

# DEMO17

ARTS + MEDIA = CULTURE

FALL/WINTER 2012

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO



## DINO-MITE!

Dino Stamatopoulos ('87) oversees a prolific creative career with a cast of Columbia characters

create...  
change

Columbia  
COLLEGE CHICAGO



# CONTENTS

## ALUMNI WEEKEND 2012

MEET, CONNECT, AND NETWORK

Thursday, September 27 – Sunday, September 30

### ALUMNI SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

#### PANEL OF SUPER-AWESOME ALUMNI WRITERS FEATURING:

**Dino Stamatopoulos** ('87)  
Emmy Award-winning writer/actor/  
producer—*Late Show with David  
Letterman*, *MADtv*, *Moral Orel*, *Community*,  
*Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*

**Art Baltazar** (BA '92)  
2012 Alumnus of the Year, Eisner Award-  
winning super-cartoonist machine and  
author of *Tiny Titans*, *Patrick the Wolfboy*,  
*Super Pets*, and more

### 2ND ANNUAL ALUMNI 5K

#### OPENING GALLERY VIEWING & RECEPTION

**Diane Dammeyer** ('01) Photographer

#### TOTALLY RAD AFTERPARTY

Diving for Dynamite, featuring Material  
Issue's **Ted Ansani** (BA '90)

#### STUDENT/ALUMNI LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW

*And of course, the fabulous company of  
other cool alumni like YOU!*

For more information, visit [colum.edu/AlumniWeekend](http://colum.edu/AlumniWeekend) or call 312.369.8640

Times and locations to be announced. Program subject to change.

Photos: Vladimir Zaytsev ('12)

### FEATURES

**10** Dino-mite!  
Creative force **Dino Stamatopoulos** ('87) says he never set out to build a studio full of Columbia College alumni, but throughout a prolific 25-year career, he's found that like-minded colleagues make for the most rewarding work. **By Stephanie Ewing** ('12)

**20** 2012 Alumni of the Year  
Columbia honors cartoonist **Art Baltazar** (BA '92), jewelry designer **Lana Bramlette** (BA '97), and animator **Marlon West** (BA '85) for their innovative creative careers. **By Audrey Michelle Mast** (BA '00)

**24** Portfolio: Mark Laita (BA '83)  
Throughout a career spanning 30 years, photographer **Mark Laita** (BA '83) has made a name for himself in the commercial world while pursuing his passion for portraiture. **By William Meiners** (MFA '96)

### SPOT ON

- 30 **Len Ellis** (BA '52), aka DJ "Uncle Len," pioneered country music radio and built a broadcasting empire.
- 32 Emmy award-winning broadcaster **Bob Sirott** (BA '71) still calls on his Columbia education for inspiration.
- 34 Sound engineer **Tricia Huffman** (BA '03) carved out a brand-new career for herself as "joyologist" to pop stars on the road.
- 36 **Edye Deloch-Hughes** (BA '80) uses her marketing and communications skills to tackle another passion: game design.

### DEPARTMENTS

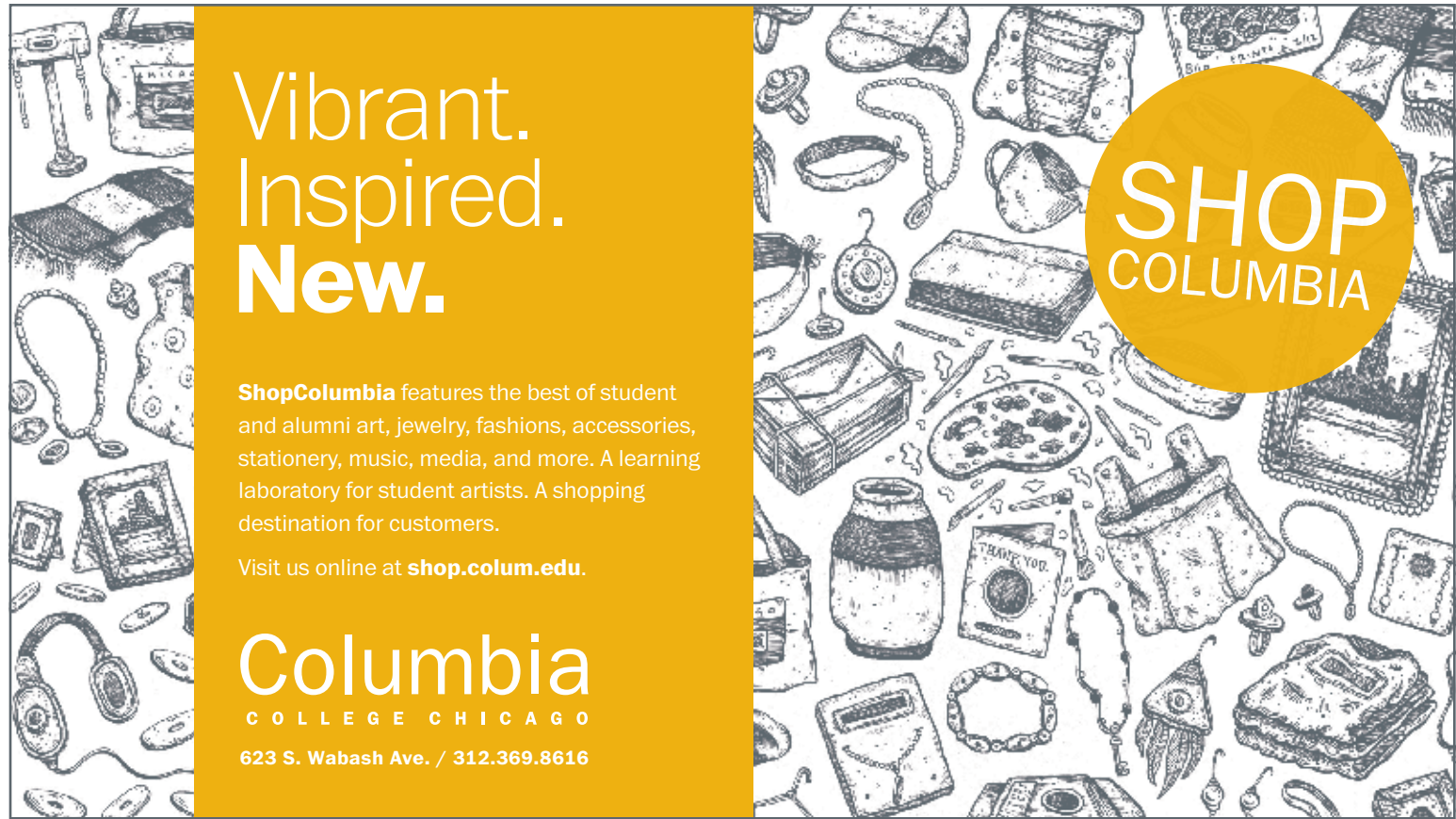
- 5 **Vision** A question for President Carter
- 6 **Wire** News from the Columbia community
- 38 **Out There** Our alumni section, featuring class news, notes, and CAAN updates
- 45 **Point & Shoot** Caught on camera around the country
- 47 **Upcoming Events** What's happening on campus
- 49 **Backstory** Columbia opens its first co-ed modern residence hall, 731 South Plymouth Court, in 1993.



### COVER

**Dino Stamatopoulos** ('87) lords over his TV puppet creations, from left to right: Apostle Bartholomew, the Wolfman, and Death (from *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*); Orel Puppington and Clay Puppington (from *Moral Orel*); Jesus and Dr. Jekyll (from *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*); Abed and Troy (from *Community's* "Abed's Uncontrollable Christmas"); and the Creature, Professor Polidori, and Dr. Victor Frankenstein (from *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*).

Photo: Anthony Chiappetta (BA '95)



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Illustration: Erik Lundquist ('12)

## CONVERSATIONS IN THE ARTS

# 2012-13

Unless otherwise noted, all lectures start at 6:00 PM at the Film Row Cinema of Columbia College Chicago, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor. Registration begins 4-6 weeks before each event at [colum.edu/conversations](http://colum.edu/conversations).



**OCTOBER 16, 2012**  
**THE LA BAMBA 25TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION**  
AT COLUMBIA NIGHT DURING THE CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL with **LOU DIAMOND PHILLIPS, ESAI MORALES, and ELIZABETH PEÑA**  
Bringing together three stars of the 1987 biopic of singer Ritchie Valens.

NOTE: This event takes place at 7:00 PM at the AMC River East 21 Theatre, 322 E. Illinois St.



**FEBRUARY 2013**  
**DEBBIE ALLEN**  
Dancer, choreographer, actor, director, and ambassador for arts education—best known for her work on the TV series *Fame*.



**APRIL 16, 2013**  
**MICHELE NORRIS**  
Journalist, host of NPR's *All Things Considered*, and author.

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## ALUMNI EVENTS

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations for details  
312.369.6987 / [mpassarelli@colum.edu](mailto:mpassarelli@colum.edu)

**SEPTEMBER 18-NOVEMBER 13**  
**CAAN Volunteers, Los Angeles**  
CAAN LA will sponsor Carthay Center Elementary through the Young Storytellers Foundation. Alumni will mentor 5th graders in the art of screenwriting. Contact Sarah Schroeder at 323.469.0443.

**SEPTEMBER 27-30**  
**2012 Alumni Weekend, Chicago**  
Highlights include a panel of writers with Emmy Award-winning Dino Stamatopoulos ('87) and Eisner Award-winning Art Baltazar (BA '92), an alumni short film showcase, and an alumni band featuring Material Issue's Ted Ansani (BA '90). Visit [colum.edu/AlumniWeekend](http://colum.edu/AlumniWeekend) or call Cynthia Vargas at 312.369.8640.

**OCTOBER**  
**CAAN Networking, Nationwide**  
CAAN will host cocktail and networking receptions in Denver, New York, St. Louis, Atlanta, and Minneapolis. Contact Sarah Schroeder at 323.469.0443.

**OCTOBER 5**  
**Alumni on 5 Opening Reception, Chicago**  
The Alumni on 5 Opening Reception will kick off an exhibition of alumni art in the library.

**OCTOBER 6**  
**Pinterest Workshop: Pinning with a Purpose, Chicago**  
Journalism faculty member Barbara K. Iverson will present ways to use the social media site Pinterest to build your brand and strengthen your online reputation. Contact Michelle Passarelli at 312.369.6987.

**OCTOBER 25**  
**Career Workshop: Personal Branding for the Creative, Chicago**  
For more information about this free workshop for alumni, contact Cynthia Vargas at 312.369.8640.

**DECEMBER**  
**Alumni Holiday Party, Los Angeles**  
Party with entertainment-focused alumni associations from Northwestern, University of Wisconsin, University of Michigan, and others. Contact Sarah Schroeder at 323.469.0443.

**JANUARY 18-20**  
**Columbia at Park City, Utah**  
Columbia will host three events at the Sundance Film Festival including an Opening Night party. Contact Sarah Schroeder at 323.469.0443.

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Photo: Jeremy Lawson ('04)

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Photo: Jacob Boll ('12)

# VISION

## A QUESTION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER

**DEMO:** Like many colleges, Columbia has seen declining enrollment. What are some of the new recruiting strategies?



Photo: Erika Dufour (BA '97)

**DR. CARTER:** We still have some challenges in enrollment, and we have begun to do some important things that will help us to improve our enrollment. The Midwest is where the majority of our students have always come from, but we're seeing a decrease in the number of 18-year-olds in this area. The places where we see growth of 18-year-olds are in Florida, Texas, and the West Coast. So we have to go where the students are and be more active and aggressive in recruiting in those areas, which means we have to spend more money in our recruitment efforts there. At the same time, we will not pull back on our recruiting here in the Midwest and here in the city of Chicago.

"We have to go where the students are and be more active and aggressive in recruiting in those areas."

In May, Dr. Carter announced his intention to retire in August 2013. For more information on his career and the transition to a new president, see page 6.

We also have started some international initiatives. We have partnerships and exchanges with schools in China that appear to be opportunities to increase our international enrollment. We are doing some recruiting in South Korea. South Korea has been the country from which we've gotten our largest number of international students. And that's been done without any recruitment. We're going to begin to do some recruiting there.

I predict that by fall of '14, we will see some of the results of this new investment in enrollment and in recruitment and in admissions, both domestically and internationally. And we'll begin to turn this tide and increase our enrollment numbers.



Warrick L. Carter, PhD, president of Columbia College Chicago

Photo: William Frederking

## PRESIDENT CARTER TO RETIRE IN AUGUST 2013

In May, Warrick L. Carter, PhD, president of Columbia College Chicago, announced his intention to retire in August 2013.

"I have accomplished much of what I came to Columbia College to do," said Carter. "This institution is poised for greatness and positioned for sustainability, and I know that our outstanding faculty and staff will continue to provide students with the most cutting-edge media arts education anywhere."

To ensure a smooth transition between the current and future administration, President Carter hired Trustee Warren K. Chapman, PhD, to serve in an interim role as senior vice president. (See sidebar at right.) To take this position, Chapman left his position as vice chancellor for external affairs at University of Illinois at Chicago, where he oversaw community relations, public affairs, and marketing.

Carter, who received his doctorate in music education from Michigan State University, joined Columbia College Chicago in 2000. The college's square footage of campus classrooms, offices, and residence halls doubled under his leadership, and enrollment reached a record high of 12,500 graduate and undergraduate students, an increase of more than 25 percent since 1999.

In 2010, Carter successfully launched and oversaw Columbia College's \$100 million fundraising campaign and the completion of its first new-construction building, the state-of-the-art Media Production Center.

## CHAPMAN JOINS COLUMBIA AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Photo: Jacob Boll ('12)

University of Illinois at Chicago Vice Chancellor Warren K. Chapman, PhD, has joined Columbia College Chicago in a two-year interim role as senior vice president. Chapman will ensure a smooth transition between the presidency of Warrick L. Carter, who will retire in August 2013, and a new president.

To take this position, Chapman stepped down from the Columbia College Board of Trustees, where he had been a member since 2003.

As vice chancellor for external affairs at UIC, Chapman oversaw community relations, public affairs, and marketing, and coordinated the efforts of the offices of development, alumni affairs, government relations, and access and equity.

Chapman earned a doctorate degree in educational policy studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Photo: Becker Media

## FASHION COLUMBIA RAISES RECORD FUNDS

On June 8, the Fashion Columbia 2012 event raised more than \$130,000 for the newly established Eunice W. Johnson Scholarship in Fashion Studies. More than 200 guests attended the fashion show, which featured menswear, evening gown, and dress designs from 15 fashion studies students, at the Columbia College Chicago Media Production Center.

Columbia alumna Lana Bramlette (BA '97) was awarded the Alumni Achievement in Fashion Design award. The "queen of hoops" and founder of Lana Jewelry counts among her clients such celebrity fashion icons as Jennifer Lopez, Cameron Diaz, Kate Hudson, and Angelina Jolie.

Fashion Columbia 2012 used green vendors, recycled all post-event paper and other products, and composted food scraps, making it the greenest event at the college to date. (For more photos from the event, see Point & Shoot, page 45.)

## COLUMBIA HOSTS ADULT JAZZ CAMP

The fourth annual Straight Ahead & Other Directions Jazz Camp, an adult summer camp for jazz lovers, took place July 23-26 at the Columbia College Chicago Music Center.

A humanities festival for jazz enthusiasts, Jazz Camp featured four days of innovative, hands-on sessions taught by professional musicians and clinicians such as author-activist Timuel Black, bandleader-composer Douglas Ewart, and New Orleans saxophone master Donald Harrison—

widely known for his work on the HBO TV series *Treme*. Sessions discussed artists such as Fred Anderson and Art Blakey, along with social justice, dance, rehearsal and improvisational techniques, and New Orleans jazz pre- and post-Katrina.

"We've extended it way beyond what it ever was ... so that arts educators and anybody interested in jazz can see the connection between the music and other art forms," said Lauren Deutsch, executive director of the nonprofit Jazz Institute of Chicago, which presented the camp in conjunction with Columbia College Chicago and the Chicago Jazz Ensemble.

## ASL PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Columbia College Chicago's American Sign Language (ASL)-English Interpretation program has received national accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education (CCIE). The department, created in 1993, is home to the only BA-granting interpreting program within 100 miles of the South Loop.

In its report to Columbia, the CCIE noted that the department has many strengths, including, "the

fit between the unified passion and purpose of the department and the mission of the college, benchmarks for assessing student progress through the major ... [and] solid administrative skills of the program director and the clear administrative support from within the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, especially from the Dean."

