Students First
How the Campaign for Columbia College Chicago is transforming lives
From career workshops to creative workshops, a panel, a party, a brunch at the House of Blues and much, much more. There is something for everyone at this year’s Alumni Weekend!

Visit colum.edu/alumniweekend for the latest information and to register.
The Campaign for Columbia College Chicago is transforming the institution by making its education more accessible to more students, including Carrie Jones, an ASL-English Interpretation major. Photo: Tim Klein

**FEATURES**

**In the Moment**
Over the past decade, Columbia has been building the resources to support an unprecedented $100 million campaign. By Lisa Holton

**Seizing the Moment**
How Columbia’s fundraising campaign will transform the college and create a foundation for future growth. By Ann C. Logue

**Portfolio: John Paul Marcelo**
John Paul Marcelo (B.A. ’99) documents disasters through painting. By Becca James (B.A. ’11)

**DEPARTMENTS**

- **Vision** A question for President Warrick L. Carter
- **Wire** News from the college community
- **Get Lit** New books by Anina Bennett, Natalie Y. Moore, Tim Stafford, Zoe Keithley and Penelope Cagney
- **Out There** Our alumni section, featuring class news and notes, and CAAN updates
- **Point & Shoot** Caught on camera around the country
- **Events** What’s coming up on campus
- **Backstory** A 1961 fundraising campaign comes into focus

**SPOT ON**

- **Paul Brouceck** (B.A. ’74), president of music at Warner Bros. Pictures, calls Columbia “my best educational experience”
- **Jay W. Boersma** (B.A. ’74) and Deborah Holdstein, Ph.D., join forces to create a scholarship for students in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Chris Richert** (B.A. ’99), general manager of The Columbia Chronicle, thrives when helping students discover their talents

Correction: In DEMO 13, Art Baltazar’s DC Comics’ collaborator was listed incorrectly. The name should have been listed as “Co-publisher Dan DiDio.” We regret the error.
Shop Columbia, Columbia’s student and alumni art boutique, is expanding! While the shop undergoes construction to renovate and expand, please shop online at shop.colum.edu.

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO
623 S. Wabash Ave. / 312.369.8616
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COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO PRESENTS
CONVERSATIONS IN THE ARTS
A year-long exploration of trends and issues in disciplines taught by Columbia’s School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The 2011-12 season will conclude a three-year cycle of programs devoted to each of Columbia’s three schools: Media Arts, Fine and Performing Arts, and Liberal Arts and Sciences.

colum.edu/conversations

TICKETS will be available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis at colum.edu/conversations, approximately six weeks before each event.
DEMO14

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ALUMNI EVENTS

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations for details
312.369.6987 / mpassarelli@colum.edu

June 23
Chicago Alumni: Personal Branding:
An Artist’s Most Authentic Palette Workshop
Facilitated by Career Transition Center of Chicago

June 23
CAAN Chicago: Young Alumni Monthly Meetup
at Big City Tap

June 28
CAAN Connect, Los Angeles: Alumni meet
one on one with industry professionals in a
“speed networking”-like environment

July 13
CAAN LA: Bimonthly Networking Meeting

September 23–25
Alumni Weekend

ALUMNI EVENTS

The Alexandroff Legacy Society recognizes the generosity
of alumni, faculty and friends who affirm their commitment
to Columbia’s future through a deferred gift. By designating
Columbia in a will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance
policy, life income arrangement or other planned gift, you
become a member of the Alexandroff Legacy Society.

For more information, please contact Chandra Dennis
at 312.369.7795 or cdennis@colum.edu.
Columbia College Chicago recognizes the following individuals who joined between September 1, 2010, and May 1, 2011.

**THE PRESIDENT’S CLUB**

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

between September 1, 2010, and May 1, 2011.

BRAD AKERS
CAROLYN & GENE BERG
CHARLES A. BONILLA
DIANA K. BORRI
HELEN T. BUVID
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JOYCE E. & BRUCE CHELBerg
MARY T. CHERIAM & PATRICK J. SALEM ’11
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KELLI A. WALKER
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RICHARD D. WOODBURY

To learn more, contact Brent Caburnay at 312.369.8188 or visit columbia.edu/giving.

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Columbia College Chicago recognizes the following
Founding Members of

**THE CHAIRMAN’S CIRCLE**

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

as of May 16, 2011

ANONYMOUS (3)
CAROL A. COHEN
WILLIAM COLLINS, B.A. ’10
BRUCE A. CROWN
JOHN & KIM GALLAGHER
BURTON* & ANNE KAPLAN
EARL & PAMELA KLUFt
H. J. KOVERMAN & SALLY MEYERS KOVERMAN
JEAN KRALKA
ELIZABETH A. LIEBMAN, PH.D.
MARK J. & LINDA L. MICHELI
PHILLIP MOLL
JOHN D. & ALEXANDRA NICHOLS
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MICHAEL & SANDRA PERLOW
COL. JAMES N. PRITZKER
CYNTHIA S. RASKIN
STEPHEN SWARD
REBECCA FORD TERRY
ALLEN M. & LYNN TURNER

A new model for the creative mind.

Donors who contribute $5,000 or more per year to any area of the college are recognized as Chairman’s Circle donors. Chairman’s Circle donors provide the necessary support for Columbia College’s student-focused programs and initiatives.

This newly established giving society recognizes Founding Members as those who contribute between September 1, 2010, and December 31, 2011.

**THIS IS COLUMBIA’S MOMENT.**

CAMPAIGN FOR COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

*Indicates donor is deceased.*
A QUESTION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER

DEMO: Columbia College Chicago has undertaken an unprecedented $100 million campaign to raise money for scholarships, endowment, programs and capital improvements. What has been the response from alumni?

DR. CARTER: The thing that makes me proudest of our alums is that they still carry the flag and talk very, very glowingly about their experiences at Columbia College Chicago. But we have not had the best history in alumni giving. And it’s probably been a two-way street. We haven’t been out there supporting them, celebrating them in the right kind of ways, and they have seemingly lost touch and connection with our institution. Slowly, but surely, we’re seeing that change.

In terms of alumni giving, last year was our very best year—more than three-quarters of a million dollars. That’s compared to $45,000 that alumni gave in my first year at the college. So that’s a huge step. We’ve got a long way to go because we’ve got 90,000 alums out there, but, clearly, we’re headed in the right direction.

We’re celebrating our alums, really thanking them for the support they’re giving the institution—most of which is to support student scholarships. That’s crucial because they all remember how they struggled as students. And now that they have the opportunity and the means to help, they’re giving back in the right kind of way.

Student scholarships are the number-one focus of the campaign. Many of our students are first-generation students who need financial support. Although we have done a very good job of holding down costs at the institution, and our tuition is much more approachable than most private institutions, it’s still a hefty amount of money. So consequently, we need to support these students who want to follow in the footsteps of our alums.

I often speak about large campaign gifts because they’re very important in moving the bar in the campaign process, but small amounts are just as important. Our faculty and staff have raised nearly $70,000 for Scholarship Columbia, which matched these gifts at $95,000, for a total of $165,000. Many of those funds came from payroll deductions, some of which are as small as $1.50 every two weeks. Alums are saying, ‘I can’t give $100,000.’ But they can give $1.50. They can give $10, $20. Whatever the amount is, it helps move the bar and helps us to our ultimate goal of $100 million. So it’s not just the big gifts—it’s every gift that counts.
NEW DEGREE PROGRAM UNITES SCIENCE AND ART

Beginning in the fall, Columbia College Chicago will offer its first science-based major, an undergraduate degree program in Art and Materials Conservation.

Art and materials conservation is a field in which specialists use various scientific, artistic and practical methods to restore, maintain and protect works of art. Columbia’s program will offer students who want to prepare for this growing field with intense training in chemistry, materials science and the humanities, as well as a year of study and hands-on practice at the Lorenzo de’ Medici Italian International Institute in Florence, Italy. Upon graduation, students will be able to restore artwork, documents and other materials from a variety of eras.

Constantin Rasinariu, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Science and Mathematics, believes the new major is a perfect fit for the college and its students. “The presence of this new major at Columbia College Chicago brings to the forefront the importance of conserving the art work for future generations and the significant role that science plays in this process,” said Rasinariu.

Columbia’s new degree program in Art and Materials Conservation, developed in alignment with the guidelines of the American Institute for Conservation, will remain small, accepting seven to 10 students per year, which will keep the quality of work and professional oversight high.

Instituting a science-based degree program strengthens Columbia’s relationship with Lorenzo de’ Medici (LdM), an art school in Florence, Italy, with which Columbia has had an exchange program for years. This partnership provides students in the new program with opportunities that aren’t available in any other U.S.-based art conservation bachelor’s degree program—specifically, a year of hands-on study at LdM.

For more information about the undergraduate Art and Materials Conservation program, visit cOLUM.edu/amc.

BOOK SHOWCASES COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO’S EVOLVING HISTORY

In March, Arcadia Publishing released *Columbia College Chicago*, a pictorial history that fleshes out the history of the college—from its humble beginnings as an oratory school in 1890 to its evolution into a comprehensive educational institution that “encourages students to author the culture of their times, to produce a body of work, and to realize their abilities according to the school’s original motto ‘esse quam videri’ (to be rather than to seem).” Archivist Heidi Marshall and Associate Dean of the Library Conrad Winke wrote the book as part of Arcadia’s Campus History Series.

The book builds on previous work, said Marshall, who was hired as the college’s first archivist in 2005. “It’s a way to bring marvelous images to everyone that is interested in the history of the college,” she said.

Proceeds from sales of the book will help preserve materials in the College Archive.
COLUMBIA EARNs CARNEGIE DISTINCTION

In January, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching selected Columbia College Chicago to receive its 2010 Community Engagement Classification. U.S. colleges and universities with an institutional focus on community engagement were invited to apply for the annual classification, first offered in 2006.

The classification recognizes colleges and universities that significantly commit to and demonstrate community engagement “to improve teaching and learning and to generate socially responsive knowledge to benefit communities,” said Carnegie President Anthony Bryk.

“Columbia College Chicago has a long history of engaging with the many communities of Chicago and beyond, but this Carnegie recognition is clearly a direct result of the collaborative and collective efforts of many departments, centers and offices over the last ten years,” said Columbia College President Warrick L. Carter, Ph.D.

“This is a national acknowledgment that Columbia College Chicago doesn’t just talk the talk of civic engagement, we walk the walk.”

TAKING PARK CIty FOLLOWS FILMMAKERS’ DREAM

Taking Park City, a 30-minute documentary that follows two Columbia College Chicago film alumni as they navigate the entertainment industry at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, premiered on WTTW-TV (PBS) on April 21. The film stars Tanya Savard (B.A. ’10) and Norman Franklin (B.A. ’10). Columbia film alum Vince Singleton (M.F.A. ’08) directed the documentary, and film student Dimitri William Moore (B.A. ’11) produced it. Journalist Michelle Alegria (B.A. ’97) and Susanna Negovan of Michigan Avenue Magazine (pictured) narrate the film, which was underwritten by Columbia College Chicago.

“We happen to be telling a story through the eyes of two film alumni of Columbia College,” said Moore. “But we don’t just want it to be about film. It’s a story about following the path of what you love, and following it with all the heart and intensity—as well as the book smarts and the degree smarts—that you have, so that everyone will say, ‘Hey, I should follow a path that I love. I can probably go far, too.’”

MANIFEST CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Manifest, Columbia’s urban arts festival that showcases the work and creativity of students, celebrated its 10th anniversary on May 13. Thousands of students, faculty, staff, parents, friends, alumni, patrons, donors, industry professionals and neighborhood residents took part in the festivities, which included music, exhibitions, screenings, presentations, performances and much more. For event photos and information, go to colum.edu/manifest.
**CHRONICLE NAMED AMONG STATE’S TOP COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS**

For the fourth year in a row, *The Columbia Chronicle* was named the state’s top student newspaper among nondaily college papers with a circulation above 4,000. The General Excellence Award was one of 11 first-place honors the Chronicle won at the annual Illinois College Press Association (ICPA) convention competition held in Chicago on February 18 and 19.

