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The Record

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

VOL. 33, NO. 12

NEWS AND IDEAS FOR THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY

MAY 19, 2008



GRADUATION 2008!

EILEEN BARROSS

Climate Experts See a Risk to Farm Regions

By Kevin Krajick

Columbia climate scientists, citing their findings from a study of the Dust Bowl that devastated the Great Plains in the 1930s, are raising concerns that current pressures on farm land could lead to similar extreme events in other vulnerable regions of the world.

In their study, the researchers at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, both part of Columbia University's Earth Institute, found that dust caused by farming activities in the 1930s probably amplified a natural drop in rainfall, turning a normal drying cycle into a widespread agricultural collapse.

Recent studies indicate that periodic droughts in the Western United States are controlled by naturally occurring periods of cool sea-surface water temperatures over the eastern tropical Pacific—so-called La Niña phases. The La Niña of the 1930s was extreme because it was coupled with the arrival of farmers into the Great Plains, where they replaced drought-resistant wild prairie grasses with fragile wheat, neglected to plant cover crops in unused fields, and allowed livestock to overgraze pastures, leading to increased levels of dust.

According to the new Columbia study, the dust caused by these unsustainable farming activities fed the disaster, doubling the drop in rainfall, and moving the drought itself northward into major farming regions. When the 1932-1939 drought struck, plants shriveled and more bare soil was exposed. The land was quickly eroded by gigantic dust storms, leading to widespread collapse of the region's agricultural system.

The researchers used a computer model to simulate a 1930s drought driven only by La Niña. Then the modelers added in the effects of dust, using data from the '30s, and allowing the computer to create dust storms. This yielded a simulated event much like the Dust Bowl of the '30s, with a full 10 percent drop in rain.

Lead author Benjamin Cook, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) postdoctoral researcher affiliated with both Lamont-Doherty and the Goddard Institute, says the

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By Candace Taylor

Recipe for a successful university commencement

- 38,000 folding chairs
- 8 sets of bleachers
- 12,000 feet of cable
- 553 signs
- 4 10-foot-by-14-foot video walls
- 8 professional video cameras
- 40,000 programs
- 150 volunteers, 100 staff
- 60,000 bottles of water

Directions: Add graduates, families and stir.

The main Commencement exercises for Columbia's 254th academic year last less than two hours. But in that time, 11,647 degrees are conferred upon the graduates of 18 schools, with the center of the Morningside campus briefly transformed into one of the largest outdoor theaters in Mahattan.

Leading up to that tableau of light blue requires five months of intense coordination and preparation, involving hundreds of University employees, volunteers and outside vendors. "We tried to calculate the human hours" involved in preparing for the event, says Rosemary Keane, assistant vice president of student and administrative services, whose unofficial title should be Commencement executive producer.

"We didn't have the time."

Regular planning meetings for Commencement started in January, when vendors, department heads and event coordinators began meeting weekly for the big day. As the season draws near, a typical week can include up to 15 Commencement-related meetings. Starting May 17 and continuing until the 22nd, facilities employees at the Morningside campus work from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. setting up events and cleaning up after them.

One reason for the complexity is that Columbia's Commencement isn't just a day but a nearly week-long celebration chock-a-block with baccalaureate services, graduation exercises official and unofficial, awards ceremonies and

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POSTCARDS FROM THE CITY'S EDGE

By John H. Tucker

At the beginning of the 20th century, postcards did more than just tell friends and relatives "Wish you were here." They also chronicled the growth of New York City.

In Manhattan, as people moved further uptown and construction enveloped the top half of the island, photographers documented the new buildings using postcards, which local pharmacists sold by the bundle.

Now, many of those old postcards recording Upper Manhattan's architectural boom have found their way into the personal collection of Michael Susi, an associate director in the of-

fice of the vice president for Arts and Sciences. His new book features 200 postcard images of the earliest days of Columbia after it moved uptown from its 49th Street location in 1897. In less than a year, *Columbia University and Morningside Heights* (part of Arcadia Publishing's Postcard History Series) has already run through its first printing.

"These photos are evocative of an earlier time," says Susi, who also is a Columbia alumnus (CC'85, GSAS'89), explaining why he began collecting them 20 years ago. He has since amassed 5,000 vintage postcards from what he calls the "Golden Age"

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The south facade of Hamilton is viewed here from West 114th Street around 1908, prior to the expansion of the athletic field in front of Low Library.



ON CAMPUS



JACK FORRHUN

PRIDE OF THE LIONS

For the first time in 31 years, the Columbia Lions won the Ivy League Baseball Championship May 7, defeating Dartmouth's Big Green 7-5 in the deciding game of a best-of-three series. It was Columbia's first Ivy League baseball title since 1977 (when it shared that honor with Cornell). And it's another notch in a broader winning streak for the University's sports teams: This is the fourth Ivy League title for Columbia in the 2007-2008 academic year, following first-place finishes in men's golf, men's fencing and women's golf. In the past two years, Columbia has won nine league titles in all—the most in a two-year stretch in the school's history.

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curecord@columbia.edu

The House Speaker

Dear Alma:

Columbia has dozens of guest speakers at the various school graduations, but none at Commencement except for the University president. Why is that?

—Autograph Hound

Dear Hound,

The tradition of having only Columbia's president speak at Commencement appears to date from 1890, according to University archivist Jocelyn Wilk, who looked through old programs and Commencement scrapbooks. In the years before that, Columbia had been metamorphosing from a college for young New York men to a collection of professional schools that—oh yes—also had an undergraduate college.



Columbia President Eisenhower at the 194th Commencement in 1948

By 1889, the College had been joined by the Law School, the School of Mines and the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Columbia College's enrollment represented less than 20% of the total for all the schools, according to *Stand, Columbia*, Robert A. McCaughey's history of the University's first 250 years.

So the following year, when Seth Low became Columbia's president, the University took center stage at Commencement for the first time, with only its president as the speaker. According to a newspaper

**ASK ALMA'S OWL**

account at the time: "The occasion was of especial interest, because for the first time in the history of the college have all the departments containing men to be graduated united in one common commencement—a great step toward the completion of the 'university idea' at Columbia." That Commencement was held on June 11, 1890, at the Metropolitan Opera House on Broadway between 39th and 40th streets. Today's location for Commencement, Low Plaza, didn't exist at the time, as Columbia didn't move to Morningside Heights until 1897.

