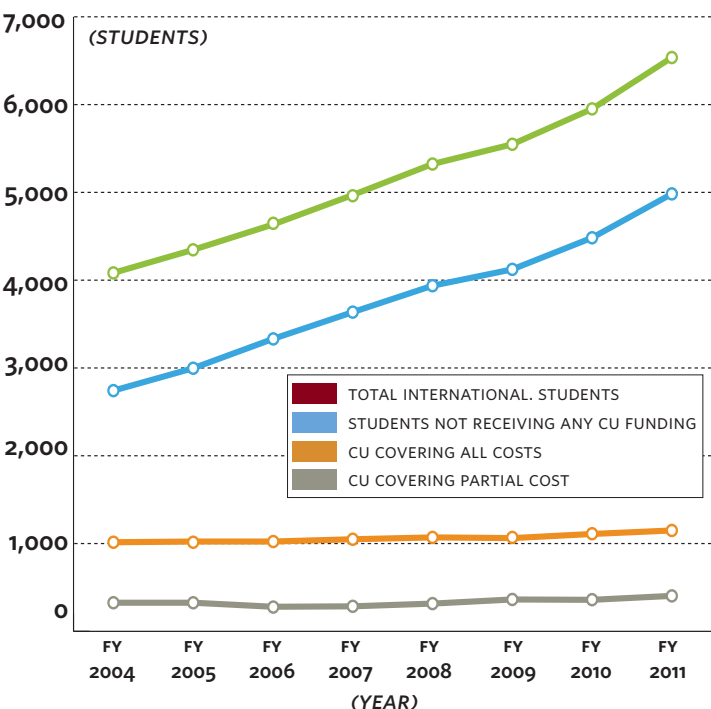




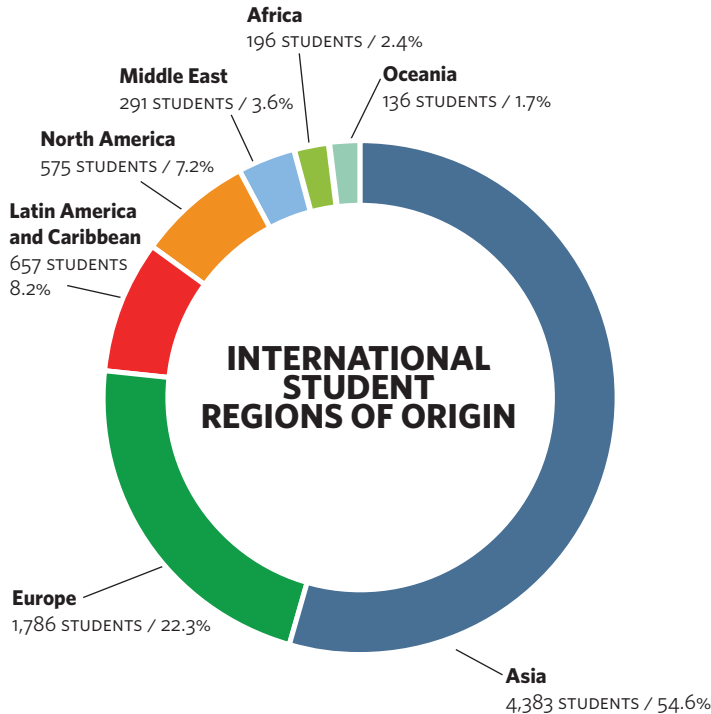
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT COLUMBIA



CU INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT



SINCE 2004, TOTAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT HAS INCREASED **+60.1%**
IN THE SAME PERIOD, COLUMBIA'S NET INCOME FROM INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS INCREASED **+121.3%**
76.2% OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT POPULATION DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY FUNDING FROM COLUMBIA.



TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN					
NAME	# OF STUDENTS	%	NAME	# OF STUDENTS	%
1. CHINA	518	18.0%	6. INDIA	150	5.2%
2. FRANCE	229	8.0%	7. JAPAN	149	5.2%
3. ITALY	215	7.5%	8. S. KOREA	143	5.0%
4. GERMANY	179	6.2%	9. CANADA	107	3.7%
5. SPAIN	159	5.5%	10. UNITED KINGDOM	92	3.2%

DATA COURTESY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS OFFICE / GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

CU responded poorly to harassment claim, students say

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Staff Writer

Gaviota Velasco's last year at Columbia left her feeling frustrated and alone.

During the summer of 2010, Velasco was working on her thesis in the earth and environmental engineering department when, she said, she was sexually harassed by a staff member in the department.

Velasco, who graduated with a master's degree from

the School of Engineering and Applied Science in 2011, said she reported the incident to Ombuds officer Marsha Wagner before being redirected to the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, which handles investigations against faculty and staff in cases of discrimination and harassment.

Velasco said she never received a response from EOAA and had to continue working with her harasser. Unable to

handle the situation, she returned to her home in Mexico and completed her degree from afar.

The story told by Velasco and two students who supported her raises serious concerns about the University's policy for responding to harassment complaints by students against employees.

'DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO'
Velasco said she was "very close" with the staff member

until she noticed that he was not assigning her work that he was assigning to other students. At that point, she decided that she wanted to distance herself from him.

One day, though, the staff member showed up at Velasco's apartment and refused to leave for hours, despite her repeated requests.

"I felt like it was very uncomfortable being around him,

SEE HARASSMENT, page 4

After 8 years, A&S finalizes new administrative structure

BY MARGARET MATTES
AND SAMMY ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

In a 2004 letter to faculty members, newly appointed Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks wrote that he was working with professors to restructure the A&S administration. Eight years later, Dirks thinks that A&S has finally gotten it right.

In the last two years, A&S has added a new faculty governance committee, a divisional dean structure, and several new staff members in Dirks' office. And in a letter to faculty dated April 16, Dirks outlined the two latest structural reforms: the creation of a three-member executive committee and the re-establishment of the long-dormant Planning and Budget Committee.

"When I started in my role in 2004-2005, everywhere I turned there was a problem," Dirks told Spectator. "There was no real effective faculty governance. There was a very, very lean office here without any major administrative capacity."

The executive committee, which will make all final budgeting decisions for A&S, is composed of the executive vice president for Arts and Sciences, the dean of Columbia College, and the dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The Planning and Budget Committee will be made up of the deans of all A&S schools plus two members of the Planning and Policy Committee, a faculty advisory body to Dirks.

Last summer, the consulting firm McKinsey and Company completed a report on A&S,

suggesting several forms of administrative restructuring. Ultimately, though, administrators did not implement any of McKinsey's suggested structures.

McKinsey's report "hasn't been an active document for months," Columbia College Interim Dean James Valentini said. "In my view, it wasn't an active document when it was actually prepared."

COLUMBIA COLLEGE'S ROLE

The Arts and Sciences division is made up of six schools—CC, GSAS, the School of General Studies, the School of the Arts, the School of International and Public Affairs, and the School of Continuing Education.

But only the deans of CC and GSAS are members of the new executive committee, elevating them within the A&S hierarchy. The CC dean also holds the title of vice president for undergraduate education, and Dirks said there are plans to make the GSAS dean the vice president for graduate education.

Dirks said that the creation of the executive committee, which meets every two weeks, expands the roles of the CC and GSAS deans. The CC dean, for example, is now involved in "a whole variety of matters ... that are beyond the province of the college itself," he said.

"It was always the case that the college made certain decisions, that the graduate school made certain decisions. Now we're making them together," Dirks said. "What it really does is it shares the executive authority that each of us had in a way

SEE STRUCTURE, page 2

GSAS seeks to start cross-disciplinary program

BY MARGARET MATTES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is seeking University Senate approval for a new interdisciplinary master's program.

The proposed program would allow students to individualize their courses of study in consultation with a committee. It was first approved by the GSAS Executive Committee in December 2010, and the senate's Education Committee took up the proposal in February 2011, before requesting more information about the program in February of this year.

"We are still working on addressing those [questions] because other matters have taken precedence," GSAS Dean Carlos Alonso said in an email.

Alonso said that he appeared before the Education Committee to answer some of its questions in December, and that additional details are still being ironed out.

"Dean Alonso is concerned with these master's programs because we charge serious tuition for them, and in order to do that, we need to ensure that they are of the highest quality for the people who pay this money," pathobiology professor and GSAS Executive Committee member Richard Kessin said.

The consulting firm McKinsey and Company also recommended the creation of an "interdisciplinary individual study" master's program in a report on the Arts and Sciences last summer, after GSAS

SEE MASTER'S, page 2



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

AYE | The senate voted 44-12 in favor of a resolution supporting public course evaluations.

USenate votes to publish course evals

BY MARGARET MATTES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The University Senate passed a resolution urging all Columbia schools to make course evaluations public on Friday. After over an hour of intense debate, the senate approved the course evaluations resolution in an overwhelming 44-12 vote.

"The current system does not work," said Ryan Turner, a graduate student in the School of Engineering and Applied Science who helped draft the resolution. "The students need and want more information to evaluate courses ... That demand is very strong"

"The student voice is very clear on this," he said.

In passing the policy, the senate resolved that "all Columbia University schools work to implement an open course evaluation system during the 2012-2013 academic year, with due consideration to the specific needs and limitations of each academic program, and the expectation that open course evaluations should become the norm."

Fewer int'l. students receiving CU funding

International student population tops 6,000 for first time

BY MELISSA VON
MAYRHAUSER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

While the number of international students at Columbia increased by 60.1 percent from 2004 to 2011, the University's income from international students rose by a staggering 121.3 percent in the same time period.

Only 23.8 percent of international students received any funding from the University this year, down from 32.9 percent in 2004, according to a report from the International Students and Scholars Office. At Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science, need-blind admissions is offered only to domestic students.

"This is a problem we have," University President Lee Bollinger said. "I've been working on this—we have many people working on this. We do not have sufficient financial aid for international students"

The decreasing percentage of international students receiving aid could be indicative of decreasing socioeconomic diversity among Columbia international student body.

"There is a desire, which I have advocated and strongly support, to increase the number of international students, and all for good academic reasons," Bollinger said. "And as you gradually do that and you don't have enough financial aid, it's not surprising that the numbers you cite are going to go in the directions they are."

The numbers of students from traditionally underrepresented regions—with emerging market countries—Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa—remain low. But the global centers office envisions that the centers will increase those numbers by helping Columbia to reach out to more students from those regions.

The greatest number of international students hail from China—26.5 percent of the 6,536 enrolled at Columbia in 2011—while the combined number of international students from African, Latin American, and Middle Eastern countries remains under 20 percent of the University's international student population.

The ISSO report said that the net income generated from international students rose to about \$304 million in 2011, up from about \$137 million in 2004. Columbia College Interim Dean James Valentini said that the college does not admit international students as a means of generating revenue.

"We admit international students because we think it's an important part of the experience of students here to have students from other countries," he said. "We do believe that having international students is important, and we offer financial aid to many international students and meet their need, but we can't guarantee financial aid to all of them."

There are still great discrepancies in the number of students who come from Asia and Europe

SEE ISSO, page 13

A&E, PAGE 12

V-Show takes on big themes, but sometimes falls short

The 118th Annual Varsity Show tackles the Core Curriculum its importance at the University, but sometimes loses its overall campus relevance.



OPINION, PAGE 6

That's all, folks

Nightline offers a sympathetic listener to those in distress.

Here to help

The members of last year's corporate board reflect and say farewell.

SPORTS, PAGE 11

Lions win final series of season

Baseball took three of four from Penn this past weekend, finishing the season on a high note on Saturday afternoon with an 11-1 win.

EVENTS

Lavender Graduation

Join the Office of Multicultural Affairs to celebrate the graduation of LGBT seniors.

John Jay Lounge, 2 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



63° / 52°

Tomorrow



63° / 52°

THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Formed in fall 2010.
- Advises Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks on issues relevant to faculty.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Formed this semester.
- Three members: Dirks, Columbia College Interim Dean James Valentini, and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean Carlos Alonso.
- Makes all final budgetary decisions for the Arts and Sciences, among other responsibilities.
- Meets every two weeks.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- In the process of being formed.
- Will address academic issues that affect multiple schools within A&S.

DIVISIONAL DEANS

- Formed in summer 2011.
- There are three divisional deans—of humanities, social sciences, and sciences.
- Acts as a conduit between Dirks and A&S's 29 departments and 32 institutes, centers and programs.

PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

- Being formed this semester.
- Composed of the deans of the Arts and Sciences schools (SIPA, CC, GS, SoA, SCE, GSAS), as well as Dirks and two members of the Policy and Planning Committee.
- Serves as an advisory committee on the A&S budget.

GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

New A&S structures enhance role of CC dean

STRUCTURE from front page

that is more holistic.”

“Everything that involved the college before was always made as a joint discussion before, so what it does is it actually extends, in a way, the roles of the deans of the college and the graduate school,” he added.

Valentini said that the committee is working on budgeting, faculty development, and curricular issues. He noted that A&S is in the final stages of preparing its budget for the 2013 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

“Just as the plan for this restructuring describes, the executive committee is responsible for all major decisions about deployment of resources—human resources and capital resources—within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and its constituent schools,” Valentini said.

PLANNING AND BUDGET

The re-established Planning and Budget Committee will work largely as an advisory body to the A&S executive committee on budgetary matters.

“The P and B will be where the assumptions and parameters over which we have control ... get built up,” Dirks said. “And then the final decisions about what we do will be made by the executive committee.”

According to Dirks, the committee was disbanded in 1994 because it had become a “micromanaging type of body” that often took months to debate minutiae about individual schools’ budgets.

A summary of the McKinsey report noted that the committee had led to a “dysfunctional outcome due to limited ability/

willingness of participants to compromise on key issues.”

But Dirks said that this time, the committee would stay focused on broader questions of financial allocations, respecting the autonomy of individual schools and not getting bogged down in minutiae.

A LONG PROCESS

Restructuring within A&S is now drawing to a close, but the process began several years ago.

After a two-year review, A&S established the Policy and Planning Committee in the fall of 2010. The PPC, a committee of nine professors, advises Dirks on all issues of concern to A&S faculty members.

Last year, A&S also implemented a divisional dean structure, with Dirks appointing psychology professor Geraldine Downey dean of social sciences, French professor Pierre Force dean of humanities, and physics professor Amber Miller dean of sciences. The divisional deans serve as liaisons between Dirks and A&S’s 29 departments and 32 institutes, centers, and programs.

McKinsey did recommend instituting divisional deans, but Columbia had already begun developing the divisional dean structure before McKinsey suggested it, Dirks said.

One piece of structural reform is not yet complete: the formation of the Educational Policy and Planning Committee. Dirks said that this committee would deal with academic issues that affect multiple schools within A&S, making it distinct from specific schools’ committees on instruction.

