Two’s Company
How alumni are forging successful businesses
WEEKEND EVENTS INCLUDE:

Alumni Short Film Festival
Grab some popcorn and watch some shorts created by your fellow alumni.

Alumni & Student Luncheon
Learn how much Columbia has grown, and share memories of the Columbia you experienced with current students.

2nd Annual Alumni 5K
Run from Columbia’s campus to the museum campus and back. Get your very own Columbia 5K t-shirt, and take a group photo in front of Buckingham Fountain.

Creative & Career Workshops
Check out interactive workshops that will spark your creativity and expand your professional development.

Alumni Bash
What’s networking without fellow alumni, food, and drinks? Mingle with old and new friends and celebrate Alumni Weekend the right way.

Program subject to change.

For the schedule, visit colum.edu/alumniweekend

MAY 4, 2012

JOIN US!
ALUMNI AT MANIFEST!

Visit the Alumni Lounge and watch performances by Columbia College alumni. Then join alumni and graduating seniors at the Graduation Party at the Hilton.

For the schedule, visit colum.edu/manifest
FEATURES

Two’s Company
Columbia’s emphasis on collaboration and creativity has sparked entrepreneurial drive in these dynamic duos. See how these alumni use their degrees to follow their dreams. By Audrey Michelle Mast (BA ’00)

CAAN—Do Spirit
With a new national board in place, the Columbia Alumni Association & Network (CAAN) encourages all alumni to get out there and get involved. By Lisa Holton

Portfolio: Linsey Burritt & Crystal Grover
Eco-conscious entrepreneurs Linsey Burritt (BFA ’05) and Crystal Grover (BFA ’06) put their activism to work through a booming design studio. By Liz Harmon Miller

SPOT ON

26 Andy Flessas (BA ’90) takes computer animation to new heights using robotic technology.

28 Recording artist Kym Mazelle(’86) credits Columbia with providing a rock-solid foundation to succeed in a tough business.

30 Nora Moreno Cargie (BA ’82) leads corporate citizenship work for Boeing, including community-enrichment programs that benefit education, arts, and human services.

32 Ted Ansani (BA ’90), founding member of power-pop trio Material Issue, continues to crank up the music through life’s challenges.

DEPARTMENTS

3 Vision A question for President Carter

4 Wire News from the Columbia community

34 Out There Our alumni section, featuring class news, notes, and CAAN updates

41 Point & Shoot Caught on camera around the country

48 Upcoming Events What’s happening on campus

49 Backstory The first collegewide celebration of the graduating class, MayFest, debuts in 2002

Correction: In DEMO 15, Carol Rozansky was listed as chair of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She should have been listed as chair of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ Education Department. Her photo should have been credited to Danielle Aquiline (MFA ’06). We regret the errors.
**ALUMNI EVENTS**

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

---

**MAY 4**

**Manifest, Chicago**

Manifest is Columbia’s urban arts festival. All alumni and friends are welcome to attend this free event. Visit the Alumni Lounge to see alumni performances and senior work, and then have a blast at the Alumni & Senior Graduation Party!

**MAY 12**

**Columbia Bowling Bash**

A CAAN-y competition! CAAN is holding a nationwide bowling event for chapters around the country, including Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis (this is a chapter launch for the Twin Cities), NYC, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, and St. Louis.

**JUNE 16**

**Chicago White Sox vs. Los Angeles Dodgers**

Get your tickets for this rare event! The Chicago White Sox do not typically visit the Los Angeles Dodgers, so take advantage of this opportunity to cheer on your Chicago team in LA!

**JUNE 22, 23, OR 24 (DATE IS TBD)**

**Chicago Cubs vs. Arizona Diamondbacks, Phoenix**

**JULY 3**

**Alumni Day, Atlanta**

Join your fellow Cubs fans as the Chicago Cubs play the Atlanta Braves. Michael Anderson, associate VP for Institutional Advancement, will be in attendance.

**AUGUST 3, 4, OR 5 (DATE IS TBD)**

**Chicago Cubs vs. Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles**

Join your fellow Cubs fans as the team takes on the Los Angeles Dodgers. This is an all-you-can-eat event with hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts, nachos, and soda, so come hungry!

**SEPTEMBER 28–29**

**2012 Alumni Weekend, Chicago**

Come back to campus for the 2012 Alumni Weekend. Don’t miss this weekend full of reconnection, networking, and, most of all, fun!

---

**DONATE YOUR COLUMBIA APPAREL**

College Archives wants the shirt off your back! Columbia-branded clothes aren’t just advertising, they represent everything that is Columbia: artistic, fun, innovative, and expressive.

Help us preserve this tradition by donating your Columbia-themed apparel to the College Archives’ permanent collection.

We seek t-shirts, sweaters, jerseys, and hats with designs that showcase the college and its official (and unofficial) activities.

Drop off your items at the Columbia Library circulation desk on the first floor, 624 S. Michigan Ave., or mail to College Archives, Columbia College Chicago, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605-1996.

---

**DEMO (volume 7, number 1) is published by Columbia College Chicago.**

DEMO is mailed free of charge to alumni and friends of the college. The ideas and opinions expressed are those of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect those of Columbia College Chicago. © Columbia College Chicago 2012.

**CONTACT US:**

For address changes or deletions, email your first and last name, mailing address, city, state, zip code, and phone number to demo@colum.edu and specify if your request is an address update or a request to stop receiving DEMO. For other inquiries, email demo@colum.edu, call 312.369.1000, or mail DEMO magazine, Columbia College Chicago, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605.

**DEMO is online**

Read at colum.edu/demo

Become a fan! DEMO magazine is on Facebook.
A QUESTION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER

**DEMO:** This year, the college has undertaken a major effort to prioritize programs and services campuswide. Tell us about the Blueprint | Prioritization process.

**DR. CARTER:** With a focus on the best interests of our students and to ensure our institution remains among the best in our field, we are in the middle of a year-long process—called Blueprint | Prioritization—to review our academic curriculum and nonacademic programs. Reviews are a fundamental requirement to ensure the health and vitality for our community, just as they are at any academic institution. To be clear, no decisions have been made at this time.

We were prompted to launch this review nearly a year ago because it became clear to us that the disciplines in which we provide instruction have changed. We know that the Columbia of today cannot remain the same as it was for students even five or 10 years ago. And so we are embracing this process as a great opportunity to create a new model in higher education and ensure Columbia’s curriculum and programs remain on the cutting edge of arts and media education. We must ensure that our programs keep pace with contemporary arts and media industries so our students receive the best training possible.

When we began Blueprint | Prioritization, we wanted to respect Columbia’s legacy of encouraging vibrant, open, and honest discussion and, thus, chose an atypical, transparent, and inclusive method that incorporates analysis, proposals, and considerations from our entire community—not just a select group of administrators chosen to guide the process. In fact, our faculty and staff established the review criteria by which we are looking at our academic and nonacademic programs. We believe that the transparency we are offering throughout this review—by making each tier of recommendations available for community review and hosting listening sessions for feedback—is exceedingly rare.

So where are we now? Since January, faculty and staff across our institution reported crucial data on their programs, and we saw recommendations made by our deans, associate vice presidents, vice presidents, the interim provost, and our staff and faculty prioritization committees. We have also held listening forums, giving all faculty and staff the opportunity to provide input at several points in the process. Students are also able to provide comments and feedback via the Student Government Association (SGA).

I am deeply appreciative to these individuals, their dedicated effort, and the hundreds of hours it took to bring us to this point.

I am very much looking forward to reviewing and carefully considering all recommendations made and feedback provided by our community, including students, in the weeks leading up to and after you will read this issue of *DEMO*. My review will include reflection on and careful consideration of all recommendations and feedback, ultimately culminating with my final decisions made to the Board of Trustees in June.

We deeply appreciate the outpouring of support, excitement, and passionate recommendations discussed throughout this period. We are listening carefully to ongoing dialogue, and we hope you are just as excited as we are to ensure our students continue to be best positioned to author the culture of their times.
The Efroymson Art + Design Resource Center at 623 S. Wabash Ave. houses objects and products for research and study.

**DANCE CENTER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS 2012 JOYCE AWARD**

The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago received a 2012 Joyce Award to commission choreographer Reggie Wilson to create the evening-length dance-theatre work *project Moseses Project*. The $50,000 grant from the Joyce Foundation also will support Wilson’s research residency in Chicago and a two-week community engagement residency for Wilson and three dancers to involve Chicagoans in the creative process.

The Dance Center is being honored with this prestigious award for the second time, one of only three organizations—and the only dance organization—to receive two Joyce Awards in its 10-year history. The Dance Center received a 2004 Joyce Award to support commissioning fees, presentation costs, and associated community engagement and audience development efforts for Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan's Wild Cursive, created by Artistic Director Lin Hwai-min. The piece received its American premiere in October 2006, presented by The Dance Center at the Harris Theater in Chicago.

*(project) Moseses Project* is the working title of a new performance piece by Wilson exploring the interfaith mythical, biblical, ethnographic, historic, and global references of Moses. Initial inspiration for the work came from Wilson’s rereading of Zora Neale Hurston’s novel *Moses, Man of the Mountain*, which retells the Moses story as a Southern folk tale in Southern African-American vernacular.

**EFROYSMON ART + DESIGN RESOURCE CENTER OPENS**

In October, Columbia College Chicago opened the new Efroymson Art + Design (A+D) Resource Center on the 4th floor of 623 S. Wabash Ave. Made possible by a $250,000 gift from the Efroymson Family Fund, a donor-advised fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation in Indianapolis, the Resource Center is designed to provide Columbia students and faculty with an inspirational environment in which to work and collaborate.

The center houses a wide variety of art and design objects and products for research and study, such as museum publications, design strategy games, exhibition-related resources, artist and design books, and one-of-a-kind designed objects. It also houses an extensive collection of recorded visiting artist lectures from the A+D lecture series and other departments and events around the college. The center is physically connected to the A+D Media Center, where students and faculty can check out various art materials and technologies for classes and projects.

**STUDENT AWARDS**

Here’s a sampling of awards recently garnered by Columbia students.

Fashion studies senior CAREN OLIVER won BET’s *Lens on Talent* Fashion Competition in November, walking away with the grand prize of $10,000 for her designs. *Lens on Talent* is BET’s talent search for the “superstars of tomorrow,” focusing on music, fashion, and dance. During the competition, BET producers visited Columbia to shoot video of Oliver in her “natural habitat,” the fashion labs in 623 S. Wabash Ave. The student made it through the top 25, the top 10, and then to her place as the only student competitor in the top three of the fashion competition. The winner was determined by an online public vote.
DEMO5

OPEN DOORS GALA RAISES $700,000 FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

At the 2011 Open Doors Gala on November 5, Columbia College Chicago raised nearly $700,000 for its Open Doors Scholarship Fund, which allows Chicago Public Schools’ graduates to attend Columbia. The event, held at the college’s Media Production Center at 1600 S. State St., was a black-tie evening of dinner and performances by Columbia student artists. Some 250 guests were in attendance.

The college also honored Linda Johnson Rice, chairwoman of Chicago-based Johnson Publishing Company, with Columbia’s inaugural Chicago Legacy Award, created to recognize those who have made a significant impact in the Chicago community and have helped “open doors” for future generations. Johnson Publishing has a long-standing relationship with Columbia College, including hiring interns and graduates. Columbia recently purchased the Johnson Publishing headquarters building at 820 S. Michigan Ave. for the future site of the college library.

STUDENTS COVER IOWA CAUCUSES

Fifteen graduate and undergraduate Columbia students, in a J-term class titled “Covering the Iowa Caucus,” spent three days in Iowa in January interviewing analysts, voters, campaign staff, and candidates’ family members during the first presidential nominating contest of 2012. The journalism and photography majors were among an estimated 1,500 journalists to cover the event, the closest Iowa caucus in decades.