The various schools, however, hold their own Class Days, and each of Columbia's 13 professional schools, three undergraduate colleges and two affiliated schools continue to have their own speakers at those ceremonies, with the speakers more in keeping with the specific interests of the school's graduates. This year, for example, radio host Terry Gross will speak at the Journalism School's Class Day, while dancer and choreographer Bill T. Jones is the School of the Arts' speaker. Mayor Michael Bloomberg is the speaker at Barnard College's graduation.

—Bridget O'Brian

Send your questions for *Alma's Owl* to curecord@columbia.edu.

MILESTONES



Samsung Corp. awarded the Ho-Am Science Prize to physics professor **PHILIP KIM** for his pioneering work on low dimensional carbon nanostructures. The prize, which consists of a certificate, a gold medal and 200 million Korean won, is awarded to individuals who have contributed to the welfare of humanity through personal accomplishment in their respective fields. Kim joined Columbia as an associate professor in 2001, after having worked for two years as a Miller Research Fellow at the University of California at Berkeley.

JOHN COATSWORTH, who had been acting dean of the School of International and Public Affairs since last July, was named the school's permanent dean April 28. A scholar of Latin American economic and international history, Coatsworth joined Columbia in 2006 as a visiting professor from Harvard. He had been a professor at Harvard since 1992, where he also was the founding director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies and chair of the Harvard University Committee on Human Rights Studies. While at the University of Chicago from 1969 to 1992, he chaired the history department and directed the Center for Latin American Studies.



Five professors whose expertise ranges from tropical agriculture to the social sciences were recently elected to the 2008 Class of Fellows of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. The American Academy is one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honorary societies and independent policy research centers. Columbia's newly elected American Academy fellows are: **PETER BEARMAN**, Cole Professor of Social Science; **RICHARD A. FRIESNER**, professor of chemistry; **ORHAN PAMUK**, professor of comparative literature; **PAUL G. RICHARDS**, Mellon Professor of Natural Sciences; and **PEDRO SANCHEZ**, director of the Tropical Agriculture Program. All five, along with other new members, will be inducted at a ceremony on Oct. 11 at the academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Mass.



Three professors have been elected members of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences for their excellence in original scientific research. They are: **GARY STRUHL**, a professor of genetics and development at the College of Physicians and Surgeons (at left); **CAROL PRIVES**,

who is the DaCosta Professor of Biology as well as an American Cancer Society Research Professor; and **PAUL E. OLSEN**, the Storke Memorial Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Membership in the academy is one of the highest honors given to a scientist or engineer in the United States. The three will be inducted into the academy in April 2009 during its 146th annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

JOSEPH SLAUGHTER, professor of English and comparative literature, is the recipient of the Rene Wellek Prize for his 2007 book, *Human Rights, Inc.: The World Novel, Narrative Form and International Law* (Fordham University Press). The award, given by the American Comparative Literature Association, is the most prestigious in comparative literature.

**CORRECTIONS**

A gift of \$1.5 million from the Mendelson family will support an endowment for the directorship of the American Studies program, currently held by Andrew Delbanco. In the April 28 issue of *The Record*, the donor was inaccurately identified.

Subway Riders Are Invited to Take A More Elevated Line of Thought

By LaVenia LaVelle

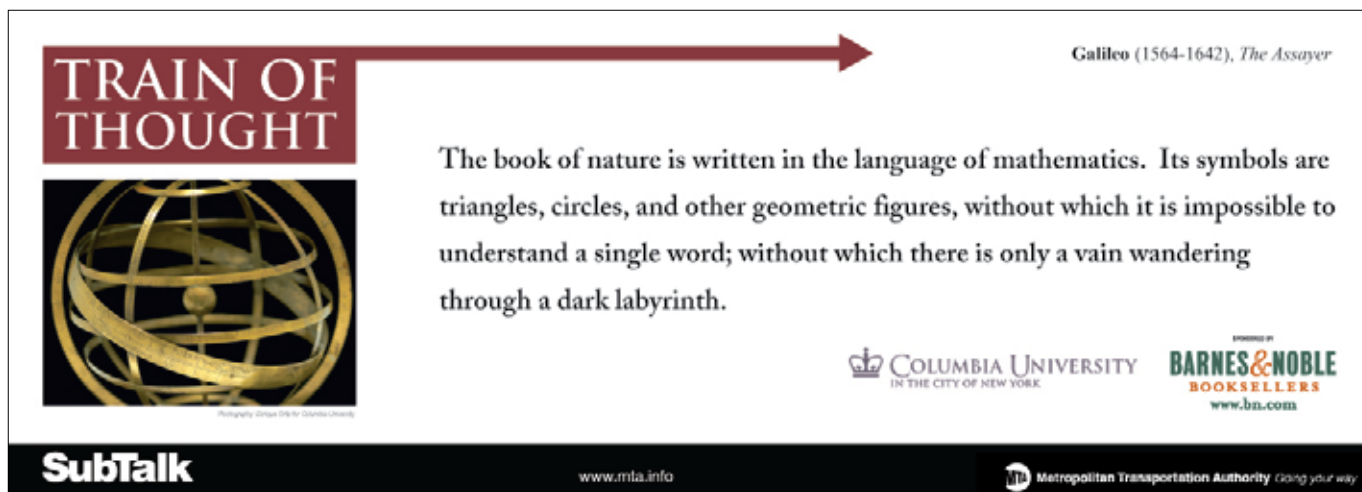
Move over, Dr. Z. Starting this month, millions of New York City bus and subway riders are getting something new to think about on their morning commute, with some expert guidance from Columbia's Arts and Sciences faculty.

In a new series of advertisements that run on subways and buses, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has unveiled *Train of Thought*, which will feature excerpts and quotations from some of the world's greatest minds—each selected by experts at Columbia.

"Since we are 'Columbia University in the City of New York,' it is appropriate that we bring these great achievements to the streets, or in this case, below the streets, of our city," says Henry C. Pinkham, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), who has appointed a committee of Columbia experts to pick what editorial content should be on the ads. "Of course, the subway permits only tiny excerpts to be posted. But it gets people thinking about big ideas

The campaign replaces the *Poetry in Motion* ads that have appeared on New York City subways and buses since 1992. The new series is an opportunity to broaden the scope and content of the Sub Talk advertisements, says the MTA. "New Yorkers have wide-ranging interests, and we felt that we could include material from a variety of other disciplines, in addition to poetry, to bring important, engaging, insightful quotes to our riders," says Alicia Martinez, MTA's director of marketing and corporate communications.

