

Locals vote on city budget allocations

Process is first of its kind in New York

BY LUCAS REHAUT  
Columbia Daily Spectator

Upper West Siders voted Sunday in New York's first-ever participatory budgeting program, deciding how more than \$1 million in city funds will be allocated to various neighborhood improvement projects.

Four City Council members are participating in the pilot program this year, including Melissa Mark-Viverito. Residents of her district, which includes Manhattan Valley, began voting yesterday in the ballroom of the youth hostel at 104th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

After reading posters describing 29 proposals and their costs, voters selected the five proposals that they would most like the city to fund. Projects ranged from pothole repairs on Second Avenue, to laptop purchases for public schools, to the installation of an off-grid solar greenhouse.

The selected proposals will benefit communities from around Mark-Viverito's

SEE BUDGETING, page 2

FIRE IN WEST HARLEM



PHOTO BY FRED FABER

ABLAZE | It took firefighters nearly five hours to control a fire at 92 Morningside Ave. See page 2.

Contractor: Aging beams led to collapse

Breeze National says safety issues did not cause worker's death

BY FINN VIGELAND  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Century-old beams, and not safety oversights, led to the death of a construction worker when a Manhattanville building collapsed on Thursday, according to the contractor responsible for the building's demolition.

The building—which was being torn down as part of Columbia's expansion into Manhattanville—was built about 100 years ago, and it collapsed when demolition workers from Breeze National cut a structural beam. Breeze National said in a statement that while most structural beams that run horizontally are joined together at a vertical column, the beam that the workers cut had an "unknown, unusual, latent condition."

The beam, Breeze said, "carried past the column and was joined to the other horizontal beam by a splice with bolts" that was encased in two feet of concrete. Breeze said that because the building is so old, no available structural drawings revealed this unusual structure, and the bolts failed when the beam was cut, causing the collapse.

"Neither Breeze nor its consulting engineers can recall ever encountering this type of a structural beam configuration at this type of a location," the statement read.

The two-story, 20,000-square-foot building, located at 604-606 W. 131 St., collapsed shortly before 8 a.m. on Thursday, killing Juan Ruiz, 69, and leaving two other construction workers, Sakim Kirby and King Range, in critical condition at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital.

A spokesperson for St. Luke's said that Kirby, 30, and Range, 60, were in stable condition on Sunday afternoon. The New York Daily News reported that Ruiz's family has hired a lawyer and is considering filing a lawsuit.

The city's Department of Buildings issued a stop-work order on the demolition site March 5 before lifting it two days later. Breeze said that the stop-work order concerned "whether a particular type of rope was being used for the tie-off of a safety harness" and had nothing to do with the building's eventual collapse.

Even though a DOB employee would have had to inspect the building before the department lifted the stop-work order, the beams' unusual structure could have gone unnoticed, according to Michael Gilliard, a senior real estate development project manager for Habitat for Humanity New York City.

"After a stop-work order, they review the specific incident, but

SEE BREEZE, page 2

Students say new Gateway class could still be improved

BY JORDAN FREISLEBEN  
Spectator Staff Writer

A semester after SEAS implemented substantial changes to Gateway, some students think that the engineering school's flagship introductory course still leaves something to be desired.

The semester-long course, which is a requirement for all first-years at the School of Engineering and Applied Science, was revamped last year, with electrical engineering professor David Vallancourt recreating the lecture material

and engineering professors coming up with nine semester-long projects for students to choose from. But professors and administrators are continuing to solicit feedback on the new version of the course, and while it seems to be more popular than the old version—which was widely criticized by students—some issues remain.

SEAS class of 2014 president Akshay Shah, one of several Engineering Student Council members who solicited student feedback on Gateway

SEE GATEWAY, page 5



LUKE HENDERSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HARD AT WORK | Sidney Drill, SEAS '15, prepares to build an automated mobile solar panel for her Gateway project.

Governing boards, councils debate F@CU

BY LILLIAN CHEN  
Spectator Staff Writer

Governing boards will be taking on a larger role in the Funding at Columbia University process this year, but it's not clear how much sway they will have over their own budgets.

The role of governing boards in the F@CU process—in which the four undergraduate student councils allocate funds to the five governing boards—has long been a contentious issue. It was the main topic of discussion at Sunday night's Columbia College Student Council meeting, which was attended by many governing board members.

Every spring, each council decides how much money to contribute to the F@CU pot. Then, during reading week, the councils' incoming and outgoing presidents and treasurers convene to decide how much money to give to the governing boards—the Activities Board at Columbia, Club Sports, Community Impact, the InterGreek Council, and the Student Governing Board—which then distribute the money to student groups.

At an internal meeting Saturday night, the councils and governing boards agreed that starting this year, governing board members would be present during F@CU meetings. Previously, the governing boards would make presentations to the council members, who would then decide allocations in private.

SEE F@CU, page 2



FILE PHOTO

FRONTRUNNER | Rep. Charles Rangel is running for his 22nd term in Congress.

Broadway Democrats endorse Rangel in primary

BY CASEY TOLAN  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

If the endorsement of one local Democratic group is any indication, challengers hoping to unseat Rep. Charles Rangel in the June 26 primary are in for a tough race.

Members of the Broadway Democrats club, which represents Morningside Heights and parts of Manhattanville and southwest Harlem, voted overwhelmingly to endorse Rangel on Thursday night after listening to speeches from two of his challengers, Craig Schley and Joyce Johnson, and one potential challenger, state Sen. Adriano Espaillat. Rangel got 24 votes, versus two for Johnson, one for Schley, and none for Espaillat.

The endorsement means that the club will campaign for and circulate nominating petitions

for Rangel. Candidates need more than 900 signatures by April 16 to get on the ballot.

Rangel, who has served in Congress since 1970 and was censured in 2010 for a series of ethics violations, has easily survived several challenges in the past. Johnson and Schley have both previously run for the seat.

Members of the Broadway Democrats and others at the Thursday meeting said that while they generally like the other candidates, Rangel is their first choice.

"Charlie is great at getting money home to New York and to a district that desperately needs it," Democratic District Leader Paula Diamond-Román said. Despite Rangel's ethics violations, she said, "he did some of the pivotal work in housing, poverty, and civil rights."

"In these times, we need

somebody in here with expertise, with experience, who knows when to hold them and when to fold them," said Sarah Martin, president of the Grant Houses residents association. "People say it's time for new meat ... but I'm for Charlie."

If Rangel weren't running, Martin said, she would support Johnson.

Under new Congressional districts that were approved last week, much of the region that the Broadway Democrats represents will be shifted to the Congressional district of Rep. Jerrold Nadler, CC '69, but the club still covers some of Rangel's new district.

Redistricting also means that the voting-age population in Rangel's district will increase from 43.8 percent Hispanic to

SEE RANGEL, page 4

OPINION, PAGE 8

Accountable on site

The University must investigate its Manhattanville contractors

Anonymously absurd

Internet commenters shouldn't dictate our dialogue



SPORTS, PAGE 10

CU fencing earns five All-American nods

The men's and women's fencing teams earned eighth place at the NCAA Fencing Championships this weekend in Columbus, where host Ohio State took first place.

EVENTS

Speaking about Syria

Journalist Nir Rosen will deliver a lecture about the trajectory of the Syrian crisis. 1501 International Affairs Building, 12:15 p.m.

Mental Health Awareness Week

The Columbia Neuroscience Society is kicking off the week with back rubs and free resources.

College Walk, 1 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



61°/36°

Tomorrow



59°/46°



# UWS residents decide how to spend more than \$1 million

**BUDGETING from front page**

district, which also includes East Harlem and the South Bronx. Winning proposals will be enacted within the next year.

“On the one hand, you want to help the kids. But then you also want to help the seniors.”

—Ed Growney,

*Upper West Side resident*

Upper West Side resident Ed Growney described the challenge of picking just five proposals when so many of them seemed important.

“On the one hand, you want to help the kids,” Growney said, referring to proposals for new laptops and exercise facilities for schools. “But then you also want to help the seniors.”

Growney eventually decided to vote for new laptops as well as increased funding for Meals on Wheels, saying that “sometimes, if they [seniors] don’t get that meal, they don’t eat.” He continued to struggle with how to distribute his final three votes.

