

INSIDE

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Flex, now accepted wherever you are

More local eateries and retailers are signing on to participate in the Flex program, which allows students to pay for off-campus goods with Columbia IDs.



A&E, page 7

Dance, dance orientation

This year's 2009 NSOP Performance Showcase featured multiple dance groups, including Columbia favorites cuBHANGRA, Sabor, and Taal.

A&E, page 7

For CU grad, an unwelcome America

Cherien Dabis, SoA '04, uses her life as a Palestinian American growing up in Ohio as inspiration for her new film "Amreeka," a story revolving around immigration.

Opinion, page 4

Up close(-minded) and personal

Columnist Derek Turner explores the exploitation of open-mindedness on campus.



Sports, page 12

Lions fall to two tough opponents

The women's soccer team lost both of its games this past weekend, opening the season with a 0-2-0 record. After falling to the Huskies, Columbia lost to No. 3 Portland.

Sports, page 12

Men's soccer opens season with two losses

CU lost to both Duke and N.C. State in the Duke/Nike Classic this past weekend. The Lions were defeated 2-1 by the Blue Devils before being shut out 1-0 by the Wolfpack.

ONLINE

ColumbiaSpectator.com

News around the clock

Just like you, the news never sleeps. Check out our Web site 24/7 for campus and city news that matters to you.

ORIENTATION 2009



Lila Neiswanger / Senior Staff photographer

BOX, CAR, CHILDREN | New students arrived on campus for orientation week. After unpacking their boxes and waving off Mom and Dad, first-years set in for a week of getting-to-know-you good times.

State cites M'ville PR firm

BY MAGGIE ASTOR

Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The lobbying firm that Columbia hired to promote the Manhattanville campus expansion plan did not report a nearly \$400,000 increase in income from the University, according to the state's Commission on Public Integrity.

On Sept. 3, CPI publicly alleged that Bill Lynch Associates, a Harlem-based political consulting firm, failed to file required documents disclosing that Columbia had increased its compensation by \$390,000 in 2007.

The University hired the firm in 2007 to promote the Manhattanville expansion among local residents and business owners, many of whom oppose the plan because they believe it will gentrify the historic neighborhood and displace residents and businesses.

In turn, Bill Lynch Associates

hired the public relations firm Sunshine, Sachs & Associates, which organized the Coalition for the Future of Manhattanville. The Coalition was a grassroots effort to promote the expansion plan in the face of opposition from the local Coalition to Preserve Community and the Columbia-based Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification. This initiative involved courting the support of elected officials, community organizations, neighborhood businesses, and others.

CPI spokesperson Walter Ayres said that the commission discovered the alleged violation by comparing financial documents submitted by Bill Lynch Associates to those submitted by Columbia.

The University increased the firm's compensation from \$180,000 to \$570,000 in 2007, CPI acting Executive Director Barry Ginsberg wrote in a Notice

of Reasonable Cause dated Aug. 8. A Notice of Reasonable Cause denotes an alleged, not a proven, violation, and Bill Lynch Associates can seek a settlement or appear before a hearing officer, according to Ayres.

"If a settlement is not reached, the hearing officer will schedule a hearing after which she will issue her determination, including a recommended penalty, if appropriate, which the Commission can accept, reject, or send back for reconsideration," Ayres wrote in an e-mail. "The Commission presents its case at the hearing, and the lobbyist presents a defense."

State laws penalize only the lobbying firm that failed to properly report compensation, not its client, meaning that Columbia cannot face legal action for Bill Lynch's alleged

SEE LYNCH, page 2

CU offers undergrads public health course

BY AMBER TUNNELL

Spectator Staff Writer

Public health is coming to undergraduates this fall.

This semester, Columbia College is collaborating with the Mailman School of Public Health to offer the University's first course in public health that caters to undergraduates. With the several more courses planned for the future, Mailman hopes to eventually offer a concentration in public health to undergraduates, and potentially a major.

The course, Social History of American Public Health, will be taught by Dr. David Rosner, the Ronald H. Lauterstein Professor of Sociomedical Science and History and co-director of the Center for the History & Ethics of Public Health at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health. The course is scheduled to meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:10–5:25 p.m. in 503 Hamilton Hall.

Rosner, a renowned public health historian, said the class will focus on "how we build worlds that ultimately kill us," and an "understanding of how we got into recent crises"—referring to pandemics such as the swine flu. He hopes to explore the social and physical history of the United States and encourage discussion about future health problems.

Rosner said that this class was chosen as the first undergraduate public health course mainly because it "bridges the gap between the scientific aspect of public health and the liberal arts side." Rosner has taught a similar course to graduate students for ten years.

Next semester, professors from Mailman, the School of

International and Public Affairs, the Earth Institute, and other schools will offer a course on global health fundamentals.

According to Mailman dean Linda Fried, the school plans "to steadily increase offers to undergraduates" as they "assess the level of student interest" in the field.

Eventually, Mailman also hopes to offer a "4-1 program" to students, which would allow undergraduates to earn their Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Health degrees in five years.

Ian Lapp, the Mailman School associate dean for academic affairs and education, said that "public health embodies the intellectual spirit of the College," since Mailman relies on an interdisciplinary faculty including professors with backgrounds in history, philosophy, and many other fields.

Many Ivy League schools—Brown, Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale—already offer undergraduate majors in public health called health and society majors. By teaming with the College, Lapp said that he would like to see Columbia "set new standards" for undergraduate work in the field.

To inform students about this new course, the Mailman School sent e-mails out to all pre-medical and pre-law students in Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science, as well as relevant majors in the School of General Studies and Barnard College. So far, according to Lapp, they have received over 20 e-mails from interested students.

One anthropology and history double major, Zachary

SEE HEALTH, page 9

New year, new administrators

Moody-Adams, Billmyer, start along with Class of 2013

BY ALEXA DAVIS

Spectator Senior Staff Writer

With the start of the new academic year comes the introduction of fresh faces to the administration, including the deans of Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of Continuing Education, financial aid, and student advising, as well as a new provost.

The personnel turnover in many of the University's most crucial positions has come as Columbia maps its future while weathering an endowment loss of 22 percent.

The most recently announced appointment is that of Kristine Billmyer, currently the executive director of the University of Pennsylvania's College of Liberal and Professional Studies and associate dean of Penn's School of Arts and Sciences, whom Columbia President Lee Bollinger named as the dean of Continuing Education in an e-mail on Aug. 27. Billmyer will formally take over as dean on Nov. 1, replacing current School of General Studies Dean Peter Awn, who has held the Continuing Education position on an interim basis since 2006. Billmyer is also a linguistics

expert and formerly held the position of executive director of Penn's English Language Programs.

Stepping into the position of dean of financial aid and associate dean of student affairs for Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science is Daniel Barkowitz, previously the director of student financial aid and unemployment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has also published a book of poems called "Talking to Myself: Poetry From Now and Then."

"The combination of financial aid and student affairs that Columbia offers is very exciting for me," Barkowitz said. "I have begun work on a Ph.D. in student affairs and I appreciate that the financial aid office at Columbia reports through a Dean of Student Affairs who will provide guidance and support for viewing college financing as part of a holistic student experience."

Michele Moody-Adams left her role as vice provost for undergraduate education at Cornell University to assume Austin Quigley's former position as Columbia College dean, making her the first African

SEE ADMINISTRATION, page 3



Courtesy of Cornell
MICHELE MOODY-ADAMS
DEAN OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE



Courtesy of University of Illinois
FENIOSKY PEÑA-MORA
DEAN OF SEAS

City braces for the flu season, vaccines

BY SAM LEVIN

Spectator Staff Writer

With a second outbreak of swine flu possibly lurking just around the corner, New York City is preparing for the worst.

Government efforts are in place to aid local health clinics in launching flu centers and mass immunizations, and district officials have declared public school shutdowns to be an absolute last resort.

After the pandemic struck in April—killing 50 people in the city and leading to large-scale drops in school attendance—the city spent the summer collaborating with different agencies for a combat plan against a potential resurgence of the H1N1 virus this fall.

The strategy, announced on Sept. 1, includes making flu vaccines available to all public

elementary school students, creating a "one-stop influenza Web portal" to help New Yorkers find local help easily, launching a large public awareness campaign, and lastly, developing specific treatment sites in health clinics.

"We can't predict this year's flu season, but we can make sure that City government is fully prepared for whatever happens," New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in a statement last week.

To prevent emergency care centers from overcrowding in a possible round two of swine flu, some local clinics said they have communicated with the New York State Department of Health about setting up flu centers to ease the burden at nearby hospitals.

