





# Manhattanville construction proceeds, faces setbacks

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

While physical construction on Columbia’s Manhattanville campus took significant strides forward this year, the project experienced several setbacks.

The above-ground foundations of the first buildings—set to open in 2016—are ready to go up this summer, but some concerns remain about on-site safety and the project’s reception from neighbors.

Physical construction on the site began last spring with construction of the slurry wall for the Jerome L. Greene Science Center. The slurry wall is a concrete wall that surrounds the future foundation of the building, meant to keep out high groundwater.

The slurry wall for Greene and the Lenfest Center for the Arts was completed in April 2012, and the foundations of the buildings are scheduled to be laid in early summer.

Five building demolitions that took place this spring cleared room for an academic research center devoted to the applied sciences and two buildings for the Columbia Business School.

But on March 22, during demolition work on the block between 130th and 131st streets, where the Business School will be located, a building collapsed, killing one demolition worker and seriously injuring two others. Some have begun to doubt whether the site has properly implemented safety procedures.

“I think clearly there needs to be some hold-up in regards to construction until it’s cleared up what happened, how did Columbia fall short, and we ensure that it’s not happening again,” State Senator Bill Perkins, whose district includes Manhattanville, told *Spectator* in March.

The company that was carrying out the demolition, Breeze National, had been issued two violations associated with the demolition earlier that month, one for failure to safeguard and for a lack of safety harnesses, and one for failing to inform the



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**STEEL RISING** | Slurry wall construction was completed for the first two buildings of the Manhattanville campus expansion. A worker died on the site and contractors were investigated for safety.

Department of Buildings that the demolition was underway when they began work.

According to Breeze, the collapse was caused by an “unknown, unusual, latent condition” in a beam that was cut by the workers, but many called for a more thorough investigation by the city.

University President Lee Bollinger said last week that Columbia “has gone beyond any norm in the construction industry or practices in trying to ensure safety and compliance with all the rules we need to follow.”

“I have personally checked on that, I asked for reports about it, and I am very much reassured that we have gone beyond the norm,” he said.

In addition, Lend Lease, the main contractor of the project, admitted to defrauding clients by paying foremen for more hours than they had worked and misrepresenting the work they claimed was being performed by minority-owned businesses between 1999 and 2009. The firm will pay more than \$50 million in penalties in one of the largest construction fraud settlements in New York City history.

Eagle Two, one of the construction companies certified

through Columbia’s small business mentorship program, is also currently being investigated for fraud, and the University has suspended it from consideration for contracts.

The project experienced another setback in December, when Mayor Michael Bloomberg awarded Cornell University and Technion—Israel Institute of Technology the top prize of \$100 million in a competition to build an applied sciences campus in the city. Columbia had entered the competition with its plan for the Institute for Data Sciences and Engineering, which would have occupied three buildings and 1.1 million square feet on the Manhattanville campus.

Although administrators emphasized that \$100 million would never have been enough to realize the buildings—they had hoped instead it would be a motivation for larger donors to contribute—losing the competition was the impetus to scale down the plans to just one building.

Still, after Cornell and Technion were given the money, other finalists continued to negotiate for a lesser amount. The city announced on April 23 that New York University would receive \$15 million toward the

construction of a tech campus in Brooklyn. Columbia remains in active negotiations.

Meanwhile, the Empire State Development Corporation took steps this year toward finalizing the process of eminent domain, the means by which Columbia acquired the properties on the Manhattanville site.

More than a year and a half after the New York State Court of Appeals upheld ESDC’s use of eminent domain, Nick Sprayregen, Gurnam Singh, and Parminder Kaur still own their properties. None of them have agreed on a sale price, which has pushed ESDC to pursue a final agreement in court.

Activists continue to question whether the Manhattanville campus will serve “public use,” especially in light of the problems distributing the money allotted to Harlem through the Community Benefits Agreement. But Columbia has upheld many of the promises it made, including instituting sustainable construction measures that will reduce air pollution; employing minority, woman-, and locally-owned construction firms; and establishing a mentorship program for small

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# 2 top admins resign, 1 faces faculty revolt

## Provost, CC dean leave abruptly, SEAS faculty does not trust dean

BY MARGARET MATTES  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Columbia has seen significant administrative turmoil over the last year, with two of University President Lee Bollinger’s most prominent hires abruptly resigning and another one facing a faculty revolt.

In 2009, Bollinger brought in three top administrators from outside the University—Claude Steele as provost, Michele Moody-Adams as Columbia College dean, and Feniosky Peña-Mora as dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science. All three were the first minorities to hold those positions.

The reasons behind Moody-Adams’ August resignation remain largely unknown to students and professors. In an Aug. 20 email to a group of alumni, Moody-Adams—who came to Columbia from Cornell University—wrote that impending structural changes to Columbia’s administration would “ultimately compromise the College’s academic quality and financial health.”

“Just a very few days ago, it was made clear to me that the structural transformations intended to fundamentally alter decision-making in and for the College cannot be stopped,” she wrote. “I believe in offering my best as an administrator, educator and scholar and in doing the right things by the constituents I serve. Columbia is developing a structure that will no longer allow me to do that as Dean.”

Moody-Adams originally said that her resignation would be effective June 30, 2012, but shortly after her email to alumni, Bollinger requested that she step down immediately.

There has been much

speculation that Moody-Adams stepped down because of a report from the consulting firm McKinsey and Company that recommended administrative restructuring in the Arts and Sciences. But most of the report’s suggestions for structural changes ultimately were not implemented, and Bollinger described the report as “a kind of red herring.”

“It was nothing more than a set of ideas, and it was up to us to decide—it was really up to everyone to decide—what we would do,” he said in a recent interview.

Since September, several administrators have declined to explain why Moody-Adams resigned, citing a legal agreement that prohibits them from doing so. Bollinger said he understands why some would assume that the McKinsey report was a factor.

“You can understand how people can make a conclusion or develop a story based on the facts as they know them—as I know they know them—and make different assumptions than what I know to be the truth,” Bollinger said.

Chemistry professor James Valentini has been serving as Columbia College’s interim dean since September, and a search committee composed of professors and students is currently looking for a permanent dean. The committee, which will send a list of finalists to Bollinger for consideration, plans to complete its work by the end of the month.

Moody-Adams was not the only high-profile administrator to resign suddenly during the last year. In June, Claude Steele announced that he would be resigning as provost to become dean of Stanford University’s School of Education.

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# New student groups bring wellness to forefront

BY ABBY ABRAMS  
AND LEAH GREENBAUM  
*Spectator Staff Writers*

An unprecedented number of grassroots student projects examined wellness this year in the wake of a Columbia College student’s suicide and growing concerns about stress culture in the Ivy League.

This past semester, groups like the Student Wellness Project, Active Minds, the Student Forum, and the Student Space Initiative made community-building on campus a priority and received broad support from administrators and students.

Columbia is “a place where people come and nobody holds your hand,” Wilfred Chan, CC ’13 and SWP co-chair, said. “I think as a freshman there’s a feeling of being lost and confused, and if we can have upperclassmen provide a helping hand, then that can change.”

One group of students brought therapy dogs to campus during finals week in December and again on Sunday. SWP hosted roundtable discussions and other wellness-related activities.

Led by the Columbia Neuroscience Society, a coalition of student groups ran the first-ever Mental Health Awareness Week on Columbia’s campus, and SWP hosted a week of “random acts of kindness” in April, which attracted a total involvement of more than 1,000 students, according to the group’s website.

Campus interest in mental health grew after Tina Bu, CC ’13, committed suicide on Oct. 23. Sarah Ngu, CC ’12, wrote an article in *Spectator*’s weekly magazine, *The Eye*, about her relationship with Bu, a close friend. The article generated a lot of attention from students and alumni.

“How do you interpret mixed signals?” Ngu asked. “What do you do when a friend seeks help and then pulls back and seems happier? It was as if there was a fire going on in the house, and Tina had opened the windows but kept the door locked. We were left watching from the outside.”

In the months that followed Bu’s death, many students acknowledged the challenges of belonging and feeling well in a decentralized university and big city.

“There’s always the joke that Columbia doesn’t have a sense of community, but we want to change that. We want to show people that people do care about them and support them,” Zak Plautz Posewitz, CC ’15 and SWP vice president of external affairs, said.

Part of that conversation has involved efforts to create more communal space for students on campus.

## Columbia is “a place where people come and nobody holds your hand.”

—Wilfred Chan, CC ’13,  
SWP co-chair

In February, a group of students formed the Student Space Initiative to discuss plans to reconfigure Lerner’s Broadway Room and piano lounge to create a more comfortable hangout space for undergraduates. The group also hopes to use space in buildings that will be vacated when graduate schools relocate to the Manhattanville campus.

In keeping with students’ increased focus on community-building, the Center for Student Advising introduced a peer advising program, which it will pilot this fall. Eight peer advisers will be available Monday through Thursday for students to ask questions ranging from Core classes and campus resources to extracurricular activities and how to take advantage of the city.

“Having these types of open discussions are an important step forward in fostering better awareness of overall student well-being,” Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger said in an email.

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# Obama as BC speaker creates rift, bumps GS

BY BEN GITTELSON  
AND MADINA TOURE  
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President Barack Obama’s decision to speak at Barnard commencement sparked hundreds of sexist online comments and forced the School of General Studies to change the date of its Class Day.

After the March 3 announcement that Obama, CC ’83, would deliver the keynote at Barnard’s commencement ceremony, some Columbia College students took to *Spectator* and Bwog to criticize Barnard and Barnard students. While many students were upset that Obama chose to come to Morningside Heights but not to speak at his alma mater, others wrote misogynistic comments challenging Barnard students’ intelligence.

The reactions garnered national media coverage, and within days, a Change.org petition condemning the comments had garnered hundreds of signatures. University President Lee Bollinger and Barnard President Debora Spar issued a joint statement calling the comments “not representative of our community,” although they added that many of the comments were the result of “entirely natural disappointment.”

Spar also told the *New York Times* that many of the comments were produced by “19-year-olds writing at 4:30 in the morning,” a line that was parodied in this year’s Varsity Show.

Some students expressed disappointment with how Bollinger and Spar handled the controversy, among them Caroline Kim, BC ’13, who created the petition.

“It may not look good in the short-run for either college presidents to formally acknowledge that these issues of sexism exist, but with all this media coverage, people are very aware of them now,” Kim said in an email. “And

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# CU launches 4 new global centers, fellows program

BY MELISSA VON  
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*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Columbia launched global centers in Istanbul, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago this year, while administrators and professors continued developing plans to connect coursework and research to the centers.

“The personnel is coming together. We’ve got a lot of programs already,” Vice President for Global Centers Ken Prewitt said. “There is a way in which we feel this year that we’ve turned a corner on this global centers initiative.”

The formal launch of the Nairobi center, with government leaders present, will probably take place in November, while the Rio center will likely open in early 2013. They will join a network that already includes centers in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Paris, and Santiago.

Prewitt and University President Lee Bollinger envision the global centers as regional hubs that will facilitate interconnected research opportunities for students and faculty, rather than branch campuses. The global center in Paris, for instance, is working to create research exchanges with West African countries.

“It may be easier to do it there with France as the base of our operations, at least until we can open an office [in West Africa],” Prewitt said.

In April, Bollinger appointed Paul LeClerc, a former president of the New York Public Library, as the first permanent director of the center in Paris. LeClerc, who will officially begin his tenure in July, wants to provide opportunities for students to work alongside European policy-makers, connect the cultural houses on the Morningside Heights campus to the center’s work, and increase the center’s Web presence and technological capabilities.

“I want us to have a huge Web presence, with as much of what we do there on the Web for people to see,” LeClerc said. “Lectures, conferences, all those kinds of things—ideally even someday courses.”