City Council staffer Will Engelhardt, a social work intern from Hunter College, said that voter turnout had “been a little slow,” but that he was optimistic—the hostel was one of two voting locations, and voting continues through next weekend. Furthermore, since this is participatory budgeting’s first year, many people still don’t know about it, Engelhardt said.

Even so, a steady stream of people showed up to vote, and most of them seemed

enthusiastic about the opportunity to get more involved in the budgetary decision-making process.

Brian Jordan, who works at the Frederick Douglass Houses at 104th Street and Columbus Avenue, said that it’s satisfying “just to get involved in the community when I can.” Jordan expressed support for several proposals, including the solar greenhouse and new lighting for a series of viaducts in East Harlem.

Democratic District Leader Cynthia Doty, who chaired one of the volunteer committees that vetted proposals, said that this year’s voting program is not just about funding particular projects, but also about “setting the foundation for next year.”

Organizers anticipate that the challenges they have faced this year while introducing participatory budgeting to residents will help them achieve better results in coming years.

The program is limited to capital projects—rather than operational funds—which has caused some issues. For example, Doty said, many residents have expressed frustration with the limited number of garbage cans and the infrequency with which they are cleared. But waste management primarily involves operational funds and thus cannot be part of participatory budgeting proposals.

Doty said that her committee is “learning what projects fit into capital expenses” and “how to identify problems and come up with a solution.” She added that her committee hopes to develop an approach in the next year by which residents can take an active role in reporting waste management problems.

Participatory budget voting will continue this week at Mark-Viverito’s office, and the results of the vote will be available on her website April 1.

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DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**DIRECT DEMOCRACY** | Local residents began voting on how to spend more than \$1 million in city funds at an event on Sunday.



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**BROKEN BEAMS** | One demolition worker died, and two were seriously injured in the collapse.

## Demolition continued after brief stop-work order

**BREEZE from front page**

they don’t make a full review of all the conditions on the site,” said Gilliard, a professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

Gilliard rehabs thousands of buildings around New York each year, including many buildings that are as old or older than the one that collapsed.

Because safety standards have improved so much over the last century, he said, “you never really know what you find” in old buildings.

“Sometimes it’s a shady contractor, sometimes it’s unforeseen conditions, sometimes it’s in the middle,” he said.

In its statement, Breeze also dismissed the notion that it is connected with organized

crime. Former Breeze vice president Toby Romano, Sr., was convicted on federal bribery charges in 1988 and found to have ties with an Italian mob family, but Breeze said that Romano’s son, Toby Romano Jr., runs the company now and that the elder Romano has not worked there since 2009.

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## Gov. board members to be more involved in F@CU

**F@CU from front page**

The new system is meant to give council members a better sense of how governing boards use their budgets and to prevent situations like the cuts to Community Impact’s budget last year, which forced CI to cut programming.

“The main goal of trying to make these reforms is to make F@CU a more collaborative process, to give the governing boards a little bit more of a voice in the decision,” CCSC Vice President of Finance Kevin Zhai, CC ’12, said.

The councils have also decided to be more flexible with the amount of money they distribute to the governing boards.

In previous years, the money in the F@CU pot was fixed, so that if the councils put less money into F@CU than the governing boards had requested, the governing boards would have to make do with less funding. This year, though, if there is a discrepancy between governing boards’ requests and what F@CU has to give them, councils can decide to give governing boards more money from their own budgets.

“It’s a consensus process,” CCSC President Aki Terasaki, CC ’12, said. “We’re bargaining different pieces, taking money from one place and giving it to another place, and at some point, the pies will match up. And at that point, we come up with a decision.”

The new F@CU process will also be more integrated—instead of evaluating each governing board separately, council members will put together one funding proposal that encompasses all of the governing boards and all of the councils.

But the councils and governing boards are still debating how much of a role governing board members will play in the F@CU process. Although governing board members will be present at F@CU meetings—where they can advocate for funds—some students have argued that final funding decisions should require the governing board members’ approval, and others have argued that governing

board members should have full voting privileges in F@CU.

Terasaki took a straw poll on the different proposals brought up at Sunday night’s meeting. Student Governing Board Chair David Fine, CC ’13—who was elected last week—suggested a system in which three or four of the governing boards would need to sign off on the F@CU allocation decisions, a suggestion that about 20 of the 32 CCSC members voted for.

But Amirah Sequeira, CC ’12 and a former Student Governing Board secretary, said on Sunday night that the governing boards’ incoming and outgoing presidents and treasurers should be voting members of F@CU, putting the councils and the governing boards on even footing.

“This reform is ... a way to check and balance the councils,” Sequeira said.

However, Student Government Association Vice President of Finance Naomi Cooper, BC ’12, expressed concern that this system would lead to conflicts of interest.

“Would you ever vote to give yourself less money than you think you should get?” Cooper said. “I don’t really see how that vote would ever come to an agreement.”

Former SGB Chair Barry Weinberg, CC ’12, though, said that councils have the same conflict of interest, since F@CU funds are subtracted directly from council budgets.

Cooper emphasized that student councils do not want to “cut funding and hoard cash.”

“We’re not taking money for our own needs that should be given for something else,” she said. “We’re all here because we want programming to happen on campus.”

Another issue discussed on Sunday night was whether the F@CU process should be stretched to two days. Traditionally, F@CU has taken place during one day, and council members have tended to become very tired by the end of the night.

Sequeira said that presenting at F@CU last year was an “awful experience.”

“I felt so disrespected,” Sequeira said. “We presented at the end of the day ... at least half the people in the room were not listening to what we said.”

Daniel Bonner, CC ’13 and a former SGB vice chair, agreed with Sequeira.

“That meeting was one of the worst I’ve ever experienced,” he said.

Everyone involved with F@CU, Bonner added, should read the governing boards’ application packets—which include their past programming and proposed budgets—before the presentations.

Sequeira said that giving governing boards voting privileges could alleviate some of the problems with the presentations.

“Better relations between the councils and the governing boards might be found,” Sequeira said. “When we go into that presentation, there’s less of a power dynamic.”

CCSC Vice President of Policy Ryan Cho, CC ’13 and president of the Multicultural Greek Council, said that the question of voting privileges is actually an issue of philosophies. One philosophy, Cho said, is that the governing boards and the councils are basically equivalent.

CCSC Student Services Representative Karishma Habbu, CC ’13, described a different viewpoint.

“These are student life fees ... which gives some kind of mandate to the councils to spend it,” said Habbu, who is running for CCSC president. “And I don’t think the governing boards have that mandate.”

Cho said that council and governing board leaders need to choose one of these philosophies.

“Once you have that philosophy set, you’ll know what type of voting system you’ll have,” he said.

“I think no matter what, at the end of this process, the governing boards will be in the room when the discussions take place,” Fine said. “I think this is a huge step.”

*Ben Gittelson contributed reporting.*

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YAN CONG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TED TALK | Columbia Hindu chaplain Gadadhara Pandit Dasa talks at Friday's TEDx conference.

## Teachers College hosts TEDx conference

BY STEVEN LAU  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Nearly 300 graduate students, professors, and organization leaders gathered for a discussion of innovations in international education at Teachers College's first TEDx conference on Friday.

The full-day event was organized by 10 Teachers College students and licensed by TED, a conference series intended to promote "ideas worth spreading," according to its website. The TC conference featured presentations from 20 speakers, who covered topics ranging from technology and media in education, to gender parity, to peace through learning.

The speakers—including Columbia's Hindu chaplain, Gadadhara Pandit Dasa, and CyberSmart Africa founder Jim Teicher—made an effort to inspire attendees with

new ways of looking at global education.

The Project Girl Performance Collective's presentation focused on gender and equity, highlighting the need to ensure that women receive equal education. The author Rosalind Wiseman—who wrote the book that inspired the film "Mean Girls"—focused on creative ways to stop bullying so that students have safe learning environments.

Representatives from three education-focused nongovernmental organizations also talked about promoting cross-cultural understanding by using technologies like digital white boards and video recordings in developing nations.

The idea of using the TED Talk platform to discuss international education was innovative in itself, according to Teachers College lecturer Jacqueline Simmons, one of

Friday's speakers.

"Academics tend to share their ideas in more formal formats—conferences—which are typically comprised of other academics," Simmons said. "This is an opportunity to share ideas with a broader audience that includes students and people that work in community-based organizations."