Daniel Baxter, chief medical officer of the Ryan Community

SEE FLU, page 3

How to stay healthy

1. Take the seasonal influenza vaccine when it becomes available.
2. Use good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleansers are also effective.
3. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or the elbow of your arm when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, since germs may spread that way.
5. Avoid close contact with others who are ill. Avoid holding, hugging, or kissing anyone who has a cold or the flu.
6. If you become sick, limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

University pushes for swine flu prevention

Columbia officials have one message for students—wash your hands.

As flu season quickly approaches, the University has launched a campaign to stymie the potential spread of the H1N1 virus on campus. Through e-mails to students, letters home to parents, and campus fliers encouraging "preventive hygiene," Columbia hopes that health education—as well as newly installed public hand sanitizing dispensers—will mitigate transmission of the disease.

There are no changes to University operations, according to the Pandemic Flu

Response page, and an e-mail that said that Student Affairs, Housing and Dining Services, and Health Services have been working together since the spring swine flu outbreak. A letter to Barnard students reported that the dining halls have been adjusting food service, and that a college emergency management team would continue meeting in the fall to make preparations.

A Teachers College student was diagnosed with Type A influenza in April, an illness that has been linked to swine flu.

The University plans to continue offering seasonal in-

fluenza vaccines. The H1N1 vaccine is still in development and may be available this fall—though future vaccine distribution regulations, as Columbia officials pointed out, remain to be seen.

And if you're ever in doubt, please stay home. University officials wrote in a letter to students, "In fact, if your family lives within commuting distance, it is best for you to recuperate at home. If you stay on campus, you should remain in your residence hall room, and Housing and Dining can help provide services while you recover."

—Alix Pianin

WEATHER

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EVENTS — SEPTEMBER 8

First day of classes

It's the first day of school. Don't be late. Go to class, pick up a syllabus, and do with it what you will.

All over the place

Lines at Book Culture

There will be long lines. And you will spend a ton of money. But you should probably go anyway or else you might not pass your classes. Enjoy this frustrating Columbia tradition, but take solace in the fact that you are supporting an independent bookstore.

536 West 112th St.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is about more aggressive education in school."

—Gregory Hodge, a school principal on informing students and parents about swine flu

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State cites PR firm

LYNCH from front page

violation. Bill Lynch Associates could face a fine of up to \$25,000 or three times the amount it allegedly failed to report, meaning it could potentially owe CPI more than a million dollars. The firm did not respond to a call for comment made Friday.

Statements of Registration, and amended statements if information changes, are required of all lobbyists in the state.

University spokesperson Robert Hornsby declined to comment. news@columbiaspectator.com



File Photo

PUBLIC RELATIONS | Columbia's expansion project in Manhattanville has had its share of public relations problems, but now the University's PR firm has its own.

Bollinger calls for for release of detained Iranian scholar

BY JOY RESMOVITS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Kian Tajbakhsh, an Iranian-American urban planner who was supposed to teach at Columbia this semester, has been detained along with scores of dissenters and is on trial in Iran for fomenting a "velvet revolution."

The U.S. Department of State and University President Lee Bollinger have called for the release of Tajbakhsh, a scholar who earned his Ph.D. in urban planning from Columbia.

When Tajbakhsh was arrested earlier this summer, sources told CNN that security forces took his computer and ravaged his home. "Two people who identified themselves as Iranian security officials arrived at his residence in Tehran late Thursday. The officials questioned him and his wife and searched the residence for three hours before taking him away along with two computers and other items," Tajbakhsh's family and friends said in a statement.

In an August statement, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton referred to Tajbakhsh as a scholar "who has spent his career working to enhance mutual understanding between Iran and the United States." Clinton added that "Iran should immediately release Mr. Tajbakhsh from detention and allow him to depart Iran to continue his academic pursuits."

"We share the concerns expressed by the U.S. Department of State about the reported arrest of Kian Tajbakhsh and many others in Iran," Bollinger said. "We concur in urging his release from detention and express our heartfelt support for his family, friends, and colleagues who are anxious over his wellbeing."

Tajbakhsh was one of many prisoners abducted by the Iranian government in its attempt to quell the demonstrations that have cropped up since current Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was announced

the winner of the country's June election over candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi.

For Tajbakhsh, the arrest has come shortly after he was granted freedom. In 2007, he was one of several Iranian-American scholars arrested in Iran. Tehran's Evin prison held him in solitary confinement under charges of espionage and inciting revolution.

During his captivity, Bollinger and John Coatsworth, dean of the School of International and Public Affairs, lobbied against

Tajbakhsh's arrest. Tajbakhsh also had backers in the Open Society Institute, an organization financed by businessman George Soros. Supporters formed freekian.org to petition for his release.

Four months later, Iran released Tajbakhsh on the day Bollinger announced that Ahmadinejad would be speaking on campus. According to "The New York Times", Tajbakhsh and his family first had to pay about \$107,000 in bail money.

In the introduction to Ahmadinejad's speech, Bollinger extended an invitation to Tajbakhsh to become a visiting professor, presumably in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. Tajbakhsh was supposed to assume that post this semester, but his detention has prevented him from doing so. Meanwhile, Tajbakhsh is undergoing trial, faced with allegations of masterminding protests in conjunction with foreign governments.

news@columbiaspectator.com



Courtesy of Payvand

KIAN TAJBAKHSH

Sotomayor named to U.S. Supreme Court

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Sonia Sotomayor was confirmed as the 111th Supreme Court Justice by the U.S. Senate in a 68-31 victory in August. Since 1999, she has been a Columbia lecturer in law, an adjunct faculty post at Columbia Law School.

Sotomayor will be the nation's first Hispanic justice, succeeding Justice David Souter.

"With this historic vote, the Senate has affirmed that Judge Sotomayor has the intellect, the temperament, the history, the integrity, and the independence of mind to ably serve on our nation's highest court," President Barack Obama, CC '83, said shortly

after the Senate confirmed his pick.

According to an earlier statement from Columbia Law School, Sotomayor "created and has co-taught a course called the Federal Appellate Externship every semester since fall 2000. This course combines intensive work in the chambers of a Second Circuit Judge with class sessions and a moot court exercise."

Raised by Puerto Rican parents in Bronx public housing projects, Sotomayor has sat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit for 16 years. Following her undergraduate years at Princeton, she began her law career as a student at Yale Law School where she served as an editor of the "Yale Law Journal."

Later, she worked for Robert Morgenthau in the New York district attorney's office. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated her to the federal district court, and she was confirmed a year later. President Bill Clinton elevated Sotomayor to the Federal Court of Appeals, for which she was confirmed in 1998.

news@columbiaspectator.com



Courtesy of Dailyplunge

SONIA SOTOMAYOR
111TH SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

WHILE YOU WERE AWAY
These stories were published on www.ColumbiaSpectator.com during winter break.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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09/15
TUESDAY
THE NEW REALITY OF MEXICO-US MIGRATION
7 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

09/16
WEDNESDAY
NEW FEMINIST ACTIVISM
6:30 PM
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

09/21
MONDAY
NORA
7 PM
Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

09/25
FRIDAY
THE BALLETES RUSSES
6:30 PM
City Center, Studio 5, 130 West 56th Street

09/30
WEDNESDAY
CORPORATIONS GONE GOOD
A Manifesto for 21st Century Leadership
6:30 PM
Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

Renationalizing Membership Politics. Or?
7 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

10/02–10/03
FRIDAY
WOMEN, PHILOSOPHY & HISTORY
Conference in Celebration of Eileen O’Neill ’75
9:00 AM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

10/05
MONDAY
HISTORY (MIS-)TRANSLATED
US History According to Foreign Textbooks
6 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

LOS DEMONIOS DEL EDÉN
Gender, Violence and Activism in Mexico
6:30 PM
Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

BARNARD
THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE
FOR WOMEN
IN NEW YORK CITY

ADMINISTRATION from front page

American and the first woman to hold the post. Moody-Adams is also a philosopher and a Plato fan.

“Maybe that’s why I naturally fit at Columbia, because of the Core and the cultures and critical thinking it involves,” she said earlier, citing her background in philosophy as a perfect match for Columbia and its Core Curriculum. She was drawn to Columbia because of its “ability to blend respect for tradition with respect for intellectual innovation.” She is also taking on the newly-created position of vice president for undergraduate education.

After a search that spanned two years, civil engineer Feniosky Peña-Mora—formerly the associate provost of the University of Illinois—is now dean of SEAS. Bollinger

believes that Peña-Mora—who he calls “Fenni”—offers “the opportunity to have new leadership, to galvanize around [SEAS’s] objectives, and to build.” Specifically, he cited Peña-Mora’s ambition for advancement in such areas as biomedical engineering, nanoscience, and computer science.