The CCIE is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors and was created to promote professionalism in sign language interpreter education through accreditation.

# open doors gala

## OPEN DOORS GALA TO BE HELD DECEMBER 7

The Open Doors Gala will be held on Friday, December 7, at Columbia College Chicago's Media Production Center at 16th and State streets. The Gala will benefit the Open Doors Scholarship, which helps Chicago Public Schools' graduates to attend Columbia. The 2011 event raised nearly \$700,000. For more information, contact Brent Caburnay at [bcaburnay@colum.edu](mailto:bcaburnay@colum.edu) or 312.369.8188.

## SEMESTER IN CHINA PROVIDES ENRICHING STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Columbia College Chicago is partnering with Central China Normal University (CCNU) for a fall 2012 Semester in China program, offering scholarships for 30 Columbia students to spend 12 weeks learning Chinese language and culture.



Through the Semester in China program, students will be able to learn about Chinese culture and customs. Photo: Lorraine Smith

As part of the "China Initiative," the college is forging partnerships with several colleges and universities in China, including the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, Tongji University in Shanghai, and CCNU and Hankou University in Wuhan. Upon returning to Chicago,

participating students will serve as ambassadors to students from China.

"Opportunities like this help to position Columbia College not just as a national leader in arts and media education, but an

international leader as well," said Mark Kelly, vice president of student affairs at Columbia College Chicago. "This is an incredible opportunity for our students to learn firsthand about an amazing country and its culture."

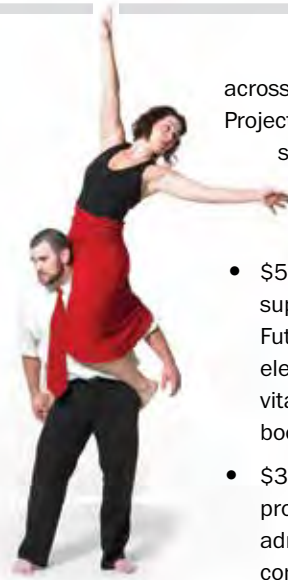
## COLUMBIA RECEIVES GRANTS

Columbia College Chicago recently received the following grants:

The U.S. Department of Education renewed Columbia's Upward Bound project, with a total award of \$1,739,170 for 2012 to 2017. Upward Bound offers counseling and tutoring, plus summer and bridge programs designed to generate the skills and motivation necessary for Chicago Public Schools' students to complete high school and succeed in a postsecondary program. Upward Bound will serve 78 students annually from Foreman High School and Benito Juarez High School.

The Alphawood Foundation gave \$50,000 to support the Columbia Dance Center's 2012-13 season, which will feature eight different shows from September through April.

JPMorgan Chase awarded \$75,000 to Columbia's Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP) to support its Project Arts Integration Mentorship (Project AIM) in Pilsen/Brighton Park Schools. The program will train teachers and artists to collaboratively create standards-based curriculum that translates the arts



across literacy, math, and science. With this grant, Project AIM will provide arts residencies in four Pilsen schools as well as training for teaching artists.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded the following to Columbia:

- \$50,000 to the Center for Book and Paper Arts to support Expanded Artists' Books: Envisioning the Future of the Book. This project aims to use mobile electronic tablets to enable public access to a vital, but largely inaccessible, art form: the artist's book.
- \$30,000 to the Dance Center for artist fees, production and marketing expenses, and direct administrative costs for a series of international contemporary dance engagement residencies during the 2012-13 dance season.
- \$16,000 to Columbia's Library for programs and book discussion groups featuring Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies*, NEA's Big Read book for 2013.
- \$15,000 to the Story Week Festival of Writers for the 2013 literary festival that will include readings, performances, conversations, panel discussions, and book signing events featuring some of the best local, national, and international writers, publishers, editors, reviewers, and interviewers.

Photo: William Frederking

## FIND MORE NEWS ONLINE

Read these stories and more at [colum.edu/news](http://colum.edu/news).

### COLUMBIA COLLEGE IN HOLLYWOOD REPORTER'S TOP 25 FILM SCHOOLS

In the August 3 issue, preeminent film industry publication *The Hollywood Reporter* honored Columbia College Chicago as one of the top 25 film schools.

### AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

Congratulations to Columbia College Chicago alumni for nominations for Primetime Emmy Awards by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The winners will be announced on a live telecast on Sunday, September 23, on ABC.

### ROCK TO BEAT THE CLOCK

In record time, Columbia students worked across disciplines to create and market an EP and performance in only six days in July. The project was part of the new Music Industry Immersion Class, which involves the Music, Audio Arts and Acoustics (AA&A), and the Arts, Entertainment, and Media Management (AEMM) departments.



### WCRX-FM AND RADIO STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL AWARDS

Congratulations to WCRX-FM students, who won two first-place awards for student work at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) 72nd Annual Student Radio Awards Ceremony in New York City.

## Check out all things Alumni online!



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# DINO-MITE!

Creative force **Dino Stamatopoulos** ('87) says he never set out to build a studio full of Columbia College alumni, but throughout a prolific 25-year career, he's found that like-minded colleagues make for the most rewarding work.

BY STEPHANIE EWING ('12) PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANTHONY CHIAPPETTA (BA '95)

Dino Stamatopoulos, center, surrounds himself with Columbia talent at Starburns Industries, including (from left to right) Joe Passarelli (BA '03), Duke Johnson ('95), Jay Johnston ('93), and David Tuber (BA '05).

Each weekday morning, Dino Stamatopoulos ('87) heads to work at his Burbank, California, production studio, a beige stucco castle complete with climbing ivy and crenellated turrets.

Inside, the castle reveals itself to be a warehouse full of cameras, miniature sets, and hundreds of tiny puppets—the guts of Starburns Industries, the stop-motion animation production company founded in 2010 by Stamatopoulos, the executive producer, and his colleagues Dan Harmon, James Fino, and Joe Russo II.

The company was named for Stamatopoulos' quirkily coiffed character from Harmon's hit NBC show, *Community*, where Stamatopoulos also worked as a consulting writer and producer.

Though *Community* put Stamatopoulos in front of the camera for new audiences, he's been busting guts behind the scenes for 25 years as an Emmy award-winning comedy sketch writer, and the creator and producer of animated shows *Moral Orel* and *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*.

"Dino's sense of humor is dark, black comedy and is absurd and full of rage and pain and love," said Chris McKay (BA '91), one of Stamatopoulos' directors. "The whole world is funny to Dino, even the crying parts."

Stamatopoulos' astute writing and generous spirit have earned him many friends and constant collaborators, and whether by coincidence or design, at least 16 of them are fellow Columbia alumni. Actors Jay Johnston ('93) and *30 Rock*'s Scott Adsit ('89) and director McKay are part of Stamatopoulos' inner circle. Stamatopoulos'

Columbia classmates, Broadway theatre director David Cromer ('86) and comedian Andy Dick ('89), have contributed to his shows. Stamatopoulos wrote for *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* with Conan's longtime sidekick, Andy Richter ('90), and on the cult-classic sketch comedy, *Mr. Show*, with its creator, Bob Odenkirk ('87). (See pages 16-17.)

Columbia has been a fruitful source of connections for Stamatopoulos throughout a career that took him from the Chicago suburbs, to New York TV studios, to a castle in L.A.

### THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE YEARS

The Norridge-raised Stamatopoulos became interested in comedy when he was young, finding inspiration in the work of Monty Python, Woody Allen, Albert Brooks, David Letterman, and Chicago shock jock Steve Dahl.

"Before that, the Scarecrow and the Lion from the *Wizard of Oz* were definitely seminal," joked Stamatopoulos.

It was Stamatopoulos' father who suggested he attend Columbia.

"I had a definite leaning towards the arts, and he brought the college to my attention," said Stamatopoulos. "I was so excited to go that I actually fantasized about dropping out [of high school] and going early, taking my GED. But my dad wanted me to finish and graduate like everyone else."

When he finally arrived at Columbia in 1983 to study theatre, Stamatopoulos met one of his guiding lights, comedy studies professor Norm Holly. Holly became his "comedy mentor," teaching him the value of rewriting.

"I was so arrogant that I never wanted to change anything I originally wrote," said Stamatopoulos. "Norm's biggest contribution was to acknowledge my talent while, at the same time, letting me know I wasn't perfect."

Holly and his students performed comedy cabarets in the basement



**Jay Johnston** ('93) is known for his acting and writing on *Mr. Show* and for his role as a police officer on *The Sarah Silverman Program*. Johnston has worked with Stamatopoulos on *Moral Orel* and *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole* as a producer, writer, or actor, and he made a guest appearance on an episode of *Community*. A Chicago native, he also worked in The Second City's touring company alongside Scott Adsit ('89).

of the theatre building, and that's where Stamatopoulos met Andy Dick, Scott Adsit, and Mike Stoyanov ('88). Dick and Stamatopoulos became friends and played comedy clubs around the city, while Adsit and Stamatopoulos performed as an off-the-wall sketch comedy duo. "We had a very similar sensibility," said Stamatopoulos, "although Scott is far more subtle than I am. He's the Dean Martin to my Jerry Lewis."

In one memorable routine, they drew a sweeping mustache on a baby doll to parody a children's TV show in Spanish-sounding gibberish. "I remember doing that on stage at the Funny Firm and people yelling out, 'Speak English!'" said Stamatopoulos. "They weren't into anti-comedy back then."

Though Stamatopoulos and friend Tom Bell ('88) eventually opened their own theater on Loyola Avenue, the pull of L.A. was strong. Dick had already gone west to look for a big break and found work, as had Stoyanov, who would get a gig playing Anthony on the NBC primetime sitcom *Blossom*. So in 1989, Stamatopoulos and Bell decided to hit the road, too. "It was a change of pace, getting out

of Chicago and seeing what other part of the world was out there," Stamatopoulos said.

### MAKING IT BIG

Stamatopoulos spent the next three years working hard to earn his big break, trying out all sorts of Hollywood jobs, including working as a production assistant for Stoyanov's film *Freaked* and as an extra in film and television. He even spent two months in the desert, dressed as a knight in armor and a full beard for the campy Bruce Campbell flick, *Army of Darkness*.

Stamatopoulos' moment finally arrived in 1992. After Andy Dick appeared in the pilot episode of *The Ben Stiller Show*, he convinced Stamatopoulos to send the producers "a stack of writing [he'd] amassed in Chicago," including a spec episode of *The Simpsons*.

*The Ben Stiller Show* hired Stamatopoulos as a writer. Although the show was canned after one season, it won an Emmy for best writing, and propelled the 28-year-old into writing sketch comedy—mostly in New York—on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *Late Show with David Letterman*, and *The Dana Carvey Show*.

In 1996, Stamatopoulos moved back to L.A. to write and act for *Mr. Show*, the sketch-comedy brainchild of *Ben Stiller* colleague Bob Odenkirk ('87) and comedian David Cross, for which Stamatopoulos produced some of his most acclaimed and enduring work. *Mr. Show* also reconnected Stamatopoulos with Jay Johnston ('93), whom Stamatopoulos first met in Chicago through Norm Holly.

Between 2001 and 2006, Stamatopoulos wrote sketch comedy for late-night shows including *Jimmy Kimmel Live* and *MADtv*. But he said this kind of work no longer inspired him like it used to: "I started to feel exhausted from just writing sketches."

### "CARTOON BOY": LIFE IN STOP-MOTION ANIMATION

Stamatopoulos' foray into the colorful world of cartoons started in 2000, when he went to New York to work on the animated series *TV Funhouse*, created by Chicagoan and *Dana Carvey Show* colleague Robert Smigel. *TV Funhouse* began as shorts on *Saturday Night Live* and had since become its own show on Comedy Central.

Making cartoons had long been a dream for Stamatopoulos, and

## Stamatopoulos said he heard David Letterman would refer to him dismissively as "cartoon boy."

he always looked for ways to bring animation into his sketch-writing jobs, sometimes to the frustration of his bosses. He said he heard that David Letterman would refer to him dismissively as "cartoon boy."

"Every show, I've always pitched a cartoon version of something. I grew up watching Saturday morning cartoons—that was my childhood," said Stamatopoulos. "When I was on *Letterman*, I would constantly, incessantly pitch animated bits which they didn't want to do because they felt that it was too 'Conan-y'... which was interesting because when we pitched stuff on *Conan* they called it too 'Letterman-y.'"

Though sketch comedy writing was still paying his bills, in 2004, Stamatopoulos started meeting with representatives from Adult Swim—a



**Duke Johnson** ('95) is a director at Stamatopoulos' production company, Starburns Industries. He directed the animated episode of *Community* and has also worked as an executive producer, writer, and director on *Moral Orel*; its prequel, *Beforel Orel*; and *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*.







L to R: *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*, *Moral Ore*, *Community*. Below: The puppet of Dr. Frankenstein from *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*, shown at larger-than-real-life size. "He's about five inches tall—smaller than most puppets because he was modeled after [actor] Seth Green," said Stamatopoulos.

# Why Stop-Motion Animation?

## Dino Stamatopoulos and company inject new life into an old medium

Even with the increasing prevalence of computer animation, stop-motion animation is Starburns Industries' bread and butter.

"I'm just in love with stop motion," said Dino Stamatopoulos ('87), co-founder and executive producer. "I did it as a kid. I've always been into model building, and I just [love] all these little sets and people. I'm obsessed with the idea of making them real people with feelings and having the audience laugh and cry at them."

Stop-motion animation techniques have remained largely unchanged since they were first used in 1897's *The Humpty Dumpty Circus*. Animators pose objects or puppets (often made of a wire skeleton covered with moldable foam, clay, or plastic), adjust positions incrementally, and then photograph them, frame by frame. Stop-motion animation is a laborious process—what actor and *Moral Ore* producer Jay Johnston ('93) describes as "one of the most tedious things possible on the planet," because one 23-minute program consists of at least 16,560 shots—but it can be done relatively inexpensively because all the sets and puppets are miniatures.

For *Moral Ore* and the 2010 *Community* Christmas special, Starburns Industries animated the shows using clay puppets in the spirit of the 1960s "Claymation" Christmas programs *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*. Chris McKay (BA '91), a *Moral Ore* director, said he thinks stop-motion animation evokes childhood memories and brings a refreshing innocence to the absurd and dark situations Stamatopoulos' characters encounter.

The creative teams at Starburns Industries have also innovated ways of delivering stop-motion animated episodes of Stamatopoulos' Cartoon Network series, *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*, on a tight schedule. Because celebrities and historical figures often make their way into Stamatopoulos' scripts, puppet artists take pictures of the famous people and fold them, like origami, onto the faces of the puppets, creating the distinct texture and angular look of the comical characters populating the strange world surrounding Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory.

—STEPHANIE EWING ('12)

programming block of adult-oriented cartoons on Cartoon Network—to pitch his own shows, including what would become his first animated series, *Moral Ore*.

With *Moral Ore*, Stamatopoulos wanted to create an inexpensive stop-motion parody of *Leave it to Beaver* and *Davey and Goliath*, chronicling the misadventures of the citizens of Moralton, a fictional, hyper-religious Midwestern small town.

Once Adult Swim green-lighted the project, Stamatopoulos started casting his friends and colleagues as writers, actors, directors, and producers. Scott Adsit became a producer and actor; so did Jay Johnston.

Stamatopoulos drew on the talents of his broad Columbia network, hiring recent Columbia alumni as directors, storyboard artists, and editors on projects such as a 2010 animated special episode of *Community*, and his new stop-motion Adult Swim series, *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*.

### CONNECTING WITH COLUMBIA ALUMNI: THE NEXT GENERATION

As *Moral Ore* was renewed for additional seasons, Stamatopoulos started to pull in more crew, including Columbia alumnus Chris McKay (BA '91).

McKay, who also grew up in the Chicago area, came onboard after he ran into Stamatopoulos while editing for the stop-motion show

*Robot Chicken*, which was sharing studio space with *Moral Ore*.

"[McKay] is a great editor and taught me a lot about how you can edit within a shot with animation, and he had some great ideas," said Stamatopoulos. "Essentially, he became the fourth Beatle [with] me, Jay, and Scott."

McKay credits Stamatopoulos as being generous with his time and resources: "He's really willing to give someone a shot if they have respect for the show. He's great at identifying what people are good at, then giving them love, attention, and 'Atta boys!'"

Stamatopoulos says he never set out to build a studio full of Columbia College alumni; he just finds himself drawn to like-minded people who can contribute to his shows. His unique comedy and animation medium have a way of self-selecting for a certain sort of colleague.