In all, the Chronicle brought home its largest number of awards ever from the ICPA—32—in competition against other college papers. The awards recognize the service and dedication of not only journalism majors who work for or contribute to the Chronicle, but also students from the photography, marketing communication, interactive media, film, and art & design departments who participate in the production, design and marketing of the newspaper and its online editions.

In addition, the Chronicle was one of 10 college papers selected to receive the Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker award for a nondaily college paper published at a four-year university. More than 200 college papers entered this competition.

For details on the Chronicle’s awards, go to [columbiachronicle.com/awards](http://columbiachronicle.com/awards).

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**COLLEGE ANNOUNCES FIRST B.S. DEGREE OF ITS KIND IN ACOUSTICS**

Following a year of research and administrative reviews, President Warrick L. Carter approved in March a proposal for a new degree major: Bachelor of Science in Acoustics. This decision creates the first undergraduate degree program in acoustics in the United States that also addresses issues of perception and cognition.

This new program and curriculum grew out of feedback by graduates and their employers and graduate advisors, and has been specifically designed to address deficiencies identified in our previous relevant curriculum/degree (including its designation as a Bachelor of Arts); to retain a strong liberal arts component; to emphasize acoustics' perceptual dimension; and to provide a degree path that will prepare acoustics students to compete successfully in the workplace against holders of master’s degrees in acoustics.

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**KRESGE FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO CCAP**

In January, the Kresge Foundation awarded the Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP) at Columbia College Chicago a $300,000, two-year grant to support the work of the Urban Missions program, CCAP’s flagship program.

For 13 years, Urban Missions has brought together Columbia academic departments and community-based arts organizations to develop an array of high-quality arts programs that serve community youth and college students as they work together with teaching artists and college faculty in jointly designed programs. Central to Urban Mission’s collaboration is the concept of a community of professional learning and practice that nurtures rich sharing and open exchange of ideas. Urban Missions convenes 12 Columbia departments that work collaboratively with a pool of 22 community-based organizations to create and implement semester-long youth arts projects.

The Kresge Foundation awarded this grant as part of its Arts and Community Building Initiative, which seeks to build infrastructure for the arts and culture to contribute to community renewal.

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**HEARTS A BLUHM INSPIRES COLUMBIA COMMUNITY**

This past winter, Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute and Columbia College Chicago teamed up for a first-of-its-kind consumer education campaign to generate widespread awareness of the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

Throughout February, National Heart Month, Northwestern’s “Hearts a Bluhm” public art exhibit and campaign installed 100 five-foot-tall hearts covered in designs by selected artists along Michigan Avenue. The hearts were accompanied by plaques providing healthy heart tips. Because Columbia was selected as the exclusive creative partner for “Hearts a Bluhm,” Columbia students, faculty, staff and alumni were invited to create many of the 100 hearts. To thank Columbia for its participation as exclusive creative partner in “Hearts a Bluhm,” the Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute provided $43,000 to Scholarship Columbia.

As with many of the college’s artists, Columbia College Residence Life staff member and artist Rob Hogan had a touching story that inspired his work of art. Hogan’s design depicted an image of a normal 12-point lead electrocardiogram (EKG) on the front side. His father’s 2004 EKG strip, when paramedics were attempting to resuscitate him, is depicted on the back. His father’s heart attack was fatal.

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**EKG, My Father, by Rob Hogan**  
*Photo: Stephen DeSantis*
Over the past decade, Columbia has been building the resources, support and strategic vision to launch an unprecedented $100 million campaign to bolster the college’s future. See how the Campaign for Columbia College Chicago will give more students the opportunity to author the culture of their times, and learn how you can be a part.

BY LISA HOLTON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIM KLEIN

COLUMBIA COLLEGE always leaves newcomers surprised. Few know that the college is one of Chicago’s oldest continuing centers of higher learning—older, in fact, than the University of Chicago.

Fewer still realize that, through shrewd planning in the 1980s, the school became the South Loop’s No. 1 landowner by snapping up and redeveloping some of the city’s most historic structures. Columbia’s campus serves one of the nation’s most diverse student populations, including those attending the country’s largest film school, the largest fashion studies program and an award-winning ASL-English Interpretation program.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)
Some of the many faces of Columbia, including President Warrick L. Carter (above) and Board of Trustees Chairman Allen M. Turner (bottom right).
But what might be most surprising to outside observers, as well as many of Columbia’s students and alumni, is that the school has accomplished all of this without a substantial endowment or a significant fundraising program in its 121-year history.

That’s about to change. Because this is Columbia’s moment.

Over the past decade, Columbia has been building the resources, support and strategic vision to launch an unprecedented $100 million campaign to bolster the school’s ongoing development. Most significantly, the campaign—called “This is Columbia’s Moment”—will support funding for students through grants, scholarships and a lasting endowment to finance the future.

This campaign has occurred largely behind the scenes. Until now.

“When I got here in 2005, there was a feasibility study that opened a lot of eyes,” says Eric V. A. Winston, Ph.D., vice president for Institutional Advancement. The study, Winston says, reported that Columbia had “some of the rudiments” to raise money for the school but weak or nonexistent connections to the key groups that make meaningful college giving happen: the involvement of the local and national philanthropic community, corporate and government funders, and most notably, Columbia’s own alumni.

“We were told we couldn’t raise $5 million, much less $100 million,” Winston says.

Winston credits Columbia President Warrick L. Carter and Board of Trustees Chairman Allen M. Turner with unprecedented success in meeting that challenge: $60 million has already been pledged or delivered toward the $100 million target goal announced in fall 2010.

Yet the bigger accomplishment is the creation of a fundraising apparatus that not only acknowledges Columbia’s unique culture but celebrates it, as that culture has made the school the largest private arts and media college in the nation.

“We are changing the culture and climate of philanthropy in a way that fits Columbia and what is truly different and unique about the college,” says Winston.

Why now?

For most of its history, Columbia was funded largely by student tuition dollars.

Now Columbia needs to broaden that funding base—quickly. A 2008 study by the Delta Cost Project on Postsecondary Education Costs showed both a 22 percent increase in instructional spending and a 36 percent increase in student services spending amongst most U.S. private colleges between 1998 and 2008.

Students obviously can’t shoulder the entire financial burden given the downturns in the U.S. economy, tougher access to student loans and an increasingly competitive playing field for scholarships and grants.

In March, Congress delivered somber news. The Pell Grant, the backbone of financial aid to the country’s most needy students—30 percent of Columbia College undergraduates receive Pell Grants—was subject to a decrease in overall funding levels thanks to deficit-cutting measures in Washington.

One month later, in April, congressional Republicans and Democrats reached a compromise. The amount of money for each student in the Pell Grant would remain the same—at $5,550—but Congress would do away with Pell Grants for summer semesters. The currently proposed GOP budget reduces the maximum award for the Pell Grant to $3,040, which would be the lowest it has been since 1998.

Despite $789 billion pumped into the economy in two years by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a comparatively scarce amount has been invested in education.

Meanwhile, individual states are slashing their own scholarship programs while charities and foundations struggling to rebuild their own endowments have cut back on private scholarships and other forms of college aid.

As a result, the colleges themselves, which distribute an estimated $26 billion of their revenues as scholarships, are unlikely to be able to close the gaps.

The time has come to do more, according to Allen M. Turner, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)
Over the past decade, Columbia College Chicago has experienced the greatest period of growth in its 121-year history. In addition, the college now faces more competition than ever before. These challenges require a comprehensive campaign to assert Columbia's reputation as an innovative leader in visual, performance, media and communication arts education fields.

Phase 1 of the campaign was completed on August 31, 2010, with $50 million raised.

**Phase 1 Accomplishments**
- Exceeded $20 million goal
- Increased board support and acquired multiyear campaign pledges
- Maximized both state and federal government support
- Increased Columbia's visibility
- Created national visibility through CAAN alumni chapters
- Built and opened the Media Production Center
- Began a grassroots alumni, faculty and staff giving effort
- Increased individual (friends/parents) gifts to the college
- Tripled growth in the President's Club to 300+ members

Phase 2 started on October 2, 2010, with a public announcement about the $100 million comprehensive campaign, noting that $50 million was raised during Phase 1. Phase 2 will raise another $50 million.

**Phase 2 Fundraising Priorities**

- **Scholarship Initiative**
  - President's Club Scholarship Endowment: $1.5 Million
  - Other Scholarships: $1.5 Million (current and future named scholarships)
  - Scholarship Columbia: $2 Million
  - Media Production Center & Other Campus Naming Opportunities: $15 Million (50% endowed and 50% current use)

**Columbia’s Fundraising Priorities**

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**Phase 2 Breakdown of $20 Million Scholarship Initiative**
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- Other Scholarships: $1.5 Million (current and future named scholarships)
- Scholarship Columbia: $2 Million
- Media Production Center & Other Campus Naming Opportunities: $15 Million (50% endowed and 50% current use)
“As we have increased the institution’s visibility amongst those in the philanthropic community, we’re beginning to see support in that area,” says Carter. “And it clearly has to do with the quality of what we’re doing, and philanthropists’ interest in supporting quality undertakings.”

“We are trying very hard to engage all of Chicago—its citizens, corporations—in the philanthropic community,” says Turner. “Dr. Carter and I have made visits to major foundations and corporations, they know we are here, and we expect a really good response as we move forward.”

Adds Kim Clement, assistant vice president and director of campaign initiatives, “This effort is intended to put Columbia College Chicago on the philanthropic map with other major institutions in the city.”

Carter and Winston believe Columbia’s giving culture is now ready to move from the top down. The college’s Board of Trustees, reconstituted over the last decade, not only includes working board members but those willing to make a greater financial commitment to the institution.

Creative funding opportunities are also on the drawing board. In addition to long-standing opportunities for endowing department chairmanships and other directed gifts, Columbia is putting new emphasis on the following programs:

» The Chairman’s Circle: Aimed at donors providing $5,000 or more annually, this giving category offers special activities and private receptions to participants who can also take part in programs and classroom activities with Columbia faculty and students.

» The President’s Club: Targeting donors providing $1,000 or more annually, this giving category not only gives high-priority name exposure but special invitations to events throughout the school year.

» The Alexandroff Legacy Society: Named for Mirron “Mike” Alexandroff, Columbia’s president from 1962 to 1992, this initiative targets donors willing to include Columbia in their estate planning activities.

» Naming Opportunities: Putting the name of an individual or organization on a building, classroom or other campus space has long been a staple of university funding, but Columbia is ramping up that process as it expands its footprint in the South Loop and beyond.

» Parental Giving: Although parents of Columbia students can get involved in any of the above programs or designate special gifts on their own, Winston points out that parents have become a particularly strong segment of Columbia’s giving picture. “We’ve determined that up to 20 percent of our parent population is in a position to provide significant support to the college, and we’re getting a wonderful response from them,” Winston says.

Getting Alumni on Board

Arts and media colleges typically have reputations for poor fundraising for one key reason: Graduates typically don’t make a lot of money.

But Winston says that reputation, at least at Columbia, might be more myth than fact. To prove it, his team is working to build alumni giving habits as early as possible after graduation.

“I’d like to change the notion that we have graduates who can’t give. I like to say that for every graduate who can buy a $185 ticket to Lollapalooza, we have a potential donor,” Winston says.

“We’re not asking them to give us large sums at the start, but to give something, because where that really makes a huge difference is in our alumni participation rate,” he says. “Major donors want to see that statistic to get an idea of how wide the alumni support is for the school. Those donations may not be large, but evidence of a wide variety of donors is so important in the world of college philanthropy.”