Valentini said he expects the

EPPC will be created by the end of the semester. The committee was originally intended to be faculty-only, but PPC member Cathy Popkin told Columbia College Student Council president-elect Karishma Habbu, CC ’13, that the committee would have student members, Habbu said at CCSC’s Sunday night meeting.

WILL IT WORK?

A&S has also bulked up its administrative capacity, with Dirks’ office adding several staff members over the last year. Dirks said that this additional staffing gives him confidence that the new structures will work, as he now has the time to focus more on relationships with the six A&S schools.

University President Lee Bollinger said that although the process of restructuring in A&S hasn’t been simple, he is “very pleased with where we are.” He called the new A&S executive committee a place “where those central figures can get together and try to work through a budget.”

“The idea is that it is a spirit of partnership and collaboration,” he said.

In his letter to faculty, Dirks referred to the latest changes as being “the last remaining structural reform in our administration and governance.”

“All of the kinds of issues that I’d identified and that I’ve been concerned about have been addressed now, and we’ll see how well it works during the next year,” he said. “But I’m confident that it will work.”

Ben Gittelson contributed reporting.
news@columbiaspectator.com

2012 COLUMBIA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS		
JARVIS AND CONSTANCE DOCTOROW FELLOWSHIP MARK HAY, CC ’12	HOLTHULSEN-SCHINDLER SCHOLARSHIPS CLAIRE BLAKEY, CC ’09 SAMUEL ROTHSCHILD, CC ’09, LAW ’13 STEPHANIE WU, CC ’10, LAW ’13	HENRY EVANS TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP BORIS VASSILEV, CC ’12
HARRY J. CARMAN FELLOWSHIP ASHLEY KUMMERLOWE, CC ’12	NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS DANIEL AMRHEIN, CC ’09 JACOB ANDREAS, SEAS ’12 ZACHARY BRILL, CC ’12 SOPHIE CHU, SEAS ’09 CLAYTON DAHLMAN, SEAS ’11 ANNA FINEBERG, CC ’10 EIREN JACOBSON, CC ’10 KATHERINE KLYMKO, CC ’11 PETROS PETRIDIS, SEAS ’12 JASON PFLUEGER, CC ’11 NOAM PRYWES, CC ’10 STACY RAMCHARAN, SEAS ’12 ALI RAZA, CC ’12 ALBERT RIGOSI, CC ’11 PAMELA SANCHEZ, SEAS ’11 KYLER SIEGEL, SEAS ’11 RACHEL VISHNEPOLSKY, CC ’10 YINUO WANG, CC ’12 ADAM ZELIZER, CC ’06	BEINECKE SCHOLARSHIP MAHMOUD SAMORI, GS ’13
CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP JACOB ANDREAS, SEAS ’12	MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP ALEXANDER FROUMAN, CC ’12	
BARRY M. GOLDWATER FELLOWSHIPS WOO CHANG CHUNG, CC ’13 ADAM FORMICA, CC ’13 KATHARINA SHAW, CC ’13	EURETTA J. KELLETT FELLOWSHIPS MATTHEW CAPETOLA, CC ’12 MICHAEL ENCISO, CC ’12	
CLASS OF 1939 SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS SARAH LEE, CC ’13 LUKAS MATERN, CC ’14 LUCY SIGUENZA, CC ’13 THOMAS SPRY, CC ’14 DEVYN TYLER, CC ’13	FULBRIGHT GRANTS (TO DATE) SARAH BRAFMAN, CC ’10 CRISTIAN GONZALEZ, CC ’10 STACEY HIRSH, SEAS ’06 DAVID KANG, CC ’09 GENNADY KOGAN, SEAS ’08 RITHAMBARA RAMACHANDRAN, CC ’12 KATE REDBURN, CC ’10 EMILY TAMKIN, CC ’12 JAMES TYSON, CC ’12	

DATA COURTESY OF OFFICE OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

A YEAR OF FELLOWSHIPS | Forty-seven Columbia students and alumni won fellowships this academic year, ranging from a Churchill Fellowship, to a Marshall Scholarship, to Fulbright grants.

McKinsey had suggested new master’s program

MASTER’S from front page

had already begun developing one.

A summary of the McKinsey report advises Columbia to increase enrollment in master’s programs, which generate substantial revenue because there is little financial aid for master’s students. The summary suggests the creation of the interdisciplinary master’s program and an economics master’s program and also says that administrators should “focus enrollment increases on six high-demand programs with marginal additions in smaller programs.”

Columbia College Interim

Dean James Valentini, one of three members of the new executive committee for the Arts and Sciences, said that while “money’s always a consideration because we need money to operate,” the development of new master’s programs and curricular offerings for undergraduates is first and foremost an academic issue.

“If we decide to do something, the first thing we decide is, ‘Does this make sense intellectually?’” Valentini said. “Then naturally, you’re going to ask, ‘Is this going to cost me money, or is this going to earn me money?’ And if it’s going to cost me money, you want us to

make sure there’s a benefit somewhere else.”

“And if it earns you money,” he added, “you’re going to want to ask, ‘How can I use that to improve other parts of the operation?’”

Alonso, who became interim GSAS dean in August 2010, said that the interdisciplinary master’s program was one of the first initiatives he took on as dean and that it was “inspired in the existing, longstanding, and successful program at NYU’s Gallatin School.”

Varun Char and Sammy Roth contributed reporting.
margaret.mattes@columbiaspectator.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR. & MAY

APRIL

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					

MAY

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		

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL EVENTS ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.

MORE INFORMATION ONLINE
WWW.BARNARD.EDU

BARNARD COLLEGE
3009 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10027
PHONE 212.854.2037

04/17

LYN HEJINIAN & ELEANOR JOHNSON
7 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

04/18

REFLECTIONS ON KINSHIP TROUBLE
The Bacchae Revisited
7 PM

Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

04/19

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SENIOR THESIS POSTER SESSION
4 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

04/21

SPRING CONCERT
8 PM

James Chapel, Union Theological Seminary

04/24

AFRICA IN BRAZIL? Samba, History, and the Allure and Challenge of Diaspora
6 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

04/27–04/28

BARNARD DANCES AT MILLER
2 PM (Saturday), 7 PM

Miller Theater, 2960 Broadway

04/27–04/28

SENIOR THESIS FESTIVAL II
8 PM (Friday)
3, 6, 7 & 8 PM (Saturday)

05/04–05/05

THE PEDAGOGIES OF TRANSLATION
Current Methods and Future Prospects

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

BARNARD

THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE
FOR WOMEN
IN NEW YORK CITY

Impact of Obama security not clear until last week

BY YASMIN GAGNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The General Studies class day ceremony was not rescheduled until last Monday because the scale of the security measures needed for President Barack Obama’s visit to campus was not fully realized until a week earlier, University President Lee Bollinger said.

Students were outraged to learn that GS Class Day—originally scheduled for May 14, the same morning that Obama, CC ’83, will speak at Barnard’s commencement—was pushed up a day so as not to force GS graduates and their guests to pass through extensive security. Many students expressed concern that the move was announced just last week, when Obama was announced as commencement speaker on March 3.

“There’s a very simple reason

why it came out now, because it wasn’t until the past week that the White House advance team was in a position to confirm what the full logistical impact would be across campus in order to make a fully informed decision about what could be done on that day,” Bollinger said on Friday.

“In light of the requirements of the president of the United States and his security, we had to enter into a new discussion with GS about what to do,” he said. “Remain in the same location but have the inconvenience, move to an alternative location on the same day at the same time but not as traditional as the South Lawn site, or change the day and move to Low Plaza. The choice was to do that.”

Last week, Reina de Beer, GS ’12, said that it was “very surprising and so sudden” that the change of date came so close to Class Day,

considering the announcement that Obama would be speaking was made weeks before. Many students responded similarly.

“Obama security would have had to know about the measures. It just seems odd,” de Beer said.

Some students have criticized Bollinger and other administrators’ response to the controversy, a sentiment Bollinger said he understands.

“I try to avoid vague statements that are in the area of public relations talk,” he said. “But, on the other hand, people have to understand that, a lot of times, there are considerations that just can’t be included in a public statement.”

The date was switched after it became clear that GS students and their guests would have to arrive as early as 5:30 a.m. to go through

SEE CLASS DAY, page 13

CU increases internship offerings for local youth

BY ALESSANDRA POBLADOR
Columbia Daily Spectator

Columbia is expanding a summer internship program for high school students this summer, building on previous efforts to partner with local residents.

The program, which is being offered through the Columbia Employment Information Center, will create 15 to 20 intern positions for high school students from Upper Manhattan. The University started the program last summer, hiring six interns to work in the facilities office, and the success of that program prompted an increase in the number of positions and departments of placement this year, according to La-Verna Fountain, associate vice president of construction business services and communications.

The internship program is described in the Community Benefits Agreement signed by the University, a document outlining Columbia’s obligations to collaborate with residents of West Harlem in light of its Manhattanville campus expansion project.

“We’ve had partnerships with the community for a long, long time, in lots of different ways,” Fountain said. “This just builds on what already existed at this university for quite some time.”

For five weeks in July and August, the interns will work in different offices throughout the University, according to Columbia spokesperson Victoria Benitez, although the specific departments will not be chosen until the selection process is complete.

Internships are being advertised for areas including finance and business administration, engineering and operations, Manhattanville development, and project management. This year, the program is being “geared towards those fields related to math, science, and engineering,” Benitez said.

For Jonathan Samaniego, a senior from the High School for Dual Language and Asian Studies who was an intern last summer, the internships give high school students the opportunity to feel like a part of the University.

“People like me, minorities like me, that live around the area,

don’t really have the opportunity to have internships like this,” Samaniego said.

Samaniego applied for a position after his mother heard about the program at a community board meeting in his building. Samaniego, who lives in West Harlem, said that Columbia’s reputation as “a renowned Ivy League college” attracted him to work at the University.

He also had a greater appreciation for Columbia’s efforts at local partnership after his experience, he said.

“Now I feel that Columbia really is trying to help out the community,” he said. “I’ve heard about their Manhattanville project. I hear they’re helping out small businesses, giving workers jobs.”

Columbia’s athletic department has contributed to his local soccer team, which Samaniego said is “pretty neat.”

“The efforts should be exposed a little more,” he said. “Now a few of my friends even know about it, which is good—more people are learning about what Columbia University is doing.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

Bollinger co-chairing committee on education tech

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Staff Writer

As Columbia pushes to develop new digital tools for its own classrooms, University President Lee Bollinger will play a key role in determining how secondary schools can incorporate new technologies at a national level.

Bollinger is one of four co-chairs of the newly formed Leading Education by Advancing Digital Commission, an organization created by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski, CC ’85, and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Bollinger said he joined the commission at Genachowski’s request.

“I think this is one of the biggest issues now we’re facing,” Bollinger said. “I think we went through a wave of this in the late ’90s ... and that kind of got shelved, and now we’re in a new phase.”

The commission’s primary goals, according to its website, are to facilitate research about existing technologies, to determine how technology can impact teaching and learning, and to study the policies and funding needed for schools to incorporate technology successfully.

Bollinger’s co-chairs on the commission are former Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, TPG Capital co-founder James Coulter, and Common Sense Media founder James Steyer. The commission, formed in March, is expected to release its findings by the end of 2012.

“It’s about things that I care about—that is, education K through 12,” Bollinger said. “But also, universities have a part of thinking about this, and what is the role of technology and what should it be, and online.”

But while Bollinger will begin looking into the role of technology in the classroom at

a national level, the University’s Center for New Media Teaching and Learning has been active in developing digital tools for Columbia classrooms since 1999. With its main offices tucked away in Butler Library, CCNMTL has not received much public attention, but the group of 34 employees has worked with about 5,000 faculty members on more than 200 new media projects.

CCNMTL associate director Daniel Beeby said that the organization strives to increase the purposeful use of technology in classrooms, depending on what best suits the curriculum, students, and instructors. CCNMTL is responsible both for designing new technologies—such as Mediathread and Video Interactions for Teaching And Learning—and implementing them in classrooms.

“You can throw money at a problem, you can throw

SEE LEAD, page 4

Some profs still oppose open course evaluations

USENATE from front page

and the Commission on the Status of Women—to determine ways to provide more and better information to students to aid them in choosing courses.”

But many faculty members said that the votes of FAC and the Faculty Caucus did not represent the opinions of all professors.

Pharmacology professor and FAC member Alice Prince pointed out that many of FAC’s 17 members were not present for the committee’s vote.

“I think it’s very unfair to lump all of the faculty based on the few—very vocal and very well-reasoned—arguments of my colleagues that are here,” she said. “We get evaluated all the time. It’s part of what life is like now. You have to be responsible for your actions.”

Several faculty members from schools and departments that already have open course evaluations, such as the Law School

and the economics department, also spoke out in favor of the resolution. Both economics professor Brendan O’Flaherty and law professor Philip Genty said that some professors’ fears are unfounded.

“The experience has really been quite positive throughout,” Genty said. “I think it’s a benefit to all of us. It’s caused a greater attention to teaching.”

Although individual schools will determine the specifics of how to make their course evaluations public over the next academic year, many senators expressed support for a rollout period, an idea first pitched by Provost John Coatsworth. During this period of time, faculty members would be able to choose whether to participate in a public evaluations pilot program.

“If we learn, as other schools have, that consequences feared are relatively minor—or absent altogether—it might be possible to move forward in a way that

makes us competitive with other institutions at the end of that period,” Coatsworth, who voted for the resolution, said. He added that this was what Harvard University’s approach to open course evaluations was when he was a faculty member there.

The senate’s resolution suggests, but does not mandate, that “the implementation of open course evaluations be done with consideration to the Report on Open Course Evaluations published by the Student Affairs Committee and its recommendations.” The report proposes the release of qualitative and quantitative evaluations data, a two-semester rollout period, and a two-semester grace period for new faculty members.

At the plenary, the senate also approved a resolution granting senators the ability to send emails directly to their constituencies.

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Bollinger unsure of role on commission

LEAD from page 4

technology at a problem, but having folks to back teachers up is a huge aspect of this—to sit down and think about the curriculum, find ways to do it, try something, try it again, see how it goes,” Beeby said.

Paul Stengel, a former English teacher who is now an educational technologist at CCNMTL, is responsible for some of the center’s collaborations with Teachers College professors.

“Many of these projects hook into schools in the immediate area, some have a national vision,” Stengel said. “But we do a lot of work with Harlem schools in the area, and we do a lot of pre-service training.”

Part of that pre-service training is for the Teaching Residents at Teachers College program, which allows TC students to apprentice in high-need New York City classrooms. Through workshops, CCNMTL provides the teaching residents with ways to implement technology at the secondary schools where they teach.

Beeby emphasized that there is no single answer to the question of what digital tools are most needed in classrooms.