“This was a group of extremely motivated and committed students,” said Associate Journalism Department Chair Suzanne McBride, who accompanied the students. “They had deadlines to meet, and they even started phone interviews and research for the caucus over the winter break.”

The students published more than a dozen stories on ChicagoTalks, the award-winning local website started by McBride and fellow faculty member Barbara K. Iverson, during their three days in Des Moines. The stories covered voter reaction, caucus outcomes, and political issues, and included audio, video, and photos.

Art + Design major ELIZABETH SALINAS won first place in the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project’s “Quit to Win” design contest in fall 2011. Salinas’ winning entry, which addresses the dangers of secondhand smoke to children, was used on billboards and public transit platforms all over Chicago beginning in November. Salinas received a $5,000 scholarship and an Apple iPad.

Broadcast journalism student Paris Lewbel shoots video of the action in Iowa.

President Warrick L. Carter, left, and Board of Trustees Chairman Allen Turner honor Linda Johnson Rice at the Open Doors Gala.

STUDENTS COVER IOWA CAUCUSES

Broadcast journalism student Paris Lewbel shoots video of the action in Iowa.
The Mi Parque app, a bilingual participatory placemaking web and smartphone application developed by students from Columbia’s INTERACTIVE ARTS & MEDIA DEPARTMENT, Illinois Institute of Technology, and University of Illinois at Chicago, was crowned one of the Grand Challenge winners in the 2011 Apps for Metro Chicago contest sponsored by the Metro Chicago Information Center.

Marketing Communications senior DERRICK MILTON was selected as one of America’s Most Promising Minority Students by American Advertising Federation for 2012. One of 50 outstanding students chosen nationwide, Milton flew to New York, NY, in February to participate in a recruiting event, where he and his fellow finalists connected with industry experts through professional development seminars, interviews, and student expos.
ShopColumbia features the best of student and alumni art, jewelry, fashions, accessories, stationery, music, media, and more. A learning laboratory for student artists. A shopping destination for customers. Visit us online at shop.colum.edu.

Columbia
C O L L E G E  C H I C A G O
623 S. Wabash Ave. / 312.369.8616

SHOP ONLINE:
columbia.bkstr.com

SHOP IN PERSON:
624 S. Michigan Ave.
312.427.4860

A BOOKSTORE
... AND MORE!

GET YOUR COLUMBIA:
› t-shirts
› hoodies
› caps
› baby gear
› gifts
› accessories
› and yes, books too!
Maggie DiBardino and Jack Edinger show off their flair for fashion.
“Live what you love” is more than a mantra for these successful alumni. See how these dynamic partnerships forged at Columbia prove that passion, drive, and old-fashioned hard work can turn dreams into reality.

BY AUDREY MICHELLE MAST (BA ‘00)
Columbia introduced me to a whole section of society that wasn’t playing by the rules—in the best way.

— Jack Edinger, above, with Maggie DiBardino

DEMO10
T’N’T: THEY’RE DYNAMITE
Robert Teitel and George Tillman Jr. make reel history, thanks to Columbia

Story focused. Hard-working characters. Chicago background. These are often the hallmarks of films made by Robert Teitel (BA ‘90) and George Tillman Jr. (BA ‘91), such as Soul Food (1997) and Barbershop (2002), but those traits could also describe the filmmakers themselves.

Tillman, pictured above left, and Teitel met as Columbia students when they lived in the same dorm at Roosevelt University, and they took Film Tech II together. When Tillman organized a small group of student filmmakers to work on each other’s projects, it quickly became evident to Teitel and Tillman that they worked harder than anyone else—and that they were in it for the long haul. Together they formed their own production company, Menagerie Films.

As Tillman worked on scripts inspired by his Milwaukee upbringing, complete with strong female characters and realistic dinnertime dialogue, Teitel, a Mount Prospect native, forged his own way as a film and marketing major.

“I knew I wanted to be a producer,” Teitel says, “but at the time there wasn’t a producing class. So I tried to create my own program as best I could.”

Both men credit professor Paul Hettel with inspiring them to start with a stellar script. “At the end of the day, you need a good story,” Tillman says. “That’s what Chicago is about and what Columbia College really taught us.”

Tillman’s short, Paula, earned a Student Academy Award and a Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Award. Still, he and Teitel had to learn the business. “We always tried to find work outside of school,” Tillman says. “We looked for commercial work in the city and did some PSAs [public service announcements].”

The two planned to arrive in Hollywood with a calling card, so, in 1995, they used their Chicago-based feature film, Scenes for the Soul, as the door opener to Los Angeles agencies. In 2000, Teitel produced and Tillman directed Robert De Niro and Cuba Gooding Jr. in Men of Honor. Tillman was a producer on the Chicago set of Barbershop (which spawned two sequels and a series) and went back to directing with Notorious (2009), a biopic of rapper Notorious B.I.G.

These days in their Los Angeles-based State Street Pictures offices (another Chicago nod), Teitel and Tillman look to the blueprint of Ron Howard and Brian Grazer, the director-producer pair who’ve taken that relationship to blockbuster heights.

Two more State Street film biographies on the horizon—on jazz icon Miles Davis and journeyman boxer Peter Buckley—show their passion for stories, big and small, a love perhaps only equaled by a Windy City homecoming.

“Chicago is a character in our films,” Teitel says. “We’re always coming back.”

—WILLIAM MEINERS (MFA ’96)
“Our educational experiences at Columbia molded us into the creative adventurers we are today. We learned how to think, not what to think.”

— Stephanie Furst Slater, above right, with Eric Slater
“Our educational experiences at Columbia molded us into the creative adventurers we are today. We learned how to think, not what to think,” Stephanie says. “Being surrounded by inspiring people simply contributed to our entrepreneurial spirits and gave us the courage to do something new.”

And they did. As “hungry backpackers” trekking through Central America, some of the comforts they missed most, says Stephanie, were “tasty baked goods.” Nicaragua’s fishing and tourist village San Juan del Sur—with a population of 18,500 and an idyllic, surfside location on the southern Pacific coast of the country—offered a suitable market for artisan bread and other treats. After establishing residency in Nicaragua, the Slaters opened their own bakery—the only brick-oven bakery in town—in 2008. Pan De Vida, which translates to “Bread of Life,” has become a ringing success, growing into a highly-rated destination catering to townspeople, tourists, and local businesses.

Stephanie, who majored in photography, believes her education uniquely prepared her for this career. “I think there are similarities between photography and bread making. It’s about process,” she says. “Patience and intention really come into play with the final outcome, which would either be a stellar black-and-white image, or a beautiful, delicious loaf of bread.”

Eric, who studied in Columbia’s Visual Arts Management program, agrees. “Artisan bread in a brick oven ... made by my hands, baked in a fire made by me, crafted and placed directly on the floor of the oven—this is art,” he says.

With such success, the Slaters are not just living their dream, but they are thriving in it. In addition to expanding their family (they welcomed their second child in January), they recently sold two franchises of Pan De Vida, including an outpost at an all-inclusive resort about two hours north of San Juan del Sur and a third location at a private wildlife reserve on the Costa Rican border.

When asked what advice they’d give to aspiring entrepreneurs, Stephanie says “to simply follow through. That’s been the biggest challenge to us, and something that would present itself to any entrepreneur in the world: the courage of conviction. We are met with so many obstacles every day [such as stifling heat and spotty Internet access] ... but we really believe in what we’re doing, and really value what we’re doing. Pan De Vida offers a unique product in the way that we make everything by hand, and everything is made with love.”
“If there was a school designed for me, it was Columbia. It helped me grow so much from the creative point inside of myself.”

— Tony Kemp, above right, and Bill Barrick
About three hours from the Loop, nestled in the rolling hills of northwestern Illinois, the couple’s inn is now a bed and breakfast resort on nearly 500 acres, replete with private cottages, graceful gardens, and hiking trails. A stay at Irish Hollow is “not just about lodging and food,” but, as Kemp describes, “an experience … a ‘set’ we create,” says the former theatre major.

Barrick and Kemp met while they were theatre majors at Columbia and have been together ever since. Their early years at Irish Hollow were a labor of love. “It honestly took youth and ignorance,” Barrick says with a laugh. “Just going with an idea, and having the drive. That’s really what made it happen.”

“When we started, Bill and I were our entire staff,” Kemp says. “We lived in the basement. We cooked and cleaned … and worked every moment. It just didn’t faze us because we were working in the direction of what we wanted.”

They’ve come a long way. Today, their success allows them to enjoy owning multiple properties, including a condo in Chicago (they remain avid theatre aficionados), and a house in Buenos Aires (a city they “fell in love with” after a trip to improve their Spanish), where they spend about two months a year.

Kemp credits his adventurous approach to blending work and life to his time at Columbia. “If there was a school designed for me, it was Columbia,” he says. “It helped me grow so much from the creative point inside of myself.

“I very easily could have been someone who didn’t go to college at all. But my mother brought me [to visit Columbia] and … I was hooked,” he adds. “All of a sudden I realized: There is a school that speaks my language. That was my experience throughout. It suited me so well. You’re not just using your brain to study. Columbia has a way of involving every aspect of the body: your spirit, your mind, your soul.”

“Columbia’s always been about being fresh and innovative and ahead of its time, and then the rest of the world gets it later,” Barrick observes, noting that the private cottages on the property don’t have televisions or phones, but Wi-Fi throughout the resort is a must. “In our business we’re always anticipating how things may change and what the curves may be. We want to make sure we’re cutting the edge.”

Future plans for the Inn at Irish Hollow include expanding special events, particularly hosting weddings—both indoors in their barn and outdoors in an old quarry on the property—opening a community dinner theater, growing their interior design business, and launching farmsteads on their acreage for those who want to not just visit, but also live at Irish Hollow.

The couple stays centered amidst it all, in part because of what they learned at Columbia. “It’s probably the reason why I’m doing what I do today—growing and being able to live from that creative spot, no matter what it is I’m doing—even if I’m buying real estate or doing something else in business,” Kemp says. “I don’t look at the way things are always done. I ask myself, What do I want, and how can I create it?”
CAAN-DO SPIRIT

With a new national board in place, the Columbia Alumni Association & Network (CAAN) encourages all alumni to get out there and get involved.

BY LISA HOLTON

A college with national impact needs a national alumni organization.

That’s why for the first time in its 122-year history, Columbia College Chicago has elected its first national alumni board with a plan to develop national programming and deliver a wider range of activities, benefits, and job networking opportunities to Columbia’s 55,000 alumni nationwide.

The Columbia Alumni Association & Network (CAAN) is just one more product of a major strategic initiative launched in 2006 to expand the school’s programs, provide greater student support, and raise the overall value of a Columbia College degree. CAAN’s first national board was elected in August 2011 and is planning activities for 2012 and beyond.

“I got involved because I felt my contribution as a ‘seasoned’ alum could lend itself to the organization’s goals.”

HOWARD SHAPIRO (BA ’53)
Regional Representative, Northwest

“Pay it forward. We all can benefit from increasing our circle of friends.”

PAT BLUM (BA ’84)
Regional Representative, Southwest
MEET YOUR CAAN BOARD

The national board of the Columbia Alumni Association & Network (CAAN) strives to increase alumni’s involvement with the college. It has four national officers, six regional representatives, and five members at large. Some officers have dual roles reflecting their current alumni work in the cities where they’re based. CAAN regional chapters are Northwest, Southwest, Midwest, Great South, Northeast, and Southeast. Chapter cities are Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York City, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco, and St. Louis. Meet your board members here and on pages 18–19.

