

# DEMO 16

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

## Two's Company

How alumni are forging  
successful businesses



create...  
change

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# 2012 Alumni Weekend

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COLLEGE CHICAGO

Friday,  
September 28—  
Saturday,  
September 29

#### WEEKEND EVENTS INCLUDE:

##### Alumni Short Film Festival

Grab some popcorn and watch some shorts created by your fellow alumni.

##### Alumni & Student Luncheon

Learn how much Columbia has grown, and share memories of the Columbia you experienced with current students.

##### 2nd Annual Alumni 5K

Run from Columbia's campus to the museum campus and back. Get your very own Columbia 5K t-shirt, and take a group photo in front of Buckingham Fountain.

##### Creative & Career Workshops

Check out interactive workshops that will spark your creativity and expand your professional development.

##### Alumni Bash

What's networking without fellow alumni, food, and drinks? Mingle with old and new friends and celebrate Alumni Weekend the right way.

*Program subject to change.*

For the schedule, visit [colum.edu/alumniweekend](http://colum.edu/alumniweekend)



Photos: Vladimir Zaytsev ('12) and Louis Byrd (BA '90)

MAY 4, 2012

# MANIFEST

# URBAN ARTS FESTIVAL

JOIN US!

ALUMNI AT MANIFEST!



Visit the Alumni Lounge and watch performances by Columbia College alumni. Then join alumni and graduating seniors at the Graduation Party at the Hilton.

For the schedule, visit [colum.edu/manifest](http://colum.edu/manifest)

Manifest Art Director: Rocio Lopez ('14) / Photo: Jane Kim ('12)

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SPRING/SUMMER 2012

## DEMO16

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**Correction:** In *DEMO 15*, Carol Rozansky was listed as chair of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She should have been listed as chair of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Education Department. Her photo should have been credited to Danielle Aquilino (MFA '06). We regret the errors.



### COVER

**Maggie DiBardino** (BA '08) and **Jack Edinger** (BFA '06) run Lipstick Dinosaur, part online vintage emporium and part thriving styling firm. Story, page 8. Photo: Nolan Wells

# ALUMNI EVENTS

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations for details  
312.369.6987 / [mpassarelli@colum.edu](mailto:mpassarelli@colum.edu)

## MAY 4

### Manifest, Chicago

Manifest is Columbia's urban arts festival. All alumni and friends are welcome to attend this free event. Visit the Alumni Lounge to see alumni performances and senior work, and then have a blast at the Alumni & Senior Graduation Party!

## MAY 12

### Columbia Bowling Bash

A CAAN-y competition! CAAN is holding a nationwide bowling event for chapters around the country, including Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis (this is a chapter launch for the Twin Cities), NYC, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, and St. Louis.

## JUNE 16

### Chicago White Sox vs. Los Angeles Dodgers

Get your tickets for this rare event! The Chicago White Sox do not typically visit the LA Dodgers, so take advantage of this opportunity to cheer on your Chicago team in LA!

## JUNE 22, 23, OR 24 (DATE IS TBD)

### Chicago Cubs vs. Arizona Diamondbacks, Phoenix

## JULY 3

### Alumni Day, Atlanta

Join your fellow Cubs fans as the Chicago Cubs play the Atlanta Braves. Michael Anderson, associate VP for Institutional Advancement, will be in attendance.

## AUGUST 3, 4, OR 5 (DATE IS TBD)

### Chicago Cubs vs. Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles


Join your fellow Cubs fans as the team takes on the Los Angeles Dodgers. This is an all-you-can-eat event with hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts, nachos, and soda, so come hungry!

## SEPTEMBER 28-29

### 2012 Alumni Weekend, Chicago

Come back to campus for the 2012 Alumni Weekend. Don't miss this weekend full of reconnection, networking, and, most of all, fun!

[colum.edu/alumni/events](http://colum.edu/alumni/events)



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# DEMO16

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# VISION

## A QUESTION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER

**DEMO:** This year, the college has undertaken a major effort to prioritize programs and services campuswide. Tell us about the Blueprint | Prioritization process.



Photo: William Frederking

**DR. CARTER:** With a focus on the best interests of our students and to ensure our institution remains among the best in our field, we are in the middle of a year-long process—called Blueprint | Prioritization—to review our academic curriculum and nonacademic programs. Reviews are a fundamental requirement to ensure the health and vitality for our community, just as they are at any academic institution. To be clear, no decisions have been made at this time.

We were prompted to launch this review nearly a year ago because it became clear to us that the disciplines in which we provide instruction have changed. We know that the Columbia of today cannot remain the same as it was for students even five or 10 years ago. And so we are embracing this process as a great opportunity to create a new model in higher education and ensure Columbia's curriculum and programs remain on the cutting edge of arts and media education. We must ensure that our programs keep pace with contemporary arts and media industries so our students receive the best training possible.

When we began Blueprint | Prioritization, we wanted to respect Columbia's legacy of encouraging vibrant, open, and honest discussion and, thus, chose an atypical, transparent, and inclusive method that incorporates analysis, proposals, and considerations from our entire community—not just a select group of administrators chosen to guide the process. In fact, our faculty and staff established the review criteria by which we are looking at our academic and nonacademic programs. We believe that the transparency we

are offering throughout this review—by making each tier of recommendations available for community review and hosting listening sessions for feedback—is exceedingly rare.

So where are we now? Since January, faculty and staff across our institution reported crucial data on their programs, and we saw recommendations made by our deans, associate vice presidents, vice presidents, the interim provost, and our staff and faculty prioritization committees. We have also held listening forums, giving all faculty and staff the opportunity to provide input at several points in the process. Students are also able to provide comments and feedback via the Student Government Association (SGA).

I am deeply appreciative to these individuals, their dedicated effort, and the hundreds of hours it took to bring us to this point.

I am very much looking forward to reviewing and carefully considering all recommendations made and feedback provided by our community, including students, in the weeks leading up to and after you will read this issue of *DEMO*. My review will include reflection on and careful consideration of all recommendations and feedback, ultimately culminating with my final decisions made to the Board of Trustees in June.

We deeply appreciate the outpouring of support, excitement, and passionate recommendations discussed throughout this period. We are listening carefully to ongoing dialogue, and we hope you are just as excited as we are to ensure our students continue to be best positioned to author the culture of their times.



Photo: Jacob Boll ('12)

The Efroymson Art + Design Resource Center at 623 S. Wabash Ave. houses objects and products for research and study.

## EFROYMSON ART + DESIGN RESOURCE CENTER OPENS

In October, Columbia College Chicago opened the new Efroymson Art + Design (A+D) Resource Center on the 4th floor of 623 S. Wabash Ave. Made possible by a \$250,000 gift from the Efroymson Family Fund, a donor-advised fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation in Indianapolis, the Resource Center is designed to provide Columbia students and faculty with an inspirational environment in which to work and collaborate.

The center houses a wide variety of art and design objects and products for research and study, such as museum publications, design strategy games, exhibition-related resources, artist and design books, and one-of-a-kind designed objects. It also houses an extensive collection of recorded visiting artist lectures from the A+D lecture series and other departments and events around the college. The center is physically connected to the A+D Media Center, where students and faculty can check out various art materials and technologies for classes and projects.

## DANCE CENTER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS 2012 JOYCE AWARD

The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago received a 2012 Joyce Award to commission choreographer Reggie Wilson to create the evening-length dance-theatre work (*project*) *Moseses Project*. The \$50,000 grant from the Joyce Foundation also will support Wilson's research residency in Chicago and a two-week community engagement residency for Wilson and three dancers to involve Chicagoans in the creative process.

The Dance Center is being honored with this prestigious award for the second time, one of only three organizations—and the only dance organization—to receive two Joyce Awards in its 10-year history. The Dance Center received a 2004 Joyce Award to support commissioning fees, presentation costs, and associated community engagement and audience development efforts for Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan's *Wild Cursive*, created by Artistic Director Lin Hwai-min. The piece received its American premiere in October 2006, presented by The Dance Center at the Harris Theater in Chicago.

(*project*) *Moseses Project* is the working title of a new performance piece by Wilson exploring the interfaith mythical, biblical, ethnographic, historic, and global references of Moses. Initial inspiration for the work came from Wilson's rereading of Zora Neale Hurston's novel *Moses, Man of the Mountain*, which retells the Moses story as a Southern folk tale in Southern African-American vernacular.

## STUDENT AWARDS

Here's a sampling of awards recently garnered by Columbia students.



Fashion studies senior **CAREN OLIVER** won BET's *Lens on Talent* Fashion Competition in November, walking away with the grand prize of \$10,000 for her designs. *Lens on Talent* is BET's talent search for the "superstars of tomorrow," focusing on music, fashion, and dance. During the competition, BET producers visited Columbia to shoot video of Oliver in her "natural habitat," the fashion labs in 623 S. Wabash Ave. The student made it through the top 25, the top 10, and then to her place as the only student competitor in the top three of the fashion competition. The winner was determined by an online public vote.