COURTESY OF MONIQUE SMITH

**IT’S OFFICIAL** | Mumbai center director Nirupam Bajpai (right) cuts a ribbon at an opening ceremony for the Mumbai center.

Administrators are reviewing applications for a new director for the global center in Beijing, a search process that Prewitt said would be finished in the next few months.

The Beijing center will also be a part of a new summer program for undergraduates, the China/India Global Scholars Program. Students in this program will research urbanization and the environment in Beijing, Shanghai, and Mumbai before taking a related course when they return to campus.

“The whole idea of it being a network, where teaching programs could take advantage of the global centers, is now beginning to happen,” Prewitt said.

This semester, the global center in Paris started a similar program for undergraduates, which gives students the opportunity to conduct research projects while taking classes at French universities. The theme of this semester’s program was inequality studies, and next year’s theme will be global jazz.

“We’re doing an experiment in very on-the-ground undergraduate education,” Paris center

director Victoria de Grazia said.

Several faculty committees are also looking for ways to offer parts of the Core Curriculum at the global centers in Paris, Istanbul, and Santiago. Administrators believe that this model would allow students to study abroad earlier in their academic careers, and that a global context could complement the course material.

“Because the college has so many requirements in the first two years, it’s very difficult for students to go abroad before their junior year,” Dean of Humanities Pierre Force said. “So you can give students the possibility of studying abroad sooner.”

But at least one new program is giving students the chance to go abroad later rather than earlier. Six Columbia seniors will take part in the inaugural fifth-year study abroad program starting in September, conducting research projects and using the global centers for support.

“It’s a small group. It’s deliberately kept small—it is a pilot,” Prewitt said. “They will use the

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BC cuts costs, raises funds to renovate campus

BY EMMA GOSS  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

With a major campus renovation on the horizon and a planned capital campaign yet to get underway, Barnard made several changes designed to cut costs this year, often angering students and faculty.

In February, administrators began an academic space planning project to prepare for renovations to Barnard, Lehman, and Milbank halls. Barnard Chief Operating Officer Greg Brown said that there are three main options: improving the teaching and learning spaces in the three buildings while maintaining their current square footage; adding floors to Lehman Hall; and “doing the wild thing and taking down Lehman and starting over again.”

According to Brown, one reason Barnard is planning campus renovations now is that administrators are preparing to launch a nine-figure capital campaign to bolster the college’s \$215.5 million endowment.

“By having plans in front of donors, it’s a lot easier to raise

money when you say, ‘Here’s our exciting vision of where we’re going,’” Brown said.

But in the meantime, Barnard’s annual expenses are higher than its annual revenue, and administrators made several cost-cutting moves this year which were met with opposition from students and faculty.

Barnard Dean Avis Hinkson announced in October that starting this fall, all students will be required to pay full-time tuition fees for every semester in which they are enrolled. The announcement frustrated students, who had previously been allowed to take fewer than 12 credits and pay part-time tuition.

Hannah Goodman, BC/JTS ’12 and List College Student Council president, said that the policy change was not the best way to improve the college’s finances.

“I understand Barnard needs money in order to function, but there are other avenues that will not hinder the students,” Goodman said.

More than 600 students signed a petition opposing the policy, and several students held

a small protest outside Lehman Hall. Andrea Egan, BC ’13, said that administrators were not honest in explaining why they made the policy change.

“The email sent to us emphasized that this policy was about building a stronger Barnard community, but it seemed to me that it was just sugarcoating the fact that it was a largely financial decision,” Egan said.

For many students, a major problem with the policy change was the fact that administrators did not seek student input before announcing it. That sort of disconnect could change with the creation of the Financial Advisory Council, a student committee formed in January by Barnard’s Student Government Association to advise Brown on financial policy decisions.

Outgoing SGA Vice President Rachel Ferrari, BC ’13, said that the first FAC meeting “set the stage for what should be really candid discussions with” Brown.

“I think he wants us to be honest with him so there’s no confusion when something is announced,” Ferrari said.

When administrators



ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**ADD OR SUBTRACT?** | Barnard COO Greg Brown said Lehman Hall might have floors added to it—or it might be torn down. The school is cutting costs to prepare for a major campus renovation.

announced in April that Barnard’s two-semester physical education requirement would be reduced to one semester in an effort to save money, students were more accepting of the policy change. Ferrari said that Brown and Barnard President Debora Spar sought input on the decision from students and professors on the college’s Committee on Instruction.

But when Spectator reported last month that Barnard would close its swimming pool to save the college a projected \$3 million, students and professors voiced opposition to the plan.

“Is it the cleanest place? No. Does it do its job? Certainly,” Shira Poliak, BC ’13, said. “Some people think it’s a little old. But I don’t need a modern pool. A pool’s a pool.”

“The saddest thing about a college is that it’s a business. It’s not just a glorious utopia,” Ferrari said. “And I’m proud that our administration is willing to examine where we’re putting our money and where else it could be put.”

*Jessica Stallone contributed reporting.*

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MATTHEW SHERMAN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**CHAT** | Provost John Coatsworth and University President Lee Bollinger discussed the NYPD’s surveillance of the MSA in February.

NYPD’s surveillance of MSA website prompts outrage, town halls

BY YASMIN GAGNE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

An Associated Press report that the New York Police Department monitored Columbia’s Muslim Students Association sent shock waves across campus earlier this semester.

The AP reported in February that the NYPD conducted surveillance of Muslim student groups at New York City schools and at schools well outside of the city, including Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania. According to the report, police had monitored the MSA’s publicly accessible website as recently as 2007.

Former MSA Vice President Maliha Tariq, BC ’13, said that “the NYPD’s actions are not acceptable.”

“It’s not about the police following leads or evidence; this is about them mapping communities

and targeting people based on assumptions and ideas, not facts,” Tariq said in an email.

A November 2006 “Weekly MSA Report” stated that officers from the NYPD’s Cyber Intelligence unit visited the websites of various Muslim student groups, including Columbia’s, as part of a “daily routine.” University President Lee Bollinger said in an interview last week that as far as he knows, this was the extent of the surveillance at Columbia.

“We met with people from the city and were assured that there was no monitoring or surveillance at Columbia ... on the premises, or in the campus,” he said.

Bollinger and Barnard President Debora Spar condemned the NYPD’s actions. Bollinger said in a statement that the University neither knew about nor took part in surveillance of its students.

“We want to be sure our Muslim community knows that we support

everyone’s right to carry on their lives and their studies without the feeling of being watched by a government that exists to protect us all,” Bollinger said. He also emphasized students’ rights to freedom of speech and religion as “essential values of any great university.”

“We are deeply concerned about any government activity that would chill the freedom of thought or intrude upon student privacy, both of which are so essential to our academic community,” he said.

In an email to students and faculty, Spar said that Barnard’s Public Safety Department “does not participate in or condone unlawful surveillance or monitoring of any kind, with any law enforcement agency, including the NYPD.”

“The College is firmly committed to protecting the civil liberties of our students and stands by the Muslim Students Association in its concerns about the actions of the NYPD and its calls for further

explanation,” Spar said.

Many students expressed outrage about the police surveillance at a town hall hosted by the MSA, a fireside chat hosted by Bollinger for a small group of invited students, and a town hall hosted by University Chaplain Jewelnel Davis that was open to all students.

“We’re being bullied by the NYPD,” Kahlil Abdur-Rashid, Columbia’s Muslim religious life advisor, said at the MSA town hall. “We need someone to step up and say, ‘Stop bullying our kids.’”

Many students spoke about the traumatic effects that the reported surveillance had on Muslim students. Some expressed a fear of speaking in class, in case they were recorded on a laptop or cell phone, and others said that they were being more cautious about whom they spoke to, what they talked about in normal conversations,

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TURMOIL | SEAS Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora and former CC Dean Michele Moody-Adams.

## Moody-Adams resigns, Peña-Mora faces revolt

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Steele had previously been the director of Stanford’s Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He taught psychology at Stanford from 1991 through 2009, chairing the psychology department from 1997 through 2000.

Steele told Spectator that he had mixed emotions about leaving Columbia, but that he was looking forward to teaching again and leading research on education. Steele has done research on achievement differences between different groups of students, focusing on the “stereotype threat” theory that members of negatively stereotyped groups operate under the anxiety that they will confirm those stereotypes.

“After a certain age you only have so many epochs left in a career,” Steele said. “I’d like this final epoch to be dedicated to this.”

Peña-Mora is still dean of the engineering school, but he has been a polarizing figure since from the beginning of his tenure.

In the spring of 2010—just a few months after he arrived from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign—the chairs of the nine SEAS departments privately gave him a letter outlining situations in which they believed he had not acted in the best interests of the school, as

well as suggestions for how he should fix his mistakes.

In August 2011, after the relationship between Peña-Mora and faculty members deteriorated further, the chairs wrote then-Interim Provost John Coatsworth a letter calling for Peña-Mora’s resignation. Many SEAS professors signed a similar letter in October, writing that Peña-Mora had worsened SEAS’ long-standing space crunch, sacrificed graduate students’ education for short-term profits, and compromised the quality of the faculty, among other complaints.

The University’s central administration made several changes to the engineering school’s administrative structure in response to faculty concerns, transferring many of Peña-Mora’s responsibilities to the newly created position of executive vice dean and forming a faculty committee that is looking for ways to improve communication between the dean and the faculty. The offices of the provost and the president will complete a report on possible structural and administrative changes to SEAS by the end of June.

But despite the changes, many faculty members are still adamant that Peña-Mora resign. Asked if he would rule out the possibility of asking Peña-Mora to step down, Bollinger declined to comment.

“No one knows what the next

step will be, but it’s clear that if it continues like this, the school will be hurt,” one former department chair, who asked to remain anonymous, told Spectator. “If he [Peña-Mora] puts the school’s interests first, he will step down.”

Although Bollinger declined to draw connections between Moody-Adams’ resignation, Steele’s resignation, the calls for Peña-Mora resignation, he seems to have rethought the strategy of outside hires for high-profile positions. He chose Coatsworth, who was previously dean of the School of International and Public Affairs, as interim and then permanent provost, and he has limited the search for a Columbia College dean to inter-ture candidates. Valentini is widely considered to be a frontrunner for the position.

“It’s always difficult to come from the outside, whatever your position is. In an administrative leadership role, it’s always difficult,” Bollinger said. “It takes a long time, sometimes a very long period of time, to build relationships, to figure out the system, to build trust. And you have controversies that you can’t predict or control, and so it’s always difficult. I’ve seen this many, many, many times.”

Leah Greenbaum, Sammy Roth, and Finn Vigeland contributed reporting.

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## Obama as BC speaker creates rift, bumps GS

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they certainly aren’t going to just go away if they continue to brush them off.”

Barnard graduates are allowed to bring six guests each to Commencement. Administrators announced last week that a limited number of seniors from Barnard, Columbia College, and the School of Engineering and Applied Science would be chosen by lottery to attend the ceremony as well.

The planned security for Obama’s appearance also prompted a last-minute rescheduling of GS Class Day. The ceremony was originally scheduled for the morning of May 14—several hours before Obama is set to speak—but GS Dean Peter Awn announced two weeks ago that it would be moved to the day before to avoid making GS graduates and their guests go through security at 5:30 a.m. on the original date.

The announcement sparked outrage among GS students, many

of whom said that their families would no longer be able to attend the ceremony. Administrators responded by creating a small fund designed to help families pay to change their travel plans.

Many students also criticized how administrators dealt with the rescheduling, particularly their announcement of the change so close to Class Day. A few days after the change was announced, Bollinger told Spectator that administrators made the decision to reschedule soon after receiving new information about the security measures.

“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.