“It’s hard to say,” Beeby said. “It’s sort of saying to a doctor, ‘What are your patients mainly suffering from?’ You’re going to find an array of maladies and situations.”

Part of the LEAD Commission’s job will be to figure out what technologies will have the greatest impact in what situations. As of now, though, the commission’s only action has been a brief presentation on the opportunities and challenges of digital textbooks, and Bollinger is uncertain as to what he will have to do next.

“It’s not clear yet,” he said. “I mean, there’s still staff organizing, refining issues, thinking about gathering data, and so on, so I don’t know exactly what.”

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Students recount University’s response to sexual harassment claim against staffer

HARASSMENT from front page

so we stopped talking a lot,” Velasco said. “But we really had to talk because we were working together ... I decided to talk to him again so we could have a nice work environment.”

The two met at a bar to discuss the situation.

“I just drank one margarita, and I don’t recall any other memory from that moment on,” she said. “The next thing I remember, he was there in my apartment, there with me in the bed, next to me.”

Soon after the incident, Velasco said, she went to the University’s Ombuds office, where she was advised to talk to the staff member and the professor overseeing her thesis work.

“I really didn’t know what to do,” Velasco said. “I had to work, and I had to write my thesis, and I had to work next to him, and it was very hard.”

Wagner then tried to talk to Velasco’s professor about the situation, but the professor “really didn’t do anything,” Velasco said.

“I felt my professors weren’t helping me. I had to do everything alone,” she said. “I really wanted to finish. I felt I was not doing work enough. I had to hide from” the harasser.

Velasco was directed to Melissa Rooker, the executive director of EOAA and the University’s deputy Title IX coordinator for staff and faculty concerns.

Rooker “had me send an email and told me to write details and names, hour by hour and everything, and she said then she would interview [the harasser] and my professor, so that’s what I understood,” Velasco said. But Rooker never emailed her back, Velasco said.

Wagner declined to comment on specific cases.

“It’s in the University’s interest that it be regarded as a place where people are treated with respect and fairness and that the policies are followed,” Wagner said.

SEAS doctoral candidates Jen McAdoo and Naomi Klinghoffer, both of whom are also students in the earth and environmental engineering department, heard Velasco’s story and talked to EEE department chair Klaus Lackner while Velasco was in Mexico. McAdoo was later appointed as a student representative to University President Lee Bollinger’s Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault, a responsibility she has since transferred to Klinghoffer.

Klinghoffer said that Lackner was “very supportive.” But with Velasco back in Mexico, the two students were told that not much action could be taken.

“There’s a lot of formal procedure in place, and some could be improved, and a lot of it is fine,” Lackner said. “I think it’s more about a trust that needs to be there, that they’re willing to create an environment where people feel comfortable.”

In December of 2010, the staff member was let go by the University—although it’s unclear why—and Velasco returned to New York to finish her thesis. No one interviewed for this story would name the harasser.

‘DEAR COLLEAGUE’

For McAdoo and Klinghoffer, though, the story wasn’t over—after bringing Velasco’s story to Lackner, they were invited to meetings with several administrators, starting in April 2011. They hoped to address how the University handled Velasco’s case.

This was around the time that the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights sent out what is known as a “Dear Colleague” letter, which reminded universities that they are required to meet federal Title IX standards for preventing and addressing sexual assault.

McAdoo said she was told by Melissa Tihinen, senior manager of the Office for Student Services for Gender-Based and Sexual Misconduct, that the new

federal policies would assuage the students’ concerns. But the University’s Employment Policies and Procedures on Discrimination and Harassment are separate from its Gender-Based Misconduct Policies for Students, meaning that the “Dear Colleague” letter led only to basic changes to the University’s employment policy.

“I got a bit more of a feeling that we were working against each other.”

—Nancy Klinghoffer, SEAS doctoral candidate

“‘Dear Colleague’ focused on Title IX, which pertains to students. We added what we could for employees here, which includes duty to act, duty to report,” Rooker said.

McAdoo said that Rooker and other administrators would not discuss Velasco’s case with her and Klinghoffer due to privacy restrictions in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

“It was difficult to communicate with them openly, because there was this whole issue of confidentiality that they were saying prevented them from talking to us,” Klinghoffer said. “I think that we were never really able to find a common ground or a way to talk about these issues that felt productive and helpful to us and yet also maintain their confidentiality commitments.”

“It’s a really difficult topic because what we’re actually saying is, under the heading of a federally mandated privacy protection, we’re not able to have a conversation that otherwise we would want to have,” Vice President of Student and Administrative Services Scott Wright said.

McAdoo and Klinghoffer asked administrators if they

would meet with them and Velasco together, but they were told that this was not allowed.

Rooker declined to comment on the specifics of any case or meeting but said that “no one else is allowed to have a representative there, either from the respondent side or the complainant side ... unless you’re a union representative.”

But despite what Rooker said, the University’s employment policy—which covers all sexual harassment cases that involve a faculty or staff member—does not explicitly prohibit the complainant from having an advocate present when meeting with administrators. It does prohibit legal counsel.

In the University’s policies for student-student sexual harassment cases, complainants and respondents are both allowed to have a supporter present throughout the process.

“I didn’t feel like we were working with them so much—I got a bit more of a feeling that we were working against each other,” Klinghoffer said.

LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS

Rooker and Tihinen provide training and workshops for student groups, classes, and faculty and staff, and they are currently working through each school and department at Columbia in accordance with the “Dear Colleague” letter. Since their efforts began in December, Rooker estimates that they have given more than 40 presentations and talked to about 1,200 employees.

Currently, though, no training has been done in the earth and environmental engineering department.

“I’m all for” training, Lackner said. “We actually wanted to have a whole faculty session, which only hasn’t happened because of scheduling issues. ... But it’s important that people have an awareness.”

In addition to serving on the Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault, McAdoo has developed a public health campaign to raise awareness about sexual assault and the University’s policies, called SafetyNet. She hopes to encourage students to “stay in communication with the administration to make sure that your reports are being investigated.”

The University has also made further commitments to fighting sexual assault this year, Wright said.

After the “Dear Colleague” letter, the University created the Title IX investigator position in a trial capacity, and it was recently made a permanent position. Counseling and Psychological Services recently hired four new psychologists, and it assigned a liaison to each of Columbia’s schools to work directly with faculty this semester.

Still, after their experience looking into Velasco’s case, McAdoo and Klinghoffer are not sure that the changes will have much of an effect. McAdoo said she had an “internal battle about whether to stay” at school here, because of “the way that Columbia treats its students.”

“It’s strong in my mind when I think about how I feel about being a part of the Columbia community, and whether or not I would encourage other people to want to be involved in the Columbia community,” Klinghoffer said.

Rooker and Associate Provost for EOAA Susan Rieger said that they welcome discussions with any students who have concerns about the University’s policies or their implementation.

“We are really committed to these policies and to make sure that students have a place to go if they feel they are discriminated against or harassed by an employee. I think we work hard at doing that,” Rieger said.

Velasco, though, tells a different story.

“Marsha [Wagner] told me it was Columbia’s responsibility to make me feel like I had the right environment to work in,” Velasco said. “But it never happened.”

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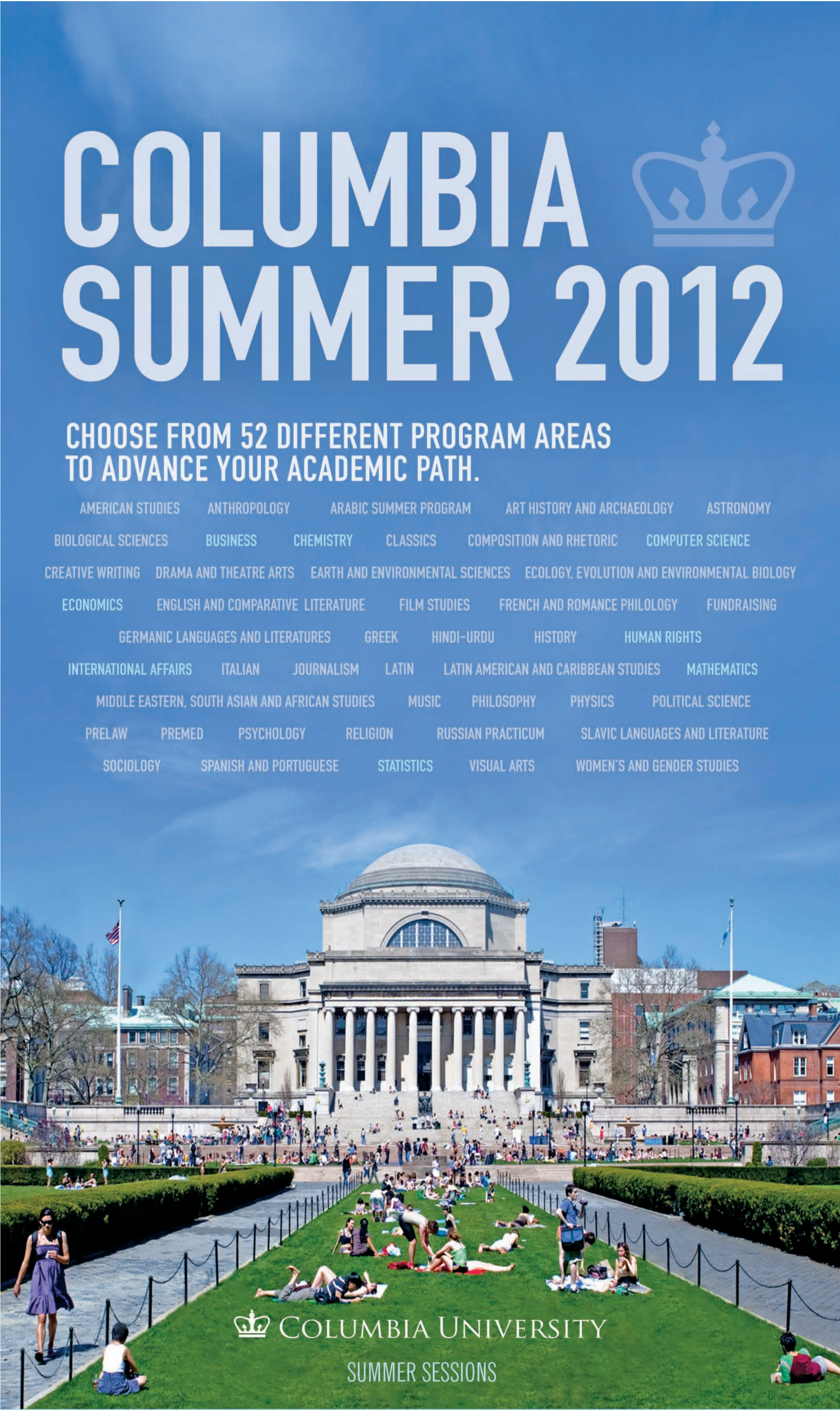
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Studying liberally

Where I am from, we do not believe in destiny when it comes to a university degree. You are required to declare your future by filling out perfectly spaced out bubbles on a form the day you enroll in university. You are required to take endless requirements and dismiss the era of exploration. Hesitation is seen as a synonym for immaturity. If you can catalog yourself into the realms of medicine, science, or law, your destiny is set. Who would ever consider academia or taking a dive into the liberal arts? They are too liberal. You study for money, so whatever title you attach to your diploma needs to be worth the time, effort, and resources invested in it.

This terrifies me, which is why, from a very young age, I promised myself that I would make an effort to study in the United States. Not necessarily for the prestige that such an experience would grant me back in Mexico, but because there was room for real, in-depth academic exploration. There is room for the concept of small Core classes, for discussions on Don Quixote that transcended translation, for a random class on Afro-Cuban dance, and for validation in a course on the sociology of masculinity. There is space for a regional studies or gender studies title in your diploma that intellectual people would regard with respect. But above all, there is time to discover who you were before you declared who you were to become. There is an amazing span of two college years to breathe, to grow, to touch, to taste, and to hear before you declare your major, and contrary to common perception, there is no pressure to decide it beforehand. This is something beautiful from the educational system here, and few individuals truly value it.

Influenced by the university atmosphere back home, I arrived at this university with a perfectly clearly defined notion of a double major that I wished to pursue. One of the first days of orientation, I met a fellow freshman who challenged all my notions of major decision, and, looking back, I thank him for this greatly. When asked what he was majoring in, he claimed to have not the slightest idea. He was curious, hungry for everything. He embraced his ambiguous state as an opportunity to redefine himself. “Who is supposed to know what they are going to do with their life at 18 years old?” he said. He was right. Who is supposed to know from a very young age what route she is pursuing? Who is supposed to be able to define what interests her when she grows up in the same homogeneous bubble her entire life? Who has the degree of authority and knowledge at this young stage to restrict themselves from the possibility of discovering endless new things? Since that day, I have kept my options open. When asked about my major, I romantically answer that it is “life,” and complement it with an array of things I have been inclined to pursue. When the time to declare my major comes, this will probably change. However, it might not be until graduation when I will truly know what it was I learned at this school, and maybe not even then.

Looking back to September, I cannot understand how it was possible that I thought I had a clear notion of what I wanted to do with my life. After months of growth, of being exposed to situations I had never encountered, of living in a city that has the potential to deceive you but also make you feel incredibly alive, of reading the founding texts of civilization and meeting some of the most interesting people in the world, I know that I am more lost than I ever was. I think, therefore I am. But I think that I do not know who I am, and I embrace this thoroughly.

It annoyed me greatly that during Days on Campus, all the prospective students had their intended majors on their name badges. If I have one piece of advice to give to the class of 2016 after spending my first year at Columbia, it is that they should not limit themselves. They should try to “major in unafraid,” like the slogan of our Barnard counterparts, and take a wide array of introductory classes in subjects they would have never considered. They should also take art classes—whether it is sculpting, guitar, or modern dance. It will relax them. If they choose really constrictive majors like economics or architecture, there is still room for exploration freshman year to be able to graduate in time. They still have time. But above all, they should not go around announcing their intended major during orientation. They will grow so much that this will be subject to change.

Why catalog yourself into a particular pathway, stereotype, and mentality this early in your college experience?

The author is a Columbia College first-year. She is on the executive board of the Columbia Society of International Undergraduate Students and a writer for Nuestras Voces. From Outside In runs alternate Mondays.



ANDREA VIEJO

From Outside In

Coming out

BY SARAH NGU

I am lying on the floor, my right hand holding the phone to my ear, my left holding a pen. This is how I like to take my calls. For the past four years here at Columbia, I’ve worked as an anonymous Nightline peer counselor, working shifts from 10 p.m. to three a.m. Last night was my last shift, so now that I’m “out,” I want to use this opportunity to demystify Nightline, Columbia/Barnard’s only peer counseling hotline, and share my story for the first time.

