistan in 2010, enrolling in the University after being discharged from active duty that fall. In addition to interning at the Clinton Global Initiative, Azar currently serves in the New York National Guard and was the vice president of the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University as well as an executive board member of the New York City Chapter of The Mission Continues, a veteran outreach organization. He graduated with a major in political science with a concentration in American government and plans to return to public service.

An accomplished dancer and choreographer, KYLE BUKHARI '12 received a full scholarship to New York's prestigious Joffrey Ballet School as a teenager. After a successful career dancing with the Joffrey and Zurich Ballets, and choreographing for the Zurich Opera House (where his work led him to receive the City of Zurich's Cultural Distinction Award) and Frankfurt Ballet (which allowed him to use his fluent German skills), Kyle fulfilled another lifelong dream by enrolling in GS in 2007, having not attended school since the tenth grade. With the support of his wife, Kyle, a recipient of the Bradford Graves and Verna Gillis Scholarship, plans to apply to PhD programs in New York to study the philosophy of dance and theater combined with his undergraduate major, sociocultural anthropology.



Pursuing her dream of attending a prestigious university with a challenging curriculum, CLARA HART '12 became a GS student in 2008, having performed administrative duties since 1993 at a family-owned air conditioning company. Clara previously earned an associate's degree from Westchester Community College where she was the recipient of the Leo Benardo Award, demonstrating proficiency in multiple languages, and she is a member of the Future Educators Association. While juggling family life, working full-time, and volunteer work, Clara graduated *cum laude* with a degree in psychology, enjoying the flexibility of being able to attend GS as both a part-time and full-time student. Resolute in her belief that learning does not stop after graduation, she received the Charlotte M. Newcombe Foundation Scholarship and is a member of the Program for Academic Leadership and Service (PALS).

VINCENT NGUYEN '12 was born in rural Vietnam and raised by his grandmother after his mother fled for the United States in 1988. After more than fifteen years, Vincent reconnected with his mother, but he contracted malaria while she was processing the paperwork to bring him to America. Undeterred by the illness that left him paralyzed for a short time, Vincent immigrated to the U.S. While in high school he had a falling out with his mother and became homeless; despite this setback, a friend took him in and he graduated. He received a Hendrick Foundation Scholarship and enrolled in Collin College where a mentor assisted him in sorting out his academic and personal goals. Since becoming a student at GS in fall 2009, Vincent gave back through volunteer work

with Community Impact's College Road program and participated in the Columbia Vietnamese Students Association. A recipient of the Aaron W. Warner Scholarship and a member of the Program for Academic Leadership and Services (PALS), he graduated with a major in chemistry and has been accepted to an MD/PhD program for fall 2012.

The daughter of a diplomat, ORLY RATZABI-COHEN '12 spent the first sixteen years of her life in Belgium, Israel, and Austria. Though she found the frequent transitions between languages and cultures challenging, the opportunities for learning through her travels instilled in her a desire to continue her journey in New York, where she had visited in high school as part of a class trip. After finishing a four-year stint in the Israeli Defense Forces as a commander in an intelligence unit, Orly took what was originally supposed to be just a yearlong trip to New York. Within a week, she met the man who would become her husband and decided to stay, enrolling as a part-time student in GS in the spring of 2006. A *summa cum laude* graduate with a major in psychology and a recipient of the George B. Bernheim and William Strong Scholarships, Orly received the Class of 2012's Alumni Key Award. She is currently a diplomatic liaison at the Israeli Mission to the UN and would like to work for the human rights branch of an international organization.

ERIC SCHORR '12 came to GS in the fall of 2008 following a gap year that brought him to Israel. Studying with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Nativ College Leadership Program, Eric took classes at Hebrew University in Jerusalem for a semester and spent the rest of his time volunteering on a kibbutz, an experience he says taught him the value of hard work and being a team player. In addition to his studies in the GS/JTS program, he has been active in pro-Israel causes, serving as the president of Columbia's non-partisan, pro-Israel public affairs committee, LionPAC, for which he won AIPAC's Campus Advocate of the Year Award. Eric has also collaborated with MilVets, Columbia's campus veteran organization, as a planning and funding consultant. He graduated *cum laude* with a GS major in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies and plans to volunteer his service in the communications division of the Israeli Defense Forces.