The GS Class Day controversy brought together students from all four undergraduate schools. Student leaders from Barnard,

CC, and SEAS released a statement calling on the University to formally apologize to GS students, and the student councils pledged \$2,012 toward an off-campus reception that will probably take place on the ceremony’s original date.

Additionally, two ESC members—Mailing Wu, SEAS ’12, and James Huang, SEAS ’12—started a website where students can offer their couches to guests of GS families who were forced to change their travel plans.

Outgoing General Studies Student Council President Jacqueline Thong, GS ’12, praised the councils’ efforts.

“We are really appreciative of the gesture and outreach we have received from the other councils,” she said. “It’s nice to see the entire Columbia community standing behind one undergraduate community.”

Yasmin Gagne, Sammy Roth, and Finn Vigeland contributed reporting.

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## M’ville site progresses, faces setbacks

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local business firms.

The Business School, the School of International and Public Affairs, and the School of the Arts are all in the midst of fundraising campaigns to collect the hundreds of millions of dollars still needed for building development and construction of their future Manhattanville homes.

University trustee Gerry Lenfest pledged \$30 million to fund the School of the Arts building in November, and Business School alumnus Leon Cooperman donated \$25 million toward the construction of the Business School’s new facilities in Manhattanville in April.

Gina Lee and Finn Vigeland contributed reporting.

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## Global centers expand, with Core in tow

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centers, but not only the centers. The centers are there to be helpful in facilitating.”

Prewitt has been talking to representatives from other American universities about the global center model and the possibility of collaborating on research projects. Educators at schools including Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University, and Stanford University are “very interested in what we’re doing,” Prewitt said.

“Many universities are developing a globalization strategy,” he said. “And we have one of the models.”

Kelly Lane contributed reporting.

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## NYPD’s spying on MSA draws outrage

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and what they searched for on the Internet.

Adel Elshohly, GSAS ’12 and a member of the MSA, said at Bollinger’s fireside chat that surveillance issues have forced him to pursue his study of chemistry with caution.

“I’ve felt the need, at times, to ask co-workers to do literature searches for me because I figured that me doing that search could turn up suspicious,” he said. “Looking up something explosive, for example.”

The AP reporters who investigated the NYPD’s surveillance of Muslim communities won a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in April.

Jessica Stallone contributed reporting.

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# Race for Rangel’s seat, City Council heating up

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI,  
GINA LEE,  
AND CASEY TOLAN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writers*

Longtime incumbent Rep. Charles Rangel is facing one of the toughest campaigns of his political life in the June 26 Democratic primary, thanks in part to the new boundaries of his Upper Manhattan congressional district. The 13th Congressional District was redrawn in March, remaining focused in Harlem but adding parts of the Bronx. Additionally, the southern boundary of the district moved several blocks north, cutting out Morningside Heights and Columbia.

Most significantly, the percentage of voting-age Hispanics increased from 43.8 percent to 52.7 percent. The state’s second Hispanic minority-majority district, this one largely Dominican, may prove an advantage to State Senator Adriano Espaillat, who is seen as Rangel’s toughest competition in the race.

Rangel has been hampered by continuing ethics scandals and a back injury that kept him off the campaign trail for two months. In March, he agreed to pay the Federal Election Commission a \$23,000 civil penalty for using a rent-stabilized apartment as a campaign office.

But a 41-year incumbency is an advantage for Rangel, who won his seat in 1971 after defeating Harlem’s first congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., and election observers like his chances.

Daniel Marks Cohen, a state Democratic Committee member, called Espaillat a “good candidate,” but said that “he isn’t able to generate enough support to exceed Rangel’s current support.”

While Espaillat is a stronger opponent than Rangel’s challengers in 2010, Cohen said, “it’s Rangel’s to lose.”

Rangel has won far more endorsements than his opponents, with the backing of several local Democratic clubs and numerous

elected officials, including State Assembly member Daniel O’Donnell. Espaillat is behind in endorsements, but did receive the backing of former candidates Vince Morgan, a SIPA graduate, and Ruben Dario Vargas.

Other challengers still in the race are activists Joyce Johnson and Craig Schley and former Bill Clinton adviser Clyde Williams. Schley has been up against Rangel twice before, and Johnson ran for the seat in 2010. Williams is a newcomer to the race, returning to Harlem after four years in Washington, D.C. as the former Democratic National Committee political director.

Rumors have been circulating among local politicians that Rangel might step down after winning the nomination, possibly clearing a path for State Assembly member Keith Wright, a longtime Rangel ally, onto the Democratic ticket.

According to state election law, if a nominee steps down after the primary, the county committee of the party chooses a new nominee to run in a special election. In Rangel’s case, the job of choosing a replacement Democratic nominee would be put to the committees of the Bronx and Manhattan Democratic Parties, large bodies comprised of hundreds of local activists and insiders. Wright is the chair of the Manhattan Democratic Party.

Rangel has maintained that he plans to serve out his full two-year term if he wins the primary and the election.

“It is an insult to my integrity and to my reputation to infer that after being supported for 40 years by such a wonderful, supportive constituency that I would ask them to vote for me with the intention that someone else would be serving,” Rangel told *Spectator* last month.

But several Democratic party officials in the district said they would not be surprised if Rangel stepped down after winning the Democratic nomination. “Rangel feels like he owns the seat and it is his to give, and as a

result, I believe that he will bequeath the seat to Keith Wright,” said one official, who asked to remain anonymous.

**CITY COUNCIL RACE**  
In city politics, elections are coming up in 2013, and all eyes are on the heated race to replace Upper West Side representative Gale Brewer, which has attracted a crowded field of candidates more than a year before the election.

Former Community Board 7 chair Mel Wymore, 49, would be the first transgender member of City Council if elected.

Helen Rosenthal, 51, also a former CB7 chair, managed the health care budgets of New York’s hospitals for the Office of Management and Budget under former mayors Ed Koch, David Dinkins, and Rudy Giuliani.

Democratic District Leader Marc Landis, 49, serves as a liaison between Democratic officials and residents and helps with elections. He is known for leading a lawsuit against a local charter school.

Ken Biberaj, 32 and the only candidate without local political experience, is the vice president and spokesperson at RTR Funding Group, Inc., which owns the iconic Russian Tea Room restaurant in Midtown Manhattan. He served as the political research director for Sen. John Kerry’s (D-Mass.) 2004 presidential campaign in Florida.

The race to replace Brewer isn’t the only election locals will be voting in next year. Council member Robert Jackson, who represents Upper Manhattan, including Manhattanville, is also term-limited. The field of candidates for his race is still in flux.

And despite their exit from the City Council, neither Brewer nor Jackson is done with city politics. The two longtime council members are among the candidates facing off in the race for Manhattan borough president.

*Daphne Chen contributed reporting.*  
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**SPIRIT OF ’68** | Above, students protest on Occupy Wall Street in October. Below, participants in the Columbia General Assembly use the people’s mic, a technique popularized at Occupy.

## Occupy rekindles campus protest spirit, for a bit

BY LEAH GREENBAUM  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

A fresh wave of Columbia activists tried to revive the spirit of 1968 this year, as the Occupy Wall Street movement swept the nation. But even as protests against economic inequality flowered in Zuccotti Park, the Occupy movement never secured the same kind of foothold in Morningside Heights as it did at other college campuses.

In October, hundreds of students joined a citywide walkout to protest, among other concerns, the student debt crisis that has left many young borrowers struggling to pay for school. Later that month, members of the Columbia University Democrats spent a night at Zuccotti Park after protesters were told they would have to leave the next morning.

For Salomeya Sobko, CC ’12, the student debt issue hit close to home.

“I just found out that I have to take out \$10,000 more in loans this week,” Sobko said in October, adding that both her financial aid award and her parents’ income decreased last year.

In November, more than 400 faculty members signed a statement of support for the protesters. Earth Institute Director Jeffrey

Sachs led a large contingency of students from Lerner Hall to Zuccotti Park in November, and history professor Eric Foner addressed members of the Columbia General Assembly last week on International Workers’ Day.

“I think it’s important to think seriously about being a student at Columbia, and I say that in great gratitude to this University,” Journalism School professor Todd Gitlin said at a panel discussion on Low Steps in November.

“This University produces ideas, as it should, but some of the ideas it has engendered ... are very bad, very dangerous ideas,” Gitlin said, adding that the notion of a self-regulating market came from Columbia’s Business School.

Although many Columbia students publicly supported Occupy Wall Street in the fall, visible support on campus for the movement has faded his semester. And Columbia sends about a quarter of its graduating class to work in financial services each year.

“We really want to point out how Columbia as an institution is implicated in the issues the Occupy Wall Street is addressing,” Alex Affi, CC ’12, said. “Our board of trustees is largely made up of people who sit on the boards of banks, and our president is on the board of the New York Fed.

And Debora Spar, president of Barnard College, sits on the board of Goldman Sachs.”

On October 1, about 700 protesters were arrested for obstructing traffic and refusing to obey lawful orders as they marched across the Brooklyn Bridge, among them Justine Lyons, CC ’13, and several other Columbia students.

After being handcuffed, Lyons and other detainees spent about three hours in city buses before arriving at a police precinct. Lyons said she was the fifth-to-last protester to be released—at about 3:30 a.m., almost 12 hours after she was first handcuffed.

Not all Columbia students supported the Occupy movement. Daniel O’Leary, SEAS ’14 and president of the student organization Columbia Financial Investment Group, said that students who support OWS are “guided by misinformation about what finance is and what it can do.”

“You need money to run things, and the financial system is a means of getting money to get it to where it needs to go,” O’Leary said.

*Yasmin Gagne, Karla Jimenez, and Megan Kallstrom contributed reporting.*

*leah.greenbaum@columbiaspectator.com*



ESPAILLAT: COURTESY OF ADRIANO ESPAILLAT; RANGEL: FILE PHOTO  
WILLIAMS: CHRISTOPHER NAVARRO FOR SPECTATOR; SCHLEY AND JOHNSON: DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**THE RACE** | Clockwise from top left: State Senator Adriano Espaillat, incumbent Rep. Charles Rangel, former Democratic district leader Joyce Johnson, businessman and activist Craig Schley, and former Bill Clinton adviser Clyde Williams.