Photo: Mary Milz

Broadcast journalism student Paris Lewbel shoots video of the action in Iowa.

## STUDENTS COVER IOWA CAUCUSES

Fifteen graduate and undergraduate Columbia students, in a J-term class titled “Covering the Iowa Caucus,” spent three days in Iowa in January interviewing analysts, voters, campaign staff, and candidates’ family members during the first presidential nominating contest of 2012. The journalism and photography majors were among an estimated 1,500 journalists to cover the event, the closest Iowa caucus in decades.

“This was a group of extremely motivated and committed students,” said Associate Journalism Department Chair Suzanne McBride, who accompanied the students. “They had deadlines to meet, and they even started phone interviews and research for the caucus over the winter break.”

The students published more than a dozen stories on ChicagoTalks, the award-winning local website started by McBride and fellow faculty member Barbara K. Iverson, during their three days in Des Moines. The stories covered voter reaction, caucus outcomes, and political issues, and included audio, video, and photos.



Photo: Steve Becker

President Warrick L. Carter, left, and Board of Trustees Chairman Allen Turner honor Linda Johnson Rice at the Open Doors Gala.

## OPEN DOORS GALA RAISES \$700,000 FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

At the 2011 Open Doors Gala on November 5, Columbia College Chicago raised nearly \$700,000 for its Open Doors Scholarship Fund, which allows Chicago Public Schools’ graduates to attend Columbia. The event, held at the college’s Media Production Center at 1600 S. State St., was a black-tie evening of dinner and performances by Columbia student artists. Some 250 guests were in attendance.

The college also honored **Linda Johnson Rice**, chairwoman of Chicago-based Johnson Publishing Company, with Columbia’s inaugural Chicago Legacy Award, created to recognize those who have made a significant impact in the Chicago community and have helped “open doors” for future generations. Johnson Publishing has a long-standing relationship with Columbia College, including hiring interns and graduates. Columbia recently purchased the Johnson Publishing headquarters building at 820 S. Michigan Ave. for the future site of the college library.



Art + Design major **ELIZABETH SALINAS** won first place in the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project’s “Quit to Win” design contest in fall 2011. Salinas’ winning entry, which addresses the dangers of secondhand smoke to children, was used on billboards and public transit platforms all over Chicago beginning in November. Salinas received a \$5,000 scholarship and an Apple iPad.



Senior Jacob Watts' photo illustration was chosen as this year's commencement image.

## ALUMNI OF THE YEAR, COMMENCEMENT HONOREES ANNOUNCED

At this year's commencement ceremonies, taking place May 5 and 6 at the historic Chicago Theatre, Columbia College Chicago will recognize the 2012 Alumni of the Year and six honorary degree recipients.

Columbia recognizes alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their fields and embody the mission of the institution as Alumni of the Year. This year, the college honors celebrity jeweler **Lana Bramlette** (BA '97), comic book artist **Art Baltazar** (BA '92), and Disney animator **Marlon West** (BA '85).

Honorary degree recipients are outstanding individuals in the arts, education, politics, and public information. This year, the college honors **Phil Ramone**, Grammy-winning music producer; **Lee Flaherty**, award-winning marketing expert; **Philip-Lorca diCorcia**, acclaimed photographer; **Steve James**, prize-winning film director (*Hoop Dreams*); **Warren Spector**, pioneering video game designer and producer; and **Mavis Staples**, legendary vocalist.

## STUDENTS, ALUMNI WIN EMMY AWARDS

Two student groups and several alumni won big at the Chicago/Midwest Emmy Awards in November.

The **Television Department** and **Frequency TV** won a Student Production Award in the "Long Format (Fiction and Non-Fiction)" category for *Freq Out*, a live sketch variety show with an interactive multimedia component. The program was produced with the **Audio Arts and Acoustics Department**.

The **Journalism Department** also took home a Student Production award in the "News: General Assignment" category for "Felony Franks," produced by journalism grad student **Wendy Wohlfeill**. The show was created for *Metro Minutes*, Columbia's weekly television news program produced, anchored, and reported by journalism students.

**Ann Marie Esp** (BA '95), along with her team at Chicago's WLS-TV, took home the Outstanding Achievement for Special Event Coverage (Edited) award for "Chicago's Mayor: The Daley Years."

**Dean Richards** ('76), along with his co-host and producers, won for Outstanding Achievement for Public Affairs/Current Affairs Programming - Program/Special for WGN's "Stories of Hope: Facing Breast Cancer."

**Samantha Sanders** (MFA '01) and **John Farbrother** (MFA '03), co-founders of Green River Films Inc., won for Outstanding Achievement for Arts and Entertainment Programming for "Chicago Symphony Orchestra 2011 Youth in Music Festival." **Brett Hartle** (BA '09) served as production assistant on the project.

**Jens Bogehegn** (BA '88) and the Zacuto Films team won for Outstanding Achievement for Interview/Discussion Programming - Program/Special/Series for "Filmfellas: Commitment to the Craft."



The Mi Parque app, a bilingual participatory placemaking web and smartphone application developed by students from Columbia's **INTERACTIVE ARTS & MEDIA DEPARTMENT**, Illinois Institute of Technology, and University of Illinois at Chicago, was crowned one of the Grand Challenge winners in the 2011 Apps for Metro Chicago contest sponsored by the Metro Chicago Information Center.



Marketing Communications senior **DERRICK MILTON** was selected as one of America's Most Promising Minority Students by American Advertising Federation for 2012. One of 50 outstanding students chosen nationwide, Milton flew to New York, NY, in February to participate in a recruiting event, where he and his fellow finalists connected with industry experts through professional development seminars, interviews, and student expos.



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Photo: Rachael Lombardy ('12)

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Photo: Jacob Boll ('12)



Maggie DiBardino and Jack Edinger show off their flair for fashion.



# TWO'S COMPANY



“Live what you love” is more than a mantra for these successful alumni. See how these dynamic partnerships forged at Columbia prove that passion, drive, and old-fashioned hard work can turn dreams into reality.

BY AUDREY MICHELLE MAST (BA '00)

# DIGGING IT

MAGGIE DIBARDINO (BA '08) AND JACK EDINGER (BFA '06)

## LIPSTICK DINOSAUR, CHICAGO

With a mission of “fashion archeology” and a hefty dose of sartorial experimentation, Lipstick Dinosaur is part online vintage emporium and part thriving styling firm, spearheaded by Maggie DiBardino (BA '08). Its 27-year-old founder has always had a passion for self-expression through fashion. “It’s almost as if clothing became my suit of armor,” she says. But being part of the artistic community at Columbia, and feeling free to cultivate a renegade spirit, gave her the drive to become an entrepreneur.

“I always wanted to go to art school,” DiBardino says. She chose Columbia because she felt it was “a place where you could basically do anything you wanted” artistically. As an arts, entertainment, and media management (AEMM)/music business management student, she worked her way through internships that gave her a sense of how creative businesses work. Throughout school, she developed a strong sense of personal style that she says “either people thought was weird, or they thought it was cool. But the more positive comments I got, the more comfortable I got getting weirder and weirder with it.”

In spring 2010, she started Lipstick Dinosaur with her best friend and business partner, Jacob Holland (BA '07), an AEMM/performing arts graduate she met outside the Plymouth Court dorms during her freshman year. “Our personalities were electric together from the moment we met,” Holland says. “Not only had we found someone that dressed as eccentrically as the other, but we had a brother-and-sister bond from the very beginning.”

A few years after graduation, while Holland worked as a high-end

events coordinator and DiBardino worked in music management, the two continued to pursue their fashion passion. “We were going to thrift stores nonstop, finding all of these amazing pieces that people would freak over at bars or on the streets, and eventually it was just so obvious that [vintage sourcing and styling] was supposed to be our path,” Holland says.

Jack Edinger (BFA '06), who studied photography at Columbia and today works as a freelance photographer, also met DiBardino in the dorms during college and got involved with the business shortly after its launch. “Maggie and Jacob had always had amazing style,” Edinger says. “There was this underlying attitude [of making] the world a little more fun and colorful and expressive.”

Edinger shot Lipstick Dinosaur’s first “look book,” a sort of portfolio for the brand. “I hadn’t really ever shot any fashion and didn’t really even know what a look book was, but it sounded like fun,” he says. “They were such amazing, colorful, laid-back people—it never felt like a job.”

Lipstick Dinosaur’s “look” defies easy description. Born from thrift-store scavenging and raw intuition, it’s a mash-up of influences from

multiple decades, particularly the '80s and '90s, presented with plenty of attitude—and humor. This type of “renegade styling” has been featured in photo shoots for local media as well as in *Nylon* magazine.

The entrepreneurs conduct swap meets and vintage sales, as well as run a bustling shop on Etsy, a social commerce site for DIY and vintage items. In October 2011, Lipstick Dinosaur held its first runway show as part of Fashion Focus Chicago to resounding success. “Maggie is a really motivated person when it comes to her business,” Edinger says. “It never seems like pressure for her. She works hard at it because it’s a direct reflection of who she is.”