“CAAN is open to alumni of all backgrounds, so there is an opportunity to share skills and talents in a way that will be heard and appreciated.”

JOAN HAMMEL (BA ’86)
President and Regional Representative, Midwest

“I got involved with CAAN because I learned there was no active St. Louis chapter.”

MATT STAED (BA ’06)
Secretary and Regional Representative, Great South

“Alums are always welcome with open arms at a CAAN event!”

JAMES “WOODY” WOODWARD (MA ’03)
Regional Representative, Northeast

“CAAN could open doors for your career. You never know who you will meet.”

SUSAN FORE (BA ’99)
Vice President and Regional Representative, Southeast
MEET YOUR CAAN BOARD

In addition to involving six regional representatives (see pages 16–17), the CAAN National Board includes five members at large. Part of the board’s charge is to get more alumni involved with the network, so DEMO asked: “Why should alumni get involved with CAAN?”

“‘You never know who you are going to meet and how they can affect your life. Come to an event and find out.’”

KRISTIE BORGMANN (BA ’04)

“I’ve been fortunate to meet, mingle, and work with other alums who also share a passion for Columbia; it’s like an extended family you never knew you had.”

MARTY KANE (BA ’06)

“‘If you had great experiences as a Columbia student, why not give other young people a chance to have similar experiences?’”

MICHAEL MOSCATO (BA ’94)

“CAAN’s objective is to become an efficient operating program on a number of fronts,” said Eric V.A. Winston, PhD, vice president of institutional advancement at Columbia. CAAN goals include:

• Creating an alumni organization that’s truly national in scope. Columbia has benefited from strong regional alumni chapters in Chicago and Los Angeles, among other cities, but the CAAN National Board will work to better support existing networks and elevate best regional practices and alumni outreach to a national scale;

• Building an effective, multigenerational alumni network that can guide current undergraduate and graduate students preparing for future careers; and

• Assembling an alumni network that can support Columbia financially and on a volunteer basis to improve the school and its programs to increase the value of all Columbia degree programs.

Sarah Schroeder (BA ’00), Columbia’s director of alumni relations for the West Coast, thinks now is a great time for alumni to get involved with CAAN. “We have chapters and reps in cities where the largest numbers of graduates are, and they’re all producing interesting programming,” Schroeder said. “We need volunteers at all levels, particularly if they have good ideas for programming.”

THE NEW CAAN STRUCTURE

The CAAN board has four national officers, six regional representatives, and five members at large (see sidebar, page 19). Some officers have dual roles reflecting their current alumni work in the cities where they’re based. For example, CAAN President Joan Hammel (BA ’86), who is based in Chicago, was also named CAAN’s Midwestern regional officer due to her continuing work with that chapter.

“We’re in the process right now of collecting membership information from all the chapters and finding out what projects are both planned and in development,” Hammel said. CAAN’s chapter cities are Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York City, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco, and St. Louis.

The national board is taking what Hammel calls “baby steps”: closely looking at what’s successful in each city and seeing if those ideas can be leveraged across the country. In 2011, some of those activities included:

• An alumni short-film screening (Denver);

• A screening of Lovestalker, a movie directed and produced by Columbia alumni (St. Louis);

• Alumni baseball outings when the Chicago Cubs were in town (Phoenix and Atlanta);

• A multiweekend music event that showcased 20 local bands and promoted Columbia to an audience of hundreds (Pittsburgh);

• Fashion Week networking with Columbia alumni and networking events with other majors (New York); and
• Participation in the Young Storyteller Foundation, through which alumni helped elementary school students write their first scripts and put on productions with professional actors (Los Angeles, see page 34).

Hammel says CAAN is hoping to do more multicity events, such as Oscar Night celebrations. “We’d love to produce one or two national events a year, but we need to get more people involved and come up with a variety of ideas,” she said.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

CAAN is looking for alumni help at all levels of the organization and in all chapters to assist with upcoming events and to create new programming and projects that will bring more alumni back in touch with Columbia. The CAAN National Board has created six committees to do just that. They are:

**Alumni Enrichment Committee:**
This committee will focus on networking activities for new and senior alumni, career development assistance (resume development, interviewing skills), and other employment-related activities.

**Membership Engagement Committee:**
This committee will use the Chicago chapter’s work with its Young Alumni Committee as a template to engage and maintain chapter membership through social and other media. This committee will also reach out to alumni in other demographics.

**National Events Committee:**
This committee will develop one or more national alumni events to be carried out concurrently at all chapters.

**Fundraising Committee:**
This committee will raise funds for the CAAN Alumni Scholarship Fund, which was launched in 2003 to support junior- and senior-year Columbia students who demonstrate extraordinary merit and need.

**Nominations/Elections Committee:**
This committee will evaluate potential candidates for the national board and carry out elections.

**Governance Committee:**
This committee group will develop and supervise national board bylaws, chapter development, and best practices.

“Living in LA is no easy feat. The importance of having a network of people who truly support you cannot be overestimated.”

**ANNA KEIZER (BA ’04)**
CAAN Treasurer

“IT IS A GREAT WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH, HAVE FUN, AND NETWORK WITH ALUMNI IN YOUR AREA.”

**DON FOX (BA ’85)**

**GET INVOLVED WITH CAAN**

Not yet involved with your alumni association? It’s easy to start. Contact one of your CAAN National Board members below.

**CAAN NATIONAL BOARD**

**NATIONAL OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**
Joan Hammel (BA ’86)
joan@joanhammel.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**
Susan Fore (BA ’99)
caanatl@gmail.com

**TREASURER**
Anna Keizer (BA ’04)
amkeizer@wildmail.com

**SECRETARY**
Matt Staed (BA ’06)
matt.staed@gmail.com

**REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

**NORTHWEST**
Howard Shapiro (BA ’53)
pmahoward@aol.com

**SOUTHWEST**
Pat Blum (BA ’84)
pblaanden@aol.com

**MIDWEST**
Joan Hammel (BA ’86)
joan@joanhammel.com

**GREAT SOUTH**
Matt Staed (BA ’06)
matt.staed@gmail.com

**NORTHEAST**
James “Woody” Woodward (MA ’03)
mrwoody917@yahoo.com

**SOUTHEAST**
Susan Fore (BA ’99)
caanatl@gmail.com

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Kristie Borgmann (BA ’04)
kborgmann@alumni.colum.edu

Don Fox (BA ’85)
columalum85@hotmail.com

Marty Kane (BA ’06)
martin.thomas.kane@gmail.com

Anna Keizer (BA ’04)
amkeizer@wildmail.com

Michael Moscato (BA ’94)
maguitarmike@gmail.com
The initial mix of tasks and goals for the CAAN board is a good match for the culture and the challenges Columbia alumni now face in one of the nation’s worst economic downturns, according to CAAN Treasurer Anna Keizer (BA ’04), who is based in Los Angeles and chairs the Alumni Enrichment committee.

“It’s particularly important for current students to see we’re creating alumni activities with real value so they can see the benefits of staying in touch once they graduate,” she added.

DEVELOPING A FUNDRAISING CULTURE

As with all college and university alumni networks, a major objective of CAAN is to attract to Columbia more financial support from those who have benefited most from it: its students. Although alumni giving has always been critically important to Columbia, the CAAN National Board is expected to take alumni giving to a new level. CAAN plans to leverage social media tools including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn; traditional fundraising instruments such as phone banks and direct mail; and conventional solicitation, said Winston: “pounding the ground, meeting people in person, calling and staying on folks to be involved. We’re starting something from scratch here, and we’ve got to get our hands dirty and our feet wet.”

Change should start with the top, says Matt Staed (BA ’06), the St. Louis-based Fundraising committee chair who is developing giving guidelines for CAAN leadership. “We’re giving our time, but … we have to make a financial commitment as well. We can’t ask people to give without giving ourselves.”

CAAN will develop long-term timelines for specific goals, but it has immediate fundraising objectives, Hammel said. “Given the economy and the rising cost of education, both our undergrads and graduate students need support now, not five or 10 years from now,” she added. “There’s urgent need for current scholarship money so students can continue their studies, and there’s also a need for funds for textbooks, classroom fees, and other day-to-day expenses students face.”

CREATING CHANGE

In addition to fundraising, CAAN is pursuing a vital project in the coming months: getting late-stage Columbia dropouts to come back, finish their degrees, and join the alumni ranks. “We estimate that between 1986 and today, there are 900 former Columbia students who had anywhere from six to 20 hours until graduation and just quit,” Hammel said. “They could have suffered an economic setback or decided to change focus. Or they had a chance at a great job and just left.” Hammel added that Columbia doesn’t charge any reapplication fees for former students to return at any stage in their coursework.

As the CAAN National Board gets off the ground, Staed encourages all alumni to get more involved in their regions, not only to help the college, but also to help themselves. “CAAN is a great place to meet people in your industry and share contacts. But one less obvious benefit is that CAAN gives you the chance to help sculpt an organization, chapter, or committee the way you want to,” he said. “The more alumni support, the better the programs we provide for our students, and that makes [a Columbia] degree even more valuable. It’s about having people look at your resume and think, ‘That degree is worth something.’”

For more information on getting involved with your local or national CAAN, see page 19. To follow CAAN on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter, go to colum.edu/alumni.
PORTFOLIO

Created for co-working office space the COOP in River North, this display uses salvaged egg crates from local restaurants, hot glue, fishing line, and string. It plays off the idea that a co-working environment produces connections that inspire “a hatching of ideas and rise of collaboration.”

When Linsey Burritt, far left, and Crystal Grover met as co-workers at now defunct Gourmand Coffee in the South Loop, it wasn’t more than coincidence that both were students at Columbia. Burritt was in the graphic design program, Grover in interior architecture. They might not have had much in common.

But they did. They both had an entrenched belief in the importance of living sustainably. It turned out to be a commonality that would become central to their lives and work.

(Continued on page 23)

LINSEY BURRITT
(BFA ’05)

CRYSTAL GROVER
(BFA ’06)
ABOVE: Slow, a cloudlike structure made of used Styrofoam cups collected from city trash cans, won the 2010 Make Believe competition sponsored by a Wicker Park-Bucktown neighborhood association to revitalize empty storefronts.

LEFT: INDO repurposed cardboard to create this window display for home interior shop Post 27 on West Grand Avenue.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

LEFT: The Script Wall at Steppenwolf Merle Reskin Garage Theatre consists of 5,800 pounds (142,000 sheets) of used paper that was collected by INDO, Steppenwolf staff, and Recycling Services. The installation, created in collaboration with Ogilvy & Mather, will be up for five years, making it INDO’s longest-standing display.

RIGHT: The sign for Ukrainian Village salon Parlor 836 is made of high-density urethane (a substitute for wood) and repurposed nail polish bottle caps.
Today, Burritt and Grover own and operate Chicago-based INDO, a window-design studio with an alter ego as an activist organization. Or is it the reverse?

Designs by INDO (the name, like the studio, showcases the interior of a window) are always attention grabbing and often mind expanding. Constructed entirely of used, discarded, or salvaged materials, the designs are both beautiful and challenging, urging viewers to think deeply about waste in our society.

“I consider INDO quiet activism,” said Grover, “because we say what we believe through our work, but not in a way that's throwing it at people.”

Take, for example, 2010’s Slow, a dreamlike piece comprising hundreds of white Styrofoam cups that the women collected from area dumpsters over the course of just one weekend. Or the 40-by-7-foot Script Wall at Steppenwolf’s Merle Reskin Garage Theatre, which Ogilvy & Mather commissioned INDO to do; it’s constructed of 5,800 pounds of discarded paper, hand selected from 10,000 pounds donated by a recycling agency.