Stamatopoulos met Duke Johnson ('95) in New York when Johnson was working as a waiter while attending film school. "I always found him smart and funny," said Stamatopoulos. The two reconnected in L.A. a few years later after Johnson finished grad school, and Stamatopoulos offered him a chance to direct *Moral Ore*.

Johnson then introduced Stamatopoulos to Joe Passarelli (BA '03), with whom he had attended grad school. Passarelli said that even though he didn't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

**Joe Passarelli** (BA '03) is a cinematographer for *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole* and *Moral Ore's* prequel, *Before! Ore!*. He has also done cinematography for Duke Johnson's short films *Marrying God* and *Passport*.



# Who's Who?

## More Columbia Alumni in Dino Stamatopoulos' Wacky World

Throughout his prolific 25-year career, Dino Stamatopoulos ('87) has earned the admiration and respect of countless creative friends and collaborators in the film and TV industry, many of whom are fellow Columbia alumni. In addition to working regularly with Scott Adsit ('89), Duke Johnson ('95), Jay Johnston ('93), Chris McKay (BA '91), Joe Passarelli (BA '03), and David Tuber (BA '05) (see pages 12-18), Stamatopoulos has teamed up with many Columbia luminaries over the years. Here are just a few.

### Peter Blood

('89)

Peter Blood is a musician who composes music for Dino Stamatopoulos' shows *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole* and *Moral Orel*. Blood composed a song in honor of his friend called "Dino Stamatopoulos," a happy hard-rock tune that rhymes "Stamatopoulos" with acropolis, animus, mischievous, esophagus, androgynous, and apocalypse, among other things. He also acted in two episodes of *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole* as the voice of John Hancock and a reanimated corpse.



### David Cromer

('89)

David Cromer is an award-winning theatre director, best known for productions of *Angels in America*, *The Cider House Rules*, *Our Town*, and *The House of Blue Leaves*. Cromer met Stamatopoulos while attending Columbia College Chicago and worked with him as a guest director on *Moral Orel* in 2008. He taught theatre at Columbia before moving to New York in 2008. Cromer was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2010 and a Columbia alumnus of the year in 2011.

Photos: Vladimir Zaytsev ('12) except Cromer (Steve Becker); Odenkirk (Mr. Show with Bob and David-HBO); and Stoyanov (courtesy of Stoyanov).

**"David's a very hands-on director. He didn't really know much about stop animation ... but I thought that would be an interesting experiment."**

—Dino Stamatopoulos, on persuading David Cromer to direct an episode of *Moral Orel*

### D.V. DeVincentis

('91)

D.V. DeVincentis, Steve Pink ('89), and actor John Cusack formed New Crime Productions, the company that produced *Grosse Pointe Blank* and *High Fidelity*, for which DeVincentis co-wrote. DeVincentis is a frequent collaborator of Pat O'Neill ('91) and Pink, through whom he met Stamatopoulos. The trio helped Stamatopoulos sell a script for a never-made sitcom pilot, "a sort of modern-day *All in the Family* about a Desert Storm vet living next to Muslims," said Stamatopoulos.



### Andy Dick

('89)

Andy Dick acted on *The Ben Stiller Show* and *NewsRadio* in the early '90s. He also acted on Stamatopoulos' *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole* and was a guest on *Community*. Dick met Stamatopoulos while attending Columbia. Also at Columbia, Dick earned an A on the final exam for Stage Combat class, choosing to spar with himself after his partner failed to show up.

### K.K. Dodds

('89)

K.K. Dodds has had a varied and successful television career, which includes recurring roles on FOX's *Prison Break*, playing Susan Hollander, and *The Shield*, playing Kim Kelner. She did voice acting on Stamatopoulos' *Moral Orel* and *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*, including roles as Gandhi's date and Katharine Hepburn. Dodds also played Wendy in the film *Being John Malkovich*, written by Charlie Kaufman, one of Stamatopoulos' sketch comedy colleagues. She attended Columbia with Stamatopoulos.



### Bob Odenkirk

('87)

Bob Odenkirk is an actor and writer best known for his work with Stamatopoulos on *Mr. Show*, *The Ben Stiller Show* (for which the writers won an Emmy), and *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. He plays corrupt lawyer Saul Goodman on the AMC series *Breaking Bad* and has made guest appearances on *The Sarah Silverman Program*, *The Andy Dick Show*, *TV Funhouse*, and the *Tenacious D* series. He has written and developed shows for Adult Swim, including *Tom Goes to the Mayor*, *Tim and Eric Awesome Show, Great Job!*; and *Let's Do This!*

### Pat O'Neill

('91)

Pat O'Neill wrote the film *Knight and Day*, which was produced by Steve Pink ('89). He also acted in the film *Grosse Pointe Blank*, from the team of Pink and D.V. DeVincentis ('91), who were also two of the writers and producers for the John Cusack film *High Fidelity*. O'Neill also produced several episodes of *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*.



### Steve Pink

('89)

Steve Pink is an Evanston native best known for co-writing and co-producing the John Cusack films *High Fidelity* with D.V. DeVincentis ('91) and *Grosse Pointe Blank* with DeVincentis and Pat O'Neill ('91). Pink also directed the comedy *Hot Tub Time Machine* and was a producer on O'Neill's *Knight and Day*. Stamatopoulos said he met Pink and O'Neill through student comedy events at Columbia and they have periodically collaborated since then.



### Andy Richter

('90)

Andy Richter is best known as Conan O'Brien's sidekick. He is also an actor and writer who has written for *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* alongside Stamatopoulos, and has appeared as a guest actor on *30 Rock*, *The Sarah Silverman Program*, and *Robot Chicken*. From Yorkville, Illinois, Richter trained at The Second City.

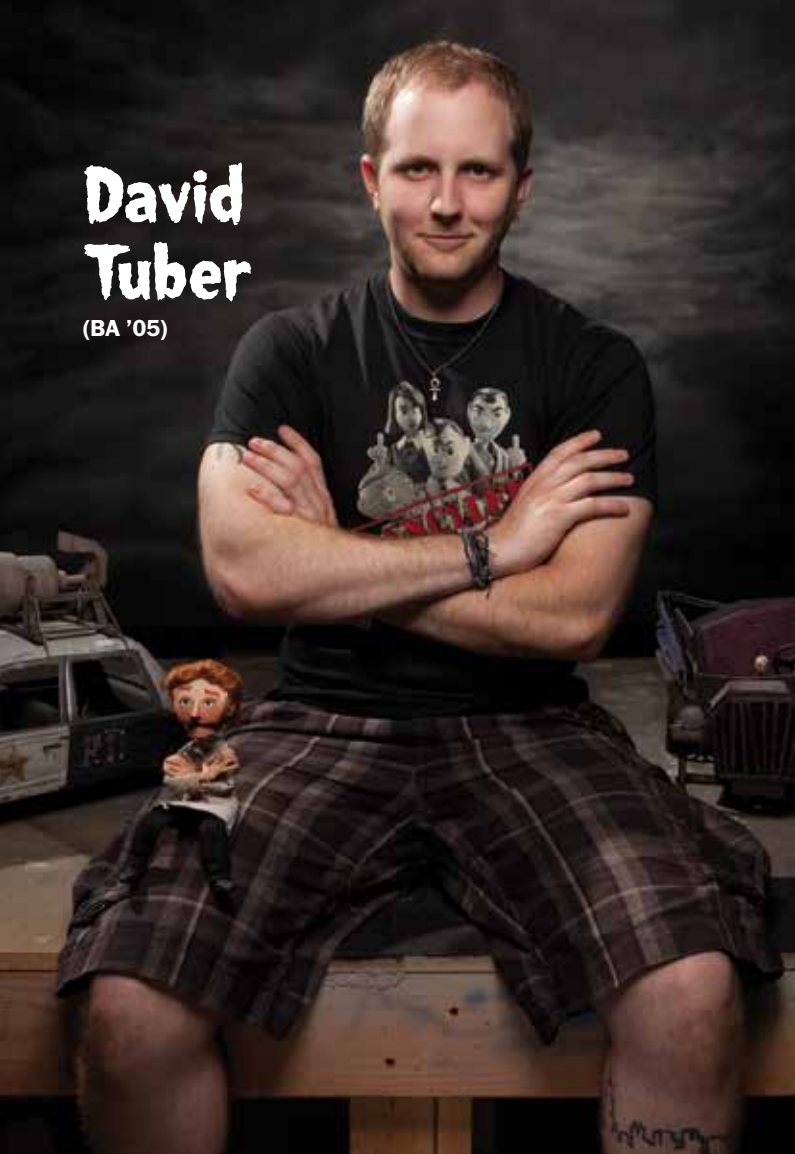


### Mike Stoyanov

('88)

Mike Stoyanov is known for his role as Anthony on the 1990s' NBC sitcom *Blossom*, and he also appeared in the Batman movie *The Dark Knight*. He met Stamatopoulos, Scott Adsit, and Andy Dick while attending Columbia College Chicago and wrote with Stamatopoulos for *TV Funhouse*, *Mr. Show*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, and *The Dana Carvey Show*. He also worked with Columbia TV students in the 2011 production of *Freq Out*.

—SEAN MCENTEE ('13)  
AND STEPHANIE EWING ('12)



# David Tuber

(BA '05)

**David Tuber** (BA '05) works for Starburns Industries, Stamatopoulos' production company, as a director, storyboard artist, and writer. He worked for Shadowmachine Films, which produces *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole* and *Moral Orel*, along with *Robot Chicken* and *Titan Maximum*. Tuber is the owner of the production company Chi-Town Toons.

**WEB EXCLUSIVES**

For interviews with **Dino Stamatopoulos**, **David Tuber**, **Jay Johnston**, and **Duke Johnson**, go to:

[COLUM.EDU/DEMO](http://COLUM.EDU/DEMO)

**Chris McKay** (BA '91) is the director of *Robot Chicken* and *Titan Maximum*, and he directed and produced *Moral Orel*. McKay also served as an editor for *The Sarah Silverman Program* and is working with production company Animal Logic, applying his stop-motion animation directing experience to a photo-real computer-generated Lego movie to be released in 2014. McKay says his animation appreciation started back at Columbia, when he took an animation class with Terry Miller.

**“In a way, he recycled his own comedy back to him. I owe him so much. The guy has fathered me into this industry.”**

have previous experience lighting and shooting animated shows, Stamatopoulos trusted his work and his sense of humor and knew Passarelli would fit in well with the team. So he made Passarelli his director of photography.

David Tuber (BA '05) met Stamatopoulos while he was working as an intern on *Robot Chicken*. Tuber admired the voice actors from *Moral Orel*, who were some of his favorites from *Mr. Show*. Tuber was also fascinated by *Moral Orel*'s Claymation-esque animation style. He knew it was where he wanted to be.

“We had the same humor, because I had been admiring his comedy growing up,” said Tuber, now a director and storyboard artist on *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole*. “In a way, he recycled his own comedy back to him,” he said. “I owe him so much. The guy has fathered me into this industry.”

Stamatopoulos got his own break from a friend when *Community*

creator Dan Harmon texted in 2008 and told him to start growing out his facial hair: He'd be playing the strange, top-hat wearing, drug-dealing community college student, Star-Burns. Two years later, the stop-motion Christmas episode of *Community*, animated by Stamatopoulos and company, put Starburns Industries on the map.

So now, as the executive producer of his own production company, Stamatopoulos spends his days in a castle full of toys and cameras, creating cartoons, surrounded by friends. The job isn't without challenges, but people close to Stamatopoulos say the man has a gift for creating a fun, collaborative environment and using people's greatest talents to maximum artistic effect.

Stamatopoulos describes success like this: “It's all about just being passionate about your work. ... Be ready to be poor, and happy, and creative—just love what you're doing and meet like-minded people you can work with.” ■

*Dino Stamatopoulos* hosts a weekly podcast called *Sorry About Everything on the Steve Dahl* podcast network at [dahl.com](http://dahl.com). Among his Columbia interviewees are *Andy Richter*, *Duke Johnson*, and *Scott Adsit*. To listen to the shows, you must be a subscriber.



# Chris McKay

(BA '91)

Photo: Vladimir Zaytsev ('12)

# Dino's Top 6

Over the course of his 25-year career, **Dino Stamatopoulos ('87)** has written for—and often acted in—a slew of cult comedies. Here are some of his favorite creations.



David Cross and Bob Odenkirk ('87) on *Mr. Show* / Photo: Mr. Show with Bob and David-HBO

## “Young People and Companions” (*Mr. Show*, 1997)

A parody of a bizarrely worded local newscast, this sketch riffs on the vague description of four missing 20-year-olds as “two young people and their companions.” Anchor Bob Odenkirk ('87) and reporter David Cross conduct interviews with parents, rescue workers, and community residents—always referring to “two young people” and “two companions.”



## *Moral Orel* (2005-2008)

Orel Puppington is the main character in Stamatopoulos' stop-animation show. The 12-year-old protagonist is a devout Christian living in the hyper-religious town of Moralton, where his commitment to the church often leads him into absurd and disastrous situations.

## “The Audition” (*Mr. Show*, 1998)

In this sketch, actor David Cross auditions for an acting job and decides to perform a monologue from “a play titled *The Audition*,” which sparks confusion for the casting directors, Bob Odenkirk and Stamatopoulos, who are not sure if Cross is acting or actually speaking to them.



## *Star-Burns* on *Community* (2009-2012)

On NBC's primetime comedy about community college, Stamatopoulos had a recurring role as Star-Burns, a middle-aged father, admitted drug dealer, and “cool study group” member who sports star-shaped sideburns.

## “Spite Marriage” (*Mr. Show*, 1998)

David Cross and Bob Odenkirk play two tough-guy types who get into a confrontation in a bar. As both refuse to leave the other alone until they admit fault, the two end up getting married to show their commitment to this standoff. The two spend the rest of their lives being hostile and aggressive until Cross' character dies of old age.



## *Mary Shelley's Frankenhole* (2010-2012)

Stamatopoulos' second stop-motion animation series stars Dr. Victor Frankenstein and his family. The plot revolves around Frankenstein's knowledge of immortality and wormholes—or “Frankenholes”—that connect the Frankenstein family to people of the past and future who hope to benefit from Frankenstein's services.

—SEAN MCENTEE ('13)

# 2012 Alumni of the Year



Art Baltazar, Lana Bramlette, and Marlon West

Each year, Columbia College Chicago recognizes three alumni who have parlayed the institution's creative foundation into innovative and successful careers. This year, the college salutes a diverse group of artists: cartoonist **Art Baltazar** (BA '92), jewelry designer **Lana Bramlette** (BA '97), and animator **Marlon West** (BA '85).

BY AUDREY MICHELLE MAST (BA '00) PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHANE WELCH (BFA '10)

## ART BALTAZAR (BA '92)

Growing up on Chicago's southwest side, comic artist Art Baltazar would often "stay home and just draw." While other kids played outside, he'd perfect his renderings of Tom & Jerry, the Flintstones, and Magilla Gorilla on little notebooks made from the dot-matrix printer paper his father brought home from work.

In his early teens, Baltazar answered a teacher's query of "What do you want to be when you grow up?" with "a cartoonist." The teacher responded incredulously—"No, really, what do you want to do for a career?"—and the young artist calmly, firmly insisted that he would, in fact, be a cartoonist.

If only that teacher could fast-forward 30 years. Today, Baltazar is the creative force behind dozens of kid-centric comic-book titles, a two-time winner of the Eisner award (the Oscar of the comic-book world), and the proud owner of a comic-book shop in the Chicago suburb of Skokie.

Baltazar's art education began at Chicago's Curie Metropolitan High School, a public magnet school where he took art classes every day for four years. After enrolling at Columbia and taking both art and fiction-writing classes, he learned invaluable lessons on art and life. Professor Michael DeFrancesco taught Baltazar to "seek your own truth" and to never, ever scrimp on the quality of his art materials.

After self-publishing his work for years, Baltazar flew to San Diego Comic-Con in 2003 to convince the editor of *Disney Adventures* magazine that he was "the best cartoonist in the room," doggedly sending him samples of his work every week until he received a response. Baltazar was eventually hired to draw a comic strip for Disney called *Gorilla Gorilla*. In 2007, he received a call from DC Comics with an offer to create *Tiny Titans*, starring kiddie versions of DC's popular *Teen Titans* superheroes. (A trade paperback of the title landed him on the *New York Times* bestseller list.)