Holland recently left Chicago—and Lipstick Dinosaur—to run catering and events for hospitality giant AVI Foodsystems, overseeing special events in seven states, but says of Lipstick Dinosaur: “It will always be our baby and something that we both have so much invested in.” Edinger, DiBardino’s new business partner who took over in 2011, loves the challenge. “There are tons of people who are making a living doing what they want,” he says. “Columbia introduced me to a whole section of society that wasn’t playing by the rules—in the best way.”

Amidst the changes, DiBardino has a clear focus as she moves forward. “I have learned to listen to other people, but in the end I will stick with what I feel,” she says. “The words of others are sometimes distracting, and you have to keep your core about you, and always believe in yourself.”



“Columbia introduced me to a whole section of society that wasn’t playing by the rules—in the best way.”

— Jack Edinger, above, with Maggie DiBardino



Photo: Phil Caruso

## T'N'T: THEY'RE DYNAMITE

Robert Teitel and George Tillman Jr. make reel history, thanks to Columbia

Story focused. Hard-working characters. Chicago background. These are often the hallmarks of films made by Robert Teitel (BA '90) and George Tillman Jr. (BA '91), such as *Soul Food* (1997) and *Barbershop* (2002). But those traits could also describe the filmmakers themselves.

Tillman, pictured above left, and Teitel met as Columbia students when they lived in the same dorm at Roosevelt University, and they took Film Tech II together. When Tillman organized a small group of student filmmakers to work on each other's projects, it quickly became evident to Teitel and Tillman that they worked harder than anyone else—and that they were in it for the long haul. Together they formed their own production company, Menagerie Films.

As Tillman worked on scripts inspired by his Milwaukee upbringing, complete with strong female characters and realistic dinnertime dialogue, Teitel, a Mount Prospect native, forged his own way as a film and marketing major. "I knew I wanted to be a producer," Teitel says, "but at the time there wasn't a producing class. So I tried to create my own program as best I could."

Both men credit professor Paul Hettel with inspiring them to start with a stellar script. "At the end of the day, you need a good story," Tillman says. "That's what Chicago is about and what Columbia College really taught us."

Tillman's short, *Paula*, earned a Student Academy Award and a Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Award. Still, he and Teitel had to learn the business. "We always tried to find work outside of school," Tillman says. "We looked for commercial work in the city and did some PSAs [public service announcements]."

The two planned to arrive in Hollywood with a calling card, so, in 1995, they used their Chicago-based feature film, *Scenes for the Soul*, as the door opener to Los Angeles agencies. In 2000, Teitel produced and Tillman directed Robert De Niro and Cuba Gooding Jr. in *Men of Honor*. Tillman was a producer on the Chicago set of *Barbershop* (which spawned two sequels and a series) and went back to directing with *Notorious* (2009), a biopic of rapper Notorious B.I.G.

These days in their Los Angeles-based State Street Pictures offices (another Chicago nod), Teitel and Tillman look to the blueprint of Ron Howard and Brian Grazer, the director-producer pair who've taken that relationship to blockbuster heights. Two more State Street film biographies on the horizon—on jazz icon Miles Davis and journeyman boxer Peter Buckley—show their passion for stories, big and small, a love perhaps only equaled by a Windy City homecoming. "Chicago is a character in our films," Teitel says. "We're always coming back."

—WILLIAM MEINERS (MFA '96)



“Our educational experiences at Columbia molded us into the creative adventurers we are today. We learned how to think, not what to think.”

— Stephanie Furst Slater, above right, with Eric Slater



## BREAD OF LIFE

STEPHANIE FURST SLATER (BFA '04) AND ERIC SLATER ('05)

PAN DE VIDA, SAN JUAN DEL SUR, NICARAGUA

In 2005, Stephanie Furst (BFA '04) and her future husband, Eric Slater ('05), who met at Columbia, embarked on a nine-month backpacking journey through Central America—an experience that would change their lives forever. After marrying in 2007, they lived in Chicago but dreamt of moving to Nicaragua, one of their favorite countries from the trip.

“Our educational experiences at Columbia molded us into the creative adventurers we are today. We learned *how* to think, not *what* to think,” Stephanie says. “Being surrounded by inspiring people simply contributed to our entrepreneurial spirits and gave us the courage to do something new.”

And they did. As “hungry backpackers” trekking through Central America, some of the comforts they missed most, says Stephanie, were “tasty baked goods.” Nicaragua’s fishing and tourist village San Juan del Sur—with a population of 18,500 and an idyllic, surfside location on the southern Pacific coast of the country—offered a suitable market for artisan bread and other treats. After establishing residency in Nicaragua, the Slaters opened their own bakery—the only brick-oven bakery in town—in 2008. Pan De Vida, which translates to “Bread of Life,” has become a

ringing success, growing into a highly-rated destination catering to townspeople, tourists, and local businesses.

Stephanie, who majored in photography, believes her education uniquely prepared her for this career. “I think there are similarities between photography and bread making. It’s about process,” she says. “Patience and intention really come into play with the final outcome, which would either be a stellar black-and-white image, or a beautiful, delicious loaf of bread.”

Eric, who studied in Columbia’s Visual Arts Management program, agrees. “Artisan bread in a brick oven ... made by my hands, baked in a fire made by me, crafted and placed directly on the floor of the oven—this is art,” he says.

With such success, the Slaters are not just living their dream, but

they are thriving in it. In addition to expanding their family (they welcomed their second child in January), they recently sold two franchises of Pan De Vida, including an outpost at an all-inclusive resort about two hours north of San Juan del Sur and a third location at a private wildlife reserve on the Costa Rican border.

When asked what advice they’d give to aspiring entrepreneurs, Stephanie says “to simply follow through. That’s been the biggest challenge to us, and something that would present itself to any entrepreneur in the world: the courage of conviction. We are met with so many obstacles every day [such as stifling heat and spotty Internet access] ... but we really believe in what we’re doing, and really value what we’re doing. Pan De Vida offers a unique product in the way that we make everything by hand, and everything is made with love.”





“If there was a school designed for me, it was Columbia. It helped me grow so much from the creative point inside of myself.”

— Tony Kemp, above right, and Bill Barrick





# TOWN & COUNTRY

**BILL BARRICK ('89) AND TONY KEMP (BA '86)**

**THE INN AT IRISH HOLLOW, GALENA, ILLINOIS**

“The unconventional teaching at Columbia allows an unconventional way of life,” says Tony Kemp, who opened Galena’s Inn at Irish Hollow 22 years ago with his partner, Bill Barrick. As a student at Columbia, Kemp immersed himself in classes ranging from writing workshops to meditation techniques for artists. “Everything was taught from a different place ... from creative thinking,” he says. Barrick and Kemp still work from that “place” today.

About three hours from the Loop, nestled in the rolling hills of northwestern Illinois, the couple’s inn is now a bed and breakfast resort on nearly 500 acres, replete with private cottages, graceful gardens, and hiking trails. A stay at Irish Hollow is “not just about lodging and food,” but, as Kemp describes, “an experience ... a ‘set’ we create,” says the former theatre major.

Barrick and Kemp met while they were theatre majors at Columbia and have been together ever since. Their early years at Irish Hollow were a labor of love. “It honestly took youth and ignorance,” Barrick says with a laugh. “Just going with an idea, and having the drive. That’s really what made it happen.”

“When we started, Bill and I were our entire staff,” Kemp says. “We lived in the basement. We cooked and cleaned ... and worked every moment. It just didn’t faze us because we were working in the direction of what we wanted.”

They’ve come a long way. Today, their success allows them to enjoy owning multiple properties, including a condo in Chicago (they remain avid theatre aficionados), and a house in Buenos Aires (a city they “fell in love with” after a trip to improve their Spanish), where they spend about two months a year.

Kemp credits his adventurous approach to blending work and life to his time at Columbia. “If there was a school designed for me, it was Columbia,” he says. “It helped me grow so much from the creative point inside of myself.

“I very easily could have been someone who didn’t go to college at all. But my mother brought me [to visit Columbia] and ... I was hooked,” he adds. “All of a sudden I realized: There is a school that speaks my language. That was my experience throughout. It suited me so well. You’re not just using your brain to study. Columbia has a way of involving every aspect of the body: your spirit, your mind, your soul.”

“Columbia’s always been about being fresh and innovative and ahead of its time, and then the rest of the world gets it later,” Barrick observes, noting that the private cottages on the property don’t have televisions or phones, but Wi-Fi throughout the resort is a must. “In our business we’re always anticipating how things may change and what the curves may be. We want to make sure we’re cutting the edge.”

Future plans for the Inn at Irish Hollow include expanding special events, particularly hosting weddings—both indoors in their barn and outdoors in an old quarry on the property—opening a community dinner theater, growing their interior design business, and launching farmsteads on their acreage for those who want to not just visit, but also live at Irish Hollow.