Columbia was the first, and only, choice when it came to coming up with the content for the ads. "There was no formal search process," says MTA spokesman Aaron Donovan. Indeed, it was Columbia University alumni working at MTA who informally proposed Columbia's involvement to Pinkham. "I have been, over the years, a great admirer of *Poetry in Motion*, so I was thrilled when the MTA came to GSAS with the idea of broadening *Poetry in Motion* to all forms of literature, philosophy, history and science," Pinkham says.



The *Train of Thought* ad featuring Galileo, now showing in a subway car near you.

and that's exactly what a university should do for people."

One of the first *Train of Thought* excerpts is from the book *Here Is New York*, E.B. White's 1948 love letter to the city, on the special character of New York City and its people. White, the former *New Yorker* essayist, is best known as the author of *Charlotte's Web*. The other selection is from 16th-century Italian astronomer and scientist Galileo on the centrality of mathematics to science. The ads will be illustrated with original images from Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

"The project is consonant with Columbia's tradition of engaging directly with the primary texts marking great intellectual achievements," Pinkham says.

To help choose what should be used in the series, Pinkham set up a committee of faculty members and administrators to propose selections, which then go to the MTA for approval. Selections for the next year have already been chosen—just don't ask Pinkham what they are. "I do not want to divulge them," he says.

The next two ads arrive July 1 and will feature quotations from the fields of philosophy and literature. Funding for production of the program is provided by Barnes & Noble. Of course, with two new quotations from different disciplines to be posted every three months, the *Train of Thought* ads won't be quite as ubiquitous as those for Dr. Z, the Manhattan dermatologist Jonathan Zizmor, whose subway ads seem to be everywhere.

ON EXHIBIT: BITES OF THE BIG APPLE

There are eight million stories in New York City, and this is one chance to get a piece of the drama.

"Bites of the Big Apple," an exhibit running May 12-25 at Columbia University, offers a taste of the secrets, history and pulse of the city that never sleeps.

Designed and curated by Columbia University graduate students, who each selected his or her own "bite" of the city, the exhibit invites residents and visitors to sample the sounds, stories and structures of the past and present that make this city so unique—from the towering skyscrapers to the underground subway tunnels, from the thriving neighborhoods to the art created on the street or the stage. The exhibit also features an original New York City-inspired sound score.

"Bites of the Big Apple" is on display in the main rotunda of Low Library. The show is running in conjunction with Columbia's Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG) conference. For more information about TAG, please visit: www.columbia.edu/cu/archaeology/conference/tag/.

—By Record Staff



Image by artist Christopher Carrasco

MFA GRADS' TALENTS ON DISPLAY

By Donna Cornachio

For the 26 MFA students enrolled in Columbia's School of the Arts visual arts division, the culmination of their two-year program is the MFA Thesis Exhibition, in which they select their best and most representative works to go in a group show.

"I love deadlines," said Brendan Harman, a few weeks before the show was set to open. An MFA student whose final project is an installation incorporating film, "I especially love not knowing how it's all going to come together," he added.

Gregory Amenoff, chair of the visual arts division, felt the pressure, too, but from a different perspective: where to house the exhibition.

"The challenge has always been to find a show that can accommodate several thousand square feet of exhibition space," said Amenoff.

This year that challenge has been met by a first-time partnership between the School of the Arts and the Fisher Landau Center for Art in Long Island City.

Opened in 1991, the center is a 25,000-square-foot exhibition and study facility with a 1,200-work collection spanning key works by artists from 1960 to the present.



A digital composite from *GONNA MAKE YOU SWEAT*, a new video from Divya Mehra, one of the artists at the exhibition

"This is an incredible opportunity for our students to see their work displayed in such a beautiful, elegant, professional museum space," said Amenoff.

"I'm really excited—I've made all new work for this show," said MFA student and photographer Diane Wah, whose work includes incorporating photography into fake album covers that she calls "Sounds Like Wah." "If I was getting married, this show would still be even bigger."

The thesis exhibition takes up about 8,000 square feet of space and includes multimedia installations, video, sculpture, painting, photography and printmaking.

"The trick is to present a selection of work which makes for an interesting and cohesive show, and avoids the feeling of booths at an art fair presenting each person's work as a mini solo show," said Arlen Austin, another MFA student. "I think we have a very balanced and close-knit group of people in our class who are more interested in fostering the communities which make long-term survival in the art world possible than in making a big splash at their thesis show."

Emily Fisher Landau, the philanthropist and art patron who founded the Fisher Landau Center for Art, has a reputation for discovering artists before they're famous, a talent that is not lost on Amenoff. "What a perfect fit for our young artists just coming out of graduate school and just starting their artistic careers to be showing in her museum," he said.

The exhibition will be on view until May 25 at the Fisher Landau Center for Art, 38-27 30th St., Long Island City. Gallery hours are Thursday through Monday, 12-5 p.m. For more information, including directions and a list of the artists, visit www.flcart.org/exhibit.htm.



2008 HONORARY DEGREES

FAZLE HASAN ABED

Doctor of Laws

Fazle Abed is the founder and chairperson of BRAC (formerly the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee), one of the largest non-government anti-poverty organizations in the world. Abed formed BRAC in his native Bangladesh shortly after the 1971 Liberation War to provide assistance to millions of refugees returning to the newly independent country. Abed's organization then took on the challenging mission of alleviating poverty and empowering the poor. Today it supports 34,000 schools and is helping to improve the lives of 100 million Bangladeshis. Abed is a recipient of the first Clinton Global Citizen Awards, the Ramon Magsaysay Award and the Unicef Maurice Pate Award.



EMANUEL AX

Doctor of Music

Emanuel Ax is an award-winning pianist who performs regularly with several orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, National Symphony, London Philharmonic and the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin. He holds the Avery Fisher Prize, the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists, and in 1974 he was the first winner of the Arthur Rubenstein International Piano Competition. Recipient of several Grammy Awards, Ax has been an exclusive Sony Classical recording artist since 1987. He has performed with Yefim Bronfman, Edgar Meyer, Myung-Whun Chung, Sir Simon Rattle and Yo-Yo Ma. Ax attended Columbia College.