The appointment of Monique Rinere as the dean of advising and associate dean of student affairs for Columbia College and SEAS was announced in May in conjunction with the news that Lerner Hall’s sixth floor would be used to allow for the creation of a centralized advising center on the fourth floor. Previously the associate dean of Harvard College, Rinere oversaw a similar advising program in Cambridge.

“Under her leadership,” Dean of Student Affairs Kevin

Shollenberger wrote in a May e-mail, “Harvard’s Advising Programs Office enhanced services for students by strengthening relationships with students, faculty, and departments, developing a peer advising program, and creating innovative, Web-based resources.”

Bollinger named Claude Steele the University’s new provost, or chief academic officer, in a campus-wide May e-mail. Steele, the first African American to hold the post, is known for applying psychology test results to social problems. He became a renowned psychologist when he developed his widely-used theory of stereotype threats, which states that minorities will underperform on tests when faced with stereotypes that threaten their identities.

news@columbiaspectator.com

City braces itself for H1N1

FLU from front page

Health Network—which has a clinic on 97th Street and a new site in Harlem—said that health care centers are prepared to set up a flu-specific operation. “We are absolutely as ready as anyone can be,” he said, adding that the Ryan Network would be particularly beneficial should emergency rooms become “once again logged with worried wells.”

Baxter said that his clinics are prepared to increase their free immunization efforts on a large scale. At the same time, the Ryan Network has also been expanding its training on triage efforts to provide the most efficient care to those most seriously in need.

“In the spring, we did have somewhat of a surge at all of our centers,” said Jackie Lomtevas, vice president of facilities

and services at Community Healthcare Network, which has a center on 115th Street in Harlem. “I would expect at the start of school, that might tend to surge again.”

Lomtevas said that they also hope to offer free vaccines in a month, which she added they have never done in the past.

On the school front, with closing as a “last resort,” local principals applauded efforts of the district and the Department of Health while also admitting their anxiety over potential outbreaks. “Child care is a big problem for families,” Virginia Pepe, principal of P.S.163 on 97th Street, said. “I can empathize with not wanting to close schools.”

Pepe said that she has definitely heard concern from families, adding, “The city—based on prior experience—will be in a better position to evaluate the situation.”

At Frederick Douglass

Academy in Harlem, where several hundred students were absent in the spring, principal Gregory Hodge said that he plans to hold several informational assemblies on the flu and general hygiene to help thwart another panic. “This is about more aggressive education in school,” he said.


“People who have babysitting services are able to respond more easily,” Hodge said. “But poorer families will be more pressed.” In the spring, a lot of his students wound up waiting many hours in hospitals and were never actually seen.

Baxter stated that he hopes that people learn not to be afraid. “It is not any more dangerous than influenza,” he said.

“There has not yet been a panic and hopefully there won’t be,” Baxter added. “But what we don’t know frightens us.”

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*Some come for the beaches, some for the poetry,
others for the Olympics, still others for the mousaka,
some for the wine, some for the Byzantine churches,
others to find out what happened to Ancient myth...*

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- **Greece at the Crossroads: Interdisciplinarity and Area Studies**
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Modern abolitionism

BY BRIANA WONG

“New York Times” journalist Nicholas Kristof deems human trafficking “the big emerging human rights issue for the 21st century.” He also calls it “a convoluted euphemism.” What Kristof is intimating here is that human trafficking—that is, “the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for profit,” according to the U.S. State Department’s 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report—cannot rightfully be called anything other than slavery. As the global slave trade reemerges, this time tied with arms dealing as the second largest organized crime pursuit in the world, a budding abolitionist movement is scrambling to muster enough strength to combat it.

When I first heard about the human trafficking problem, I was overwhelmed by the stories of young women sold into prostitution in brothels in Cambodia, families forced into debt bondage in India, and children abducted by rebel armies and forced to fight in the ongoing Ugandan civil war. It was only recently, thanks to Justin Dillon’s new documentary “Call + Response,” that I learned that the United States, and New York City, in particular, is also plagued by this evil that has once again reared its ugly head. Approximately 15,000 to 18,000 people, according to an FBI estimate, are smuggled into the United States every year for forced labor, with John F. Kennedy Airport emerging as a major point of entry.

This summer, I had the opportunity to serve as an intern at Restore NYC, a nonprofit dedicated to the fight against human trafficking in New York. Restore focuses on reintegrating the victims



of international sex trafficking into society. The organization currently works through the court systems in New York City to offer counseling services to women enslaved by the sex industry, and it plans, in the next twelve months, to open New York’s first residential facility for internationally trafficked victims of the sex trade.

My internship involved conducting extensive research on human trafficking in the city, searching for grants that will be used to open Restore’s safe house next year, facilitating networking among the various abolitionist groups in New York, and connecting law enforcement with anti-trafficking organizations that help victims get back on their feet.

One of the highlights of the summer was reporting incidents of forced labor in New York using the Slavery Map Web site created by David Batstone, a human rights activist and professor of ethics at the University of San Francisco. Slavery Map allows modern abolitionists to alert society to the cries of the oppressed. It provides a way for the public to gauge the sheer magnitude of this evil that plagues the city and the world. Taking advantage of public information made available by the “New York Times,” the Department of Justice, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, I contributed to the collection of local human trafficking reports stored on the Web site.

Through my research, I learned to recognize the red flags sent up by human trafficking, and I was appalled when I discovered how many there are in New York City. Massage parlors and escort services that offer sexual services, that frequently change names, addresses, or both, that are located in ethnic-specific communities, that advertise as “outcall only,” and that are staffed by recent, possibly undocumented immigrants are often places where desperate women are forced, deceived, or coerced into sex work. Five such establishments were featured in a “Time Out New York” article entitled “Best Happy-Ending Massage Parlors in NYC,” in which one of the magazine’s reporters was paid to seek out the best places to pay for sex (that is, brothels) in

the city. My concern upon reading the article did not arise solely from the fact that engaging in sex trafficking is a class B felony in New York State (for which the penalty is a maximum of 25 years in prison), but also from the fact that sex trafficking is a gross injustice committed against voiceless and the powerless people in our society.

My first foray into abolition work gave me a new awareness of the gravity of the issue of human trafficking and the relevance it has to our country and our city. Although my internship with Restore NYC is finished, I plan to commit to the long-term battle against modern slavery. For those of you interested in learning more about human trafficking or in contributing to the fight against it, I recommend reading “Not For Sale” by David Batstone or watching the documentary “Very Young Girls” by Girls Education and Mentoring Services, an organization that offers relief to trafficked minors in New York. Several campus clubs, such as Amnesty International, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Hillel, the African Students Association, and the Veritas Forum, have hosted events designed to raise awareness about the issue last semester. Furthermore, a series of events about human trafficking will take place at Columbia from Sept. 21-27. The following Web site offers more information about the upcoming events: <http://freedomweeknyc.com/calendar.html>.

Human trafficking affects every nation, every culture, and every society, including our own. As students of Columbia University, we have both the responsibility and the opportunity to educate ourselves about this infringement on human rights in the city we call home.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore. She is a member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and co-coordinator of Mentoring Youth in New York City (MyNYC), a Community Impact program. “Modern abolitionism” is an installment of Summer Dispatches, an opinion feature series that seeks to showcase the diverse summer experiences of members of the Columbia community.

Staff Editorial

Looking ahead

At the beginning of the 2009-2010 academic year, Columbia finds itself at a critical juncture, one that presents the University with both formidable challenges and plentiful opportunities. With experience weathering financial crisis, coupled with promising, new administrators, we have reason to be optimistic at the start of another school year. It is therefore imperative that the University move to address problems that need prompt resolution.

Changes, both circumstantial and intentional, have placed Columbia in a comparably favorable position. Despite a 22 percent decline in its endowment and a host of other repercussions due to the nationwide economic slowdown, Columbia raised its budget 0.4 percent this year, avoiding some of the drastic cuts other Ivy League institutions have made. In welcoming 50 more students to the class of 2013 while continuing to expand its facilities, Columbia has opened its doors to a greater number of qualified candidates and increased revenue during a time of need. We are pleased to welcome to Provost Claude Steele, Dean of Columbia College Michele Moody-Adams, and Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science Feniosky Peña-Mora, as well as new faces in financial aid, academic advising, and various other areas of the University. The provost and the deans bring with them a dedication

to the values and high academic standards integral to Columbia and its Core Curriculum, and they promise further success at our University.