Callers call and talk. We listen, validate, and provide referrals to more long-term sources. Both the caller and counselor remain anonymous, but for a brief time, an intense connection usually forms. Anonymity is certainly double-edged—as a writer for Bwog, I experience its nasty edge, and as a Nightline peer counselor, I find its redemptive edge, for students are freed to open up completely.

But even though I often hang up the phone happy to have helped someone get through the night, it saddens me that one of the reasons students call is because they don’t feel comfortable turning to anyone else. Nightline acts as a safety net to catch some who may slip through the cracks. This is not always the case: Sometimes you just need a fresh ear, a third-party listener, because your friends have already heard your story a million times over.

Nightline counselors all share a commitment to help, but for me, the intimate, anonymous exchange of taking a call holds a special pleasure. It is akin to novel-reading. It provides a window into a stranger’s life and reminds me, when I walk down College Walk, that although we hold unique differences, we are much the same, nursing many of the same insecurities and hopes. It humanizes the campus for me.

I joined Nightline my freshman year, surprised to find it one of the most selective groups on campus. There is a semester-long training process, chock-full of expert-led workshops and role-plays, all of which take up around four hours a week, culminating in a certification test (a phone role-play with three evaluators), which I was more nervous for than I was for any of my finals. I failed the test and went through re-training for another few months before finally becoming certified.



JADE BONACOLTA

STAFF EDITORIAL

Activating faculty activism

In a year that has been plagued by turmoil over administrative decision-making, one of the recurring themes has been a constant lack of faculty input in decisions that have far-reaching consequences for undergraduate education. At a time when Columbia College’s relationship with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences is evolving, the faculty voice has been underrepresented and disproportionately weak. Save for a handful of dedicated and usually tenured professors, the faculty remains quiet and relatively uninvolved in public with issues of undergraduate academic importance.

The faculty voice is especially important to campus discussions. Members of the faculty directly interact with students and understand their interests more acutely than does the administration. More importantly, while undergraduates are only here in four-year increments, the faculty remains at the University for a longer time, making it much more capable of influencing long-term change. To have faculty involved in undergraduate academic issues means a more thorough debate with the administration and, ultimately, a stronger representation of student views.

Although this issue has been highlighted in the past year, its roots extend to the earlier part of the 1990s, when the Faculty of Arts and Sciences was created to merge the faculties of Columbia College, the School of General Studies, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the School of International and Public Affairs, and the School of the Arts. Key decisions that had been reserved by the faculties of the individual schools—in areas such as admissions, financial aid, programs of study, conditions for graduation, grading, honors, examinations, and instruction—were transferred to the larger FAS body.

While merging the individual faculties into one FAS body undoubtedly has had its benefits, especially in non-academic decision-making, the structure of the combined body has led to a decrease in faculty participation in academic issues. The very nature of a body designed to integrate interests

common to the combined Arts and Sciences faculty influences the agenda in a way that leads the focus away from undergraduate academic concerns. Whereas a body such as the Faculty of Columbia College had undergraduate education as a primary interest, FAS subsumed it as one of many concerns on a busy agenda. Effectively, the faculties of the individual schools lost their platforms for discussing the issues exclusively pertinent to them—one of which was undergraduate education.

The 1978 bylaws of the Faculty of Columbia College mandated that “meetings of the Faculty shall be held at 3:10 p.m., on the third Monday of every month from October to May inclusive.” Senior professors who still remember those meetings recall that they were primarily spent discussing academic issues. When Columbia College faculty was subsumed under FAS, the meetings grew less frequent and more sparsely attended by faculty, and understandably so.

Columbia College faculty meetings used to be devoted to undergraduate issues, but FAS now has to cover a wider array of topics. When it met to vote on the inclusion of Frontiers of Science, for example, the entire FAS was allowed to vote on the decision, even though many of its members did not teach undergraduates or adequately understand the Core Curriculum.

Within the current structure of FAS, there is an effort to create a forum to recreate these discussions in particular committees. For example, the Policy and Planning Committee recently announced the formation of the Educational Policy and Planning Committee, composed of faculty and administrators with the intent of advising Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks on academic issues such as global centers and the Core Curriculum. On top of the standing committees on the Core and Instruction and some of the vague academic policy powers of the University Senate, there are some efforts to create the institutional framework to foster faculty activism. Yet the committee system, as it stands, is difficult to navigate, because the roles of each are unclear to faculty.

All of these committees would be confusing enough if it weren’t for the recent turmoil that FAS has recently undergone with the instability of provosts and the CC dean. On top of the confusing network of committees with seemingly overlapping jurisdictions, the committees have recently seen substantial changes. At the same time, meetings of the entire FAS faculty

Besides teaching me how to persist after failure, Nightline has also taught me to become more comfortable with acknowledging need and getting help. It’s ironic, but I grew up with a slight stigma against getting therapy as I saw it as mainly for “other people.” A counselor called me out on it while I was training, and I realized I had fallen into the trap of the savior-complex that many well-intentioned people, from psychologists to development experts, often have. We become blind to our own vulnerabilities.

Nightline has been a bit of a refuge in that I’m just a happy member of it—I hold no title or leadership position.

My perspective on my work as a counselor has shifted from when I first started. I listen, probe, and validate a lot more, and try to problem-solve a lot less. Once in a while, I’ll make an insightful connection or point out a possible solution, but for the most part, I walk alongside the caller, nodding along. There is a lot of power in that. Underneath each caller’s story are countless unvoiced questions: “Is it okay to feel this way? Is this normal? Do you understand?” And I respond, without saying exactly so, “Yes, yes, and yes again.”

Nightline has been a bit of a refuge in that I’m just a happy member of it—I hold no title or leadership position, unlike my other activities. The difficulty with Nightline is that while it can be an invaluable resource, it’s hard to publicize while you’re an anonymous member, which is why I’m writing this. It can take a lot of admirable courage to call, but it can also take very little courage, for the issues range from the serious to the mundane. There are always outlets for anonymous venting—private journals, blogs, etc. But sometimes it helps to have another human on the other end of the line.

The author is a Columbia College senior concentrating in political science and American studies. She was the president of the Veritas Forum and is a resident adviser. She was a Barnard/Columbia Nightline peer counselor from spring 2009 until April 30, 3 a.m.

have grown more infrequent.

The problem goes deeper than just infrequent meetings, though—many professors don’t attend faculty meetings, or don’t participate vocally in the meetings when they go. According to a number of professors, this is because there doesn’t appear to be a clear outlet for faculty to voice particular undergraduate concerns. Robert Pollack, a Frontiers lecturer and professor of biological sciences, said that faculty meetings need to be reconfigured so that they have a clear agenda. Without an agenda, the roles of each of the different committees are not fully realized or understood.

At the recent town hall on the Columbia College dean selection, both Chair of Literature Humanities Christia Mercer and Slavic languages professor Cathy Popkin articulated that while faculty have a great deal of opinions, they don’t know where to take them. If the various committees had their intent, aims, and scope fully communicated, then faculty would hopefully feel more included and willing to participate. Ultimately, according to Mercer, “If faculty were being listened to, more would be involved. If faculty voices could be heard more easily, then we would hear more of them. I also think that more faculty governance would change the culture of faculty, create a greater sense of belonging.”

For faculty voices to be heard, professors need to see that advisory committees are influencing administrative decision-making. Furthermore, existing committees must clearly delineate their advisory scope and extend membership to dedicated and knowledgeable professors. We find it hard to believe that diminished faculty activism is a result of apathy. Passionate and interested professors surely still exist, but they need to regain forums to discuss issues relevant to undergraduate education.

FAS is important for larger, more universal faculty concerns such as benefits and housing, which are crucial to recruiting and maintaining top-notch professors. The committees are important for addressing more specific undergraduate academic issues, and with greater clarity to their role and agenda, the committees can begin to function more as an outlet for faculty to be heard. If faculty activism increases, the strength of the undergraduate education will only be cemented and augmented. In the end, though, our faculty members needs to feel like they’re being heard—only then will they speak loudly and clearly.

Senior Columns

Former Spectator staffers share their experiences and thoughts before graduation.

The view from tomorrow

BY SAMUEL E. ROTH

There was a moment early last spring that encapsulated why I love Spectator. It was our first on-the-record meeting with Kevin Shollenberger—me, managing editor Michele Cleary, news editors Leah Greenbaum and Sarah Darville, maybe a reporter or two, and the whole senior team from Student Affairs around a big conference table in Lerner one Tuesday morning. Since the news team asked most of the questions, I was mainly focused on fighting my acute sleep deprivation when Shollenberger turned to us and asked, “So, what are you working on?”

For a terrifying moment, I struggled to come up with an answer. I could have talked about big paper-wide initiatives, like increasing our multimedia output and starting a digital preservation project. I could have mentioned some of the big stories we were thinking about, like construction starting in Manhattanville or the then-pitched battle to bring ROTC back to Columbia. But on an average Tuesday morning, what I was most worried about was what the hell the next day’s paper was going to look like.

Like the hundred or so editors in chief before me, I came into the job with some big ideas about how to reshape the organization before I left the office. I quickly discovered that I would spend most of my time thinking about how to finish tomorrow’s paper, and most nights, the paper left the office before I did.

All things told, that’s probably for the best. A community as complex as Columbia deserves a newspaper committed to making things better and not worse. That will only happen when sensitive issues are addressed with thorough journalism, thoughtful commentary, and incisive presentation—which come from focused attention to all the details, not necessarily sweeping overhauls. So I’m glad that I did whatever little I could to make the paper better, not with giant changes, but every day. And as it happened, we managed to move the ball on some of the big things, too.

It will come as a surprise to no one, however, that nearly all of the good work done at Spectator last year was done by some very smart and dedicated people who were not me. There are far too many such people to list, and not nearly enough space to do so. (Dan, Ellen, and April, you would be very high up on that list.) That being said, two people deserve special mention.

Columbia deserves a newspaper committed to making things better.

The first is Michele Cleary. Before becoming managing editor, Michele had worked at Spectator for three years, putting in night after night, eventually running the sports section entirely by herself, practically with one hand tied behind her back. Imagine being in her position and learning that you’d have to share the duties of leading the paper with a know-nothing jackass who’d run for editor in chief on a lark.

A lesser person—less dedicated, less patient, less generous of her own time and sanity—would have resigned in disgust. Michele didn’t. She stuck around, presumably to make sure said jackass didn’t screw things up too badly, and to show him the many, many ropes of which he was then ignorant. She’s been the best partner an editor could ask for, not to mention a talented co-author and a great friend. There’s no one with whom I’d rather share a masthead, a foxhole, or a byline.

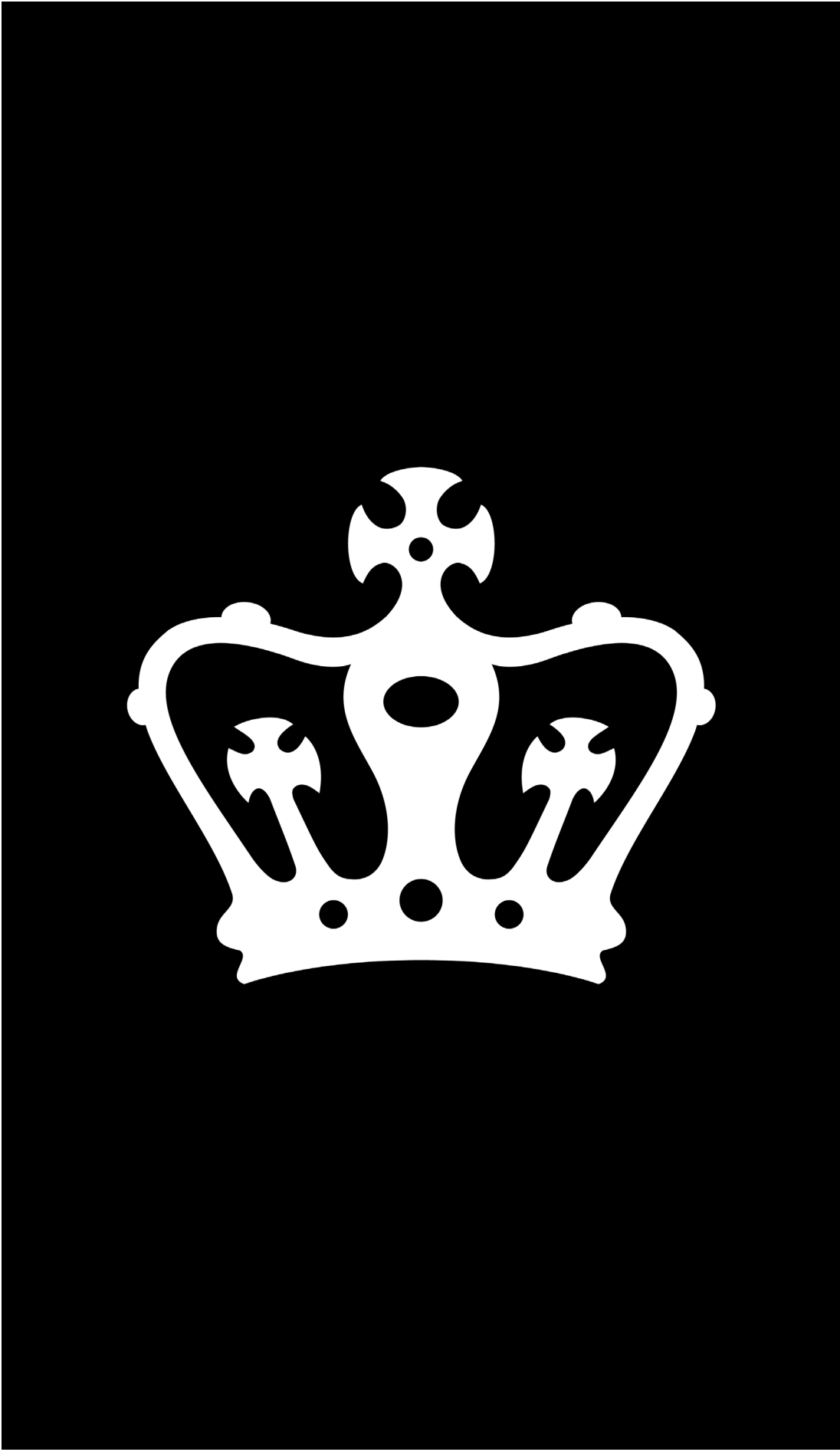
The second person to acknowledge is—well, I have to admit that I might not know his or her name. Spectator’s staff, depending on how you count it, numbers between three and five hundred, and I didn’t get to know nearly enough of those talented people in my time as editor. But every single one of them, whether a designer or an event planner or a copy editor or a first-time reporter, invested her late hours, his happiness, or sometimes even her reputation in keeping Spectator moving forward, often for very little recognition at all. Let me take this closing opportunity to say thank you. Even when you go insufficiently acknowledged, my fellow editors and I appreciate the work you do more deeply than we can say.