Now, after 20 years in comics, Baltazar is applying his pint-size, boisterous aesthetic to the Superman mythos with *Superman Family Adventures*.

His formula for success: "Write all the time, draw all the time, show up on time, keep making new stuff, and go to every party."



**Early inspirations:** Art Baltazar cites Tom & Jerry, the Flintstones, and Magilla Gorilla.

**On pursuing his dream:** Baltazar says he was "borderline homeless" a few times after college as he sought consistent work as a cartoonist. "It's like being a musician or an actor. It's difficult, but if you keep going, it's worth it."

**On his professional breakthrough:**

After self-publishing his work for years, Baltazar finally found a hit with *Patrick the Wolf Boy* (chronicling the misadventures of a young werewolf), but he wasn't yet paying his bills. He worked other jobs—substitute teaching, graphic design—until eventually his wife urged him to quit and focus solely on his passion. Baltazar's big break came in 2003, when he flew to San Diego Comic-Con and convinced the editor of *Disney Adventures* magazine to hire him.

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# “I was an entrepreneur from day one.”

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**Origins:** Born in Moscow, Russia, Lana Bramlette and her family moved to the US when she was 6 years old, settling in the Chicago area.

**On discovering Columbia:** Bramlette had hoped to move to New York after high school to surround herself with creativity, but as an only child, she says, “my parents were quite adamant about me not moving away.” At an orientation for Columbia they discovered that the aspiring designer could have the creative experience she desired—“and probably even better”—in Chicago.

**On paying dues:** After college, Bramlette says, “I busted my butt for years doing everything from making coffee to taking notes before I was ready to take the plunge to start my business. ...I knew I had to start from the ground up.”

**On the creative process:** “It’s very organic,” she says. “It’s usually an earring that begins the ‘tree’ of an entire collection. I sketch everything myself and work with sample makers.” Her collections are manufactured in Italy (“the quality there is unmatched”) and the US with stones sourced from Thailand. But Bramlette emphasizes that business acumen is the true key to success: “It’s understanding the business of business. It’s about making sure you’re producing a powerful, sellable, wearable product, every single season.”



## LANA BRAMLETTE (BA '97)

When jewelry designer Lana Bramlette was in fourth grade, she applied to her “dream job” in fashion, mailing in a (pretend) resume as part of a class project—and she actually received a response from the company. As a teenager seeking babysitting work, Bramlette says her father taught her to canvass the neighborhood negotiating deals by “creating demand.” “I was an entrepreneur from day one,” she says with a laugh.

Bramlette is nothing short of a visionary. Known to her clients as the “Queen of Hoops,” she creates delicate, minimalist, and wholly contemporary jewelry for her line, Lana Jewelry, which she launched in 2002. Her fans include Jennifer Lopez, Cameron Diaz, Rihanna, and Kate Hudson, and her designs are featured in films, TV shows, and magazines such as *Lucky* and *Glamour*. Bramlette, who founded the company with her husband, Rob Bramlette, runs the business out of Chicago with her partner and father, Naum Fertelmeister. “I love the city—it’s my home,” she says. “There’s no reason I can’t do this here.”



After attending high school in Lincolnshire, Bramlette headed to Columbia to pursue her vision. “I loved the idea that Columbia’s professors were in the industry while they taught,” says Bramlette, an Arts, Entertainment, and Media Management major. Thanks to faculty guidance, she had three internships in school and a job before graduation.

Bramlette believes the structure of her studies at Columbia provided a window into the rhythms of the fashion industry itself. “It’s really how it is in the real world,” she says. “In the fashion department, you had a project that was due at the end of the semester. In fashion, you have collections every four months.” In both cases, she says, “You have to deliver, and the only person you will ultimately answer to is yourself.”

The entrepreneur’s next step is to expand the brand. “I am a designer first. Right now my path is jewelry, but we are really building a ‘house,’” she says, referring to the term given to an established company designing many fashion products, such as the House of Gucci or Dior.

If anyone has the drive to build a fashion empire in Chicago, it’s Lana Bramlette. “I’m a go-getter. I can sell ice to an eskimo,” she says. “That’s my game.”

## MARLON WEST (BA '85)

As a child, Marlon West saw a picture of legendary animator Willis O’Brien animating “a triceratops and a tyrannosaurus fighting in the *Lost World*. ...To my second-grade mind, this was a man who had a gig where he could bring his toys to work,” he says. “That’s what I wanted to do.”

After West spent years of experimenting with Super 8mm movies at home (often starring his G.I. Joe figures), Columbia was a logical choice for the St. Louis native. Gravitating toward animation classes early on, West discovered satisfaction in learning the tricks of the trade.

“I was 18 years old when someone first handed me an Acme peg bar,” says West, referring to an industry-standard piece of animation equipment that ensures proper registration of each hand-drawn frame. “I was like, ‘That’s how people keep their drawings down.’ A three-hole notebook didn’t do it!

“I honestly think my career started at Columbia,” West says. “The people who were teaching [me] were professionals working in Chicago. I got an internship and a job from my teachers at Columbia.”



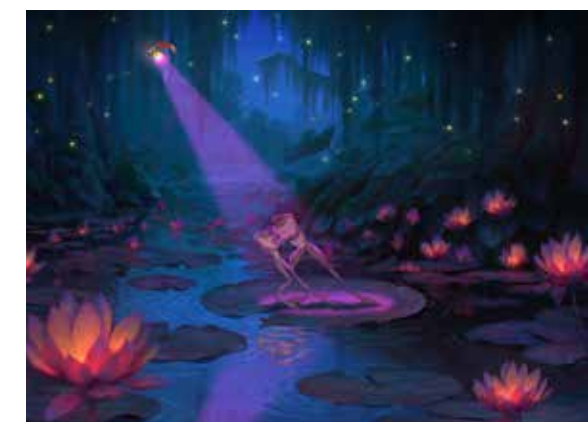
After graduating and completing a brief stint in the Chicago film industry, West left for Los Angeles with about \$1,200, a few friends’ offers to “sleep on their floors,” and a 1989 edition of the annual directory issue of *Animation* magazine. His first big gig was a California Raisins commercial in which he animated the “pixie dust” swirling around a Claymation figure of Michael Jackson. Another memorable project was the video for the Beastie Boys’ song “Shadrach,” directed by the late Adam Yauch. Each project led to another, and by 1993, West had landed an effects animation position at Disney Animation Studios.

West has been at Disney for 20 years now. His first project was to create effects for *The Lion King*, and he has since worked on *Pocahontas*, *Mulan*, and *The Princess and the Frog*, among many others. Over the course of his career at Disney, West has made the transition from traditional, hand-drawn animated filmmaking to computer-generated (CGI) animation.

Today, West is busy working on two new Disney features, including the upcoming movie *Frozen*. “Sometimes I can’t believe I work here,” he says with a laugh. “I thought I was pretty good at what I did when I got this job, but I had to get so much better. ... To me that’s the best thing about this job: You can’t rest on your laurels. It’s cool to be in an atmosphere where only the best will do.” ■

**Early inspirations:** At age 12, Marlon West began making Super 8mm movies at home and soon realized that handling a cast and crew was a challenge: “I couldn’t exert enough control and production value, getting other 12-year-olds to show up and do what I wanted them to do, so I started making films about G.I. Joe and other action figures,” he says.

**On paying dues:** After graduation, West worked at Encyclopedia Britannica making educational films. After going “about as far as he could go” in the Chicago film industry, he left for Los Angeles. “I started calling studios: ‘Hi, I’m Marlon. I do animation,’” he says. Armed with a reel from his Britannica



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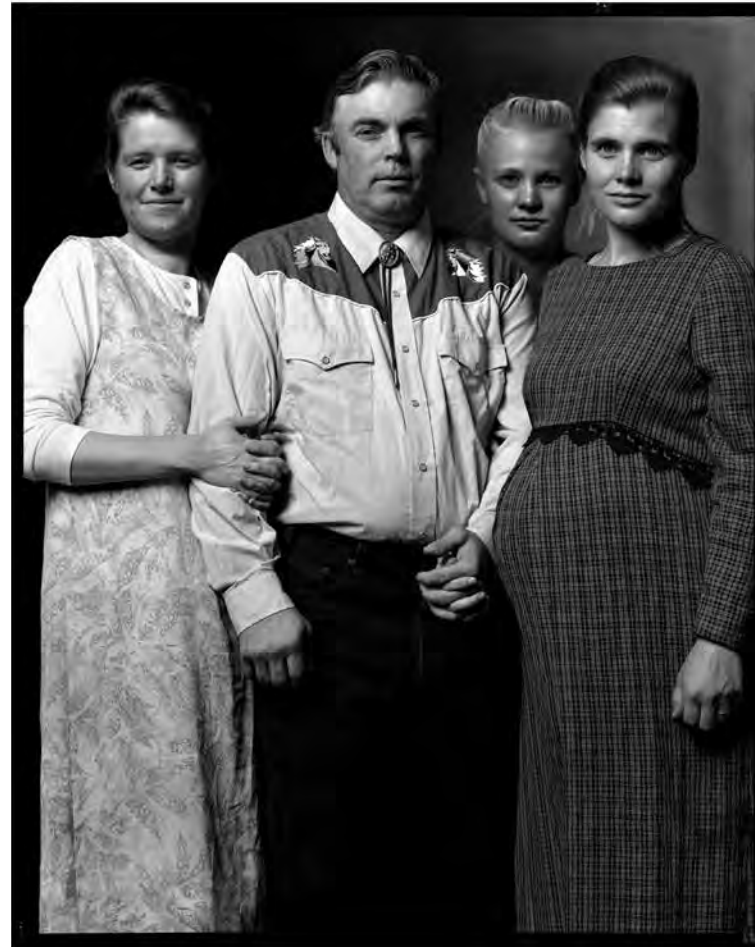
# “I honestly think my career started at Columbia.”

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days featuring “bronchial tubes filling with mucus and oxygen molecules in a forest of nosehairs,” West forged ahead as a freelancer until he got his first big gig animating a California Raisins commercial.

**On rising above a job title:** By 1993, West had landed a position at Disney Animation Studios as a trainee in effects animation. Because he already had nearly a decade of professional experience, West admits he had to “swallow his pride” and accept the title. “It was one of the wisest moves I ever made,” he says. “I didn’t have to stay a trainee for long.”

# PORTFOLIO



**“IN MY MIND, I WAS ALWAYS A PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER. I JUST NEVER PROMOTED THAT WORK.”**

For his first book of noncommercial work, *Created Equal* (2010), Laita spent eight years traveling the country to capture the vast diversity of Americans. He says the project was driven by his “desire to remind us that we were all equal, until our environment, circumstances, or fate molded and weathered us into whom we have become.” Pictured are “Polygamists/Pimp” (2004/2003) and “Baptist Churchgoer/White Supremacist” (2004/2003).



**MARK LAITA**  
(BA '83)



**Mark Laita (BA '83) shot portraits of homeless people on Madison Street**, west of downtown Chicago—subjects he says he found inexpensively as he began learning how to photograph people in a dignified way, regardless of their zip code.

Growing up in Elmhurst, Laita conceded to his parents' idea that college and career should be about things like engineering, science, and law. “I went to Northern Illinois for a year and studied biology and then went to University of Illinois and studied engineering,” says Laita, who first picked up a camera with serious intentions around 14 years old. “I just didn't fit in.”

Those original missteps in academia helped convince his parents that an art school like Columbia could be the perfect fit for a budding young photographer. Laita says Columbia's darkroom classes and instruction on black-and-white printing helped round him out as a photographer, but the work itself is a maturation process he's still going through at age 52.

In a career now spanning almost 30 years, the California-based Laita made a name for himself in the commercial world, shooting product stills for high-profile clients such as Apple, Adidas, and Clinique. When given the chance, however, he returned to people. “In my mind, I was always a portrait photographer,” he says. “I just never promoted that work.”

He showcased that passion in his first book, 2010's *Created Equal*, for which he traveled the lower 48 states, discovering America's true diversity. Laita and an assistant talked to cops, mailmen, restaurant workers—anyone who could lead them to various subjects. He photographed people inside garages, up against houses, practically everywhere. The “Baptist Churchgoer,” complete under bonnet with Bible in hand, alongside the photo of the face-tattooed and handcuffed “White Supremacist,” are just two of many seemingly polar opposite examples Laita found living in one nation.

CONTINUED

Nature's colors, shapes, and movements have also inspired Laita's fine art. Some of his flower photographs were made into US postage stamps. His book, *Sea* (Abrams, 2011), is a high-definition color exploration of marine life. His third book in three years, *Serpentine*, due out next spring, tested both his photographic eye and nerve for snake handling.

**“IT’S FINDING THE BALANCE WITH SOMETHING YOU LOVE TO DO WITH DOING THINGS THAT HELP YOU MAKE A LIVING.”**

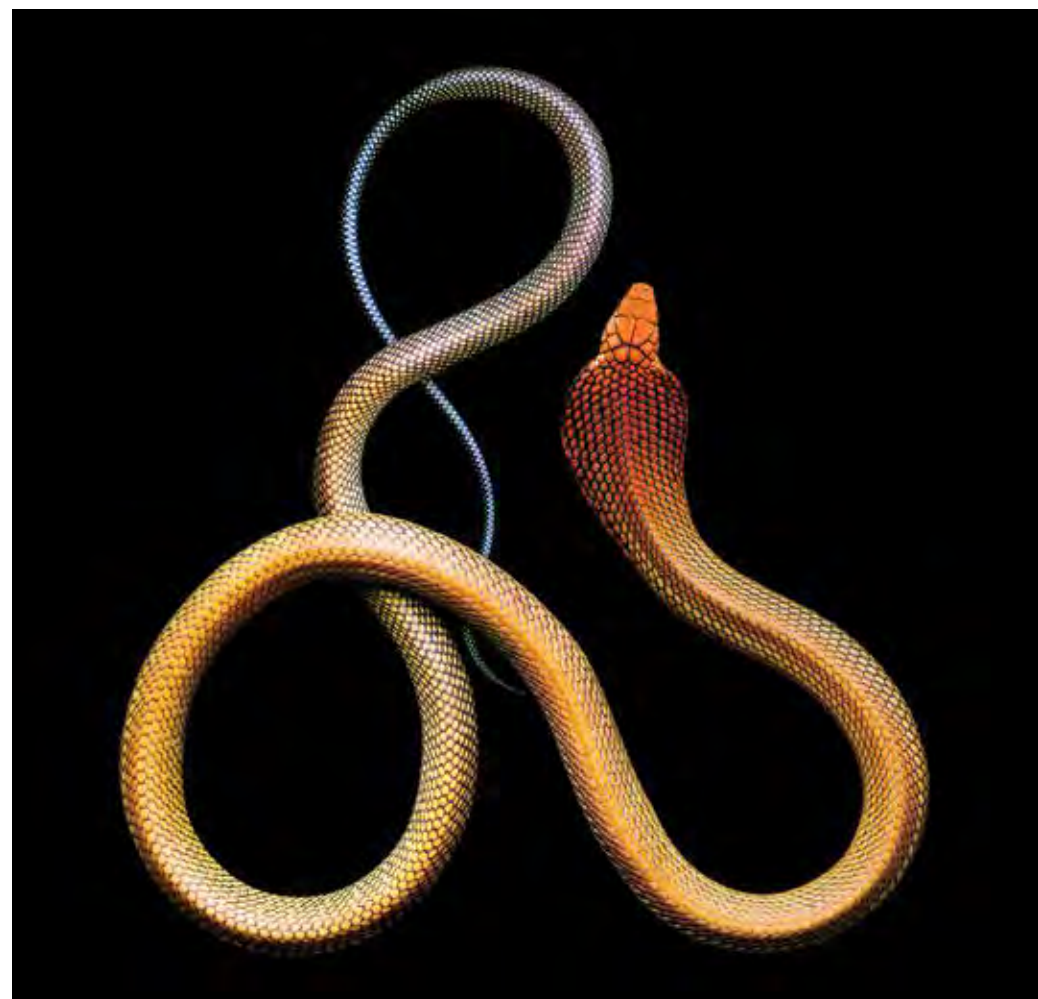
Though the fine art is freeing, it's not designed to be a moneymaker, says Laita, whose work has appeared in US and European galleries. “When you're working for a client, there are certain things required that you can't budge on. There's lots of compromising in advertising, but that's part of business. With fine art, there's almost no collaboration.”

It comes down to feeding yourself and feeding your soul. Whenever asked to speak with aspiring photographers, Laita suggests as much: “It's finding the balance with something you love to do with doing things that help you make a living.”