The couple stays centered amidst it all, in part because of what they learned at Columbia. “It’s probably the reason why I’m doing what I do today—growing and being able to live from that creative spot, no matter what it is I’m doing—even if I’m buying real estate or doing something else in business,” Kemp says. “I don’t look at the way things are always done. I ask myself, What do I want, and how can I create it?”

Photos: Nolan Wells



# CAAN-DO SPIRIT

With a new national board in place, the Columbia Alumni Association & Network (CAAN) encourages all alumni to get out there and get involved

BY LISA HOLTON

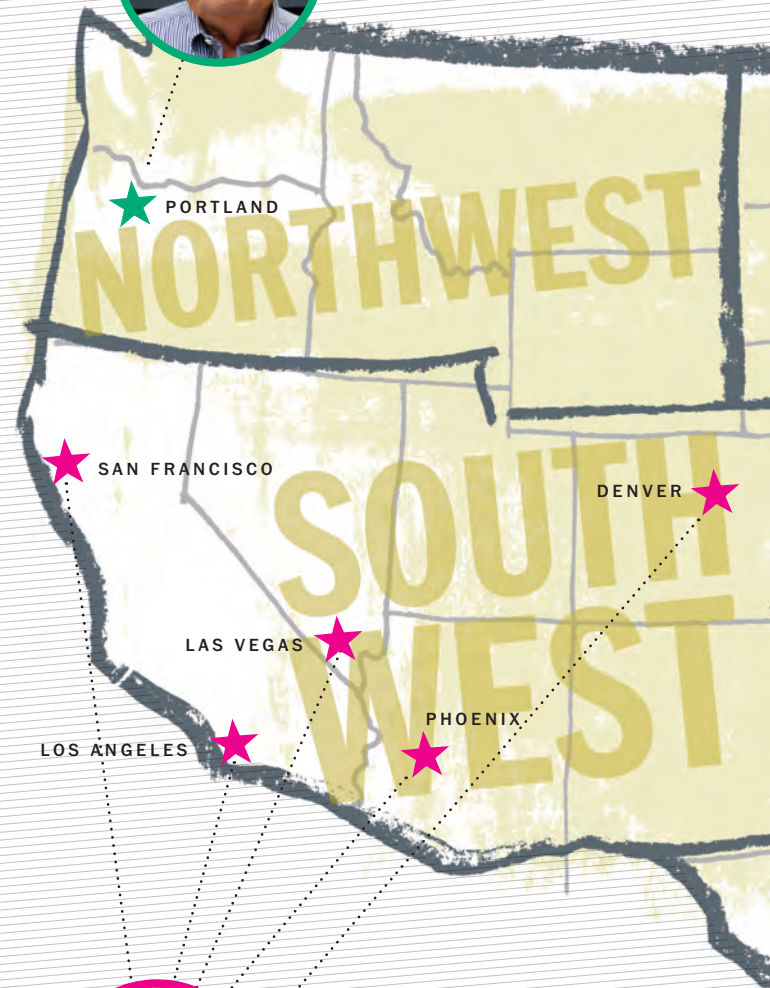
A college with national impact needs a national alumni organization.

That's why for the first time in its 122-year history, Columbia College Chicago has elected its first national alumni board with a plan to develop national programming and deliver a wider range of activities, benefits, and job networking opportunities to Columbia's 55,000 alumni nationwide.

The Columbia Alumni Association & Network (CAAN) is just one more product of a major strategic initiative launched in 2006 to expand the school's programs, provide greater student support, and raise the overall value of a Columbia College degree. CAAN's first national board was elected in August 2011 and is planning activities for 2012 and beyond.

*"I got involved because I felt my contribution as a 'seasoned' alum could lend itself to the organization's goals."*

**HOWARD SHAPIRO (BA '53)**  
Regional Representative, Northwest



*"Pay it forward. We all can benefit from increasing our circle of friends."*

**PAT BLUM (BA '84)**  
Regional Representative, Southwest

Headshots: Susan Fore (BA '99) Illustration: Abigail Friedman McLean

## MEET YOUR CAAN BOARD

The national board of the Columbia Alumni Association & Network (CAAN) strives to increase alumni's involvement with the college. It has four national officers, six regional representatives, and five members at large. Some officers have dual roles reflecting their current alumni work in the cities where they're based. CAAN regional chapters are Northwest, Southwest, Midwest, Great South, Northeast, and Southeast. Chapter cities are Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York City, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco, and St. Louis. Meet your board members here and on pages 18-19.

*"CAAN is open to alumni of all backgrounds, so there is an opportunity to share skills and talents in a way that will be heard and appreciated."*

**JOAN HAMMEL (BA '86)**  
President and Regional Representative, Midwest



*"Alums are always welcome with open arms at a CAAN event!"*

**JAMES "WOODY" WOODWARD (MA '03)**  
Regional Representative, Northeast



*"CAAN could open doors for your career. You never know who you will meet."*

**SUSAN FORE (BA '99)**  
Vice President and Regional Representative, Southeast



*"I got involved with CAAN because I learned there was no active St. Louis chapter."*

**MATT STAED (BA '06)**  
Secretary and Regional Representative, Great South

## MEET YOUR CAAN BOARD

In addition to involving six regional representatives (see pages 16–17), the CAAN National Board includes five members at large. Part of the board's charge is to get more alumni involved with the network, so DEMO asked: "Why should alumni get involved with CAAN?"



*"You never know who you are going to meet and how they can affect your life. Come to an event and find out."*

**KRISTIE BORGMANN (BA '04)**

*"I've been fortunate to meet, mingle, and work with other alums who also share a passion for Columbia; it's like an extended family you never knew you had."*

**MARTY KANE (BA '06)**



*"If you had great experiences as a Columbia student, why not give other young people a chance to have similar experiences?"*

**MICHAEL MOSCATO (BA '94)**

"CAAN's objective is to become an efficient operating program on a number of fronts," said Eric V.A. Winston, PhD, vice president of institutional advancement at Columbia. CAAN goals include:

- Creating an alumni organization that's truly national in scope. Columbia has benefited from strong regional alumni chapters in Chicago and Los Angeles, among other cities, but the CAAN National Board will work to better support existing networks and elevate best regional practices and alumni outreach to a national scale;
- Building an effective, multigenerational alumni network that can guide current undergraduate and graduate students preparing for future careers; and
- Assembling an alumni network that can support Columbia financially and on a volunteer basis to improve the school and its programs to increase the value of all Columbia degree programs.

Sarah Schroeder (BA '00), Columbia's director of alumni relations for the West Coast, thinks now is a great time for alumni to get involved with CAAN. "We have chapters and reps in cities where the largest numbers of graduates are, and they're all producing interesting programming," Schroeder said. "We need volunteers at all levels, particularly if they have good ideas for programming."

### THE NEW CAAN STRUCTURE

The CAAN board has four national officers, six regional representatives, and five members at large (see sidebar, page 19). Some officers have dual roles reflecting their current alumni work in the cities where they're based. For example, CAAN President Joan Hammel (BA '86), who is based in Chicago, was also named CAAN's Midwestern regional officer due to her continuing work with that chapter.

"We're in the process right now of collecting membership information from all the chapters and finding out what projects are both planned and in development," Hammel said. CAAN's chapter cities are Atlanta, Chicago, Denver,

Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York City, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco, and St. Louis.

The national board is taking what Hammel calls "baby steps": closely looking at what's successful in each city and seeing if those ideas can be leveraged across the country. In 2011, some of those activities included:

- An alumni short-film screening (Denver);
- A screening of *Lovestralker*, a movie directed and produced by Columbia alumni (St. Louis);
- Alumni baseball outings when the Chicago Cubs were in town (Phoenix and Atlanta);
- A multiweekend music event that showcased 20 local bands and promoted Columbia to an audience of hundreds (Pittsburgh);
- Fashion Week networking with Columbia alumni and networking events with other majors (New York); and

- Participation in the Young Storyteller Foundation, through which alumni helped elementary school students write their first scripts and put on productions with professional actors (Los Angeles, see page 34).

Hammel says CAAN is hoping to do more multicentric events, such as Oscar Night celebrations. “We’d love to produce one or two national events a year, but we need to get more people involved and come up with a variety of ideas,” she said.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

CAAN is looking for alumni help at all levels of the organization and in all chapters to assist with upcoming events and to create new programming and projects that will bring more alumni back in touch with Columbia. The CAAN National Board has created six committees to do just that. They are:

### Alumni Enrichment Committee:

This committee will focus on networking activities for new and senior alumni, career development assistance (resume development, interviewing skills), and other employment-related activities.

### Membership Engagement Committee:

This committee will use the Chicago chapter’s work with its Young Alumni Committee as a template to engage and maintain chapter membership through social and other media. This committee will also reach out to alumni in other demographics.

**National Events Committee:** This committee will develop one or more national alumni events to be carried out concurrently at all chapters.

**Fundraising Committee:** This committee will raise funds for the CAAN Alumni Scholarship Fund, which was launched in 2003 to support junior- and senior-year Columbia students who demonstrate extraordinary merit and need.