Many of the attendees were Teachers College students. Among them was bilingual/bicultural education major Gillian Cohen, who has done peacebuilding work with internally displaced communities in Colombia.

"I'm hoping to see some more creative ideas in how we can promote justice and peace, and teach that in both a classroom and in a community, both here and abroad," she said.

Others, like Ezra

SEE TED TALKS, page 5

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAR. & APR.

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
APRIL						
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01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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**03/28**  
**A NEW LOOK AT GLOBAL  
ECOLOGY**  
**6:30 PM**  
Event Oval, The Diana Center

**03/29**  
**SPORTS & ETHNICITY**  
**Jewish and Palestinian Soccer  
Teams in Argentina and Chile**  
**6 PM**  
Event Oval, The Diana Center

**03/29**  
**THE GIRL WHO BURNED  
THE BANKNOTES**  
**Rural Women, Memory,  
and China's Collective Past**  
**6:30 PM**  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

**04/02**  
**THE WINDOW SEX PROJECT**  
**6:30 PM**  
Event Oval, The Diana Center

**04/03**  
**"TO CERTAIN OF OUR  
PHILISTINES"**  
**Alain Locke and the Democratic  
Promise of Black Art**  
**12 PM**  
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

**04/03**  
**FROM ONE ISLAND TO ANOTHER**  
**Dominican Immigration  
to New York, 1892-1924**  
**6 PM**  
Event Oval, The Diana Center

**04/03**  
**CATHERINE BARNETT, JAMES  
FENTON & MARY GORDON '71**  
**7 PM**  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

**04/05**  
**TRACI BRIMHALL  
& CAROLYN FORCHÉ**  
**Barnard Women Poets Prize  
Reading**  
**7 PM**  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

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Debates for class councils, representatives, and Senate will take place in the Satow Room and Lerner 569 from 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.



SPEC NEWS

REPORTING IN OUR SLEEP SINCE 1877



Rangel challengers make cases to Broadway Dems

**RANGEL** from front page

52.7 percent Hispanic, which could be an advantage for Espaillat, who would be the first Dominican American elected to Congress if he won.

Espaillat said that while he is circulating petitions for the seat, he still wants to talk to his family, residents of the district, and elected officials before deciding whether to run.

“I haven’t made up my mind, but I will make up my mind in a week or two,” he said.

Although Espaillat urged the Broadway Democrats to postpone its endorsement vote until he had made a decision, members decided to hold the vote on Thursday.

Schley, a Harlem activist, ran against Rangel in 2008 and 2010 as an independent and is challenging him in the Democratic primary this year. Schley, who briefly interned for Rangel in 2003, made his name in Harlem politics in 2007, when he organized a lawsuit and a political action committee against the rezoning of 125th Street.

“I know that our representative has been around since just after man walked on the moon, and people are familiar with him. I voted for him,” Schley said. “But quite frankly, the whole world, and especially this country, are saying, you know what, we need to break free from our old ways of doing things and look toward the future.”

Schley said he would be “someone who’s going to fight for you, be there, a public servant at heart. This is not a matter of African Americans or Latinos—it’s about you.”

Schley received 2 percent and 7 percent of the vote in 2008 and 2010, respectively. He told Spectator that he believes he can win despite Rangel’s 21 consecutive successful campaigns.

“We have to do what his generation did and change our representation,” Schley said, referring to Rangel’s defeat of longtime incumbent Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in 1970.

“There’s no cohesive anti-Rangel vote. Each and every one of us has something to offer.”

—Joyce Johnson, Democratic primary candidate

“We’ve been in this direction so long ... people are wide open for change,” he said.

Johnson, too, ran for Rangel’s seat in 2010, when she was endorsed by the New York Times in the Democratic primary race. She is a former Community Board 7 chair and has worked in the mayor’s office and the Manhattan borough president’s office, among other government jobs.

“I am fired up and ready to go, with the background, the experience, and the job history,” she told the Broadway Democrats on Thursday. “All of you know this is not your first time seeing Joyce Johnson.”

“This is about a new future,” she added. “I heard it all throughout the 2010 campaign. I’m still hearing it, the need for a simple change in direction—who can be most effective at this time, who has the skills and the ability, the background, and the experience to get it done.”

Johnson garnered just 13 percent of the vote in the 2010 primary, compared to Rangel’s 51 percent. But she pointed to Rangel’s narrow majority as evidence that he is vulnerable, even with several candidates running against him.

“There’s no cohesive anti-Rangel vote,” she told Spectator. “Each and every one of us has something to offer.”

Clyde Williams, a former aide to President Bill Clinton who formally entered the race on Thursday, did not attend the club’s meeting, nor did candidate Vince Morgan, a former Rangel aide and a graduate of the School of International and Public Affairs.

Rangel didn’t attend the meeting either, but Democratic county leader and State Assembly member Keith Wright spoke in support of him.

“Congressman Rangel is no stranger to you,” Wright said. “He has a 40-year record, and he represents the community well.”

Rangel, who is recovering from a back injury, hasn’t made a public appearance in weeks or cast a vote in the House of Representatives since Feb. 9—his longest absence from the House since 2002, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The Three Parks Independent Democrats, a club representing part of the Upper West Side, will make its endorsements on Wednesday.

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LUKE HENDERSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**NEW GATEWAY** | Sidney Drill, SEAS '15, chose to work on the mechanical engineering Gateway project, one of nine options students had for the first time this year.

## Prof's, administrators could make changes to Gateway based on student feedback

### GATEWAY from front page

last year and presented recommendations to administrators, said that the changes this year are “quite significant.” But Gateway, he said, still lacks a strong and defined purpose.

“The problem with Gateway is that people are confused about how it fits in their course plan. It is not a prerequisite for any other course. It tries to teach you some basic skills like MATLAB, but you will have to take the MATLAB course anyways,” Shah said. “It tries to give you a taste for the different kinds of engineering, but you probably need a pre-professional course to make up your mind. The course needs clear direction.”

Brian McGrattan, SEAS '15 and a student in Gateway this semester, said that Gateway needs to draw clearer connections between the course material and engineering.

“I like the projects, and the lectures are somewhat interesting and thought-provoking but are kind of specialized,” he said. “Right now, the lectures are ‘Intro to Length’ or ‘Intro to Force.’ It’d be cooler

if it could be an intro to what chemical engineering and what applied physics are about and what puts ‘engineering’ into ‘chemical engineering.’”

Vallancourt, who chaired the committee that revamped Gateway and who now teaches it, said that he is relying on student feedback to find out what further changes to make to the course. He said he understands that students might still feel uncomfortable with its organization.

“This course is not going to set out to teach them a specific skill. Other than MATLAB, the course itself is not, ‘Here’s a bunch of things—memorize them and spit them out on a test,’” he said. “This isn’t that. It’s time to stop looking for this linear progression in your classes. This is the good stuff.”

Still, he added, “I think the students have some legitimate issues. We tried to address the ones we know about.”

One of the concerns with the old Gateway that the committee tried to address, Vallancourt said, was that it had “insufficient technical content.” But even with changes this year, Shah said,

the course needs to give students more opportunities to “get their hands dirty” exploring the different types of engineering.

Additionally, ESC class of 2015 president Josh Boggs said that the breadth of the course makes it difficult to engage every student.

“Issues arise due to the disparity in students’ engineering-related experience,” he said. “Some may find the lectures boring after taking classes which have covered the lecture topics extensively.”

Still, many students have reacted positively to the new Gateway. Dina Lamdany, SEAS '15 and a student in Gateway last semester, said that she enjoyed the group project and that the course caused her to reconsider her academic plans.

“I thought it was a really useful experience. It gave me exposure in something I didn’t have experience in,” she said. “I thought I was going to be an electrical engineering major, and after taking the EE project seminar, now I know I don’t.”

SEAS Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora said in a recent interview that before the changes to

Gateway were made, students frequently wanted to discuss the course with him in his “toolbox meetings,” informal gatherings he holds with students.

“It was a topic at every meeting. Once somebody raised the Gateway flag, that was the topic of the whole meeting,” he said. “Nowadays, Gateway only comes up when I ask about it.”

Peña-Mora emphasized that the course is still likely to change based on students’ responses it.