And as Laita knows, whenever the two coincide, they can make for beautiful pictures.

—WILLIAM MEINERS (MFA '96)

Above: Laita's second book, *Sea* (2011), is a collection of images of marine animals, including “Miniatus Grouper,” 2006. Right: His upcoming third book, *Serpentine*, showcases snakes, such as “King Cobra 2,” 2001.



For 10 years, Apple used Laita's photography in campaigns to introduce the iMac, iPod, and other electronics.



When Laita's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, he photographed a series of flowers, which he printed and sent to her every few days throughout her chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Some of the images, including “Tulip” and “Magnolia,” were selected to adorn US postage stamps in 2007.



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### CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

The Chairman's Circle recognizes annual donors of \$5,000 or more to any area of the college. Chairman's Circle-level donors are integral partners in providing the necessary resources for student success. From January 1, 2012, to June 1, 2012:

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### PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Individuals who donate \$1,000 or more annually to any area of the college are recognized as President's Club-level donors. Columbia College Chicago recognizes the following individuals who joined the President's Club between January 1, 2012, and June 1, 2012.

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### MANIFEST CLUB

The Manifest Club recognizes alumni donors who make a minimum pledge of \$10 per month or \$120 per year to any area of the college. Columbia College Chicago recognizes the following individuals who joined the Manifest Club between January 1, 2012, and June 1, 2012.

Dennis J. (BA '70) & Corinna S. Czechanski  
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& Michael Austray  
Gregory G. Helmstetter (BA '99)  
James C. Levins (BA '99)  
Andrew R. Rush (MA '08)





SPOT  
ON

“After a while, if you have your own ideas and your own thoughts, you need to go on your own.”

## LEN ELLIS (BA '52)

Fans of pioneering country DJ “Uncle Len” Ellis might be surprised to learn that he originally wanted to become a lawyer. After spending three years in the army in post-World War II Japan, Ellis returned to Chicago in 1949, enrolling at John Marshall Law School via the GI Bill.

“I was there for half an hour,” Ellis says, long enough to realize he wasn’t cut out to practice law. While in Japan, Ellis had coordinated entertainment for fellow troops, and that experience spurred him toward a career in show business. He found Columbia College Chicago in the phone book and, intrigued by the radio program, immediately enrolled.

One of his instructors was Clyde Caswell, a veteran program manager and on-air announcer, who referred Ellis to his first radio job as an announcer in Alma, Michigan—which paid a hefty \$50 per week. But when Ellis and his wife, Bee, went on a cross-country honeymoon road trip in 1950, he learned that local radio station WVMJ in Biloxi, Mississippi, needed an announcer. Ellis auditioned and got the job. The owner charged the 21-year-old with overseeing a format change from big band and jazz to country, which was just evolving from backwoods music into a commercially viable genre.

Ellis returned to Chicago, resuming Columbia classes while adopting the DJ name “Uncle Len” and DJing part-time at the country station in Hammond, Indiana, WJOB. After earning his degree in 1952, Ellis stayed in Hammond. He became known for his devotion to country music, carefully preparing for each artist interview, promoting live shows, and broadcasting significant moments in the genre’s history. When Hank Williams died, Ellis says, “We cried on the air. We were part of things happening.”

In 1958, Ellis helped start the Country Music Association to promote the genre’s growth. By the early 1960s, he decided that the best way to be his own boss—and to ensure that country music would stay on the air—was to start his own company, Porter County Broadcasting, and build a radio station. In 1964, he and Bee established WAKE-AM in Valparaiso, Indiana. “After a while, if you have your own ideas and your own thoughts, you need to go on your own,” Ellis says. And he was happy to keep his operations in Indiana: “It cost too much to park in Chicago,” he jokes.

In addition to being member number one of the Country Music Association, Ellis was named Mr. Dee Jay USA in 1963 and the Country Music Association’s Small Market Disc Jockey of the Year in 1978. He was elected to the Country Broadcasters Association DJ Hall of Fame in 1983.

Ellis’ Porter County Broadcasting, now called Radio One Communications, holds four stations in Northwest Indiana: 1500 WAKE-AM (oldies), 103.9 WXRJ-FM (classic rock), 107.1 WZVN-FM (modern adult contemporary), and 105.5 WLJE-FM (country). WLJE is the highest-rated and longest-running country station in Chicago, and the other stations boast high ratings and a long string of awards from the Indiana Broadcasters Association. Ellis is the longest-running country broadcaster in the Chicago media market.

Says Ellis: “People say to me, ‘You’ve been to school, you grew up in a big city—how come you love country?’ I tell them L-O-V-E.” It’s safe to say the country and broadcasting worlds love “Uncle Len” right back.

—ANN C. LOGUE

“I was fairly focused on radio,  
but then I branched out into  
television and news.”

## BOB SIROTT (BA '71)

Bob Sirott caught the radio bug as a teenager in the 1960s, listening to rock and roll on Chicago's WLS and WCFL. An Albany Park boy and Roosevelt High School grad, Sirott seemed particularly suited for a Columbia College education, an edification that's never far from the *Fox Chicago News at 9* anchor's mind.

As a senior in high school, Sirott landed a job as a page at NBC, then in the Merchandise Mart. After he enrolled at Columbia, a combination of day and evening classes allowed him to keep working, rising in the ranks from a “glorified gopher” to the public affairs and production director for WMAQ radio by the time he was 19 years old.

In the turbulent late 1960s, Sirott says Columbia College may have been the one campus in America where the faculty was more radical than the students. “I think about Harry Golden Jr. all the time,” Sirott says of the *Sun-Times* reporter who taught a class on big-city politics. “He told very colorful stories about how he got stories at City Hall or uncovered facts that no one would give him—sometimes by going through garbage cans.”

Sirott also recalls learning from other working professionals at Columbia, including broadcaster Al Parker, poet Paul Carroll, and Robin Lester, who taught a course in international relations. “I was fairly focused on radio, but then I branched out into television and news,” says Sirott, a communications major who began his on-air career at WBBM-FM in 1971. “I ended up getting a great liberal arts base education from Columbia and those people. At the time I didn't realize how handy it would come in, but it did. And I'm still the beneficiary of all that.”

Throughout his career, Sirott brought his radio background into television studios. “Radio is great training,” he says. “You're speaking very naturally, talking to thousands of people one at a time, and being very personal, honest, and real.”

Starting in the mid-1980s, Sirott was part of *West 57th*, the CBS newsmagazine series he likens to a younger version of *60 Minutes*. He won a national Emmy for feature reporting on the big-budget show that brought him face to face with some of his favorite interview subjects, such as Paul Harvey and Peter Falk. Hunter S. Thompson, the famed gonzo journalist, made Sirott shoot guns with him before he would consent to a sit-down in Colorado. Sirott still has one of the shell casings.

Between 2002 and 2005, Sirott hosted two PBS shows, *Chicago Tonight* and the *Friday Night Show*, the latter a one-guest show that afforded him long conversations with newsmakers such as Barack Obama, Bob Costas, and Jimmy Carter. These days, the anchor's “One More Thing” segment on *Fox Chicago News* gives him two minutes at the end of the program to share an essay with Chicago.

Sirott maintains close ties to his alma mater. He organized, produced, and emceed a conversation between radio Hall of Famers Dick Biondi and Herb Kent at a Columbia packed-house event in 2010 and spoke to alumni about the broadcasting industry in November 2011. His wife, broadcast journalist Marianne Murciano (who co-hosts WGN's *Sunday Night Radio Special* with Sirott), has taken fiction writing classes at Columbia. And her son, Michael Zarowny, is majoring in film and video at the college.

—WILLIAM MEINERS (MFA '96)

SPOT  
ON



SPOT  
ON



“My intention is to keep the tour healthy on the inside and outside.”

## TRICIA HUFFMAN (BA '03)

When Tricia Huffman was a sophomore at Columbia College Chicago, she took a course called Philosophy of Love. “It turned on a switch inside me,” she says. “I already loved myself, but I had kind of an attitude about it.”

Though the Cincinnati-raised Huffman was pursuing her dream job of sound engineering, the philosophy course, she says, planted the seeds for her current work and broadened her understanding of humanity and humility.

Today, Huffman calls herself a “joyologist”—a title that started as a joke from a co-worker and stuck—but she might as well still be living out a philosophy of love. She’s created a full-time career for herself as a traveling life coach, touring with pop stars and helping to keep the singers (and sometimes their crews) healthy and grounded.

Huffman knows what she’s doing: She was diagnosed with fibromyalgia before she entered Columbia in 1999, and after a cocktail of muscle relaxers and painkillers didn’t help, she decided to take charge of her health and began experimenting with exercise and food to keep her pain in check. It worked.

Huffman’s degree in audio arts and acoustics helped prepare her for the music business, and a gig with Sound Image of San Diego—which she started while still a Columbia student, flying back to Chicago for her finals—introduced her to the rigors of being a touring sound engineer for musicians such as Natalie Cole, Dolly Parton, and Tom Cochrane.

Five years into her post-college life, Huffman felt she had fulfilled her first career goal, so when she asked herself, “What next?” the

answer was to carve out a new path focused on well-being. She already knew how unhealthy and stressed out artists could be on the road. Because she’d become so good at caring for herself during long, grueling tours, she decided to try taking care of other people in the same situation, to become their personal joyologist.

Huffman’s industry contacts helped her get in touch with stars such as pop singer Jason Mraz, now her primary client. Huffman also has worked with other musicians including Colbie Caillat as well as TV performers and holistic veterinarians.

“My intention is to keep the tour healthy on the inside and outside,” Huffman says. “I energize the tour by vibing out the dressing rooms, posting positive affirmations and quotes, leading yoga sessions, preparing energizing and healthy meals, and most importantly, being the loving, grounding energy on the tour that is always available for listening.”

Despite having created a high-pressure career that takes her around the world, Huffman doesn’t take herself too seriously, and she considers it part of her job to remind her clients of the same thing. “I’m there to boost them up, but a huge part of my job is to call them out if they’re in a bad mood or being a jerk for no reason.”

She says having a positive mental outlook is key to everything in life and that she’s living proof. “You are in charge of creating your own experiences. There’s no such thing as failure,” Huffman says. “A job might not be a perfect fit, but aren’t you glad you found that out?”

—LAURA M. BROWNING

“Columbia gave me a well-rounded idea of the creative process, to really appreciate what goes into every aspect of creative thinking.”

## EDYE DELOCH-HUGHES (BA '80)

Edye Deloch-Hughes graduated from Columbia College Chicago in 1980 with a marketing and communications degree with a focus on advertising and writing. After more than 25 years in the advertising industry—as creative director, project manager, copywriter, and producer for big-name clients including Wal-Mart, McDonald's, Toyota, and Verizon—she now uses that experience to tackle another passion: game design.

“It wasn't hard to segue into games because I loved designing them and I love playing them,” she says.

In 2004, Deloch-Hughes and her husband, Darryl Hughes (BA '80), founded Chicago-based Hughes Who, a game development company specializing in the creation of slot machines. Calling herself a “natural teacher at heart,” Deloch-Hughes channels her love for teaching through game design, which she started during her childhood.

“When I was younger, I used to design board games just for fun,” she says. The first game she created was called *Am I Black Enough for You?*, which explored black culture.

Today, she designs games across a multitude of platforms, ranging from computerized and online games to hands-on, interactive games. Hughes Who recently developed a children's role-playing game for the first phase of the DuSable Museum of African American History's “Discovering DuSable Digitally” project. Deloch-

Hughes says other games are faith based and inspirational, and are designed to be played by anyone, from children to adults.

In addition to developing games, Deloch-Hughes and her husband also present animation workshops to local schools and community centers in Oak Park and Chicago, and intend to branch out to teaching game design workshops as well. The sessions concentrate on building character and teamwork while exposing children to the field of animation. Deloch-Hughes also uses her expertise in advertising to teach children how to market their skills. Her mindset: “You play the games, why not make them?”

Whether she's in advertising or game design, Deloch-Hughes says she always calls on her writing skills. She has published a children's book, *I Like Gym Shoe Soup*, which her husband illustrated. The poem tells the story of a goat named Jimmy and all the bizarre things he likes to eat in his soup. Deloch-Hughes says the book's message is that everyone has different interests and that those differences should be embraced.

Reflecting back on her Columbia days, Deloch-Hughes says that her education prepared her to do anything.

“Columbia gave me a well-rounded idea of the creative process, to really appreciate what goes into every aspect of creative thinking,” she says.

-SEAN MCENTEE ('13)



# OUTTHERE

alumni / faculty news & notes

## DEAR ALUMNI,

Warren K. Chapman, PhD, joined Columbia College Chicago as senior vice president on June 1.

During his two-year term, the former vice chancellor of University of Illinois at Chicago will ensure a smooth transition between the presidency of Warrick L. Carter, who will retire in August 2013, and a new president.

Chapman, a Columbia College trustee since 2003, will also oversee the implementation of Blueprint | Prioritization, the college's yearlong self-evaluation of programs and operations. The Office of Alumni Relations asked Chapman to share his insights about the prioritization process and alumni involvement.

**Alumni Relations:** How will the prioritization process affect alumni?

**Chapman:** The process shows Columbia is concerned with improving the quality of the institution. It's a good school, and we want to bring students a better education, better experiences, better training.

The next phase is to figure out how to implement all these recommendations. What the alumni will begin to see is some addition and subtraction of courses, some combining of things, and the institution's ability to be nimble. Many of the programs should look to alumni to say, this is what we're thinking about doing, what do you think?

Regarding career services, we should talk to the alums and ask, how can we help you with your portfolio? There's a lot of interaction that needs to happen.

**Alumni Relations:** How can alumni get more involved with recruiting new students to Columbia?

**Chapman:** There are areas in the blogosphere we can use to help potential students contact alumni. How did a degree from this school help you do what you're doing now? Alums can tell us what we need to do to help our students become better prepared for the world out there when they go out there and find their place in it.

**Alumni Relations:** What do you suggest for alumni who would like to get more involved?

**Chapman:** I think you have to tell us as an institution how we can get you more involved in what's going on out there. How do you want to become more involved with us? We also need to establish a process of philanthropy with our alums giving back to the institution, even small amounts, in easy ways.

To stay more connected to Columbia and the alumni network, visit us at [colum.edu/alumni](http://colum.edu/alumni) or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 312.369.7934.

Columbia Alumni Association & Network

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### DENVER

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### DETROIT

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**Matt Staed** (BA '06)  
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# NEWS & NOTES

COLUMBIACOLLEGECHICAGO FALL/WINTER 2012

**What are you doing out there? We want to know!** To submit your news, log in to the alumni community at [colum.edu/alumni](http://colum.edu/alumni) or email [demo@colum.edu](mailto:demo@colum.edu). Class News information will be printed based on availability of space. Announcements that are incomplete or older than one year cannot be considered for publication. Deadline for the spring/summer issue is February 1.

## CLASS NEWS

### 1970s

**Allen Edge** (BA '78), ordained minister, actor, director, producer, and stand-up comedian, conducted writing and stand-up comedy workshops at the Karitos Worship Arts Conference in West Chicago.

**Hank Grover** (BA '79) recently coordinated *Final Offer*, a new TV series on the Discovery Channel.

### 1980s

**Michael Boudart** (BA '88) was named president of Lindemann Chimney Service Company in Lake Bluff, Illinois.

**David Cromer** ('86) directed *Our Town* at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica, California, January 3–February 12, as well as *Tribes*, which ran February 16–June 3 at New York's Barrow Street Theatre. He also directed *Rent* at the American Theater Company in Chicago.

**Scott Friedman** (BA '86) was promoted to vice president of production and alternative programming for USA Network.

**Janusz Kaminski** (BA '87) was a 2011 Chicago Film Critics Association nominee for Best Cinematography for *War Horse*. His work on this movie also earned him an Academy Award nomination for Outstanding Cinematography, Kaminski's fifth Oscar nomination. His previous wins include *Schindler's List* and *Saving Private Ryan*.

**William Leff** (BA '85) was hired as the full-time overnight personality at WGN Radio AM 720 in Chicago.

**Serita Mendelson Stevens** (BA '81) recently put together a script for domestic-violence thriller *Unborn 15*.

**Carmen Mormino** (BA '86) has been named, for a second year running, the number-one realtor for Rodeo Realty in Westlake Village, California.

**Karl Ochsner** (BA '85) is maintaining his positions as seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher and associate professor while working with NASA and ISTE to create educational artifacts for the MMS Satellite mission, which will measure and photograph the reconnection plasma lines of the magnetosphere.