Because to me, Spectator is not just a newspaper or a blog or a place near campus. It’s a daily campaign—to get the story right, to present the issues fairly, to capture the mood of campus, and, more than anything, to get the damn thing done. Spending my time around hundreds of people, united by that common purpose, was a true privilege. Sharing an office with them, even for a short time, was an unexpected joy.

To be honest, I don’t remember what I said in response to Dean Shollenberger’s question that Tuesday morning. It’s altogether possible that someone else started talking, saving me from having to decide. But here’s why I love Spectator: What I wanted to say at that moment was, we’re working on tomorrow.

That’s all.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in history and political science. He was a member of the editorial board, an opinion columnist, and editor in chief on the 135th corporate board..



YUMA SHINOHARA

The irrational choice

BY ADITYA MUKERJEE

At a job interview last semester, I was asked point-blank: “Why’s a tech-savvy guy like you running a newspaper company?”

I was dumbfounded. On the surface, a background in publishing—even as the president of a company—may not be the first thing that most startups look for. But to me, the connection was obvious. In the moment, I tried to throw together a coherent answer about how Spectator was the perfect preview of the future challenges that I might face as an entrepreneur launching a startup of his own. But the words just refused to come. (Every Speccie knows the feeling.)

I’m not referring to the obvious similarities, such as a tight cash flow and rapidly changing market. Spectator has taught me something far more valuable to my future life, should I become an entrepreneur. A startup can survive with sub-par funding, or even a very simple product. What it can’t live without is passion. Pick any really, truly successful entrepreneur, and I can guarantee you that the root of his or her success was a dedication so unbelievably strong and heartfelt that it left no time for second-guessing. By any measures, this passion is illogical, foolish, and a little bit crazy.

We don’t do it for the recognition, nor for the satisfaction of seeing our writing printed.

You see, there is no way to rationalize entrepreneurship. You can live comfortably, even in New York, for far less than one hopes to make off a successful startup. Spectator is even harder to justify. The publisher may be the president of the company, but the 40-50 hours per week job comes with no salary, no benefits, and no respite from schoolwork. On paper, being president means signing checks and negotiating discounts. In reality, it means dealing with the problems so thorny that nobody else wants to touch them, the crises so urgent that nobody else can, or the catastrophes so disheartening that nobody else wants to try. That’s when your job begins—and if you’re still thinking logically, you’ll make the rational choice. You’ll give up.

And yet we take the leap. More surprisingly, we do it without ever thinking twice—at least, I know

I never did. Against all odds, logic, and reason, we put up with the midnight phone calls, followed by the 2 a.m. emergency meetings (followed then by the 9 a.m. classes—we’re still students too, remember!). I wish I could explain why, but once again, the words just refuse to come. All I can do is point to the fact that while I have no need to come to the office every day this semester anymore, I couldn’t imagine better lunchtime companions than Dan, Ellen, and April. Or that my fondest memories of my entire college experience involve the best co-editors I could ask for—Sam and Michele—and the emails that we sent each other on the days when Spectator felt more like a hurricane than a newspaper.

When you look at it logically, it’s surprising that we publishers do it at all. We don’t do it for the recognition, nor for the satisfaction of seeing our writing printed in the paper, nor for the money. By the time we run for the position, we’ve been at Columbia long enough to know that there are other ways to get a job as an investment banker, most of which still afford you a full night’s sleep every few months. Journalism ethics dictate that we never write for the paper—this is the last Spectator issue of my time at Columbia, and the only one that publishes even one word of my own writing. Our nonexistent salaries aren’t on the line—whether Spectator’s finances are healthy or not, at the end of the day, we’re still college students: broke. The only reason for you to do it is because you see a burning need that only Spectator can fill, and you’re convinced only you can help Spectator realize this goal. The true entrepreneurial spirit.

To anyone who has ever founded a startup who reads this, it will come as no surprise to hear that my year as publisher was the most stressful and demanding year of my life. Nor will it surprise them to hear that I loved every minute of it, and have no regrets—not even one. For everyone else, I know a few of you understand, but I know most of you are reaching the end of this column still wondering when I’ll answer the big question: “Why?” Why? I couldn’t tell you why. I never thought I needed a reason, not until that interview. Every Columbia student remembers Lattimore’s translation of the “Iliad”: Some questions have no answer for those who do not already know.

Call me a masochist. Call me crazy. Call me an entrepreneur. But above all, call me a Speccie.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in computer science and economics-statistics. He was a finance associate on the 132nd associate board, finance deputy on the 133rd deputy board, finance director on the 134th managing board, and publisher on the 135th corporate board.

Thank you, Spec

BY MICHELE CLEARY

I’ve written 200 stories for Spectator, spent thousands of hours in the office, and sent tens of thousands of Spec-related emails. When I sat down to write this column, I knew it would be difficult to distill my entire Spec experience into 800 words, but I was still convinced I could find a narrative that neatly tied everything together. That was just one of the many mistakes that I’ve made in the last four years.

My time at Spectator, much like my time at Columbia, was filled with exhilarating highs and crushing lows. To try to run a single thread through my fractured experience here would be an exercise in futility. So please do forgive me if this column is a bit disjointed.

I have given so much of myself—too much, my parents would argue—to Spectator, but it has given so much more to me. When I wandered into the office for an open house during orientation week, I was only looking for an activity to keep me busy and help me make friends. For the first year, that’s really all it was—I certainly cared about Spec and the stories I worked on, but I was involved in other campus groups and was slowly working my way through the premed requirements.

Something changed about halfway through the first semester of my sophomore year. I was adrift. None of my classes interested me, and I was apathetic about school for the first time in my entire life. To distract myself from the emptiness I was feeling, I poured a bit more of myself into Spectator, one of the few things I was still passionate about. Still, I had no intention of running for sports editor—I was content to cash in my chips after I finished my associate year. But a 2 a.m. conversation with then-design editor Ben Cotton changed my mind. Ben, who would go on to become editor in chief, spoke about the sports section’s potential with such unbridled enthusiasm that I was inspired to run.

What I cherish most about my experience is the people I met and the relationships I formed.

One of the things I love the most about Spectator, and about Columbia in general, is that conversations like this happen all of the time. I’ve had many wonderful professors who have taught me so much, but it does not even compare to what I have learned from my peers. Discussions and arguments with my fellow Speccies excited, enriched, and challenged me in ways that none of my classes have. Some of my fondest memories of Spectator are from heated editorial board meetings in which I got to watch some of the smartest people I have ever met clash over important campus issues.

It was a series of conversations like the one I had with Ben that eventually led to my decision to run for corporate board. By the end of my first semester on the managing board, I was the only sports editor, and Hannah D’Apice was the only design editor. Since they were both normally two-person positions, Hannah and I spent an increasing amount of time in the office and bonded over our mutual exhaustion. Many nights after the paper was sent to the printer at 4 a.m., she and I would walk to 109th Street, get Spicy Specials, and talk about all of the grand ideas we had for Spectator.

While these discussions helped shape the vision I had for Spec, they provided a much more important function as well. My year as sports editor was the most stressful and draining year of my life. It has never been easy for me to admit any kind of weakness, though, and because of that, I tried to deal with all of my problems by myself. But Hannah and I were in such similar situations that I finally learned how to open up to my closest friends and to lean on them when I needed help.

That was the most important lesson I learned from Spectator—that it is OK to admit that you’re stressed, that it’s OK to ask for help, that it’s OK to fail sometimes. Had I not learned that, I definitely would not have survived my time at Columbia.

Although I value this lesson and the many others I got from Spec, what I cherish most about my experience is the people I met and the relationships I formed. I didn’t know Sam Roth until the fall of my junior year and I don’t think we had a real conversation until after we were named to the corporate board. But during our year-long tenure, we grew so close that we often said the same thing or sent the same email at the same time. (We even showed up to the Fun Run in identical outfits, unintentionally.) Being managing editor was a whole new challenge, one that I wouldn’t have been able to face without having one of my best friends in the seat next to me. I still cannot believe how lucky I was to have such a thoughtful, intelligent, and talented editor in chief. Thank you, Sam, for being a wonderful partner-in-crime.

There are so many other memories, so many other lessons, so many other people that were an integral part of my time here that I could fill this entire newspaper and still not be done writing. Since I don’t have the power to do that anymore, I will simply say: Thank you, Spectator, for everything.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. She was an associate sports editor on the 133rd associate board, sports editor on the 134th managing board, managing editor on the 135th corporate board, and sports training editor on the 136th volume.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Ginger cookies

6 Take down ____ humble

10 1040, for example

14 Stand-up in a club

15 Close by

16 Ireland's best-selling solo artist

17 Plentiful

18 ____ Bell

19 Sinister look

20 Christian led by the Pope

23 Passionate

24 "Amadeus" subject

27 Paper with NYSE news

30 300, to Caesar

31 Federal agency support org.

32 Michele of "Glee"

33 Lotion ingredient

35 Road for Caesar

37 Brook or lake fish

39 Equine that originated in Italy's Campania region

42 Iraqi currency

43 "Pleeeeeease?"

44 Wedding cake level

45 Part of USDA: Abbr.

46 RR depot

48 Big name in kitchen gadgets

50 Harris and McMahon

51 1862 Tennessee battle site

53 Dolly the sheep, e.g.

55 Slatted window treatment

60 Tiny dog biter

62 Balkan native

63 Eagle's dwelling

64 Nerd

65 Machu Picchu resident

66 Boa or mamba

67 Like an optimist's point of view

68 Big Dipper component

69 Facilitated

DOWN

1 Capone facial mark

2 Pitcher Hideo

3 Clock radio letters

4 Seasoned rice dish

5 Like many postcard photos

6 Continent with penguins

7 Like bogs

8 Apiece

9 Cleans and brushes, as a horse

10 ____ Navidad

11 Diet soda claim

12 Deli bread choice

13 Fold, spindle or mutilate

21 Director DeMille

22 Disinclined

25 Acted in an environmentally conscious way

26 Spuds

27 Comedian Sykes and a fish

28 "... in a one-horse open ____"

29 "Can We Talk?" comedienne

31 Nature Valley snack

34 Govt. antipollution org.

36 Inbound flight approx.

38 Decay

40 Welles of "Citizen Kane"

41 Watergate president

47 Grad student's paper

49 Having just hit a double, say

52 Like a faulty pipe

53 Approximately, in dates

54 Supreme Court justice Kagan

56 Camping gear, briefly

58 Swoosh logo company

59 Accomplishment

60 WWII leader

61 Brit's bathroom

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A	R	M	S	D	E	A	L	A	I	K	M	A	N
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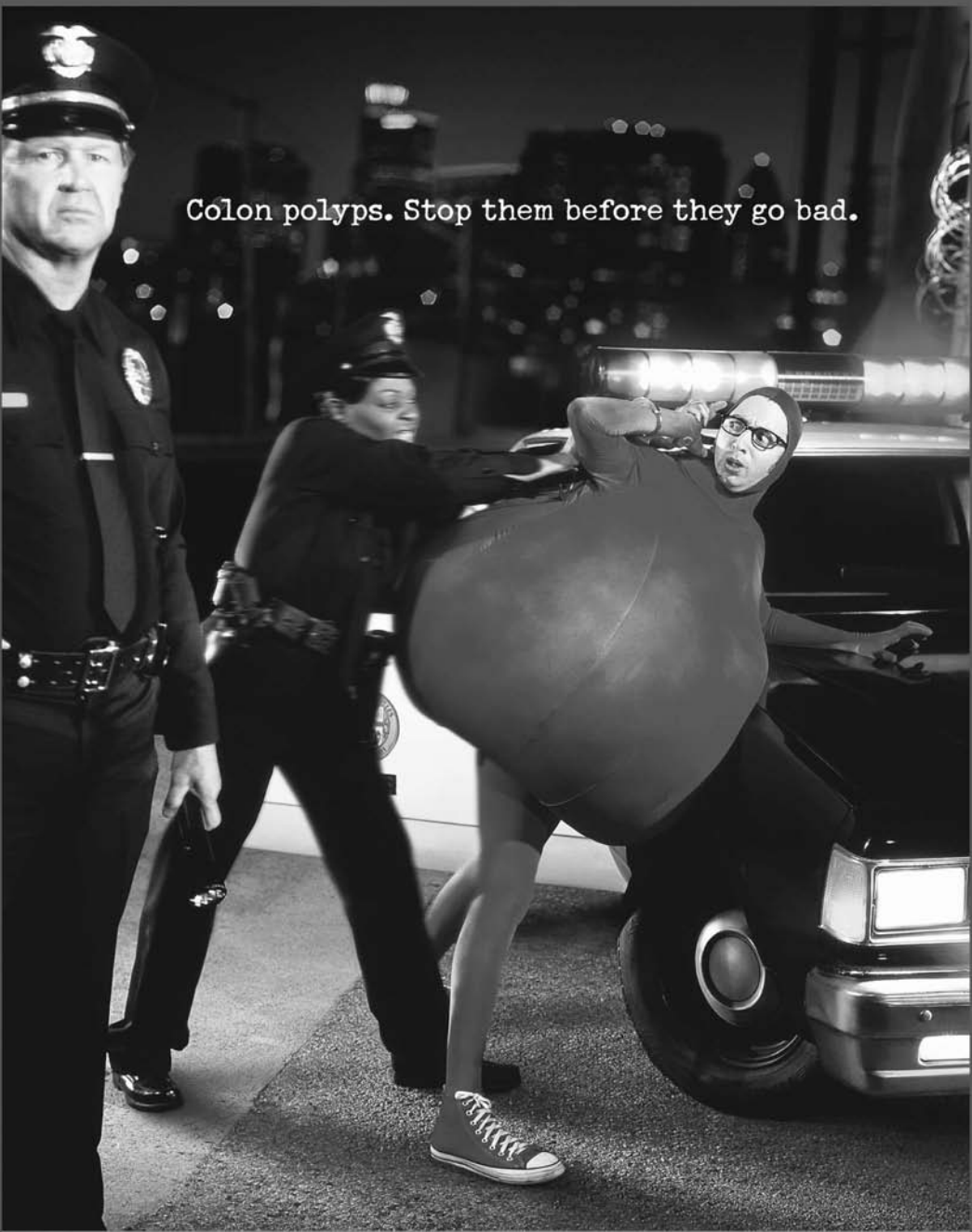


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Final goodbyes, reflections from the street

On Friday, I was with some friends and we were being nostalgic seniors. One said, “In 20 years, I’ll ask you about this moment, and you’ll say you have no idea.” The other said, “Knowing Mrinal, he’ll document it on Spec.”