Columbia must seize upon this moment of change and channel its momentum toward addressing students’ concerns. We call on administrators across all departments to bring about greater transparency and genuinely consider the input of students. We entrust Provost Steele with the work of streamlining and personalizing Columbia’s unwieldy bureaucracy, whose inefficiency and impersonality often prevent it from providing ideal residential and academic environments for students. We urge deans Moody-Adams and Peña-Mora to uphold and expand Columbia’s academic and cocurricular programs while frequently consulting and adhering to students’ suggestions in the decision-making process. And we remind students to continue to engage their peers and their professors in respectful discourse.

Columbia must not squander the opportunities of this academic year. Despite our economic circumstances, Columbia boasts a wealth of knowledge that can and should be tapped into in the months to come. In the semester ahead, we look forward to holding the University accountable to students, calling for improvement when it falls short, and acknowledging its achievements.

Important names we never hear

BY LAUREN LODATO

Timothy David, Roger Adams, Robert Bittiker, Edward Kramer, Brian Bradshaw, Ricky Jones: Any of these names ring a bell? I didn’t think so. These young men—all American soldiers—were killed in Iraq within days of the King of Pop’s death.

But, who knew? From the minute news of Michael Jackson’s death hit, the coverage was nonstop. There were, after all, important questions to answer: Where was his body going? Was he dead before or after he arrived at the hospital? What will happen to his children? What about Neverland? Is that La Toya entering the hospital? I watched (yes, I admit it) as one news anchor after another described the scene outside the hospital and Neverland Ranch. Later that night, CNN flashed a photo—probably the last photo of Jackson ever taken—in which he is seen lying on a stretcher, most likely already gone. “How did you get that photo? Great reporting,” Larry King said to the reporter.

Much of this did not sit well with me, and it wasn’t just that tasteless photo and repetitive video footage. The coverage of Jackson’s memorial service was what put me over the edge. How is it, I wondered, that it garnered so much coverage with so much else going on in the world? I know this sounds naïve and cynical, but if I had to listen to what Brooke Shields had to say one more time, I think I might have thrown up. How far gone are we? What about the soldiers who died in Iraq that week? What about their stories, their funerals, their



lives? Are people that far removed from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? There are veterans of both wars right here at Columbia and all across New York City—it might help them to know that the rest of the country is acknowledging the sacrifice their fellow servicemen and women are making. The media holds some responsibility to that end.

I was not alone in feeling this way. My husband saw something recently about a family member of a fallen soldier who had spoken out about the excessive Jackson coverage. He couldn’t remember what network it was on, only that he’d seen it briefly on one of the many TV screens constantly transmitting news to his office. I began to Google “Soldier Family Iraq Death Jackson” and found Martha Gillis. Gillis is the aunt of U.S. Army First Lieutenant Brian Bradshaw. Bradshaw, 24, was killed in Afghanistan on June 25, the same day Jackson died. Gillis wrote a letter to the editor of the Washington Post saying, “It makes me want to scream” in reference to the continuous Jackson coverage and lack of stories about soldiers like her nephew.

Fox News featured Gillis’s story, so I watched that footage on YouTube. While the well-coifed anchorwoman spoke about Gillis and her nephew, a box in the lower right corner of the TV screen streamed live coverage of Jackson’s memorial. God forbid anyone misses a few celebrity guests, or a peek at his unveiled children. Here they were, covering a story about the nonstop coverage of Jackson’s death from the perspective of a family member of a fallen U.S. soldier, all the while streaming coverage of the Jackson memorial service. Could they not see the irony here? I guess they didn’t want anyone to change the channel.

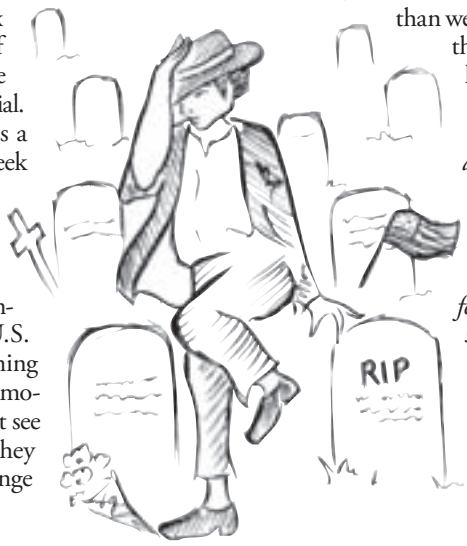


ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE DUFFY

The author is a student at the Graduate School of Journalism. “Important names we never hear” is an installment of Summer Dispatches, an opinion feature series that seeks to showcase the diverse summer experiences of members of the Columbia community.

Be ‘close-minded’

open ear and questioning mind to an unfamiliar worldview, I would be as outspoken in support of “open” minds as any other Columbian. As is usual with such loaded terms, however, it is the deeper meaning that makes the difference and has compelled me to fight it.

Sadly, the ideal hiding behind this guise is much more sinister than a curious respect for all cultures and opinions. My experiences have shown me that the expectation that comes with “open-mindedness” is actually that you abandon many or all of your personal convictions. In the interest of having an open mind, you will be asked to surrender your beliefs that, in this world, there are condemnable practices, virtuous endeavors, and truth that transcends the individual. You will be asked not to have principles that apply to individuals beyond yourself. Any audacious attempt to believe in the existence of any universal truth or set of values for humanity will probably be viewed as bigoted, ignorant, presumptuous, or dangerously old-fashioned.

If you choose to follow their much-lauded path, you will be rewarded with the badge of “open-mindedness” and charged with the task of experiencing the world without your harmful biases or judgmental opinions. Without your dangerous and presumptuous worldview, you can be free to appreciate how others’ opinions are actually nobler, more considerate, and more acceptable than those you possessed at NSOP.

However, if sacrificing your principles on the altar of “open-mindedness” makes you uncomfortable, gird your loins for a shameful stain with which your peers will mark you: that of being “close-minded.” From the moment you give them even the slightest scent of your minority philosophy, this will be your Columbia-sanctioned scarlet letter. You have reason to rejoice, though. Despite how much

they may try to make the term drip with disdain, the reality is that you are innocent of any philosophical wrongdoing.

Before I continue voicing my support of what is termed “close-mindedness,” though, allow me to clarify. What I am praising is not the practice of thinking that one has an answer for every situation. It is not clinging to one’s opinion in the face of contrary facts or belligerently forcing what you think is correct onto the minds of others.

What they term “close-minded” can actually be intellectually honest open-mindedness. They are accusing you of being in possession of the now-rare ability to have both an opinion and a willingness to engage different points of view without systematically presuming the inferiority of your own. There is a misguided but common sentiment here that in order to be able to consider another opinion, you cannot have your own convictions on the topic. Those of us in the “close-minded” camp are eager to rub our values against the heartiest objectors, open to the possibility of being incorrect in our assertions.

Being “close-minded” in the eyes of the Columbia establishment does not mean that you actually wield a stagnant and insulated mind, but rather, that you have the gall to use that mind, with all of its convictions and opinions, to engage the minds of those around you without apology. From such a vantage point, you can contribute your own beliefs while examining the myriad others found on this campus. Therefore, fellow Columbians, have the courage to look past the surface semantics and embrace the forbidden world of the truly open mind.

Derek Turner is a Columbia College sophomore. Opening Remarks runs alternate Tuesdays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

DO YOU WANT TO VOICE YOUR OPINION?

Spectator Opinion accepts submissions from diverse areas of interest. Submissions should be between 700 and 900 words and express an opinion that does not perpetuate stereotypes or unfairly label groups or individuals. All writers meet with an associate editor to edit their submission before publication. Submissions may be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com.

For more information, come to our meeting Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the Spectator office on the corner of 112th Street and Broadway.



DEREK TURNER
OPENING REMARKS

that you can either subscribe to or fight until the day you graduate.

What you will find here is an obsession with “open-mindedness”—one that dominates not only social interactions but also the academic environment and campus media. You will be asked to have an “open mind” about the philosophies and opinions of your classmates, professors, and authors of course material. At first, reader, you may not view the term “open-mindedness” as one that warrants resistance. Allow me to enlighten you as to the more dubious undertones that its syllables harbor.

At Columbia, this ideal seems at first glance to be that of promoting a willingness to consider other points of view—a sentiment that is hard to argue with. After all, how can someone who values being well-rounded object to exposing himself or herself to other viewpoints? Aren’t we here at Columbia because we want to become better global citizens by considering opinions different from our own?