**Priscilla Olson** ('86) was awarded the 2012 Best 2D Award in the 28th annual juried art exhibit of the Midland Artists Guild for her entry, an oil painting titled *Grandma's Marbles*.

**Debby Rabeor** (BA '85) was hired as a private events manager by Berghoff Catering & Restaurant Group in Chicago.

**Bob Reynolds** (BA '87) was hired as director of operations at Colonial Square Realty in Naples, Florida.

**Ben Schwartz** ('88) landed a script on Franklin Leonard's Black List in 2011.

### 1990s

**Ted Ansani** (BA '90) released his solo debut, *Throttles and Pistons*.

**Lynda Bender** ('91) was appointed executive director of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood, Ohio, in June.

**Sean Chercover** (BA '91) released his third novel, *The Trinity Game*.

**Duki Dror** (BA '91) screened *Mendelsohn's Incessant Visions* at Chicago's Music Box Theatre in April. The documentary was part of the Architecture and Design Film Festival.

**Ryan Greer** (BA '99) played New York City's Metropolitan Room in May with his trio, who are acclaimed for their reinvention of the Great American Songbook.

**Scott Grenke**'s (BA '90) feature film *Sister Mary* was released on DVD in January. He wrote, co-produced, shot, directed, and edited the film. His previous productions include *Spaced Out* (2009), *Carnivore* (2000), and the documentary *Chasing Hollywood* (2011).

**Eric Justen** (BA '98), sound engineer, was nominated for a CAS Award from the Cinema Audio Society and for a Motion Picture Sound Editors Golden Reel Award for his work on the show *Breaking Bad*.

**Tyler Keillor** ('94) was interviewed for the blog section of the *Scientific American* website regarding his career as a paleoartist at the University of Chicago.

**Kelly Koepfel**'s (BA '97) agency, k2forma, was chosen by the Charlotte 2012 Convention Host Committee to help create Charlotte's brand identity and experience.

**Michael Matthews** (BA '99) is the director of *The Color Purple: The Musical*, which ran at the Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles from March 3 to May 26. **Sondra Mayer** (BA '98) did the fight choreography for the production.

**Felicia Miller** (BA '93) graduated from National Louis University on June 23 with an MBA.

**Robert Miller** (BA '96) has been appointed as the art department chair at Santiago Canyon College in Orange, California. He is a professor of studio art, art history, and digital media.

**Richard Ocegueda** (BA '98) received the 2011 Business Leader of the Year Award for his work in founding, and successfully growing, the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, New York (NGLCCNY). Launched in 2008, NGLCCNY is the first-ever chamber of commerce serving New York City's LGBT business community.

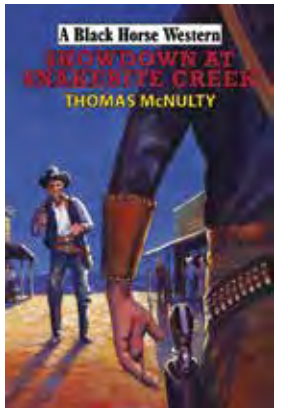
**Michael Orlove** (MA '98) joined the National Endowment for the Arts in May after more than a decade at the helm of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

**Jane Richlovsky** (BA '91) was featured in a cover story for the *Seattle Times Pacific Northwest Magazine*, reporting on her '57 Biscayne Artist Studio Project, which illuminates how a highway project displaced the tenants of the West Coast's oldest artists building, turning residents into developers and entrepreneurs.

**Cynthia Sciacca Hooker** (BA '99) was nominated for two Broadway World Los Angeles Awards. Her show, *I Love Lucy: Live on Stage*, garnered Hooker nominations in the local Best Featured Actress - Musical category and in the Person-to-Watch category. The show was nominated for local Best Musical.

**Anna D. Shapiro** (BA '90) closed Steppenwolf Theatre's 2011-2012 season by directing Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters*.

**Barry Sorkin** (BA '96) was interviewed by *Atlantic Cities*



**Thomas McNulty**'s (BA '88) sixth book, *Werewolves! A Study of Lycanthropes in Film, Folklore, and Literature*, was published by BearManor Media. His western novel, *Showdown at Snakebite Creek*, is scheduled for a paperback large-print release in September.

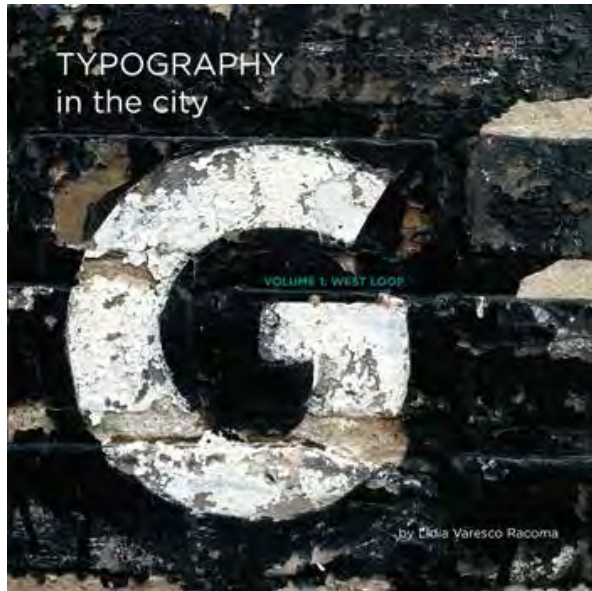
blog in March, regarding Smoque, his "low and slow" BBQ restaurant in Chicago.

**Sean Spencer** (BA '91) works as assistant chief engineer at the Big Ten Network in Chicago.

**Caroline Stephenson** (BA '93) produced *Children Go Where I Send You*, a 30-minute documentary that was screened at the National Rosenwald Schools Conference on June 14, in Tuskegee, Alabama.

**Stephen B. Swayne** (BA '96) was named creative manager at Blick Art Materials in Galesburg, Illinois, in March.

**Leonardo Vilar**'s (BA '97) business C. Vilar Amplification was featured in a ProSoundWeb.com article, which states that Vilar provides quality production for high-profile shows, tours, and festivals.



**Lidia Varesco Racoma's** (BA '94) blog, *Typography in the City*, was mentioned on the *HOW Blog* website. *Typography* features images of Racoma's typographic discoveries around Chicago, which she compiled in the hardcover book *Typography in the City—Volume 1: West Loop*.

dences on streets named for King raised questions about “lingering poverty in minority neighborhoods,” according to the *Milford Daily News*.

**Danny Bernardo** ('03) held staged readings of his new play, *Mahal*, at Silk Road Rising June 8-10 in Chicago.

**Marjorie Boyles** (MAT '08) was one of 32 teachers selected in March to participate in the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation's Power of Art Program in Washington, DC.

**Dan Brunelle** ('09) and **Tom Gavin** ('11) of the band Gemini Club played Chicago's Lincoln Hall as part of their *Here We Sit* EP release.

**Eric Burgher** (BA '06) received a Joseph Jefferson nomination for Supporting Actor in the Play category for his role as Mervyn in Profiles Theatre's production of *A Behanding in Spokane*.

**Nathan Carroll** (BA '01) and **Tom McGunn** (BA '09) were featured in the Boho Theatre of Chicago's summer 2012 production of the musical *Floyd Collins*.

**Lisa Chavarría** (BA '05) joined WFLD-TV 32 Chicago's News as a general assignment reporter.

**Andrew Cottingham** (BA '08) was featured in the May 20 *Aberdeen* (South Dakota) *News* for his behind-the-scenes work in *The Avengers*. Cottingham is a coordinator with The Third Floor, Inc.

**Glennon Curran** (BA '08) returned to Columbia to teach Law and Society. He earned his BA in audio arts and acoustics and has a juris doctorate.

**Jacque E. Day** ('08) is managing editor for the literature journal *New Madrid*.

**Johnny Derango** (BA '02) produced and shot the feature film *Lost on Purpose*, starring Jane Kaczmarek (*Malcolm in the Middle*), C. Thomas Howell (*Southland*), James Lafferty (*One Tree Hill*), and Octavia Spencer (*The Help*).

**Dina DiCostanzo** (BA '02) was one of several alumni cast in *Hairspray* at The Drury Lane Theater in Oak Brook Terrace, Illinois. Other alumni included **Nelson Green** ('12), **Alex McCrary** ('08), and **Travis Porchia** (BA '09).

**Mike Dornseif** (BFA '08) had his character “Barry the Skateboard Extraordinaire” featured on Creative Bloq during the week of June 25.

**Sean Fahey** ('06) and **Kevin Schroeder** (BA '07) screened *Bailout*, their muck-raking documentary about the financial crisis, at the Music Box Theatre.

**Steven Feinartz** (BA '07) and his documentary *The Bitter Buddha* were featured in a February issue of the *Buffalo Grove Patch*.

**Lauren Foster** ('06) and **Christine Tseng** ('05) formed gaming application development company CatFoster Media. Their first game, *Zombie Burst*, was released for touch-screen devices in Apple's App Store.

**Harmony France** ('06) was one of several alumni cast in New Colony and Bailiwick theaters' *Rise of the Numberless*, which played at the Collaboraction Studio 300. Other alumni included **Michael Harnichar** (BA '11), **Eric Martin** ('06), and **Michael Peters** (BA '05).

**Lindsey Gavel**'s (BFA '09) performance in a production of *Romeo and Juliet* at The Hypocrites in Chicago was praised in the *Chicago Tribune* by theatre critic Chris Jones.

**Jesse Jordan** (BA '03, MFA '08) had his first novel, *Gospel Hollow*, published by Casperian Books.

**Kathryn Gemperle** (MA '02) was named Volunteer of the Year by the Anderson-

ville Chamber of Commerce last June. She exhibited her sculptures during Andersonville Arts Week in October, and her paintings are exhibited in a storefront at the Berwyn CTA stop.

**Jess Godwin** (BA '05) released her newest mix video, *Out with the Old*, on January 21 at Mayne Stage in Chicago's Rogers Park.

**Dan Goers** (BA '06) won the annual Ravinia Festival Poster Design Competition in February.

**Kathryn Heidemann** (BA '00) was appointed the director of the Master of Arts Management (MAM) program at Carnegie Mellon University. Heidemann has served in arts organizations such as Old Town School of Folk Music, Chicago Academy for the Arts, IMG Artists, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

**Ryan Heindl** (BA '05) received a Joseph Jefferson nomination for Supporting Actor - Play for his role as Chadwick Meade in Griffin Theatre's production of *Punk Rock*.

**Justin Howard** (BA '07) hosted the 2012 U.S. Air Guitar Regional Competition in Chicago on June 29 at Metro as the competition's 2011 champion. He also performed the halftime show.

**Christine Johnson** ('07) was promoted to full-time dance professor at Beloit College in May.

**Rashid Johnson** (BA '00) is one of six international finalists for a 2012 Hugo Boss Award for significant achievement in contemporary art. In April, he also made the cover of *Modern Painters Magazine*, coinciding with the opening of his first major solo exhibition at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art.

**Angela LaRocca** (BA '08) lives in her hometown of St. Louis, where she recently performed her one-woman show, *Undercover Undergrad*, in the St. Louis Fringe Festival.

**Nicole Leinbach Reyhle** (BA '00) launched *Retail Minded*, a nationally distributed quarterly trade magazine for fashion boutique stores.

## Hettie Barnhill (BA '06)

**AT AGE 28**, Broadway dancer Hettie Barnhill is a sensation, both on and off the stage. A performer in the Tony Award-winning and Grammy-nominated show *FELA!* and the Tony-nominated *Leap of Faith*, Barnhill was honored with the NAACP Leaders Under 40 In The Field of Arts and Culture award in 2011.

She also received the 2011 Rising Star award from the Young and Powerful for Obama Group for exceeding career expectations at such a young age, as well as for her devotion to community outreach, including work with A Long Walk Home, a nonprofit organization that uses art therapy and performing arts to end violence against women and girls. Barnhill was the only award winner representing the arts.

The St. Louis native attributes her success to hard work and to Columbia, which she was

**Sean J.S. Jourdan** (MFA '09) was interviewed by *Hollywood-Chicago.com* in April about his latest project, *Teddy Boy*. His screenplay was a finalist for the Woods Hole Film Festival, the Beverly Hills Film Festival, and Cinestory, and was a semi-finalist for the Big Bear Lake International Film Festival and Visionfest Feature Screenwriting competitions.

**Kyle Kinane** (BA '02) tours the country performing at comedy clubs, including Chicago's Lincoln Hall on July 13.

**Michael Kolar** (BA '02) and his Soundscape Studios worked with AEMM students to produce the *Class President* album. A release party was held at the Quincy Wong Center on April 27.

**Michael P. Kramer** (BM '06) earned a 2012 BMI Film/TV Award on May 16 for his composition work on *Ninjago: Masters of Spinjitzu*.

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able to attend thanks to scholarships. She said the college led her down the right path and enhanced her connection to her passion: dance.

“You were able to bring your own energy to the class and discover it for yourself,” Barnhill said, referring to courses instructed by Erica Wilson-Perkins, a source of inspiration. She learned both structure and improv at the same time, which later shaped her dancing. Diversity continues to be a part of Barnhill's style, as she performs modern, tap, jazz, and ballet.

Aside from Broadway performances and community work, Barnhill dances with The Just Movement Collective and Balance Dance Theatre, and has choreographed for MTV, BET, International Wow Theater, and NBC. She is also set to release her debut album, *Stories of Vy Dixon*, in 2012.

—KRISTEN KUCHAR (BA '11)

**Jessica Lu** (BA '08) stars in the MTV series *Awkward* and has appeared in *Law & Order: LA, CSI*, and *90210*. You can also catch her in Ryan Murphy's (*Glee*) upcoming pilot, *The New Normal*, which premieres this fall on NBC.

**Wyona Lynch-McWhite** (MFA '01) became executive director of the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, Massachusetts, in July.

**Michael Mara** (BA '08) is a senior writer/branch manager for the A Better Resume Service division of Harvard Oaks Enterprises, Inc. He specializes in career development services and resume preparation for clients ranging from entry to executive level.

**Drew Matott** (MFA '08) continues to run Combat Paper Project, co-founded with veteran Drew Cameron in 2007. The project offers veterans the opportunity to express and share their war experiences through various artistic mediums.

**Brian McCurley** (BA '08) will serve as associate producer for *Wunderkind*, an action-thriller optioned by Paramount Pictures and J.J. Abrams.

**Matt McGrath** (BA '09) has been traveling the world as the video editor and broadcast technician for Azamara Club Cruises, a company of Royal Caribbean.

**Navid McIlhargey** (MFA '00) was named president of FilmEngine Entertainment in May. McIlhargey was most recently the senior vice president at New Regency and was the 2012 Semester in LA Speaker of the Year.

**Carlos Mendez** (MAT '05) was named interim principal for Bessie Rhodes Magnet School, District 65 (Evanston-Skokie) in May.

**Marc Menet** (BA '03) had his feature-length documentary, *Defending a Monster*, featured in Ruth Rathny's Reel Chicago this past February. The project is based on the book *John Wayne Gacy: Defending a Monster* by Gacy's defense attorney, Sam Amirante.

**Megan Mercier** (BA '08) performed with the Neo-Futurists in *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind*.

**Kelly Michale** (BA '03) is the resident stage manager for the Performing Arts Series at the Lewis and Shirley White Theatre in Overland Park, Kansas.



Photo: James Petrozello

**Kevin Moss** ('06) was nominated for a 2012 American Society of Cinematographers Outstanding Achievement Award in Cinematography in the Television Movie and Miniseries category for his work on *Chicago Overcoat*.

**Aaron Munoz** (BA '01) guest starred in the midseason premiere of AMC's *The Walking Dead* on February 12. He also appeared with **Sam Munoz** (BA '99) in *Two Households*, a distillation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, at New York's Fringe Festival in August.

**Caroline Neff** (BA '07) was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award for Supporting Actress - Play for her role of Helen in *Under the Blue Sky* at Steep Theatre Company.

**Karlene Olesuk** (MA '02) was featured, along with 150 other female entrepreneurs, in the 2009 First Edition of

CRAVE's Chicago guidebook.

**Carlos Javier Ortiz** ('02) was a featured speaker at the National Press Association's Northern Short Course in Fairfax, Virginia, this past March. His photography has been published in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *EBONY* magazine.

