

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

FOUNDED 1877 • INDEPENDENT SINCE 1962

VOL. CXXXIII—NO. 38

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

WWW.COLUMBIASPECTATOR.COM

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How do you feel about housing?

Look inside to find out what students think about housing choices at Columbia. Also check out a brochure for details and lottery cutoffs on each dormitory.



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Making the band: Columbia style

"Want to jam?" This question has brought Columbia musicians together to form bands on campus that are the products of both networking and serendipity.

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What does a degree mean in the art world?

CU alumni turned curators debate about whether a specialized education is necessary for a profession in gallery or museum work or if such work requires skills that can't be taught.

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Baby boom

Columbian MaryAlice Parks calls on everyday people to pick up the slack to compensate for the government's mediocre response to a record number of births in the nation.



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Four Lions capture end-of-season awards

Following the end of the 2009 Ivy basketball season, the Lions saw a number of its men's and women's stars collect League honors, including Defensive Player of the Year.



Sports, page 8

Fencing places fourth at NCAA championships

Despite being undermanned and fielding only 11 out of 12 possible competitors, the fencing team finished strongly at the national championships this weekend at Penn State.

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Linda Carrion / Senior Staff Photographer

ESC WINNERS | Gunnar Aasen, SEAS '10, and Whitney Green, SEAS '10, were among the victors in the Engineering Student Council election.

Whitney Green, SEAS '10, named ESC president

BY ELIZABETH SCOTT
Spectator Staff Writer

Whitney Green, SEAS '10 and Engineering Student Council secretary, won the race for ESC president on Monday evening.

Lerner's Satow Room was filled with suspense as internal elections for the ESC Executive Board ran into the wee hours of Tuesday morning, naming next year's president, vice president of intergroup, vice president of policy, vice president of student life, and secretary.

Each candidate was given five minutes to speak, the order being drawn before the speeches to ensure fairness. Each received three questions from council members and an audience, and then the council closed its doors to the public for an internal election. The process will be completely open next year.

During her candidate platform speech, Green spoke of her devotion to ESC.

"ESC is not just another activity to me," she said. "This is my heart."

Aside from Green, the victors were Gunnar Aasen, SEAS '10 and ESC '10 class representative for vice president of intergroup; Kelly Chen, SEAS '10 and class representative for vice president of policy; Chris Elizondo, SEAS '11 and ESC vice president for vice president of student life; and Heidi Ahmed, SEAS '11—the only winner not already on ESC—for secretary.

Aasen won the position of vice president of intergroup against opponents Kimberly Lipman-White, SEAS '11 and current Columbia College Student Council liaison, and Varun

Gulati, SEAS '11. Aasen's platform included the making of the intergroup communications process "more intuitive and more streamlined."

Chen, now vice president of policy, beat Emma Lebwohl, SEAS '11 and student services representative; Albert Miller, SEAS '11 and class representative; and Eric Hirani, SEAS '11 and alumni affairs and Center for Career Education representative. Sam Braiman, SEAS '11, dropped out of the race during the process. Chen's plans include erecting billboards outside Mudd and revamping the Carlton lounge. She also wants to further publicize ESC initiatives.

Elizondo—who won after the longest deliberation and one of the closest races—became the new vice president of student life, edging out Joffie Andrade, SEAS '10 and 2010 vice president. Elizondo's platform included hosting a free dinner to entice students to distribute flyers for ESC events, an event workshop for first-year council members in becoming acquainted with event planning, and a SEAS formal—all part of his effort to get "council members involved in initiatives and events."

The final race of the night went to Ahmed—not currently on the council—who beat current Graduate Student Committee liaison Espita Hoque, SEAS '11, and Jennifer Vettel, SEAS '11. Ahmed, who has worked on the 2011 class council for the past two years, said that she wanted to move from class council to a council with wider representation. She also wants to work with the other engineering groups in the school in order to hear "a voice from everywhere."

news@columbiaspectator.com

Defining 'global university'

BY SCOTT LEVI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia's full name—"Columbia University in the City of New York"—signifies the University's pride in the global importance of its urban home. But even this title may soon sell the University short.

With the launch of its first two global centers in Beijing, China and Amman, Jordan on Friday and Sunday, respectively, Columbia began to radically intensify its international presence. The new locations are called "Columbia Global Centers" and will function primarily as research offices as opposed to the satellite campuses some peer institutions are opening. The centers are part of a plan supported by University President Lee Bollinger, who in his 2002 inaugural speech, expressed his desire to make Columbia a "global university." While University alumni inhabit

six continents and several Columbia programs already run academic exchanges and service missions in other countries, the global centers represent a more concrete—and centralized—step towards the fruition of this vision.

Building the "Global University"

In an interview with *Spectator* in February, Bollinger said that these low-budget offices will conduct research that aims to "expand our global understanding and to make a contribution to the world but to do it in a way that's not local or regional, but linked globally." Since Bollinger's arrival, Columbia has sought to follow its peer schools, striving to find its niche in the growing internationalization of higher education.

Yet while cited ubiquitously in University-wide speeches and classrooms, the "global university"

CC enrollment to grow by 50 Harmony Hall now open to undergrads

BY JOY RESMOVITS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia College Class of 2013 will increase by 50 students, in what Kevin Shollenberger, dean of student affairs and associate vice president for undergraduate life, called an effort to "address our budgetary concerns."

To provide housing for the additional students, some graduate school housing in Harmony Hall on 110th Street between Amsterdam and Broadway will be made available for CC/SEAS students participating in General Selection for housing this year.

On Monday night, on the eve of the release of housing lottery numbers to CC/SEAS students, Shollenberger sent students the e-mail announcing the changes.

"College enrollment will be increased only to the level our residential facilities can reasonably support, and we have done extensive planning to ensure that," Shollenberger wrote. "The next first-year class will include 50 more students along with some additional transfer students."

To ease the strain that the larger class will impose on an already cramped campus, "25 sophomore beds in Furnald will be converted to first-year beds, and an additional residence hall will be included in the undergraduate housing inventory for all CC/SEAS students," he wrote.

The changes are coming as the University contemplates how to maintain academic quality

while coping with endowment losses, a priority that University President Lee Bollinger has repeatedly emphasized. In a late January e-mail sent to students, Bollinger revealed that the University's portfolio had declined 15 percent over the six-month period ending Dec. 31, 2008. To address a tightening budget, Bollinger asked each "budget unit"—such as schools, centers, or offices—to plan for an eight percent decrease in the amount of revenue they receive from the endowment fund for the next fiscal year.

"Let there be no doubt, we still have to face hard choices in the months ahead," he wrote, adding later, "Hopefully, by accepting and planning for this new reality, we will be in a position to move forward in strength." In a subsequent interview, Provost Alan Brinkley gave further details on the measures under consideration, saying that they could include targeted hiring reductions and the delay of Sakai, the successor Web site to CourseWorks. Brinkley said the cutbacks would not cause "irrevocable damage."

Although relatively small, the admissions increase may

represent the University's next "hard choice." Administrators were unavailable to speak last night after the reception of the e-mail, and Shollenberger's notice left several issues unclear. The e-mail implied that the College is increasing enrollment to raise revenue but did not explain if it could do so while maintaining its commitment to need-blind admissions.

"Columbia is not exempt from the financial challenges current times present, and the University has spent the past several months examining ways to preserve our institutional values while addressing our own budget shortfalls," Shollenberger wrote. "It is with respect for these values and an awareness of our economic realities that Vice President [for Arts and Sciences] Nicholas Dirks has adopted a number of measures to address our budgetary concerns including increasing enrollment for Columbia College." It is also unknown if or by how much Columbia will raise tuition for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Though the most immediate limiting factor for enrollment

SEE HARMONY, page 2



Angela Radulescu / Senior Staff Photographer

HARMONY HALL | This dormitory, located on 110th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam, now houses graduate students but will be available in General Selection this year due to an impending enrollment increase.