Rest assured, if this were all that the term meant I would have titled this column quite differently. If the requirement of “open-mindedness” demanded little more than lending an

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World War II
in History
and Memory

Professor Carol Gluck



HIST W3997x
Mon/Wed 4:10-5:25
207 Mathematics

An exploration of the changes in public memory of World War II in different countries in Asia, Europe, and North America over the past sixty-five years, with particular attention to the heightened interest in the war in recent decades and the relation of this surge of memory to what we used to call history. *No prerequisites.*



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FILM

CU filmmaker finds inspiration in her past



Courtesy of National Geographic Entertainment

NOT WELCOME | The characters in Charien Dabis’ “Amreeka” struggle in their new American environment.

BY ROSIE DUPONT
Spectator Staff Writer

Eight years ago, Cherien Dabes entered her first year at the Master of Fine Arts film program at the Columbia University School of the Arts. Mere days after her arrival, the city experienced the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and the prejudice she had suffered in her youth during the Gulf War suddenly resurfaced—Arabs and Arab Americans were subjected to suspicious and hostile behavior by their fellow Americans.

“That was when I realized that it was time to sit down and write my version of the coming-to-America

story,” Dabis said in an interview. The result was “Amreeka”, the story of a Palestinian mother and son, Muna and Fadi, respectively, who come to America in search of a new life.

“Amreeka” is in many ways a personal story. Dabis, a Palestinian American who grew up in Ohio, experienced the same cultural confusion and suffered from prejudice similar to that which Fadi (Melkar Muallem) and Salma (Alia Shawkat) experience in her film. Of her experience growing up, Dabis said, “For most of my life I felt like I wasn’t American enough for the Americans, nor was I Arab enough for the Arabs.” When the first Gulf War began, Dabis’s family received death threats,

and her father’s medical practice started losing patients. The Secret Service even investigated a rumor that her 17-year-old sister had threatened to kill the president.

These experiences fueled Dabis’s creative fire. She had a unique story to tell—the story of Arabs living and immigrating to America in a hostile political climate.

The story that resulted is an amalgamation of characters and experiences from Dabis’s life, which speaks to more universal challenges of immigration and the issues of being Arab in a largely white community. When Muna (Nisreen Faour) and her son Fadi receive permission to immigrate to the U.S., they expect a free, top-notch education and plentiful job opportunities. Instead, they find a cold and at times hostile community in the Midwest. As Dabis puts it, “America is better, or different, in some ways, but there’s still not that sense of home or of belonging that we all seek.”

Instead of the humiliation of interrogations at Israeli checkpoints, they are subjected to ethnic slurs from ignorant American neighbors. As Dabis explained, “They’re trading one set of problems for another.”

“Amreeka’s” subject matter may be controversial, but the movie itself is rife with the conventions of a heartwarming family film with a strong cultural message—it includes the indispensable family dinner scene and the stale dialogue of sassy teenagers trying to assert their individuality with foreign-born parents. Yet these conventionalities also make it clear that Arab Americans are just like other immigrants—living, loving, and struggling together. “I want people to walk out of the theater feeling like they know us, like they’d just celebrated the culture with us,” Dabis said.

At its core, the film is a family story about building a home in a less-than-welcoming world. The portrayal of Muna’s innocence by Faour and the honest portrayal of Fadi by Muallem help capture the simple, good intentions of foreigners trying to find their way in a distant land. As Dabis put it, “I wanted to show that ultimately home is wherever we choose to make it: home is family; home is the familiar voice of our mothers on the other end of the telephone ... for a lot of us, home has to be whatever and wherever we want it to be.”

“Amreeka” is currently playing at the Lincoln Plaza Cinemas (Broadway between 61st and 62nd streets). Tickets are \$12.

THEATER

Shopping made easy: a fool-proof guide to the CU theater department

Interested in theater classes at Columbia, but not sure which ones to take? Follow this guide to the best classes CU has to offer aspiring thespians.

CALLING ALL DIRECTORS

History and the Practice of Directing is an incredibly valuable class if you are interested in directing or theater in general. In this class, students explore the evolution of the role of “director” from an outsider’s perspective and then later develop basic directing skills themselves. Students examine different aspects of the craft, such as how to use a theater space and how to communicate with actors. Most importantly, students gain firsthand experience in how to effectively execute your own directorial vision.

—Anna Weinstein

MUSICAL THEATER FOR ALL

If you are a musical theater actor looking to flex your muscles, Acting the Musical Scene is the perfect workout. Wendy Waterman works with students on vocal technique, but the real focus of the class is how to tell a story through song. Professor Waterman emphasizes that singers must approach each song like a monologue. Although much of the class is spent watching others rather than performing oneself, Waterman tries to structure her lessons so that everyone learns from watching as well as by doing. If you’re an actor who has no intention of auditioning for the next Columbia Musical Theater Society musical, don’t shy away just yet. Actors with no prior vocal experience develop the valuable skill of learning how to sing and use one’s voice properly. So start warming up those vocal chords!

—Louisa Levy

RIGOR MEETS CHEKHOV

Acting Chekhov, taught by Rebecca Guy, approximates a conservatory environment more closely than any other theater class in the department. As opposed to some other acting or directing classes, rigorous homework assignments—which include extensive memorization and dramaturgical research—accompany a great deal of outside rehearsal. The class’s demands, however, fall far short of its benefits. By the end of the semester, Anton Chekhov had become my favorite playwright, his plays having been illuminated through my shared experience with them. As Guy would say, it isn’t the words that one says to Yelena or Masha or Trigorin that matters, it is what one does to these characters with those words. Guy’s teaching craft mirrors this creative mantra—we didn’t realize at the time that she was bestowing us all with a sense of responsibility necessary for a serious student of acting. I often take this acquired discipline for granted, but then I remember Acting Chekhov.

—Tobin Mitnick

DANCE

NSOP performance showcases Columbia’s dancers

BY CATHERINE RICE
Spectator Staff Writer

It took everything the audience had to not get up and start dancing.

CuBHANGRA, the troupe that opened the 2009 NSOP Performance Showcase in Roone Arledge Auditorium, had contagious energy Sunday night. The list of performers that joined them was long and varied in style and genre, although a bit disproportionately heavy on dance organizations.

What makes cuBHANGRA so popular is the organic way its members dance. The combination of their electrifying music, with its heavy-metal-like intensity, and the definitive flavor of Punjabi culture makes the group a consistent crowd pleaser. Their emphasis is not on technique or synchronization, but on an inner unity that is shared among the dancers as they organize into aesthetically pleasing forms with their bodies. The flaired movement of the dancers’ hands as they remain in an upright angle for many steps is one defining characteristic of their cultural heritage, and the smiling and lip-synching is a sign of the group’s well-rehearsed cohesion.

Sabor, one of the largest Latino organizations on Columbia’s campus, was the next dance group on the program. While the paired salsa dancing was focused and had clean choreography, the other movements lacked similar polish, and transitions between songs were jarring. Sabor dances in many different styles including Latin, hip-hop, reggaeton, and Caribbean.

And while its broad influences give Sabor many sources of inspiration, the group’s direction, purpose, and mood seemed at times tentative and unclear during the performance.

The Columbia University Dance Team made an appearance for about one minute, offering a sneak peak at their upcoming season with the basketball team. Despite the brevity of the performance, the squad still managed to show off its high level of technique. The group’s moves were synchronized and sharp, though the generic style—jazz and hip-hop with a hint of cheerleading—did not allow for much personal freedom.

The contrary was true of Taal, Columbia’s South Asian fusion dance troupe, which specializes in different styles of Indian classical dance. This was one of the only groups that showcased a slow, lyrical section without a heavy beat. The opening was almost balletic, with the two dancers coordinating port de bras in a fluid, continuous fashion. Taal’s performance seemed to increase in intensity as it proceeded—the music became more percussive and the movements became more rhythmic as the dance went on.

Orisha, a Pan-African dance troupe, followed Taal. This group was defined by its free-spirited, natural sentiment. The dancers were uninhibited in their movements, and their brightly colored costumes complimented a lighthearted mood. The engaging music, as well as the dancers’ free-flowing hair and enthusiastic expressions, all contributed to the suc-



Lauren Weiss / Senior staff photographer

HAPPY FEET | Dance groups such as the Columbia University Dance Team and Orisha performed for first-years at the NSOP Performance Showcase.

cess of this group’s performance.

Other dance troupes on the roster included Orchesis, CU Swing, CU Ballroom, Raw Elementz, CU Bellydance and Columbia Dhoom. With its broad selection of dance groups, the showcase

certainly did a service to dance on campus. Not only did it advertise the vast spectrum of Barnard and Columbia dance troupes, but, through the use of quick transitions, it also succeeded in keeping the audience on its feet.