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# OFFBEAT AROUND MORNINGSIDE

SEPTEMBER 2011 to MARCH 2012

## Locals debate naming W. 121st for George Carlin

BY FINN VIGELAND AND JEREMY BUDD  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writers*

Morningside Heights residents may be walking all over George Carlin in the near future. Community Board 9 will soon vote on whether to name the 500-block of West 121st Street after Carlin, who grew up there. “Daily Show” comedian Kevin Bartini began a petition in September to name the childhood block of the legendary comedian in his honor, garnering more than 9,000 signatures. CB9 members did not reach a consensus at a meeting in March. But in an email later that month, Bartini said that Carolyn Thompson, chair of CB9’s uniformed services committee, told him in a private meeting that there was enough support on the committee for the motion to pass, “effectively moving it out of committee and opening it up to a vote”

on the full board. Thompson’s approval was the first sign of traction in six months of debate. The pastor and members of Corpus Christi Church, which is on the block, have led a vocal campaign against the co-naming. Carlin “is known for his drug usage over the years, and we just don’t feel that for kids that it sets a good example,” Corpus Christi Church member Michael Hall said at the March CB9 meeting. “In addition, Mr. Carlin really lampooned the Christian faith, so we were offended by that.” Carlin lived in The Miami at 519 W. 121st St. and attended elementary school at Corpus Christi. Bartini called Carlin “a quintessential New Yorker” at the meeting. Bartini said on Saturday that he expected the full board to vote on the measure this month or in June. If it, the only remaining hurdle is City Council approval. [news@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:news@columbiaspectator.com)



MARK CARLSON FOR SPECTATOR

APRIL 10, 2012

## Herman Cain talks 9-9-9 policy, Pokémon, pizza

BY YASMIN GAGNE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

In between touting his “9-9-9” tax reform plan and quoting a song from “Pokémon: The Movie 2000,” former presidential candidate Herman Cain told students about his desire to “rewrite the future history of the United States of America” in April. Cain, the former chief executive officer of Godfather’s Pizza and a one-time frontrunner in the Republican presidential primaries, withdrew from the presidential race in December amid allegations of sexual misconduct. He spoke about the economy, foreign policy, and his favorite pizza toppings in Low Library at the invitation of the Columbia University College Republicans. Cain spent much of his speech arguing that decades of excessive regulation, taxation, and legislation—which he referred to collectively as “the ‘ations”—are killing the American economy. “How did we get into this mess?” he asked. “If you don’t believe we are in a mess, you’ve been living under a rock somewhere.” Drawing on his business experience at Godfather’s and the Pillsbury Company, Cain said that his “9-9-9” plan would “unleash the economic potential in the country.” Under the plan, the entire U.S. tax code would be replaced by 9 percent taxes on individual

income, business income, and sales. Cain also encouraged students to help change the country, telling them, “stay involved, stay informed, stay inspired.” He said that he personally has found inspiration in the song “The Power of One” from the 2000 Pokémon movie, which he said he “committed to memory” after hearing it during a broadcast of the 2000 Olympic Games. Cain recited the lyrics: “Life can be a challenge, life can seem impossible. It’s never easy when there’s so much on the line, but you can make a difference—there’s a mission just for you. Just look inside, and you will find just what you can do.” He also encouraged students to get involved in both business and politics. “I would recommend you graduate from college, get educated, and make some money first, so you don’t become a crooked politician,” he said. The last question Cain answered was about his favorite pizza topping, which he said is “the all-meat combo.” “I don’t like anchovies on there,” he said, instead opting for pepperoni, bacon, sausage, and ham. He ended on a more serious note, though, telling students, “I will not die doing nothing to help this nation, and I challenge you to not die doing nothing to help this nation.” [yasmin.gagne@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:yasmin.gagne@columbiaspectator.com)



SHRIVA MANIAN FOR SPECTATOR

SEPTEMBER 2011

## Once pets, abandoned turtles find home in M’side

BY CASEY TOLAN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Morningside Park is a hub of activity in the autumn, but easy to miss are the large families of turtles lurking just below the surface of the park’s signature pond. These unlikely Morningside residents are an interesting ecological study, as most of the turtles are not native to the park. “Almost all of the turtles swimming around there ... or in any ponds in the city are descended from animals that were pets,” according to Chris Raxworthy, associate herpetology curator at the American Museum of Natural History. The turtles spend their time hiding in the water, peeking out, and hoping for food as pedestrians approach the pond just off of Morningside Avenue at 113th Street. They swim sedately, only darting into the murky depths when someone or something gets too close. “There was a big craze for these things in the ’60s and ’70s,” Raxworthy said. “They were commonly sold in pet shops

as little hatchlings. People would buy them in a plastic aquarium and when they got too big ... they’d let them go.” “On warm days in spring and summer, they climb all over the rocks” behind the pond, Morningside Heights resident Melissa Cooper said. “I’ve literally counted 50 on the rocks ... not counting those in the water.” For at least the last decade, Brad Taylor, secretary of Friends of Morningside Park, said he has seen hatchlings, about half a finger’s length, climbing down the slope above the pond leading up to Morningside Drive. Multiple species of turtles live in the pond, but the most prevalent seems to be red-eared sliders, which are identifiable by the red markings on the turtles’ heads, according to Raxworthy. He described them as “exotic animals that people have dumped in the water.” Joining the turtles in the pond are ducks, fish, and, last fall, a larger-than-usual flock of 22 Canada geese. “It’s quite a little ecosystem in that pond,” Taylor said. [casey.tolan@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:casey.tolan@columbiaspectator.com)

JANUARY to FEBRUARY 2012

## Impostor interrupts classes, sells nightclub tickets

BY LILLIAN CHEN, SAMMY ROTH, AND FINN VIGELAND  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writers*

A man pretending to work for Columbia entered at least eight classes over the last two weeks of January, selling \$5 tickets he claimed would get students into popular nightclubs. He announced at the start of the large lectures that he was a representative from the Division of Student Affairs selling tickets to 12 nightclubs across the city, including Pacha and Webster Hall. The man, who was not affiliated with the University, was declared by Public Safety a persona non grata on campus. According to students in the classes, he sold at least 60 tickets, though it’s unclear how many students the man hoodwinked before getting caught, or how long he had been running the scam. “The thing I was most struck by was that he came in and asserted himself as an authority, as if he was familiar with the school,” Sara Garner, SEAS ’15, said. Garner, a Spectrum weekend editor and Spectator online developer, bought a ticket from the man in her 4:10 p.m. computer science class on the day he was caught. “He dressed professionally—khaki pants, a button-down,” she said. The man arrived at the scheduled start time of the classes and asked the instructor

for permission to speak. He said he was selling the tickets for \$5—a bargain, he claimed, compared to their usual price of \$20, and what he said was Columbia’s price of \$10. He sold about half a dozen tickets in professor Gil Eyal’s 1:10 p.m. sociology class on Jan. 31 and also gave Eyal a free ticket. Eyal said in an email that he was “completely fooled” by the scammer. “I just assumed he was who he was claiming to be,” he said. Earlier in the semester, another person had entered the class and asked to address the students about internships, “and this seemed to be the same thing,” Eyal added. It was unclear if the tickets would actually grant students access to clubs. Half a dozen students who bought tickets said they never even attempted to redeem them, after learning that the man was an impostor. “I don’t think people really tried to use it once they realized how fake it was,” Aditya Majumdar, SEAS ’15, said. The tickets, which purported to be issued by an organization called “New York Nites,” had several misspellings, including, “Night club is not involve in this arrangement.now please enjoy your night out” and “NYN ticket holder will be admitted to the event or location on the NYN guestiest.” They also had the words “God bless” printed on them in two places. [news@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:news@columbiaspectator.com)

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: A YEAR IN PHOTOS



FIRST ROW: YANYI LUO FOR SPECTATOR, LUKE HENDERSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER. SECOND ROW: JENNY PAYNE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, MIKE DISCENZA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER.

**WHILE YOU WERE OUT** | Over the course of this academic year, students jammed with local performers at Live at Lerner’s “Symposium,” (top left), which culminated with the Bacchanal show April 14, featuring jazz-electronica team Big Gigantic, California surf-punk group Wavves, and New Orleans rapper Curren\$y, and Columbia student DJs Spicy Special (top right). This semester also saw Sean Walsh, CC ’14, cast off his Ke\$ho past and embrace his awe-inspiring vocals in his turn as Phineas in the 118th Annual Varsity Show (bottom center), while the students in Columbia’s sketch comedy group Chowdah participated in a collegiate comedy competition downtown (bottom right). Off campus, Melissa shoes, known for colorful plastic designs, opened their first store in the U.S. in Soho (bottom left).

## 118th Varsity Show takes on Columbia administration, keeps traditions alive

BY LESLEY THULIN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Touching on hot-button issues including Occupy Wall Street and the McKinsey report, the 118th incarnation of the Varsity Show expressed the anxieties that many Columbians have about the administration, with a heavy dose of humor.

This year’s Varsity Show portrayed the struggle of classics/philosophy major Phineas (Sean Walsh, CC ’14) to defend the Core Curriculum against the corporate reform efforts of the Center for Career Education Director Niamh (pronounced “Neeeeeev”) O’Brien (Rebekah Lowin, CC ’14) and her lackey, Dean James Valentini (Gray Henry, CC ’14). O’Brien, in an effort to enhance post-graduation employment rates, institutes the “Corporate Core,” which inspires Phineas to form a protest coalition under the banner of Alma’s Army, with the help of fellow students Claire (Eleanor Bray, BC ’14) and Lexi (Jenny Singer, BC ’15).

Highlights from the show included the Bwog-riffing “That’s How I Troll,” “The One Percent,” and “Another Epic Day!” Lowin’s solo, “Poor Little Lass,” also stood out, showcasing the opera singer’s classically trained voice.

Lowin, who was in the Varsity Show last year, had not planned on auditioning for V118. But when she heard who was on the creative team, she didn’t need further convincing.

Co-written by John Goodwin, CC ’12, and Jeff Stern, CC ’12, the show featured an original score by Solomon Hoffman, CC ’14, and Tareq Abuissa, CC ’14, and choreography by Adrianna Aguilar, BC ’13. V118 was co-produced by Ben Harris, CC ’14, and Hillary Kritt, BC ’12 and featured a meticulous set executed by art director Stephen Davan, CC ’12.

“When I saw the Varsity Show for the first time, I realized how incredible the experience could be and how it could take a community that is sometimes very cynical and let them laugh at themselves,” Stern said. “For me, it was the best illustration of what the school excels at, which is taking incredibly driven, passionate people and giving them a forum to take their interests and run with them.”

Founded in 1894, the Varsity Show is the oldest performing arts group on campus and has become rooted in the Columbia community. “Roar, Lion,



Roar” is even based on a Varsity Show tune.

Perhaps the best-known side of the Varsity Show to the average Columbia student is the sense of mystery before it premieres. The theme, like most other details surrounding the production, isn’t even unveiled until the opening night.

“We do that for the community, so that the audience gets a surprise performance basically—so you get into the room and you don’t know what you’re getting till you get the program. You see the title and as the show goes on, you’re just sort of surprised by what’s going to happen,” Kritt said. “For that reason, and also because the show is always changing. Like literally, we’ve cut numbers like two days ago so we don’t want to tell you guys something that’s not going to be real.”

The Varsity Show team builds its own sense of community by involving its alumni in the creative process. Before opening night, the cast participates in an hours-long ordeal called “Turkey Day.” The annual event assembles V-Show alumni together to review a raw cut of the show. After the performance, the alumni meet with the show’s producers to critique the show. It’s where plot twists and entire characters are debated and occasionally thrown out.

“This year in particular was very constructive,” Harris said. “We had 60 alumni come and we talked for four hours ... It’s a really impressive showcase of the Varsity Show community and people come back—one of the people there did a Varsity Show in 1958.”

From Turkey Day onward, the cast is thrown into a whirlwind of practices, often working late into the night and spending hours exclusively with their cast mates.

“Not only is the creative team a second family, but the whole Varsity Show community is, just ‘cause of how much time we spend together,” Harris said.

The team’s bonding starts with a pie to the face. The Varsity Show creative team goes to the actors’ dorms to throw pies in their faces to inform them that they made the cut, rather than making them go the conventional route of waiting by a door for a cast list posting.

V118 director and V116 actor Alex Hare, CC ’13, joked that “getting pied in the face is definitely not delicious,” as the creative team just fills the empty pie tins with whipped cream, but it’s still one of the most memorable moments for any cast member—and for many Columbia students, the result was a memorable Varsity Show.

[arts@columbiaspectator.com](#)

## Bacchanal heads back to the steps with unexpected combo of rap, punk, electronic

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Though the 2011 Bacchanal was plagued with scheduling conflicts, which pushed the concert off the steps and into unexpected debt, the organization managed to rebound this year with Baccha90s.

After booking alternative hip-hop duo Das Racist and high-profile rapper Snoop Dogg last spring, Bacchanal was forced to reach deep into its pockets to accommodate unexpected costs caused by a scheduling conflict with Commencement setup and security concerns about the large crowd Snoop Dogg would draw.

To make up for the \$18,000 shortfall, Bacchanal presented funding requests to the Columbia College and Engineering Student Councils and Barnard’s Student Government Association, asking that each council fund its proportional share. The councils pledged to support Bacchanal.