**Nominations/Elections Committee:** This committee will evaluate potential candidates for the national board and carry out elections.

**Governance Committee:** This committee group will develop and supervise national board bylaws, chapter development, and best practices.

*“Living in LA is no easy feat. The importance of having a network of people who truly support you cannot be overestimated.”*

**ANNA KEIZER (BA '04)**  
CAAN Treasurer



*“It is a great way to stay in touch, have fun, and network with alumni in your area.”*

**DON FOX (BA '85)**

## GET INVOLVED WITH CAAN

Not yet involved with your alumni association? It's easy to start. Contact one of your CAAN National Board members below.

## CAAN NATIONAL BOARD NATIONAL OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**  
Joan Hammel (BA '86)  
joan@joanhammel.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Susan Fore (BA '99)  
caanat@gmail.com

**TREASURER**  
Anna Keizer (BA '04)  
amkeizer@wildmail.com

**SECRETARY**  
Matt Staed (BA '06)  
matthew.staed@gmail.com

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

**NORTHWEST**  
Howard Shapiro (BA '53)  
pmahoward@aol.com

**SOUTHWEST**  
Pat Blum (BA '84)  
pbcaanden@aol.com

**MIDWEST**  
Joan Hammel (BA '86)  
joan@joanhammel.com

**GREAT SOUTH**  
Matt Staed (BA '06)  
matthew.staed@gmail.com

**NORTHEAST**  
James “Woody” Woodward (MA '03)  
mrwoody917@yahoo.com

**SOUTHEAST**  
Susan Fore (BA '99)  
caanat@gmail.com

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

Kristie Borgmann (BA '04)  
kborgmann@alumni.colum.edu

Don Fox (BA '85)  
columalum85@hotmail.com

Marty Kane (BA '06)  
martin.thomas.kane@gmail.com

Anna Keizer (BA '04)  
amkeizer@wildmail.com

Michael Moscato (BA '94)  
maguitarmike@gmail.com

## GET CONNECTED

Since 2005, Columbia's Office of Alumni Relations has offered valuable benefits and services for alumni. CAAN is just one service sponsored by the office. To access your alumni benefits, go to [colum.edu/alumni](http://colum.edu/alumni), and then:

- **FIND YOUR LOCAL CAAN CHAPTER:** Click "Stay Connected" and then "Alumni Chapters."
- **FIND ACTIVITIES, DISCOUNTS, AND CAREER SERVICES:** Click "Benefits and Career Services," and select your choice.
- **MAKE A GIFT:** Click on "Make a Gift," then "Ways to Give" in the right column of the page.



The initial mix of tasks and goals for the CAAN board is a good match for the culture and the challenges Columbia alumni now face in one of the nation's worst economic downturns, according to CAAN Treasurer Anna Keizer (BA '04), who is based in Los Angeles and chairs the Alumni Enrichment committee.

"It's particularly important for current students to see we're creating alumni activities with real value so they can see the benefits of staying in touch once they graduate," she added.

## DEVELOPING A FUNDRAISING CULTURE

As with all college and university alumni networks, a major objective of CAAN is to attract to Columbia more financial support from those who have benefited most from it: its students. Although alumni giving has always been critically important to Columbia, the CAAN National Board is expected to take alumni giving to a new level. CAAN plans to leverage social media tools including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn; traditional fundraising instruments such as phone banks and direct mail; and conventional solicitation, said Winston: "pounding the ground, meeting people in person, calling and staying on folks to be involved. We're starting something

from scratch here, and we've got to get our hands dirty and our feet wet."

Change should start with the top, says Matt Staed (BA '06), the St. Louis-based Fundraising committee chair who is developing giving guidelines for CAAN leadership. "We're giving our time, but ... we have to make a financial commitment as well. We can't ask people to give without giving ourselves."

CAAN will develop long-term timelines for specific goals, but it has immediate fundraising objectives, Hammel said. "Given the economy and the rising cost of education, both our undergrads and graduate students need support now, not five or 10 years from now," she added. "There's urgent need for current scholarship money so students can continue their studies, and there's also a need for funds for textbooks, classroom fees, and other day-to-day expenses students face."

## CREATING CHANGE

In addition to fundraising, CAAN is pursuing a vital project in the coming months: getting late-stage Columbia dropouts to come back, finish their degrees, and join the alumni ranks. "We estimate that between 1986 and today, there are 900 former Columbia students who had

anywhere from six to 20 hours until graduation and just quit," Hammel said. "They could have suffered an economic setback or decided to change focus. Or they had a chance at a great job and just left." Hammel added that Columbia doesn't charge any reapplication fees for former students to return at any stage in their coursework.

As the CAAN National Board gets off the ground, Staed encourages all alumni to get more involved in their regions, not only to help the college, but also to help themselves. "CAAN is a great place to meet people in your industry and share contacts. But one less obvious benefit is that CAAN gives you the chance to help sculpt an organization, chapter, or committee the way you want to," he said. "The more alumni support, the better the programs we provide for our students, and that makes [a Columbia] degree even more valuable. It's about having people look at your resume and think, 'That degree is worth something.'"

*For more information on getting involved with your local or national CAAN, see page 19. To follow CAAN on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter, go to [colum.edu/alumni](http://colum.edu/alumni).*

# PORTFOLIO



Photo: Sam Rosen

Created for co-working office space the COOP in River North, this display uses salvaged egg crates from local restaurants, hot glue, fishing line, and string. It plays off the idea that a co-working environment produces connections that inspire “a hatching of ideas and rise of collaboration.”



Photo: Stephanie Bassos (BA '05)

LINSEY  
BURRITT  
(BFA '05)

CRYSTAL  
GROVER  
(BFA '06)

When **Linsey Burritt**, far left, and **Crystal Grover** met as co-workers at now defunct Gourmand Coffee in the South Loop, it wasn't more than coincidence that both were students at Columbia. Burritt was in the graphic design program, Grover in interior architecture. They might not have had much in common.

But they did. They both had an entrenched belief in the importance of living sustainably. It turned out to be a commonality that would become central to their lives and work.

( CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 )



All cups were sourced from the city's trash cans.

ABOVE: *Slow*, a cloudlike structure made of used Styrofoam cups collected from city trash cans, won the 2010 Make Believe competition sponsored by a Wicker Park-Bucktown neighborhood association to revitalize empty storefronts.

LEFT: INDO repurposed cardboard to create this window display for home interior shop Post 27 on West Grand Avenue.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

LEFT: The *Script Wall* at Steppenwolf Merle Reskin Garage Theatre consists of 5,800 pounds (142,000 sheets) of used paper that was collected by INDO, Steppenwolf staff, and Recycling Services. The installation, created in collaboration with Ogilvy & Mather, will be up for five years, making it INDO's longest-standing display.

RIGHT: The sign for Ukrainian Village salon Parlor 836 is made of high-density urethane (a substitute for wood) and repurposed nail polish bottle caps.





Photos of Parlor 836; Julia Stotz (BFA '08)

Today, Burritt and Grover own and operate Chicago-based INDO, a window-design studio with an alter ego as an activist organization. Or is it the reverse?

Designs by INDO (the name, like the studio, showcases the interior of a window) are always attention grabbing and often mind expanding. Constructed entirely of used, discarded, or salvaged materials, the designs are both beautiful and challenging, urging viewers to think deeply about waste in our society.

"I consider INDO quiet activism," said Grover, "because we say what we believe through our work, but not in a way that's throwing it at people. It's not saying, 'You should recycle!'"

Take, for example, 2010's *Slow*, a dreamlike piece comprising hundreds of piece Styrofoam cups that the women collected from area dumpsters over the course of just one weekend. Or the 40-by-7-foot

"I consider INDO quiet activism because we say what we believe through our work, but not in a way that's throwing it at people."

*Script Wall* at Steppenwolf's Merle Reskin Garage Theatre, which Ogilvy & Mather commissioned INDO to do; it's constructed of 5,800 pounds of discarded paper, hand selected from 10,000 pounds donated by a recycling agency.

INDO is winning art awards while amassing clients throughout Chicago, from restaurants to boutiques to top-tier nonprofits. And they're garnering even national media attention, including coverage in the March issue of Martha Stewart's *Whole Living* magazine.

Both women credit faculty at their alma mater for teaching them by example how to be working artists.

"What was great about Columbia was having professors who were

also working in the industry," said Burritt, adding that one, Art + Design (A+D) instructor Isabelle McGuire, helped her even after graduation: "I stayed in touch with her. She made me more confident about being able to go out on my own."

Grover agrees. "Columbia is great because the teachers are doing what they're teaching," she said. She remembers her favorite professor, A+D's Tim Cozzens, as someone who "pushed really hard, and then told you when you were doing a good job—or that you could do better when you weren't."

Now, five years after launching the company, what do Burritt and Grover hope people will say about the job they're doing?