**Vanessa Panerosa** ('06) was cast as an understudy for the role of Serena in the musical *Legally Blonde*, which ran from January 18 to April 1 at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire. She has also appeared in the casts of *The Original Grease* at the American Theater Company and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* at Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace.

**Oscar Pedroza** (BFA '05) has “set out to change the look of quinceañera photography in Kansas City, one keepsake



## Brad Chmielewski (BA '05) and Ken Hunnemeder (BA '05)

**WHEN TELEVISION MAJOR** Brad Chmielewski (BA '05) and audio arts & acoustics major Ken Hunnemeder (BA '05) met through a mutual friend at Columbia, it was more than the start to a beautiful friendship. It was the beginning of a fruitful joint venture celebrating their shared obsession of craft beer.

In August 2008, the friends launched video podcast Hop Cast, in which they sample and review craft beer. Since then, the pair has completed more than 180 Hop Cast episodes and garnered more than 100,000 combined views through YouTube and Vimeo.

Produced by and starring Hunnemeder and Chmielewski and edited by Maeve Price (BA '02)—the mutual friend who introduced them and now Chmielewski's fiancée—Hop Cast showcases beers from different states and breweries, and shares tidbits about the brewing process, ingredients, and packaging. The hosts have also broadcast on-location interviews with high-profile guests including celebrity chef Rick Bayless, Publican executive chef Paul Kahan, and Josh Deth, owner of Revolution Brewing. In addition, podcasts have covered gatherings including Beer Hoptacular and the Festival of Wood- and Barrel-Aged Beers.

"People started seeing us, and we started solidifying our presence in the Chicago beer scene," Hunnemeder said.

The skills sharpened while pursuing their hobby have helped Hunnemeder and Chmielewski to tackle more professional creative endeavors. Hunnemeder works as communications coordinator for Goose Island Brewing Company's marketing department. Chmielewski started the company LooseKeys, which makes explainer videos promoting companies to potential investors. He said his Hop Cast video skills have come in handy: "Podcasting seemed like an interesting thing to do as a side project, knowing that brands and businesses are going to want to put out content as well," Chmielewski said. "It's nice to know what you're talking about if you're trying to get work from them."

"[Columbia] opened up my eyes to different forms of media," Hunnemeder said. "The video format was something that was completely new to me. Even though I didn't study it, it's what I picked up from hanging with friends that went to Columbia, especially Brad."

For more information on Hop Cast, go to [hop-cast.com](http://hop-cast.com).

—JON GRAEF (MA '12)

portrait at a time," according to the *Kansas City Star*. Oscar Pedroza studios was named Small Business of the Year 2011 by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City.

**Maya Peterson** (BA '01) started a jewelry-making business that has been seen in *JET* magazine and on BET.

**Rob Polonsky** ('06) launched a YouTube show, *Call It a Show!*, in late April. The show is backed by AWTV and Fremantle Media, the production company behind *American Idol* and *America's Got Talent*.

**Daniel Portincaso** (BA '02) earned tenure at Waubesa Community College in Sugar Grove, Illinois, this past March.

**Michael Przygoda** (BFA '03) earned a 2012 Joseph Jefferson Award for his artistic specialization work on *Moby Dick* at The Building Stage.

**Katherine Ripley Frisoli** (BA '04) was a researcher on the short film *The Road We've Traveled*, directed by Oscar winner Davis Guggenheim. The film was released in March and covers President Obama's presidential term, produced by Obama for America 2012.

**Jacob Saenz** (BA '05) had some of his poems incorporated into *Air*, which ran as part of Live Wire Theater's *Vision Fest 4* in June.

**Geoffrey Jackson Scott** (BA '02) was named director of new play development at Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago.

**Jason Sear** (BA '06) was hired as program director at KDLG AM/FM in Dillingham, Alaska.

**Evan Sears** (BA '03) was promoted to photo editor at Cars.com in early March.

**Kerry Skarbakka** (MFA '07) earned an Excellence in Teaching Award from the Center for Nonprofit Excellence in Santa Fe, New Mexico, founded to support photographers.

**Jessica Spring** (MFA '02) received the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation's fourth annual Foundation of Art Award.

**Bartek Swiatek** (BA '03), a professional production sound mixer, was given a Cinema Audio Society Award nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Mixing for his work on the TV series *The Walking Dead*.

**Jen Thomas** (MFA '05) opened WerkSPACE, a gallery and community arts workshop space in Chicago's Ukrainian Village, offering community arts programs with a focus on book art and printmaking.

**Neal Tosi** ('07) was interviewed by *Burg Weekly* about his 7 Hills Improv troupe.

**Jake VanKersen** (BA '08) produces and stars in the online show *Hank Frisco: Galaxy Defender*, which marries *Star Trek* and *Batman* for comedic effect. Catch the next installment at [hankfrisco.com](http://hankfrisco.com).

**Samantha Bailey** (BA '11) was featured in Pavement Group Theatre's production of *Girl You Know It's True*. The play opened in April at the Chopin Theatre in Chicago.

**Lena Waithe** (BA '06) is a staff writer on the Nickelodeon show *How to Rock*.

**AJ Ware** (BA '09) was named artistic director of the alumni-driven Jackalope Theatre Company in January.

**Courtney Weber** (BFA '06) had her work, *Other Flowers*, exhibited at ACRE Chicago on January 15-16. The exhibit was composed of a series of manipulated cross-stitch patterns, hand-sewn with embroidery floss and dyed using a variety of plants found near the ACRE residence in rural Wisconsin.

**Mike Wheaton** (BA '07), program and music director at WXZO, Planet 96.7 FM in Burlington, Vermont, was interviewed in early February by AllAccess.com, one of the radio and music industry's most-viewed resources.

**Lindsay Wilbeck** (BA '05), an account executive for Clear Channel Outdoor, won an award in the first *EYES ON* Sales Case Study Contest.

**Krista Wortendyke** (MFA '07) was acknowledged in *Austin Talks* for her Transforming Education through the Arts and Media (TEAM) work with students at Horatio May Academy.

**Zak Zeman** (BA '08) is executive producer of the horror film *V/H/S*, which premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

## 2010s

**Natalie Ancira** (BA '12) was one of several alumni involved with the alumni-driven Street Tempo Theater production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. It opened in April. Other alumni included **Patrick Cannon** (BA '12), **Allyson Graves** (BFA '12), **Evan Lasko** (BA '10), **Krystal Metcalfe** (BA '08), and **Dani Parpan** (BA '10).

**Samantha Bailey** (BA '11) was featured in Pavement Group Theatre's production of *Girl You Know It's True*. The play opened in April at the Chopin Theatre in Chicago.

**Nicolette Caldwell** ('10) and her nonprofit, Sixty Inches from Center, helped launch *Galerie F*, Chicago's first open-door gallery.

**Taree Chadwick** (BFA '10) was stage manager for *The Gacy Play*, a Sideshow Theatre Company production held at Theatre Wit in June and July. Chadwick is also managing director at the Jackalope Theatre Company.

**Carolina Cruz** (BA '12) joined *La Raza Chicago* as a reporter in June.

**Stephen Danos** (MFA '11) and **Dolly Lemke** (MFA '10) curated *The Dollhouse Reading Series* on April 13.

**Mike Danovich** (BA '11) was featured in Light Opera Works' production of *Camelot* at the Cahn Auditorium in Evanston. In July, he was also featured in *Music in the Air* at George Williams College, alongside alumnus **Alix Rosenberg** (BA '11).

**Spencer Edwards** (BA '12) was hired as a writer/producer at Chicago's WIQI 101.1-FM this spring.

**Cody Estle** (BA '11) directed the premiere of Chicago playwright Jon Steinbogen's *Dating Walter Dante* at Raven Theatre's West Stage.

**Jeremiah Felton** ('10) is a recording artist and producer signed to Def Jam Recordings.

**Jamie Gallant** (BA '10) partnered with 51 South this summer to visit the Falkland Islands and produce a documentary about the thousands of people who call the islands home.

**Zachary Green's** (BA '11) "I Will Send You This" was chosen for *Plain China's* Best Undergraduate Writing 2011.

**John Gregory** ('11) was hired as sports anchor for the Illinois Radio Network, after spending a year at Merlin Media's WIQI 101.1-FM.

**Ed Hamel** (BM '11) opened for Alejandro Escovedo at City Winery in New York on January 20. His work was selected to be played at Gaudeamus Muziekweek in Amsterdam in September.

**Chris Hermer** (BA '11) interns at Chicago post-production audio facility Optimus.

**Ethan Jones** (MFA '12) earned second place in photography in the Union League Civic and Arts Foun-

dation's 2012 Visual Arts Competition.

**Julie Renee Jones** (MFA '12) contributed to the *Voyeurism and Intimacy* exhibit that ran at Rayko Photo Center in San Francisco from March 15 to April 6.

**Ally Karrasch** (BA '10) was hired as a promotions coordinator at K-Hits WJMK 104.3-FM.

**Lauren Krum** ('10) and her band The Grisly Hand appeared in the *Kansas City Star* magazine article "Between Rock and a Good Place."

**Demi Lobo** (BA '12) of WGCI-FM Chicago had her song "House Party" featured on the MTV show *Made*.

**Jennifer Mauer** (BFA '11) placed in the top 25 in the photography contest for Tomorrowland 2012, a music festival.

**Alex Newkirk** (BFA '11) teaches high school students about the process of auditioning and maintaining their voices, bodies, and minds. Newkirk also served as assistant music director for the musical *Let My People Come*, and performed in *The March*, a new musical adapted by Tony winner Frank Galati.

The Renaissance Society presented an expansive career survey of photographer **Dawoud Bey** (Photography) from May 13 to June 24.

**Bob Blinn** (College Advising Center) and **Mary Blinn** (Music) published the book *Putting Creativity To Work*, combining their knowledge and experience as successful artists in the Chicago area.

**Rose Camastro Pritchett** (AEMM) exhibited her work at the Harrington Mill Studios Exhibition Space. She also presented a performance art piece at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

**Andrew Chudzinski** (Film + Video) produced and directed the short video *Doing Good in the World: Growing Local Economies (Jhoole)*, which received silver and bronze awards in the nonprofit and cinematography categories of the Telly awards.

**Dan Dinello** (Film + Video) presented *Dr. Frankenstein's Footsteps: A Critical Look at Some Key Films* at Dominican University in River Forest, using film clips to show how the mad scientist of popular culture often serves as a lightning rod for contemporary anxieties about science.



**Carlo Treviso's** (BA '06) short sci-fi film, *Vessel*, was selected as an Official Webby Award Honoree in the Online Film & Video categories Best Writing and Best Drama at the 16th Annual Webby Awards.

**Melisa Young** (BA '04), who performs as Kid Sister, released her EP *Kiss & Tell* on Fools Gold Records.

**Megan McEntee** (BA '11) served as an assistant editor on the History Channel series *Great Lake Warriors*, produced by Towers Productions in Chicago.

**Mary Jo Ola** (BA '12) joined the WTOV-Rockford, Illinois, news team as a reporter.

**Tiffany Pfingsten** (BA '11) was hired to portray Cinderella at Disney World and moved to Florida in January to ascend to her throne.

**Rahel Rasu** (BA '10) provided public relations for *Drum Beat Journey*, a documentary

about four young African-American bucket drummers from Chicago's South Side who embarked on a rite of passage to Senegal, West Africa. **Mallory Sohmer** (BA '06) served as video producer.

**Lindsey Romain** (BA '11) moved from intern to full-time staff writer and editor at Chicago's *Content That Works*.

**Tim Smisek's** (BM '10) band, Glass Petals, recorded its second album in June.

**Michael Stegall** (BA '10) was in *Bang the Drum Slowly* at Raven Theatre in Chicago.

## FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

**Laura Heller** (Journalism) wrote an article for *Forbes* called "JCPenney's Ron Johnson Is The New Steve Jobs."

The Modern Language Association (MLA) appointed **Dean Deborah H. Holdstein** (School of Liberal Arts and Sciences) to its Publications Committee for a three-year term. The committee is responsible for, among other tasks, reviewing and authorizing the *MLA Handbook*.

**Daniel Jordan** and **Christopher Shaw** (Science + Mathematics) were named editors of *Illinois Mathematics Teacher*, a peer-reviewed journal published by the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

According to *Time Out Chicago's* Emily Gordon, Stegall "has an incandescent stage presence and is so grounded he seems to be holding down the stage with his feet."

**Pat Whalen** (BA '10) was named Jackalope Theatre Company's first ensemble member in January. He costarred in their production of Lucas Neff's *The Last Duck*.

**Brent Yontz** (BA '10) was a 33rd Annual Telly Awards bronze winner in the Best Cinematography category for his Columbia College Chicago cinematography thesis, *Nanuq*.

## MARRIAGES

**Steven Black** (BA '10) and Amanda Arnold were married on May 19, 2012, at Immaculate Conception Church in Morris, Illinois.

**Andrew Carranza** ('97) and Jennifer Lenhart were married April 7 on the Brooklyn Bridge. Carranza is an editor at the Manhattan office of Fotokem, a film and video post-production company in Burbank, California.

**Azar Khosravani** (Science + Mathematics) presented her paper *Transformation Invariance of Benford Variables and Their Numerical Modeling* at the 14th International Conference on Automatic Control Modeling and Simulation in Saint Malo, France.

**Steven Lattimore** (Television) was featured in the *Chicago Sun-Times* for his work as the executive producer of documentaries *My Business Is The Blues: The Jimmy Reed Story* (2010) and *The Jimmy Reed Experience* (2011).

# POINT & SHOOT

**Elio Leturia** (Journalism) visited The American University in Cairo to give a comparative analysis on the educational systems in Peru and the United States for the graduate program of International and Comparative Education. As president of the Fulbright Association's Chicago chapter, he also visited the Binational Fulbright Commission to talk about a Book Donation Initiative to Egyptian universities.

**Carter Martin** (Film + Video) wrote and directed the short film *Spoiled*, which was named 2012 Best Independent Short in the Ages 8-12 category by the 2012 KIDS FIRST! Film Festival. Martin worked on the short with Film + Video faculty and staff members **Julie Mynatt**, **Diego Trejo**, and **John Cavallino**.

**RoseAnna Mueller's** (HHSS) chapter "Maria Eugenia Alonso: The Modern Iphigenia Sacrificed to Society" is included in the book *The Woman in Latin American and Spanish Literature: Essays on Iconic Characters*, published by McFarland.

**Nami Mun** (Fiction Writing) has been selected to receive

the Chicago Public Library's 21st Century Award, which honors significant achievement by a Chicago-area writer.

**Audrey Niffenegger** (Fiction Writing) collaborated with art collector Richard Harris on a June 15 discussion regarding death in art and literature at the Chicago Cultural Center.

**Pan Papacosta** (Science + Mathematics) had his essay "We Are Cosmic Nomads" published in the April edition of *Physics World*, the official journal of the Institute of Physics of Great Britain. His essay explores Heraclitus' premise that everything in the universe is in a constant state of flux.

**Teresa Puente** (Journalism) had her story *Race Out Loud: Where Are You From?* featured on WBEZ 91.5 FM.

**Chris Richert** (Journalism), general manager of the *Columbia Chronicle*, was awarded the JoAnn Daughtee Distinguished Service Award March 30 by the Executive Committee of the College Newspaper Business & Advertising Managers.

**Mehrnaz Saeed-Vafa's** (Film + Video) *Jerry and Me* made its international

premiere at Edinburgh International Film Festival in Scotland and its North American premiere at BAMcinemaFest in Brooklyn, New York.

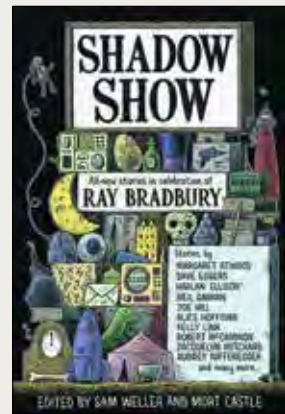
**Rosita Sands** (Music) represented the Alan Lomax Archive and the Association of Cultural Equity at the ceremony for the repatriation of the Alan Lomax Caribbean Collection at the National Academy for the Performing Arts in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

**Jeff Spitz** (Film + Video) served as a judge for the Northbrook Youth Film Festival at the Northbrook Public Library.

**Paul Teruel** (Center for Community Arts Partnerships) was honored as a community partner by nonprofit youth arts organization Pros Arts Studio at its annual fundraiser.

*A Fast Life: The Collected Poems of Tim Dlugos*, edited by **David Trinidad** (English), won the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry.