ALICIA JANELLE GRAF

Medal of Excellence (awarded to an outstanding graduate under the age of 45)



Alicia Graf is a modern dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She earned high praise as a teenage ballerina and at age 17 joined the Dance Theatre of Harlem. When injuries and subsequent surgeries forced her off stage, Graf became the associate artistic director of A Time to Dance, overseeing a collegiate dance-ministry team that performed in local churches and other spiritual spaces. During that time, she enrolled in Columbia, where she eventually graduated *magna cum laude*. Now fully recovered from her injuries, Graf has returned to dancing and recently was named by *Smithsonian* magazine one of 37 young American innovators of the arts and sciences.

DAWN GREENE

Doctor of Laws



Dawn Greene is president and CEO of the Jerome L. Greene Foundation, a philanthropic organization founded by her late husband, a graduate of Columbia College and Columbia Law School and a major donor to the University. Through the foundation, Jerome and Dawn Greene made notable contributions to the health-care field, with gifts in support of the Jerome L. and Dawn Greene Medical Arts Pavilion and Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center. Dawn Greene's interest in social health issues stems from her degrees in sociology, social work and clinical counseling. She has served on the boards of Inwood House and Planned Parenthood of New York City.

ERIC S. LANDER

Doctor of Science

Eric Lander is the founding director of the Broad Institute, a collaborative disease-prevention research organization associated with MIT and Harvard. It is credited with making progress toward identifying the molecular taxonomy of cancer. A principal leader of the Human Genome Project—a 13-year program that identified and assessed the functions of more than 20,000 genes in human DNA—Lander helped develop the precepts of human and mammalian genomics, pioneering new ways of understanding cancer. Lander is a professor of biology at MIT, professor of systems biology at Harvard Medical School and member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. In 2004, he was named one of the world's most influential people by *TIME* magazine.



WILLIAM F. LEUCHTENBURG

Doctor of Letters

William Leuchtenburg, one of the nation's top experts on the presidency, is the William Rand Kenan Jr. Professor of History Emeritus at the University of North Carolina and a former professor at Columbia, where he held the DeWitt Clinton chair. Leuchtenburg served as president of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians and the Society of American Historians. He has lectured in the U.S. Capitol, the U.S. Supreme Court and the French Senate. During the 1977 Silver Jubilee in London he delivered the inaugural lecture to Queen Elizabeth II. Leuchtenburg has also served as presidential election analyst for NBC and has covered inaugurations for CBS, C-SPAN and PBS. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia.



GERTRUDE F. NEUMARK

Doctor of Science



Gertrude Neumark is a pioneering engineer and one of the world's foremost experts on blue and ultraviolet light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and lasers. The Howe Professor Emerita of Materials Science and Engineering and Professor Emerita of Applied Physics and Mathematics, she is the first woman to be given a chair at the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. Neumark has amassed several patents, and her research has led to improved consumer products, including sharper laser printers, increased DVD storage capacity, and advanced traffic lights, mobile-phone screens and flat-screen TVs. Neumark served as a fellow of the American Physical Society, a panelist for the National Research Council, and a top researcher for Sylvania Research Laboratories and Philips Laboratories. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia.

JUDITH SHAPIRO

Doctor of Laws



Judith Shapiro, a cultural anthropologist, became president of Barnard College in 1994. A pioneering researcher and prominent voice on women's education, she was the first woman appointed to the University of Chicago's Department of Anthropology, in 1970. Shapiro's expertise is gender differentiation and social theory, based on her field research in South America. During her tenure, Barnard became the most sought-after private liberal arts college for women, and its endowment doubled. Shapiro was president of the American Ethnological Society, a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies. In 2002, she received the National Institute of Social Services Gold Medal. Shapiro, who will step down as Barnard president this summer, received her Ph.D. from Columbia.

2008 ALUMNI MEDALISTS

MARK AMSTERDAM*Columbia College 1966, Law 1969*

Amsterdam, a senior partner in a New York City law firm, is the current president of the Columbia University Club of New York and chair of the Columbia College Fund. He has previously served both the College and Law School as a director of the alumni associations and a reunion co-chair. His daughter Lauren (CC'08) graduated in

February with a concentration in African American Studies; his son Matthew (CC'10) majors in American Studies. Mark Amsterdam's father, Leonard M. Amsterdam (GS'35, LAW'37), received the Alumni Medal at Commencement in 1981, making this one of the few instances of the medal being awarded to a child of a prior recipient.

MARYELLEN JEFFRIES BIGHAM*Social Work 1995*

Jeffries Bigham served as president of the Columbia University School of Social Work Alumni Association, the only president to serve two terms for a total of six years. Her time in office encompassed two major projects: the selection of a new dean, and the construction of a new building for the School of Social Work,

its first new home in a century. Jeffries Bigham first became an active member of the alumni association through the Student Activities Committee. That committee work allowed her to take advantage of many opportunities to increase her involvement in the association as time progressed.

LOUIS D. BOCCARDI*Journalism 1959*

Boccardi retired in 2003 as president and CEO of the Associated Press, a nonprofit news cooperative that provides news and information in all its forms to media and online outlets around the world. He led the organization during half of his 36 years there, and before that spent 10 years as executive editor for AP news operations

worldwide. A member of the Board of Visitors since 1989, Boccardi has served the Journalism School since his graduation—sitting on the search committee for a new dean, the Alumni Association Task Force and the Alumni Association Transition Team. He was also a member of the Pulitzer Prize board for nine years, and its chair in 2001.

RON COHEN*Physicians and Surgeons 1981*

Cohen is president, CEO, and founder of Acorda Therapeutics Inc., a public biotech company developing therapies for spinal-cord injury, multiple sclerosis, and other disorders of the central nervous system. Dr. Cohen received his BA with honors in psychology from Princeton University and completed his residency in



internal medicine at the University of Virginia Medical Center. Dr. Cohen has been co-chair of the Physicians and Surgeons Class of '81 since graduating, and serves as a member of the Columbia-Presbyterian Health Sciences Advisory Council. He is a recipient of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the New York metropolitan region.

EVELYN LANGLIEB GREER*Barnard 1970, Law 1973*

Langlieb Greer, a Miami lawyer, is vice chair of the Law School Board of Visitors, where she focuses on increasing public interest in scholarships and internships. She was a Barnard College trustee for many years. She was elected in 2004 to the Miami-Dade County Public School Board, was elected mayor of the village of Pinecrest, and was a founder of Our Kids Inc., a Florida foster-care privatization effort, among other activities. Greer was awarded the Lawrence A. Wien Prize for Social Responsibility by the Law School in 2005. She is married to Bruce Greer (LAW'73), and mother of Matthew (CC'00, Arch'03), Rachel (BC'03, LAW'06) and Laura (Yale '07).