BOOKS

In Eric Barnes’s novel ‘Shimmer,’ science fiction meets ponzi scheme

BY CHRIS MORRIS-LENT
Spectator Staff Writer

Given science fiction’s recent resurgence in the publishing industry, it’s no surprise that “Shimmer,” the new novel written by Eric Barnes, SoA ’95, is out in hardback. What is surprising is the novel’s fluency, conventionality, and clean style.

“Shimmer” comes with all the impediments of contemporary fiction: it is smartly bound in blue and saddled with the subtitle “a tale of corporate greed, intrigue, and deceit.” This obnoxious cover is completely at odds with Barnes’s low-key, easygoing demeanor. He laughed when he was told how quickly the book could be finished. “People always tell me how fast it moves,” he said in an interview. “It takes them four hours to read, but I wrote it for two and a half years over a 10-year period.”

The novel’s painstaking but swift journey begins in our protagonist’s head. “I’d started having dreams where I could fly,” the opening reads. This is Robbie Case, the well-named CEO of Core Communications. Note the pluperfect tense—all of “Shimmer” is narrated retrospectively, another hoary sci-fi conceit that Barnes uses to digress and analyze. “I couldn’t write it in third-person,” he said. “I liked the first-person.”

It is certainly easier to write from this retrospective vantage point, but the danger is that the author becomes the sole personality in the

book. However, “Shimmer” does not suffer from this potential pitfall. The author’s voice is not the narrator’s, and the narrator periodically effaces himself to make way for his co-workers—“Shimmer” even has multiple characters. In a welcome change from typical sci-fi, these characters are the novel’s primary concern, and, unlike in hysterical realism, florid welters of adjectives are not needed to bring them to life.

Like other novels of its kind, “Shimmer” is pervaded by a sense of solitude, but this, too, is more effective for being understated: “I have had a lot of friends in my life, but at this point, Perry was my only close friend,” Robbie narrates.

Barnes must have been very concerned that his narrator’s solitude not devolve into solipsism, for the end of each chapter features a little third-person narration in order to, as Barnes said, “get out of Robbie’s head.” Regrettably, the third-person voice alternates with interior monologues like, “I hate this city. I hate it, every day.” The characters seem flatter as more details pile up.

Techniques like this are a little heavy-handed, even MFA-like. This is no surprise, as Barnes has an MFA from Columbia. He is well-read and will talk volubly about everything from “Ulysses” to “Breakfast of Champions,” and he cites DeLillo as a formative influence, stating, “I realized, reading him, that everything didn’t have to be like Hemingway.”

Most of “Shimmer” is drawn from personal

experience, though subtly transformed and artfully enlarged by the imagination. “I had a day job as a managing editor, and then the Internet came along and things just went crazy,” he said. “I was an arts major in charge of all the financial stuff, and when I told people I had an MFA they always heard MBA. People heard what they wanted to hear.”

People heard what they wanted to hear—a sci-fi epitaph for the ages. Fiction that deals with technology should be predictive, not reactive—otherwise the future will feel dated—and the plot of “Shimmer” deals with a Ponzi scheme vaguely akin to Bernie Madoff’s. Barnes described it as “creepily topical,” but this is to his credit—it’s his novel’s crowning virtue. The descriptions of computers, networks, and information are kept clean. They don’t bog down the plot, and they manage the difficult trick of being comprehensible to the layman and sufficient for the otaku. It is more like Murakami than Gibson.

“Shimmer” is not perfect. The sex scenes lose force with repetition and read like a pallid parody of “American Psycho,” which must have been another influence.

The prose also occasionally veers into convolution. Barnes tries to fuse the two possible endings of apocalypse or stasis into one—he clearly wishes to have it both ways—and this feels a little artificial. But at least readers will be motivated to keep turning pages until the end.



Courtesy of Unbridled Books

CORPORATE FICTION | SoA alumnus Eric Barnes’s new novel masterfully utilizes first-person narration, while making technology easy to understand.

FREE EVENT

SPEED DATING
WITH THE LOW COUNTRIES

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September 10 - Columbia University, September 11 - TimesCenter



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September 11, 7:30 pm
Flanders House @ The Times Center
242 West 41st Street

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CU offers new public health course

HEALTH from front page

Levine, CC '12, is particularly excited about the new class.

“The course description and reading list, alongside the fact that David Rosner is one of the sociomedical scientists with the most real influence outside the University, was what made me so excited about the class,” Levine said. “I think anyone who has a passion for public health and

who finds the United States’ history with health policy fascinating—albeit freighted—should definitely take the class.”

Discussion about this initiative for undergraduates first started last May when Mailman hired a new dean. According to Lapp, Dean Fried had a vision that “public health be an essential part of a great university” and that “our school should provide undergraduate opportunities.”

Mailman also met with several members of the student group Universities Allied for Essential Medicines to gauge the level of interest in this course.

“Everyone should have an understanding of public health,” Fried said. “Public health has changed dramatically for the past 100 years, and we need to educate our students to make sure it keeps changing and improving for the next 100.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

More local businesses accept flex

BY SAM LEVIN
Spectator Staff Writer

Flex, the handy dollar-for-dollar student account program accessed through Columbia University IDs, arrives to the new semester in full, well, flex.

An increased number of local restaurants and shops have signed on to accept Flex points, likely as a means to survive the area’s economic downturn by catering to hungry college students. The most recent vendors to take Flex are the Village Pourhouse on Amsterdam between 108th and 109th streets and the Rite Aid on Broadway and 104th Street.

Students can also use Flex to dine at Nussbaum & Wu, Chipotle, Panino Sportivo, Mill

Korean Restaurant, Sip coffeebar and lounge, Cafe Nana in the Kraft Center, and Community Food & Juice (though it has yet to reopen after a massive fire last semester).

Campo, the Italian bar and restaurant that frequently hosts parties for student groups, also began to accept Flex in the spring. And The Heights, a popular drinks and tapas bar, continues to accept Flex. But be warned—students cannot use points to buy alcohol.

Students can also pay with Flex points at grocery stores—Westside Market, Milano Market, and the newly opened Whole Foods Market at the corner of 97th Street and Columbus Avenue all accept the points. Fairway Market on 12th Avenue between 132nd

and 133th streets offers the added bonus of a five percent discount on the entire purchase if students pay with Flex. Plus, the Columbia Evening Shuttle—which leaves every half hour—can transport students to and from the giant supermarket at night.

On the retail front, Flex is accepted at University Hardware and Housewares, Ivy League Stationers, the CVS on the corner of Amsterdam and 96th Street, and the Columbia University Bookstore.

The Flex program is still evolving, so there may be new vendors to join over the course of the year. For now, it has extended its reach to a significant number of eateries and shops—which, if nothing else, provides students with welcome relief from John Jay.

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New helmets spark safety vs. mobility debate

SHAPIRO from back page

hit by a pitch since freshman year so I don't really worry about it." But he also imagines that "if I got hit like Wright, my perspective would change and I'd be wearing that helmet." Banos is certainly right about one thing: his luck. Although he sat out as a junior last season with an injury, the outfielder was one of only two Lions who was not hit by a pitch in the 2008 campaign. In 2007, he was plunked just two times. But in the Ivy League, where pitchers often struggle with their control, the issue of batters' safety is even more important. Banos's teammates—and especially his opponents—haven't been quite so lucky. Last season, Columbia batters were beamed 44 times, while opponents were hit 59 times by the Lions' pitching staff. In short, there were nearly 2.4 hit batters per game last season, and let's not forget that Columbia played several seven-inning games. In a game in which a player's offensive numbers directly translate into his salary, there will always be a preference for discarding equipment that potentially hinders performance. Even Wright, who is lucky enough to be back on the diamond, told MLB.com that the helmet is "the last thing I need to be worrying about" when he is trying to do his job. But in the Ivy League especially—in which many athletes look forward to other careers after graduation—players should carefully examine their own safety, even if they have no pretext for doing so. Often times, the most serious injuries can occur when a player doesn't see them coming—rest assured, David Wright didn't see it either.

Jacob Shapiro is a List College senior and is majoring in history and Talmud. sports@columbiaspectator.com.

Field hockey opens with a shutout defeat

FIELD HOCKEY from back page

Wood scored on a corner, forcing a shot over Columbia goalkeeper Erin Conway. The Spiders would score once more before the half on a goal by Adrian Pickar, assisted by Blythe-Wood. The second half was just as unsuccessful for Columbia, as Richmond scored twice more. Blythe-Wood made her second goal of the game on an unassisted shot at 49:02. Megan Thompson scored the Spiders' final goal with an assist from Margaret Ellis.