“This is the first year that we are doing it, and, as you can imagine, we are very attentive to the feedback of the students,” he said. “I believe that by the end of this year, we are going to more of a steady state.”

Another change implemented to Gateway this year is that attendance at the two-hour Friday morning lectures is mostly optional. Boggs said that as a result, attendance has “dropped significantly,” despite the course being “far more interesting than many other classes engineering students take.”

“If the lectures are not required, why would you come?”

Vallancourt said. “You’ll come if you feel like it’s of value to you and if you value engineering content and take an interest in specific engineering examples.”

Due to low attendance, lecture attendance was made mandatory for several guest lectures, and Vallancourt announced that students who do not attend all lectures will not be able to receive an A+ in the course.

“Personally, I’m not a huge fan of the time and day of the class, and my classmates share similar sentiments,” Boggs said. “I guess these problems have been remedied by making lectures nonmandatory, but I assume more improvements are on the way.”

Lamdany, though, said that she felt motivated to attend lectures—even though some were optional—because she enjoyed them.

“I thought Vallancourt was really relaxed about it and was really excited,” she said. “Even when class was optional, I would go to class just because he was teaching it.”

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## 5 fencers earn All-American honors

FENCING from page 10

record as Harvard’s Valentine Staller, 15-8, he tallied four fewer touches throughout the tournament. Josephs finished in 11th overall place with a record of 12-11.

Kopecky, who finished seventh at last year’s NCAA Championships, notched 15 victories to finish in eighth place overall. With the result, Kopecky made second-team All-American thanks to a one point advantage in touch differential. “I’m very happy with how it went,” Kopecky said. “In order to make All-American, you had to win a lot more bouts than last year, and this competition was the best I’ve fenced all year. I made the podium by one touch, so every single touch counts in this tournament.”

Freshman epeeist Diana Tsinis finished in 17th place with 10 victories.

“I almost had a season-ending injury at Regionals and I can’t stress how lucky I was to even be here. I’m proud of my result.”

—Sammy Roberts, senior fencer

Roberts finished in 12th place overall in her last tournament donning Columbia blue. Roberts finished ninth as a sophomore and 11th as a junior at the NCAA Championships. Roberts’ result is impressive, considering the fact that it was unclear whether she would even be able to compete after suffering a serious ankle injury at the regional qualifying tournament.

“Firstly, I’m extremely excited I was even able to fence,” Roberts said. “I almost had a season-ending injury at Regionals and I can’t stress how lucky I was to even be here. I’m proud of my result and felt that I was really able to fence at a successful level given my circumstances.”

Robert’s junior teammate on the sabre squad, Essane Diedro, finished in 14th place overall with ten victories. Junior foilist D’Meca Homer finished in 22nd place.

While the Lions will be losing a few key seniors to graduation, this weekend’s results at NCAA’s bode extremely well for the future of Columbia fencing. (Head coach Michael Aufrichtig could not be reached for comment Sunday evening.)

## Teachers College students look for inspiration at college’s first TEDx conference

### TED TALKS from page 3

Kwong—who is studying applied linguistics at TC—attended the conference with more specific goals in mind. Kwong, who spent four years teaching in China, plans to turn his family’s rural village house in China into a place for learning.

“We’ve been talking about renovating it and turning it into a school for the village,” Kwong said. “Getting ideas from this event hopefully will inspire me to follow through with that.”

The 10 TC students who organized the conference first had the idea of bringing

TED Talks to Columbia last summer.

“It started off as a very small idea, and we didn’t quite know how big we wanted to make it,” Tamar van Gelderen, one of those students, said. “Then it grew much, much bigger than I think any of us had envisioned initially.”

Videos of all the presentations will be available on the TED website in the next few weeks. Van Gelderen is graduating in May, but she is hopeful that other students will continue organizing TEDx Teachers College conferences to cover more topics in education.

“I think without the enthusiasm and love and passion—and knowing that we really care so much for international education and that we really believe in TEDx as well—we wouldn’t have gotten all the way to Friday,” van Gelderen said.

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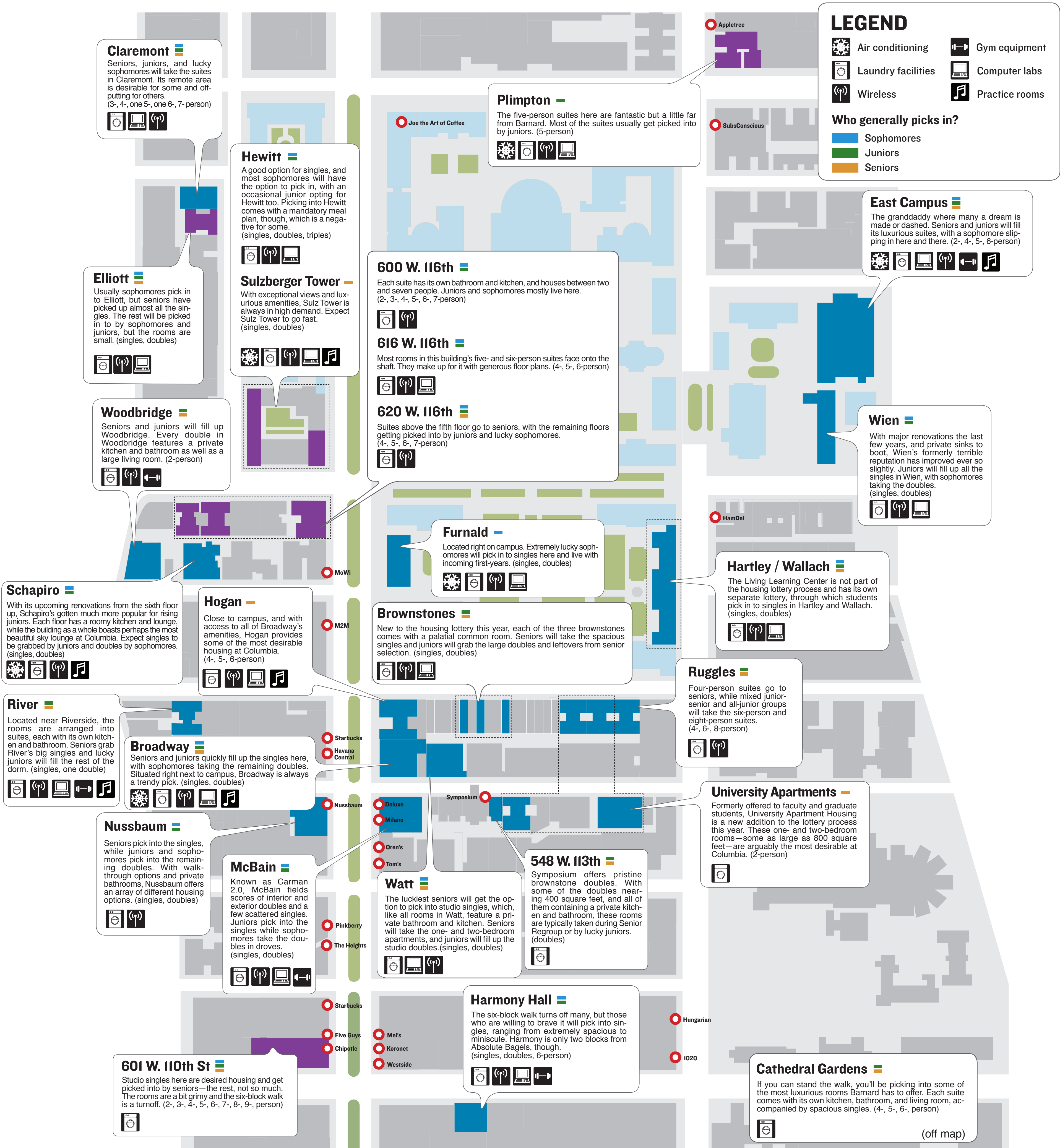


# THE SHAFT

## SPECTATOR'S COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING GUIDE

The first thing you should know about housing is that there are a lot of options. And the second thing you should know is that a lot of them are terrible. But don't despair, our 2012 map of the Columbia/Barnard dorms will guide you to safety.

For the latest updates on the selection process, check out The Shaft's liveblog at [columbiaspectator.com](http://columbiaspectator.com).