Diversifying donors is the idea behind Columbia’s new Manifest Club program.

Similar to an annual donation to public radio or television, Columbia is targeting new graduates with an offer to give at least $10 a month through a payroll deduction or automatic payment made directly to the college.

“Think about it. We all waste more money than that,” Winston says.

“For those who are recently out with young families and new careers, I understand their problem,” Winston says. “But what I say is that if you’ve ever helped the Red Cross or any community organization, then you need to be in the business of helping your alma mater in the way that your co-workers are helping their alma maters.”

The fact that Columbia is now widely asking for financial support has begun to make a difference. “Last year was our very best year in terms of alumni giving: more than three-quarters of a million dollars,” says Carter, compared to the $45,000 total alumni gave during his first year at the college a decade ago.

“That’s a huge step, but we’ve got a long way to go because we’ve got 90,000 alums out there, and that means we’ve got to touch those other alums,” Carter says.

Winston, who also spends a significant amount of time on the road meeting potential donors, says he learned one important lesson in his early days at Columbia: “I have spoken to alums who made this very clear: I was the first person who walked through their door asking for their contribution. And their first question to me was, ‘When were you going to ask?’”

(Continued on page 16)
Grassroots Giving
Faculty, staff, students and alumni step up to support scholarships

Columbia’s hands-on, minds-on approach is a longstanding educational philosophy. Lately, it’s also driving a growing culture of creative philanthropy. Faculty, staff, students and alumni are all engaging in efforts to raise awareness of—and funds for—student scholarships.

This groundswell of support began in 2009, when Wayne Tukes, an advisor with Columbia’s College Advising Center, saw an increase in student need during the economic downturn and wanted to create a way for the college community to help.

Over the past two years, the Faculty & Staff Scholarship Initiative Committee, spearheaded by School of Media Arts Assistant Dean Pattie Mackenzie, has raised nearly $70,000 for student scholarships through grassroots efforts ranging from fliers and letters to viral videos and special events.

The Faculty & Staff Scholarship Initiative is enhanced by Scholarship Columbia, a challenge grant bolstered by a $1 million match by the college that doubles every dollar donated by faculty and staff and triples donations from alumni. This effort has made an additional $95,000 in matching funds available to Columbia students to date, bringing the total amount raised by the initiative to $165,000.

A faculty and staff loft party in April 2010 featured an auction of work by faculty and staff artists as well as food, entertainment and advertising—all of which was donated internally. The event won the 2010 Silver Award for Best Event on a Shoestring from the Council of Advancement and Support of Education District V. The “Columbia’s Got Talent” show in December, coordinated by Dance/Movement Therapy Chair Susan Imus, had virtually no operating costs, so each event had a strong fundraising impact. Another benefit, called “The Back to Ghouls Bash,” is slated for October.

Mackenzie says the largest contributions by far are from small, elective payroll deductions made by Columbia employees. “Faculty and staff have been so giving,” she says.

This generosity and community spirit models charitable giving for a group that might seem to be unlikely donors: students themselves.

Over the past year, the Student Alumni Alliance (SAA), an organization that connects students with Columbia alumni, held two healthful food sales in campus lobbies to raise money for Scholarship Columbia. The sales garnered $700 for scholarships.

“If you start now with an attitude and energy of giving back to the school, when you graduate, you’ll continue doing it,” says senior photography student and SAA Vice President Stephanie Tanner.

To ensure that all sale proceeds went directly to fellow students, the group reached out to alumni to donate the goods they sold. Marty Kane (B.A. ’06) answered the call.

“Everybody needs a little help sometimes,” says Kane. “It feels good to be helping somebody else achieve an education here that I was so fortunate to receive.”

Realtor Jane Bishop Lillegard (B.A. ’85) also contributed funds, noting that staying involved with Columbia keeps her connected to the arts and is a great opportunity to network.

As the college continues to seek major gifts from donors, these seemingly small-but-mighty gestures make a big impact on the entire Columbia community. “It takes a village,” says Mackenzie. “And we have a great one.”

—AUDREY MICHELLE MAST (B.A. ’00)
The most important message to Columbia alumni in 2011 is how much students need their help. Campaign leaders say today’s students are experiencing greater financial pressure than previous generations.

“We are telling our alums that it’s significantly more difficult for kids to stay in school and graduate than when they were in school,” Winston says.

Joan Hammel (B.A. ’86), a member of Columbia’s Board of Trustees and head of the Chicago chapter of the Columbia Alumni Association & Network (CAAN), believes that alumni donations have increased exponentially over the last year because of more “meaningful and personal” outreach.

“We’re giving alumni a place to network more aggressively for employment, to display portfolio work, and to build better relationships in general between fellow alumni and the school,” Hammel says. “We’re offering alumni better value for their involvement than we ever have” (see page 36).

Columbia is also reaching out more aggressively to notable alumni who are leaders in their field.

Michael Goi (B.A. ’80), an Emmy Award-winning cinematographer for the television series My Name is Earl, considers his financial support crucial for future generations of Columbia graduates. He says the Columbia training experience is like no other.

“Columbia offered an immediate hands-on method of teaching filmmaking that encouraged experimentation and making mistakes early to remove the fear of taking chances,” Goi says. “I shot over 100 student films while I was a student at Columbia, and I messed up most of them, but I never made those same mistakes when I started working professionally.”

Goi says giving is important for one reason: “Inspiring and encouraging the next generation of filmmakers is not only the most important thing we can do for our craft, it’s vital to the growth of our art. Ultimately, the best legacy to leave is the means by which your craft may endure.”

Marlon West (B.A. ’85), an animation supervisor for Walt Disney Studios, got his first exposure to animation at Columbia.

“The Columbia experience is singular, and we all owe a big debt for the training we got there,” says West, who has worked on many noteworthy films, including The Lion King, Pocahontas, Tarzan and Chicken Little. “I made friends there that are colleagues to this day.”

Winston says all the vital fundraising pieces are coming together despite one of the worst economic downturns in the country’s history.

“Those consultants we talked to six years ago who said we couldn’t do this? Well, they were telling us the truth and at that time, they were right,” says Winston. “But we’ve started to prove them wrong. We’ve produced the change that was absolutely needed.”

For more information on the Campaign for Columbia College Chicago, visit colum.edu/giving or call 312.369.7287.

Pieter Ombregt was a gifted photography student at Columbia College Chicago when he died from injuries sustained in a bicycle racing accident in 2007.

“Pieter was a friend to so, so many people,” says Anne-Marie Ombregt, his aunt, who lived in the same apartment building as Pieter, a Belgium native, and his fiancée, Jennifer Kowalewski, also then a photography student at Columbia. Days after Pieter’s death at age 27, Ombregt made a generous gift to establish the Pieter Ombregt Scholarship Fund, which goes to advanced undergraduate photography majors at Columbia.

A scholarship was a natural way to honor Pieter’s passion-filled life, Ombregt says. “He did everything—bicycling, photography, his studies—100 percent,” Ombregt says. “And he was still growing, still searching. I wish for [the scholarship] to go to people who carry his spirit in their work.”

She says that Pieter would approve of supporting students who practice any style of photography. He didn’t believe there was only one way to approach the art.

Ombregt and her tight-knit extended family plan to enhance the fund with one large-scale fundraiser every other year. In 2010, her husband, Karel Cool, ran the Paris Marathon, raising $10,000 in sponsorships—money that went to the scholarship fund.

Remembering Pieter today, Ombregt says, “is still very hard.” But she’s proud of the scholarship, of its recipients, and of the family and friends who support it.

For more information on scholarships, go to colum.edu/scholarships.

— LIZ HARMON MILLER
Columbia College Chicago relies on the help of volunteer committees that help set direction and goals related to college operations and the campaign. Here are a few.

### INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
A special committee of the Board of Trustees, the Institutional Advancement Committee serves as a governing body that advocates for and supports the core mission of the Office of Institutional Advancement at Columbia College Chicago. Member leadership and expertise help shape the priorities, goals and strategies for the advancement of the college.

**Warrick L. Carter, Ph.D.**, President, Columbia College Chicago
**Paul Knapp**, Chair
**Madeleine Burrell**
**Lester Coney**
**Susan V. Downing**
**John Gehron**
**Ralph Gidwitz**
**Pam Kendall Rijos**
**Richard Kiphart**
**Marcia Lazar**
**Averill Leviton**
**Howard Mendelsohn**
**Asha Spencer, Esq.**
**Ellen Stone Belic**
**Allen M. Turner**

### CORPORATE PARTNERS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Corporate Partner Advisory Council invites corporate and industry leaders to be advocates for Columbia College Chicago through promotion of the college’s mission and outreach to diverse constituents outside of Columbia’s campus.

**John Harris**, a5
**Kim Theiss**, ABC
**Seth Unger**, Gensler
**Kelly Wilson**, Motorola
**Mike Cassidy**, Sheraton Hotel & Tower
**Sarita Connelly**, Harris Bank
**Robin Hammond**, The Second City

### PRESIDENT’S CLUB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
The purpose of the President’s Club Executive Council is to assist, advise and advocate on behalf of the President’s Club of Columbia College. This core group strategizes on the types of initiatives, opportunities and events that may engage existing and potential President’s Club donors.

**Chair: Marcia Lazar (M.F.A. ’03), Asset Recoveries International, Ltd.**
**Dara Belic**, Recycle the Raindrops
**J. Gorman Cook**, William Blair and Co.
**Lloyd Fry**, The Chicago Community Trust
**Nena Ivon**, Independent Lecturer and Event Producer
**James Kinoshita**, JP Morgan, Private Wealth Management
**Jean Kralka**, Smith Barney
**Justin Kulovsek (B.A. ’04)**, The Nielsen Company
**Michael Perlow**, Westwood Management Corp.
**D. Elizabeth Price**
**Elaine Cohen Rubin**, Live Marketing
**Roberta Rubin**, The Book Stall at Chestnut Court
**Phil Tadros (’02)**, Doejo
**Tom Trainor**, PGI Marketing & Communications
**Jerald Ziegler**, Bradley Associates
What would you do with $100 million? It’s a question faced by very few people, and those who have faced it are likely in their position because of sheer luck. (Hitting the jackpot, anyone?) However, Columbia College Chicago leaders have a lot more on their minds than sheer indulgences when it comes to that amount of money.

Over the past decade, Columbia has been building the resources, support and strategic vision to launch an unprecedented $100 million campaign that will support the school’s ongoing development. Most significantly, funding for students will come through grants, scholarships and a lasting endowment to fund the future. More than $60 million has been raised already in a campaign aimed at alumni, arts philanthropists and residents of Chicago.

The campaign has the potential to transform Columbia by making its education more accessible to a diverse population of talented students, supporting the facilities and programs that make a Columbia education possible, and creating a foundation for future growth.

Support for Students

The main focus of the fundraising campaign is scholarship funds. “We need to support students who want to follow in the footsteps of our alums,” says Warrick L. Carter, Ph.D., president of Columbia College Chicago. “Our number-one priority is to build scholarships, to get money into students’ hands right now.”

Scholarships help Columbia attract and retain creative, motivated students regardless of their ability to pay, allowing them to focus on their academic specialties. After all, talent and money don’t always come together. Columbia already offers assistance to students through named scholarships aimed at students in specific situations and through Scholarship Columbia, the campuswide scholarship program. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)
Student Spotlight: 
Ashley-Lauren Elrod 
Theatre Acting Major

Why did you choose Columbia for college?
I came here on a tour with my father, and I learned that Columbia had one of the best theatre programs in the country, which was very appealing to me, along with the dance therapy program. My greatest dream is definitely to be a performer.

You received a scholarship through Scholarship Columbia. What does that scholarship mean to you?
My parents have not had an easy time sending me and my brother to private colleges, so this scholarship has been a blessing to help me finish off my last year strong. If it weren’t for this scholarship, I would not be in school. Thanks so much, scholarship committee!