The fiscal matter did force the cancellation of Bacchanal’s fall concert, but the organization ultimately ended up with its full \$100,000 budget for the spring semester.

“We appreciate everything that CCSC, the councils, and ultimately the administration did for us so we could get us back to our yearly capacity to allow us to put on a show this year,” Bacchanal president Dan Weinstein, CC ’12, said. “It was probably the biggest obstacle in the planning process over the last 10 years, and we’re glad that everything worked out.”

With the financial discussions out of the way, Bacchanal’s committee was able to commit to choosing the theme and the artist. In the end, the theme selection came down to winner “Baccha90s,” with the runner-up being “Bacch to the Future.” The team eventually decided against the latter because of possible copyright infringement issues.

To choose the artist, the planning committee surveyed students through a Bwog poll about what genre they would prefer, a change from when students were asked to email Bacchanal’s organizers with their ideas and opinions. These preferences were used as the first step in narrowing down a list of potential artists.

Though the committee stuck with the most popular genres, negative buzz initially surrounded the announcement of the acts, jazz-electronica duo Big



Gigantic, California surf-punk trio Wavves, and New Orleans rapper Curren\$y. Columbia student DJs Spicy Special were selected to open the show.

There was an outpouring of comments on Spectrum and Bwog, reflecting mixed opinions. Some applauded the audacious choice of lesser-known artists, while others said that they opted to attend other Ivy university concerts, such as the University of Pennsylvania’s Spring Fling, out of frustration with the selections. However, the most common complaint was the relatively low-profile status of the performers, whom many students said they simply had never heard of.

Despite all the angst, Baccha90s proved to be a relative success—though it would have been hard for it to disappoint, given the already-low expectations expressed by the student body. Instead, aided by the warm, sunny weather, the acts drew a large crowd that jammed along contentedly to the tunes produced by the formerly disparaged bands (not to mention those emanating from the Red Bull truck parked on College Walk). In the end, despite financial woes and student doubts, all turned out sunny-side up, with a full budget and satisfied crowd.

[arts@columbiaspectator.com](#)



LUKE HENDERSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**MAKING IT WORK** | Even in the face of financial struggles and negative reactions against the chosen performers, Baccha90s was a success.



# Filmmakers in SoA and undergraduate colleges made an impact at university festivals

BY STEFAN COUNTRYMAN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

As the Tribeca Film Festival came to a quiet close downtown, Columbia students got the chance to showcase their work in festivals of their own. Talented undergraduates showed off their work through the annual Spring Film Festival hosted by Columbia University Film Productions, graduate students have been screening their films at the annual Columbia University Film Festival.

The Spring Film Festival, which took place this year on April 25, is a platform for Columbia filmmakers—CUFP members and nonmembers alike—to showcase their productions. It began as a student-run club focused only on producing festivals, but in 2009, it decided to expand its functions from simply exhibiting to producing films as well.

“CUFP exists to give students the opportunity to write films, to direct films, to produce, and showcase films,” said club president Nancy

Monaco, BC ’12. To do this, the club supplies its members with film equipment and helps assemble casts and crews. Throughout their spring production season, members use these resources to create films and are then encouraged to submit to the festival.

CUFP accepts submissions from outside of the club as well. “We keep it pretty open to ... encourage people to start making films and to experiment with their artistic style,” said secretary Lia Tung, BC ’13.

This year, CUFP chose over a dozen short films ranging from one-to-15 minutes in length. “It’s really diverse,” said Monaco. “We take any kind of submission, whether it’s a narrative film, a documentary film, an artsy-experimental film, or a music video.”

At the end of the screenings, CUFP awarded prizes for the first time in festival history. “We didn’t want to make anyone hesitant about submitting and create this idea that it’s a big competition, but most people seem to agree with the idea that it would just be fun,” said Monaco. As

Tung said, “We want to foster a sense of community among filmmakers but also just film lovers.”

On the graduate side, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Columbia University Film Festival. CUFF has been shining the spotlight on young, up-and-coming graduate student filmmakers since its inception. On Friday, May 4, the festival opened at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, kicking off its weeklong celebration of student works and special events at theaters from Columbia’s campus to the west coast.

In 1987, the School of the Arts faculty selected a few short films for a one-night screening. Since then, its festival has grown into a showcase that presents over 40 films and a dozen screenplays by graduate MFA film students at major cinema hubs in New York and Los Angeles. Many films “go on to screen and win awards at all the major festivals worldwide, including Sundance, Cannes, New York Film Festival, and many others,” said Lydia Cavallo, who has served as festival director for 11 years.

As a primarily student-run event, the festival included people from behind the scenes of both the festival and the camera, such as Jed Cowley, a CUFP assistant director and writer and director of “Shale” and “Dear Dog, I Love You.”

“It creates an environment to learn how to promote yourself and your film. I have learned so much about the filmmaking process because of the requirements of CUFP,” Cowley said.

“All of my thesis years have been gearing up for and preparing these screenings, so it’s very helpful to have it be very professional, but still in the safety net of your school.”

Cavallo found it easy to pinpoint her favorite aspect of seeing it come together year after year. “Sitting in the audience at the Walter Reade Theater, sharing the moment with our filmmakers who are screening their films for the first time on the big screen for an audience of family and friends,” she said. “To me, that experience is the heart and soul of what this festival is all about.”

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HANNAH CHOI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**CENTER STAGE** | Orchesis performs twice this year, and is open to students of all levels of dance. All of the pieces are student-choreographed, including pieces like “This Woman’s Work” and “Countdown.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL GOODE

**EN POINTE** | Students from the Columbia Ballet Collaborative include former professional ballerinas. This year, the performace featured choreography from Emery LeCrone and Richard Isaac, among others.

## Dancers wowed with technique, variety

BY JADE BONACOLTA  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Columbia’s dance troupes saw jaw-dropping highlights and middling moments this year.

Orchesis is an entirely student-choreographed group that guarantees that every dancer who auditions will be cast. The troupe of nearly 170 dancers executed numerous genres of dance in its fall 2011 production, “metamORCHESIS,” on Nov. 18 and 20.

Its spring 2012 production, “All’s Fair in Love and wOrchesis,” was performed on March 29 and 31. While the least engaging pieces were predictable and yawn inducing, the best pieces included “This Woman’s Work,” in which the dancers swelled and ebbed in unison like a pair of lungs; Beyonce’s “Countdown,” with all of its overt sass; and a rendition of Queen’s “Don’t Stop Me Now” that required precise movement as dancers hovered over the stage. Some winners, some losers, but such is the nature of war.

Orchesis also sponsored the “MaMa Project,” which allowed Marie Janicek, BC ’12, the opportunity to conceive a work with a small cast of dancers. Her piece, “Unearthed,” was presented on Feb. 23, 24, and 25. It explored animalistic origins and utilized the unique setup of the Lerner Black Box to its full effect.

The Columbia Ballet Collaborative is a highly selective ballet group choreographed by professionals in NYC who apply to direct the group for the semester. The dancers practice about four hours a week and both the New York Times and Dance Magazine have covered CBC in past years.

Its fall production took place on Nov. 18, 19, and 20 at the Manhattan Movement and Arts Center theater. The group’s performances

featured a variety of ballet styles. Its spring performance showcased works created by Anne Milewski Cary, Richard Isaac, Emery LeCrone, Kimi Nikaidoh, and Avi Scher—all professionals in the dance industry who work with companies such as the American Ballet Theatre and the Tulsa Ballet.

The third dance troupe, Collaboration of the Ludicrous and Beautiful, also known as CoLab, is an eclectic Barnard dance group of 30 to 35 dancers who rehearse at least two hours a week. CoLab’s fall production took place the same weekend as the other two groups’, but CoLab tickets are always free. The pieces are choreographed by individual undergraduate students.

CoLab co-president Taryn McGovern, BC ’13, said, “Part of our group mission statement is focusing on the process. It tends to generate more experimental and abstract work.”

CoLab’s spring production featured a collection of eight works, synthesizing ballet, modern, aerial, swing, and hip hop. It experimented and reveled in its absurdities, producing a gratifying experience that was as much for the audience as it had been for the dancers.

Nicole Cerutti’s piece, “[#re]vision,” was a definitive highlight of the evening. It explored ideas of perception and recollection through videography and dance.

Jack Crawford, BC ’14, performed “Suite,” which was suspense in suspension. Defying gravity, Crawford’s aerial dance work was exquisite, vividly illustrating that feeling of ephemeral rush in slow, poetic beauty as she weaves herself and descends through air. This production took place on April 13, and allowed choreographers to fully realize their rich visions.

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### FEATURED BOOKS

## What are professors, alums doing?

*These professors and alumni, who published books this academic year, were reviewed and discussed in Spectator.*

**Robert Klitzman**, a professor of clinical psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, penned “Am I My Genes?: Confronting Fate and Family Secrets in the Age of Genetic Testing,” which examines genetics and a person’s visceral reaction to disease.

Pulitzer Prize winner **Katherine Boo**, BC ’88, gives a refreshing, minimalist read with “Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity.”

MFA graduate **Tupelo Hassman** made her literary debut with “Girlchild,” the story of an abnormally bright girl living in the slums and endowed with a strong voice and moral compass.

Professor **Timothy Donnelly** was named the 2012 recipient of the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award—notable for both its prestige and the accompanying \$100,000 prize—for his book “The Cloud Corporation.”

**David Gilbert**, CC ’66, reflects on a lifetime of activism in “Love and Struggle: My Life in SDS, the Weather Underground, and Beyond.”

**Jerome Chazen**, **Business ’50**, founder and former CEO of Liz Claiborne, describes the business of fashion in “My Life at Liz Claiborne: How We Broke the Rules and Built the Largest Fashion Company in the World.”

Creative writing professor **Ellis Avery** envisions the alleged affair between an art deco artist and the subject of her painting in “The Last Nude.”

**James Franco**, **SoA ’10**, will publish his first novel, unofficially titled “Actors Anonymous.”

Balancing direct quotations of three-time Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas Friedman’s often-contradictory remarks with sharp wit, **Belen Fernandez**, CC ’03, wrote “The Imperial Messenger: Thomas Friedman at Work.”

Columbia Ph.D. candidate and teaching fellow **Abdi Latif Ega** seeks to offer an alternative narrative to the way Somalia is portrayed by the media in his new novel, “Guban.”

*—Lesley Thulin*

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# Year in Review

## COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Senior faculty taught introductory classes, not to mention the Core. Professors were connected to the lives of students in a real and meaningful way, perhaps even at a cost to their own studies and leisure.

“An open letter to the faculty,” Samuel E. Roth, CC ’12, former editor in chief

The guarantee that Columbia College will continue to be a signal constituent of Columbia’s reputation does not lie in demanding that Columbia College become or remain autonomous from the rest of Arts and Sciences or the University.

“Teaching and research at Columbia,” Carlos Alonso, GSAS dean

Columbia should not stop trying to maintain its position as one of the world’s great research universities, which means that it must continue to reward professors, or at least a lot of them, on the basis of their scholarship. Restoring teaching to equal importance probably requires the creation of another, parallel faculty, people who are hired and rewarded on the basis of their pedagogy.

“The academic dilemma,” William Deresiewicz, author of “The Disadvantages of an Elite Education”

Until the position of dean of Columbia College is no longer merely a dean of students; until the dean of the College is an authentic dean of the faculty, with a significant role in the hiring and promotion of faculty, in capital budget deliberations, and in the various committees that govern the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; until the dean of the College is incorporated fully into the leadership of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the identity and autonomy of the College will continue to erode.

“No to the siren song aimed at Columbia College,” José A. Cabranes, United States Court of Appeals Judge for the Second Circuit, University trustee, CC ’61

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.