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# Searching the globe for research

BY ANNIE TICKELL

Recently, there has been more focus on international experiences at Columbia—due in part to University President Lee Bollinger's desire to globalize the Core, and many students are choosing to expand their studies by going abroad. Last semester, I studied abroad in Durban, South Africa. As many of you Columbians who have looked into study abroad may know, there are many programs from which to choose. I decided to enroll in the School for International Training for its program on post-apartheid politics. SIT places a large emphasis on experiential learning, so throughout the semester we lived with families in townships and supplemented our lectures with relevant excursions. The biggest draw for me, however, was the independent study project that comprised the last month of the program. As an anthropology major, I was itching to do field work. I had spent two years in the classroom reading other researchers' ethnographies, and I felt ready to do my own. It may come as little shock to my fellow Columbia College students that research opportunities for humanities students are few and far between. Thus, it is hard to ignore the irony that my chance at research came through a non-Columbia program.

My research in South Africa allowed me to focus on a particular area of study in a manner that I have yet to experience at Columbia. I chose to conduct research on the role of teacher unions in shaping national education. Upon my arrival in South Africa, I had little, if any, knowledge of union politics. Never did I guess that I would devote a large portion of my time in the country researching the South African Democratic Teachers Union, but for a month I did just that. I spent hours reading up on modern union theory and searching the Internet for reports concerning education policy. I befriended union leaders and gained the title “Comrade Annie from USA,” all the while spending time with teachers and union members at local schools. Research gave me the freedom to pursue my interests, and bestowed upon me an independence of thought that I had yet to experience. This was the beauty of study abroad. I became so thoroughly enmeshed in South African society that I was able to master a subject about which I had previously known nothing.

At Columbia, the Core asks us to be connoisseurs of all, but masters of nothing. The discussion of theory is the foundation of a Columbia education. While theory is fundamental to education, so, too, is research. Few students in the college will choose careers in academia, and as such, we need to develop the ability to apply theory in practice. Our interests may lead us to law, journalism, or a number of other pursuits. Some of us may even start our own organizations, and we must have experiential understanding of how to go about executing our well-thought-out plans.

As a humanities student at one of the country's largest research institutions, I have been hard-pressed to find research opportunities that suit my interests. Every spring, I watch my friends in SEAS receive fellowships for lab research or paid internships in big-name companies, while I frantically try to cobble together grants and side jobs to pay for work at non-profits or fund independent research projects. Although President Bollinger continues to expand the university's network of global centers, these centers consist of specific programs with predefined aims, and do not provide much room for independent research. Furthermore, funding is highly competitive, and for students whose fieldwork extends beyond the labs of NoCo, travel and living expenses can be very costly. Many of the grants on Columbia's website offer stipends between \$500 and \$5,000, which, even if they covered travel and living costs, would put little towards the tuition payments expected by Columbia in the fall. Thus, the current structure disincentivizes independent research in the humanities. Columbia may be a research institute, but it is one that prioritizes the physical over the social sciences.

However, this is not to say that the social sciences are a lost cause. Many of the departments in the college offer thesis projects, and there are various grants and fellowships available to cover the cost of thesis research. Furthermore, as the University continues to look internationally, more global programs will arise. A recent example is the Global Scholars pilot program in India and China, which offers the chance to research with professors in Mumbai, Shanghai, and Beijing for a month during the summer. Yet, until these programs move out of the “pilot” stage, study abroad is currently one of the university's best opportunities to test theoretical knowledge in the field.

*The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in anthropology.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I was reading Jessica Anderson's piece (“Germs and mid-terms,” March 19) in Spectator on Monday night, and I couldn't help but feel as if I was reading my own story.

This exact progression of events happened to me a little over a month ago, and I still feel somewhat behind in several classes. It all started when I had both stomach and regular flu-like symptoms over a weekend. “Maybe just the flu, maybe pneumonia,” the doctors said. When the X-rays came back negative for pneumonia, the doctors settled, seemingly puzzled, on the flu. Of course, they gave me nothing for it—no medicine, no treatment—so it lasted another week. It still isn't entirely gone, more than three weeks and spring break later.

This whole ordeal got me a one-day extension on one of my papers. Do you think I felt great the next day and easily finished it? Of course not. I had to struggle through my debilitating sickness to read two books that I had missed entirely and then write a paper on them—after doctors thought I had pneumonia.

As Jessica said in her editorial, professors need to show some more understanding. I personally got to the point where I even tried sending my professors pathetic, near-whiny emails to try to gain their sympathy. One of them responded saying that he didn't need to hear about my sickness and that I should leave him out of it in the future and talk only to my advising dean. I confess, that protocol is mentioned on his syllabus, but after two weeks or so of missing class, I thought he might like an explanation from me. At least he ended his message with a “get well soon,” I thought, but wait! I got no extension on homework from him, even with the dean's approval. I felt like I had to struggle to salvage passable marks on midterms and to finish papers. That's not what getting an education at Columbia is about. That's not what I'm here to do.

Columbia is awesome because of its academic rigor; that's why I decided to come here in the first place. However, that rigor is not synonymous with the near-impossibility of classroom success to which sickness can lead. Students can easily get dragged under and pulled out to sea by the rip tide of CU academics if they slip just slightly, even if illness is to blame, and that's not fair. That's really not fair.

Chris Canales, CC '14

# Oh, 'Bamanard

With New York bearing down on me, I escaped to the “wilderness” of the Appalachian Trail for spring break. I figured that if I ran far enough away, I would find peace of mind from midterms, internships, and the Columbia news cycle, so I drove all the way to the southern border of Virginia with a friend. Five days, several monstrous blisters, and an oversized bag of beef jerky later, we were already driving back to the North—another spring break over. Long before we even hit the New Jersey Turnpike, Columbia had managed to creep back into my consciousness.

We stopped at a rest stop in West Virginia, where the bathroom walls were littered with swastikas and lovely little adages like “Fuck Niggers.” Even though I was already deeply unnerved by the culture of the South—cluttered with confederate flags and Baptist Church billboards urging me to pray and not think—the bathroom graffiti did not faze me. I probed my mind to see why I was not more disturbed by the shoddily scratched homages to the Third Reich. The simple answer popped into my mind. The graffiti was anonymous—and not anonymous in the way that Ku Klux Klan members were able to hide their identities by wearing conehead costumes, but anonymous in the sense that a bored teenager taking a shit realized that he had a Sharpie in his pocket and thought it would be funny to outrage future shitters, knowing that he could never be held culpable for the act. At that realization, Columbia began to rear its ugly head in the back into my mind ... Obamanard.

Throughout the entire Obamanard affair, I kept shaking my head at the ease with which Columbia devolved into such a sensationalist, lightweight scandal. The entire hoopla—which is the only appropriate word to describe the situation—was over Bwog and Spectator comments. Literally, and I cannot stress this enough, Bwog comments triggered articles in the New York Times and Jezebel, campus support groups created to cope with the emotional damage, and, considering the magnitude of the response, I'm pretty sure a fourth wave of feminism. I cannot help but think that the hoopla of Obamanard was a bit of an overreaction to what the only surprising voice of reason, Barnard President Debora Spar, aptly characterized as “19-year-olds writing at 4:30 in the morning.” Trolls.

Dismayed at my column defending political incorrectness a couple months ago, an incredulous commenter asked if I had seen the Bwog comments regarding the Kingsmen protests, calling them a “low point of Columbia intellectualism.” My response today remains identical to back then: Stop looking at Bwog or Spectator comments as a barometer for the state of Columbia. In fact, just stop looking at them altogether. If that type of speech offends you, don't read Internet comment boards, just like you wouldn't peruse sites such as 4Chan for casual entertainment.

Just like the graffiti in the rest stop in West Virginia, Internet comments are anonymous. They are not Publius, using their anonymity to provide controversial, progressive commentary that would otherwise be impossible. Some of the commenters are using their anonymity to get a rise out of people and to get sensationalist responses. The majority,



LEO SCHWARTZ

## Rationalizing the Irrational

though, are using their anonymity to be offensive without repercussions, and to release those absurdly socially unacceptable rants bottled inside that they would never have the balls to say to a real, live person—bathroom graffiti on a much grander scale. Thus is the consequence of free speech in the digital age—the ability to say anonymously whatever you want, for anybody to read. Unlike bathroom graffiti, though, Internet comments are easy to ignore.