"I want people to see something out of their ordinary day and feel that 'Ooooh,'" said Grover. "If we get that, then maybe people will ... think about where we may have gotten those materials. If our work can spur a conversation, that's a win. On a deeper level, if our work causes people to reflect on their consumption patterns, that's a win too."

Burritt hopes the reason INDO's work is resonating is that, "People are starting to learn to live modestly," she said. "I don't think people saw [*Slow*] and felt badly if they used a disposable cup earlier that day. Instead, they're inspired to buy a reusable cup. That right there is what it's all about."

—LIZ HARMON MILLER



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## Annual giving donors provide inspiration through investment.

By providing the resources for world-class education in the visual, performing, media, and communication arts, Columbia College houses the greatest concentration of artists in the nation. Your gift propels the future of this artistic epicenter; thank you for your support.

### PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Columbia College Chicago recognizes the following individuals who joined the President's Club between August 1, 2011, and December 31, 2011. Donors who contribute \$1,000 or more per year to any area of the college are recognized as President's Club-level donors.

Robin L. Bargar & Insook Choi  
 Donal P. Barry  
 Dara E. Belic (BA '08)  
 Jennifer R. Blair (MFA '07)  
 Deborah H. Holdstein PhD  
 & Jay W. Boersma (BA '74)  
 Dolores Connolly  
 Patricia O. Cox  
 Christopher C. DeMuth  
 Shawn M. Donnelley  
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 Virginia Farley & Robert Shapiro  
 Melissa P. & Richard Gamble  
 Denise & Gary Gardner  
 Ikram & Joshua Goldman  
 John J. & Julie Haley  
 Patricia L. Heath

John E. (BA '95)  
 & Stephanie N. Helleman  
 Susan B. Hopkinson PhD  
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 Mary Ittelson & Rick Tuttle  
 Charlotte Pai (BA '93)  
 Quintin E. & Diane I. Primo  
 Desiree Rogers  
 Patrick J. Salem ('12)  
 & Mary T. Cheriam  
 Lee Shapiro  
 Penelope Steiner  
 Kim Theiss  
 Kent R. & Virginia Valley  
 Piotr (BA '91) & Anna Walter  
 Laura S. Yosha-Steele (BA '90)

### MANIFEST CLUB

The Manifest Club recognizes alumni donors who make a minimum pledge of \$10 per month or \$120 per year to support the program of their choice. Columbia College Chicago recognizes the following individuals who joined the Manifest Club between August 1, 2011, and December 31, 2011.

Anonymous  
 Jani F. Bowe (BA '09)  
 Christopher A. Broyles (MA '98)  
 & Jacqueline K. Woods  
 Tracy J. Burns ('86)  
 Courtney L. Drvaric (MAM '10)  
 Barbara J. Ericks CPA (BA '85)  
 Gerlyn Jackson ('02)  
 Abageal W. Kelley (MAM '10)  
 Jeffrey G. Lopez (BA '01)  
 Tara L. Losoff (BA '05)

Antonio Marquez (BA '88)  
 Dimitri W. Moore (BA '11)  
 Mary J. Porreca ('89)  
 B. C. Rudnick (MA '86)  
 & Linda Tarshis Rudnick  
 Sarah A. Schroeder (BA '00) &  
 Kenneth A. Nowak Jr. (BA '00)  
 Deborah J. Sutliff (BA '93)  
 Lisa M. Walker (BA '86)  
 Jeffrey B. Wehrmeister (BA '90)

### CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

The Chairman's Circle, founded in 2010, recognizes donors of \$5,000 or more per year to any area of the college. Chairman's Circle-level donors are integral partners in providing the necessary opportunities for student success. As of December 31, 2011:

Andrew & Diane Alexander  
 Leonard C. Amato (BA '75)  
 & Diana Amato (BA '76)  
 Anonymous (3)\*  
 Ellen Stone Belic  
 Thomas & Madeleine  
 Burrell  
 Warrick L. & Laurel Carter  
 Warren King  
 & Bonita Chapman  
 Carol A. Cohen ('13)\*  
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 William Collins (BA '10)\*  
 Bruce A. & Deborah A.  
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 Diane Dammeyer ('01)  
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 & Elaine Cohen Rubin  
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 Allen & Lynn Turner  
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 Susan & Bob Wislow  
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SPOT  
ON



# “I’m a computer animator who caught the robot wave.”

## **ANDY FLESSAS** (BA '90)

In 1980, when Mick Jagger wanted to get close to fans during Rolling Stones concerts, he climbed into a cherry picker. When Bon Jovi went on tour in 2010, Jon Bon Jovi opted for something a little more exciting to reach the crowds: robotically controlled video screens that would convert from a backdrop to steps and then to a lift, designed by Columbia College graduate Andy Flessas.

Flessas, also known as Andy Robot, owns Casino Arts, which creates specialty computer animation for shows and casinos in Las Vegas, and Robotic Arts, which designs patented robotically controlled video screens that move to add a new dimension to animation. Jon Bon Jovi was the first adopter of RoboScreen technology for the Bon Jovi Circle Tour, the top-grossing global concert draw in 2010. Flessas' next step? Turn the technology into something the mass market can use.

Flessas has long been intrigued by robots. He had been asking himself how an animator would use robots when he hit on the idea of RoboScreens. “I’ve roboticized the most common item in any home,” Flessas says. “We spend our lives surrounded by stationary video screens. If they move, it’s because we pick them up ourselves. With robotic control, a screen could bob and weave to give gamers a new obstacle to conquer, or shimmy and shake to add a new dimension to action flicks.” Other ideas for the moving screens include marketing displays in grocery stores and monitors in hospitals to help doctors treat patients.

As a student, Flessas commuted to Columbia College from Milwaukee, lugging his camera equipment on the train each day. His major campus influence was professor Barry Young, who still teaches animation. When Flessas took Young’s classes, computer animation involved a Mauer camera, a 16-millimeter film camera

pointed in front of the computer screen to capture the images, which took up to five minutes to regenerate. Nowadays, students can generate the images in real time and record them on their hard drives, without an external camera.

Flessas says Young pushed his students to work beyond their perceived limits. “Barry Young inspired me to strive for excellence, to believe in my vision, and then taught me how to get there,” Flessas says.

He adds: “Everybody is creative, and everybody has talent, but not everybody is willing to go into the shadows to where your ideas lead you.” At Columbia, he learned to push his art to the next level.

After graduation, Flessas set up an animation business in Milwaukee. One of his clients was Potawatomi Bingo and Casino, and that work brought him to the attention of other casino operators. Las Vegas resort operators, looking for the Next Big Thing, were willing to support Flessas’ ideas for creative animation. The income and experience with large projects gave the entrepreneur the freedom to experiment. Suddenly, audacious ideas like robotic video screens became real.

Flessas remains in motion during his free time: His hobby is riding motocross bikes in the Nevada desert. Even at home, he and his wife chase after their two-year-old son, known as Andy Robot Two.

Whether he’s working with rock bands, traveling to China to research manufacturers, or designing a new animation for casino signage, Flessas marvels at his animated career. “Every day is so weird in my life,” he says. “It’s just so interesting.”

—ANN C. LOGUE

“I’ve always looked broader than just being a singer,

and that’s why I went for the business management degree instead of the music degree.”

## KYM MAZELLE (’86)

Kym Mazelle grew up in Gary, Indiana, just two doors down from the studio rehearsal house of the world-famous Jackson family, so it’s no surprise she dreamed of making it in the music industry.

“I would run down the street and stick my head through the window to listen to their music and dance on the sidewalk in front of the house,” she says. “I would also bug their uncle Tim to give my songs to Michael and Jackie.”

Mazelle brought her musical dreams to Columbia College Chicago in 1983, enrolling in the Arts & Entertainment Media Management program under department head Fred Fine. “I had the most awesome educational experience on the planet,” she says, crediting instructors Chuck Suber, who ran *Downbeat* magazine and taught music promotion; Linda Mensch, who taught entertainment law; Willie Henderson from Motown, Stax, and Chess Records, who taught record production; and Irwin Steinberg, former head of Elektra Records, who signed Tracy Chapman and Anita Baker, and taught record deal and label management.

“We had to actually produce, write, record, budget a recording session, and get radio airplay from the recording,” Mazelle says.

The budding artist achieved her first career milestone when, after paying her dues as an intern with Jam Productions and DJ International Records, she recorded her first house music album in 1988. A year later, Mazelle signed an international record deal with EMI/Worldwide, and in 1991 moved to England, where she gained fame. “England really supported electronica/house/dance more than the states,” she says.

Mazelle’s career soon skyrocketed. Her single “Missing You,” which she co-wrote and recorded with Soul II Soul, achieved major success worldwide, including gold status in five countries. Her cover of Candi Stanton’s “Young Hearts Run Free” appeared in the 1996 Baz Luhrmann film William Shakespeare’s *Romeo + Juliet*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes, and the soundtrack went six times platinum.

Over the years, the singer many consider “the First Lady of House Music” worked with Mick Jagger and Chaka Khan. Mazelle even had lunch with Princess Diana for a fundraising event: “I was topping the charts,” she says. “She was a very kind and gentle lady who liked my songs.”