“Activating faculty activism,” the Editorial Board

## ACADEMICS AND THE CORE

If the Core Curriculum is to achieve its goal of helping students “understand the civilization of our own day and participate effectively in it,” it must take science seriously. The science requirement demands the same focus that is the strength of the rest of the Core Curriculum, and Columbia should begin by requiring an introductory course in probability and statistics for all students.

“Numerically human,” Jacob Andreas, SEAS ’12

The Global Core should seek to provide a foundation in non-Western political thought parallel to Contemporary Civilization, laying a groundwork for an exploration of non-Western cultures and providing an alternative to Western thought, along with cultures that draw from the intersection of the West and the East. A class modeled after Asian Humanities is readily available and would provide that groundwork.

“Extending our Core,” the Editorial Board

The essential point is that faculty should measure up to genuine public standards, not just exhibit popular appeal, and in academia the public standard should be educational—neither just academic in the research sense nor grandstanding before a popular audience.

“An active faculty,” William Theodore de Bary, John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University, CC ’41

Even the most erudite and long-serving professor will not be an expert in all domains of the Core syllabus. Instead, what often makes these classes successful—and I have heard this from both students and faculty—is the more collaborative approach the colossal scope of the readings invites, the shared discovery that results.

“A crisis of values,” Roderick Cooke, Ph.D. candidate in French and romance philology

## WELLNESS

To help relieve the stigma of mental health and illness, we need to educate ourselves about mental disorders—what they are and how they can be treated. While it is probably the hardest to combat, stigma is the largest and most serious factor preventing people from seeking help.

“Accessing mental health resources,” Jessica Greenberg, CC ’12, and Elizabeth Munroe, CC ’12, co-presidents of Columbia Neuroscience Society

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.

“Coming out,” Sarah Ngu, CC ’12 and former Barnard/Columbia Nightline peer counselor

Although my self-mutilation problem happened roughly seven years ago, it affects how I interact with people even to this day. For me, the most important thing that one can do to help someone with a mental health issue is offer love and support to that person, and not judge him or look down on him.

“Healing the mind, healing the body,” Anonymous

Talk to people. Smile. Say hi. Be honest with yourself and others. Reach out when you need it. Demand the most of your time here, and give it all you’ve got. Find a way (amid the readings, papers, problem sets, and meetings) to keep yourself whole, because not only does Columbia deserve you whole, you deserve you whole.

“Your community deserves you whole,” Erik Nook, CC ’12 and member of Columbia Stressbusters

Ultimately, Columbia is not to blame for all of this. Columbia is a tool that we might bend to our ends. Yes, it is an institution with its own unique dysfunctions and it can help to create a more or less well environment. But in the end, the majority of unwellness in our lives comes from ourselves.

“Love the life you live,” Mark Hay, CC ’12, opinion columnist and coordinator of the Student Wellness Project

STAFF EDITORIAL

# A more responsible campus dialogue

Speech is protected at Columbia. As an institution with a penchant for activism, we take freedom of expression seriously. Having the unquestionable right to voice our opinions, though, does not mean we are absolved from thinking about how we do so. Over the course of the semester, a parade of scandals and controversies has only reinforced the fact that rhetoric is a powerful force on campus, and that students, faculty, and administrators could be better at using it properly.

It is often acknowledged that words hold a great deal of power, and when they are not chosen carefully and deliberately, this power is easily abused. With ever-advancing technology and social media capability, finding an audience with our words is becoming increasingly easy—which is exactly why we need to take more responsibility for what we say. From the language that surfaced after Obamanard to the anonymous comment sections of Bwog and Spectator that have gotten so much attention, inflamed rhetoric has become a serious issue on campus. Provoking a campus-wide onslaught of tension and furor is as easy as submitting a nameless comment, but rising above this war of words is just as easy. If we take more consideration for our speech—even if we are not held

From September to May, opinion writers have offered thoughtful commentaries and passionate arguments on issues relevant to Columbia. Here, we offer selections from columns, op-eds, and staff editorials that reflected the debate on campus.



LANBO ZHANG

## SOCIOECONOMIC AND RACIAL INEQUALITY

Think about the percentage of Mexicans, Jordanians, Moroccans, or Chileans who could ever hope to study here. They are mostly the people who didn’t have to escape Palestinian refugee camps, fight in Rio’s favelas, or march alongside student protesters in Egypt. Instead, they grew up in the global 1 percent, interacting in academic programs abroad, similar school systems, summer vacations, or boarding schools.

“The global 1 percent,” Andrea Viejo, CC ’15, opinion columnist

By refusing to see meritocracy for what it is—a system that favors whites—we fail to understand why some people are not eager to change it. It enables exclusion of certain groups while trivializing racial disparities as the fault of minority citizens alone.

“Who deserves what?” Jelani Harvey, CC ’12

In a society that systematically denies the presence and importance of traditionally marginalized communities—in history textbooks, federal government, and top CEO positions—our women and colored faculty mentors were living proof that people from our backgrounds could find success in the academy.

“In favor of Columbia’s diversity initiatives,” Jennifer Alzate, CC ’13, Michelle Rosales, CC ’12, Nataly Saucedo, CC ’12, Deyvn Tyler, CC ’13, and Daniel Valella, CC ’12, Mellon Mays undergraduate fellows

The college application about “the time I worked 30 hours a week at Wendy’s” doesn’t have quite the same ring as “the time I discovered poverty in Uganda on vacay and made a documentary film about it.” This inherently discriminatory practice serves to stymie campus diversity.

“Skin-deep diversity,” Andrew Godinich, CC ’13, opinion columnist

## THE ADMINISTRATION

Having a strong provost is in the best interests of the faculty and students, ensuring that their concerns are taken into consideration by top administrators. Given the undefined and shifting roles of the president, provost, and senior executive vice president, there is huge potential for Coatsworth to shape his office.

“John Coatsworth must shape the role of Columbia’s provost,” the Editorial Board

The resignation of former Dean Moody-Adams offers the opportunity to reflect on the conflicting priorities of our university ... The fate of our alma mater depends on collaboration and constructive criticism that fosters deliberation and a free exchange of ideas.

“The institutional dilemma,” Alheli Alvarado-Diaz, Core lecturer for Contemporary Civilization

Administrators should be doing everything to show that they care about student voices. While this oversight may have been unintentional, the lack of elected student representatives on the committee at such a complicated time for Columbia College contributes to the persistent and pernicious perception of an administration disconnected from the student body.

“Add elected student representatives to search for dean,” Kenny Durell, Alex Frouman, Aki Terasaki, Barry Weinberg

The nebulous dynamic between students and the administration ... results in this apparently unnavigable network of bureaucracies that takes persistence of the highest degree to tackle.

“Reflection on a staircase,” Maren Killackey, CC ’15

Instead of taking immediate and drastic action—like firing Peña-Mora—the University should discuss these issues as a community. The grievances should be aired and debated publicly, and the University should come to a consensus as to what course of action is best for SEAS and Columbia as a whole.

“Turbulent SEAS,” the Editorial Board

Signed,  
The Editorial Board

Maggie Alden  
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Sarah Darville  
Richard Falk-Wallace  
Andrea Garcia-Vargas  
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SPORTS BRIEFLY

FALL/WINTER

**CROSS COUNTRY**  
**Ivy Finish:** second  
**Star Players:** Waverly Neer, Kyle Merber  
**Highest High:** both the men and women taking second at the Ivy League Heptagonal Championships  
**Lowest Low:** women's team being two points shy of tying with Cornell at Heps  
**Players to Watch:** Neer, Nic Composto

**FIELD HOCKEY**  
**Season Record:** 9-8, 5-2 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** tying for third with Dartmouth  
**Star Player:** Gabby Kozlowski  
**Highest High:** defeating Dartmouth 4-2 to keep hold of first place in the conference  
**Lowest Low:** Losing to Yale 3-1 and dropping out of first place  
**Player to Watch:** Lauren Skudalski

**MEN’S SOCCER**  
**Season record:** 8-7-2, 4-2-1 Ivy  
**Ivy finish:** third  
**Star Player:** Will Stamatis  
**Highest High:** beating Brown in overtime  
**Lowest Low:** failing to beat Cornell and missing out on the Ivy title as a result  
**Players to Watch:** David Najem, Henning Sauerbier

**WOMEN’S SOCCER**  
**Season Record:** 6-10-1, 3-3-1 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** tied for fourth with Brown  
**Star Players:** Liz Wicks, Ashlin Yahr  
**Highest High:** beating Dartmouth 2-1, with both goals coming in the last 10 minutes of regulation  
**Lowest Low:** losing to Princeton 4-1 after going scoreless the three games prior  
**Players to Watch:** Alexa Yow, Chelsea Ryan

**VOLLEYBALL**  
**Season Record:** 15-10, 9-5 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** third  
**Star Player:** Megan Gaughn  
**Highest High:** a three-game Ivy win streak  
**Lowest Low:** falling to Princeton and Penn in the final weekend  
**Player to Watch:** Savannah Fletcher

**MEN’S FENCING**  
**Season Record:** 8-10, 2-3 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** third  
**Star Player:** Alen Hadzic  
**Highest High:** Hadzic coming back in the semifinals at the NCAA Championship from 7-12 to win, 15-14  
**Lowest Low:** falling to eventual Ivy Champion Princeton 13-14 at Ivies  
**Players to Watch:** Hadzic, Will Spear, Michael Josephs

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**  
**Season Record:** 3-25, 1-13 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** eighth  
**Star Players:** Tyler Simpson, Melissa Shafer  
**Highest High:** defeating Yale for first Ivy League win of the season, 56-52  
**Lowest Low:** finishing last in the league  
**Players to Watch:** Simpson, Courtney Bradford

**WOMEN’S FENCING**  
**Season Record:** 13-6, 5-1 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** second  
**Star Player:** Sammy Roberts  
**Highest High:** beating Harvard, 14-13, at the Ivy League Championships to go into bout against Princeton, 4-0  
**Lowest Low:** falling to eventual Ivy Champion Princeton, 9-18, at Ivies  
**Players to Watch:** Nzingha Prescod, Essane Diedro, Loweye Diedro, Lydia Kopecky

**MEN’S SQUASH**  
**Season Record:** 7-11, 1-6 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** seventh  
**Star Player:** Ramit Tandon  
**Highest High:** finishing second in the Hoehn Cup at the CSA National Championships  
**Lowest Low:** losing 0-9 to Harvard and Dartmouth in the same weekend  
**Player to Watch:** Tandon

**WOMEN’S SQUASH**  
**Season Record:** 7-11, 0-7 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** eighth  
**Star Player:** Liz Chu  
**Highest High:** back-to-back 9-0 wins over Georgetown and Connecticut College  
**Lowest Low:** losing its last six regular season matches in a row  
**Players to Watch:** Chu, Alisha Maity

**MEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING**  
**Season Record:** 7-4, 4-3 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** third at Ivy League Championships  
**Star Player:** Omar Arafa  
**Highest High:** having two first-team all-Ivy athletes at Ivy League Championships  
**Lowest Low:** losing to Harvard, 206-92, when the races were close  
**Players to Watch:** Dominik Koll, Arafa, Jeremie DeZwirek, John Wright

**WOMEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING**  
**Season Record:** 8-1, 6-1 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** fourth at Ivy Championships  
**Star Player:** Katie Meili  
**Highest High:** beating Princeton for the first time in history, which was the first time the Tigers lost in their own pool  
**Lowest Low:** placing fourth at Ivies  
**Players to Watch:** Meili, Laney Kluge

**WRESTLING**  
**Season Record:** 8-5  
**Ivy Finish:** tied for second with Penn  
**Star Player:** Steve Santos  
**Highest High:** three wrestlers making it to day two of NCAAs  
**Lowest Low:** 30-9 blowout to Cornell  
**Players to Watch:** Santos, Jake O'Hara



LEFT: ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, TOP RIGHT: FILE PHOTO, BOTTOM RIGHT: FILE PHOTO

**MADD DOG** | Senior defensive back A.J. Maddox—the third leading tackler for the Lions—is one of several key players who will be graduating this May.