What was the most exciting experience for you this year?
Being able to play Mrs. Muller in the play Doubt, an advanced directing project for the theatre department. It was the most amazing feeling being able to get inside the character’s head and fully embody who she was, and, in the end, making people feel something. I worked with a beautiful cast, crew and director, and we all became such good friends. That’s the best part of a show: becoming one with the people around you, and, even when it’s all over, the bonds never end.

What do you think you’ve learned at Columbia that you might not have learned at another college?
I’ve learned to take risks. The acting program and my friends have helped me to learn to jump at something with my whole heart and just take it. I have always been a go-getter, but coming here has made me a constant life-hungry individual ready to take on my path.

FOR MORE OF THE STORY, GO TO COULM.EDU/ANNUALREPORT
Student Spotlight: Marco Scola
Broadcast Journalism Major

Why did you choose Columbia for college?
I really got a sense of what Columbia’s work environment would be like—that these were both driven teachers and individuals who were go-getters. If you want to be the best in your industry, you have to learn from and work with the best.

I want to be a play-by-play broadcaster for sports, and Columbia College was the only college in the country that allowed me to call games on the air as a freshman. That opportunity, and working at WCRX, has led me to internships. I couldn’t be happier.

You received two scholarships to attend Columbia. What do those scholarships mean to you?
Receiving the scholarships has helped me and my family tremendously. I’m truly grateful. I probably could not have come here if I hadn’t had that opportunity.

What do you think you’ve learned at Columbia that you might not have learned at another college?
Everything I’ve learned in the journalism and radio departments, I feel I’ve gotten from the best of the best in those fields. I don’t think I could’ve gotten that from any other school. Every one of my teachers was or is a practicing member of their craft. That’s something, I believe, that only Columbia can say.

What has been the most rewarding experience for you at Columbia?
Being able to do all of the stuff I dreamt about doing: being on air at WCRX, calling the UIC Flames basketball season on WCRX, and working and learning from some great people.

When you envision the college’s future, what comes to mind?
It’s only going to get better, and that’s what’s scary. What will tomorrow’s Columbia students be like? What will they want to achieve? The sky is the limit!
Among the variety are:

- **Robert Enrietto Jr. Scholarship**, which supports students participating in the Semester in L.A. Film & Video program and established to honor the founder and former director of the program, who graduated from Columbia in 1967

- **Michael Fryzlewicz Scholarship**, which was established to assist with defraying tuition and fee expenses for incoming freshmen, transfer and continuing students who elect to major in American Sign Language-English Interpretation

- **Georgia B. Fogelson Scholarship**, which provides up to $5,000 per year to Chicago Public School graduates demonstrating academic achievement and financial need

- **Betty Garrett Musical Theatre Scholarship**, which was established for outstanding full-time freshman, sophomore, junior and senior musical theatre students to defray the cost of tuition and fees as they near completion of their undergraduate degrees

- **Hillary Kalish Scholarship**, designed to help students who have both a medical and a financial challenge

- **Al Parker Excellence in Radio Scholarship**, awarded to one outstanding radio major each year based on achievement in the department and potential for future creative development

- **Scholarship Columbia**, for students throughout Columbia, supported by donors and the Board of Trustees. The college has agreed to match donations to Scholarship Columbia one to one for gifts up to $25,000 (two to one for alumni), up to a total match of $1 million. That generous commitment multiplies the value of contributions to this major program.

The money matters right now. Bill Coon, a marketing communication and radio major from Lake Zurich, Ill., scheduled to graduate in December 2011, is a recipient of the Hillary Kalish Scholarship. “I had to leave school for a semester because I was diagnosed with end-stage heart and kidney disease. I was in the hospital for 70 days,” he says. “Obviously, 70 days in the hospital costs a lot of money.” Even though he had health insurance, the out-of-pocket and incidental expenses were enormous and caused a financial hardship for his family. “I didn’t know that I would be able to go back to college,” he says.

Thanks to the Kalish scholarship and other financial aid programs, Coon is back on campus. The funds meant that he could focus on his recovery instead of trying to take on a job. He didn’t waste that time, either:

(Continued on the next page)
Columbia College Chicago’s Media Production Center (mPC) isn’t just another classroom. Opened in January 2010, the first new-construction building in the college’s 121-year history is a state-of-the-art learning environment outfitted with two film production soundstages, a motion-capture studio, digital labs, animating suites, a fabrication shop and classrooms. Designed by award-winning architect Jeanne Gang, the 35,500-square-foot mPC is considered a masterpiece of form and function, providing film and video students with real-world, hands-on experience.

“The curriculum underwent an innovative change in anticipation of the mPC,” says Doreen Bartoni, dean of the School of Media Arts, crediting the work of Film & Video department chair, Bruce Sheridan. “Bruce envisioned the mPC as a laboratory in which students viewed what was happening on a sound stage in much the same way medical education allows doctors to view surgeries. We achieved this by connecting our classrooms to cameras, so students can view in real time not only what is happening on the set but also what the camera is filming. It is a radical 21st-century approach to film education, which deeply enriches our students’ experience.”

The facility, which cost $21 million, was made possible thanks to donors who believe in Columbia’s ability to shape the next generation of filmmakers. Paul Broucek (B.A. ’74), president of music at Warner Bros. Pictures, donated as a way to thank Columbia and the professors who “broadened his knowledge.” Through the mPC, he says, students “can really up their production values while working on their projects.”

“Students studying in different disciplines such as directing, cinematography, production design and audio can now learn and develop their production skills together,” Sheridan says. “Now our students learn in a hands-on way how to work with design to enhance their particular skill set.”

Chris Stockbridge, an interactive arts and media major, agrees. “The new space has broadened the amount of industry-level knowledge available to us. The facility itself is larger than most professional-level studios,” he says. “Not many schools give their students this level of technology.”

Indeed, the mPC is already a point of destination for national and international visitors who marvel at its ability to be educational and functional. It has even attracted elementary and high school students eager to get an inside look of what it means to be a filmmaker. “Many kids know about movies, but it’s not easy to find out how you learn to be a filmmaker,” says Sheridan.

Thanks to the Media Production Center at Columbia College Chicago, that’s all changing.

—REA FREY (B.A. ’04)

He wrote journals during his illness and self-published them as Swim: A Memoir of Survival. “In an artistic sense, the scholarship helped me on another level,” he says, because having time for recovery gave him the energy to work on his book.

Jessica Valerio, an arts, entertainment and media management major from Malvern, Mass., who graduated in May, attended Columbia College Chicago with the help of Scholarship Columbia. “It came at a particularly difficult time for my family, with the unemployment of my parents,” she says.

In addition to pursuing her academic degree, Valerio interned with the Museum of Contemporary Art and participated in the Exhibition/Gallery Practicum, serving as part of a team that created an exhibit at Columbia’s Hokin Gallery. Valerio also served as student government president for two years and as student representative to the Board of Trustees. An area of focus for her is student affordability, and the student government worked with both the administration and the Chicago community on cost issues. Last year, Valerio and other students organized letter-writing campaigns and lobbied the Illinois state legislature in support of the Illinois Monetary Assistance Program (MAP) grants that many state residents use to help defray the costs of higher education. “With all those efforts, tuition is still a problem,” Valerio says. “We need help from all angles.”

Because these scholarship funds are so important to students, Columbia College Chicago has created a recognition program, the Circle of Contributors, to honor those who give $10,000 or more.

Giving to current programs

Visitors to Columbia are often surprised by how much the college has grown into a visible presence throughout the South Loop. As the college has expanded, it has developed some amazing facilities that...
Student Spotlight:
Carrie Jones
ASL-English Interpretation Major

Why did you choose Columbia for college?
In high school, I went to a Chris Brown concert, and I saw an interpreter on stage with him—that was my first time ever seeing an interpreter. The next morning, I went to the career center and was looking up schools that had interpreting majors—Columbia was one of those schools. I loved the urban location and focus on creativity.

You’ve received some scholarships through Columbia. What do these mean to you?
I’ve actually received three scholarships that have helped to make my dream a reality. If it weren’t for the amazing donors, I would be at home in St. Louis being a statistic. My mom was the first person in my family to graduate from college, and I will be the second. That means more to me than anything I could ever acquire later in life. I feel that, by having this support, now it’s my job to make the generosity go further.

What have been some of your favorite moments at Columbia?
I’ve been in several big fashion shows, interpreted for a famous poet, performed in several plays, and background danced for a local artist. I’ve accomplished more in three years than many people have done in a lifetime. I’m living my dream before my life really begins.

For more of the story, go to colum.edu/annualreport
support students, faculty and the arts in general. Part of responsible expansion is ensuring that there are funds in place to keep the Klieg lights on, another priority for the Columbia campaign.

Some of the funds will go to smaller spaces that display student and faculty work and that are integrated into class projects. For example, the A+D Gallery, used for exhibits showing the process of creation of art and design, needs to be refurbished.

Other facilities in need of funding are landmarks. In November, Columbia College Chicago acquired the Johnson Publishing building, historic home of Ebony and Jet magazines. The building has room for the college library, which has outgrown its current home in the 624 S. Michigan Ave. building; because it is near the center of the campus, students will have easy access to the materials. Along with that tangible benefit, the building acquisition honors the role of John H. and Eunice Johnson in American culture. The pair created a place for writers, editors and photographers to showcase the best of African-American life, and they started a revolution when they agreed to print the photos of Emmett Till’s beaten body in 1955. The Johnson Legacy Project will include funds for the library, preservation of the building and its iconic signs, and a scholarship honoring the Johnsons.

Another area of interest to many donors is the Media Production Center, Columbia’s first new building, designed specifically for the work to be done in it (see page 22). The architecture captures the energy of the campus, and the studios and workspaces allow students to learn the fundamentals of production and to create their own media works.

Building for the future

As great as the need is for funds to support the current Columbia student body, this is also Columbia’s moment to build for the future. The endowment—valued at more than $110 million at press time—generates investment income that adds a little stability to the budget, helping to ensure that Columbia continues to create change for another century.

And, part of securing the future involves cultivating a base of donors, no matter what aspect of the fundraising campaign they choose to support. After all, Columbia College Chicago has a lot of graduates and friends who may not be in a position to make a significant donation today—but they could be some day.

One program to help find new sources of support is Passport to Columbia, which gives members discounts to performances at the Dance Center and the Chicago Jazz Ensemble as well as special events and receptions. The goal is to create an audience for the amazing work on campus and to generate enthusiasm among arts patrons so that they will support Columbia the way that they support other local arts organizations.

Bill Coon loves his Columbia College Chicago experience, made possible by the generosity of its donors. “There are no limits to the creativity. Everyone is totally accepted, which allows everyone to do what they want,” he says.

The Campaign for Columbia College Chicago is about honoring the past of the institution by raising funds for both the present and the future. “This is Columbia College’s moment,” says President Carter. “It’s taken us a while to get to this moment, but it clearly is our moment. Fifteen years ago, people would say, ‘Columbia who? Columbia what?’ That no longer happens in this city, or really any place else. People know who we are, and these communities here in Chicago are rallying around us as we have this campaign.”

For more information on Campaign for Columbia College Chicago, visit colum.edu/giving or call 312.369.7287.

The campaign is raising funds for capital projects. The Averill and Bernard Leviton A+D Gallery at 619 S. Wabash Ave., which showcases student and professional works, needs to be refurbished. Columbia acquired the Johnson Publishing Company building at 820 S. Michigan Ave., historic home of Ebony and Jet magazines, in 2010. The building will house the college’s ever-expanding library.

Photos: Latrice Dixon
JOHN PAUL MARCELO (B.A. '99)

John Paul Marcelo uses his art to document significant world issues. By doing so, he hopes to help others in need.