INDO is winning art awards while amassing clients throughout Chicago, from restaurants to boutiques to top-tier nonprofits. And they’re garnering even national media attention, including coverage in the March issue of Martha Stewart’s Whole Living magazine.

Both women credit faculty at their alma mater for teaching them by example how to be working artists. “What was great about Columbia was having professors who were also working in the industry,” said Burritt, adding that one, Art + Design (A+D) instructor Isabelle McGuire, helped her even after graduation: “I stayed in touch with her. She made me more confident about being able to go out on my own.”

Grover agrees. “Columbia is great because the teachers are doing what they’re teaching,” she said. She remembers her favorite professor, A+D’s Tim Cozzens, as someone who “pushed really hard, and then told you when you were doing a good job—or that you could do better when you weren’t.”

Now, five years after launching the company, what do Burritt and Grover hope people will say about the job they’re doing?

“i want people to see something out of their ordinary day and feel that ‘Ooooh,’” said Grover. “If we get that, then maybe people will think about where we may have gotten those materials. If our work can spur a conversation, that’s a win. On a deeper level, if our work causes people to reflect on their consumption patterns, that’s a win too.”

Burritt hopes the reason INDO’s work is resonating is that, “People are starting to learn to live modestly,” she said. “I don’t think people saw [Slow] and felt badly if they used a disposable cup earlier that day. Instead, they’re inspired to buy a reusable cup. That right there is what it’s all about.”

—LIZ HARMON MILLER
Columbia College Chicago | give. arts matter.

TO LEARN MORE: CONTACT BRENT CABURNAY, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL PROGRAMS AND ANNUAL GIVING, AT 312.369.8188 OR VISIT COLUM.EDU/GIVING.
Annual giving donors provide inspiration through investment.

By providing the resources for world-class education in the visual, performing, media, and communication arts, Columbia College houses the greatest concentration of artists in the nation. Your gift propels the future of this artistic epicenter; thank you for your support.

PRESIDENT’S CLUB
Columbia College Chicago recognizes the following individuals who joined the President’s Club between August 1, 2011, and December 31, 2011. Donors who contribute $1,000 or more per year to any area of the college are recognized as President’s Club-level donors.

Robin L. Bargar & Insook Choi
Donal P. Barry
Dara E. Bélic (BA ’08)
Jennifer R. Blair (MFA ’07)
Deborah H. Holdstein PhD
& Jay W. Boersma (BA ’74)
Dolores Connolly
Patricia O. Cox
Christopher C. DeMuth
Shawn M. Donnelley
Jean Fisher Erley
Virginia Farley & Robert Shapiro
Melissa P. & Richard Gamble
Denise & Gary Gardner
Ikram & Joshua Goldman
John J. & Julie Haley
Patricia L. Heath

John E. (BA ’95)
& Stephanie N. Hellerman
Susan B. Hopkinson PhD
& Jonathan C. Jones PhD
Mary Ittelson & Rick Tuttle
Charlotte Pai (BA ’93)
Quintin E. & Diane I. Primo
Desiree Rogers
Patrick J. Salem (’12)
& Mary T. Cheriam
Lee Shapiro
Penelope Steiner
Kim Theiss
Kent R. & Virginia Valley
Piotr (BA ’91) & Anna Walter
Laura S. Yoshia-Steele (BA ’90)

MANIFEST CLUB
The Manifest Club recognizes alumni donors who make a minimum pledge of $10 per month or $120 per year to support the program of their choice. Columbia College Chicago recognizes the following individuals who joined the Manifest Club between August 1, 2011, and December 31, 2011.

Anonymous
Jani F. Bowe (BA ’09)
Christopher A. Broyles (MA ’98)
& Jacqueline K. Woods
Tracy J. Burns (’86)
Courtney L. Drvaric (MAM ’10)
Barbara J. Ericks CPA (BA ’85)
Gerlyn Jackson (’02)
Abageal W. Kelley (MAM ’10)
Jeffrey G. Lopez (BA ’01)
Tara L. Losoff (BA ’05)

Antonio Marquez (BA ’88)
Dimitri W. Moore (BA ’11)
Mary J. Porresca (’89)
B. C. Rudnick (MA ’86)
& Linda Tarshis Rudnick
Sarah A. Schroeder (BA ’00) & Kenneth A. Nowak Jr. (BA ’00)
Deborah J. Sutliff (BA ’93)
Lisa M. Walker (BA ’86)
Jeffrey B. Wehrmeister (BA ’90)

CHAIRMAN’S CIRCLE
The Chairman’s Circle, founded in 2010, recognizes donors of $5,000 or more per year to any area of the college. Chairman’s Circle-level donors are integral partners in providing the necessary opportunities for student success. As of December 31, 2011:

Andrew & Diane Alexander
Leonard C. Amato (BA ’75)
& Diana Amato (BA ’76)
Anonymous (3)*
Ellen Stone Belic
Thomas & Madeleine Burrell
Warrick L. & Laurel Carter
Warren King
& Bonita Chapman
Carol A. Cohen (‘13)*
Michelle Collins*
William Collins (BA ’10)*
Bruce A. & Deborah A. Crown*
Diane Dammeyer (’01)
Steve Devick
Susan Downing
Allan & Ellen Dreibin
Efroymson Family*
Loranne & John Ehlenbach
Marshall
& Joann Eisenberg*
In memory of
Gianna Esposito (’12)*
Georgia & Gerald W. Fogelson
Michael & Susan Frank*
Lloyd & Colleen Fry* John & Kim Gallagher*
John R. & Patricia A. Gehron
Estate of Leo S. Guthman*
Betty Gutman*
Mary Louise Haddad
Joan Harris*
Arthur Hass*
Lenore Hervey*
Bill & Vicki Hood
Juanita Jordan*
Chester T. Kamin & Nancy Schaefer
Anne Kaplan*
Richard & Susan Kiphart
Earl & Pamela Klutf*
Paul & Nancy Knapp
H. Jonathan Kowler*
Jean Kraika*
Marcia Lazar (MFA ’03)
& Alan Amos
Averill & Bernard Leviton
Elizabeth Liebman*
Ernest & Louise Love*
William & Kimberly Madden*
Barbara Manilow*
Barry Mayo (’01)
Michael & Margaret Meiners (’05)*
Howard Mendelsohn
(’BA ’49)
Mark & Linda Michelis
Phillip Moll*
Sylvia Neil & Dan Fischel
John & Alexandra Nichols*
Anne Marie Ombregt
& Karel Cool*
Parker Family*
Michael & Sandra Perlow*
Joseph Peyronnin (BA ’70)
& Susan Zirinsky
Col. James Pritzker*
J.B. & M.K. Pritzker*
Thomas & Margot Pritzker*
Gigi Pritzker Pucker*
Madeline Murphy Rabb
Cynthia Raskin (’92)*
Linda Johnson Rice*
Pamela Kendall Rijes & John Rijes
Arlen Rubin & Elaine Cohen Rubin
Barry & Anne Sabloff
Michael & Carl Sacks*
Denise & Joseph Seminetta
Lawrence & Maxine Snider
Drs. David & Brenda Solomon
Spencer Family
Sterling Stucky
(HDR ’89)*
Arthur & Rita Sussman
Stephen Sward*
Rebecca Ford Terry*
Peter (’80)
& Gloria Teschner*
Allen & Lynn Turner
Donna Van Eekeren*
Susan & Bob Wislow
Sam & Helen Zell*
Greg Zeman*

*Denotes Founding Member
In 1980, when Mick Jagger wanted to get close to fans during Rolling Stones concerts, he climbed into a cherry picker. When Bon Jovi went on tour in 2010, Jon Bon Jovi opted for something a little more exciting to reach the crowds: robotically controlled video screens that would convert from a backdrop to steps and then to a lift, designed by Columbia College graduate Andy Flessas.

Flessas, also known as Andy Robot, owns Casino Arts, which creates specialty computer animation for shows and casinos in Las Vegas, and Robotic Arts, which designs patented robotically controlled video screens that move to add a new dimension to animation. Jon Bon Jovi was the first adopter of RoboScreen technology for the Bon Jovi Circle Tour, the top-grossing global concert draw in 2010. Flessas’ next step? Turn the technology into something the mass market can use.

Flessas has long been intrigued by robots. He had been asking himself how an animator would use robots when he hit on the idea of RoboScreens. “I’ve roboticized the most common item in any home,” Flessas says. “We spend our lives surrounded by stationary video screens. If they move, it’s because we pick them up ourselves. With robotic control, a screen could bob and weave to give gamers a new obstacle to conquer, or shimmy and shake to add a new dimension to action flicks.” Other ideas for the moving screens include marketing displays in grocery stores and monitors in hospitals to help doctors treat patients.

As a student, Flessas commuted to Columbia College from Milwaukee, lugging his camera equipment on the train each day. His major campus influence was professor Barry Young, who still teaches animation. When Flessas took Young’s classes, computer animation involved a Mauer camera, a 16-millimeter film camera pointed in front of the computer screen to capture the images, which took up to five minutes to regenerate. Nowadays, students can generate the images in real time and record them on their hard drives, without an external camera.

Flessas says Young pushed his students to work beyond their perceived limits. “Barry Young inspired me to strive for excellence, to believe in my vision, and then taught me how to get there,” Flessas says.

He adds: “Everybody is creative, and everybody has talent, but not everybody is willing to go into the shadows to where your ideas lead you.” At Columbia, he learned to push his art to the next level.

After graduation, Flessas set up an animation business in Milwaukee. One of his clients was Potawatomi Bingo and Casino, and that work brought him to the attention of other casino operators. Las Vegas resort operators, looking for the Next Big Thing, were willing to support Flessas’ ideas for creative animation. The income and experience with large projects gave the entrepreneur the freedom to experiment. Suddenly, audacious ideas like robotic video screens became real.

Flessas remains in motion during his free time: His hobby is riding motocross bikes in the Nevada desert. Even at home, he and his wife chase after their two-year-old son, known as Andy Robot Two.

Whether he’s working with rock bands, traveling to China to research manufacturers, or designing a new animation for casino signage, Flessas marvels at his animated career. “Every day is so weird in my life,” he says. “It’s just so interesting.”

—ANN C. LOGUE

ANDY FLESSAS (BA ’90)

“I’m a computer animator who caught the robot wave.”
“I’ve always looked broader than just being a singer, and that’s why I went for the business management degree instead of the music degree.”

KYM MAZELLE (’86)

Kym Mazelle grew up in Gary, Indiana, just two doors down from the studio rehearsal house of the world-famous Jackson family, so it’s no surprise she dreamed of making it in the music industry.

“I would run down the street and stick my head through the window to listen to their music and dance on the sidewalk in front of the house,” she says. “I would also bug their uncle Tim to give my songs to Michael and Jackie.”

Mazelle brought her musical dreams to Columbia College Chicago in 1983, enrolling in the Arts & Entertainment Media Management program under department head Fred Fine. “I had the most awesome educational experience on the planet,” she says, crediting instructors Chuck Suber, who ran Downbeat magazine and taught music promotion; Linda Mensch, who taught entertainment law; Willie Henderson from Motown, Stax, and Chess Records, who taught record production; and Irwin Steinberg, former head of Elektra Records, who signed Tracy Chapman and Anita Baker, and taught record deal and label management.

“We had to actually produce, write, record, budget a recording session, and get radio airplay from the recording,” Mazelle says.

The budding artist achieved her first career milestone when, after paying her dues as an intern with Jam Productions and DJ International Records, she recorded her first house music album in 1988. A year later, Mazelle signed an international record deal with EMI/Worldwide, and in 1991 moved to England, where she gained fame. “England really supported electronica/house/dance more than the states,” she says.