GALLOWAY ON GAZA



Linda Carrion / Senior Staff Photographer

ISO EVENT | George Galloway, a member of the British Parliament, spoke out against Israeli action in the Gaza Strip.

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WEATHER

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EVENTS — MARCH 24

Lecture on Egyptian Archeology
A panel of archaeologists will describe the historical implications of a variety of finds made during excavation of the Egyptian city of Amheida.

Schapiro Center, 11 a.m.
Davis Auditorium

Human Rights in Burma
In a Brown Bag Roundtable, Burma experts will discuss the international campaign waged by Western governments and NGOs against the abuses of Burma’s military junta.

918 IAB, 12 noon

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Learning and study require an open mind and I am all for deeper and better mutual understanding through more interactions, not less.

—Xiaobo Lü

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York City, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555
Editorial Fax (212) 854-9611
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

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ELLIOT

49 Claremont Ave.

A mix of suite-style and corridor-style housing consisting of single and double rooms of varying size and is traditionally occupied by sophomores. Features nice common kitchens, wireless Internet, and music practice rooms.

- Houses 96 students in singles and doubles in 12-person suites.



47 CLAREMONT

47 Claremont Ave.

Houses a mix of all years with sophomores and juniors picking into the seven-person suites and seniors picking the smaller ones. Last Year's Cutoffs:
Three-person suites (6): 20/2686
Four-person suites (6): 22.5/1895
Five-person suite (1): 10/2230
Seven-person suites (10): 10/1224



HEWITT

Broadway and W. 116th St.

Houses mostly sophomores seeking to stay close to campus while escaping the doubles, triples, and quad rooms of the other halls in the Barnard Quad. A meal plan is required.

- Houses 215 students in singles.



SULZ. TOWER

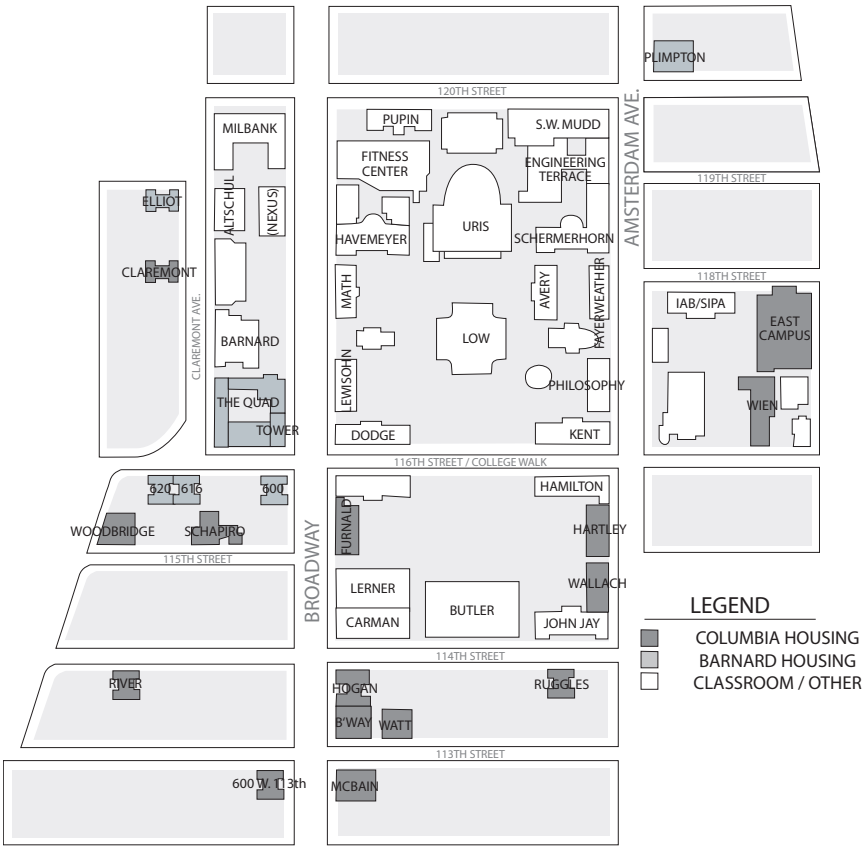
49 Claremont Avenue

Air-conditioned, spacious rooms and views of the Hudson River pamper seniors who choose this high-rise portion of the Quad. Wireless Internet available on some floors. The closeness to classes is a plus.

- Houses 124 students in singles and doubles in a corridor-style layout.



SPECTATOR'S 2009 GUIDE TO HOUSING



PLIMPTON

1235 Amsterdam Ave.

Features highly coveted all-single suites that go to seniors and luckier juniors and sophomores. Plimpton is described as a quiet dorm. The longer walk to the Barnard campus may be a detractor from the otherwise desirable location near Amsterdam businesses.

- Houses 280 students in singles arranged in five-person suites.



EAST CAMPUS

70 Morningside Dr.

This 20-story complex houses juniors and seniors in a smattering of housing arrangements. Sophomores have a shot at the Exclusion Suites. Last Year's Cutoffs:
Five-single highrise suites (7): 30/1543
Six-single highrise suites (7): 30/1462
Exclusion Suites (56): 23.3/1236
Two-person flats (35): 30/2285
Sixth-floor doubles (8): 18/2892
Townhouse—four singles (10): 30/1347
Townhouse—four singles/one double (12): 30/1771
Townhouse—six singles (28): 30/2186

WOODBIDGE

431 Riverside Dr.

Juniors and seniors pick into the studio doubles of Woodbridge. Each room comes with air conditioning, a kitchen, and a bathroom. Last Year's Cutoffs:
High demand—H/K/C lines (21): 30/2994
Medium demand (40): 20/2901
Low demand—G/D/I lines (20): 20/1936



THE 600'S

600, 616, and 620 W. 116 St.

Singles and doubles arranged in suite-style layouts for upperclassmen. Noise may be a concern with non-students living in neighboring apartments.

- Houses 562 students in singles and doubles.



FURNALD

2960 Broadway on South Lawn

With the elimination of 25 rooms available to rising sophomores, this haven for students looking for singles will require even more luck to get into this year. Rooms are singles and doubles in corridors. Last Year's Cutoffs:
Doubles (7): 10/2777
Singles (109): 10/884



HARTLEY/WALLACH

1116 to 1124 Amsterdam Ave.

Is the home to the Living Learning Center and is not open as part of Suite Selection and General Selection. Hartley's two-level suites are particularly desirable. Each suite boasts a large common area and kitchens. Drawbacks include the lack of control over suitemates and LLC rules against alcohol. LLC applications were due in December.