“I have become dedicated to documenting through painting and sharing my visions to educate and hopefully activate others,” Marcelo says. “I’d like to think my art is a call to action.”

In September 2005, two weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, Marcelo traveled there as a volunteer with The Common Ground Collective, a group of about 50 people, that helped clean churches and houses and provide locations for medical assistance and necessities such as food and clothes. It inspired Marcelo to return as an artist and create work conveying the area’s annihilation.

“I had intentions of painting while I was there the first time, but there were just too many people that needed immediate help,” Marcelo says. “On my last day there, I went to the Lower 9th Ward and saw such incredible devastation. It was at that moment that I decided I had to return strictly to paint.”

Marcelo has also donated his time as a firedancer with Dreamtime Circus in India, inspiring others to volunteer for Dreamtime’s second tour in Peru. During his free time in India, he painted scenes from Bhopal, the 1984 industrial disaster whose effects continue to haunt the country.

“I want to document the really incredible things that are happening ... whether [they are] natural disasters or man-made disasters,” Marcelo says.

Marcelo earned a bachelor’s degree in design from Columbia in 1999. But it was a landscape-focused fine-arts course that helped him discover that his passion—both artistically and geographically—lay elsewhere.

“I was really happy with the fine-arts classes I took at Columbia,” Marcelo says. “Without those classes, I definitely wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Marcelo resides near San Francisco, Calif., where he finds the climate more compassionate to plein air (“open air” in French) painting, which focuses on outdoor scenery.

“Although my winter snow scenes in Chicago are some of my favorite subject matter, the more favorable weather of California has really attracted me,” Marcelo says.

California won’t be Marcelo’s home for long, as he plans to continue his work while traveling.

“I want to connect and travel more to places where there are social and environmental concerns,” Marcelo says. “I want to be able to be on a plane days after a disaster, ready to document.”

—BECCA JAMES (B.A. ‘11)
In September 2005, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Marcelo traveled to New Orleans, first to volunteer as a relief worker, and later, to capture the devastation of the area. **TOP LEFT:** House on Car #2, Lower 9th Ward. Oil on wood. **TOP RIGHT:** School Bus vs. Freight Barge, Lower 9th Ward. Oil on wood. **BOTTOM:** Wrecked House on the Street. Oil on wood.
Marcelo attends the annual Burning Man festival in the Nevada desert. **TOP:** *Burning Man 2003.* Oil on masonite. “My first year out there.” **BOTTOM:** *Priscilla on the Playa.* Oil on wood. The bus belonged to Marcelo’s environmental activist friends from Oregon who were attending Burning Man in 2005. “A couple weeks later,” Marcelo says, “we drove down to New Orleans with volunteers and supplies. Those friends are some of the biggest influences in my life.”

**ABOVE:** *Bliss* depicts the 40-foot steel sculpture *Bliss Dance* by Marco Cochrane that was displayed at Burning Man 2010. Oil on wood.
Paul Broucek, president of music at Warner Bros. Pictures, graduated from Columbia College in 1974 with a focus on creative writing and music.

His film-school education came a few years later, though, while working with one of Hollywood’s best sound designers for 10 months on the groundbreaking movie *Apocalypse Now*.

Since then, he has gone on to produce the music for films such as *The Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter* and *Austin Powers*. And he credits his experiences at Columbia with building the foundation for that success.

“Columbia was by far my best educational experience of anything I’ve done,” Broucek says. “I just loved the vibe. It left a big impression on me in terms of expressing yourself, getting your ideas down on paper. You get a sense of confidence from being at Columbia.”

A few years ago, Broucek got a call from Andy Hill, who was starting an M.F.A. program in Music Composition for the Screen at Columbia. Hill encouraged Broucek to come back to Chicago for guest lectures and workshops.

“I was amazed by the South Loop,” says Broucek, who was born and raised in Oak Park but left for California soon after graduating.

“IT’s exciting to me. It’s every bit as vibrant as the area around NYU in Manhattan.”

Reconnecting with Columbia forged the groundwork for Broucek’s significant contribution to the construction of the school’s Media Production Center, which opened in 2010 and is the first new-construction building in the college’s history (see page 22).

“I love the fact that students have available to them a very state-of-the-art operation,” he says. “They can really up their production values while working on their projects. It’s deceptively simple in design, and that’s on purpose. Like a good production facility, it can become so many things so quickly. It’s a really exciting place.”

Before becoming president of music for Warner Bros. Pictures in 2009, Broucek spent 12 years working on music for New Line Cinema, including four years as president of the music division. He served as executive music producer on *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy.

“The big story in my career is and will be *Lord of the Rings,*” he says. “That was a tremendous experience, exhausting and all encompassing. It’s the biggest and probably most expensive music project in the history of cinema because of what we did and how we did it.”

—HEATHER LALLEY
Since Deborah Holdstein, Ph.D., arrived at Columbia College Chicago in 2007, the institution has become more and more of a family affair. She’s the dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). Her son, David Gilman, is a Columbia music student and bass player focusing on instrumental performance. And in December 2009, Holdstein honored her husband, Jay Boersma, a Columbia alumnus, with a scholarship in his name.

The Jay W. Boersma Scholarship, open to all LAS majors, double majors (with at least one being an LAS major) and LAS interdisciplinary majors, will award up to $5,000 to worthy juniors and seniors. Students will have maintained a 3.5 cumulative grade point average, completed an essay as part of the application, and qualified for federal aid.

For Holdstein, the scholarship was not only an opportunity to pay tribute to her husband in name, but also for his chosen path. “I want to help students who represent what Jay represents in terms of the ideal Columbia student,” she says.

Boersma, who graduated in 1974 with a degree in fine art photography, has described the Columbia College of his day as an “unruly, unaccredited and very exciting alternative to traditional university study.” He says, “At Columbia I learned how to learn, how to be adaptable and persevere. I learned how to think, really.”

Jay’s an outstanding photographer with work in the Art Institute of Chicago,” Holdstein says. “And yet he’s also widely read. He loves Mark Twain. He likes poetry. He knows literature.”

As a student working toward a photography degree in the mid-1970s, Boersma was also a printmaker, a ceramicist and a fiction writer in training. “There isn’t anything that’s unrelated to everything else,” he says. “I think that knowing about architecture and poetry and knowing about what’s going on in the world makes you a better artist regardless of what your medium is. That’s why, as a student, you shouldn’t narrow your focus, because college is an opportunity to really test the waters in a bunch of different areas.”

Holdstein says the scholarship, which will be awarded to students once it matures financially, has allowed her family to take a leading role in the school’s most ambitious development drive to date. This is Columbia’s Moment: Campaign for Columbia College Chicago is a $100 million effort for student scholarships, programs, operations and special projects. “If we’re asking our faculty and staff to contribute to Columbia College during these difficult economic times,” she says, “then certainly it’s important for those of us in more visible positions with the college to stand up and get with the program.”

The son and grandson of house painters, Boersma was the first in his family to earn a college degree. When his wife first told him of the scholarship at a dinner outing, he first thought of his hard-working father. “It was very emotional and took me quite by surprise,” he says. “I wish my father could have been here to see it.”

—WILLIAM MEINERS (M.F.A. ‘96)
“What keeps me going is watching students discover their passions and talents. I enjoy watching the students do the best that they can.”

CHRIS RICHERT (B.A. ’99)

“General manager” barely begins to describe Chris Richert’s role in Columbia College Chicago’s Journalism Department. Between overseeing student-run publications—campus newspaper The Columbia Chronicle and Echo magazine—and assisting department chair Nancy Day, Richert really shines behind the scenes.

As a 1999 graduate, Richert has been a proud member of the college community for 16 years, making him an insightful resource for students. Whether he is solving a miniature crisis with the Chronicle’s front page or offering advice to a frustrated staff member, Richert is most comfortable celebrating students’ well-deserved accomplishments—often watching from the wings ready to help if need be.

“I wear many hats here, but what keeps me going is watching students discover their passions and talents,” Richert says. “I enjoy watching the students do the best that they can.”

As a Columbia student in the 1990s, Richert studied in the Television Department and was a producer for the college’s Music Live, an MTV-style show that featured local Chicago bands. He also sold ads for The Columbia Chronicle and interned for The Jerry Springer Show, where he briefed guests, preparing them for their television debut and the impending shenanigans.

Of his experience, Richert jokes, “Jerry Springer wasn’t for me. It wasn’t dysfunctional enough.”

Richert’s sense of humor is equaled by his serious scholarship support.

“Watching students struggle financially hits home,” Richert says. “I give because I can actually see the difference it makes in each and every student. I can see them walking through the door.”

Richert donates to several Columbia scholarship initiatives, including the Alumni Scholarship Fund, an award dedicated to supporting junior- and senior-year students, and the John Fischetti Scholarship, which was established in memory of the late political cartoonist and awarded annually to outstanding journalism students.

He also gives to the Sharon Palermo Scholarship, which was established to support talented students who are committed to careers in the television industry.

“Sharon’s husband, Luke Palermo, was one of my teachers,” Richert says, “and he was by far one of the most profound teachers I had. He really cared about his students. He got to know them on an appropriately personal level as well as a professional level.”

To anyone familiar with Richert, it’s obvious that, like Palermo, he too cares about Columbia’s students.

—BECCA JAMES (B.A. ’11)
The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall, and Resurgence of an American Gang
By Natalie Y. Moore and Lance Williams
Reviewed by Geoff Hyatt (M.F.A. ’09)

The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall, and Resurgence of an American Gang is perhaps one of the only books of its kind, an immaculately researched history of a Chicago gang told in the context of numerous sociopolitical factors.

The youth gang called the Blackstone Rangers began as a dozen or so schoolboys in Chicago’s Woodlawn neighborhood. The group quickly rose to fame (or to infamy) in the 1960s. Later known as the Black P-Stone Nation and the El Rukns, they were affected by and exerted influence on many touchstones of American history over the past half century. Chicago’s gangs reflect and shape history over the past half century.

The gang is defined through its relationships to neighborhood politics, Black Nationalism, social reformers, law enforcement and the members themselves. All see the Almighty Black P Stone nation in a different light. The book gives us the truth and the legend, allowing the reader to understand the gang though a deep context and many points of view.

Boilerplate: History’s Mechanical Marvel
By Paul Guinan and Anina Bennett (B.A. ’89)
Reviewed by Daniel Prazer (M.F.A. ’09)

Robots. Today, they weld car chassis with precision no human could muster. They help surgeons operate inside tiny incisions. They diffuse bombs. They even sweep our floors when we’re at work. But none of these modern marvels compare to the mechanical hero known as “Boilerplate.”

In the alternate universe of Boilerplate: History’s Mechanical Marvel, a fully autonomous robot, built in Chicago in 1893 and debuted at the World’s Columbian Exhibition, uses the technology of Nikola Tesla and fuel cells pioneered by an inventor named Edward Fullerton. The “mechanical marvel,” as it was first known, was designed and built by wealthy engineer Archibald Campion on Chicago’s North Side with the hope that the walking, talking automaton would save human lives on the battlefield.

The invention takes years to catch on. Campion and Boilerplate travel the world, from the South Pole to the Egyptian deserts, taking part in small wars around the world—in the Sudan, the Boxer Rebellion and the Russo-Japanese War. Boilerplate fights alongside Teddy Roosevelt and the Buffalo Soldiers in the Spanish-American War, has a small stint as a beat cop in Chicago, and helps Black Jack Pershing pursue Pancho Villa. The stalwart robot disappears in World War I, where he finally goes missing in action.

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Stunningly written and illustrated by Paul Guinan and Columbia College Chicago alum Anina Bennett, Boilerplate reads like a history book. Readers encounter folk art depicting Boilerplate, stereoscopes of him with World War I doughboys, and letters from Campion to Mark Twain and his wife. Boilerplate is seamlessly integrated into grainy photographs beside Lawrence of Arabia and standing guard atop a fortified city wall in turn-of-the-century China. The book gracefully earns a suspension of disbelief. The robot and its maker come to life on the page, which may explain why director/producer powerhouse J.J. Abrams has optioned its film rights. This is an adventurous history readers will want to believe.