Mazelle’s career soon skyrocketed. Her single “Missing You,” which she co-wrote and recorded with Soul II Soul, achieved major success worldwide, including gold status in five countries. Her cover of Candi Stanton’s “Young Hearts Run Free” appeared in the 1996 Baz Luhrmann film William Shakespeare’s Romeo + Juliet, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes, and the soundtrack went six times platinum.

Over the years, the singer many consider “the First Lady of House Music” worked with Mick Jagger and Chaka Khan. Mazelle even had lunch with Princess Diana for a fundraising event: “I was topping the charts,” she says. “She was a very kind and gentle lady who liked my songs.”

Mazelle credits her Columbia education with giving her the foundation to make it in a tough business. “What I learned that has become so valuable to me—even to this day—is that this is a business,” she says. “I’ve always looked broader than just being a singer, and that’s why I went for the business management degree instead of the music degree.”

Mazelle continues to look to her alma mater for inspiration, keeping close to her heart Columbia’s mission statement, which hangs on the wall in 600 S. Michigan Ave.: “… Columbia’s intent is to educate students who will communicate creatively and shape the public’s perceptions of issues and events and who will author the culture of their times.”

“When I came back to visit CCC after being away for a long time,” she says, “I read that statement and thought to myself, ‘I got that! I applied it. It’s all connected.’”

—REA FREY (BA ’04)
A degree in TV production has led Nora Moreno Cargie down a fascinating path.

“I was always really curious, always really interested in things,” Cargie says, crediting her liberal arts education from Columbia as a catalyst that pushed her to pursue a variety of fields from radio to politics, culminating in her current role as director of global corporate citizenship for The Boeing Company.

Cargie grew up in suburban Alsip and initially enrolled at a small Christian college in Tennessee, but, she says, “I could not stand being so far from Chicago.” So she transferred to Columbia for her final two years of school and graduated in 1982. She loved having professors who actually worked in the television field. “Back then, it was really novel,” she says. She took advantage of the school’s internship program, landing a gig at Burson-Marsteller, where she helped produce commercials and public service announcements.

From there, she moved over to public radio station WBEZ, which eventually took her to Washington, DC, to work as an associate producer and director on the weekend edition of All Things Considered.

After returning to Chicago, Cargie discovered politics. She served as deputy commissioner for the Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development, communications director for the Chicago Park District, assistant commissioner of the Chicago Department of Human Services, and acting press secretary for the Chicago Public Schools. She also served as deputy communications director for Barack Obama’s run for Senate in 2004. Cargie’s former boss Forrest Claypool, now president of the Chicago Transit Authority, recommended her for the job.

Cargie’s current role at Boeing, which began in November 2006, blends her communication skills with a bit of political savvy.

She oversees Boeing’s corporate citizenship work in Chicago, including programs to benefit education, the environment, arts and culture, health and human services, and civic life.

“It’s project management,” she says. “When you think about engagement and buy-in, it all directly relates. I minored in journalism. You have to do writing. How do you tell a good story around the wonderful work you’re doing? How do you support community organizations?”

Cargie is the executive sponsor for Boeing’s Employee Community Fund in Chicago. Enterprise-wide, the fund is the largest such employee-run fund in the world. She helps decide which community organizations receive Boeing-funded grants, along with helping to organize employee volunteer projects and drives. Some 4,000 nonprofit organizations benefit from the approximately $30 million in Boeing employee donations each year.

For example, a Boeing grant supported the Fresh Moves Mobile Produce Market, a retired city bus donated by the CTA that brings healthy food to neighborhoods without access to grocery stores. The market serves more than 5,000 people in 16 neighborhoods.

“But we didn’t stop there,” Cargie says. When Fresh Moves brought attention to a distribution and staffing problem, she says Boeing addressed it by convening a think tank of community and Boeing leaders, which resulted in a great plan for the group and new board members for the organization.

“We want to be an example that corporate citizenship matters,” Cargie says. “It has been a joy and an honor for me.”

—HEATHER LALLEY
Sustaining a rock and roll lifestyle over the long haul can be a challenge, especially for someone with banker’s hours.

Consider Ted Ansani, branch manager at First Nation’s Bank on Milwaukee Avenue. He’s a founding member of Material Issue, a power-pop trio that achieved almost-famous status in the early 1990s.

Ansani, a bass player, met lead singer and guitarist Jim Ellison in Columbia College’s Lizard Lounge in 1986. Both sporting a quintessential rocker’s look of leather jackets and combat boots, Ellison asked Ansani about putting a band together. The addition of drummer Mike Zelenko (not a Columbian) completed the trio, and the band started gigging immediately.

“We were kind of like AC/DC meets Cheap Trick,” Ansani says. “Jim wrote these really nice, melodic songs, and you put us up in front of a room full of kids and we’d give them hell. We were just going to blast these songs and powerchord them straight out.”

As the band pushed its music to college radio stations and played clubs from Iowa to Indiana, Ansani learned the music business as part of the Arts, Entertainment, and Media Management (AEMM) program. He took recording classes and interned at Chicago Trax Recording Studio.

After some breakthrough radio play on 93WXRT and four years of packed clubs in Chicago, Ansani and Ellison graduated from Columbia with contracts in hand from Mercury Records. The label released Material Issue’s debut album, International Pop Overthrow, in 1991.

“Renee Remains the Same,” an early hit, and later, “Diane” and “Valerie Loves Me,” put Material Issue’s songs in front of the MTV generation. But Ansani says the emergence of grunge rock and Mercury’s inability to properly market the band helped detour fame.

“One of my only regrets was that I didn’t take the time to smell the roses,” Ansani says. “I had no idea that it was going to end. To me, that was my life.”

In 1996, Ansani took a job at First Nation’s Bank on Milwaukee Avenue. That same year, while looking for a new record label, Material Issue dissolved tragically when Ellison committed suicide. “When Jim died, I already had two kids,” says Ansani, now a father of three. “Playing in bars can take its toll on you, and I had some responsibilities.”

Still, silencing the music within is difficult. With the equipment, the talent, and the creative desire, Ansani keeps playing. Last year, the Ted Ansani Project released Throttle and Pistons (available on iTunes). And to celebrate International Pop Overthrow’s 20th anniversary in 2011, Ansani and Zelenko joined forces with Phil Angotti, a Chicago singer-songwriter, for shows under the name Material Re-Issue. “Fans really showed their appreciation, and it was glorious to do those songs again,” Ansani says.

Nowadays, although he works around his bank’s hours, Ansani can be found cranking out songs like Simon and Garfunkel’s “Mrs. Robinson” as part of cover band Diving for Dynamite, performing with the Ted Ansani Project, and planning more shows with Material Re-Issue—forever pursuing his lifelong passion for music.

—WILLIAM MEINERS (MFA ’96)
SPOT
ON

Photo: Jeremy Lawson ('94)
DEAR ALUMNI,

A new day is rising for the Columbia Alumni Association & Network (CAAN). Now that we have organized a national board with representatives from across the country (see page 16), we have started a number of committees ripe with opportunities for you to participate in a meaningful way. Which leads me to say …

GET INVOLVED

Looking for events through which to connect to other alumni? Want to work with a team of dedicated alumni volunteers? Join a committee that can benefit from your professional experience; see pages 16-20 for more information. Whether you want to plan special events, help with student scholarships, provide your expertise, or share a discount from your company, there are numerous ways for you to connect. We want CAAN to become stronger and better. And we will with you and because of you. Join in and get involved!

HAVE A NEW IDEA?

If you want to do something that we are not already doing, share your ideal CAAN LA is the first alumni chapter to get involved with the Young Storytellers Foundation. Along with HBO, Warner Bros., and Fox, chapter members worked one on one with schoolchildren who wrote short screenplays and then put on productions for the whole school where family and friends saw the screenplays brought to life by professional actors. Thank you, CAAN LA alumni, for giving back in the truly creative Columbia way!

CONTACT US

I am always glad to hear from you. Please contact me at joan@joanhammel.com. To make sure you are on our email list to receive the latest alumni news and events, visit us at colum.edu/alumni, or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 312.369.7934.

Sincerely,

Joan Hammel (BA ’86)
President, CAAN National Board
NEWS & NOTES

What are you doing out there? We want to know! To submit your news, log in to the alumni community at colum.edu/alumni. Deadline for the fall/winter issue is July 1. Notes received after the deadline will be considered for later issues.

CLASS NEWS

1970s

Michael Felten’s (BA ’72) band, The Real Deal, played two Chicago shows in November, one at Miska’s and the other at the Elbo Room’s Acoustic Lounge.

Hank Grover (BA ’79) launched a science fiction web series on machinima.com. The series has received more than one million hits.

Dean Richards (’76), along with his co-host and producers, won a Chicago/Midwest Emmy for Outstanding Achievement for Public Affairs/Current Affairs Programming - Program/Special for WGN’s “Stories of Hope: Facing Breast Cancer.”

1980s

Mark Bessenger’s (’88) Bite Marks was part of Reeling 30 in November at Portage Theater.

Jens Boegehegn (BA ’88) and the Zacuto Films team won a Chicago/Midwest Emmy for “Filmfellas: Commitment to the Craft” for Outstanding Achievement for Interview/Discussion Programming - Program/Special/Series in November.

Craig Dowden (BA ’87) was appointed to the board of the Oak Grove School Education Foundation (OGSEF).

Virginia Echols-Harrison (BA ’82) published her first book, The Simplicity of the Biblical Sanctuary, available at amazon.com or gingersworld.net. She is writing a “how-to” book about dealing with adversity.

Karen Gabriel (BA ’89) is now the proud parent of a Columbia student. Her daughter, Morgan, has enrolled as a dance major.

Sarah Hoskins’ (BA ’83) photo essay “Car Culture” was revisited in the December issue of Lifeforce Magazine.

Jeff Kapugi (BA ’88) is Chicago county music radio station US 99.5’s program director.

Michael Karberg (BA ’89) joined Morphy Auctions in Denver, Colorado, as an acquisitions associate.

Angela Kelly (MA ’89) was an artist-in-residence at the Burren College of Art in County Clare, Ireland, during August. She worked on a new photographic work, which traces the residue of the 1847 Irish famine in the contemporary Irish landscape.

Eric Kurtz (BA ’87) was a candidate in the three-way race for clerk-treasurer in Ogden Dunes, Indiana.

Jerry Luterman (’88) featured a group of real-life superheroes on his blog, On the Trail. Luterman is also a photographer for Wisconsin Trails.

David Mahlmann (’88) won the 2011 ICG Emerging Cinematographer Award.

Patrick Marks (’86) is the recruitment manager for Paramount Pictures in Hollywood. He is recruiting for Theatrical Marketing and Home Media Entertainment.

Jim Newberry (BA ’86) had one of his photographs selected by the 2011 jury to appear in Photography Annual 52, the July/August issue of Communication Arts.


James Richardson (BA ’86) is a character animator, storyboard artist, and illustrator who completed a project at Royale in Los Angeles on interstitials for Disney Junior. He is also animating his new short film, Hot Property. Visit jimreels.blogspot.com.

Ben Schwartz’s (’88) script, Home by Christmas: Bob Hope in Korea, made it onto Franklin Leonard’s Black List.

1990s

Arnie Bernstein (MA ’95) was signed by St. Martin’s Press to publish his next book, Swastika Nation: Fuhrers, Politicians, Mobsters & the Rise and Fall of the German-American Bund.

Michael Burke’s (’95) debut short story collection, What You Don’t Know About Men, was a finalist for Book of the Year sponsored by the Chicago Writers Association.