**Koch Unni** (Science + Mathematics) hybridized a new variety of green pepper, which was named after him and internationally patented. The peppers, KOCHTERRII, were sold for the first time



**Mort Castle** and **Sam Weller** (Fiction Writing) edited the book *Shadow Show: All-New Stories in Celebration of Ray Bradbury*, which has been praised as a "beach read" by the *Chicago Tribune*.

**Joe Meno's** (Fiction Writing) latest novel, *Office Girl*, was published by Akashic Books. The release party was at Lincoln Square bookstore The Book Cellar.

April 28 at the Green and Growing Fair at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

**Sam Weller** (Fiction Writing) was interviewed for multiple publications—including the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Bookslut*, *The Huffington Post*, *Fox News*, and *The AV Club*—on the death of Ray Bradbury, for whom Weller was the authorized biographer. He was also

selected as part of *New City's* "Lit 50," which honors Chicago's literary community.

**David Woolley** (Theatre) was featured in a *Chicago Sun-Times* article about his traveling comedy sword-fighting act, "Dirk & Guido: The Swordsmen," for the 25th anniversary of the Bristol Renaissance Faire.



## Albert "Bill" Williams (BA '73)

**THEATRE FACULTY MEMBER** Albert "Bill" Williams has called Columbia home for most of his life, so much so that in 2010 he was one of the first alumni to make a generous donation to the Alexandroff Legacy Society, Columbia's planned giving recognition society.

Williams didn't hesitate when the college approached him about making Columbia a beneficiary in his will. As a Columbia graduate and instructor, he understands the importance of the college's mission and wanted to help continue the legacy. Williams decided to donate in part because of his close relationship with late president Mike Alexandroff.

"Columbia trains people who will author the culture of their times," he said. "Mike would very much want to keep with the times and to continue to influence the culture of the time."

After graduating with a music degree in 1973, Williams worked on various shows in Chicago and New York City. He returned to Columbia as a faculty member in 1985 to design and teach Singing for the Actor, a course that instructs actors on the basics of music and singing. Today, he is a coordinator of the Theatre Department's musical theatre program and teaches Musical Theatre History as well as Singing for the Actor. In May 2011, he organized the Columbia-hosted Chicago Theatre Symposium.

Williams also has written theatre and music reviews for the *Chicago Reader* since 1985, spending more than 15 years as the theatre assignment editor and chief senior critic. In addition, he and former Music Department chair Bill Russo wrote, among others, the off-Broadway production *Isabella's Fortune*.

Williams said he's delighted to continue to grow with the college: "I think it's a really important institution."

—LINDSAY WELBERS ('08)



# UPCOMINGEVENTS

SEE MORE AND GET MORE INFORMATION AT [COLUM.EDU/EVENTS](http://COLUM.EDU/EVENTS)



Photo: Laura Baldeschi



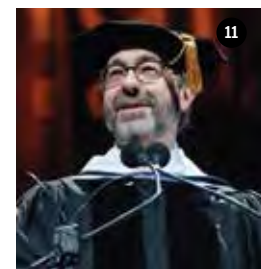
Photo: AJ Abelman ('13)



Photos (2, 4 & 5): Kris Wade-Matthews ('12)



Photos (6-11): Robert Kusel (BA '78)



## MANIFEST MAY 4

Every year, Columbia caps off the spring semester with Manifest, the urban arts festival that takes over the South Loop for one day in May, showcasing students' work and creativity.

- [ 1 ] Performers entertain at the Great Convergence.
- [ 2 ] Student puppeteers head to the Great Convergence.
- [ 3 ] Alumni of the Year **Art Baltazar** (BA '92), **Lana Bramlette** (BA '97), **Marlon West** (BA '85) with **Michelle Passarelli** (BA '99), associate director, alumni operations
- [ 4 ] Fest goers fly through the Pedal-Powered Amusement Park.
- [ 5 ] Student performers bring down the tent at the Great Convergence.

## COMMENCEMENT MAY 5-6

2012 commencement was held in the historic Chicago Theatre on State Street.

- [ 6 ] Marquee at the Chicago Theatre
- [ 7 ] Students perform onstage during the ceremony.
- [ 8 ] Gospel legend Mavis Staples receives an honorary degree.
- [ 9 ] Graduates celebrate at the Chicago Theatre.
- [ 10 ] Valedictorian Tayler Westlake
- [ 11 ] Game designer Warren Spector receives an honorary degree.



From *Embracing the FARR: Modes of Reenactment*. See Galleries. Photo: Julie Rudder, 2012



*Damaged Spring*, Johanna Drucker, 2003. See Galleries.



Stephen Petronio Company. See Dance. Photo: Sarah Silver

## GALLERIES

The following exhibitions are held at Averill and Bernard Leviton A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave., [colum.edu/ADGallery](http://colum.edu/ADGallery):

**Solidarity: a memory of art and social change**  
September 27 – November 3

**The 91st Art Directors Club Annual Awards Exhibition**  
November 15 – December 15

This traveling exhibition from the Art Directors Club in New York honors the best professional work of the year.

**The Almost Metal Collective**  
January 10 – February 16, 2013

The following exhibitions are held at Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., [colum.edu/DEPS](http://colum.edu/DEPS):

**Machinations: Kinetic Sculptures in the Age of Open Source**  
September 6 – November 3

**Embracing the FARR: Modes of Reenactment**  
November 15 – February 9

The following exhibitions are held at C33 Gallery, 33 E. Congress Pkwy., [colum.edu/DEPS](http://colum.edu/DEPS):

**Works from the Permanent Collection**  
September 4 – October 19

**Hokin Honors Exhibition**  
November 1 – January 11

The following exhibitions are held at the Arcade, 618 S. Michigan Ave., 2nd floor, [colum.edu/DEPS](http://colum.edu/DEPS)

**Albert P. Weisman Award Exhibition**  
September 4 – October 19

**WORD**  
November 1 – January 11

The following exhibitions are held at the Center for Book and Paper Arts, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 2nd floor, [colum.edu/cbpa](http://colum.edu/cbpa):

**Books and Projects: 40 Years of Druckworks**  
September 6 – December 7

While widely known for her contributions to contemporary art theory and history, Johanna Drucker is also a prolific creative artist with more than four dozen artist's books to her credit.

**Spotlight Exhibition: Afterimage**  
September 6 – December 7

The following exhibitions are held at the Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan Ave., [mocp.org](http://mocp.org):

**Peripheral Views: States of America**  
Through September 30  
This exhibition brings together artists grappling with the difficulty of picturing the United States in our time.

**Jan Tichy**  
October 12 – December 23  
Jan Tichy uses video projection to create physical and psychic spaces exploring concealment, obscurity, and the seen and unseen.

## DANCE

The following performances are held at the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave.  
Tickets: \$26-\$30 at 312.369.8330 or [colum.edu/dancecenter](http://colum.edu/dancecenter):

**Kota Yamazaki/Fluid hug-hug**  
September 27 – 29

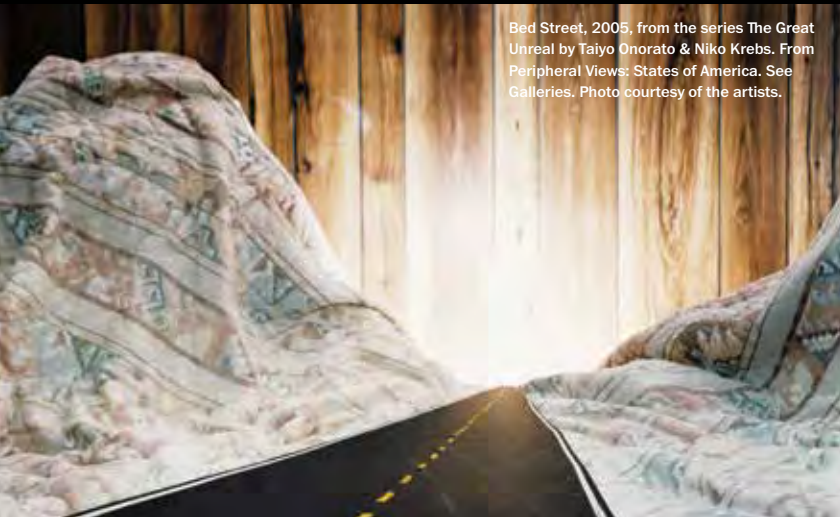
**Gallim Dance**  
October 11 – 13

**Double Edge Theatre**  
January 18 – 19, 2013  
Co-presented with the Columbia College Chicago Theatre Department

**Stephen Petronio Company**  
March 7 – 9, 2013

CONTINUED

UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED



Bed Street, 2005, from the series The Great Unreal by Taiyo Onorato & Niko Krebs. From Peripheral Views: States of America. See Galleries. Photo courtesy of the artists.



From City on the Make. See Theatre. Photo: Jacob Boll ('12)



ShopColumbia Photo: Nicole Yoder ('12)

LITERARY

**Creative Nonfiction Week**

Dates TBA  
Various locations  
[colum.edu/cnfw](http://colum.edu/cnfw)

Creative Nonfiction Week presents a range of voices—familiar and new, renowned and emerging—all helping to define and redefine the genre of creative nonfiction.

**Story Week Festival of Writers**  
March 17 – 22, 2013

[colum.edu/storyweek](http://colum.edu/storyweek)  
Columbia's Fiction Writing Department presents the 17th Annual Story Week. Story Week offers free events open to the public, including readings, conversations with authors, panels, performances, and book signings.

FILM

**Cinema Slapdown**

Film Row Cinema  
1104 S. Wabash Ave.,  
8th floor

Cinema Slapdown events feature a film screening and provocative pro/con debate. Films will be announced.

**Laurels**  
October 9

**Morals**  
November 8

THEATRE

The following performances are held at the Theatre Center, 72 E. 11th St.  
Tickets: \$6-\$16 at 312.369.6126 or [colum.edu/theater\\_center](http://colum.edu/theater_center):

**City on the Make**  
October 24 – November 3

**The Resistible Rise of Arturo UI**  
November 7 – 17

**Chicago**  
December 5 – 15

**Victor Victoria**  
February 13 – 23, 2013

**Rocky Road**  
March 13 – 23, 2013

SPECIAL EVENTS

**Open Doors Gala 2012**  
December 7

Media Production Center  
1600 S. State St.  
[colum.edu/gala](http://colum.edu/gala)

The Open Doors Gala will honor John H. Bryan with the Chicago Legacy Award in memory of John H. Johnson. Contributions will help restore the iconic EBONY-JET sign on the Johnson Publishing Building, provide scholarships for Chicago Public School graduates to attend Columbia, and establish the new museum space located in John Johnson's historic office.

**ShopColumbia Holiday Market**  
December 7 – 8

ShopColumbia  
623 S. Wabash Ave.  
[colum.edu/shopcolumbia](http://colum.edu/shopcolumbia)  
ShopColumbia is Columbia's student and alumni art boutique. During the Holiday Market, artists will be on hand to talk about their work.

**Columbia at Park City, Utah**  
January 18 – 20

[colum.edu/parkcity](http://colum.edu/parkcity)  
Columbia will return to Park City during the Sundance Film Festival and will host an open house, a Chicago lunch, brunch with a Sundance Institute guest speaker, and more.

# BACKSTORY

BY HEIDI MARSHALL

## 1993

BILL CLINTON BECAME THE 42ND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

GASOLINE COST \$1.07 PER GALLON

CHICAGO BULLS WON THE NBA CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE THIRD TIME IN A ROW



### THE 731 SOUTH PLYMOUTH COURT BUILDING, PURCHASED IN 1993, SERVED AS COLUMBIA'S FIRST CO-ED MODERN RESIDENCE HALL.

From the early 1900s to 1928, dormitory space was offered only to female Columbia students when the college was small enough to be housed within private estates. From 1928 to 1993, there was no campus dormitory housing.

The South Plymouth Court building had previously been home to the Lakeside Lofts, a 96-unit apartment complex, renovated in 1984. The building also once housed an RR Donnelley printing plant, publisher of the annual Lakeside Classics book series focusing on American history. The college converted the lofts to dorm rooms in 1993 with housing for more than 300 students. This image is from the first move-in day during the 1993 fall semester.

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](mailto:hmarshall@colum.edu) / 312.369.8689. Visit the Columbia archives online at [lib.colum.edu/archives](http://lib.colum.edu/archives).

Can you identify anyone in this image? If so, please contact the College Archives & Digital Collections at Columbia College Chicago at [cadc@colum.edu](mailto:cadc@colum.edu) with names or any information you may have. Thank you!

# Columbia

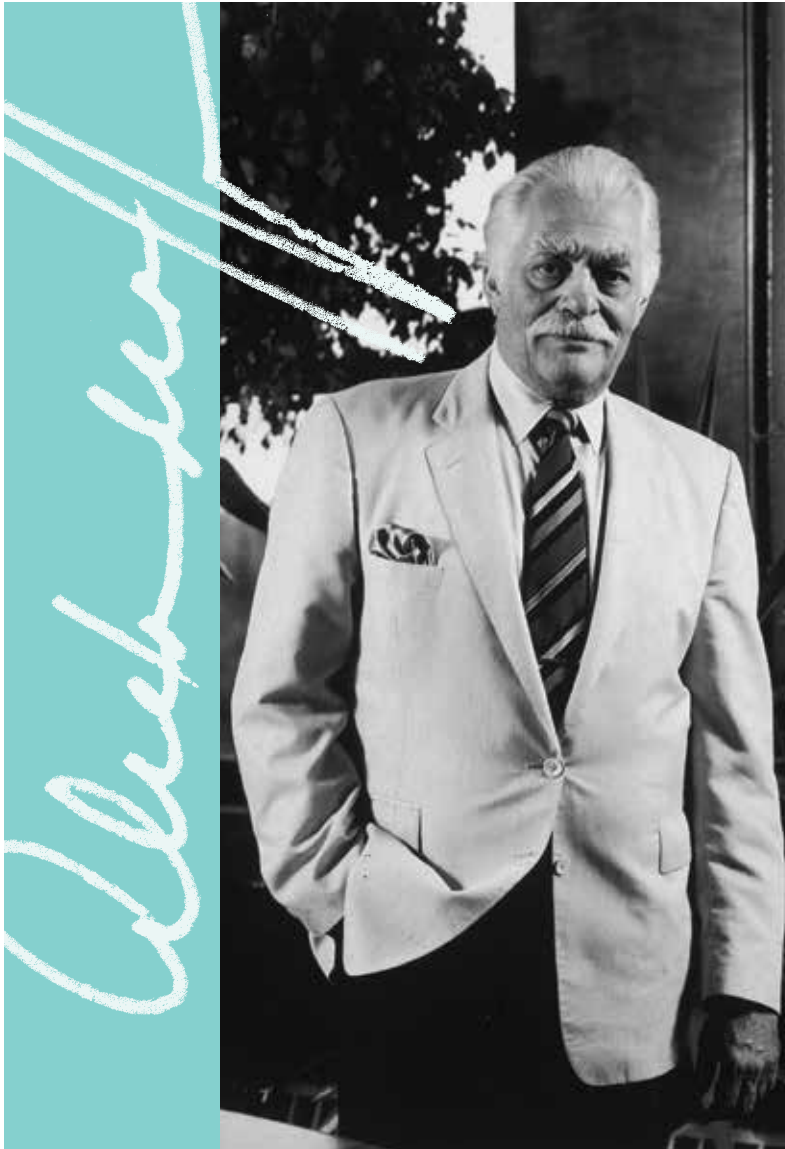
COLLEGE CHICAGO

INNOVATION IN THE VISUAL, PERFORMING,  
MEDIA, AND COMMUNICATION ARTS

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## THE ALEXANDROFF LEGACY SOCIETY

### Creating a Legacy for Learning

The Alexandroff Legacy Society was established to honor Mirron “Mike” Alexandroff, president of Columbia College Chicago from 1962 to 1992, and recognize and acknowledge those donors who have designated a gift to Columbia through their estate plans, or in other ways. Mike Alexandroff helped transform a struggling, unaccredited college into the largest arts and communications college in the country. He believed that everyone was entitled to a chance to succeed. The Alexandroff Legacy Society provides a way for you to give a gift to Columbia and continue a *Legacy for Learning*.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about The Alexandroff Legacy Society, please contact Ruby C. Schucker, Director of Planned Giving, Columbia College Chicago, at 312.369.7399 or [rschucker@colum.edu](mailto:rschucker@colum.edu).

[colum.edu/plannedgiving](http://colum.edu/plannedgiving)