Yesterday, I introduced two of my friends to each other. Later, one of them asked me, “How do you know that girl? Spec?” I hardly had a chance to nod before he added, “It’s always Spec.”

The truth is I had never planned on getting involved with Spectator, and it was good fortune that led me to join the paper. Prior to November 2010, I would never have imagined that one day I’d be writing a column about having been Spec’s sports editor. As my friends’ words suggest, very often now Spec is the first thing people associate with my life at Columbia. My life as I knew it changed a ton the day I set foot in that office above Pinkberry. The journey that followed has blown my mind. In Spectator, I found everything I could ask for. Spec inspired me. Spec entertained me. Spec challenged me. Most importantly, Spec taught me a lot.



MRINAL MOHANKA
Senior Column

I never quite understood how I was making the rapid jump from writer to editor. Yet somehow I became sports editor, having been on staff for less than a semester. Did I have the experience? Did those people know what they were doing, putting their trust in me? That has been one of the largest lessons learned: Never question the help that comes your way, but try to prove worthy of it.

Spec, and Mikey Zhong in particular, taught me the meaning of enthusiasm and how to take opportunities with arms wide open. After initially joining Spec as just the writer for men’s soccer, things moved fast. Before I knew it, I was writing four, often five, stories a week. It didn’t matter to me whether it was field hockey, volleyball, or an Around the

SEE MOHANKA, page 11



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FINAL ACT | Senior third baseman Jon Eisen went 9-16 from the plate this weekend to cap off his Columbia career.

Light Blue takes 3 of 4 from Penn to cap season

BY RYAN YOUNG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia baseball (21-24, 12-8 Ivy) sent off its seniors with a bang this weekend with a trio of 10-run wins, taking three out of four from the Quakers (17-23, 8-12 Ivy) to close out the 2012 season. Despite falling out of contention for the division title last weekend, the Light Blue’s offense never stopped fighting, leading the Lions to 12-2 and 13-3 victories at Penn on Friday. Despite an 8-5 loss in game one at Robertson Field on Saturday, the Lions rallied in the season finale, steamrolling the Quakers 11-1.

Friday’s first game featured senior ace Pat Lowery’s (4-4) final start for the Lions. Lowery allowed just one earned run and six hits while striking out seven over five and two-thirds innings of work.

“I don’t think I had my best stuff, but I battled through it,” he said.

Columbia’s offense provided him plenty of support. Junior right fielder Nick Ferraresi delivered an RBI single in the bottom of the first to give the Lions the early 1-0 lead. With his team leading 3-2 in the fifth inning, junior first

baseman Alex Black smacked his first collegiate home run.

After Lowery allowed two men to reach with two outs in the sixth inning, senior reliever Harrison Slutsky came in to strand the tying runs by striking out Penn’s leading hitter, right fielder Ryan Deitrich, on the way to his third save of the season. The Lions broke the game wide open in the seventh with an eight-run rally.

In game two, the Lions rode another big inning to victory. After taking a 3-1 lead in the third, the Lions put the lead out of reach for the Quakers in the fourth, where Columbia scored nine times. The nine-run inning was the Light Blue’s biggest since March 2010. Columbia tacked on its 13th and final run in the seventh inning, when Black knocked his second round-tripper of the doubleheader.

In his final start of the year, junior Tim Giel (3-3) allowed three earned runs on seven hits, while striking out five in eight innings of work.

“Timmy Giel threw real well, like he’s done all year,” head coach Brett Boretti said. “He’s been very consistent.”

The Lions returned home to close

out their season with Senior Day on Saturday.

In game one, Dietrich doubled in both the first and third innings, leading to a run in each frame for Penn. The Lions countered in the bottom of the third inning with an RBI groundout by Pizzano. Senior third baseman Jon Eisen was thrown out on a close play at the plate trying to tack on an extra run on the play.

Light Blue sophomore David Speer pitched five innings, allowing four earned runs, the final two of which were the product of three consecutive two-out singles in the fifth inning.

Trailing 4-1 heading into the bottom of the fifth, Ferraresi tied the game with a three-run triple through the right-center field gap. He scored the go-ahead run on an RBI groundout by Black, but the Quakers would come right back to tie the score the next inning when Silbar booted a groundball.

The Lions committed two more errors in the seventh and final inning, which helped the Quakers rally for three runs and the win.

SEE BASEBALL, page 11

SCOREBOARD



MEN’S GOLF
Finished third at Ivy League Championships

Junior Michael Yiu placed second as an individual.



WOMEN’S GOLF
Finished fourth at Ivy League Championships

Sophomore Michelle Piyapattrra placed fourth as an individual and was named Ivy League Player of the Year.



BASEBALL	
Columbia Penn	12 2
Columbia Penn	13 3
Columbia Penn	5 8
Columbia Penn	11 1



SOFTBALL	
Columbia Penn	1 5
Columbia Penn	1 9
Columbia Penn	2 8
Columbia Penn	1 11



LACROSSE	
Columbia Virginia Tech	4 12



MEN’S ROWING
Lost in Stevenson Cup to Navy


DR. OZ

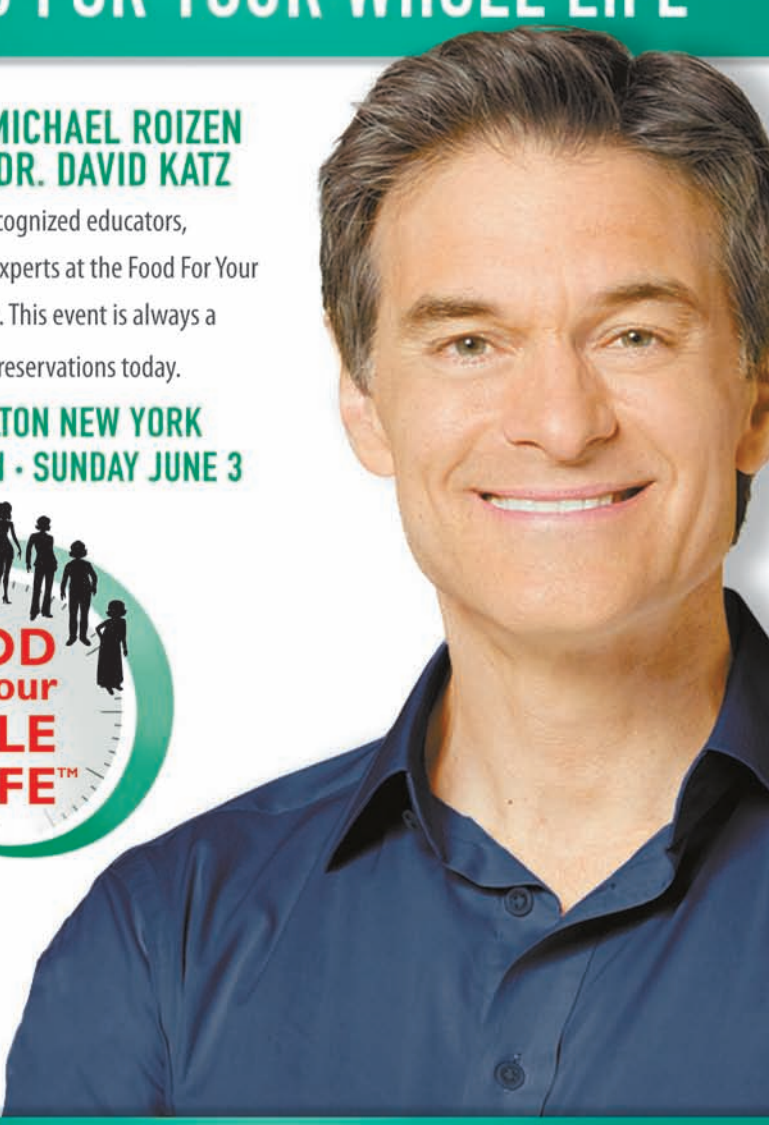
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SPORTS BRIEFLY



WOMEN’S LACROSSE

The Lions (2-13, 0-7 Ivy) finished the season with their fourth straight loss, 12-4, at Virginia Tech (10-6). For the second straight game, Columbia surrendered at least seven goals in succession between the first and second halves, as the Hokies turned a 3-1 edge into a nine-goal lead. Sophomore midfielder Paige Cuscovitch scored three times to finish the season with 36 tallies, a 21-goal improvement over last season. Junior attacker Kacie Johnson tallied her 41st with under 20 seconds left in the Light Blue’s season. Attacker Megan Will had three goals and an assist for the hosts. This game marked the finale for the seniors: goalkeeper Karlee Blank, defender Amanda Goodhart, and midfielders Taylor Gattinella and Jenny Schiff.

—Muneeb Alam



SOFTBALL

The Lions (12-33, 6-14 Ivy) ended conference play in seventh place, dropping all four games against Penn (32-15, 15-5 Ivy) this weekend. The Lions were again plagued by a lack of offense. In the first game of the series, the Lions managed to take an early lead with a solo shot from junior outfielder Christie Taylor in the second inning. After that, the Columbia offense remained silent while Penn scored five unanswered runs for a 5-1 win. In the nightcap, the Quakers continued their dominance, scoring eight runs in the first three innings, and Penn pitcher Alexis Borden tossed a complete game. When the Lions returned home the next day, the story stayed the same, with Penn catcher Brooke Coloma posting four RBIs and leading the Quakers to a 9-2 win. The Quakers ripped through the Lions’ pitching staff in the last game, while a four-hitter from Borden, who started all four games, ensured a comfortable victory for Penn. The Lions finish their season against Manhattan in a doubleheader on Tuesday.

—Hahn Chang



MEN’S ROWING

The Lions lost the Stevenson Cup to Navy for the second year in a row on Sunday. The Midshipmen won all five races: Their first varsity eights defeated Columbia’s, their second varsity eights won against the Light Blue’s lightweight varsity eights, their second freshman eights defeated the Lions’ lightweight freshmen, their first heavyweight freshman eights beat Columbia’s, and Navy’s third varsity eight boat, split into two, defeated Columbia’s four-man crew. The Light Blue finished at least 2.8 seconds back of first in each race, and its lightweight freshman eights crossed the finish line 15.2 seconds behind. The Lions are next in action Sunday, May 13, for the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges Championships.

—Muneeb Alam

Men’s golf take 3rd at Ivy Championships

BY JOSH SHENKAR
Spectator Staff Writer

One year after a second-place finish at the Ivy League Championships, the men’s golf team finished just short again. The Lions finished third with a final score of 920, only three strokes behind Dartmouth and Penn, who tied for first. The Quakers emerged as the Ivy champion after a playoff.

“We played well, but the last four to six holes every day were really tough holes, and we just didn’t play them as well as we could have,” Lions head coach Rich Mueller said. “I think that’s certainly where we lost a lot of shots.”

Junior Michael Yiu led the Lions with an impressive performance, finishing in second place as an individual with an overall score of 221. Yiu was paired with Dartmouth senior Peter Williamson, who won the tournament’s individual title with a score of 213.

“Michael played outstanding,” Mueller said. “Williamson has the lowest scoring average in the entire country and to be able to hang with him, shot to shot, the entire way is just a testament to how good he really is.”

Windy weather characterized the first round of the tournament, as six of the league’s eight teams shot their highest round scores in the tournament. The Lions, however managed to end the day in second place with a score of 312.

“The first day was just survival,” Mueller said. “It was

probably the most difficult day I have ever been on a golf course without rain. The golf course is the hardest that I’ve seen. We hung in there and did great.”

The second round had much better weather, and the Lions managed to shoot 296, which maintained their second-place standing heading into the final round on Sunday. The Light Blue struggled on the tournament’s third day, as its third round score of 312 ultimately resulted in Columbia being three strokes away from a playoff.

“One person can look at a computer and say we choked, but there’s definitely a difference between choking and wanting it too much,” Mueller said. “They worked their whole year, and it comes down to one round of golf.”

The other four members of the Lions’ five-man squad also

had solid performances in the tournament. Sophomore Jordan Lee finished in a tie for 11th place with an overall score of 232. Sophomore Andrew Kim tied for 15th and had an overall score of 233. Senior Brendan Doyle ended his college career by tying for 17th, while junior Ford Fischer finished in a tie for 33rd place.

After the end of the tournament, Mueller was appreciative of the hard work his team has put in over the course of the season.

“We’re still, day in and day out, a really strong team in the Ivy League, and we have been for a bunch of years, and I think those guys have continued the tradition,” Mueller said. “They expect to be on top of the field every Ivy League Championship, and we were again, except we fell a little short.”



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

DOYLING AWAY | Senior Brendan Doyle tied for 17th, recording seven birdies including one on his final hole.

CU women finish 4th as Piyapattrra stars

BY LAURA ALLEN
Spectator Staff Writer

Women’s golf took fourth at the Ivy League Championships this weekend in Galloway, N.J. while sophomore Michelle Piyapattrra placed fourth as an individual, notched all-Ivy honors, and was named Ivy League Player of the Year for the second time.

The team scored 338-311-323—972 on the 71-stroke Seaview Golf Resort’s Bay Course. Harvard took first, 20 strokes better than Columbia at 332-308-312—952.

The top position was a struggle between Penn junior Isabel Han and Harvard sophomore Bonnie Hu throughout the tournament. Han shot 81 against Hu’s 77 on Friday, then overtook her by a stroke at 72 in round two. On the final day, Hu

came back and beat Han by two strokes at 75. Hu clinched first place at 225 overall. Yale sophomore Sun Gyoung Park finished third behind Han, holding off Piyapattrra by two strokes with a total tally of 78-76-77—231.

Piyapattrra opened the conference with promising play, posting third in the first round, one stroke behind Park. She tied for second at 3-over 153 in her best round of golf on Saturday. Both she and top shooter Hu carded 73. Each team leader added swings to her score in the final round, but Piyapattrra added the most, at 80. Park managed to add only one stroke to her total on Sunday, but her score of 76 was too high to beat Hu’s score of 75 and Han’s 77.

The rest of the Light Blue also shot their best score of 311

in round two, improving drastically by 27 strokes from the first round. Sophomore Jane Dong finished 18th with a score of 86-80-82—248. Senior Robin Lee and freshman Lisa Combs played the most consistent golf, tying for 19th at 249 overall. Lee carded 87 on Friday, while Combs scored 85. Lee cut six strokes the following day and maintained her score of 81 on Sunday. Combs fired 84 in the second round, cutting her strokes to 80 on the final day of competition. Senior Lynda Kwon scored 88-77-86—251 to round out the team.

Kwon saw the most improvement on day two, cutting 11 strokes off and shooting two birdies on each nine. She finished tied for 22nd with two Bears, Carly Arison and Michelle Chen.