Kristen Cone (BA ’99), a Chicago Public Schools drama teacher, produced and directed an adaptation of two-time Grammy Award winner Robert Mirabel’s Po’Pay Speaks.

Karen Christopher (MFA ’99) was awarded a University College Falmouth (Cornwall, UK) Honorary Fellowship.

Darius de Haas (’90) was nominated for Best Actor in a Play at the 2011 Broadway World Connecticut Awards for his role as Feste in Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night, or What You Will. The play ran at Westport (Connecticut) Country Playhouse.

Lorraine Harrell (BA ’84) has made her life’s work about motivating and inspiring others.

As a poet, playwright, journalist, Internet radio personality, author, and creativity empowerment coach, she uses different media to spread the idea that anything is possible.

“People [need] to realize that we are all innately creative,” Harrell says. “Some people don’t feel fulfilled unless they have an art talent, but anything can make you a creative person. It may be hard to start, but you have to believe you have the passion to make it work for you.”

In 2008, Harrell launched her business, Creative Odyssey, which focuses on creativity empowerment coaching. She also hosts an Internet radio show, Heart of a Woman, which is dedicated to female empowerment and social change, and tapes at Columbia station WCRX.

Harrell also has two books under her belt. Creating a Map of Your World is a step-by-step look at how to make one’s creative dream a reality, and Obama’s Hope: Our Youth Envision the Future is a collection of 25 essays from Chicago Public Schools’ students that express their feelings about the presidency. In addition, Harrell has published a collection of poetry titled Women Hold Up Half the Sky, and she is writing another creative nonfiction book about women who have passion and purpose for social responsibility called Creative Dreamers.

— BENITA ZEPEDA (BA ’11)
Karyn Bosnak (BA ‘96) wrote the book 20 Times a Lady, which was made into the 2011 movie What’s Your Number?, starring Anna Faris and Chris Evans. Bosnak was present for a special screening at Columbia the night the movie was released nationwide in September.

Matthew Glasson (’98) and his film Lovestalker screened at the St. Louis International Film Festival in November.

Ann Marie Esp (BA ’95), along with her team at Chicago’s WLS-TV, took home a Chicago/Midwest Emmy for Outstanding Achievement for Special Event Coverage (Edited) award for “Chicago’s Mayor: The Daley Years” in November. (See page 6.)

Randy Filippi (BA ’97) was the subject of a story in the Daytona Beach News Journal for his Elvis Presley performances at the Black Cloud in Bunnell, Florida.

Diane Flynn (BA ’93) was hired as a branding manager for a Fortune 500 company based in northern Virginia.

Amy Fulford (BA ’93) is the vice president and national director of social media for Agency 720, which handles Chevy dealer groups.

Deborah Grant (BA ’96) was chosen from 100 applicants to be the recipient of the William H. Johnson Prize of $25,000 for her artwork.

Kendall Harnett (MFA ’96) was named to the board of directors of Portland Ovations, a nonprofit performing arts organization based in Portland, Maine.

John Hellerman (BA ’95), a 2011 Columbia Alumnus of the Year, has shed 100 pounds. His company, Hellerman Baretz Communications, was named the Bulldog Reporter’s Best Boutique Specialty PR Agency of the Year; one of PR Week’s Top Five Boutique PR Agencies of the Year; the Legal Times’ Best PR Firm in Washington, DC; and Best Social Media Consultancy in Washington, DC.

James Lacey (’94) was head of the makeup department on Werner Herzog’s film, My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done?, starring Michael Shannon and Chloe Sevigny.


Michael Matthews (BA ’99) was featured in LA Stage Times for directing What’s Wrong With Angry? at Celebrity Theatre in Los Angeles.

Darlette McAlpin (MFA ’94) earned a Lorraine Hansberry Award for Best Writing of a Play for Field of Souls at the Black Theatre Alliance Awards.

Mark L. Montgomery (’95) was Dr. Noonan in the Chicago premiere of Sarah Ruhl’s Tony-nominated play In the Next Room.

Mike Moscato (BA ’94) is a member-at-large of the Columbia Alumni Association & Network’s (CAAN) National Board, and the owner of a music company called Sardonyx Productions.

Barbara “Petra Luna” Ochoa (BA ’91) is a professional musician who formed the P. Luna Foundation, a nonprofit group that aims to help male victims of abuse. Her book, The Music Business, takes budding entertainers through the details of the music business and will benefit the organization. Go to petraluna.com, plunafoundation.com, or help4guys.org.

Rexford Robinson (BA ’90) released a CD in October titled On The Tracks. The album is a mix of blues, folk, jazz, and rock under the project name RSessions. Visit reverbnation.com/rsessions.

Cynthia Sciacca Hooker (BA ’99) was nominated for two BroadwayWorld Los Angeles Awards. Her show, I Love Lucy Live On Stage, garnered Hooker nominations in the Best Featured Actress in a Musical (Local) category and in the Person to Watch category. The show was nominated for Best Musical (Local).

Chelsea Scott (BA ’93) has a CD on iTunes and Rhapsody under her stage name, Bella Queen Be Be.

David Skvarla (’90) played the lead role, King Henry II, in the Idle Muse Theatre production of The Lion in Winter at The Side Project.

Joseph Stearns (BA ’98) announced a double bill that included the US premiere of Canadian Playwright Hanna Moscovitch’s The Russian Play and the Chicago premiere of Moscovitch’s East of Berlin. The production ran from October through November.

Aaron Vanek (‘97) moderated a panel at San Diego Comic Con about H.P. Lovecraft in comics and film. Vanek also promoted an H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival in Los Angeles.

Lidia Varesco Racoma’s (BA ’94) design was featured in The Big Book of Packaging, a collection of the latest packaging designs and ideas.

Jay Vinitsky (MA ’95) was the post-production supervisor on the 2011 film Horrible Bosses, starring Colin Farrell, Kevin Spacey, and Jennifer Aniston.

Ian Weaver (BA ’93) had a solo exhibition at the South Bend Museum of Art featuring the work he produced between 2004 and 2011. The show ran from June to September.

Michael Wojcik (BA ’96) was promoted to senior director of corporate and foundation partnerships for the American Red Cross. He relocated to New York City from Washington, DC, to pursue this role.

Jason Lazarus (MFA ’06)

Jason Lazarus’ installation “The Search” was on display at the Andrew Rafacz Gallery in Chicago in fall 2011. The site-specific, viewer-interactive installation consisted of a tower of white steps 24 feet long, 10 feet tall, and 10 feet deep. The inside hid an intimate room accessible only by ladder. Depending on the time and date, visitors to “The Search” encountered a full canvas or an empty one. Lazarus built his ziggurat as a platform for public events and private conversations. He started his career as a photographer.
2000s

Zach Abubeker (BFA ’09) had an exhibition in December at Artists’ Cooperative Residency and Exhibitions (ACRE Projects) in Chicago. A Few Metaphors for Distance explored the artist’s connection to Ethiopia. Abubeker plans to return to Ethiopia in 2012 to develop ongoing projects.

Leyla Arsan (MA ’01) produced an event in Chicago called Downtown Dash, a social media scavenger hunt that took place in September.

Dawn Avello (BA ’02) owns the midday slot at WRXQ 100.7 in Crest Hill, Illinois. Tune in from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kathy Barales Sardena to 3 p.m. at 1190 AM radio station in Crest Hill, Illinois. She also co-directs a Peruvian dance troupe and is working on her first book.

Lindsay Benacka (BA ’09) was featured in a Columbus, Nebraska, article regarding her Peace Corps service in Cambodia. Benacka has worked under the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports and the Peace Corps Education Sector as a youth development advisor in rural public schools in the Kampung Cham province.

John Bosher (BA ’06) and Chris Charles (BA ’07) took first place at the Elgin (Illinois) Short Film Fest for The Small Assassin, adapted from the short story by Ray Bradbury.

Shemeka Buckner (BA ’04) started her own fashion line, Kyoko Linden, for trendy, urban, full-figured women.

Evrod Cassimy (BA ’06) joined KCNC-TV as weekend morning anchor.

Chris Coates (BA ’04) was named city editor of the Sioux City Journal. He was previously managing editor of the Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis.

Carl Dahlstedt (’06) opened C. Dahlstedt in Wicker Park. The boutique features fashions produced exclusively in Chicago.

Jacquelyn Dean’s (BA ’04) film, Hamili, won seven awards from seven different film festivals, including the Breakthrough Award (AFI Fest 2010), the Audience Award (Miami International Film Festival), and Best American Independent Film (Philly CineFest Film Festival).

Erik Deery (MFA ’08) is assistant professor of new media communication at Indiana University Kokomo. Two of his works were selected by jury for inclusion in the 2011 Whitewater Valley Annual Art Competition.


Brandon Dermer’s (BA ’08) short film, Fleshlighting, made the Viewfinder List of the best short films of 2011.

Daniel Dominiak (BA ’09) produced the third full-length album, Time To Shine, for his group I Decline and independently released it on his own Horns Raised Records, available at i-decline.com.

Sara Ebel (BA ’09) was hired as an associate art director by Abelson Taylor.

Candace Edwards (BA ’08) landed the role of Little Bo Peep for the Theater at the Center’s production of Babes in Toyland.

Lorriresa Engel (BA ’03) made a guest appearance on CBS’ The Bold and the Beautiful in August.

Brandon Faris (BA ’02) launched his Road Kings podcast on iTunes.

Westley Gathright (BA ’07) was cinematographer on Munger Road, working with fellow alumni Kyle Heller (BA ’08), producer, and Nick Smith (BA ’08), director.

Geling Yan (MFA ’99)

Geling Yan’s historic novel, 13 Flowers of Nanjing, was adapted for the film The Flowers of War (pictured), which was China’s entry for the 2012 foreign-language Oscar. The book and movie center on the 1937 Rape of Nanking massacre following the Japanese invasion of China’s wartime capital, now called Nanjing.

Jess Godwin (BA ’05) was cast in the Chicago premiere of Snapshots at the Northlight Theatre.

Eric Gross (BA ’06) is the sound designer for Glu Mobile.

Michelle Harmon (MFA ’06) is the set designer for Glu Mobile.

Justin Howard (BA ’07) brought home the silver “metal” in the 2011 Air Guitar World Championships.

Pasquale Iannino (BA ’06) and his company Rockit Projects incorporated took first place in the Events, Fairs, and Congress category at the International Tourism Film Festival in Barcelona, Portugal.

Dionne Joseph (BA ‘06) and her husband, Dr. Sean Joseph, opened Integrated Chiropractic in Silverdale, Washington.

Daniel Kibblesmith (BA ’05) appeared on a season 5 episode of Bravo’s Millionaire Matchmaker.

Kyle Kinane (BA ’02) is a stand-up comedian who played Zanies in Chicago in November. Visit kylekinane.tumblr.com.

Jesse Klug (BA ’05) was the lighting designer for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Matt McGrath (BA ’09) traveled the world as the video editor and broadcast technician for Azamara Club Cruises. Prior to sailing the seas, McGrath was one of the top 10 finalists for the America Cinema Editors internship in Los Angeles.

Andrew Micheli (MFA ’08) was named Arts & Business Council Chicago’s executive director.

Norma Monsivais Diers (MAT ’06) achieved national board certification in English as a Second Language.

Aaron Munoz (BA ’01) shot a recurring guest star role for the acclaimed AMC series, The Walking Dead. Munoz also relocated to Nashville, Tennessee, and writes and produces comedy shorts.

Joseph Muszynski (BA ’07) produced a feature-length documentary titled Chicago Farmer.

Jordan O’Donnell (’09) joined KCRG-TV as a marketing consultant and interactive media designer.