For AXEL FOUGNER '12, pursuing an undergraduate education on two continents seemed fitting. A native Norwegian, he spent a year in Japan as an exchange student which he credits as sparking his interest in international education. After returning to Norway, he volunteered with the Young European Federalists and served as a communications operator aboard a Fast Patrol Boat during his year of compulsory military service. During a gap year, he took classes at a Norwegian liberal arts college and participated heavily in campus political organizations before entering Science Po's Middle Eastern and Mediterranean undergraduate program, where his goal was to help bridge the growing divide between Europe and the Islamic world. At Columbia, Axel was the president of the Babel Initiative, a group that funds and organizes research trips for undergraduates to the Middle East, and participated in campus theatre organizations and the Columbia Sailing club. As one of the inaugural students in the Dual BA Program Between Columbia University and Sciences Po, Axel majored in economics. He would like to use his global education to work in international affairs with an organization like the EU or the UN.

2012

GAC FILIPAJ BY ALEXANDER GOULD

Born in the former Yugoslavia, Gac Filipaj, 52, began his academic career with the intention of studying Russian and becoming a linguist. However, after finding that it would be easier to obtain a position as a lawyer, he attended classes part-time at the Law College in Belgrade, commuting eight hours by train overnight to take exams before returning back to his family's farm in Montenegro.

In 1982, he began fifteen months of compulsory military service, after which he moved closer to the Law College to focus on his studies, but he was unable to finish his degree due to the violent upheavals and persistent turmoil in the Balkans. And while he managed odd jobs in a Belgrade hotel and learned to speak Serbo-Croatian, Filipaj, an ethnic Albanian who changed his name on official documents to pass as Slavic, fled his homeland in 1992 during the last year of his studies.

He arrived in the United States knowing no English, settled in the Belmont neighborhood of the Bronx with his uncle, and worked as a busboy. While taking English classes at Theodore Roosevelt High School, he asked a friend what the best university in New York City was, and set his sights on getting a job at Columbia.

After obtaining a position as a heavy cleaner in the dorms in 1993, Filipaj used his benefits as a University employee to begin taking classes through the University's American Language Program while performing his custodial duties full-time.

"Eventually my English proficiency was at a high enough level to be eligible to begin taking classes part-time," Filipaj said. He began in the School of Continuing Education, and after two semesters applied and was admitted to General Studies.

Filipaj, a classics major who graduated with departmental honors, became interested in the great works of the Roman philosopher Seneca, whose letters he admires "because they're written in the spirit in which [he] was educated in [his] family—not to look for fame and fortune, but to have a simple, honest, honorable life."

Filipaj stays true to Seneca's stoic statement, as demonstrated by sending a portion of each paycheck to his family in Montenegro and buying them a computer while forgoing having one of his own.

Dissatisfied with having not completed college in Belgrade, Filipaj committed himself to completing his degree at Columbia. It was not uncommon for him to work all afternoon and evening until 11 p.m., return home to pull all-nighters studying or writing papers, and then show up to class the next morning before heading to work again the next afternoon.

Now that he's completed his undergraduate degree, Filipaj is unsure of what the future holds, though he's currently considering his options, one of which he hopes may be a supervisory position in the Facilities Management department of Columbia.

However, he may not be done with Seneca just yet—Filipaj's ambition is leading him to consider graduate programs, where he would like to pursue a master's degree (and eventually perhaps a PhD) in Roman and Greek Classics.

"I would say that I have fulfilled half of my dream—going to graduate school would complete it," Filipaj said.

He has expressed interest in becoming a teacher and translating his favorite classical texts into his native Albanian.

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Two dozen guests joined GS alum and renowned chef Jacques Pépin '70 for a cooking demonstration, followed by dinner with wine pairing at the International Culinary Center on May 12, 2011. Over the course of his career, Pépin has published 26 cookbooks and hosted 12 television cooking series. He treated his guests to a meal that included La Salade Lyonnaise, Poulet Demi-Deuil, Bugnes Des Gones, Glace Vanille, and Petits Fours, and a variety of Champagne and wines such as Grand Cru Champagne Billiot Fils and Beaumes de Venise Chateau alu Trignon 2008.

Pictured below: Pépin, left, cooks as Dr. Alex Bodnar (husband of Jackie Bodnar '93), Sharon Casdin (parent of Adam '95 and Eli '03), Susan Furlaud (wife of Richard '76), Joan Dunham '71, and Sally Lawrence and Larry Lawrence '69 look on.)