Crow Song
By Zoe Keithley
[Roan Press, 2009. $12 paperback]
Reviewed by Daniel Godston

The poems in Zoe Keithley’s Crow Song circle around themes such as nature, love, movement and family. The imagery and diction are mercurial, containing language pertaining to nature images, Chicago locales and mythological places. This collection migrates between natural and human worlds, exploring nuances of their interrelationships.

“Florida Meditation,” which focuses on the speaker’s father, illustrates the engaging narrative voice that defines this collection: “one autumn afternoon/when my child’s world hummed/a perfect circle of protection/of buttery burning leaves, tobacco, /my father’s hands and pipe/and dear huge checkered frame/all spinning on a gleaming point.”

Keithley, a former Columbia fiction writing instructor, deftly incorporates...
sensual imagery, such as in the poem “Under the fur of moss”: “At once we come together, fire into fire/wind into wind, until there is but one/form caught on itself.” Sensual, sometimes erotic imagery associated with lovers describes how elements of nature intertwine—in lovemaking gestures that are sometimes overtly personified, but at other times are ambiguous like the mist in the title “I enter you like mist”: “We kiss and that kiss is a continuum/like a slow-moving river threading/space.”

The real and the imagined play off one another throughout the collection. Keithley at times draws on Greek mythology, such as in “Visit from a Maenad.” In “Each morning I bathe,” which is evocative of a dryad (tree nymph), the speaker rinses “my hair with water of violets/or white lilac; for I never know/where I might come upon him.” This waiting happens in woodsy environs as well as in human-built settings where the lover is in “a corner of a gallery.”

Crow Song is populated with creatures found in the natural world as well, such as a pippin in “Bobbing on the bough,” an organ grinder’s monkey and the crow in this collection’s title poem.

Learn Then Burn
Edited by Tim Stafford (B.A. ’02) and Derrick Brown
[Write Bloody Publishing, 2010. $15 paperback]
Reviewed by Jessi Lee Gaylord (M.F.A. ’09)

One of the most difficult things to do as a teacher is get students excited about poetry in the classroom. Learn Then Burn is a poetry anthology for junior high and high school teachers. The anthology is edited by Tim Stafford, Columbia College alum and public school teacher, and Derrick Brown, performance artist and president of Write Bloody Publishing. Many of the poems in Learn Then Burn are collected from spoken word, performance and slam poets, as well as from teachers.

The poems also examine diversity in an urban landscape. Nate Marshall’s poem “You Know You from Chicago” is a compelling portrait of Chicago’s streets, with the lines “when you’ve never known neighbors a different hue/than you. When you’ve been to grant park/to celebrate the victory of every black boy/bringing home the trophy/whether he played basketball, baseball, or brilliance” and ends “when you’ve been to at least one/funeral trying to celebrate a life/that’s barely begun.”

Another theme of the poetry in Learn Then Burn is the complexity of familial relationships. In the 21st century, the nuclear family is no longer the norm; instead, more and more young people have nontraditional upbringings. The book offers compelling looks at sometimes dysfunctional families with poems like “Phone Wires” by Nova Venerable, which begins, “Prison guards maced my father and I when I was 12.”

Learn Then Burn explores the coming-of-age motif that will appeal to high school students with poems like “in front of the class” by Bonafide Rojas, “Water Gun” by Buddy Wakefield, “ode to the boom box” by Kevin Coval, and more.

This anthology also has a companion book, Learn Then Burn Teacher’s Guide & Work Companion. The teacher’s guide gives suggestions, techniques and example assignments for the classroom.

Nonprofit Consulting Essentials: What Nonprofits and Consultants Need to Know
By Penelope Cagney (M.A. ’88)

This is a resource for nonprofit leaders selecting and working with a consultant to ensure the best use of their organization’s resources as well as for consultants who seek to understand the dynamics that define an effective consulting practice working with social sector organizations.
DEAR ALUMNI,

It has been rewarding to see the alumni network’s growth these last couple of years. I am endlessly impressed with the alumni I meet. From the classroom to the boardroom, we are everywhere! Here are some noteworthy resources and opportunities.

The Office of Alumni Relations provides free, job-related workshops, and its collaboration with the Portfolio Center generously offers alumni a free online portfolio that potential employers can review. The office also hosts a variety of events across the country. Visit us at colum.edu/alumni to learn the latest.

With a coast-to-coast network of alumni chapters (see the list at right), you have many opportunities to connect, reconnect and get involved with your alma mater. Soon, CAAN will be organized by regions, with city chapters falling under each region. As our network continues to grow, so will the number of cities in each region. Now is a great time to join CAAN because you can help manage how your chapter fulfills its mission to build and strengthen alumni relationships. If you are already actively involved with your chapter and ready to volunteer your time, energy and talent in a leadership role, consider applying for a spot on the new CAAN National Board (see the box at left).

And speaking of giving, the Manifest Club is a new initiative to make donating even easier. You can set up an automatic deduction for a minimum of $10 per month to benefit the area of the school you love most. Visit colum.edu/manifestclub for more information. If the Manifest Club is not for you, please know that any size donation is appreciated and every gift counts.

Thank you to all who have been a part of this incredible growth in the alumni association. You are making a real difference.

I look forward to continuing the momentum. Feel free to contact me at joan@joanhammel.com. Let’s create change together.

Best wishes,

Joan Hammel (B.A. ’86)
CAAN Chapter President
NEWS & NOTES

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THERE? WE WANT TO KNOW!

To submit your news, log in to the alumni online community at colum.edu/alumni.
The listings here are edited for length; the website features expanded news, notes and pictures.

CLASS NEWS

1950s

Jacob Steigerwald (’58) published a German edition of his 2009 opus Finding Vital 1796-1945 Data Regarding German and Hungarian Ancestors of Banat(ska) Topola and Novo Selo, Plus an Exposé About the Local 1945-1946 Internment Camp for Germans of Yugoslavia. The new publication is titled Banatska Topola 1945: Vertreibungsvorgang, nebst Quellentips für Ahnenforschung.

1970s

John Franklin Finch (B.A. ’72) created his own one-man comedy show called “It’s What’s Inside That Counts.” Finch describes his performance as an “original one-man traveling musical comedy extravaganza.” Learn more about his show at pmaeveryday.com/finchsfunhouse.htm.

1980s

Penelope Cagney (M.A. ’88) presented the findings from her book Nonprofit Consulting Essentials: What Nonprofits and Consultants Need to Know at Arizona State University Conference on Nonprofit Sustainability and at the Institute of Management Consultants Annual Conference ConFab in Fall 2010.

Carlos Cruz (B.A. ’84) was one of the lucky filmmakers chosen for the Kevin Macdonald and Ridley Scott global documentary Life in a Day.

1990s

Ronit Bezalel (M.F.A. ’99), along with independent producer Brenda Schumacher and fellow alum Mark Pratt (B.A. ’98), are working on a documentary that covers the life and death of Cabrini Green.

Bruno Bonugli’s (B.A. ’97) The Beast on 92nd Street, a children’s fantasy screenplay, won best sci-fi/fantasy short at the International Family Film Festival, and was a finalist and semifinalist at the following film festivals: Slamdance, Shriekfest, Action on Film, Golden Brad Awards and GIAA.

Kari Cohen (B.A. ’90) signed a music licensing deal with EMI Music’s Film & TV Department. Her first single, a cover of Kings of Leon’s song “Sex on Fire,” is on iTunes.

Mike Finch (B.A. ’96) was recently profiled in DIY Chicago as a “Featured Filmmaker.” Visit diy-film.com/2011/03/02/magicpantz-filmz.

Maureen Fine (B.A. ’92) started the Tumbleweed Film Festival with her filmmaking partner. The festival is held in a rugged region of Washington called the Okanogan. Visit tumbleweedfilmfest.com.

Craig Gore (B.A. ’99) and Tim Walsh (’00) were greenlit by Spike TV. Their pilot, F.T.W., is on Spike’s development slate.

Lorraine Harrell (B.A. ’94) authored Creating a Map of Your World and Obama’s Hope: Our Youth Envisioning the Future. She is also an award-winning poet, playwright and journalist. She was the recipient of the McDonald’s Literary Achievement Award in poetry, an Illinois Arts Council grant in poetry, and a Mary Roberts Rhinehart grant in playwriting.

Sheila House (’99) was selected by Santa Monica TV and WIF LA to be a shadow director to DFA director Deborah Read for the production of a “Toy Loan” commercial.

VaShawn Mitchell (’97) was nominated for two Grammy awards: Best Gospel Performance for his song “Nobody Greater” and Best Contemporary R&B Gospel Album for Triumphant. Mitchell is a music minister at Higher Living Christian Church in Atlanta.

Gregory Percifield (B.A. ’96) was featured at the Galva Arts Council’s first coffeehouse event of the 2010-2011 season. Percifield sang and played piano. His website, musicforte.com, sells sheet music and gives independent artists a place to promote and sell their work.

John Quinn (B.A. ’99) edited two films, The Grudge 3 and Boogeyman 3, for Sam Raimi’s company, Ghost House Pictures. He also finished Triassic Attack for director Colin Ferguson (star of the hit show Eureka) for SyFy Channel.

Joseph Stearns (B.A. ’98), the founder of Signal Ensemble Theatre in Chicago, played the madman in Dario Fo’s Accidental Death of an Anarchist.


2000s

Stacey Aletto (B.A. ’10) is a news producer for the morning and mid-day shifts for Channel 9, an ABC affiliate, in Sioux City, Iowa.

Susan Aurinko (’00) and Cara Schillinger (M.A.M. ’09) have collaborated to start Style Souk Chicago, an upscale market of unique contemporary and vintage wearables. Style Souk Chicago made its debut in October 2010 in Chicago’s West Loop.
Dawoud Bey (’07) had his portraits on exhibit at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. His subjects were Grand Rapids teenagers. Each portrait was accompanied by an autobiographical statement. Bey hoped to use his portraits and the words of the students to express the struggles of adolescence.

Mario Bonass (B.A. ’04) is producing and directing a new comedy-fantasy web series called Legends of Atoli, based on the popular, long-running stage show Dungeonmaster created by Bruce Young. Visit kck.st/2i65G.

Thais Carter (B.A. ’05) was promoted by Advanstar Dental Media to the position of director of content. Carter now oversees the Dental Products Report, Dental Lab Products, and Modern Hygienist brands in print and online.

Tim Connery (B.A. ’09) shot a science-fiction realism film in Dubuque, Iowa, called Easter’s Article. Connelly won awards for both a previous short film and Statier’s Tapes.

Joan Cuartero (B.A. ’06) was appointed executive director for MainStreet in Batavia, Ill. Cuartero is tasked with bringing new businesses and more visitors to downtown Batavia.

Jen Davis (B.A. ’02) was featured at the Aperture Gallery in New York. Davis invited to discuss her self-portrait photographs and her photo series, Ask in exchange, with philosopher Pierre Cassou-Nogués.

Alex DiGiacinto (B.A. ’08) is a cast member of Second City Chicago, U.S. Touring Company. He presented the capstone thesis “Creating the Digital Sandbox: Visions of the Human in Cyber Culture, Cyberspace and Science Fiction” at the 3rd Global Conference at Mansfield College, University of Oxford, in England.

Alicia Emmrich (B.A. ’01) was the associate producer for Easy A, which stars Emma Stone, Thomas Haden Church, Penn Badgley, Amanda Bynes and Lisa Kudrow.


Stephanie Furst Slater (B.A. ’04) and her husband, Eric Slater (’05), opened a bakery, Pan de Vida (“Bread of Life”), in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua.