**CHRISTOPHE ALAIN MATHIEU KNOX***Columbia College 1995*

Knox lives and works in Paris as a writer and director for film and television. A member of the Alumni Recruitment Committee, he has interviewed dozens of applicants to Columbia College and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science since 1999. Co-founder of the Columbia Club of France in



2002, he served as vice president until 2004 and then president until January 2008. The club helped organize Columbia's 250th anniversary celebrations in Paris at the Musée d'Orsay, as well as CAA Paris 2007, the European launch of Columbia's new alumni association. He now serves on the board of both the Columbia Club of France and CAA.

CHESTER LEE*Engineering and Applied Science 1970, Business 1974*

Lee is a senior business analyst with AIG Commercial Insurance. He is very active in alumni/ae affairs, serving as the current president of the Columbia Engineering School Alumni Association and as a board member of the Society of Columbia Graduates. Lee was a founding member of the Asian Columbia Alumni Association in

1995, and received the 2004 Alumni Mentor of the Year Award from the Columbia College Alumni of Color Outreach Program (ACOP). He also served on the university-wide steering committee that formulated the first constitution of the Columbia Alumni Association. His son, Douglas Lee ('06), has followed in his footsteps to the School of Engineering and Applied Science, majoring in industrial engineering and operations research.

CHERYL GLICKER MILSTEIN*Barnard 1982*

Glicker Milstein, a Barnard College trustee since 1999, is a recipient of the Frederick A. P. Barnard Award, one of the college's highest honors. She is co-chair for the Committee on Development and Corporate Giving and several other campus committees, including the Leadership Committee for the Columbia Campaign for

Athletics: Achieving Excellence. She is an honorary chair for the Silver Anniversary of the Columbia-Barnard Athletic Consortium. She and her husband established the Cheryl and Philip Milstein Scholarship Fund in 1992. Milstein, a lawyer, graduated *magna cum laude* from Barnard and the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1985. She and her husband, vice chair of the Columbia trustees, have four children: Meredith (CC'09); Josh (CC'10); Toby and Larry.

DONALD C. WAITE III*Business 1966*

Waite, a Harriman Scholar, joined the international management-consulting firm McKinsey & Co. upon graduating. When he retired 36 years later, he was one of three senior partners responsible for management of the firm. Upon retirement, Waite became director of Columbia's Executives in Residence Program, through which senior

executives from a range of industries donate their time to teach, guest lecture and counsel students. He is also an adjunct professor, and in 2007 was recognized as one of two outstanding professors in the Social Enterprise program. At the University level, Waite continues to provide counsel to the Board of Trustees. In 2008 he endowed a professorship in Social Enterprise at the Business School, where he has been a member of the Board of Overseers since 1992.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING

FACULTY**ANDREA BUBULA***Lecturer in the Discipline of International and Public Affairs, School of International and Public Affairs.*

Bubula, who earned his Ph.D. in economics from the University in 2004, teaches the core course Economic Analysis for International Affairs. His expertise is in applied open-economy macroeconomics and finance. His research focuses on the choice of the exchange-rate regime and nominal anchor across countries and over time. He has also examined the determinants of interest-rate differentials in developing countries.

LEWIS COLE*Professor of Professional Practice in Film, School of the Arts.*

Cole received his BA from Columbia in 1968 and served as the chair of the film division from 1995-2000. He is the author of 13 screenplays and four published books. Cole was television critic of *The Nation* from 1992 to 1994, and won a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship for Fiction in the 1980s.

CARL L. HART*Associate Professor of Psychology (in Psychiatry), Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry.*

Hart's research strives to understand complex interactions between drugs of abuse and the neurobiology and environmental factors that mediate human behavior and physiology. This research uses an interdisciplinary approach that draws broadly on both psychology and neuropharmacology to study responses to psychoactive drugs in humans, and to assess the efficacy of potential drug-abuse treatment strategies for substance-dependent individuals.

LETTY MOSS-SALENTIJN*Dr. Edwin S. Robinson Professor of Dentistry (in Anatomy and Cell Biology), College of Dental Medicine.*

Since joining the faculty in 1968, Moss-Salentijn has received a number of teaching awards, and has pioneered several teaching innovations, including the conversion of the traditional microscopy laboratory into an interactive virtual exercise, lecture podcasting, and live video recording of lectures.

GERARD F.R. PARKIN*Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry.*

Parkin has made insightful and creative contributions to areas as diverse as bioinorganic and organometallic chemistry. For example, Parkin has developed models for the active sites of zinc enzymes that provide a deeper understanding of their mechanisms of action, and has provided a molecular explanation for detoxification of organomercury compounds. Hydrodesulfurization and hydrodenitrogenation, processes that are critical for providing clean petroleum fuels, employ molybdenum-based catalysts, and Parkin's studies have also provided insight into these reactions.

GRADUATE STUDENTS**IVY CHEN***Department of Biostatistics***ANNIE FALK***Department of Germanic Languages***ABIGAIL ANNE SCHOLER***Department of Psychology*



Postcards

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of postcard production, 1893 until the Depression.

Susi's book tracks the evolution of the land surrounding 116th Street and Broadway: once bucolic and undeveloped, home to a few odd shanties and a handful of riverside mansions, and anchored by an insane asylum that engaged residents in "farming therapy." Columbia, with its classical architecture, ushered in a period of urban growth.

"What was avant-garde at the time was using Renaissance design, and the University completely transformed the neighborhood," says Andrew Dolkart, professor of historic preservation in the school of architecture and author of *Morningside Heights: A History of Its Architecture and Development*, who counts Susi among his former pupils. "The pictures in Michael's book really show this transformation."