Rebecca Ortiz (BA ’01) hosts the CBS Radio Chicago Community Service show Chicago Connection on 96.3-FM (B96) and 104.3-FM (K-HITS). Visit facebook.com/RadioRebeccaOrtiz.
Justin Kulovsek (BA '04) and Lauren McLain (BA '05)

Justin Kulovsek and Lauren McLain may have graduated from Columbia less than 10 years ago, but they are already giving back to the school that has shaped them both personally and professionally. Kulovsek (BA '04) and McLain (BA '05) have pledged $10,000 over 10 years to fund a scholarship called the Student Leadership Legacy Award. Starting in fall 2012, a $1,000 award will be given annually to an exceptional student entering their senior year. The recipient must be a member of a recognized student organization on campus and have at least a 3.25 GPA.

It's no surprise that these alumni are rewarding students who volunteer. During their Columbia days, Kulovsek was president of the Student Government Association, and McLain was co-chair of the Student Organization Council and a Student Government Association senator. The two continue to volunteer their time as members of the Young Alumni Committee, a group that aims to keep new alumni connected to Columbia.

Today, McLain works at the business psychology consulting firm called Social Media Makers. Both believe it's important for young alumni to give back in some way so that current students can have the same, if not better, experience they had.

"Whether giving back with volunteer work or fiscally, staying connected to Columbia in a giving capacity helps support the future of the creative community," McLain says. Adds Kulovsek: "I think giving back shows that you believe in your alma mater.

In addition to funding the Student Leadership Legacy Award, Kulovsek and McLain have pledged an additional $10,000 that will go toward other college funds of their choosing. For example, this year, some funds will go toward the Sharon A. Kulovsek and Lauren McLainFigure: Chile and McDaniel have pledged an additional $10,000 over 10 years to fund a scholarship called the Student Leadership Legacy Award. Starting in fall 2012, a $1,000 award will be given annually to an exceptional student entering their senior year. The recipient must be a member of a recognized student organization on campus and have at least a 3.25 GPA.

It's no surprise that these alumni are rewarding students who volunteer. During their Columbia days, Kulovsek was president of the Student Government Association, and McLain was co-chair of the Student Organization Council and a Student Government Association senator. The two continue to volunteer their time as members of the Young Alumni Committee, a group that aims to keep new alumni connected to Columbia.

Today, McLain works at the business psychology consulting firm called Social Media Makers. Both believe it's important for young alumni to give back in some way so that current students can have the same, if not better, experience they had.

"Whether giving back with volunteer work or fiscally, staying connected to Columbia in a giving capacity helps support the future of the creative community," McLain says. Adds Kulovsek: "I think giving back shows that you believe in your alma mater.

In addition to funding the Student Leadership Legacy Award, Kulovsek and McLain have pledged an additional $10,000 that will go toward other college funds of their choosing. For example, this year, some funds will go toward the Sharon A. Palermo Memorial Scholarship, which assists talented students committed to careers in the television industry.

— KRISTEN KUCHAR (BA '11)
November as part of the Reeling 30 Film Festival.

John Trierweiler (BA ’11) joined KVL/KXJB, the NBC and CBS affiliate in Fargo, North Dakota, as a reporter.

Emmanuel Wallace (BA ’11) and Ben Bennett (BA ’11) were consultants on the equipment selection and configuration, and acoustical treatments, respectively, for a music production teaching facility at Options Laboratory School in Chicago’s Kenwood neighborhood.

Jayme Wojciechowski (BFA ’10) was in the production of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity in Scotland in September. He is finishing his postgraduate degree at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Lacey Bauman (BA ’11) is engaged to Tyler Coleman. The wedding is planned for May 26.

Zelda Robinson (BA ’93) married chef Tony Hogues, author of Southern Cookin’ with a Twist, on September 7.

John Garrett (BA ’80) passed away on September 28 at Beth Israel Hospital in New York. Garrett was the keyboardist for the Nitewalkers, a band that has opened for the Ramones and U2.

Ivory Ocean (BA ’81) died at age 65 on January 8 in Los Angeles. He was a touring company alumnus of Second City and taught in the Theatre Department at Columbia College Chicago.

David F. Arieti (Science & Mathematics) co-authored and published the book Prognosis Disaster: The Environment, Climate Change, Human Influences, Vectors, Disease and the Possible End of Humanity?

Stephen Asma (HHSS) wrote an article about gender and sex called “Gauging Gender” that appeared in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Mindy Faber (Interactive Arts & Media) co-managed a team of female developers that won Chicago’s Place-making App contest from the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Council. The Mi Parque app is designed to engage Little Village residents in the process of building a neighborhood park. (See page 6.)

Annette Barbier (Interactive Arts & Media) was awarded a $2,000 grant from Chicago-based Propeller Fund for the project “Expose, Intervene, Occupy: Re-interpreting Public Space,” a collaborative between two arts collectives: one featuring Barbier, and the other featuring Mat Rappaport (Television). The project proposes an Augmented Reality application for Internet-enabled mobile devices.

Ron Falzone (Filmm & Video) is the regular film commentator on WGN Radio 720’s The Steve and Johnnie Show.


Jonathan Keiser (Science & Mathematics, Academic Affairs) was invited by the University Council of Jamaica to be a member of a reaccreditation team reviewing four biology programs for Northern Caribbean University.

Mark Kelly (Student Affairs) was chosen to receive the 2011 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) IV-East award for Outstanding Performance as a Senior Student Affairs Officer.

Aviya Kushner (English) published an essay in Gulf Coast Magazine titled “Give Me Shelter” about the efforts to help international refugee writers who come to America.
Larry Lundy (Film & Video) was selected to design the 40th anniversary fundraising exhibition for Opportunity International of Oak Brook, Illinois. He created a “nomadic global village” at the Hyatt Regency, San Francisco Airport, in October.

Martha Meegan (Campus Safety & Security) received a scholarship to attend Northwestern University’s Center for Public Safety Executive Development Institute in November.

Andrew Micheli (AEMM; MFA ’08) was appointed executive director of the Arts & Business Council of Chicago.

Jack C. Newell and Ron Falzone (Film & Video) signed a distribution deal with Shorts HD for their short film Typing. The film ran on the Shorts HD channel.

Carolina Posse (Film & Video) curated Mostra Il: Brazilian Film Series on November 9-16.

Douglas Reichert Powell (English) gave the keynote address at the conference “Critical Regionalism: Determinants of Community Sustainability” hosted by the Centre for Regional Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, in October.

Pegeen Reichert Powell (English) was invited to give a lecture and conduct a writing workshop at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in October.

Teresa Puente (Journalism) was the Newsday/David Laventhal Visiting Professor at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism for fall 2011.

Michelle Rafacz (Science & Mathematics) authored the manuscript “Hormonal Correlates of Paternal Care Differences in the Hyllobatidae,” which was accepted into the American Journal of Primatology.

Philippine Ravanas (AEMM) was asked to join The International Journal of Arts Management (IJAM) editorial team as associate editor. Also, he was voted into the board of directors of the Arts & Business Council (A&BC) of Chicago.

Brendan Riley’s (English) essay “The E-Dead: Zombies in the Digital Age” appeared in Generation Zombie: Essays on the Living Dead in Modern Society. In addition, Riley was quoted in New York Times Magazine and Discovery Channel stories about zombies, and his entries in the World Book Online Encyclopedia, “Zombie” and “Necromancy,” were published in the fall.

Jane M. Hussein Saks (Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media) was appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to the City of Chicago’s Cultural Advisory Council serving Commissioner Michelle Boone.

Jonn Salovaara and Qween Wicks (English) were awarded the Timothy J. Densmore Faculty Fellowship following the completion of the 2010/2011 Service-Learning Course. The Center for Teaching Excellence and the Center for Community Arts Partnerships. They’ve infused service-learning into their existing courses.

Mark Schimmel (Film & Video) completed a 30-webisode campaign for True Value Hardware. His YouTube channel is youtube.com/user/Dogdirector.

Joanie Schultz (Theatre) directed Next Theatre Company’s The Girl in the Yellow Dress at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center in January and February.

Sandee Sharma’s (Film & Video) A Portrait in Bombay placed second in the Heroic Individual category of the 2011 MY HERO International Film Festival.

Patricia Ann McNair (Fiction Writing) released her book The Temple of Air in September. The book contains 11 linked stories, which take place in a small town called New Hope.

Samuel Park (English) released his novel This Burns My Heart in 2011. The book was chosen as one of Amazon’s “Best Books of 2011,” a People magazine “Great Reads in Fiction,” and one of Today’s “Favorite Things.”

Louis Silverstein’s (HHSS) paper “Engaged Contemplation” was accepted for presentation at the 3rd Annual Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education Conference at Amherst (Massachusetts) College in November. He also presented on the subject matter of his book Encountering Life’s Endings at the 2nd International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, in Vancouver, Canada, in February.

Michael Slaboch (Audio Arts & Acoustics) and the entire Numero Group team received two 2011 Grammy nominations for Best Album Notes and Best Historical Album.

Jill Sultz (Film & Video) was awarded a First-Year Experience Award for Outstanding Faculty Member after being nominated by fellow members of the Columbia community.

Ben Sutherland (Audio Arts & Acoustics) and the entire group received two 2011 Grammy nominations for Best Album Notes and Best Historical Album.

Peter Thompson’s (Film & Video) Lowlands premiered at the Gene Siskel in October.

Fereshteh Toosi (First-Year Seminar) received a $6,000 grant from the Propeller Fund for her project Garlic & Greens. In December, she presented her paper, “Oral History through Touch and Sound: Multisensory Design for People with Low or No Vision,” at the Sensory Worlds conference in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh.

Marie Ullrich’s (Film & Video; MFA ’11) Faster! was picked up by Shorts International for distribution.

Guy Villa Jr. (Art + Design) was invited to give a lecture on book form at the Ninth International Conference on October 14-16 at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Mia Wicklund (Film & Video) won a 2011 Weisman Award for her short documentary Bananaesto! The documentary was associate produced by Dimitri Moore (BA ’11).

Daniele Wilmouth (Film & Video) talked about her documentary Eleanor & the Timekeeper on NPR radio station WBEZ.

Fo Wilson (Art + Design) curated the exhibition The New Materiality: Digital Dialogues at the Boundaries of Contemporary Craft, which opened at the Asheville Museum of Art in North Carolina on November 18 and ran through March 18. Wilson was also the juror for the 101st Annual Exhibition at the Society for Contemporary Craft.

Sharon Zurek (Film & Video) was awarded Best Feature Documentary at the Illinois International Film Festival for her feature A Mind in Quicksand, Life with Huntingdon’s. The film also won a CINE Golden Eagle Award.

In Memoriam

Rose Economou (Journalism), an Emmy Award-winning television producer, died on October 2 at her home in Oak Park. She was 65. Economou joined Columbia as an artist-in-residence in 1990 and became a member of the Journalism faculty two years later. The Journalism Department established a scholarship in her honor. This scholarship will help students pay for international travel courses, which Economou developed and championed. Contributions to the fund should be made payable to Columbia College Chicago and directed to Chris Richert in the Journalism Department, crichert@colum.edu, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL, 60605.

Gerry Pinka (Building Services) died on December 10 after a brief battle with cancer. Pinka started at Columbia in April 2009. His attention to detail and vast knowledge endeared him to his colleagues across the college campus.