MONDAY MORNING
week 4 CLOSER

GAME BALL

Game ball goes to junior righty Stefan Olson, who picked up the win in Columbia’s final game of the season after he kept Penn off the scoreboard in seven innings of work.

SALUTING THE SENIORS

The Lions honored their eight seniors in a ceremony between the two games of Saturday’s doubleheader.

TEMPERS FLARE

Junior Alex Black was ejected in the bottom of the seventh of game one on Saturday after arguing a called third strike. Earlier in the at bat, Black was hit by a pitch, but was not given first after the umpire ruled he had leaned into it.

IVY STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT
Cornell	14	6	.700
Princeton	13	7	.650
Columbia	12	8	.600
Penn	8	12	.400
Dartmouth	14	6	.700
Harvard	8	12	.400
Brown	6	14	.300
Yale	5	15	.250

INJURY REPORT

Junior Nick Ferraresi injured his wrist after an awkward slide into home in game one on Saturday and missed the Lions’ final game that afternoon.

BY THE NUMBERS

4 Hits for third baseman Jon Eisen in game two on Saturday, in his final game as a Lion

10 Margin of victory in each of Columbia’s three wins versus Penn

0 Runs allowed by junior righty Stefan Olson in an 11-1 victory on Saturday afternoon

IVY SCHEDULE

	VS. YALE	VS. BROWN	AT HARVARD	AT DARTMOUTH	AT CORNELL	VS. PRINCETON	AT PENN
	3/31	4/1	4/7	4/8	4/14	4/21	4/27
	1 P.M. W 3-1	12 P.M. L 3-4	12 P.M. W 4-3	12 P.M. W 4-3	12 P.M. L 1-2	1:30 P.M. W 4-1	12 P.M. W12-2
	3:30 P.M. W 3-0	2:30 P.M. W 14-6	2:30 P.M. W 10-1	2:30 P.M. L 3-11	(8 INNINGS) 2:30 P.M. L 0-3	4 P.M. L 2-5	2:30 P.M. W 13-3
					4/15	4/22	VS. PENN
					12 P.M. L 4-5	1 P.M. W 8-7	12 P.M. L 5-8
					2:30 P.M. W 5-1	3:30 P.M. W 8-5	2:30 P.M. W 11-1

Perspective crucial in all college activities

MOHANKA from page 10

League. If there was an available story, I wanted to write it.

Spec taught me to put things into perspective. More than one Specie in my time in the office decided that the world began and ended with Spec and thus got extremely agitated or upset when things deviated from ideals. The institution is near and dear to my heart, but people need to realize that on campus, Spec isn’t considered a big deal. It should and could become one, though, and that’s what I think future generations of Speccies need to focus on. Maybe try to add it as a second-tab home page on all campus computers? Maybe start a contest that draws readers? Maybe reassess the content: Is the balance between campus and city news appropriate? (I don’t think so.) Maybe a student survey of what people would like to read could help. It won’t change as quickly as night follows day, but I’m optimistic that with the right people and attitude, Spec can become something that the entire community cares about. But until it does—this is probably the best advice I have—keep a balance. It’s easy to dive headfirst into Spec and feel a strong sense of responsibility to the institution. I’m not saying forget about it or don’t love it. I’m saying don’t forget about your friends, your academics, or yourself in the process.

Spec also showed me that things will work out. No matter how bad a situation seems, all will end well. I’ve seen enough people fret or lose their cool in times of trouble. If there’s one thing I took away from my time at Spec, it was that it’s not worth getting worked up about things outside your control. Do your best, and the rest will follow.

Spec helped me write bravely and honestly. Sometimes people will take offense with what you say, particularly in columns. But as writers, you have a responsibility to deliver the truth, so always keep that in mind.

I’ve been involved in a few things on campus, but Spec was

special. The experience taught me that if something’s for you or not, you won’t know ‘till you try. Exploring an option by going deeper into it is really what will help you make the most informed decision, so give things a chance before ruling them out.

I can’t tell you what it was that made Spec mean more than anything else I was involved in on campus. I don’t know. But I know what I’m most grateful for: the truly wonderful people Spec introduced me to. You can take a look at the sports tradition of individual shoutouts in the column online.

It was a pleasure being a part of Spec with all its amazing people, and I do hope our paths cross again someday. Thank you all very much and my best wishes for the future.

Mrinal Mohanka is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics. He was a sports editor on the 135th managing board and is a Spectrum daily editor.

BASEBALL from page 10

Between games, Columbia honored the Light Blue seniors, many of whom closed out their Columbia careers in exceptional fashion, particularly Eisen. He singled in each of the first three innings and reached base eight straight times to start his final doubleheader. Eisen went 9 for 16 in his final weekend as a Lion and ends his career with 198 hits, the third most in Columbia history.

“We just came out swinging in the second game,” Eisen said. “It was our last game and we wanted to come out on top and that’s what we did.”

After a three-run first inning, the Lions rallied for a five-run second, knocking Penn starter Stephen Silvestri out of the game. Sam Horn relieved Silvestri to face senior designated hitter Alexander Aurricchio. The two squared off in an epic 15-pitch at bat that resulted in a walk to load the bases. Sophomore catcher

Enmanuel Cabreja followed with a two-run single.

“We did a real good job offensively all weekend,” Boretti said. “It was a great team effort with different guys stepping up.”

In their final games, Aurricchio reached base three times, senior first baseman Anthony Potter picked up his first two hits of the season, and senior center fielder Billy Rumpke delivered a two-run double and a triple in his final two at bats.

But it was a junior who stole the show for Columbia. Stefan Olson dominated the Quakers, allowing just three hits and striking out a career-high nine batters in seven shutout innings.

“They played great defense behind me, all my pitches were working. I was throwing them for strikes,” he said. “My changeup was the best it’s been all year.”

Boretti agreed. “He was throwing good velocity and just mixing with the fastball and changeup, keeping those guys off balance, and just keeping the ball

down,” Boretti said.

The Lions finished the season just two games out of first place in the Lou Gehrig division. Princeton nearly pulled off a remarkable comeback to overtake Cornell for the division title, needing a four-game sweep to accomplish the feat. But after winning the first three games of the weekend over the Big Red, the Tigers dropped the final contest in 12 innings.

Had Columbia split its series at Cornell rather than losing three of four, all three teams would have tied for first in the division.

“I think we played our best baseball right now, over the last two weekends, which is a great sign,” Boretti said. “It’s unfortunate that we’re going to be a game or two out of winning the division. I wish we had a little bit of a bigger conference tournament like everybody else in the country does. But it goes back and magnifies how every game in that 20-game Ivy schedule means the same.”

Jenny Slate wins Varsity Show award

BY CHRISTIN ZURBACH
Columbia Daily Spectator

Saturday Night Live and Varsity Show alumna Jenny Slate, CC '04, is proud of almost all of her starring roles. "Except for 'Alvin and Chipmunks,' which is a bad movie. I know it's a bad movie. Sometimes you need to pay your rent," Slate said in her acceptance speech for the I.A.L. Diamond Award Saturday night.

The I.A.L. Diamond Award ceremony, named after the "Some Like It Hot" creator and the only four-time Varsity Show writer, honors achievement in the arts every year in a gathering of administrators, student leaders, and show alumni just prior to the Saturday night performance of the 118th annual Varsity Show.

The show's creative team chooses the recipient, and the producers present the award. "The only requirement is they be a Columbia or Barnard grad who has found success in the arts, but it's a great bonus this year that she's a past performer in the show," V118 director Alex Hare said of Slate. In addition to her role as Zoe in "Chipwrecked," Slate has had recurring roles as Stella on the HBO series "Bored to Death" and numerous appearances on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon." She is best known for her time on SNL. Though she was only a cast member for one season, Slate was known for her impersonations of Lady Gaga and Ashley Olsen, as well as her recurring character, Tina-Tina Chaneuse, an infomercial star who marketed personalized alarm clocks or car horns.

"My best friends are still my Varsity Show castmates."

—Jenny Slate, CC '04

During the ceremony, Slate requested that her friend, V109 cast member Mike Barry, CC '04, introduce her. Barry's Columbia experience proved to have a surprising corollary with both this year's show and the lives of current Columbia College students. During his undergraduate years, Barry used improvised flash mob comedy to interrupt a chemistry class taught by James Valentini, who has since morphed into "Deantini."

Barry cited Slate's turn as Starbuck, an unsteady deer who shot coffee out of her antlers, as his inspiration for auditioning himself. In turn, Slate thanked her fellow alumni. "My best friends are still my Varsity Show castmates," she said. "We all became people with each other." Those friends include her writing partner Gabe Liedman, CC '04, and Lang Fisher, CC '02, as well as Barry himself. It was with friends at a wedding that Slate first created the voice of perhaps her largest claim to fame, "Marcel the Shell." Correspondingly, V118's design team handcrafted Slate's award in the shape of Marcel.

Slate emphasized her surprise at being honored, fearing that it might be a prank. "I knocked down a trash can on Amsterdam Avenue. I thought I might be finally getting into trouble for that," she said. The comedienne made serious comments as well, her cheeks still wet from crying during Barry's introduction. Slate emphasized the importance of performers having an education, and that intelligence and performance were not mutually exclusive. "The biggest gift is my college education by my grandmother," Slate said, her grandmother present in the audience.

After graduation, Slate struggled at first to make ends meet as a performer, which, as she noted, was a difference from her previous academic life. "There is no application process. There is no one door," she said. However, she expressed no regrets, only thanks and encouragement. "I'm proud that a group of people I respect thinks I'm successful," Slate said. She also credited Varsity Show with heightening her work ethic as she sought to support a team to which she felt responsibility—even if the commitment became so intense that she had to drop a class while doing the show.

Slate closed by encouraging her fellow Columbians to continue pursuing performing, as she did, after graduation. "It's terrible to not do what you love," she said.

arts@columbiaspectator.com



MIKE DISCENZA / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ALMA'S ARMY | The actors of Varsity Show displayed standout vocals as they tackled the purpose of preprofessionalism and the Core Curriculum.

Rethinking the Core: The 118th Varsity Show amuses, but doesn't always go the extra mile

BY LESLEY THULIN, CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW, AND ABBY MITCHELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

The Varsity Show exists at Columbia as a historical record. Irreverent though it may be, it takes the school year's issues, quirks, trivialities, major scandals, and archetypes, and rolls them into a single, dense wallop of community culture. History is written by administrators. What really happened is written by college kids. It seems unlikely, for instance, that James Valentini will ever be remembered by his more popular moniker, Deantini, in University records, but so long as the DVD copy of this Varsity Show endures, Deantini will also be associated with awkward webisodes and a constant effort to keep his public persona hip.

The 118th reincarnation of the V-Show portrays the struggle of classics/philosophy major Phineas, played by Sean Walsh, CC '14, to defend the Core Curriculum against the corporate reform efforts of Center for Career Education Director Niamh (pronounced "Neeeeevee") O'Brien, played by Rebekah Lowin, CC '14. O'Brien, in an effort to enhance post-graduation employment rates, institutes the "Corporate Core." To humanities geeks like Phineas, the regimen of classes on sleaze and business protocol is intolerable, and he forms a protest coalition under the banner of Alma's Army.

Thematically, the show does a good job of touching on the hot-button issues of the past year, such as Occupy Wall Street and the McKinsey report, without resorting to the tired 99 percent jokes that killed every Halloween party. The issues are nicely united as part of the main conflict, without getting lost in the subplots that have plagued V-Shows past.

Behind this all is a strong orchestra that plays out the catchy, tight songs with skill. Numbers like "Another Epic Day!" and "The One Percent" stand out, and Bwog-riffing "That's How I Troll"



is a brilliant display of musical force mixed with comedy ("Trolling in the Deep," anyone?) and striking relevance. Creatively, classic musical-theater standby (read: unusual but perfect choice) Dante brings the (disco) inferno to Phineas's Wien single with "Another Epic Night."

The artistic design team also deserves a round of applause for an immaculate set. Art director Stephen Davan, CC '12, reproduced a striking exterior of Hamilton Hall that seamlessly transitioned to scenes along Broadway and to Mel's Burger Bar.

But the set couldn't carry the weight of the show, which sags at times, usually under the heaviness of generic and bland Columbia tropes that have probably only sporadically been left out since V-Show 1. An emphasis on stereotypical conventions over authenticity distanced the performance a little: The earthy, dreamy Barnard girl (Eleanor Bray, BC '14) and vapid CC girl (Jenny Singer, BC '15) seemed more like token stereotypes than fully fleshed-out characters. The plot also retreated to overly familiar, somewhat gratuitous clichés: hookups "in the But"(ler stacks) and weepy girls blubbering outside of Koronet.

There are, though, the usual array of one-liners that zing with appalling freshness. It's lines like, "Hey, did you know there's a 15-story coffee shop near Pupin?" that ensure the show's continued popularity among Columbians.

When the show was spot on, it's spot on. Deantini, flawlessly executed by Gray Henry, CC '14, is a highlight of the production as he breaks into a rap solo during "The One Percent" and makes uncanny chemistry puns.

Crafted with similar accuracy, the bright-eyed, bushy-tailed enthusiasm of protagonist Phineas is laughably resonant in a community where optimism is often denigrated as foolish (but spoilers be damned, cynics may be surprised to find his idealism still intact come curtain call).

It's bright spots like these that make weaknesses, like the character of Niamh O'Brien, such disappointments. Though Lowin has a voice that could

rival an angel's, the choice to make the main villain a semi-obscure campus figure is puzzling. Even with the hook of the CCE emails, O'Brien is certainly not someone who Columbia students think about on a regular basis. With her near-complete lack of public presence and background, it seems as if she were chosen simply to give the writers a blank check—not because she's at all relevant to campus life.

Her limited relevance becomes only more limited, once one considers that not all students receive her emails. The jokes don't hold up outside that context, and seem to be tenuously related to the school in general: The song "Poor Little Lass," which discusses Niamh's lost dreams after giving up Irish dancing, relies on an overused joke that further distances the audience from CU-related issues.

The focus on CC was necessary by virtue of the theme, "The Corporate Core." Little mention is given to any of the other undergraduate institutions besides the Barnard representative and a regrettable, somewhat tasteless one-liner involving GS. SEAS disappeared from the face of the planet. Even the Barnard student, Claire, was undercut by the fact that her major, evolutionary biology, isn't offered at her alma mater.

Because of this and other inconsistencies, the Barnard woman is never fully explored. While Phineas and Claire touch on the vexed CU-Barnard relationship in a scene set in Phineas' Wien single—he tells Claire that she "wouldn't understand" why it's so important to preserve the Core—the issue never develops from there.

But on the whole, does Varsity Show accurately capture the events of the year? It does its job. Some moments fell flat, while others delighted. Conceptually, the plot hit home, yet, when executed, like an apparently atypical Barnardian, refused to go past second base. Still, the audience—the key critics—emerged amused, and the show managed to say what all of us at Columbia were thinking.