WIEN

411 W. 116th St.

Renovations this summer will install two additional bathrooms to each floor. Wien houses sophomores in singles and doubles. Last Year's Cutoffs:
Big walk-through doubles (8): 10/2390
Doubles (6): 10/1800
Singles (297): 10/2942
Walk-through doubles (22): 10/2738



RIVER

628 W. 114th St.

The singles—many of which have views of the Harlem River—generally go to seniors, who live in suites with shared bathrooms and kitchens. Last Year's Cutoffs:
Walk-through double (1): 20/2367
Singles (97): 11.25/36
Big singles (30): 30/2376



HOGAN

566 W. 114th St.

Seniors reign in the highly sought-after Hogan, which offers proximity to campus and Broadway combined with spacious suites composed of singles. Each suite comes with a kitchen. Last Year's Cutoffs:
Four-person suites (16): 30/1235
Five-person suites (10): 30/1929



BROADWAY

2900 Broadway Ave.

Rooms are mostly singles housing juniors and seniors with a few doubles on each floor at the corners of hallways that house sophomores. Last Year's Cutoffs:
Big doubles (13): 10/2134
Exterior singles (136): 20/775
Interior singles (164): 20/788
Small doubles (23): 10/2959



WATT

549 W. 113th St.

A very popular building comprised of apartments and studios with their own kitchens and bathrooms. Rooms lack AC, though. Last Year's Cutoffs:
One-bedroom apartments (12): 20/513
Two-bedroom apartments (11): 30/462
Studio singles (28): 30/264
Studio doubles (17): 10/731



RUGGLES

508 W. 114th St.

With renovations that occurred in the past two years, this dorm is now in high demand. Ruggles houses juniors and seniors in suites. Last Year's Cutoffs:
Four-person suites (16): 30/1449
Eight-person (two singles) (12): 15/1575
Eight-person (four singles) (2): 20/2219



600 W. 113TH ST.

600 W. 113th St.

Affectionally called Nussbaum by most residents, this dorm houses sophomores in the doubles and seniors in the large singles arranged in suites. Each suite comes with a kitchen. Last Year's Cutoffs:
Doubles (45): 10/2970
Singles (47): 18/1879
Walk-through doubles (9): 10/1043



MCBAIN

562 W. 113th St.

Features both spacious doubles for lucky sophomores and small doubles on the infamous "shaft" for the lottery's bottom-feeders. Singles go primarily to juniors. Last Year's Cutoffs:
Walk-through doubles (14): 20/1588
Doubles (128): 10/2946
Singles (53): 20/2651



601 W. 110TH ST

601 W. 110th St. (not on map)

Also known as College Residence, this dorm houses mostly sophomores. Some seniors live in the sought-after studio singles. Rooms are arranged in suites with shared bathrooms and kitchens. Noise is a concern with its location next to Broadway.

- Houses 164 students in singles, doubles, and triples in two-to-nine-person suites.

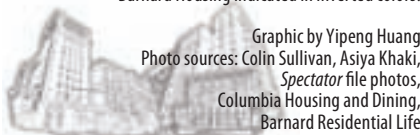


HARMONY HALL

544 W. 110th St. (not on map)

Newly introduced to General Selection this year, Harmony Hall has yet to see undergraduate occupation, and its composition will become clear as the drama of housing selection unfolds. See graphic below for information about its layout.

Barnard Housing indicated in inverted colors.



CATHEDRAL GDNS.

217 Manhattan Ave. (not on map)

While its distance from campus is the defining characteristic of this latest addition to Barnard housing, Cathedral Gardens is impressively luxurious. Each suite has hardwood floors and a dishwasher. Houses mostly juniors and seniors.

- Houses 91 students in singles and doubles in four-, five-, or six-person suites.



Harmony Hall will house its first undergraduates

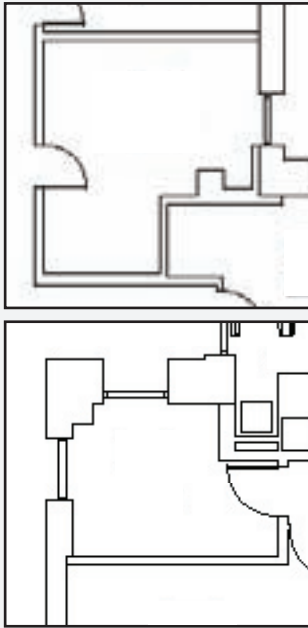
HARMONY HALL from front page

increases is space, several other changes will be required—50 extra students would prompt the creation of two to three more sections of certain Core classes such as Literature Humanities. Additional Resident Advisors would also be required to supervise the new dormitory.

Shollenberger noted that “the addition of Harmony’s eight floors offers 72 single and six double rooms.” But it is unclear where the law and statistics students who currently live there will be placed.

Harmony Hall is located at 544 W. 110th St. near a synagogue and The School of Columbia, and it opens into a lobby containing chairs and a table. The building has one old-style elevator and wooden floors. Inhabitants have described it as “livable” with tiny singles and shared bathrooms.

Joy Resmovits can be reached at joy.resmovits@columbiaspectator.com.



Courtesy of Columbia Housing and Dining / Graphic by Ben Cotton

VARIETY REIGNS

Top, Room 405, the largest available single in Harmony Hall, and one of 20 running at least 120 square feet. Bottom, Room 511, the smallest single in the building, and one of 31 running under 100 square feet.



Angela Radulescu / Senior Staff Photographer

HARMONY KITCHEN | Each of Harmony Hall’s eight floors will be served by a kitchen such as this one. Some of the equipment on display to visitors was in poor repair, including a microwave oven strengthened with tape.

HARMONY HALL

Floors.....	8
Occupancy.....	90
Singles.....	76
Doubles.....	7
RA Rooms.....	2

Smoking.....	No
Air Conditioning.....	No
Laundry.....	Yes
Bike Storage.....	Yes
Carpeted Bedrooms.....	Yes

Flat-screen TVs.....	Each lounge
Wireless in Lounge.....	No
Bathrooms.....	Two per floor
Kitchen.....	One per floor
Printing.....	Yes

ART

Columbians in the art world: on-the-job training or ivory tower?

This article is the first in a two-part series discussing Columbia alumni and affiliates in the art world. The final installment will run on April 6.

BY DIANA GREENWALD
Spectator Staff Writer

“The art world” is somewhat of an abstract phrase. It evokes a vision of downtown artists surrounded by their trendy entourages. Jonathan Neil—a doctoral candidate in art history in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) and co-founder of the private curatorial firm Boyd Level—noted quite correctly that the art world is “sexy and romantic from the outside.” However, he was eager to discuss the complicated world lying behind the alluring image.

The art world hosts an entire cast of characters beyond the artists—from antiquities curators to contemporary art critics—who are responsible for bringing art from an artist’s studio to public view. Numerous current and former Columbians have taken on these jobs and this mission, and they have ultimately fared quite well in this rather glamorous professional quest.

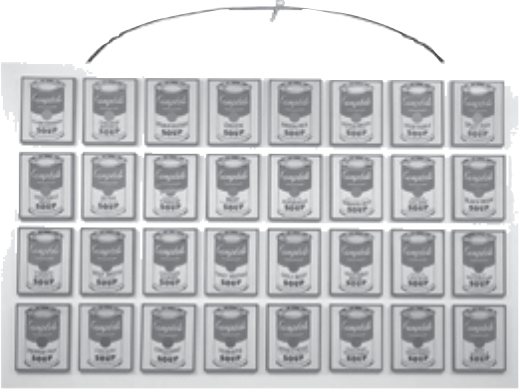
CU alumni and affiliates are curators at numerous high profile art institutions—from New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art to Los Angeles’s Getty Museum. In particular, Columbia graduates and faculty hold an impressive number of prominent positions at New York City’s Museum of Modern Art: Barry Bergdoll, professor of 19th- and 20th-century architectural history, is the chief curator of architecture and design. His colleagues at MoMA include Leah Dickerman GSAS ’97, a curator of painting and sculpture, and Peter Galassi GSAS ’86, the director of photography.

Others, like Neil, operate in the contemporary art market as private curators, dealers, or gallery owners. Reflecting this variety of occupations, there exists a wide range of opinions and anecdotes from alumni about the relationship between a Columbia education and jobs in the art world.

However, for all the undergraduates who, due to the recent economic situation, have recently decided that staying in school for the next few years is a good idea, it may be useful to ask: do years of a specialized education in the humanities provide skills that are ultimately helpful and necessary in pursuing a career in the fine arts, specifically for curating or gallery work?

Kim Benzel, a GSAS Ph.D. candidate in art history and an associate curator of ancient Near Eastern art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, had an immediate answer to this question—absolutely. “You can’t do the job [of a curator] without the academic underpinnings of graduate work ... Museum work is not like interior decorating,” she said.