In Memoriam

Rose Economou (Journalism), an Emmy Award-winning television producer, died on October 2 at her home in Oak Park. She was 65. Economou joined Columbia as an artist-in-residence in 1990 and became a member of the Journalism faculty two years later. The Journalism Department established a scholarship in her honor. This scholarship will help students pay for international travel courses, which Economou developed and championed. Contributions to the fund should be made payable to Columbia College Chicago and directed to Chris Richert in the Journalism Department, crichert@colum.edu, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL, 60605.
CONVERSATIONS IN THE ARTS


Writer, lecturer, editor, and feminist activist Gloria Steinem spoke at Columbia on February 7, discussing her time as the co-founder and editor of Ms. magazine, and her interest in gender roles, roots of violence, and peace and justice.

LAS DEAN’S LECTURE, OCTOBER 13, 2011

Dr. Stephen Asma, professor of philosophy; Dr. Deborah H. Holdstein, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Allen M. Turner, Board of Trustees chairman, at the fall 2011 lecture. Turner and Asma debated the future of morality and ethics in our dangerous and changing world.

CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 6 & 11, 2011

At the Chicago International Film Festival, Columbia hosted alumni, students, and college supporters at a private reception, Q&A session, and private screenings. The Return of Joe Rich, written and directed by Sam Auster, and Lenny Morris vs. the Universe by Evan Powers (BA ’10) were shown.


Photos: Robert Kusel (BA ’78)
ALUMNI WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 23–25, 2011

The 2011 Alumni Weekend featured a casting panel that included alumni talent agents, casting directors, and executives. Alumni also enjoyed the Student/ Alumni Luncheon as well as several career-based and creative workshops. Don’t miss this year’s Alumni Weekend, which will be held September 28–29.

[1] Theatre students Charlie Cook and Katie Mathias perform a scene from The Odd Couple  [2] PA Cadichon (BA ’01) and staff member Pattie Mackenzie  [3] Alumni enjoy the memoir workshop  [4] Adriana Galvan (BA ’01) and Director of Alumni Relations, West Coast, Sarah Schroeder (BA ’00)  [5] Navid McIlhargey (MFA ’00), senior VP of New Regency Pictures; Orion Barnes (BA ’97), agent/owner of Rogers Orion Talent Agency; and Sara Isaacson (’99), casting director, Fringe

WHAT’S YOUR NUMBER? FILM SCREENING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

The Office of Alumni Relations and Karyn Bosnak (BA ’96) hosted an on-campus screening and Q&A for the film What’s Your Number, based on Bosnak’s book, 20 Times a Lady.

STUDENT ALUMNI ALLIANCE
OCTOBER 14, 2011

Marlon West (BA ’85), center in white shirt, discussed film animation and his career path with students on campus. During his 19-year tenure at Disney, he has worked on many notable films, including The Lion King, Pocahontas, Tarzan, and Chicken Little, and served as visual effects supervisor on Atlantis: The Lost Empire, The Princess and the Frog, and Winnie the Pooh.
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL, JANUARY 20–23, 2012

For a fourth year in a row, Columbia College Chicago had a big presence in Park City and a full slate of activities during the film festival at Sundance. The college hosted alumni, friends of Columbia, industry professionals, and festival goers at several weekend events at the Waldorf Astoria Park City.


Photos: Samantha Kanzler

OPEN DOORS GALA, NOVEMBER 5, 2011

The Open Doors Gala raised nearly $700,000 to benefit the Open Doors Scholarship fund for Chicago Public Schools’ graduates to attend Columbia College. About 250 community and business leaders and college supporters attended the event at the college’s Media Production Center.


Photos: Steve Becker
In fiscal year 2011, which ended August 31, generous individuals and organizations contributed a total of $12,889,644 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.

For information about giving to Columbia, visit columbia.edu/giving or call 312.389.7287.
Prince Charitable Trusts
National Science Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Lannan Foundation
Kresge Foundation
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
Illinois Arts Council

$100,000 to 249,999
Illinois State Board of Education
The Chicago Community Trust

$250,000 to $499,999
Anonymous (2)
Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, Inc.
Arts Midwest
Mary Barnes Donnelley Family Foundation
BMO Harris Bank
Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak & Stone Crab - Las Vegas
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Pritzker Foundation
Sara Lee Corporation
Weaver Family Foundation

$10,000 to $24,999
Academy of Communications & Technology Charter School, Inc.
Benefit Administrative Systems Ltd.
The Blackstone Hotel
Blick Art Materials
Elly F. Cheney Foundation
Chicago Instructional Technology Foundation
Connie's Pizza
Barry S. Crown Charitable Trust
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Flair Communications Agency, Inc.
The Irving Harris Foundation
James S. Kemper Foundation
Lake County Press, Inc.
Liberty Mutual
National Performance Network
New England Foundation for the Arts
The Northern Trust Company
Charitable Trust
The Ruttenberg Charitable Foundation
Sears Holdings Corporation
The Second City, Inc.
The Seneca Hotel
Susan Sloma Trust
The Fanry R. Wurltitzer Foundation
The Zeman Family Foundation

$5,000 to $9,999
ABM Janitorial
William Blair & Company Foundation
Chicago Foundation for Women
Children First Fund
Citibank
Citigroup
CoBank
The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc.
Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, Inc.
Charles R. Feldstein & Company, Inc.

Follett Higher Education Group
Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation
Goldman Sachs & Co.
The Jazz Institute of Chicago
JCCC Foundation
JP Morgan Chase
Karl Knausz Motors, Inc.
Kovler Family Foundation
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Marsh Affinity Practice
C. Louis Meyer Family Foundation
David and Agatha Moli Charitable Fund
Morgan Stanley Foundation
The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
John D. and Alexandra C. Nichols Family Foundation
The Nielsen Company
Jeanne Parker Trust
Rodriguez & Associates, Inc.
Sarah Siddons Society, Inc.
US Bancorp Foundation

$1,000 to $4,999
Anonymous
American Airlines
Ariel Investments
Asian American Coalition of Employees at Harris Bank
Bulley & Andrews LLC
Chicago Bar Association
The Chicago Drama League
Chinese Fine Arts Society
Christie's
Comcast Corporation
Community Media Workshop
East Bali Commissary, Inc.
Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.
Financial Straight Talk, Inc.
Hoover Treated Wood Products, Inc.
Illinois Humanities Council
Interior Investments, LLC
IssueLab
J.R. Clancy, Inc.
Klaff Family Foundation
The Liberace Foundation
Links Hall, Inc.
Motorola Corporation
Noise Barriers, LLC
On Campus Advertising, LLC
Opening Night Arts Group
The Oppenheimer Family Foundation
Packaging Corporation of America
Partage Group LLC
Premier Relocation inc.
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP
Pugh, Jones, Johnson & Quandt P.C.
Lya & Louis Rosenblum
Family Foundation
Ross Family Foundation
Sacks Family Foundation
Schuler Shook, Inc.
Sperian Protection USA, Inc.
Jerome H. Stone Family Foundation
Swartwerk Media Design
Tip-Top Branding
Valparaiso University

$500 to $999
Abey's Limousine Services
Action Sertoma Club Inc.

American Library Association
Catharsis Productions
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Iowa State University
Jen Bekman Gallery
Kinetic Noise Control
The Lawrence Pucci Wedgewood Society of Chicago
Malibu Horses, Inc.
Morgan Stanley
One Smooth Stone
Pearson Education
Process Creative Studios
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago
Koko Taylor Celebrity Aid Foundation
Time Warner Employee Grants Programs
TransUnion, LLC
Ungaretti & Harris
Samuel Weinstein Family Foundation

$250 to $499
The Art Seminar Group, Inc.
Baker & McKenzie LLP
Cerato Boutique
Chicago Association of Hispanic Journalists
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Konik & Company, Inc.
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Mobility Innovation
Neo
Northern Trust Charitable Giving Program
Save A Sample!
University of California, San Diego
University of Washington
Waco Composites I, Ltd.

$100 to $249
American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers
Boston Public Library
Central Michigan University
Cornell University
Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest
Leighton's Garage, Inc.
Marian University
Maumee Valley Country Day School
The New York Public Library
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Pomona College
South Loop Club
Swedish Bunk Johnson Society
Swets Information Service
University Library Utrecht
University of Alabama Huntsville
University of Central Oklahoma
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Maryland Baltimore County
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
University of Nottingham
University of Oregon
University of Rochester
University of Vermont
University of Witwatersrand
* Indicates donor is deceased.
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Manifest
May 4
Throughout campus, colum.edu/manifest

Manifest is an urban arts festival celebrating the work and creativity of Columbia students. It is free and open to the public and features music, exhibitions, screenings, presentations, performances, and much more.

GALLERIES

MFA Thesis Exhibitions
April 20–May 26
Center for Book and Paper Arts, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 2nd floor, colum.edu/cbpa

The MFA Thesis Exhibition features projects by students graduating in the Interdisciplinary Arts Department. Work on view will represent all of the department’s interdisciplinary areas of study: book and paper practices, performance, and media.

Subimago: BFA Fine Art Exhibition 2012
May 4–June 2
A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave., colum.edu/adgallery

Columbia College Chicago’s BFA Fine Art Exhibition has been a tradition since 2001 and represents Fine Art students’ completion of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

Survival Techniques: Narratives of Resistance
Through July 1
Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan Ave., mocp.org

The exhibit, featuring 14 international artists, looks at human conflict and the ways individuals and groups endure long-term hardship.

Works from the Dieu Donné Papermill
June 16–August 11
Center for Book and Paper Arts, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 2nd floor, colum.edu/cbpa

Dieu Donné Papermill is an artists’ workspace and gallery dedicated to the creation, exhibition, and preservation of contemporary art utilizing handmade paper.

Bad at Sports Summer Residency 2012
June 21–July 18
A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave., colum.edu/adgallery

Bad at Sports will go beyond the podcast to create physical experiences, “sound art objects,” and to test installation strategies for experiencing verbal content in a gallery.

Peripheral Views: States of America
July 13–September 30
Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan Ave., mocp.org

As we debate our country’s economic and political course this election year, this exhibit brings together artists grappling with the difficulty of picturing America in our time.

Jan Tichy
October 12–December 23
Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan Ave., mocp.org

Jan Tichy (Czech, b. 1974) is collaborating with the Museum of Contemporary Photography for a one-year period to create a museumwide exhibition based on the museum’s collection of more than 11,000 images and objects.

THEATRE

RENT
April 18–28
Getz Theatre, 72 E. 11th St.
Tickets: 312.369.6126 or colum.edu/theatre

Set in the East Village art scene during the height of the 1980s AIDS epidemic, RENT is a year in the life of a band of talented young artists.
The strong winds and scattered showers did not dampen the spirits of those attending the first collegewide celebration of the graduating class, MayFest, on May 23, 2002. MayFest evolved into today’s Manifest celebration.

In the decade since its inception, Manifest has become an established and integral part of the Columbia student experience.

Some artists featured on the three music stages of the inaugural MayFest included the Columbia Jazz Ensemble, saxophonist Fred Anderson, blues singer Thornetta Davis, Zimbabwe Afro-pop artist Oliver Mtukudzi, and the North Mississippi Allstars. The Morris Minors, who are on Columbia’s AEMMP record label, also performed.

As with Manifest today, the campus galleries for MayFest hosted ArtWalk studio exhibitions, performance poetry in the Hokin Gallery, and Art + Design exhibits in the Glass Curtain Gallery. All student organizations were represented, and the Fusion dance troupe held a live performance.

There was also a puppetry parade, “Moving Pictures,” which included a large snail, a walking merry-go-round, and a man on stilts. Trolleys provided transportation between the events and exhibits.

According to Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelly, “the electricity of Columbia came to life” at MayFest.

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 / 312.369.8689. Visit the Columbia archives online at lib.colum.edu/archives.

Logo designed by Jessi Pervola (BA ’02)
Scholarship Columbia

A MATCHING CHALLENGE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

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.

Photos: Jacob Boll ('12)