At this point in the column, the majority of readers might be shaking their heads with a combination of moral superiority and pity and an air of condescension: “Oh, naïve Leo. I would like to introduce you to the concept that literally everything you think is structured by relations of power and domination in society. Those Bwog comments demonstrated the underlying sexism that pervades and dominates Columbia! You can't attribute 879 comments to Internet trolls! They called us cum dumpsters! And suggested we work on our deepthroating techniques! I bet you wouldn't be laughing if those same people were making anti-Semitic comments instead of sexist comments!”

## My response today remains identical to back then: Stop looking at Bwog or Spectator comments as a barometer for the state of Columbia.

I admit that I will inevitably come off as insensitive, so I want to do my best not to be misinterpreted. Sexism exists in today's culture—it exists at Columbia, within the U.S., and certainly throughout the world—which is a depressing yet realistic truth, similar to the truth that racism still runs rampant (see Trayvon Martin). I'm not denying that Bwog or Spectator comments demonstrated the continued existence of sexism at Columbia, nor am I denying that this sexism should be combated. I don't want to marginalize those who were offended by the comments, but their act of acknowledging and thereby legitimizing the Bwog comments sensationalized and greatly exaggerated the level of sexism at Columbia, creating an unnecessary sandstorm of outrage that obscured the true issues at hand.

If Obamanard demonstrated anything, it's not that the Columbia population secretly hates women, but that the Columbia-Barnard relationship itself is fragile—a truth obvious to even the most naïve prefrash with a College Confidential account. No matter how many saccharine statements by Presidents Spar and Bollinger and overearnest denials by certain olive branch-waving students, it's indisputable that many Barnard students have an identity problem and that many Columbia students (and in my experience, mostly Columbia girls) have a resentment problem. Any rational Columbian knew long before Obamanard that the Columbia-Barnard relationship is tenuous. All this overblown scandal did was to sensationalize the already ubiquitous controversy, giving its most absurd spokespeople—anonymous Internet commenters—center stage.

*Leo Schwartz is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in political science and Latin American studies. These opinions do not reflect those of the editorial board. Rationalizing the Irrational runs alternate Mondays.*



Yael Wiesenfeld

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# An uneasy relationship

Manhattanville remains one of Columbia's most controversial and visible issues, sparking tense debate on campus and in the surrounding community. Columbia justified the campus expansion as improving the Manhattanville neighborhood and its connection with the University, but many residents view Columbia's actions as strong-armed bullying and forced gentrification.

Another divisive chapter was added to the Manhattanville saga when Juan Ruiz, a 69-year-old construction worker, was killed after the 131st Street building he was working on collapsed. Ruiz became the second man in two years to be killed in the ongoing Manhattanville project, after another construction worker suffered a heart attack and fell into an open elevator shaft in February 2010.

Both deaths occurred under the watch of Breeze National, the construction company that Columbia has contracted to do much of the work in Manhattanville. Even disregarding Breeze's past connections with organized crime and the fact that the City of New York no longer conducts business with the firm, it has been the subject of numerous violations

from the Department of Buildings, the most recent of which were issued only three weeks ago. However, the information available to us provides no clear indication as to who is responsible for this incident, and we do not wish to speculate.

Regardless, Columbia should determine what happened and hold the related parties responsible. If only as a political move, Columbia must make an effort to seek accountability. The easiest way for the University to do so would be to launch a full investigation into the contracting company, already known for its safety violations, to emphasize that Columbia values safety. If it becomes clear that Breeze National is responsible for the building collapse, then Columbia must cut ties with the contracting company, and make a stronger effort to find companies with better track records.

Although Columbia is not directly to blame for Ruiz's death, it must carefully look into the incident. Tensions are already running high among residents of Manhattanville, and the death of Juan Ruiz will certainly not improve any perceptions of Columbia. The Manhattanville project has always been, from Columbia's vantage point, a reconciliatory and benevolent outreach to the neighboring community. The University promises mutual benefits for the neighborhood, from creating jobs and commerce to providing a more solidified connection with the school. But without a significant gesture toward making changes in the future, the University will only further damage its relationship with the community.

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## In, outside class, athletes should set standard

Almost every time I watch a game on TV—from basketball to tennis—I see a commercial publicizing athletes’ and teams’ involvement in their communities. The “NBA Cares” bits are perhaps the most prevalent, but other leagues have similar programs. In recent years, sports leagues seem to be very concerned with branding themselves, monitoring everything from their athletes’ tweets to their wardrobes. It’s easy to write off community engagement programs and their accompanying media plugs as just another element of these organizations’ public relations efforts, but I think that these programs are important and much more meaningful to me than whether or not Kevin Garnett wears a suit on the bench when he’s injured. These programs have the potential to produce real, positive results and thus brand a league or team as an agent of good in society. This branding certainly applies to large, for-profit leagues like the NBA or NFL, but it is also very relevant to college athletics programs.

In its mission statement, Columbia Athletics pledges to “create, sponsor and provide programs to engage our University community and our neighbors” and, more specifically, to “challenge our community to live a healthy and active lifestyle.” As we all have probably heard, exercising regularly and eating well do produce lasting health benefits and can significantly lower future health care costs on individual and societal levels. Sports are a way to make exercise more fun and appealing to people of all ages, and athletes at the college or pro levels are natural leaders in the movement to get people to be more active. I definitely encourage Columbia athletes to facilitate activities during which community members, especially kids, can get some exercise in a fun way. Another thing to consider is that New York City is unusual in its lack of open spaces where kids (and adults) can safely play. I believe that hosting exercise and sports programs would be a great use of Columbia’s athletic facilities.

College athletes are also in the unique position of being able to serve as leaders in both education and health, as they are both students and athletes. Athletes in school know better than anyone that sports and exercise can sometimes be at odds with education, but also that both are integral parts of being a healthy, productive person. I can imagine that it’s difficult to fit community service into a schedule already filled up with academic and athletic activities, which is why I am always impressed when student-athletes take the time to give back to the community, as I know a number of them do, either on their own or through organized team outings.

In terms of organization, already-established outreach programs like NBA Cares, NFL Play60, and various equivalent NCAA initiatives definitely exist at least partially to improve the images of sports leagues, but they provide an infrastructure that allows athletes to get involved more easily. In my mind, it is enough to ask a college or professional athlete to take a Sunday afternoon off to go play with kids—I don’t expect every athlete to organize his or her own way of giving back. Whether or not a given league or team arranges community outreach programs for completely unselfish reasons, the fact that it does devote resources to getting athletes involved is important. Additionally, there are national programs like First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign that could surely benefit from athlete involvement. Columbia athletes in particular (or anyone, for that matter) can contribute their sports skills or simple brawn to this year’s Columbia Community Outreach on March 31.

At the college and professional level, athletes often revel in the adoration of their fans, who come watch them play because of the excitement and athletic majesty that sports have to offer. Athletes should strive not only to put on a show for these people, but also to let them experience the joy of sports for themselves, stressing that this joy of athletics can be motivation to live an active, healthy lifestyle. College athletes can further communicate that you can find similar satisfaction in the classroom en route to getting an education. Student-athletes clearly aren’t the only ones able to instill these values, but they can do a good job of it if they commit themselves.

*Benjamin Spener is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in economics-mathematics and Latin American and Iberian cultures.*  
sports@columbiaspectator.com



**BEN SPENER**  
**The Top Spin**

# Light Blue excels at NCAA Fencing Championships



FILE PHOTO

**HADZIC MAGIC** | Sophomore epeeist Alen Hadzic took second in the country, winning 17 of 24 bouts over the weekend.



FILE PHOTO

**ST. PATTY’S DAY** | Senior righty Pat Lowery threw a seven-inning shutout at Holy Cross, leading the Lions to victory.

## Lions sweep Holy Cross to earn weekend split

**BY RYAN YOUNG**  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

In their final weekend of nonconference baseball, the Lions played a pair of doubleheaders that featured completely contrasting styles. Columbia (5-13) was swept by Stony Brook (14-8) on Friday in a pair of back-and-forth one-run games, but rebounded with a sweep at Holy Cross (10-9) on Saturday.