While the primary role of a curator is to keep art safe and secure, another important part of the job is conducting research and publishing scholarly works, according to Benzel. Without a strong graduate education, one cannot fulfill this aspect of curatorial work.



Courtesy of MoMA / Photo Illustration by Betsy Feldman

Those who work outside of academia and museums have different views on extensive higher education. Neil believes that his study at Columbia has been useful for placing today’s works in context and giving him “a deeper understanding” of the tradition in which an artist is working. However, Neil noted that “graduate studies [in fact] maintain a certain distance from the contemporary art scene.”

Esther Kim, a second-year art history Ph.D. student and former co-owner of a New York contemporary art gallery, agreed with Neil. She highlighted reluctance among academics to “acknowledge the art market beyond the scope of academia” even though this market has brought works to the public and allows them to be studied.

The testimonies provided by Kim and Neil are indicative of an observation made by many Columbia-affiliated curators—that there are palpable differences and distances between studying art history at a university and working with art in museums or galleries not associated with the ivory tower. Those who have gone beyond College Walk to work in the art world feel profound connections with the public and, in certain cases, the future of art itself.

Kim said that while running a gallery, she interacted with people who were “interested in changing the course of art itself.” She went on to describe this attitude as almost diametrically opposed to academic approaches to art, which often focus on the historical at the expense of the contemporary.

Though this kind of criticism of academia—that it is out of touch with the real world—was articulated in almost every interview, there was also a general consensus that studying art history in a formal academic environment like Columbia is an important and central step towards any number of the highly sought-after occupations in the art world.

FOOD & DRINK

Michael Pollan reconciles nature and culture with food reform

BY DEVIN BRISKI
Spectator Staff Writer

John Jay Dining Hall may have seen the salad lines dwindle Monday night as health-conscious students crowded into Low Library to see America’s food sweetheart Michael Pollan.

Pollan spoke at a sold-out event sponsored by the American Studies department at 6 p.m. on Monday, discussing the path that led him to become the leader of a growing food reform movement. A graduate of Columbia’s masters program in English, Pollan discussed how Columbia influenced his future work, stating, “One of the wealth springs of my work is in that building [Philosophy Hall].”

He also described the profound influence that American transcendentalists Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau had on him—he even wrote one of his two masters theses on Thoreau’s landmark work, *Walden*.

What brought Pollan from the preponderance of nature to food, he explained, is what he perceived as gaps in the environmental movement—its neglect of the intersection of nature and culture. “It’s either virgin land, or it’s raped. We don’t have a term for marriage,” he said, describing what he considers the problematic environmental movement.

Sarah Phillips, an assistant professor of history who teaches the course titled Food and American Life,

SEE POLLAN, page 6

FILM

Director Tony Gilroy ramps up the star power in new film *Duplicity*

BY PETER LABUZA
Spectator Staff Writer

“Some writers base their entire career around these ecosystems,” Tony Gilroy, writer and director of the Oscar-winning film *Michael Clayton* and the new film *Duplicity* explained. “And here it’s like a feudal kingdom—there’s a leader, court, knights, serfs, but no moats.”

Gilroy was referencing neither the rainforest nor medieval England but rather the world of corporations. Gilroy sat down at the Apple Store in SoHo earlier this week with star Clive Owen for a public Q&A session to discuss his obsession with big corporations and spies.

Duplicity stars Owen and Julia Roberts as two former operatives (he’s ex-MI6, she’s ex-CIA) as two spies who meet by chance and fall in love. As they plan a heist of the two private corporations they are working for, they deal with the ultimate question—how can they fall in love when their lives are built around lying?

It was this question that drove Gilroy to write his original draft. “I wrote the script about six or seven years ago when Steven Soderbergh brought me an idea of spies in love.” The idea evolved when Gilroy became interested in the world of corporate espionage, or, as he explained, the politically correct term “competitive intelligence.” “I’ve written a number of different spy movies around intelligence research, and I’d talk to many of my sources, and they’d say ‘I’m going private.’ And I was shocked about how huge of a business it is.”

Duplicity exhibited a very different take on corporations than *Michael Clayton* did. “On *Michael Clayton*, the whole thing was to be uncomfortable—to make George [Clooney] uncomfortable. It was awful, cold, bleak, and dark. This was very different—a lot lighter, faster, and much more vanity.”

It helped that Gilroy’s script, according to Owen, was impeccable from start to finish. Owen explained that when Gilroy sent the script, he simply had to do the film. “When I got the script, it was one of the best I had ever read. It had dialogue to die for. I finished the last page and I immediately grabbed the phone.” But putting two big movie stars together is always a gamble. “No director knows how any two people will be in front of the camera. Three weeks in we were shooting this big, long scene in the hotel, and it really shows the colors of the relationship,” he said.

In terms of what an extremely fast-paced and absurdly fun film really means, Owen tried to explain the film in terms of his character. “In the beginning of the film, he thinks he’s the best,” Owen commented. “But then he meets her and he meets his match, so a lot is simply coming to terms with that.” Gilroy gave a much more unique answer. “In many ways, this is like a Cold War thriller except across Park Avenue instead of an ocean. If you take away the humor and the tone, they are quite similar. I would like to know what John le Carré thought of this movie.”



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

DOUBLE TROUBLE | *Duplicity* is a fast-paced spy movie that features Clive Owen and Julia Roberts as two ex-spies who fall in love while planning heists for two potentially rival corporations.



File Photo

ROCK ALL NIGHT | Despite preconceptions that busy Columbians don’t have the time to pursue passions outside of schoolwork, student bands, such as Earl Jam, above, are becoming increasingly common.

MUSIC

Columbia musicians band together to form informal musical groups

BY HANNAH KAHNG
Columbia Daily Spectator

Most people assume that the creation of a college band is as simple as the nonchalant suggestion to a friend, “Let’s jam.” But considering how many Craigslist ads call for musicians (for example: “Bassist wanted for original hard rock power pop band ... no drugs”), it seems a bit romantic to believe that people—especially goal-oriented Columbians—would opt to form bands in such a casual fashion.

Even so, for the past couple years, scarcely a single “Drummers Wanted” flyer has been hung on the bulletin in Hamilton Hall. It seems that, in reality, most Columbia bands are a product of chance and connections—students living on the same floor fool around with instruments together or some friend of a friend just happens to want to jam.

The serendipitous formation of the band Raul, composed of five Columbia students, serves as a perfect example of how regular Columbia college life can lead to a musical union. Jacob Brunner and Justin Goncalves, both CC ’09, met in their first year year when they lived on the same floor. Goncalves then befriended Sam Rosenthal, CC ’09, while interviewing him about his *Men in Black* concept album band, The Tycho Treaty, and the three formed Pink Drink, which eventually disbanded.

While hosting a series of wild soirees their junior year, Brunner and Goncalves got to know Alex Silva and Parker Fishel, both CC ’10. The five began to play music and christened themselves Wizards of the Coast, an earlier version of the current Raul.

But Columbians can also form bands through chance encounters in the wider city. Jerome Ellis, CC ’11, a member of the experimental band Friends, was approached by the owner of a jazz club while playing the saxophone. The club owner later asked him if he wanted to play with his wife, a free jazz pianist. Last year, the two performed at various jazz clubs around town.

However, the difficulties involved with forming a band at Columbia extend beyond effortlessly finding friends who may want to jam in the future. While acoustic bands such as The Kitchen Cabinet have an easier time finding practice space—they practice in Ruggles and are often offered venues in which to perform by groups such as Postcrypt and the Potluck House—the task is much more difficult for others.