## Disappointing football season ends with dramatic overtime thriller

BY JEREMIAH SHARF  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Columbia football team had a rough 2011 campaign that saw it go 1-9 overall and 1-6 in the Ivy League—the team’s worst record since the 2002-2003 season in which it posted the same record.

The season got off on the wrong foot with a 21-14 loss at Fordham. In a game where neither team could get things going early—there were only 77 yards of total offense between the two teams at the end of the first—the Rams were able to capitalize off the Lions’ mistakes. Junior quarterback Sean Brackett had a strong day passing, but one of his two interceptions was returned for a touchdown—which was the difference in the contest.

The next game, the home opener against Albany, was indicative of how the rest of the Lions’ season would play out. The team lost in blowout fashion, 44-21, after giving up over 400 yards of total offense to the Great Danes.

Another trend beginning to take shape was the team’s inability to keep the ball. Albany was able to score on three of the four Light Blue turnovers, resulting in three touchdowns in the span of five minutes of the third quarter.

Albany head coach Bob Ford gave credit to his team after the game, but he also admitted that turnovers played a big role in the final outcome.

“I think that was probably what caused the disparity in the score more than anything else,” Ford said.

Columbia had the perfect

opportunity for a bounce-back game the next week in its Ivy League opener at Princeton, a team it thrashed the past two seasons, winning 38-0 and 42-14 in the 2009 and 2010 seasons, respectively. But the Light Blue was unable to take advantage of the perennial Ivy bottom-dwellers, losing 24-21. The Light Blue’s inability to play consistent football for four quarters was evidenced. Columbia was unable to score on several occasions, including a last-minute drive at the end of the game.

After the game, the Lions tried to explain the failure to perform in key situations, and for senior defensive back and co-captain Ross Morand, it came down to the basics.

“In those key situations, you’ve got to

believe you can do it, you’ve got to see yourself doing it, and you’ve got to get it done,” Morand said after the game. “It’s simple as that: Get it done.”

Simple as it may have been, the team still couldn’t pick up the elusive first victory in the final nonconference game of the season against Sacred Heart, which it lost. More problems came into the forefront in the 34-25 loss—in particular, defense and special teams.

For the defense, it came down to simple tackling, especially against the run.

“We weren’t stout enough in the run game,” senior defensive back A.J. Maddox said following the loss. “Guys were missing the first tackle. Everybody has to move their feet.”

SEE FOOTBALL, page 14

## Roller coaster season ends with third-place finish in Gehrig Division

BY MYLES SIMMONS  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The season might not have gone exactly the way the players and coaches would have wanted, but baseball finished the year as one of the most competitive Light Blue teams. The Lions got off to a slow start, going 1-3 in their first four contests against the Citadel in South Carolina, and followed that up with a West Coast road trip during spring break where the Lions won just two of their 10 games.

But just like the weather, the Lions began to heat up toward the end of March, and were able to end the season with a 21-24 overall record, including a 12-8 mark in Ivy play. This season marked the second time in the last three years that the Light Blue reached 20 or more overall wins paired with a winning Ivy record. The Lions finished in third place in the Lou Gehrig Division—two games behind division winner Cornell and just one game shy of last year’s Ivy champion, Princeton.

Although the Lions came up short in terms of making it to postseason play, the team had quite a few stand-out performances throughout the year.

Perhaps the team’s greatest strength was its pitching staff, especially starting pitching. The Lions were second in the league in ERA at 4.36, behind only Lou Gehrig champion Cornell. If only Ivy games are considered, then the Lions ended up first in ERA (3.34) and strikeouts (140). Led by senior Pat Lowery, the starting staff put up impressive numbers.

Lowery led the league in overall ERA at 2.35 in nine starts, also throwing two complete games, including one shutout. But in Ivy play, Lowery was even more dominant: He had a 3-1 record with a 1.80 ERA and 30 strikeouts. His collegiate career may be over, but according to head coach Brett Boretti, it may just be the beginning of a new chapter.

“From the activity and the guys who have been out to see him, I’m pretty sure he’ll get a shot at the draft,” Boretti said. “If a guy is pitching 90-92 these days, he’s got a pretty good shot. I’m hoping he’ll be a solid pick and get a good opportunity.”

Replacing Lowery will be no small task, but considering the strength of the three returning pitchers in the rotation—juniors Tim Giel and Stefan Olson and sophomore David



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**SILVER SLUGGER** | Junior Dario Pizzano terrorized Ivy pitchers this year while tying CU’s all-time home run record .

Speer—there won’t be as much pressure to step into Lowery’s shoes. Giel posted a 3.83 ERA in his nine starts this season, while Olson did him a tad better with a 3.65 ERA in nine starts. Speer went 3-1 with a 4.91 ERA in 10 appearances, including nine starts.

On offense, however, the Lions will need to replace some valuable contributors. Senior Jon Eisen was the offensive catalyst all year, batting in the leadoff spot for the vast majority of games. At one point, he had compiled an 18-game hitting streak.

“He’s consistently confident, which is great,” Boretti said during the streak in early April. “Him getting on base definitely helps us.”

Eisen finished the season with a .360 batting average and 54 hits, and his .446 batting average in Ivy games was tops

in the league. All of that time spent on base placed Eisen in the record books. He finished his Columbia career in sixth place all-time in runs scored (121) and in third place in hits (198).

“It means a lot,” Eisen said. “Looking back on it, it’s not something I ever thought would happen. It’s crazy.”

A couple other seniors will leave a substantial void in the Lions lineup as they graduate, including senior Billy Rumpke, who held down center field for most of his Lions career.

“A lot of what Billy does for us doesn’t show up in the box scores,” Boretti said. “He’s a great center fielder, and I think that’s something that is going to be very tough for us to replace. That will be our biggest loss defensively, for sure.”

Designated hitter Alex Aurricchio

will also leave some big shoes to fill. The 6-foot-6 lefty put up great power numbers in his career and finished tied for third on Columbia’s all-time home run list with 23. A two-sport athlete, Aurricchio experienced more than his fair share of heartbreak this year by coming just short of an Ivy Championship in soccer and then finishing just two games behind Cornell in the spring.

“What sticks out is just how close I came,” Aurricchio said, reflecting on his baseball and soccer careers. “We came real close in 2010, and this year, with soccer we were a goal away. There’s a lot of heartbreak involved and a lot of dedication and hard work.”

Junior Dario Pizzano also made

SEE BASEBALL, page 14





KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**STEPPING UP** | After Noruwa Agho was injured early in the season, junior Brian Barbour and freshman Alex Rosenberg were called on to help fill the void.

## After strong start, men’s basketball unable to make a comeback

BY STEVEN LAU  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

A season-ending injury for the star player, the longest win streak in 30 years, and a disappointing sixth-place league finish were just a few of the unexpected turns in the men's basketball team's 2011-2012 season.

In head coach Kyle Smith's second season, the Lions finished with an even record, 15-15, and went 4-10 in Ivy play. But after the home opener on Nov. 14 against Furman, many fans did not even expect the Light Blue to have a .500 season.

With 6:19 remaining in the second half of that game, star point guard Noruwa Agho landed awkwardly on his knee and fell to the ground as the crowd in Levien Gymnasium went silent.

Agho did not re-enter the game, and by the end of that week, it was announced that he had suffered a season-ending knee injury.

Whatever vision the team had for itself prior to the season changed completely once the Lions' top scorer took a permanent seat on the sidelines.

"Everyone has a vision of what they want the team to be like, but once we start to actually play games without Noruwa, we'll see what it's like and what the dynamic is," junior center Mark Cisco said in November.

The first thing that had to change was the Light Blue offense. With Agho gone, junior guard Brian Barbour stepped into the role of top scorer, primary ball handler, and team leader. By the end of the season, Barbour was the fourth-highest scorer in the Ivy League, averaging 15.5 points per game.

But the team's attempts to redefine itself initially produced few positive results. After losing the season opener at UConn and dropping the home game to Furman, the Lions suffered two double-digit losses to American and Stony Brook.

After Thanksgiving, something changed.

In their first game after the holiday, the Lions defeated Manhattan, 59-41, for a win that sparked the team's most successful run since the 1981-1982 season. From Nov. 26 to Dec. 10, the Lions won seven consecutive games, and in only one of those contests did their opponents break 60 points.

Smith—known as an offensive guru during his tenure at Saint Mary's—was surprised to find that Columbia's strongest facet was the part of the game the Lions thought would be their weakness.

"I think our calling card this year—funny for me—is going to be defense," Smith said after the Light Blue came back from a 20-point deficit to beat Holy Cross.

The team's success was spurred on by the efforts of sophomore guard Meiko Lyles, who took the starting position left open by Agho. During Columbia's three-game stint in Los Angeles, Lyles went 14-of-17 from beyond the arc, and at one point hit 12 consecutive three-pointers.

While Lyles became a fixture in the backcourt, the Lions' also saw a new face in the starting frontcourt lineup. Freshman forward Alex Rosenberg got his first collegiate start against Manhattan and proved himself as both a scorer and rebounder.

The Lions' winning streak was snapped at the end of December with a

loss to Marist, but Columbia continued its success through the new year, and by the start of conference play, the Light Blue had won 11 of 12 games.

But when the Ivy season began, the Lions' momentum came to a grinding halt.

Columbia lost its first two conference games against Penn and Princeton in almost identical fashion, giving up an early lead and falling just short of a successful comeback.

**“As the season went on, in order to score we sacrificed some defense.”**

—Kyle Smith,  
*men’s head basketball coach*

After that, the Lions struggled to string together two wins. A five-point win at home against Cornell was followed up by a disappointing five-point loss in Ithaca, and a last-second victory at Dartmouth was followed up by another close loss to Harvard.

Ten of the 14 conference games were decided by single-digit margins, and most of the time, the Lions ended up on the wrong end of a close result.

"Each one gets worse a little bit—hurts more and more," Barbour said after the loss to the Big Red.

But the blow that ripped the sails of the Light Blue came in the home game against Yale. The Lions led by 21 points halfway through the second

half, but the Bulldogs battled back to hand the Light Blue a heart-wrenching 59-58 loss.

The loss to Yale was the start of a six-game skid, highlighted by a two-point overtime loss to Penn, a 16-point loss at Brown, and a disappointing overtime loss to league leader Harvard at home.

The unexpected thrashing by the Bears was indicative of the Lions' ailing defense, which was less effective than during the nonconference season.

"We were good defensively the first three-fourths of the season, we were really good," Smith said. "Then as the season went on, in order to score we sacrificed some defense, whether intentionally or unintentionally, and we could make more baskets but we couldn't stop them as well."

Despite the six consecutive losses, the Light Blue ended the season on a high note with a 61-55 win over Dartmouth to finish the year with an even 15-15 record.

Though Columbia had expected results for its league season, Barbour and Smith both acknowledged that, for the most part, the team was young and inexperienced.

Alongside Rosenberg, freshman center Cory Osetkowski and freshman guard Noah Springwater both made significant contributions on the court throughout the season, and Smith expects the roles of all three players to continue to grow next year.