Jade Bonacolta, Rebeka Cohan, and Alison Herman contributed reporting.

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Black Theatre Ensemble fits urban experience, self-discovery into one-act plays

BY REUBEN BERMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Examining everything from the particular issues of a young adult in the ghetto to the typical problems of college kids, the Black Theatre Ensemble used its Spring Festival to focus on one theme: the hope that has the potential to spring eternal. In two student-written one-act plays, BTE addressed the basic issue of where to find hope when it seems like there is none, or how to move from complacency and apathy to action. Even when those attempts don't directly succeed, neither performance allows the audience to leave the theater unhappy.

Dominating the stage in "Rose Out of the Pavement," written by Rebecca Nicholson, was Randolph Carr, CC '13, as Little Man, a college-aged kid sitting on the streets of the ghetto all night, listening to the symphony of sirens, the pops of gunshots, and the curses flying between husbands and wives. His character is a consistent mystery, offering moments of reasoned clarity between puffs of a joint, while at other times descending into petulant brawling over a slight offense. Accompanying Little Man is his Mama, played by the spirited Uzunma Udeh, CC '12, who, although dead, acts as his conscience and guardian angel, hoping that he can break through the barriers that surround him.

By the ending, Little Man, having found a girl to spend time with, resolves to get his GED certificate and find himself a job rather than just sitting around. Although the empty, black stage seemed to foretell a bleak outcome, upon seeing the end, one cannot help but feel that it is possible to grow, even in such

a terrible place.

In the second play, "It's Fine," written by Mae Smith, CC '14, the focus rapidly shifts to universal questions of personal acceptance, familial interaction, and relationship stability. Throughout the act, which takes place during spring break, each of the four characters needs to fulfill the challenge of the versatile Isaiah New, CC '14, playing Gabriel. He asks each of them, including himself, to address one of their insecurities or instabilities.

Gabriel comes out to his parents, while his friend Sebastian, played by Keith Williams, CC '14, addresses his rivalry with a high school classmate. Maddy, played by Sarah Andebrhan, CC '14, must end her doomed relationship with an engaged man, and Aimee, played by Priya Anita, CC '14, is required to rethink her hypercritical nature concerning men. Although each character used excessive internal monologue mid-conversation, the play came to the striking conclusion: Everyone has the same basic problems, even when the initial incidents are not identical. And, even though every character finds it difficult to change, each one resolves to keep trying to improve together.

While many of the actors performing in these plays were standing on a Columbia stage for the first time, there were no moments of dissonance. Furthermore, seeing both performances one after the other only enhances the respect for the Ensemble, which, through only two acts, so accurately depicted both the ever-present possibility for pain and suffering and the eternal spring of hope from which all things may grow.

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KRISTA WHITE FOR SPECTATOR

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES | The two plays presented by the Black Theatre Ensemble in their Spring Festival explore college life, high school rivalries, and doomed relationships.

Stillman wants to start int'l. dance craze with new movie

BY STEFAN COUNTRYMAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After 12 years of screenwriting obscurity, Whit Stillman returns to directing with “Damsels in Distress.” This doesn’t mean much to most Columbia undergraduates—when his previous film, “The Last Days of Disco,” came out in 1998, many of us were too busy playing outside or picking our noses to hit the cinema.

This was a grave mistake on our parts. Stillman, with his classic style and bourgeois sensibilities, makes a unique and brilliant brand of film. His style is understated and controlled. He tells stories of northeastern WASP culture from an insider’s perspective, neither exalting nor vilifying his characters and their milieu. He finds much to mock, but he is never spiteful.

The film takes place at a fictional, mediocre, male-dominated liberal arts college called “Seven Oaks.” It follows a group of students, led by Violet Wister (Greta Gerwig, BC ’06), as they try to spread hygiene, donuts, and dance.

Many of us know Stillman’s characters. In “Damsels,” Charlie (Adam Brody) claims to work in “strategic development,” which involves “mostly business, but any kind of organization.” Exaggerated and farcical as it sounds, anyone who has asked a friend to explain a job in “consulting”—and there are many such people at Columbia—will find Charlie’s explanations very familiar.

Gerwig is marvelous as Violet. The former Varsity Show actress delivers her lines with an impressively earnest flatness, mixing haughty superficiality with bizarre self-awareness. In one memorable exchange, Charlie observes, “The past is gone, so you might as well romanticize it.” With a serene smile and loopy enthusiasm, she responds, “You might be right.”

Stillman himself is a peculiar mix of nostalgia and intelligence, of vivacity and tradition. “I’m generally very tolerant, supportive, of old forms,” he said. Though he teases fraternities and newspapers, he was in both at Harvard. His cinematic style is Old Hollywood through and through. He showed up to our interview wearing a tweed blazer over a pink oxford with contrast collar, with seersucker (seersucker!) trousers, all in a classic cut. And a pocket square. I don’t think this is unusual for him.

He’s not stodgy, though. Watching his movies and chatting

over coffee, it becomes apparent that he’s of a rare breed: a WASP, traditional and unapologetic, who seems neither condescending nor out of touch. He isn’t bourgeois because he thinks it’s the only way to be—he just happens to like it. Unfortunately, some producers think him incapable of any other sort of movie, which is a partial explanation for his extended hiatus. In his 12-year absence, he wrote screenplays and tried to get them adapted into new movies.

“They were not these kind of American comedies; they were dramas set abroad. One was in the Cultural Revolution in China, and the other was in Jamaica in the early ’60s,” Stillman said.

According to him, one producer remarked, “What does Whit Stillman know about black characters in early-’60s Jamaica?”

Stillman holds himself partly accountable for the drought, though. “It was largely my fault as a businessman ... leaving them [my projects] in the hands of other people.” He was able to support himself by screenwriting, which he enjoyed—in college, he wanted to be a novelist, but he didn’t like the long format. He’s glad to be directing again, though. “I’m really glad to have a film on screen now.”

In “Damsels,” Violet aspires above all else to start an “international dance craze” with her creation, the Sambola. When asked whether the film was a clandestine attempt at starting his own dance craze, Stillman immediately replied, “Very much so.”

Though he made the comment in jest, there is some truth in it—he developed the dance with the choreographer, Justin Cerne, who wanted to use just the Macarena.

“I said, ‘You know, I don’t really like the Macarena sort of thing, let’s do a reed dance,’” Stillman said. They “took the cool parts of the tango, the cha-cha, etc.” and “put them together.” There are instructional videos on YouTube and the Apple store for anyone who wants to learn it.

Anyone who has seen “Last Days of Disco” knows that Stillman laments the sudden death of that genre in the 1980s. He finds it heartening, though, that disco classics have been coming back in clubs and as samples in the last decade. “In a way, disco never died.”

Between its resurrection and the inevitable rise of the Sambola, things are looking up for Stillman—and everyone else.

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LESLEY THULIN FOR SPECTATOR

UNEXPECTED COMBINATION | Creative staging, skilled performers, and fun song pairings ensured that “SPEARS” lived up to the hype, while remaining true to the biblical narrative.

Original production proves that Britney Spears, Jesus a good match

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In my ninth grade confirmation class, the very first thing we learned was that “Britney Spears” is an anagram for “Presbyterians.” Saturday night, I was treated to another undeniable link between two of history’s biggest celebrities—Britney and Jesus—with the production, “SPEARS: The Gospel According to Britney.”

Given all the hype surrounding the show, which sold out the limited space in the Glicker-Milstein Theater in under a minute, it was hard to know what to expect and how high my hopes should be. However, “Spears” delivered in high fashion.

The tone of the show was incredibly appropriate for a story which has so much potential to go wrong—plenty of fun, as befits the

music, but surprisingly reverent in places.

And yes, the music worked.

In fact, part of the fun was how absolutely jaw-droppingly perfect some of the numbers were. Never in my life did I think I would hear the song “Lucky” sang about Our Lord and Savior and feel genuine emotion, nor would I have thought that seeing a post-resurrection Jesus & Co. sing and dance to “Stronger” would be such riotous fun (though in retrospect, that’s because I wasn’t creative enough to think of it). Consisting of 22 songs from vintage to modern Britney, the performance managed to make each number memorable.

The musical arrangements by Max Druz, CC ’14, should not be overlooked in this accomplishment, as his renderings both preserved and adjusted each song to adapt to the tone of the story. The lyrics were effectively split among

characters and created a cohesive, engaging story.

The band’s only slightly overpowering the vocals at times, and the whimsical and expressive choreography told the story in place of traditional dialogue. The production team also made excellent use of space in such a cramped theater, creating hellishly startling effects by banging on the cagey railings lining the seats. And oh God, the performers.

Alia Munsch, BC ’12, brought down the house as the Devil, not just with show-stopping vocals but lithe, agile dancing.

It’s to Ben Giordia’s credit that he didn’t let Munsch overshadow his Judas, and let loose as he sold Jesus to Pontius Pilate in “I Wanna Go” and fleshed out his character with emotional depth in “Everytime.”

Michael Carter, CC ’14, came off as a scruffy, indie-rock sort of

Jesus: Though his voice isn’t without technical flaws, it’s hard to imagine a “Where Are You Now”-soundtracked crucifixion different from his raw, moving rendition.

The only real complaint to raise with the show is a slight lack of clarity. Although the narrative arc is familiar to many, it might have been better to have some sort of opening monologue that laid out which pieces of the Bible story were going to be performed. Even as a person who’s read the Bible (I went through confirmation, remember?), it was occasionally hard to follow the action, especially at the beginning.

Still, little can be done to deny the star power of “SPEARS,” which manages to tackle the marriage of Spears and Christ in a way that respects both deities and keeps the audience fully engaged and entertained.

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Student councils to fund reception on original GS Class Day

CLASS DAY from page 3

security due to Obama’s appearance—even though they would not be able to stay for his speech.

Only Barnard graduates and six of their guests, plus a small selection of non-seniors at Barnard who win a lottery for extra tickets, will be able to attend the commencement and hear Obama speak. Bollinger has tried without success to have Obama speak for a broader audience at Columbia.

“We have tried since this was first announced, tried a number of possibilities,” he said. “At the moment, none has emerged as a serious possibility, but it is certainly not for lack of trying. We’ve been told that this is a very discrete visit—he’ll be here for a very specific period of time.”

The General Studies Student Council is working to hold a reception off-campus during the

time of the original Class Day, to accommodate families who will not be able to attend the rescheduled ceremony. This weekend, the Columbia College Student Council, the Engineering Student Council, and Barnard’s Student Government Association announced that they would contribute \$2,012 toward the reception.

The money will go toward “those graduates and their families who were not able to change their travel plans, pending further decisions about its funding from the administration,” a joint statement from the three councils said.

As of now, the four councils plan to fund the May 14 reception themselves because the administration has not yet established plans to do so.

Sammy Roth contributed reporting.

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ISSO from front page

compared to other regions. While the percentage of students from Asia rose from 49.5 percent in 2004 to 54.6 percent in 2011, the percentage of Middle Eastern students, for example, dropped from 6.3 percent to 3.6 percent in the same period.

CC and SEAS admissions officers are expanding international recruitment, particularly in the Middle East. Last year, admissions staff made presentations at high schools in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates for the first time, as “part of a global effort that sent admissions officers to approximately 32 nations on six continents,” Division of Student Affairs spokesperson Katherine Cutler said.

Currently, 64 percent of Columbia’s Middle Eastern students are Israeli or Saudi.

The University’s global centers in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago may also provide space for prospective and admitted students to learn more about Columbia.

“The global centers are partly a way to make contacts and connections and relationships to help fund international students,” Bollinger said. “We’ve been quite successful in this. It’s a start, but we have a long ways to go.”

Nairobi global center administrators plan to increase the number of African students, who formed 2.4 percent of Columbia’s international population in 2011.

“A particular focus of engagement will be African students and academics, in particular through facilitating knowledge sharing and academic exchange, enabling Kenyan students to undertake a period of study at Columbia, for example,” Nairobi global center director Belay Begashaw said in an email.

Vice President for Global Centers Ken Prewitt said that the global centers will mobilize alumni and hold events to raise awareness about Columbia. The global centers in Amman and Santiago have already held events for prospective students with the support of local alumni.

“I think that, in a year from now, every one of the global centers will hold an event for every undergraduate international applicant admitted to Columbia,” Prewitt said.

Prewitt also envisions using the global centers to provide financial aid and fellowships for international students by forging relationships with global corporations and donors.

“We hope to run into corporations who are active in different parts of the world, in Eastern Africa or the Middle East, who see real value of having students from those parts of the world coming to Columbia University and would be willing to provide fellowships for that,” he said.

“If a donor came along and said, ‘I want to give financial aid only to international students,’ we would take that in a second,” Prewitt said, adding that the recipients wouldn’t “just be children

of wealthy families.”

Given the limited amount of financial aid allotted for international students, Valentini said that the admissions committee for CC and SEAS works to “assemble the best group” given their constraints. International students are evaluated under a need-aware policy, meaning that the University factors the size of their financial aid award into their admission decisions.

Extending need-blind admission to students from every country would substantially change the demographics of Columbia, Valentini said.

“In principle, the financial aid needs of international students could be far greater than in U.S. students, just because average incomes are so much less in the rest of the world,” he said. “If we had need-blind admission throughout the world, we’d end up with a whole different kind of college than we have now.”

Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks said he is dedicated to raising funds for international students.

“I spend a lot of my time when I travel trying to raise money for financial aid for international students,” Dirks said. “We are making available more and more funds for the support of international students, so this is something we’re working very hard on.”

Dirks said that it is misleading to apply trends in international student aid to any one school within the University, and that in the Arts and Sciences, the amount of funding varies between

undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral students. All master’s students receive very little financial aid, but all doctoral students are fully funded.

“It’s a complicated narrative, because there are lots of our international students who come for certain master’s programs ... that are extremely attractive to international students, and they’re short-term degree programs,” he said. “But we’re providing greater amounts of support both for undergraduate and for Ph.D. international students.”

Besides Columbia-provided aid, international students can receive funding from their national governments, private foundations, and other international organizations. For instance, the government of Chile fully funds up to 15 Chilean doctoral students accepted to Columbia each year.

Valentini said that while there is no clear target percentage for the number of international students at Columbia College, there should be more discussions among students and faculty to determine what number would be best.

“It will be a long time before Columbia will just say it’s open to the world, and we’ll pick from the best students—it’ll be a long time before that happens,” Bollinger said. “But is that the world we’re heading toward? I don’t know, but I think you could make a good case that we are.”

Jeremy Budd and Sammy Roth contributed reporting.

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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 or call 212-854-1493.

Visit 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.