The Seawolves, the America East favorites that came into the doubleheader having won six of their last seven games, rode their momentum to a fast start in game one and spoiled Columbia’s home opener with a 6-5 victory. Junior Stefan Olson struggled on the mound for the Lions, allowing five runs in 2 2/3 innings of work.

“Stefan had a rough outing,” sophomore catcher Mike Fischer said. “He just didn’t have the command he usually does.”

Solid relief work by senior Harrison Slutsky for the remainder of the contest kept Columbia in the game. The Lions took advantage of a pair of Stony Brook errors in the fourth by scoring

an unearned run. But with the bases loaded and one out, junior left fielder Dario Pizzano was gunned down at the plate trying to score off senior Billy Rumpke’s fly ball to right field. The Seawolves held a 6-2 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh and final inning, when the Lions put together a rally. But for the second straight game the Light Blue rally fell one run short as Aaron Silbar’s line drive to center field was picked off to end the game.

Columbia’s offense awoke again in game two, but this time it was the Seawolves who made the impressive comeback to claim an 11-10 victory.

The Seawolves took a 3-1 lead when freshman Kevin Krause launched a fourth-inning, two-run homer off Columbia starter David Spear. Columbia clawed back in the fourth with a six-run rally that featured a hit batter, a walk, a bunt single, and a balk. It was capped off by senior designated hitter Alexander Aurricchio’s first home run of the year—a mammoth three-run blast into the Harlem River beyond the center field fence—giving the Lions a 7-4 lead. In the following inning, senior outfielder Billy Rumpke

launched a three-run home run to left-center field, extending Columbia’s lead to 10-4.

“When I hit it, I didn’t think it was going out,” Rumpke said. “I think it’s my second home run ever here, so that was nice.”

Prior to the pair of home runs in two innings, the Lions had only hit one home run in the previous 15 games. Unfortunately for the Lions, the offense could not string together another rally as the Lions’ bullpen began to unravel.

The Seawolves then rallied for back-to-back three-run innings. The seventh inning featured a two-run home run by junior second baseman Maxx Tissenbaum off senior reliever Zach Epstein. After Epstein walked a pair in the eighth, sophomore lefty Joey Gandolfo came in and hit three straight batters—the third of which was controversial since the umpire originally ruled that the ball had hit the bat—forcing home two runs.

“I think Joey came in, in a tough situation, and he got ahead of a couple

**SEE BASEBALL, page 11**

**BY SPENCER GYORY**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Facing 144 of the best fencers in the country at the 2012 NCAA Fencing Championships, Columbia’s men’s and women’s fencing teams finished in eighth place overall with five individuals earning All-American honors.

Ohio State, who hosted the four-day event, comfortably brought the national title back to Columbus with 182 victories. Despite sending fewer fencers than eight other schools, the eight fencers Columbia sent notched a combined 97 victories. Ivy League rivals Princeton finished in second place (with 161 victories), Harvard in sixth (136), and Penn in seventh (124).

Individually, the Lions brought back one first-team All-American (sophomore epeeist Alen Hadzic), two second-team All-Americans (freshman sabrist Will Spear and junior epeeist and captain Lydia Kopecky) and two third-team All-Americans (freshman sabrist Michael Josephs and senior sabrist and captain Sammy Roberts) to Morningside Heights.










At the 2011 NCAA Championships, Columbia finished in seventh place with its women’s team producing great results. At this year’s tournament, the three qualifying men did more than their fair share for the Light Blue.

Hadzic achieved the best result for the Lions, second place, at NCAA’s since Nicole Ross won the gold medal in women’s foil in 2010. It was an improvement for Hadzic, who finished ninth at NCAA’s last year.

After the round-robin portion of the event, Hadzic was seeded second with a 17-6 record. In the semifinal bout against Ohio State’s Kristian Boyadzhiev, Hadzic found himself down, 7-12, at the break. After receiving advice from his coaches, Hadzic make some key adjustments and came back to win in dramatic fashion, 15-14. In the gold-medal bout, Hadzic faced Princeton’s Jonathan Yergler, who had defeated him at this year’s Ivy League Championships. After closing the gap to 7-9, Hadzic couldn’t keep up with Yergler, who went on to take the title, 15-8.

Spear and Josephs also performed well. Spear finished in fifth place overall, just narrowly missing the top-four cut-off. Although he achieved the same

**SEE FENCING, page 5**

SCOREBOARD		
	FENCING	
	Five Lions earned All-American honors	
	WOMEN'S TENNIS	
	Columbia	4
	William and Mary	3
	Columbia	4
	Old Dominion	0
	MEN'S TENNIS	
	Columbia	5
	St. John's	2
	WOMEN'S ROWING	
	Took second in three-team field in Connell Cup at Orchard Beach Lagoon	
	BASEBALL	
	Columbia	5
	Stony Brook	6
	Columbia	10
	Stony Brook	11
	Columbia	6
	Holy Cross	0
	Columbia	3
Holy Cross	1	
	SOFTBALL	
	Columbia	5
	Saint Peter's	2
	Columbia	7
	Saint Peter's	1
	LACROSSE	
	Columbia	4
	Dartmouth	15
	HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING	
	Swept Collins Cup Regatta versus Rutgers	
	WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD	
	Competed at Philadelphia Big 5 and Friends Meet	



SPORTS BRIEFLY

MEN’S TENNIS

The No. 62 Light Blue (13-2) extended its winning streak to nine games with a 5-2 upset over No. 60 St. John’s on Friday. The Lions’ most recent loss came on Feb. 18 at the hands of the Red Storm (10-5), but this time, the Light Blue came out on top. Starting strong in doubles, Columbia took the first point thanks to the work of freshman Winston Lin and senior Haig Schneiderman in the No. 3 doubles spot. The Lions took four matches in singles play, including the No. 2 spot, where Lin defeated junior Vasko Mladenov, the No. 40 singles player in the nation. Having handed St. John’s its first home loss of the season, the Lions will now prepare for the start of conference play next weekend.

—Steven Lau

WOMEN’S TENNIS

With wins over William and Mary on Friday and Old Dominion on Saturday, the Lions (8-3) stretched their win streak to four matches. The Light Blue recovered from an early deficit after losses at the No. 1 and No. 3 doubles positions against the Tribe on Friday for a 4-3 victory. No. 1 singles player senior Nicole Bartnik defeated the Tribe’s No. 109 nationally ranked sophomore Maria Belaya 6-4, 7-6 (2), leading the Lions to four singles wins against the Tribe. With less than a day’s rest between matches, the Lions faced Old Dominion on Saturday. Columbia swept four straight singles matches to guarantee the 4-0 victory over the Big Blue.

—Caroline Bowman

LACROSSE

The Lions (1-6, 0-4 Ivy) fell 15-4 at No. 10 Dartmouth (6-1, 2-0 Ivy) on Saturday. Junior attacker Kacie Johnson, who recorded two goals in the contest, struck first, giving Columbia a 1-0 lead just 1:12 into the game. The Light Blue held the lead for the next 5:15. The Big Green dominated the rest of the match, scoring the next 15 goals and finishing with a plus-12 shot differential and a plus-nine turnover differential. Big Green senior midfielders Sarah Plumb and Kirsten Goldberg both had hat tricks to lead the hosts, and Plumb had a game-high six points. Columbia next plays Friday at home against Iona.

—Muneeb Alam

WOMEN’S ROWING

After an impressive outing in Florida, the Lions struggled at their own Collins Cup. With only a few meters left in the varsity eights race, after pulling well ahead of Penn, the Lions were unable to overtake the Bulldogs. Yale finished two seconds before Columbia. The second varsity eight also lost to Yale by six seconds. Both varsity four teams finished third. The Light Blue will next compete on March 31 at the Woodbury Cup in Boston.

—Alison Macke

HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING

Racing in conditions that were far from ideal, the heavyweight rowing team earned victories in all three events, topping Rutgers and ensuring that the Collins Cup would remain in the Lions’ hands. The varsity eights beat the Scarlet Knights by 23 seconds, while the second varsity fours topped the Rutgers B boat by 30 seconds and the A boat by 40 seconds. The freshman eights also outpaced their Scarlet Knight counterparts, as the Light Blue finished 16 seconds ahead of the Rutgers A boat and 48 seconds ahead of the B boat. Columbia will face MIT, Holy Cross, and Dartmouth at Orchard Beach Lagoon in the Alumni Cup at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

—Eli Schultz

TRACK AND FIELD

Columbia picked up right where it left off in the indoor season at Saturday’s Philadelphia Big 5 and Friends Meet, hosted by Penn. The first meet of the outdoor season for Columbia showcased the talent of the younger Lions in the short distance events, as jumpers, field athletes, and top distance runners did not make the trip to Philadelphia.