"They have some of the normal hiccups being a freshman," Smith said. "What we were looking for last year, I think they delivered, as far as we needed

**SEE BASKETBALL, page 14**

## SPORTS BRIEFLY

### SPRING

#### ARCHERY

**Star Player:** Sarah Chai  
**Highest High:** taking gold in recurve and compound at the Eastern Regional Intercollegiate Archery Championships  
**Lowest Low:** failing to overcome Olympic-level competition at AAE Arizona Cup  
**Player to Watch:** Sarah Bernstein

#### MEN’S GOLF

**Ivy Finish:** third  
**Star Players:** Michael Yiu, Brendan Doyle  
**Highest High:** finishing in third place at the Ivy League Championships  
**Lowest Low:** finishing 11th out of 16 teams at the UALR/First Tee Collegiate Classic  
**Players to Watch:** Brandon Jowers, Andrew Kim

#### WOMEN’S GOLF

**Ivy Finish:** fourth at Ivy Championships  
**Star Player:** Michelle Piyapattra  
**Highest High:** Piyapattra winning first and the team placing second at the Roar-EE Invitational  
**Lowest Low:** lacing 13th out of 13 at the Fresno State Classic  
**Players to Watch:** Piyapattra, Jane Dong, Lisa Combs

#### LACROSSE

**Season Record:** 2-13, 0-7 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** eighth  
**Star Player:** Kacie Johnson  
**Highest High:** 19-11 win over Lafayette, where CU snapped eight-game losing streak and four players had hat tricks  
**Lowest Low:** 13-9 loss at Yale where Columbia had a chance to tie for seventh in the Ancient Eight  
**Players to Watch:** Johnson, Paige Cuscovitch

#### MEN’S HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING

**Ivy Finish:** currently sixth  
**Highest High:** finishing first of four and winning the Alumni Cup  
**Lowest Low:** not finishing first in all of April

#### MEN’S LIGHTWEIGHT ROWING

**Ivy Finish:** currently seventh  
**Highest High:** nearly sweeping the Governor's Cup  
**Lowest Low:** finishing third out of three in the Fosburgh Cup against Princeton and Georgetown

#### WOMEN’S ROWING

**Ivy Finish:** currently seventh  
**Highest High:** sweeping the Governor's Cup, including a 35-second victory over the hosts by the first varsity eights  
**Lowest Low:** finishing third of three in the Dunn Bowl against Cornell and Brown

#### SOFTBALL

**Season Record:** 12-33, 6-14 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** fourth in South Division, seventh overall  
**Star Player:** Liz Caggiano  
**Highest High:** ending March having won five out of its last seven games  
**Lowest Low:** ending Ivy League play with four straight losses to Penn  
**Players to Watch:** Liz Caggiano, Brooke Darling

#### MEN’S TENNIS

**Season Record:** 18-4, 5-2 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** second  
**Star Player:** Winston Lin  
**Highest High:** defeating Harvard 5-2 to remain undefeated  
**Lowest Low:** losing to Brown 5-2 and dropping out of first place for good  
**Player to Watch:** Lin

#### WOMEN’S TENNIS:

**Season Record:** 13-6, 4-3 Ivy  
**Ivy Finish:** tied for third with Harvard  
**Star Player:** Nicole Bartnik  
**Highest High:** six straight wins in the regular season that led to its best Ivy League record and finish in the team's history  
**Lowest Low:** coming very close to beating Harvard for the first time in years, losing 4-3  
**Players to Watch:** Bartnik, Bianca Sanon, Iani Alecsiu

#### MEN’S TRACK

**Star Player:** Kyle Merber  
**Highest High:** men's 4x800 team setting an Ivy League record at Penn Relays with a time of 7:20.80  
**Lowest Low:** finishing more than 100 points behind second-place Cornell at Indoor Heps  
**Players to Watch:** Brendon Fish, Connor Claffin

## Women’s track and field takes first Ivy title in program history

BY MELISSA CHEUNG  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

For the first time since spring of 2010, a Columbia team won an Ivy League championship this winter. The women's track and field team won the first title in the history of the program at the Ivy League Heptagonal Indoor Track & Field Championships in Ithaca, N.Y., on Feb. 27.

"It's so special. We've won in cross country before, but never in track and field, and it was just amazing," head coach Willy Wood said, "It was a great day for us."

The Light Blue scored 124 team points, dominating the field with many outstanding performances in both short- and long-distance running events, as well as in the jumps. Cornell finished second with 103 points.

After a season filled with strong performances, the stars aligned for the Lions the last weekend in February.

Freshman Nadia Eke won the triple jump, while sophomore Marvellous Iheukwumere advanced to the finals in both the 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash, winning the latter on the second day of competition.

"Everyone wants to do well individually, and across the board we're a very talented team," freshman Waverly Neer said. Neer also entered Heps with high

expectations after she earned United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association cross country All-American honors in the fall and recording an NCAA Division I auto-qualifying time in the 3,000 at the Boston University Valentine Invitational. At Heps, she took first place in the 3,000.

"It was great to see my training pay off, and it was humbling to be a part of this team as a freshman," Neer said.

The Lions took first and fifth places in the long jump, third in the weight throw, second in the pole vault, third and fifth places in the 5,000, and first in the high jump.

"It was an overall team effort, and everyone contributed in some way or another," Wood said. "We had every event covered."

Cornell and Princeton had been the only team to win a women's indoor title since 2001, when Brown took home the championship. The Lions fell just short last year, when they lost to the Big Red.

"We've been so close so many times, but now everyone sees that it can be done," Wood said. "It's going to propel us in the years to come."

Neer also underlined the importance of the win. "We've set a standard, and I hope years from now people will look back at the 2012 team and say that we set the foundation."



FILE PHOTO

**MARVELOUS!** | Sophomore Marvellous Iheukwumere finished first in the 200-meter at Indoor Heps this February, earning a first-team all-Ivy selection.



## After losing 9 straight, Columbia said goodbye to Wilson, hello to new head coach Mangurian

### FOOTBALL from page 12

The remainder of the season was against conference competitors, which meant the Lions would be facing teams at their best.

First up for the Light Blue was Homecoming, against reigning Ivy League Champion and powerhouse Penn. The Quakers won, 27-20, in a highly contested contest in which they got the winning score—a seven-yard rushing touchdown by quarterback Billy Ragone—with 25 seconds remaining in the fourth.

Though the Quakers are a strong team with a lot of offensive weapons, mistakes played a huge role in deciding the contest, according to Brackett.

“We hurt ourselves more than they actually hurt us,” Brackett said. “Penn’s a good team with a good defense but I think we shot

ourselves in the foot too many times.”

The following week at Dartmouth, the Lions were without Brackett, and senior quarterback Jerry Bell had to fill the role. Both the offense and defense were helpless against the Big Green, as the Light Blue allowed 426 yards of total offense to its 148. Bell threw two interceptions—both of which were taken by linebacker Bronson Green—as the Lions fell in devastating fashion, 37-0.

It was unclear who was to blame more for the loss. After the game Bell said it was his fault, but senior linebacker Nick Mistretta also placed some of the blame on the defense.

“It’s still up to the defense to make a play, make a stop, and I’d say for the most part we had trouble doing that whether it was on a short field or a long field today,” Mistretta said after the loss.

Columbia was 0-6 with four games remaining.

The next opponent was Yale, and in a game in which the most interesting story was the massive downpour of snow, the Bulldogs won, 16-13. Running back Mordecai Cargill kept Yale in the hunt for the title with his monstrous 230-yard, two-touchdown performance.

The Light Blue then faced league-leading Harvard at home. With hopes of being the giant-killers, Brackett kept the team in the game with his feet for the first half, and the score was even at 14 at the end of the half. From there, Harvard quarterback Collier Winters took over, finishing the game with 323 yards passing and three touchdowns to lead the Crimson to a 35-21 victory.

History was made in Ithaca, N.Y., as the Lions’ record fell to

0-9 with a 62-41 loss to Cornell. Unfortunately for Columbia, it was on the wrong end of Cornell quarterback Jeff Mathews’ 521-yard, five-touchdown performance. Brackett couldn’t match Mathews’ output, but still put up impressive numbers (409 yards and four touchdowns).

“We hurt ourselves more than they actually hurt us.”

—Sean Brackett, junior quarterback

With one game left at home against a Brown team that was sitting at second in the league, the Light Blue seniors were

determined to save the team from a winless season. With the help of a supportive crowd and inspired seniors, Columbia beat the Bears, 35-28, in a double overtime thriller. Brackett’s 16-yard run in the second overtime sealed the deal for the Lions, who were carried by the quarterback’s four-touchdown performance.

Following the final game, Athletic Director M. Dianne Murphy put an end to Wilson’s time at Columbia after the disappointing season.

Though the termination did not come as a surprise for most, the players lauded Wilson’s devotion.

“He had the respect of everyone on the team. I don’t think that ever waned,” senior wide receiver and captain Mike Stephens said following the firing. “We wanted to play hard for the guy but unfortunately it

didn’t pan out the way we wanted it to.”

Head coach Pete Mangurian has since been brought in to replace Wilson, who left Columbia with a 17-43 record in his six seasons at the University.

Mangurian has brought an entirely different work ethic to Morningside Heights, hoping to bring a winner’s mentality to Columbia, something he made clear at his introductory press conference.

“We need to expect to win,” Mangurian said. “It has to become part of who we are ... We cannot go in with any kind of marginal idea of, ‘OK, this is good enough.’”

Columbia football players returning in the fall will be playing for a new head coach, and if Mangurian has his way, they’ll bring in a new winning culture to Columbia.

## Strong pitching rotation key to Lions’ success in Ivy season

### BASEBALL from page 12

history this season by launching four home runs to give him 25 for his career, tying the all-time Columbia record held by Gene Larkin, CC ’84. Larkin is perhaps best known for his walk-off single for the Minnesota Twins in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series.

“I was trying not to think about it, but when something like that is on the line, it’s just always going to be in the back of your head,” Pizzano said after tying the record on April 25 against Fordham. “It’s an honor to be in the same category as Gene Larkin.”

Though he is just a junior, according to Boretti, Pizzano’s stellar play has caught the eye of some MLB organizations. Boretti said that there is a possibility the slugger could be drafted in June. If Pizzano is drafted and decides to sign, it will certainly leave a big void in the Lions lineup next season.

Still, with or without Pizzano,

the Lions should be strong contenders next season. Boretti wants his lineup to become more consistent and believes the pieces will be there to do so.

“Nick Ferraresi improved this year, we’d like to see him continue to improve, and Al Black is a guy who finally got healthy and showed what he could do,” Boretti said. “Aaron Silbar had a very good year at shortstop—defensively, he’s a good player. Between him, [Jordan] Serena, and [Nick] Cruet in the middle, that’s a good solid middle that’s returning.”

For now, the Lions will have to wait until next March to see the field once again. But when they do, Boretti expects to see much of the same quality of baseball that he saw the last few weeks of the season.

“I think as a whole, the guys did a really great job of getting better each weekend,” Boretti said. “We’re at a really great point right now, and the season’s over.”

### BASKETBALL from page 13

more skill.”

The Lions lose four seniors—guard Chris Crockett, guard Steve Egee, forward Matt Johnson, and forward Blaise Staab—to graduation, but the heart of the Lions offense will be back next year.

Barbour, Cisco, Lyles, Rosenberg, and junior forward John Daniels—the team’s primary starting five this season—will all return for the 2012-2013 season, and Agho is also expected to be back on the court.

With the experience gained from this season, in addition to the team’s training trip in Europe at the end of May, Smith is confident that the Lions will have a shot at success against Ancient Eight opponents next year.

“I know we’re getting closer to where we need to be as a team,” he said. “Now I think we have a good grasp of what we’re trying to do offensive and defensively. Having Meiko, having Brian, having Mark get a lot of valuable experience will be very helpful.”



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**CISCO SYSTEMS** | Junior Mark Cisco was one of the Lions’ top contributors this year. In CU’s home game to Cornell, the center recorded 18 points and 20 rebounds, setting a Levien Gym record.

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