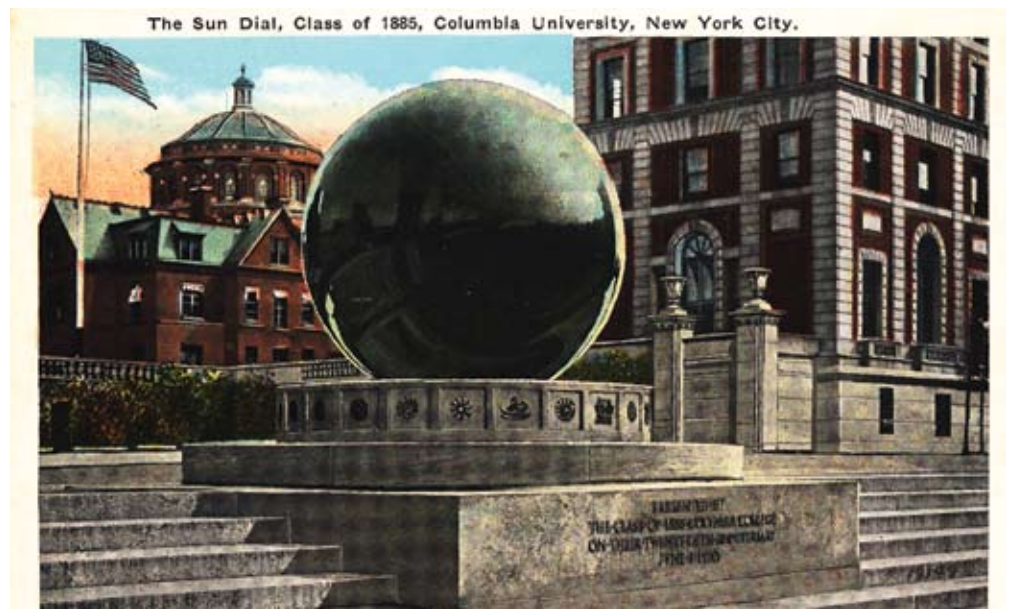
Having logged hundreds of hours in front of reference materials and photo archives, Susi, who's worked for the University for 18 years, has the knowledge, if not the training, of a historian on the topic. "He's one of the most knowledgeable collectors in New York. His captions are full of information," says Robert Stonehill, who, with a collection of 25,000 postcards, is widely considered New York's top collector, and contributed a handful of images to Susi's book.

Before writing each caption, Susi traveled to the present-day site of the postcard, where he observed urban nuances that aren't perceptible to the average eye. At 109th Street and Columbus Avenue, for example, he points to the

"truncated" buildings, erected adjacent to a 90-degree bend of the now-demolished Ninth Avenue elevated railroad line. At more than 100 feet high, the track (which predated the subway's 1904 arrival) was once Manhattan's tallest elevated structure, and often made passengers queasy. "People would hurtle around that dangerous curve," says Susi. "It was like a thrill ride. People would swoon."

A lifelong New Yorker and resident of Upper Manhattan since college, Susi has focused his collection on the neighborhoods between 59th Street and the northern tip of the borough. He built his collection by visiting flea markets, antique shops, postcard shows and, more recently, eBay. A decade ago, postcards were cheap, averaging little more than 50 cents. Now, he says, it's not as easy, with vintage New York postcards averaging \$15 to \$20. He estimates that his collection is worth about \$2,000. His most expensive card, published in 1905 by artist F. Earl Christy and featuring a Columbia football player, cost him \$125.

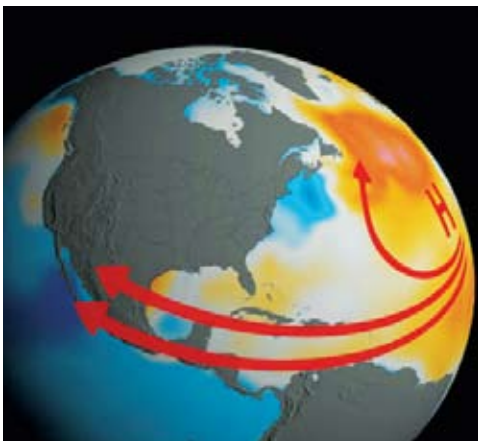
Because of e-mail, Susi fears postcards will soon go the way of the dinosaur, and photographic images of the city's newest buildings won't be preserved. "There's a whole new type of architecture that won't be documented," says Susi, who's currently working on a follow-up book featuring the Upper West Side. During the early 20th century, "every single new building was photographed," he explains. "Now, walk into a downtown shop to buy a postcard, and you're only going to find the same images of the Statue of Liberty, Times Square and Rockefeller Center."



The Sun Dial, which told the time once a day, at noon, was presented to the University in 1914. The granite sphere was removed in 1946 when a crack developed.



The Ninth Avenue elevated line ran along Columbus Avenue, turning east on 110th Street in this sharp "S" curve before resuming its northward run.



Abnormal sea surface temperatures (SST) in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans played a strong role in the 1930s Dust Bowl drought. Scientists used SST data acquired from old ship records to create starting conditions for the computer models. This sequence shows the warmer than normal SST (red-orange) in the Atlantic Ocean and colder than normal SST (blues) in the Pacific, followed by a low level jet stream that shifted and weakened, reducing the normal supply of moisture to the Great Plains.

Climate Study

continued from page 1

effect occurred because dust particles suspended in air reflect solar radiation. Studies by other researchers show that this causes a drop in temperatures at or near the soil surface, lessening evaporation of moisture into the air, and thus decreasing precipitation even further. Dust on the Great Plains, therefore, helped draw the drought northward like a siphon, says Cook. "This is what made the Dust Bowl the Dust Bowl," he says. "It was a process that fed on itself."

Cook points out that many scientists believe hard-pressed farmers and herders in places like China and Africa's Sahel region may be repeating

the history of the U.S., ruining marginal lands in order to have food in the short term.

"This highlights the fact that humans can alter natural events and make them worse," says co-author Richard Seager, a climate modeler at Lamont-Doherty. Seager says scientists studying global climate change predict many subtropical regions will dry in coming years.

"That, in combination with the pressure from rising population and demand for food, could lead to a similar cycle of drought, dust storms and more drought," he warns. "The lesson of the Dust Bowl is there to be learned."



Dust storm approaching Stratford, Texas, 1930s. NOAA Photo Library, Historic NWS collection.

DEGREES OF DIVERSITY

By John H. Tucker

On May 18 in the Low Library rotunda, with ceremonial music playing and her parents in attendance, Columbia College senior Ruthzee Louijeune was scheduled to walk alongside 90 fellow classmates and receive an honorary certificate.

The next day, she planned to don her cap and gown and head to her Columbia College graduation.