For many campus bands, resourcefulness is key for finding practice space. “One time we practiced in the laundry room, and it was really rough,” Mike McKeever, CC ’11, of the band Life Sized Maps said. But as a band that began as an informal assembly of various musicians improvising in front of Low Library, Life Sized Maps is somewhat familiar with the upsides of practicing in odd spaces. “Sometimes we practiced in the lounge area [of Carman],” Dan Burdman, CC ’11, said. “It’s cool because people walking by were stopping and listening.”

It doesn’t help that Columbia doesn’t offer practice space for bands unaffiliated with campus clubs or the music department. “Because only one of us is a music major, we aren’t technically allowed to use the rooms that could accommodate us,” Brunner said. “There are other places that would accommodate us, but we would get kicked out because we’re loud.”

Orchestrating practice becomes infinitely more difficult for those attempting to keep high school bands alive. Trevor Vaz, CC ’11, of Movement has been sending music clips back and forth to his guitarist, who attends Vassar. (Another challenge facing Movement is that their current bassist plays in another band, the Postelles, which is signed to a major label.)

In his search for a replacement bassist, Vaz has been sifting through friends and friends of friends. “It’s hard to meet random people and be creative with them immediately,” he said. “We’re trying to find people we like first and foremost.”

As Ellis put it, in order to make good music with someone, “there have to be connections on all kinds of levels.”

BC admins, profs attend nat’l forum

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Staff Writer

While students returned to their families during spring break, a team of Barnard faculty and administrators trekked to Philadelphia, Pa. and participated in the Global Learning Forum to share strategies concerning the incorporation of global learning into higher education.

The trip aligned with Barnard’s recent slew of initiatives to further connect with the world outside its gates. These plans came to the fore last spring when Hilary Link took on the newly created position of assistant provost and dean for international programs and when Gretchen Young was appointed dean for study abroad in Link’s place. For her part, Barnard President Debora Spar—who is now in China for the opening of Columbia’s office in Beijing and to connect with alumni and prospective students—stressed in her inauguration speech that she prioritized internationalization.

Representing Barnard were Link, Stephanie Pfirman (interim

associate dean for grant support and interdisciplinary initiatives), Guobin Yang (associate professor in the department of Asian and Middle Eastern cultures) and Peter Connor (chair of the department of French at Barnard College).

One issue that posed some difficulties was the question of how global citizenship should be defined. “People raised issue about what we mean by global citizenship—who are the global citizens?” Connor said. “We have to understand that there are issues of inequality of gender and class and region and so on and how to incorporate these issues into understanding global citizenship.”

But Yang was struck by the lack of discussion about the role of foreign languages in higher education.

“The discussion about foreign language teaching was really quite missing from the forum,” he said. “Foreign language is supposed to be very important in this process, but there was very little discussion about foreign language learning and

translation.” Connor agreed, stating “My concern was that globalization is taking place in English ... That’s a matter of concern to those of us who feel that monolingualism is a limitation and a potential problem to global learning.”

Overall, the team was pleased that institutions nationwide were concerned with the issues commonly discussed among Barnard administrators. Link said that meeting with representatives from other institutions opened the representatives’ eyes to other concrete ways of approaching global learning and “how different institutions are grappling with the idea of ‘how do we prepare our students to be global citizens?’”

According to Connor, the ultimate goal is to ensure that students are prepared for the real world. “We’re all trying to work together to equip students in a world that is very different from the world we came out of. We need to do a lot of catch-up, a lot of reading, a lot of thinking.”

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Man flashes Barnard student in Riverside

A Barnard College student was a victim of public lewdness in Riverside Park on Sunday afternoon.

The student was walking in the park at approximately 1:55 p.m. when a man approached her and exposed himself.

Barnard Public Safety has released an alert regarding the incident and advises students to be aware of their surroundings at all times but declined further comment.

—James Tyson

Columbia graduate discusses food

POLLAN from page 3

introduced Pollan and comparing him to Rachel Carson, whose book *Silent Spring* brought ecological issues to the societal forefront in the 1960s.

In addition to discussing his path to food writing, Pollan also read selections from four of his five books. The passages he chose to read exemplified his unique and creative approach to scientific and social issues.

In *The Botany of Desire*, Pollan explains how he explores the natural history of different plants and how they have co-evolved with humans. *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* explores four meals, ranging from a \$14

McDonald’s dinner to a meal Pollan made from scratch (which included learning to hunt and killing a wild boar). The book also documents the exact journey of each element of each meal from the ground to the diner’s plate.

His latest novel, *In Defense of Food: An Eater’s Manifesto*, from which he did not read, was published in January 2008 and gives a historical background of various foods complete with guidelines regarding the consumption of processed and nutrient-deficient foods.

Pollan ended his discussion by emphasizing the importance of a food movement that creates real political change. He urged listeners to “Vote with your fork, but also vote with your vote.”



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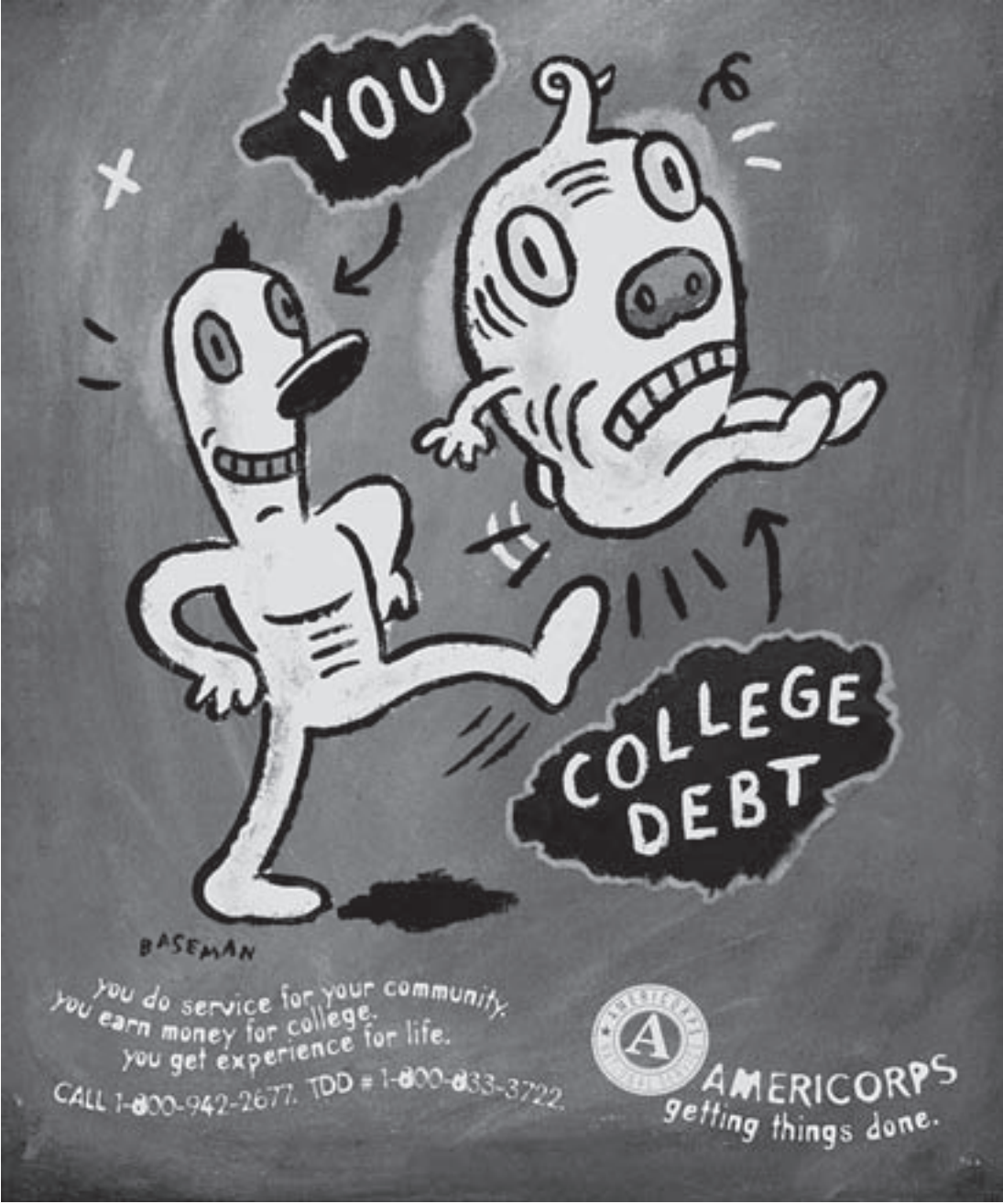
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How well is University Housing working for you?