Sophomore sprinter Miata Morlu had an outstanding first-place finish in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.80 seconds. Top-three finishers in their respective categories also included senior Kyra Caldwell in the 400 hurdles, along with freshman Brendon Fish and sophomore Tim Cousins in the 1,500. The Light Blue will next race in the Dick Shea Open at West Point on March 31.

—Melissa Cheung

SOFTBALL

Columbia’s (5-14) dominant offense, which put up 24 hits and 12 runs, helped propel it to two wins over St. Peter’s on Saturday. After a home run from freshman catcher Liz Caggiano in the third inning in the first game of the doubleheader, the Lions scored two more runs in the inning with a bases-loaded single from freshman infielder/outfielder Alix Cook. St. Peter’s fought back in the sixth to bring the score to 4-2, but the Lions got the final run with sophomore infielder Emily Snodgrass in the top of the seventh to finish the game at 5-2. The Lions succeeded in limiting St. Peter’s offensively, thanks to starting freshman pitcher Kalli Schultea, who struck out seven batters and allowed only one earned run in 5 1/3 innings of work.

The Light Blue jumped to a fast start in the nightcap, taking a 2-0 lead in the first. Led by starting freshman pitcher Brooke Darling, who allowed only one earned run in her fourth complete game of the season, the Lions cruised to a 7-1 victory for their third straight win.

Columbia wraps up its nonconference play against Rider on Wednesday.

—Hahn Chang

MEN’S GOLF

The Light Blue will compete in the UALR/First Tee Collegiate Classic in Little Rock, Ark., on Monday. The tournament includes two top-100 teams—No. 67 Southeastern Louisiana and No. 97 Sam Houston State. Columbia will try to build off its impressive late-round performance in the USF Triumph at Pauma Valley two weeks ago, as the team’s final-round score of 298 was 12 strokes better than its second-round score. Junior Michael Yiu, seniors Brendan Doyle and Sam Mysock, and sophomores Andrew Kim and Jordan Lee are expected to be io the five-man team. Freshman Brandon Jowers has had an impressive season so far and is expected to compete as an individual in the tournament. The tournament will be held from Monday, March 26, to Tuesday, March 27.

—Josh Shenkar



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NICK THE SLICK | Sophomore right fielder Nick Ferraresi hit two homers on Saturday at Holy Cross.

CU drops first home games, rallies on road

BASEBALL from page 10

of those guys that he hit,” coach Brett Boretti said. “We’re trying to go in, because a lot of those guys are on the dish, and we’re just missing. It’s a learning experience, and we got to get Joey back out there again and get him back into that situation.”

The Seawolves completed the comeback and tied the game on a Tissenbaum base hit, but senior right fielder Nick Ferraresi threw a laser to the plate to cut down the go-ahead run.

But Stony Brook fittingly scored the game-winning run in the top of the ninth in a wild fashion, as junior outfielder Tanner Nivins reached on a third-strike wild pitch and scored on a two-out RBI single.

In the bottom of the ninth, after a one-out sacrifice bunt to move the tying run to scoring position, freshman outfielder Robb Paller struck out to end the game.

The Lions rebounded on Saturday at Holy Cross thanks to dominant starting pitching.

Senior Pat Lowery dazzled with a four-hit, seven-inning complete-game shutout in game one, leading the Lions to a 6-0 victory. Lowery only allowed four singles, collected seven strikeouts, and walked nobody in his gem.

Ferraresi knocked his second round-tripper of the season in the first inning, giving the Light Blue a 2-0 lead that it maintained for the rest of the game.

The nightcap followed a similar formula—junior Tim

Giel threw seven innings of three-hit, one-run baseball in a 3-1 Columbia victory. Freshman reliever David Spinos pitched out of a bases-loaded, nobody-out jam in the eighth inning, in addition to a scoreless ninth to pick up the save.

“Both of Pat and Tim really gave us a great shot of being successful today, especially after having a tough loss in game two yesterday. They both stepped up and really did a great job,” Boretti said.

Ferraresi belted his second two-run homer of the game in the third inning in what turned out to be the difference in the game.

The Lions’ final tuneup for Ivy play is set for 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, when Army visits Robertson Field.

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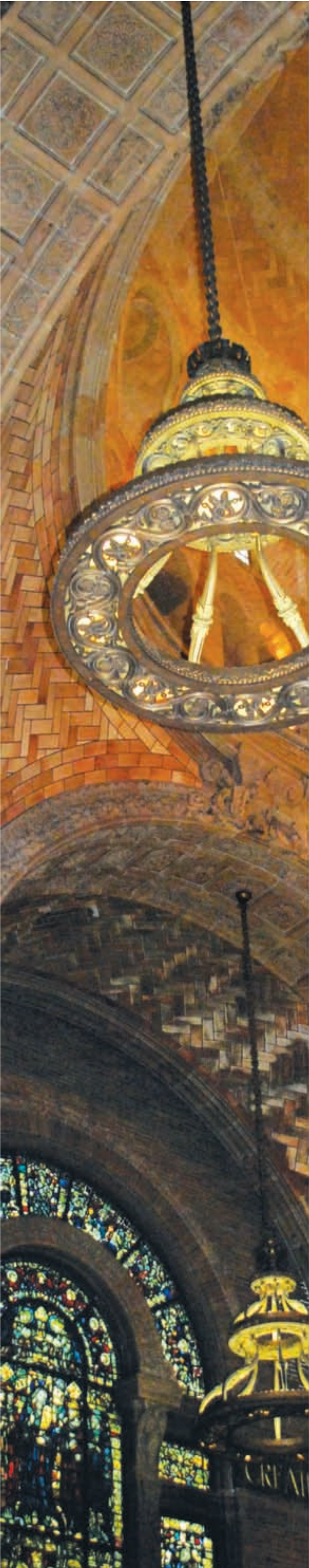
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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
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invites you to join us for the

2012  
BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Sunday, May 13, 2012  
9:30–11:00 a.m.  
St. Paul's Chapel

Columbia University  
1160 Amsterdam Avenue at 117th Street

The Baccalaureate Service is an interfaith service celebrating the completion of each undergraduate's academic career.

This event features a procession that includes undergraduate degree candidates from Columbia College, The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of General Studies, and Barnard College. School deans, the University chaplain, and faculty and administrators also participate.

Student Speakers

**Yusuf Ahmad**  
*Columbia College, '12*  
*Muslim*

**Rohit Iragavarapu**  
*Columbia College, '12*  
*Hindu*

**Jordana Kaminetsky**  
*Barnard College, '12*  
*Jewish*

**John Morgan**  
*The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, '12*  
*Latter-day Saint*

**Jade Noble**  
*Columbia College, '12*  
*Catholic*

**Nick Pleasants**  
*Columbia College, '12*  
*Christian*

**Peter Thompson**  
*Columbia College, '12*  
*Episcopal*

**Jacqueline Thong Jia-En**  
*School of General Studies, '12*  
*Catholic*

**Emily Winograd**  
*Barnard College/Jewish Theological Seminary, '12*  
*Jewish*

Music Solo

**Wei Sim**  
*Columbia College, '12*  
*Christian*

Students must register to participate. Tickets are not required for admission.

For questions, please e-mail [chaplain@columbia.edu](mailto:chaplain@columbia.edu) or call 212-854-1493.

Visit [www.commencement.columbia.edu](http://www.commencement.columbia.edu) for more details.

The service is coordinated jointly by the Office of the University Chaplain and the Commencement Office/University Programs and Events.

The newly renovated Faculty House, located right on campus, is offering a special brunch for graduates and their guests during Commencement Week 2012. Following the Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, May 13, 2012, undergraduate degree candidates who join us for brunch at 12:00 noon will receive a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine for the table.

For more information and to make reservations, visit [www.facultyhouse.columbia.edu/commencement](http://www.facultyhouse.columbia.edu/commencement).