However, O'Hara's performance between the goal posts was one bright spot in the second half. Although she let in two shots, the freshman made seven saves in her first game as a Lion. Freshmen DeSandis and Kozlowski also contributed with a shot each. Despite another solo shot by sophomore Carson Christus and two shots by Garrison, the Light Blue were outshot 13-5. The Lions will take on Bucknell next on Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Columbia Field Hockey Venue at Baker Field.

Volleyball wins first game of season before losing two

BY SARA SALZBANK
Spectator Staff Writer

In its return to the court, the women's volleyball team notched its first win of the year against University of North Carolina at Wilmington on Saturday. However, the Lions fell twice, once to Niagara University and once to UNCW, before returning home for their 2009 season debut. In 2008, the Lions doubled their 2007 win record by tallying six victories. However, the Light Blue was defeated in every Ivy League matchup. Considering the team's conference trouble last year, Columbia's nationally-ranked recruiting class brings new hope to the Lions. Recognized by Prepvolleyball.com as one of the top 50 recruiting classes in the nation, freshmen Heather Braunagel, Tiffany Firebaugh, Megan Gaughn, Erin Longinotti, and Kelsey Musselman joined the Light Blue this year. Along with Yale and Penn, Columbia is one of only three Ivy League universities to have its recruiting class recognized nationally. "They bring a lot of experience ... they all played in strong volleyball clubs," Head Coach Jon Wilson said. Middle blocker Braunagel earned eight varsity letters in high school—three in volleyball, four in gymnastics, and one in track and field—making her a valuable asset to this season's roster. Wilson has also added three new outside hitters—Firebaugh, Gaughn, and Longinotti—to the Light Blue. Last spring, Columbia star outside hitter Amalia Viti graduated after breaking the school's all-time kill record with 1,256. This year's group of new players has the potential to fill her shoes. Firebaugh was 2008 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 3A Offensive Player of the Year, two-time first-team all-state, and three-time TAPPS 3A All-District MVP. Gaughn was a 2008 Wendy's High School Heisman Award winner, was named 2008 PrepVolleyball.com All-American, and holds Lake Highland Preparatory School's record for kills in a single season. She also earned first team all-state and all-Central Florida honors two years in a row and led her team to three state championships. Longinotti was two-time all-county honoree in her junior and a senior years and earned first-team all-league honors in 2008. She was also team captain and MVP in 2008. Setter Musselman has also joined the roster. As captain, Musselman led her school's volleyball team to the 2008 TAPPS 4A State Championship. She was



File photo

BUMP, SET, SPIKE | Sophomore Allyson Werner had a kill in Columbia's 3-1 loss to Niagara on Saturday. Werner also saw action in both games against the Seahawks in last weekend's UNC Wilmington Invitational.

named first team all-district and all-state as a senior, was a member of the TAPPS 4A State All-Tournament team and was named TAPPS II-4A District MVP. In its first faceoffs of the season, the new Columbia team faced UNC Wilmington and Niagara at the UNCW Courtyard by Marriott/Hilton Garden Inn Classic in three games over the course of two days. The Light Blue notched its first win on Saturday with a 3-0 victory over the Seahawks. Columbia went up early in game one, but a late game rally by UNCW put its victory in jeopardy when the score was tied at 20-20. A kill by junior Sarah Thompson sealed the win for the Light Blue, 25-23. Games two and three went smoother for the Lions who, with final kills by Cindy Chen, defeated the Seahawks 25-16 and 25-19. However, the Lions' winning streak ended there as Columbia went on to lose its first game and, eventually, the match against Niagara. The Lions stayed close to the Purple Eagles in game one, tying the score four times before Niagara pulled ahead and snatched the win, 25-18. Allyson Werner and Longinotti helped put the Lions up 7-1 in game two, but the Purple Eagles threatened to win tying the game at 12 and 17, taking the lead 19-17 with two service aces. A kill by Gaughn put the Lions back in the lead 21-20,

and Thompson had the final kill to take the close game at 25-22. However, the Light Blue fell 25-19 in games three and four, resulting in the first loss of the season. Gaughn and Longinotti made impressive marks in their Columbia debuts, totaling 31 kills, 30 digs, and three blocks as well as 14 kills and nine digs, respectively, in their first two matches. On Sunday, UNCW got its revenge on Columbia, defeating the Lions 3-1. Attack errors cost the Light Blue game one of the match, which ended 25-16. Gaughn put the Lions up early in the game with a kill and service ace, but the score remained close throughout. After four offensive errors by the Lions, UNCW powered ahead and took the game 25-17. Gaughn once again put the Lions up 2-0 in game three. After four lead changes and seven tied scores, Columbia defeated UNCW 25-20. Game four ended the fight for the match when the Seahawks easily shut down the Lions 25-15. Gaughn led the team in the match with 16 kills, 12 digs, two service aces, and two blocks. "We need to strengthen our blocking and serving ... we have to continue to work on that and make steady progress," Wilson said. The Lions next take to the court on Sept. 11 to host the 2009 Columbia Invitational.

Light Blue emerges winless from Invitational

WOMEN'S SOCCER from back page

Columbia also boasts three all-Ivy second team players—senior defender Meggie Ford, senior midfielder Ashley Mistele, and sophomore forward Ashlin Yahr—and an all-Ivy honorable mention in junior defender Lauren Cooke. Reiser, Ford, and Mistele are the team's captains this year, even though Yahr was third in the league with 10 goals as a freshman. In addition to the Lions' all-Ivy honorees, Columbia's offense should

be boosted by junior forward Chrissy Butler, sophomore midfielder Nora Dooley, and sophomore midfielder Liz Wicks. Columbia also added six freshmen to its roster this season. "There's a lot of competition for spots," McCarthy said. "It should make our jobs difficult as a coaching staff to choose the starting lineup each time we play." Columbia opens its home schedule against Manhattan College on Friday. Game time is set for 7 p.m. at Columbia Soccer Stadium.

CU optimistic despite disappointing start

MEN'S SOCCER from back page

Although the six-foot-two-inch Aurricchio currently dominates the goalkeeping competition and started both games this weekend, both sophomore Zach Glubiak and junior Alex Contratto are poised to step in at any moment. Anderson seems to encourage friendly competition amongst the three goalkeepers. "I'm not necessarily sure I want any of them to feel as though it's one against the other," Anderson said. "I want them to compete and to do well. I want them to do better than guy who was before them." Hopefully, this competitive spirit will bring the Lions back to the top of their game in all aspects of play. Before the season began, junior Peppe Caruntenuto and sophomore Mike Mazzulo were

named captains of the 2009-2010 squad. "They [Caruntenuto and Mazzulo] are two guys that for me from the spring through the summer and now into the season, have lead by example," Anderson said. "I felt like they were two good representatives for all of us—not only on the field, but in the classroom and in our community." The men's team returns to action on Saturday, Sept. 12 in a match against Long Island University in Brooklyn. While the Lions began winless, they are looking to pick up the pace in the upcoming games. "I think that you and the rest of our school community will see a team that they're going to be proud of," Anderson said. "We have a good group of players, and I'm looking forward to continue to work with them as we grow and develop into the season."

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The Columbia men's tennis team will return to action this weekend after winning the Ivy title in the spring.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 • PAGE 12



The Columbia women's tennis team has added the seventh-ranked class in the nation in hopes of a solid season.

TOMORROW

Men's soccer drops first two games of 2009 season

BY SABINE SCHULZ
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia men's soccer team competed in the Nike/Duke Classic Tournament in Durham, N.C. this weekend. Columbia faced Duke on Friday and North Carolina State on Sunday, losing both matchups.

The tournament began with a matchup against the Blue Devils that saw junior Bayode Adafin, one of the Lions' most threatening offensive players, score in the 16th minute off of a rebound. However, Duke evened the score off of a corner kick and a solid shot by senior Matthew Thomas. Sophomore goalkeeper Alexander Aurricchio kept the box on lockdown for the rest of the half, but



the Blue Devils took the lead in the second period from a goal by freshman Ryan Finley with about 33 minutes left in the game. Aurricchio had six saves in the 1-2 loss.

In Sunday's game against N.C. State, Aurricchio gave another impressive performance by making four saves. However, Wolfpack midfielder Chris Zuerner managed to get the ball by him, ending the stalemate with the only goal of the match and sending NC State to a 1-0 victory. Despite numerous shots by Adafin as well as freshman Will Stamatis, the Wolfpack defense remained strong against the pressure from the Light Blue offense.