Olivier Sherman, CC '11

“[The housing process is] really stressful, and housing ends up not being that great. I like the fact that McBain does not have cinder block walls. But McBain also has paper-thin walls. I don’t think the selection process itself should be changed. By lottery, I think, it’s the most fair. The whole concept of seniority is good. I got a random roommate freshman year and this year and it worked out both times.”



Joanna Eichhorn, CC '09

“McBain sucked. Overall, if you’re willing to work the system and get lucky, you’re fine. I wasn’t good friends with my roommate, but we got along. I think the survey is a bit absurd. Do your research and figure out your housing early. This year, I had somebody drop out at the last minute of my housing group. Prepare in advance.”



Lindsay Sohacheski, CC '09

“It’s been really great ... I’m a sophomore living in Claremont. I had a single in John Jay [last year], so I didn’t have a roommate. It’s not so spacious ... and you get to know all the people on your floor, which is nice, coming in as a freshman. I would say, probably go with John Jay. You don’t have to worry about an unknown roommate and you get to know people.”



Erica Drennan, CC '11

“It [housing] was okay. I lived in Carman and then EC. Well, freshman year, I roomed with a friend of mine from high school. I liked her. In EC, at least, we had such a cramped, tiny room. There really wasn’t a common room [in Carman]. Visit campus before you decide if you want to [live somewhere]. When I did it online, we had no clue what we were doing. Talk to people you know who are here.”



Mason Fitch / Staff Photographer

Calla Mapel, BC '09

“I lived in Hewitt [freshman year]. I had a pretty good experience. It was good. I got along with my roommate. We didn’t become close friends ... It was a nice living situation. I lived in the 600s, then in 110th [Street] for other years. I much prefer them to the [quad] dorms. The dorms felt a little bit like summer camp at times.”

—Compiled by Carly Silver

Columbia Global Centers will focus on research over teaching

WORLD from front page

wide and often confusing network of schools. “It makes sense for SIPA [the School of International and Public Affairs] to play an important role in creating these global offices, but it would be contrary to the model itself if SIPA were in any way to be seen as monopolizing or pursuing private interests,” SIPA Dean John Coatsworth told *Spectator* in May 2008, stating that the schools would capitalize on the international experience of scholars in the graduate schools, Teachers College, and Barnard.

The diverse group of administrators who appeared at this weekend’s inaugural events speaks to the union that the new program hopes to forge between the schools on a global level. Barnard College President Debora Spar, who has made a priority of improving the school’s international programs, attended the China opening in person after participating in a separate conference on the changing role of women in China. Teachers College President Susan Fuhman moderated a panel at the same event just months after establishing links with Queen Rania of Jordan, whose government collaborated last summer with Teachers College to set up English-language instruction for Jordanian teachers.

“In most parts of world, Columbia already has pretty big presence,” said Kenneth

Prewitt, Carnegie professor of public affairs at SIPA and director of the recently founded Office of Global Centers. Speaking in a phone interview from Beijing, he added that he wishes to expand on “bilateral relationships and turn them into global network.”

The Columbia-China bond, for instance, goes back 100 years to an era in which Columbia became one of the first American schools to accept students from China.

“Certainly a major goal of the Center is continue and expand that strong ties and add to the illustrious history between Columbia and China,” Xiaobo Lü said in an online interview. Lü, a Barnard professor who previously chaired Columbia’s Weatherhead East Asian Institute, will now head the Beijing institute.

Focus on Research, Not Satellites

Lü stressed that while “the Center will be cooperating with the Columbia study aboard program at Tsinghua,” it “is not a teaching place.”

Lü’s comment points to a crucial distinction between Columbia and other universities, such as Cornell and New York University, that have pursued an international presence. These and other schools have constructed entirely new campuses that aim to replicate the educational services offered by the school’s

central location. A complex of degree-granting outpost schools has sprung up on the outskirts of Doha, Qatar where the oil-rich government has lured such American universities as Carnegie Mellon and Georgetown with generous incentives. The Emir of Qatar gave Cornell \$750 million to install freestanding facilities serving regional students with a program in medicine.

Likewise, NYU students can enroll in classes in a number of cities around the world, such as Florence and Buenos Aires, studying in English with professors from their home school. But Columbia administrators worry that along with high overhead, recreating courses in other countries could lower the quality of education and weaken professor morale.

“Many business schools have shut down their satellite campuses overseas because professors have the ‘been-there-done-that mentality,” said Safwan Masri, head of the Amman center and former vice dean of Columbia Business School. The novelty of far-flung locations wears off quickly, and after a year or two abroad professors would “want to focus on research at home and other activities at their university.”

In a time of financial hardship, the centers will not be a drag on the University’s bottom line. Prewitt called their budgets “modest” and said that the offices will provide little

more than a small staff and a few spaces in each city. Research at the centers will be funded almost entirely through grants from the local and U.S. governments and supplemented by donations from alumni and regional leaders. Queen Rania dedicated the structure housing the Amman center, a telling sign of the links Columbia has already forged abroad,

Making Connections

Columbia has warm relations with Jordan, a staunch U.S. ally. But the ideological tension between a university whose president champions free speech and the Chinese government’s suppression of academic discussion could thwart progress and provoke uproar at Columbia’s home campus.

“The world is complex and there is a lot we need to understand and learn, simply because there is a lot we don’t know or understand,” Lü said of these concerns. “Learning and study require an open mind, and I am all for deeper and better mutual understanding through more interactions, not less.”

The Beijing center will unite Columbia and Chinese experts in the study of “mega disasters,” a subject that directors say lies close to both groups given 2005’s Hurricane Katrina and the Sichuan earthquake of 2008. The center will run an executive

training program for Chinese officials and provide a space for Columbia architects to interact with their Chinese counterparts. In Amman, techniques taught at the Columbia’s School of Social Work will be imparted to Jordanian social workers through an exchange tailored to the needs of the area. TC has already created a certification program for Jordanian English language teachers and will organize future efforts through the center.

Despite this busy calendar, many details remain blurry, and most faculty appointments have yet to be filled. Prewitt said all faculty will stem from existing resources whereas Masri emphasized the importance of visiting fellowships.

“At this stage, it’s early in development,” Prewitt said cautiously of the entire operation. “I don’t want to overpromise.”

According to Prewitt, the University is just beginning its global expansion and hopes to “cover every world region,” including “South Africa, South America, [and] Central European area.” Prewitt said that the next global centers will open in India and Paris, the latter likely in conjunction with Columbia’s Reid Hall for the study of French language and culture.

Joy Resmovits and Madina Toure contributed reporting to this article. news@columbiaspectator.com

CU to host St. John’s this afternoon in home opener

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia baseball (2-15) has already endured a challenging series of opponents including three nationally ranked squads. After playing their first 17 games on the road, the Lions will host St. John’s University (11-7) at Robertson Field at 3:30 p.m. A win today would provide some positive momentum for this upcoming weekend when Ivy League play kicks off.