Mazelle credits her Columbia education with giving her the foundation to make it in a tough business. “What I learned that has become so valuable to me—even to this day—is that this is a business,” she says. “I’ve always looked broader than just being a singer, and that’s why I went for the business management degree instead of the music degree.”

Mazelle continues to look to her alma mater for inspiration, keeping close to her heart Columbia’s mission statement, which hangs on the wall in 600 S. Michigan Ave.: “... Columbia’s intent is to educate students who will communicate creatively and shape the public’s perceptions of issues and events and who will author the culture of their times.”

“When I came back to visit CCC after being away for a long time,” she says, “I read that statement and thought to myself, ‘I got that! I applied it. It’s all connected.’”

—REA FREY (BA ’04)

**SPOT**  
ON



Photo: Andrew Nelles (BA '08)

**SPOT**  
ON





# “How do you tell a good story around the wonderful work you’re doing? How do you support community organizations?”

## **NORA MORENO CARGIE** (BA '82)

A degree in TV production has led Nora Moreno Cargie down a fascinating path.

“I was always really curious, always really interested in things,” Cargie says, crediting her liberal arts education from Columbia as a catalyst that pushed her to pursue a variety of fields from radio to politics, culminating in her current role as director of global corporate citizenship for The Boeing Company.

Cargie grew up in suburban Alsip and initially enrolled at a small Christian college in Tennessee, but, she says, “I could not stand being so far from Chicago.” So she transferred to Columbia for her final two years of school and graduated in 1982. She loved having professors who actually worked in the television field. “Back then, it was really novel,” she says. She took advantage of the school’s internship program, landing a gig at Burson-Marsteller, where she helped produce commercials and public service announcements. From there, she moved over to public radio station WBEZ, which eventually took her to Washington, DC, to work as an associate producer and director on the weekend edition of *All Things Considered*.

After returning to Chicago, Cargie discovered politics. She served as deputy commissioner for the Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development, communications director for the Chicago Park District, assistant commissioner of the Chicago Department of Human Services, and acting press secretary for the Chicago Public Schools. She also served as deputy communications director for Barack Obama’s run for Senate in 2004. Cargie’s former boss Forrest Claypool, now president of the Chicago Transit Authority, recommended her for the job.

Cargie’s current role at Boeing, which began in November 2006, blends her communication skills with a bit of political savvy.

She oversees Boeing’s corporate citizenship work in Chicago, including programs to benefit education, the environment, arts and culture, health and human services, and civic life.

“It’s project management,” she says. “When you think about engagement and buy-in, it all directly relates. I minored in journalism. You have to do writing. How do you tell a good story around the wonderful work you’re doing? How do you support community organizations?”

Cargie is the executive sponsor for Boeing’s Employee Community Fund in Chicago. Enterprisewide, the fund is the largest such employee-run fund in the world. She helps decide which community organizations receive Boeing-funded grants, along with helping to organize employee volunteer projects and drives. Some 4,000 nonprofit organizations benefit from the approximately \$30 million in Boeing employee donations each year.

For example, a Boeing grant supported the Fresh Moves Mobile Produce Market, a retired city bus donated by the CTA that brings healthy food to neighborhoods without access to grocery stores. The market serves more than 5,000 people in 16 neighborhoods.

“But we didn’t stop there,” Cargie says. When Fresh Moves brought attention to a distribution and staffing problem, she says Boeing addressed it by convening a think tank of community and Boeing leaders, which resulted in a great plan for the group and new board members for the organization.

“We want to be an example that corporate citizenship matters,” Cargie says. “It has been a joy and an honor for me.”

—HEATHER LALLEY

# “We were kind of like AC/DC meets Cheap Trick. ...”

We were just going to blast these songs and powerchord them straight out.”

## TED ANSANI (BA '90)

Sustaining a rock and roll lifestyle over the long haul can be a challenge, especially for someone with banker’s hours.

Consider Ted Ansani, branch manager at First Nation’s Bank on Milwaukee Avenue. He’s a founding member of Material Issue, a power-pop trio that achieved almost-famous status in the early 1990s.

Ansani, a bass player, met lead singer and guitarist Jim Ellison in Columbia College’s Lizard Lounge in 1986. Both sporting a quintessential rocker’s look of leather jackets and combat boots, Ellison asked Ansani about putting a band together. The addition of drummer Mike Zelenko (not a Columbian) completed the trio, and the band started gigging immediately.

“We were kind of like AC/DC meets Cheap Trick,” Ansani says. “Jim wrote these really nice, melodic songs, and you put us up in front of a room full of kids and we’d give them hell. We were just going to blast these songs and powerchord them straight out.”

As the band pushed its music to college radio stations and played clubs from Iowa to Indiana, Ansani learned the music business as part of the Arts, Entertainment, and Media Management (AEMM) program. He took recording classes and interned at Chicago Trax Recording Studio.

After some breakthrough radio play on 93WXRT and four years of packed clubs in Chicago, Ansani and Ellison graduated from Columbia with contracts in hand from Mercury Records. The label released Material Issue’s debut album, *International Pop Overthrow*, in 1991.

“Renee Remains the Same,” an early hit, and later, “Diane” and “Valerie Loves Me,” put Material Issue’s songs in front of the MTV

generation. But Ansani says the emergence of grunge rock and Mercury’s inability to properly market the band helped detour fame.



“One of my only regrets was that I didn’t take the time to smell the roses,” Ansani says. “I had no idea that it was going to end. To me, that was my life.”

In 1996, Ansani took a job at First Nation’s Bank on Milwaukee Avenue. That same year, while looking for a new record label, Material Issue dissolved tragically when Ellison committed suicide. “When Jim died, I already had two kids,” says Ansani, now a father of three. “Playing in bars can take its toll on you, and I had some responsibilities.”

Still, silencing the music within is difficult. With the equipment, the talent, and the creative desire, Ansani keeps playing. Last year, the Ted Ansani Project released *Throttle and Pistons* (available on iTunes). And to celebrate *International Pop Overthrow*’s 20th anniversary in 2011, Ansani and Zelenko joined forces with Phil Angotti, a Chicago singer-songwriter, for shows under the name Material Re-Issue. “Fans really showed their appreciation, and it was glorious to do those songs again,” Ansani says.

Nowadays, although he works around his bank’s hours, Ansani can be found cranking out songs like Simon and Garfunkel’s “Mrs. Robinson” as part of cover band Diving for Dynamite, performing with the Ted Ansani Project, and planning more shows with Material Re-Issue—forever pursuing his lifelong passion for music.

—WILLIAM MEINERS (MFA '96)

**SPOT**  
**ON**



Photo: Jeremy Lawson ('94)

# OUTTHERE

alumni / faculty news & notes

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## DEAR ALUMNI,

A new day is rising for the Columbia Alumni Association & Network (CAAN). Now that we have organized a national board with representatives from across the country (see page 16), we have started a number of committees ripe with opportunities for you to participate in a meaningful way. Which leads me to say ...

### GET INVOLVED

Looking for events through which to connect to other alumni? Want to work with a team of dedicated alumni volunteers? Join a committee that can benefit from your professional experience; see pages 16-20 for more information. Whether you want to plan special events, help with student scholarships, provide your expertise, or share a discount from your company, there are numerous ways for you to connect. We want CAAN to become stronger and better. And we will with you and because of you. Join in and get involved!


### HAVE A NEW IDEA?

If you want to do something that we are not already doing, share your idea! CAAN LA is the first alumni chapter to get involved with the Young Storytellers Foundation. Along with HBO, Warner Bros., and Fox, chapter members worked one on one with schoolchildren who wrote short screenplays and then put on productions for the whole school where family and friends saw the screenplays brought to life by professional actors. Thank you, CAAN LA alumni, for giving back in the truly creative Columbia way!

### CONTACT US

I am always glad to hear from you. Please contact me at joan@joanhammel.com. To make sure you are on our email list to receive the latest alumni news and events, visit us at colum.edu/alumni, or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 312.369.7934.

Sincerely,



**Joan Hammel (BA '86)**

President, CAAN National Board

Columbia Alumni Association & Network

# CAAN

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# NEWS & NOTES

COLUMBIACOLLEGECHICAGOSPRING/SUMMER2012

**What are you doing out there? We want to know!** To submit your news, log in to the alumni community at [colum.edu/alumni](http://colum.edu/alumni). Deadline for the fall/winter issue is July 1. Notes received after the deadline will be considered for later issues.

## CLASS NEWS

### 1970s

**Michael Felten's (BA '72)** band, The Real Deal, played two Chicago shows in November, one at Miska's and the other at the Elbo Room's Acoustic Lounge.

**Hank Grover (BA '79)** launched a science fiction web series on machinima.com. The series has received more than one million hits.

**Dean Richards ('76)**, along with his co-host and producers, won a Chicago/Midwest Emmy for Outstanding Achievement for Public Affairs/Current Affairs Programming - Program/Special for WGN's "Stories of Hope: Facing Breast Cancer" in November. (See page 6.)