Jessica Galliart (B.A. ’09) left her position as assistant editor at Playboy.com and became Metromix’s events producer.

Jonathan Hymen (B.A. ’09) appeared alongside fellow alums Elizabeth McArthur-Wellis (B.A. ’04) and Mary Spray (B.A. ’03) in Musical of the Living Dead. Spray composed the music for the production and arranged it with her husband, Matthew Mehawich (B.A. ’03).

Tamara Jones (B.F.A. ’08) appeared on The Fashion Show Ultimate Collection on Bravo. Jones was a finalist in the Round Bobbin Emerging Young Designers and the Fashion Group International Design competitions in 2006. She also established her own women’s wear line, Tamara Nicole.


Marty Kasper (B.A. ’10) was hired by Rockford-based WTOI/WQRF FOX 39 as a reporter in October 2010.

James Kinser (M.A. ’05) and Niki Grangruth’s (M.F.A. ’09) photo collaboration Valpicon Bather (After Ingres) was on exhibit at the Woman Made Gallery as part of the Girl, Please! exhibition that ran from November 5 through December 23, 2010. Columbia was well represented in the exhibition with works by alums Tannar Veatch (B.F.A. ’10), Heather Christoffer (’10), Karen Bovinich (B.F.A. ’10), Jennifer Greenberg (’95) and Matt Nichols (B.A. ’04).

Samantha Kirk (B.A. ’05) was one of 12 artists featured in the annual event of Chicago Artists Month, held in fall 2010.

Lauren Lee (B.A. ’07) was hired by Ridgefield One as a recruiter specializing in administrative staffing. Previously, she was a recruitment coordinator for St. Vincent’s Catholic Medical Center in New York City.

John Lendman (B.A. ’09) was hired by the RedEye.

Michael Lynch’s (B.A. ’05) award-winning film, Swerve, was screened at Columbia Night at the Chicago International Film Festival at the AMC River East in Chicago. Alumni who worked on Swerve include Pat Russo (B.A. ’05), key grip; Cameron Dershem (’08), best boy electric; Lon Strickland (B.A. ’04), DI/ composer (parts); Collin Schiffli (B.A. ’09), producer’s assistant; and Roxy Strickland (B.A. ’04), script supervisor. Visit swervethefilm.com.

Damon Maloney (B.A. ’08) left his position as a reporter at the ABC affiliate in Fort Smith, Ark., for a weekend anchor and reporter position at WKB-TV, the CBS affiliate in Youngstown, Ohio.

Brett Marlow (B.A. ’09) works in the editorial department of Groupon as a fact checker.

Chris Medina (’08) auditioned for American Idol and was invited by judges to continue his participation in the competition’s Hollywood Week round. He made it through several rounds before being eliminated when judges selected the Top 24.

Philip Messina (B.A. ’09) is a member of two bands, Ofyakus and Impale. Ofyakus is recording a new album, and Impale is promoting its new demo. Visit myspace.com/impale1.

Roberto Meza (B.A. ’05) recently launched Blak Maria, an urban art-inspired apparel project based out of Chicago. Visit blakmaria.com.

Juan Montelongo (B.A. ’06) was an independent producer for the film The Triangle of Death. The film won a Founder’s Choice Award at the GI Film Festival and was shown on the Military Channel.

Dimitri Moore (B.A. ’11) was in Park City, Utah, for the Sundance Film Festival shooting a documentary about first-time directors, including Columbia alumni Norman Franklin (B.A. ’10) and Tanya Savard (B.A. ’10). The documentary aired on WTTW in spring 2011.

Morgan Moore (B.A. ’10) is a reporter for WTWO in Terre Haute, Ind.


Brenda Perry’s (B.F.A. ’01) work was featured in two solo exhibits. Underlying Issues was shown at the El Paso Museum of Art, and Postmortem Juarez was exhibited at the Museo de Arte de Ciudad Juarez in Mexico.

Michaela Petro (’04) played the lead in Wildclaw Theatre’s production of Camilo in January and February 2011 at DCA Theater.

Keven Rhodes (B.A. ’05) shot the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada. In 2010, Rhodes also shot the Indianapolis 500 for the second time.

Monika Rydzewski (B.A. ’08) was interviewed by the Chicago Tribune in an article about web video marketing for businesses. Rydzewski is the marketing manager at LinkedInChicago Group and is the marketing director at Chicago Web Video Marketing.

Matthew C. Scaro (B.A. ’05) has expanded his company, Progressive Cable Solutions, to the Chicago market. The company secured a contract with Comcast to help salespeople sell Internet, cable and telephone in the western suburbs of Chicago.

Kristine Siapno (B.A. ’09) and fellow alum Patrick Smith (B.A. ’10) work as reporters for BidClerk.

Amna Siddiqui (B.A. ’04) had works from her Pakistan collection featured at the Chicago Sister Cities International’s From Chicago to Lahore: Connecting Edge. The gallery
showcased a mesmerizing exhibition of international drawings, films, photographs, writings and paintings. Visit amnasiddiquiblog.blogspot.com.

Che Smith (‘01) ran for alderman of the 20th ward in Chicago. Smith won a Grammy for his work on “Jesus Walks” with Kanye West.

Christine Street (B.A. ’05) launched the question is, a game about challenging and exposing perspectives on everything from politics, sex, ugly babies, art, religions and more.

Milton Suggs (B.A. ’06) launched his album, Things To Come, through Skiptone Music. DownBeat Magazine praised the album and Suggs’ singing abilities.

Matt Swanston (B.A. ’02) returned to Chicago for the 2011 Hearts A Bluhm event for the Northwestern Memorial Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute. His creation, City Pulse, was on display on the Magnificent Mile during February to honor National Heart Health Month.

Marc van Bree (B.A. ’05) was an invited keynote speaker on the topic of social media and the arts at the stART.10 Conference in Duisburg, Germany, in September 2010. The presentation is available at mcmvanbree.com.

Sachelle Walker-Jones (B.A. ’10) was hired as a reporter by WTVO Channel 17 News in Rockford, Ill.

Huck Walton (’07) is making music in Los Angeles. Visit myspace.com/huckwalton.

Milestones

Christina Carraro (B.A. ’10) is engaged to be married to Kyle Peterson, according to Northwest Herald. Carraro is a technical assistant at the Alzheimer’s Association in Chicago.

Kathie Bergquist (English, Fiction Writing) edited the literary anthology Windy City Queer: LGBTQ Dispatches from the Third Coast, which will be released in fall 2011 by University of Wisconsin Press. Writers include David Trinidad (English), Karen Lee Osborne (English), Deb Lewis (Fiction) and several Columbia alumni.


Robert Buchar (Film & Video) participated in the FrontPage Magazine Symposium “The Shadow of the KGB.”

James Falzone (First-Year Seminar) was featured in a recent issue of DownBeat Magazine, a music publication that covers jazz and blues. The article, titled “Subtle Infusions,” delves into Falzone’s work as a professional musician and his work in the college’s First-Year Seminar program, calling him a “gentle soul” who is a “virtuoso and a brilliant strategist” in music. Falzone’s newest release is titled Lamentations.

Ron Falzone (Film & Video) and Jack C. Newell (Film & Video) wrote and directed, respectively, Typing, a short film that had its world premiere October at the Chicago International Film Festival. It was accepted into the Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner. Visit shortfilmcorner.com/uk/home.html.

Jennie Fauls (English), Regina J. Wellner (HHSS) and Jonathan Keiser (Academic Affairs) presented “Designing Innovative Practices in the Professional Development of Adjunct Faculty” at the Association of American Colleges & Universities General Education and Assessment Conference on March 4, 2011, in Chicago.

Greg Foster-Rice (Photography) co-edited with John Rohrbach the recently published Reframing the New Topographics, an anthology of images and essays addressing the impact of a historic shifting, reshaping and evolution of American landscape photography.

Michael Freeman (Audio Arts and Acoustics) won a Grammy Award for Best Traditional Blues Album for Joined at the Hip in February. Freeman mixed and produced for blues icons Pinetop Perkins and Willie “Big Eyes” Smith, both Muddy Waters alumni. AA+’s students Chris Powley, Bob Garcia and Nick Ledesma assisted on the sessions.

Karla Fuller’s (Film & Video) Hollywood Goes Oriental was given an honorable mention in the 2011 Peter C. Rollins Book Award Competition, which recognizes notable books in popular culture studies and/or American culture studies.

Norma Green (Journalism) was selected to participate in the Summer 2011 Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Program to Morocco and Tunisia to develop specialized curriculum about religious diversity in the Maghreb. She will be studying the role that Judaism, Christianity and Islam have played in a part of the world that is simultaneously African, Mediterranean, Arab and Berber to incorporate into her course “Covering Religion” and other academic venues.

Arielle Greenberg’s (Poetry) book, Home/Birth: A Poemic, is available from 1913 Press. The book was co-written by Rachel Zucker.

Del Harvey’s (Film & Video) film Blood Kin screened at the Sci-Fi Spectacular at Music Box Theatre on March 19.

Deborah H. Holdstein (School of Liberal Arts and Sciences) published “Confession as an Uncontrolled Substance: An Introduction” as the foreword to Compelling Confessions: The Politics of Personal Disclosure. The volume features essays centered on the social dynamics behind confessional discourse, which is, according to the book, “ubiquitous in contemporary culture.”

Allan Johnston (English) delivered his paper “Some of the Dharma: The Human, the Heavenly, and ‘The Real Work’ in the Poetry of Gary Snyder” at the Religion and Spirituality in Society Conference 2011 in Chicago.

Barbara Kasten (Photography) was recently featured in three exhibitions. A new book about art, The Edge of Vision: Abstraction in Contemporary Photography, will also include Kasten’s work.

Mark Kelly (Student Affairs) co-chaired One State 2011, convened biennially by Arts Alliance Illinois and the Illinois Arts Council. The event is the only statewide, multidisciplinary conference for arts leaders and practitioners in Illinois. One State 2011 took place May 23-24 in Bloomington-Normal.

Bob Koverman (Safety & Security) became a member of the Underwriters Laboratories Inc. National Security Council. As part of the group, Koverman will help develop effective programs to address domestic and international safety and security needs.

David Lazar (English) has work in a new anthology titled Aspects of Robinson: Homage to Weldon Kees.
Elio Leturia (Journalism) was awarded The Minority Journalism Educators Fellowship from the American Press Institute. He also was elected president of the Chicago Chapter of the Fulbright Association for the year 2011. Leturia came to the U.S. from Peru on a Fulbright scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in journalism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Since 2008, he has been on the Fulbright chapter’s board in charge of communications.

Larry Lundy (Film & Video) was the art director on Jennifer Hudson’s recent music video, “Where You At,” shot in Chicago at the Hoxie mansion, 44th and Michigan. He also was chosen as set decorator for Take The Money and Run, a television series produced for Profile Television being shot at the Niles Police Station, and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer.

Katie Mahalic (Film & Video) was one of 10 finalists in OpenFilm’s Get It Made Competition with her thesis film Michael Saints.

Vaun Monre’s (Film & Video) pilot A King’s Way aired on WCIU The U Chicago on February 26.


Brigid Murphy (Film & Video) presented Mily’s Spring Spectacular Family Style at the Park West in Chicago on March 20.

Neysa Page-Lieberman (Exhibition and Performance Spaces) chaired a session at the College Art Association’s annual conference in New York in February 2011 called “Making Museums Matter: Integrating Collection and Exhibition Programs with College Curriculum.” The panel highlighted innovative academic galleries that have deepened their integration into the parent institution’s curriculum and mission and have become leaders in helping to support and define the academic life and culture of campus.

Ron Pajak’s (Film & Video) documentary Queerborn & Perversion screened at the Chicago Cultural Center on March 16 as part of the Cinema Q Film Series.