The single-game affair will not be an easy one for the Light Blue, who most recently went 1-3 in a four-game set against California State, Northridge on the last leg of a 10-game California road trip. On the opposing side, the Red Storm travels to Morningside Heights fresh off a three-game sweep of Villanova. They swept the Wildcats 19-7, 3-2, and 10-3.

So far this season, St. John’s has demonstrated aggressiveness and power at the plate, boasting a .348 overall team batting average with 15 home runs and 155 RBI. The Lions, who are still cycling freshmen through the lineup and adjusting to the season’s rigorous schedule, have put up inferior numbers. As a team, Columbia possesses a .244 batting average with 55 RBI and four homers.

The Light Blue will have to keep a close eye on Red Storm junior Tim Morris. Morris, who plays both infield and outfield, was recently named Big East Baseball Player of the Week for his performance in St. John’s series against Villanova. Over the three games, he hit .600 (12-20) with a home run and eight RBI. Morris ranks first on the Red Storm and second in the Big East in batting average (.473) and ranks

second on the squad in homers and RBI.

Sophomore infielder Greg Hopkins has also been a major catalyst for St. John’s. Hopkins leads the Red Storm in home runs (6), RBI (30), and hits (35) while ranking second on the team in batting average, hitting at a .449 clip. Like Morris, he has started every game this season.

For the Lions, freshman Jon Eisen and senior Mike Roberts have led the pack in hitting with averages of .306 and .299, respectively. Roberts also holds a team-best 20 hits in 67 at-bats.

After today’s action, the Light Blue will return to Robertson Field this weekend with a Saturday doubleheader against Harvard and a Sunday twin bill versus Dartmouth.



File Photo

CARRY ME HOME | After 17 road games, the Lions will host the Red Storm today.

Senior ends Columbia career on high note

MEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

For Barnett, his 2008-09 season was arguably the best in the history of the program, with the senior leading the Big Green in just about every statistical category. Barnett is only the second Dartmouth player in the history of the league to win the MVP award, joining Larry Lawrence in 1981. In addition to his first-team spot and Player of the Year accolades, Barnett led the league in scoring, the first Big Green player to do so since Shaun Gee in 1998.

Rounding out the second team alongside Miller were Cornell center Jeff Foote, Harvard point guard Drew Housman, and a pair of Yale players, forward Ross Morin and guard Travis Pinick. Foote also won the inaugural Defensive Player of the Year award after leading the conference in rebounds and blocks.

Columbia’s best chance of picking up an additional award was in Rookie of the Year balloting in which freshman guard Noruwa Agho was locked in competition with Cornell’s Chris Wroblewski and Princeton’s Doug Davis.

Ultimately, Wroblewski took home the award after averaging eight points and three rebounds per game in league play. Wroblewski is the third Cornell player in the last four years to win Rookie of the Year, joining Adam Gore and Wittman. Penn’s Tyler Bernardini won the award last season.

Miller’s All-Ivy selection marks the fifth straight season in which a Columbia forward has earned the honor. Baumann was named to the All-Ivy first team in 2008 and 2007 and to the second team in 2006 while Matt Preston earned second-team honors in 2005.

Three Lions take home Ivy League awards

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

the boards and her relentless competitiveness is what separates her.”

Joining Lomax on the first team were Smith and Big Green teammate Koren Schram, Harvard guard Emily Tay, and Penn forward Carrie Biemer. Biemer led the league in scoring in Ivy League play with 17.5 points per game. Smith was second in scoring, and Tay was right behind her in third. Smith, a unanimous choice for the first team, was also the league’s second-best rebounder while leading her team to its 17th conference title.

Dartmouth men’s standout Alex Barnett also captured the league MVP title, giving the Big Green its first sweep of the award in the school’s history.

For her part as Columbia’s third-leading scorer and leader in assists, Browne was named Honorable Mention All-Ivy. The junior made 23 starts in 2008-09, averaging 8.8 points and 4.2 assists per game. Browne also led the team in steals with 42, good for fourth best in the Ivy League. Browne has made an All-Ivy team each year of her career.

Yee, meanwhile, took home the Defensive Player of the Year award in her third year with the team. The point guard from Walnut, Calif. started every game of the season and racked up 37 steals, second-highest on the team, while adding 6.8 points per game. As a team, Columbia led the league in steals with 8.6 per game while creating 18 turnovers on average, third-best in the conference.

“Sara is one of those unique players that forces other teams to have to make offensive adjustments,” Nixon said. “Very few players, at any level, force the team to adjust their offense to deal with a single defender.”

The final award, Rookie of the Year, went to Harvard guard Brogan Berry. A unanimous selection, Berry was third in scoring and second in assists on the Crimson.

For Columbia, Lomax became the first Lion since Sue Altman in 2004 to earn All-Ivy first-team honors. For the fourth straight year, at least one Columbia player was named to an All-Ivy team, with Michele Gage and Browne earning second-team honors in 2008 and Megan Griffith earning second-team honors in both 2007 and 2006.

Did buzzer defeat in final game doom Agho’s Rookie of the Year chances?

PURO from back page

While Wroblewski’s play was very solid, particularly for a freshman point guard, he was part of a team that had two All-Ivy League first teamers (Ryan Wittman and Dale) and a second team All-Leaguer (Jeff Foote), proving that he was not the most valuable rookie for any team.

Agho started 12 of the 14 Ivy League games for the Light Blue, logging a team-high 31.1 minutes per game in league action. With so many injuries throughout Ivy play, the Lions relied on Agho’s consistency from the perimeter for much of the campaign.

The six-foot three-inch guard was second among all freshmen (behind Davis) with 10 points per game during League play while adding 3.1 rebounds and 1.9 assists. He also shot 37 percent from the field. Agho consistently matched up against the opposition’s best perimeter players for nearly 30 minutes per contest.

Agho did display freshman tendencies, forcing a lot of shots, which resulted in a poor field goal percentage (34.1 percent and some struggles from the free throw line). But he was still very valuable to his team, playing much more than Wroblewski while averaging more points, rebounds and steals (1.3 per game—ranking seventh in the league).

But one thing that worked in Wroblewski’s favor was his strong play during the final two weekends of the season—something that must have resonated with the coaches who voted. The guard truly shined in the final two weekends of the season, improving upon his season averages with 29.5 minutes played, 8.8 points, 2.5 rebounds, and 2.5 assists—all while turning the ball over only four times total. Furthermore, his shooting improved. The freshman guard hit 60.9 percent of his shots, a remarkable number for a three-point shooter.

Agho, on the other hand, struggled in the final four games, averaging 7.3 points, 5.0 rebounds, and

1.2 assists per game. He also shot a miserable 27.3 percent while forcing a number of shots as the offense struggled down the stretch.

While the final couple of games should have more weight in the coaches’ minds, Wroblewski still did not post the best statistics (he trailed Agho and/or Davis in minutes, scoring, rebounding, and steals), nor was he the most valuable rookie to his team. So the question must be asked: how could he have garnered the award? The only plausible explanation was that he was a median pick—one that the coaches were happy to agree on, not one that was unanimous. Further, since Cornell won the league, it seemed

acceptable to reward the Big Red.

But what if Columbia had not lost at the buzzer to Penn and finished the year 8-6 and second in league? Would Agho have won the award? Regardless of the what-ifs, the rationale behind the decision is kind of suspicious.

Just as the Penn loss kept Agho (and fellow freshman Issa Mase) shooting in Leven nearly an hour after the heartbreaker ended, maybe this snub will motivate the guard to work even harder than he does now to become an All-Ivy League player.