She isn't graduating twice. Rather, she is participating in a relatively new phenomenon at universities around the country, where members of the schools' black, Latino, Asian or lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities stage ceremonies during Commencement week, adding their own cultural perspectives to the traditional academic pomp.

Indeed, more universities now hold such events at graduation time. "For many students they are the payoff for staying in school, and friends and families find the smaller, more ethnic ceremonies both meaningful and personal," writes Ronni Sanlo, director of the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Campus Resource Center at UCLA, in a journal article. Sanlo started the first Lavender Graduation at the University of Michigan in 1995.

Here at Columbia, the Black, Latino, Asian and Lavender graduations are annual campus traditions celebrating the identities and ethnicities that add to Columbia's diverse tapestry. "Many of the students feel that these groups have allowed them to be successful at Columbia," says Melinda Aquino, assistant dean of multicultural affairs.

Black Graduation has existed in some form since the 1960s, while the Latino baccalaureate is less than a decade old. When the Office of Multicultural Affairs was formed in 2003, the black, Latino and Asian ceremonies received official University support; Lavender Graduation followed in 2006.

At Black Graduation, Louijeune planned to gather with black classmates from Columbia's three undergraduate schools and Barnard College. Like other graduations, there is a keynote and student speaker, a band and special alumni seating section.

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FACULTY Q&A

TEODOLINDA BAROLINI

POSITION:

Da Ponte Professor of Italian
Acting chair, Italian Department
Director of Graduate Studies

JOINED FACULTY:

1992

HISTORY:

University of California at Berkeley,
1978-1983
New York University, 1983-1992
Former president, Dante Society of America,
1997-2003

Interviewed by Adrienne Blount

Teodolinda Barolini was a ninth grader in Rome when she first came across the words of Dante Alighieri. She didn't know they were from the *Inferno*; she actually was reading T.S. Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, which begins with six unidentified lines in Italian.

"Those verses were mysterious to me, quite haunting," says Barolini, who asked her father, an Italian poet, what they were. "I cannot report that I immediately went to read the *Inferno*," says Barolini, but Dante's masterpiece—the *Divine Comedy*, or *Commedia*, which contains the *Inferno* as well as *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*—proved difficult to ignore.

"I came to Columbia to graduate school, intending to use my Greek and Latin to work with Paul Oskar Kristeller on Renaissance humanism, but I found I couldn't resist the tug of the *Commedia*—all those inexhaustible human stories conjuring abysses of the heart with such verbal economy and narrative cunning, and in such gorgeous language," she says.

And so began Barolini's lifelong love affair with Dante's work. As chair of the University's Italian department, she is one of the foremost experts on the subject and a former president of the Dante Society of America (which was founded by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1881 to further the study of Dante). She has written three books on Dante-esque subjects and edited three others.

Last month she gave the prestigious University Lecture, the semiannual address given by a leading member of the faculty to celebrate his or her academic achievement. Each University Lecture is an in-depth exploration on a topic of the speaker's choice. Barolini's was titled "Dante: Multiplicities of History, Identities of Belief."

"I hope I showed in the University Lecture that Dante was more tolerant and less stereotyping in the negotiation of his [religious] belief than many believers alive now, both in the domain of sexuality and in the domain of those whom his system classified as nonbelievers," she says.



MICHAEL DAVIES

Q. *Seven centuries separate Dante's world from ours, but do you see connections between Dante's 14th-century vision and what it means today?*

A. Absolutely. Dante was a connoisseur of desire, of human longing in all its dimensions, and of the ways by which that longing impels us to act, rightly and wrongly. He was obsessed with justice and with figuring out how to achieve a just society—on Earth, not in Heaven.

Q. *How is his work relevant to the 21st century?*

A. It seems more relevant now than when I started out. When I began my career, I assumed that everyone would see the *Commedia* as a text, an artifact, as I did. I remember my surprise when a student at Berkeley, where I was an assistant professor, insisted that Dante's scientifically uninformed view of human procreation, in which the female provides only the incubator but none of the genetic imprint, was accurate. I was similarly surprised when a student at NYU, where I taught next, argued with the fictitious tortures of Hell from the perspective of Hell's reality and Dante's inaccurate rendering of that reality. In a world where belief turns out to be not at all passé, Dante's struggle with his belief is remarkably relevant. He was not passive; he voiced his doubts and concerns right up to the threshold of the beatific vision. He placed virtuous pagans in Limbo, not a theologically correct view, because he had to find a way of expressing the respect and admiration that he felt for the great poets and philosophers of antiquity, and for Muslim philosophers as well. He imagines, counter to all theology, that their honored fame wins them a special dispensation, which he

figures as a noble castle in a green meadow, and most of all as light—the only light in Hell. He was tormented by the injustice of damning a virtuous person who was excluded through no fault of his own from the knowledge of God—the "man born on the banks of the Indus" of *Paradiso* 19.

Q. *Would Dante need to add new circles of Hell representing today's evils?*

A. Certainly rogue traders, predatory lenders, unethical business people, and lying/hypocritical politicians all existed [in Dante's time]! Only the modalities have changed: the ways we trade, lend, conduct business and politics, but the behaviors certainly all existed.

Q. *What do you hope readers take away from reading Dante's work?*

A. There are many kinds of readers, and even in my classroom there are many different constituencies, from the future professor and professional readers to the amateurs of various stripes and levels of attainment. Over the years, I have been struck by how many write me that Dante has informed their lives and remained in their minds as a kind of touchstone—the former MA student whose subsequent law-school applications contain references to the *Divine Comedy*; the practicing psychologist who wants to use Dante to write about Freud and psychotherapy; the undergraduate who went on to work in the mayor's office and keeps a copy of the *Commedia* handy; and the poet in the MFA program who says that reading Dante helps with her poetry. It pleases me to see the text live on in so many people's lives.

COLUMBIA PEOPLE

Juan "John" Arevalo



MICHAEL COGLIANTRY

WHO HE IS: Head Mechanic, Carpentry Shop/Campus Operations

YEARS AT COLUMBIA: 33

WHAT HE DOES: Arevalo is responsible for scheduling staffing and providing leadership and direction for the entire carpentry crew.

THE ROAD TO COLUMBIA: The beginning of his career at Columbia marked the continuation of a tradition for Arevalo, whose father and brothers also worked at the University. Then 21 years old, the Bronx native served as a temporary laborer until a series of assignments caused former Head Carpenter Bob Henney to recognize his burgeoning talents. "He saw something in me I didn't know I had," says Arevalo, who began his apprenticeship under Henney shortly thereafter.