Melissa Ann Pinney (Photography) published Girl Ascending, a sequel to her first book, Regarding Emma: Photographs of American Women and Girls. Both of Pinney’s books depict not only the rites of American womanhood but also the informal passages of girlhood and adolescence.

Carolina Posse (Film & Video) guest lectured about new media and alternative fundraising strategies for film at the National Association of Latino Independent Producers workshop at the Instituto Cervantes in Chicago in February.

Rose Camastro Pritchett (AEMM) was an invited art instructor at Jiujiang University, Jiujiang, China, for the first semester, 2010-2011. A selection of her artist books were exhibited at the Jiujiang University Exhibition Center during her tenure there.

Phil Reynolds (Dance) was featured as one of Newcity’s “The Players: The 50 people who really perform in Chicago” list for 2011. He joins chair Bonnie Brooks, who was featured on Newcity’s “Players” list in 2009, as one of Chicago’s Top 10 of the 50 most influential people on and offstage.

Miriam Schaer’s (Center for Book and Paper Arts) “No Ornament So Precious as the Labor of Their Hands,” a 20-foot book created from lost gloves, is featured in Raw Beauty, an exhibition of sculpture at the Arts Council of Princeton, in Princeton, N.J.

Sandeep Sharma’s (Film & Video) short film Wild Things was selected to be screened at the 13th Annual London Asian Film Festival on March 24. Wild Things, inspired by the classic children’s book by Maurice Sendak, was an 18-month collaboration with more than 100 hospitalized children in Chicago.

Louis Silverstein’s (HHSS) essay “And What Is The Worth Of A Man” was published in the winter issue of the Journal of Aging, Humanities and the Arts. He presented the paper “Body As Temple/Sex As Prayer” at the international meeting of the Religion & Spiritual Society in Chicago on February 2 and presented a paper called “Encountering Life’s Endings” at the annual meeting of Humanities Research & Education Society in San Francisco on March 3.

Daniel Sinko (Journalism) was the voice of the Twitter sensation @MayorEmanuel, which chronicled Rahm Emanuel’s run for mayor of Chicago using clever satire and a great deal of profanity. He composed nearly 2,000 tweets and had more than 40,000 followers. He appeared on The Colbert Report on March 8. Read his work at twitter.com/MayorEmanuel.

Michael Slaboch (Audio Arts and Acoustics), Numero Group producer/engineer, and the Numero Group team were honored in February with a Grammy Award nomination in category 88, Best Boxed or Special Limited Edition Package for Light: On the South Side.

Tony Trigilio’s (English) book Historic Diary was published by BlazeVOX Books.

Guy Villa Jr. (Graphic Design) gave a presentation titled “From Wordplay to Designplay: Georges Perec as Inspiration for Experimental Typography” at the 5th International Conference on Design Principles and Practices at Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, in February 2011. The presentation included the results of student work from an Advanced Typography course that Villa teaches at Columbia.

Tom Weinberg’s (Film & Video) Media Burn Independent Video Archive was honored by the Save America’s Treasures Program with a $79,000 federal grant to preserve and make available one-of-a-kind documentary footage of the 1992 presidential election and the U.S. senatorial election in Illinois.

Nina Weiss’ (Art & Design) video demonstration of a colored-pencil landscape drawing was included on DVDs in Prismacolor Premier Colored Pencil tins. Prismacolor also used drawings from her travel sketchbook in its recent Prismacolor Watercolor Pencil product brochure. Weiss served as an “art expert” for the Chicago Artists Resource during the Chicago Art Expo at the Chicago Cultural Center, providing consultations about art and business of art to artists and art students. Visit ninaweiss.com.

Stan West (English) presented two papers on service-learning at the Hawaii International Conference on the Arts and Humanities in January 2010 in Honolulu. One presentation centered on Columbia’s Indian support group, in which students helped build a roof for a family living on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and shot a video on the process. The second presentation discussed his First-Year Seminar service-learning class on local Haitian art galleries and how freshmen created websites and “found art” objects to promote and publicize the galleries and Haitian nonprofits as their way of creating awareness about reconstruction and recovery in post-earthquake Haiti.

Mia Wicklund (Film & Video) is the blog administrator for artist Mark Bradford’s residency at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Launched in January, the blog continued through May, coinciding with the opening of the Mark Bradford exhibition on May 28.

Daniele Wilmouth (Film & Video) won a commission from the Jaffe Fund for Experimental Media and Performing Arts, Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to fund Marching Banned, a 10-minute, Super-16mm dance film choreographed by Peter Carpenter.

Etta Worthington’s (Television) Foodgasm web cooking series launched in spring 2011.
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Photo: Drew Reynolds (B.A. ’97)

Photo: Alexa Rubinstein (B.A. ’09)
To kick off Story Week, alumni gathered to participate in story workshops and then enjoyed a special alumni-only party and networking reception co-sponsored by the Fiction Writing Department and the Office of Alumni Relations. The night was topped off with readings and performances at 2nd Story.

Photos by Vladimir Zaytsev (B.A. '12)
8TH ANNUAL NIGHT AT THE OSCARS, LOS ANGELES
FEBRUARY 27, 2011

We hosted our 8th Annual Night at the Oscars to a sold-out alumni crowd at the House of Blues Los Angeles. Guests were treated to a special video welcome by alumnus Peter Berkos (B.A. ’51), who won an Oscar in 1975 for his sound effects work on The Hindenberg.

Photos by Michelle Pullman

ALUMNI NIGHT AT NEO
FEBRUARY 24, 2011

Radio faculty member and WXRT DJ Terri Hemmert hosted Alumni Night at Neo to raise money for the Al Parker scholarship, which benefits radio students.

Photos by Robyn Martin (B.A. ’05)


CONVERSATIONS IN THE ARTS


[2] During his visit to campus in April, fashion designer and Project Runway season four winner Christian Siriano advised fashion design students to find a balance between creativity and commercialism.

Photos by beckermia.com
Columbia College Chicago had a big presence and a full slate of activities at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. In our third year of participation in Sundance, we hosted alumni, friends of Columbia, industry professionals—including leaders of the Sundance Film Institute—and festival-goers at several weekend events at the Waldorf Astoria Park City.

Photos by Michael Kanzler

[1] 2010 Columbia graduates Norman Franklin (front row second from left) and Tanya Savard (far right) with their friends and fans at Sundance. The pair screened their short films at the festival and were also the subjects of a documentary filmed during Sundance called Taking Park City. [2] John Cooper, director of the Sundance Film Festival, chats with Bruce Sheridan, chair of the Film and Video department, and Doreen Barton, dean of the School of Media Arts. [3] Vice President of Institutional Advancement Eric V.A. Winston, Irena Kaiser, principal at IW Kaiser Design; President Warrick L. Carter; and Trustee Michael Polsky [4] Mauro Fiore (B.A. '87), Oscar-winning cinematographer of Avatar, fields questions from guests during a reception.
In fiscal year 2010, which ended August 31, generous individuals and organizations contributed a total of $15,549,228 to support the educational mission of Columbia College Chicago. Many of those gifts were designated for Scholarship Columbia, a five-year matching program backed by $1 million, to address the financial needs of our students.

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Barbara Rosin
Paul Ruby
Paul & Sandra J. Sajas
Maura Shea
Claire Z. & Stanford T. Shulman
Richard Silver
Sara Swift

DEMO50
ORGANIZATIONS

$500,000+
US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command

$250,000 to $499,999
Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
The McCormick Foundation

$100,000 to $249,999
Chicago Public Schools
Mary Virginia Davies Trust
Kresge Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts

$50,000 to $99,999
Buckingham Master Tenant, LLC
Crown Family Philanthropies
Illinois State Board of Education
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
The Negaukee Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Terra Foundation for American Art

$25,000 to $49,999
Anonymous (1)
Mary Barnes Donelley Family Foundation
Chicago Instructional Technology Foundation

After School Matters
Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation
Chicago Instructional Technology Foundation

Barry S. Crown Charitable Trust
Gaylord and Dorothy Donelley Foundation
Flair Communications Agency, Inc.
Lannan Foundation

$10,000 to $24,999

$5,000 to $9,999
Arts Midwest

William Blair & Company Foundation
Chicago Foundation for Women
The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc.
Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, Inc.
Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation
Goldman Sachs & Co.
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
University of the Arts

$500 to $999

Arts Midwest

Charles H. Shaw Memorial Fund

$500 to $999

American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers

$100 to $249

Save a Sample!
UPCOMING EVENTS

SEE MORE AND GET MORE INFORMATION AT cOLUM.EDU/CALENDAR.
EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

GALLERIES

Public Works
Through July 17
Museum of Contemporary Photography
600 S. Michigan Ave.
312.663.5554 or colum.edu/mocp

Public Works looks at geographically and chronologically diverse examples of infrastructure captured through the lenses of historic and contemporary photographers and artists.

The World as Text:
A Summer Reading Room
June 16–August 5
Center for Book and Paper Arts
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
312.369.6630 or colum.edu/bookandpaper

The reading room features artist-made books and printed matter while concurrently exhibiting photography, new media and paintings by bookmaking artists, emphasizing artists’ books as interdisciplinary extensions of dynamic visual practices.

Running Room
June 23–July 20
A + D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash
312.369.8687 or colum.edu/adgallery

An exploration of how space affects art through the transformation of this gallery into a large and ever-changing amphitheater.

Alumni on 5: Necessary Fictions
Through August 26
Columbia College Chicago Library
624 S. Michigan Ave., 5th Floor
lib.colum.edu

Featuring alumni artists, this exhibition examines memory and the ways it shapes identity through the artists’ works.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Columbia at the 47th Chicago International Film Festival
October 6–20
colum.edu/chicagofilmfest

As the Presenting Partner of the 2011 Festival, Columbia College Chicago will participate in Opening Night festivities, offer an exclusive Columbia Night program featuring alumni productions, and bring festival filmmakers to campus in special forums for students and the community.

Gala 2011
Urban Showcase: Live What You Love
November 5
colum.edu/gala2011

Join Columbia College Chicago for a gala evening of exhilarating and unpredictable performances from our community of emerging artists. Proceeds will benefit scholarships enabling Chicago Public Schools graduates to attend Columbia.

To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Brent Caburnay at 312.369.8188 or bcaburnay@colum.edu.

Left (from Public Works at MoCP):
Hubert Blanz, X-Plantation, 2008, Courtesy of the artist

Below (from Running Room at A+D Gallery):
Madeleine Bailey, Generative Sketch, Body Poetry, 2011
Fifty years ago when this pictured development brochure was created, Columbia College was housed in rented space at 207 S. Wabash. A bold, five-year campaign for funds was set to end in 1965 on the college’s 75th anniversary.

The “Serving Tomorrow-Today” campaign sought $815,000 (in today’s currency, more than $5.9 million) toward the purchase of a permanent location for the college, various programs, curriculum, scholarships, fellowships and endowment funds.

Filled with modern, sleek artist renditions, the brochure highlighted many new architectural possibilities, like the performance space shown here.

Heidi Marshall is Columbia’s college archivist. If you have photos or materials you think might be of interest for the archives, let her know! hmarshall@colum.edu / 312.369.8889. Visit the Columbia archives online at lib.colum.edu/archives.
Scholarship Columbia

Putting Students First

Scholarship Columbia, a five-year challenge backed by $1 million, started on January 1, 2009, to immediately address the financial needs of our students. It is an incredible program that is really making an impact—right now—for current Columbia students.

Your donation to Scholarship Columbia is a great way to give a gift that makes a difference for our outstanding students.

The Match (up to $25,000)

DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE: Any gift will be matched 1:1.

TRIPLE THE DIFFERENCE: Any gift from a Colum Alum will be matched 2:1.

Make an Impact

No matter the size of your gift, it will now do a lot more.

For more information visit colum.edu/scholarshipcolumbia or contact us at 312.369.7287.

This is Columbia’s Moment.

Campaign for Columbia College Chicago