Max Puro is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. Sports@columbiaspectator.com



Ivy League announces post-season basketball awards

Agho snubbed for rookie award after strong first season



MAX PURO
PURE OVERTIME

After hearing a couple of weeks ago that Chris Wroblewski—a six-foot point guard from Cornell—had won the Ivy League Rookie of the Year award, I was not surprised. The Big Red had won the Ivy League title for the second year

in a row, dominating the conference from start to finish. Wroblewski did shine as a starter and a quality sixth man toward the end of the season, and his performance was particularly noteworthy considering the absence of teammate Louis Dale, reigning Ivy League Player of the Year.

But while Wroblewski is a solid choice (marking the third time in four years a Cornell player has won), the selection proved quite controversial in my mind. There were two other rookies (Columbia's Noruwa Agho and Princeton's Douglas Davis) who proved more vital to their clubs during league and nonconference play.

Wroblewski started just one game during league play—when Geoff Reeves went down with a concussion. But the point guard proved vital off the bench, averaging 26.2 minutes per contest during Ivy play and putting up 7.9 points, 2.8 rebounds, and 2.7 assists per game while posting an off-the-chart shooting percentage and assist-to-turnover ratio.

The point guard displayed excellent touch from the perimeter (hitting 52.4 percent from three-point range, 47.4 percent overall, and 73.4 percent from the line) while having a 2-1 turnover-to-assist ratio—all stellar numbers for a freshman.

SEE PURO, page 7

Miller claims Ivy honor in first year as Columbia starter

BY JONATHAN TAYLER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For three years, Jason Miller waited for his opportunity.

For three straight seasons, Miller, a high school all-star from Ohio, sat on the end of the bench, playing sparingly while Columbia's established frontcourt duo of John Baumann and Ben Nwachukwu never missed a beat. In his fourth and final year, the six-foot eight-inch forward finally got his chance after Baumann and Nwachukwu graduated.

In his first and only year as a starter, it would be hard to argue that Miller didn't make the most of his opportunity.

After a season in which he led the Lions in points, rebounds, blocks, and field goal percentage, Miller was named to the All-Ivy League second team. It was the senior's first All-Ivy selection, capping a career year in which he averaged 11 points and 6.5 rebounds per game in Ivy play.

Miller was the only Columbia player to receive a spot on an All-Ivy team. Cornell led the way on the first team with forward Ryan Wittman and point guard Louis Dale both earning the honor for a second consecutive year. Rounding out the top five were Harvard guard Jeremy Lin, Brown forward Matt Mullery, and Dartmouth forward and Ivy League Player of the Year Alex Barnett. Barnett and Wittman were the only unanimous selections.

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 7



File Photo



Courtesy of Dartmouth Athletics

TAG TEAM | Alex Barnett and Brittney Smith swept the Ivy MVP awards for Dartmouth.

Led by Lomax, women's basketball captures three awards

BY JONATHAN TAYLER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After a season in which she led the country in rebounding, the league in field goal percentage, and her team in scoring, it was obvious that Judie Lomax would be earning some postseason awards in her first year at Columbia. The only question was if the Oregon State transfer could cap things with an MVP award.

Unfortunately for Lomax, Ivy League Player of the Year went to Dartmouth forward Brittney Smith. But Lomax and the Lions made out well in postseason honors, with the sophomore forward from Washington, D.C. grabbing a spot on the All-Ivy League first team. Joining Lomax in All-Ivy recognition was guard Danielle Browne while guard Sara Yee won the inaugural Defensive Player of the Year award.

Lomax quickly established herself as a powerful player in the post, totaling 21 double-doubles in the season while averaging 14.2 points and a nation-high 14.3 rebounds per game as well as setting the single-season record for rebounds at Columbia. It's not the first time that Lomax has earned postseason accolades, as the forward was named to the Pac-10 All-Freshman team in her sole year of competition at Oregon State. Lomax is also a regional finalist for the State Farm Coaches' All-America team. The 10-player team will be announced on April 4.

"Judie's play this year is exactly what we expected from her in her first season in the league," head coach Paul Nixon wrote in an e-mail. "Her strength around

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL page 7



JASON MILLER (F)
All-Ivy Second Team



DANIELLE BROWNE (G)
Honorable Mention All-Ivy



SARA YEE (G)
Defensive Player of the Year



JUDIE LOMAX (F)
All-Ivy First Team

Courtesy of
Columbia Athletics

Fencing ends season by finishing fourth in NCAA Championships

BY JONATHAN AUGUST
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Although the Columbia fencing team finished in fourth place at the NCAA Championships this past weekend, the Light Blue's final win count represents possibly the best performances for Columbia fencers in recent memory. The Lions earned 151 points with only 11 fencers over the four-day competition—just four points behind last season's third-place finish in which Columbia totaled 155 points with 12 fencers. In addition to the overall fourth-place finish, two Lions earned bronze medals at the NCAA Championships, and six fencers were named to either the first- or second-team All-American squad.

The NCAA Championships began with the men's competition last Thursday on the campus of eventual national champion Penn State. Columbia finished the first day in fourth place with a total of 40 victories despite fielding only five fencers in the men's competition. The top three finishers at the event—Penn State, Notre Dame, and Ohio State—all had the maximum number of fencers, 12, competing. Without a full set of fencers, it was nearly impossible for the Lions to have earned a national championship, so finishing as the top team with the next fewest entries highlighted the quality of those who did qualify for the event.

Junior foilist Kurt Getz led the way for the Light Blue men, earning a bronze medal in the 15-touch individual round of the tournament. Getz fell to eventual silver medalist Gerek Meinhardt in the individual competition after posting the second-most victories, 18, in the round-robin competition behind Meinhardt and Penn State's Miles Chamley-Watson. The strong finish was enough for Getz to earn his third straight bronze medal at the NCAA Championships and his third consecutive first-team All-American honor. Defending sabre national champion Jeff Spear earned second-team All-American honors after finishing seventh by virtue of tiebreakers despite scoring the fourth-most victories in sabre. Senior co-captain Sherif Farrag finished with 11 wins in foil in his final

collegiate competition while senior epeeist Lorenzo Casertano and junior epeeist Dwight Smith recorded 12 and seven wins, respectively.

The women's portion of the competition began on Saturday, and the Lions started strong, earning 53 victories in just four rounds of fencing. At the end of the day, the women trailed only Penn State and Notre Dame. The day's performance solidified the team's fourth-place standing, well clear of then-fifth-place St. John's by 28 points. The Light Blue would maintain this position, while Harvard leapfrogged St. John's for fifth place by the end of the competition, 35 victories behind the Light Blue.

Junior sabrist and former national champion Daria Schneider finished the competition with a bronze medal and first-team All-American accolades after completing the round-robin portion of the tournament with 19 victories and third place overall. In the individual competition, Schneider was beaten by Duke freshman Becca Ward, a 2008 United States Olympian, 15-9. Sophomore sabrist Jackie Jacobson finished seventh with 15 victories—enough for second-team All-American honors. Sophomore foilist Nicole Ross was caught in a similar position as Spear—despite finishing with enough victories to tie for fourth place overall, she was not allowed to compete in the individual competition because of her indicator score, the amount of touches earned subtracted by those taken. Ross earned second-team All-American status along with freshman epeeist Neely Brandfield-Harvey, who placed sixth in her competition. Sophomore foilist Abby Caparros-Janto ended up in sixteenth place with 10 victories while junior epeeist Tess Finkel earned the Lions seven points.

As a team, the Lions finished ahead of every other Ivy League school that competed at the NCAA Championships with five Ivies cracking the top 10 overall. Harvard ended the competition in fifth place with Penn in seventh, Princeton in eighth, and Yale in tenth. The Ancient Eight's strong display showcased why it is perennially the best fencing conference in the nation year in and year out.



File Photo

FINAL RUN | The Columbia fencing team compiled 151 points with just 11 competitors at this weekend's NCAA Championships, landing the team in fourth place with a strong team effort.

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