While both goalkeeper Aurricchio and senior Ryan Scully were named to the all-tournament team, losing both matches left the Lions disappointed but not pessimistic about the season.

"We came down here with the expectations of coming out of this tournament with at least one win under our belt," said new Head Coach, Kevin Anderson. "We're walking away with not accomplishing what we came down here to do."

"The entire team is doing well," Anderson added. "They have a great attitude. So right now, we're all moving in the forward direction and we're all a bit disappointed after the weekend."

The Lions' main problem this past weekend was their inability to net shots. Over the weekend, shots went wide and missed their intended marks. When every shot is an opportunity to even the score or put the team ahead, finding the back of the net is the most important part of the game.

SEE MEN'S SOCCER, page 10



File Photo

IN THE THICK OF IT | Junior forward Bayode Adafin scored Columbia's only goal of the weekend against Duke.

Is safety worth looking like 'Lord Helmet'?



JACOB SHAPIRO
PUT IT ON THE BOARD

Those of you who are still watching the New York Mets play baseball might have noticed that third baseman David Wright was sporting quite an unusual helmet last week. After being drilled in the head with a 94 mile per hour fastball

in mid August, Wright elected to wear a new batting helmet that is reminiscent of Rick Moranis's character, Lord Helmet, from "Spaceballs."

Wright, or "The Great Gazoo," as I like to call him, chose the new Rawlings S100 helmet that provides extra padding and can withstand pitches of up to 100 miles per hour. But while this helmet certainly seems to be much safer, its bulkiness is uncomfortable to some players, which revitalizes an age-old discussion on the balance between safety and performance.

Interestingly, the S100 will be required in the minor leagues next season, and major league players will have the option of wearing them. While Wright initially adopted the new helmet, last weekend he elected to return to his old batting helmet for several reasons. Citing its size, Wright called the new helmet "uncomfortable" and joins other MLB players who aren't so enthusiastic about it. Outfielder Jeff Francoeur, a teammate of Wright's, told ESPN that getting hit in the head, "is going to hurt no matter what you're wearing" and that, "it doesn't seem like anything can fully protect you." Some players are worried that the size of the helmet may compromise their speed. Also, according to Yahoo! Sports, Cubs pitcher Ryan Dempster quipped that the new helmet "felt like my own bobblehead day."

In recent years, safety in the game of baseball underwent some significant changes. Following the death of Colorado Rockies coach Mike Coolbaugh (who was hit with a line drive while coaching first base) in 2007, all MLB base coaches were obligated to wear helmets the following year. But other safety concerns, such as the frequency of dangerous broken bats, have yet to provoke serious changes. In college baseball, all base coaches are also required to sport headgear, and players' helmets are closely regulated by the NCAA. But even with the current safety measures in place, the ultimate decisions regarding a player's safety come down to the individual athlete, and that presents some interesting questions.

Columbia outfielder Jason Banos maintains that players are much more likely to take safety seriously and wear more protective padding after they themselves have been hit.

"There isn't really any protective gear that people would put on unless they've been hit prior to it," he said. "People usually try to use the minimal amount of protection."

It's obvious that a player's mobility is compromised every time he adds additional padding, but some argue that preventing serious injury should be the top priority. Banos clearly understands the importance of the new helmet, stating that Major League Baseball is "trying to protect the players and at the level where pitchers are throwing 95 [miles per hour], this is a good direction for MLB to be going in."

But when I asked Banos if he personally would wear the helmet, he told me that "seeing how it probably gets in the way a little bit, I would be kind of 50-50 on it." In a perfect display of this dilemma, Banos admitted that he hasn't "been

SEE SHAPIRO, page 10

CU loses to Washington, No.3 Portland



File photo

CAREER FIRST | Senior defender Christina Eckhardt scored her first goal of her college career, and the Lions' first and only goal of the weekend, against Portland on Sunday.

Women's soccer was defeated in both games of opening weekend

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia women's soccer team traveled to Seattle over the weekend to participate in the Husky/Nike Invitational. The Lions (0-2-0) lost both games in which they competed and scored only one goal, but their talented and experienced roster should allow them to once again contend for the Ivy League championship.

Columbia opened its season against the University of Washington (3-1-0). Sophomore Lillian Klein played all 90 minutes in goal, replacing the graduated Rebecca Taylor, who garnered all-Ivy second team honors after the Lions' 2008 campaign. Klein made seven saves but allowed three goals as the Lions began their season with a shutout defeat for the third straight year.

The Huskies first struck in the 12th minute of play when sophomore midfielder Kate Deines found the back of the net after receiving a pass from senior forward Veronica Perez. Sophomore midfielder Kelli Stewart came off the bench to score Washington's final two goals, both of which came in the second half.

Columbia faced the University of Portland (5-0-0) on Sunday. The Pilots, ranked third in the nation, entered the game having shut out all four of their previous opponents. However, their defense could not completely stifle the Lions.

Senior defender Christina Eckhardt came off the bench to play just 13 minutes for Columbia, but she made the most of her time on the pitch. Eckhardt scored the Lions' first goal of the season and the only goal of the game—her first collegiate tally—in the 83rd minute. That shot cut Columbia's deficit to 3-1, but Portland found the back of the net two more times before play ended.

Head Coach Kevin McCarthy knows that the Lions' defense must improve in order for the team to have a successful season. He is less concerned, however, about Columbia's offensive ability.

"When we scored a goal, hit the post three times, had a goal called back, and had double figures in shots and more corner kicks than them, I don't think we have to worry about our offense," McCarthy said of the Portland game. "When we play our game, we're going to be coming at people and getting goals, there's no doubt about it."

Although the Lions returned to New York without a win, they should make another run for the Ivy title this year. Last season, Columbia finished third in the conference standings with a 4-2-1 Ivy record. Senior Sophie Reiser is the reigning Ivy Player of the Year, who in 2008 was tied for first in the conference with 12 goals and was second in the league with 11 assists.

"Sophie's always going to be a very central figure, whether it's leading the line as the center forward or helping at center midfield," McCarthy said. "She's always going to be somewhere running a lot of things for us."

SEE WOMEN'S SOCCER, page 10

Light Blue falls in first game with Woolley at the helm

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

The 2009 season has brought many changes for the Columbia University field hockey team. The most notable difference is the absence of long-time Head Coach Katie Beach, who retired at the end of the last season. Beach has been replaced by former Assistant Coach Jana Woolley.

In addition to a new head coach, there have been two other changes to the coaching staff. Kayla Bashore and Danny Haydon will serve as second assistant coach and volunteer assistant coach, respectively.

Bashore is a graduate of Indiana University, where she earned National Field Hockey Coaches Association all-region recognition for all four years. She was also named Big Ten's Player of the Year in her senior year.

After graduating in 2005, Bashore remained at her alma mater to coach for a year before joining the United States field hockey national team in 2006.

Haydon will also bring playing experience to the coaching staff, having played for England's national team for several years. He was the youngest player to ever be named captain of England's U21 team and helped his squad earn a Youth Olympics gold medal.

Another major change for the Lions is the loss of five seniors to graduation—Mary Catherine Bullock,

Megan Davidson, Jackie Klatsky, Gena Miller, and Jacqui Munro.

Former midfielder Davidson was named to first team all-Ivy for the last two years of her Columbia career and was named to the all-Mideast team as a senior. She was also chosen for National Field Hockey Coaches Association Senior All-Star game after finishing the season with one goal and four assists. Miller, former goalkeeper, was also a valuable asset to last year's squad, earning a 1.54 goals against average and a .764 saves percentage while garnering four shutouts on the season.

However, to make up for the five players lost, the Light Blue has added eight players to the team—Molly Andrews, Sammy Billy, Maggie Brommer, Katie DeSandis, Bridget DeSandis, Gabby Kozlowski, Christie O'Hara, and Paige Simmons.

Forward Kozlowski and midfield/forward DeSandis were both invited to attend the U.S. Junior National Camp, which was held at Babson College this past July. Goalkeeper O'Hara was named an alternate.

The new squad took on its first opponent this weekend when it hosted Richmond on Saturday. However, Woolley would have to wait for her first win as head coach as the Lions dropped the season opener to the Spiders by a score of 4-0.

Columbia junior Julia Garrison took the first shot of the game, but a Richmond defender was able to deflect it. Shortly after that, Richmond's Sarah Blythe-

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File photo

CHARGING THE GOAL | Junior midfielder Julia Garrison tallied two shots, including one shot on goal in Columbia's season-opening shutout defeat to Richmond last Saturday.