A GOOD DAY ON THE JOB: Every opportunity to share the benefits of his experience with his crew is valuable to Arevalo, a mindset rarely encountered on the job during his formative years in carpentry. "Back then, people were afraid to teach what they knew only to have their jobs taken from them. [Henney's] attitude was: 'If I teach you

what I know, you'll be able to help me.'"

MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE: Among the many University projects he's enjoyed over the years, Arevalo particularly remembers a community outreach initiative that invited local tradesmen to showcase their talents, make professional contacts and explore future career opportunities. Arevalo credits such projects with the development of an increasingly diverse working environment at Columbia.

BEST PART OF THE JOB: "The people you get to meet." Especially rewarding to Arevalo is the opportunity to connect with University students, faculty and staff members—the added personal touch that he finds a refreshing change from simply "seeing the job on paper."

IN HIS SPARE TIME: Arevalo enjoys spending time with his daughter and participating in physical activities such as scuba diving, an interest he acquired through a course offered at Columbia.

—Michelle A. Failing



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A YEAR OF BIG NAMES ON CAMPUS

1. Former Secretary of State **HENRY KISSINGER** speaks to the Journalism School's National Affairs Reporting Class.
2. **SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR**, the retired Supreme Court justice, lectures at the Law School on "Balancing Security, Democracy and Civil Rights in an Age of Terrorism."
3. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts presides at the moot court competition at Columbia Law School.
4. Former German Chancellor **GERHARD SCHRÖDER** spoke at Columbia last fall about European energy security and Russia.
5. Iranian President **MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD**.
6. Malawi President **BINGU WA MUTHARIKA** spoke at last fall's World Leaders Forum.
7. **MICHELLE BACHELET**, president of Chile.
8. The leader of the interim government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, **FAKHRUDDIN AHMED**, also spoke at the World Leaders Forum.
9. Oscar-winning actress and author **JULIE ANDREWS** reads from her children's book at the Great Read, held on Columbia's campus last fall.
10. **STEVE KROFT** (J'75) of CBS's *60 Minutes*, was the host of the Journalism School's annual alumni dinner in April.
11. New York City Police Commissioner **RAY KELLY** reads to children at the Great Read.
12. **GURBANGULY MALIKGULYEVICH BERDYMUKHAMMEDOV**, president of Turkmenistan.
13. *Today* show anchor **ANN CURRY** spoke at the Journalism School about covering Darfur.
14. Cardinal **JOHN P. FOLEY** (J'66), who accompanied Pope Benedict XVI on his trip to the United States in April, speaks at the Journalism School.
15. **ERICA JONG** (BC'63, GSAS'65), author, poet and novelist, speaks in November at a Friends of Columbia Libraries event. She recently donated many of her papers to Columbia University's Rare Book & Manuscript Collection.
16. Author **PHILIP ROTH** thanks the audience who attended a symposium on his work (and wished him a happy 75th birthday) at Miller Theatre in April.

Degrees

continued from page 6

"The ceremony provides graduates an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishment of obtaining a Columbia degree with people who have shared a unique experience," says David Johns (CC'04, TC'06), this year's keynote speaker for Black Graduation.

Across the campus at Lerner Hall, some 60 students were scheduled to participate in Latino Graduation on May 17. Because some audience members don't speak English, certain speeches were also to be delivered in Spanish. Each student and parents have an opportunity to say a few words, and the post-ceremony reception takes place to a Latin beat.

For keynote speaker Roosevelt Montas, an English professor at Columbia and Columbia College alumnus, the event reflects a substantial demographic transformation. There was a minimal Latino presence on campus when he graduated in the early '90s. Now, he says, "this is an institution that has welcomed a new wave of young Latin students that have become a part of Columbia's elite."

For Lavender Graduation, also on May 17, 20 graduates marched down a purple carpet and receive a ceremonial rainbow tassel. "The LGBT students are incredibly blessed to enjoy such a wonderfully affirming environment that Columbia provides," says Ann Kansfield (CC'98), this year's keynote speaker and co-pastor at Greenpoint Reformed Church in Brooklyn.

The Asian reception, honoring about 125 students, was held May 6 at Union Theological College, where students were welcomed as Columbia alumni by representatives of the Asian Columbia Alumni Association (ACAA).

"We're conscious of making sure the bridges between different Asian communities offer not just support, but real connection, and we want to allow students to develop these connections through ACAA," says Aquino.



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

Hint: Yes, of course it's a clock. But where is it? Look up in the right place, and "it shall teach thee." Send answers to curecord@columbia.edu. First to e-mail the right answer wins a Record mug.

ANSWER TO LAST CHALLENGE: One of the statuettes on the bronze lamp at the left of the entrance to Saint Paul's Chapel on Morningside campus.

Winner: Maxine Paul, student at Columbia College.

Logistics

continued from page 1

accompanying celebrations at all the schools affiliated with the University.

That means some 150 ceremonies and receptions are taking place on campus during Commencement week, says Ann-Linda Pugliese, manager of events administration for the facilities department. Between May 18 and 21, the most intense period for events, Columbia Catering will have prepared food for 15,640 guests at on-campus breakfasts, lunches, snacks, receptions and dinners.

So tents go up. Tents come down. Audio/visual equipment is installed, uninstalled, moved.

On Commencement day, the logistics team squeezes as many guests as possible in the outdoor space between Low and Butler libraries; covering virtually every flat space with a chair. And if it rains, Commencement must proceed in its scheduled outdoor spot, sopping-wet robes and all. Speeches and citations are shortened to speed up the process. Still, says Keane, "it's a sea of 40,000 umbrellas."

Each graduate is limited to four Commencement tickets, a rule that doesn't win Nancy Kelly any popularity contests. "I get calls every day from people who want more tickets," says the Commencement coordinator. "I have to say no."

A trend in recent years has been to use South Lawn as an event venue. So after several years at Madison Square Garden, the business school will hold its graduation on campus this year. And because of construction on its own campus across Broadway, Barnard College will hold its graduation in a tent on South Lawn.

And shortly after the last attendees at Barnard's event leave, the tents must be removed to make room for Wednesday's Commencement. After that, the tents go back up again for the law school's graduation on Friday.

Then it's all over—until next year.