### 1980s

**Mark Bessenger's ('88)** *Bite Marks* was part of Reeling 30 in November at Portage Theater.

**Jens Bogehegn (BA '88)** and the Zacuto Films team won a Chicago/Midwest Emmy for "Filmfellas: Commitment to the Craft" for Outstanding Achievement for Interview/Discussion Programming - Program / Special/Series in November. (See page 6.)

**Craig Dowden (BA '87)** was appointed to the board of the Oak Grove School Education Foundation (OGSEF).

**Virginia Echols-Harrison (BA '82)** published her first book, *The Simplicity of the Biblical Sanctuary*, available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [gingersworld.net](http://gingersworld.net). She is writing a "how-to" book about dealing with adversity.

**Karen Gabriel (BA '89)** is now the proud parent of a Columbia student. Her daughter, Morgan, has enrolled as a dance major.

**Sarah Hoskins' (BA '83)** photo essay "Car Culture" was revisited in the December issue of *LifeForce Magazine*.

**Jeff Kapugi (BA '88)** is Chicago country music radio station US 99.5's program director.

**Michael Karberg (BA '89)** joined Morphy Auctions in Denver, Colorado, as an acquisitions associate.

**Angela Kelly (MA '89)** was an artist-in-residence at the Burren College of Art in County Clare, Ireland, during August. She worked on a new photographic work, which traces the residue of the 1847 Irish famine in the contemporary Irish landscape.

**Eric Kurtz (BA '87)** was a candidate in the three-way race for clerk-treasurer in Ogden Dunes, Indiana.

**Jerry Luterman ('88)** featured a group of real-life superheroes on his blog, *On the Trail*. Luterman is also a photographer for *Wisconsin Trails*.

**David Mahlmann ('88)** won the 2011 ICG Emerging Cinematographer Award.

**Patrick Marks ('86)** is the recruitment manager for Paramount Pictures in Hollywood. He is recruiting for Theatrical Marketing and Home Media Entertainment.

**Jim Newberry (BA '86)** had one of his photographs selected by the 2011 jury to appear in Photography Annual 52, the July/August issue of *Communication Arts*.

**Robert Nightingale's ('89)** Wilder Nightingale Fine Art gallery in Taos, New Mexico, just celebrated 20 years of representing various artists. Visit [wnightingale.com](http://wnightingale.com).

**James Richardson (BA '86)** is a character animator, storyboard artist, and illustrator who completed a project at Royale in Los Angeles on interstitials for Disney Junior. He is also animating his new short film, *Hot Property*. Visit [jimreels.blogspot.com](http://jimreels.blogspot.com).

**Ben Schwartz's ('88)** script, *Home by Christmas: Bob Hope in Korea*, made it onto Franklin Leonard's Black List.

### 1990s

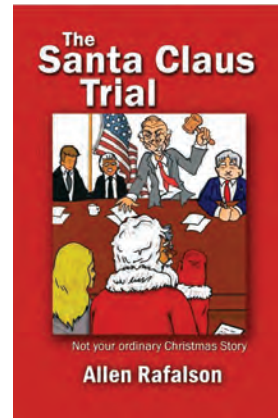
**Arnie Bernstein (MA '95)** was signed by St. Martin's Press to publish his next book, *Swastika Nation: Fuhrers, Politicians, Mobsters & the Rise and Fall of the German-American Bund*.

**Michael Burke's ('95)** debut short story collection, *What You Don't Know About Men*, was a finalist for Book of the Year sponsored by the Chicago Writers Association.

**Kristen Cone (BA '99)**, a Chicago Public Schools drama teacher, produced and directed an adaptation of two-time Grammy Award winner Robert Mirabel's *Po'Pay Speaks*.

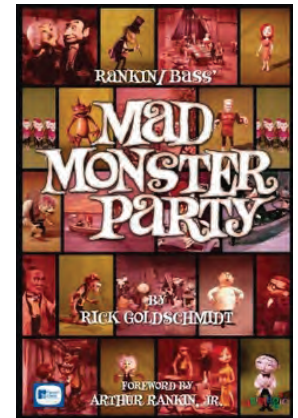
**Karen Christopher (MFA '99)** was awarded a University College Falmouth (Cornwall, UK) Honorary Fellowship.

**Darius de Haas ('90)** was nominated for Best Actor in a Play at the 2011 Broadway World Connecticut Awards for his role as Feste in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*. The play ran at Westport (Connecticut) Country Playhouse.



**Allen Rafalson (BA '54)** published a book, *The Santa Claus Trial*. Visit [thesantaclaustrial.com](http://thesantaclaustrial.com).

**Richard Goldschmidt (BA '87)** released a book, *Rankin/Bass' Mad Monster Party*, in the fall. Goldschmidt's book tells the story of the 1967 creation of the cult classic film *Mad Monster Party*.



## Lorraine Harrell (BA '84)

Lorraine Harrell has made her life's work about motivating and inspiring others.

As a poet, playwright, journalist, Internet radio personality, author, and creativity empowerment coach, she uses different media to spread the idea that anything is possible.

"People [need] to realize that we are all innately creative," Harrell says. "Some people don't feel fulfilled unless they have an art talent, but anything can make you a creative person. It may be hard to start, but you have to believe you have the passion to make it work for you."

In 2008, Harrell launched her business, Creative Odyssey, which focuses on creativity empowerment coaching. She also hosts an Internet radio show, *Heart of a Woman*, which is dedicated to female empowerment and social change, and tapes at Columbia station WCRX.

Harrell also has two books under her belt. *Creating a Map of Your World* is a step-by-step look at how to make one's creative dream a reality, and *Obama's Hope: Our Youth Envision the Future* is a collection of 25 essays from Chicago Public Schools' students that express their feelings about the presidency. In addition, Harrell has published a collection of poetry titled *Women Hold Up Half the Sky*, and she is writing another creative nonfiction book about women who have passion and purpose for social responsibility called *Creative Dreamers*.

— BENITA ZEPEDA (BA '11)



Photo: Jacob Boll ('12)



**Karyn Bosnak (BA '96)** wrote the book *20 Times a Lady*, which was made into the 2011 movie *What's Your Number?*, starring Anna Faris and Chris Evans. Bosnak was present for a special screening at Columbia the night the movie was released nationwide in September.

**Matthew Glasson ('98)** and his film *Lovestalker* screened at the St. Louis International Film Festival in November.

**Ann Marie Esp (BA '95)**, along with her team at Chicago's WLS-TV, took home a Chicago/Midwest Emmy for Outstanding Achievement for Special Event Coverage (Edited) award for "Chicago's Mayor: The Daley Years" in November. (See page 6.)

**Randy Filippi (BA '97)** was the subject of a story in the *Daytona Beach News Journal* for his Elvis Presley performances at the Black Cloud in Bunnell, Florida.

**Diane Flynn (BA '93)** was hired as a branding manager for a Fortune 500 company based in northern Virginia.

**Amy Fulford (BA '93)** is the vice president and national director of social media for Agency 720, which handles Chevy dealer groups.

**Deborah Grant (BA '96)** was chosen from 100 applicants to be the recipient of the William H. Johnson Prize of \$25,000 for her artwork.

**Kendall Harnett (MFA '96)** was named to the board of directors of Portland Ovariations, a nonprofit performing arts organization based in Portland, Maine.

**John Hellerman (BA '95)**, a 2011 Columbia Alumnus of the Year, has shed 100 pounds. His company, Hellerman Baretz Communications, was named the *Bulldog Reporter's* Best Boutique Specialty PR Agency of the Year; one of *PR Week's* Top Five Boutique PR Agencies of the Year; the *Legal Times' Best* PR Firm in Washington, DC;

and Best Social Media Consultancy in Washington, DC.

**James Lacey ('94)** was head of the makeup department on Werner Herzog's film, *My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done?*, starring Michael Shannon and Chloe Sevigny.

**Gary Luz (BA '92)** played Prince Dauntless in the *Palette, Masque, and Lyre* Community Theatre production of *Once Upon A Mattress*, in Antioch, Illinois.

**Michael Matthews (BA '99)** was featured in *LA Stage Times* for directing *What's Wrong With Angry?* at Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles.

**Darlette McAlpin (MFA '94)** earned a Lorraine Hansberry Award for Best Writing of a Play

for *Field of Souls* at the Black Theatre Alliance Awards.

**Mark L. Montgomery ('95)** was Dr. Noonan in the Chicago premiere of Sarah Ruhl's Tony-nominated play *In the Next Room*.

**Mike Moscato (BA '94)** is a member-at-large of the Columbia Alumni Association & Network's (CAAN) National Board, and the owner of a music company called Sardonyx Productions.

**Barbara "Petra Luna" Ochoa (BA '91)** is a professional musician who formed the P. Luna Foundation, a nonprofit group that aims to help male victims of abuse. Her book, *The Music Business*, takes budding entertainers through the

details of the music business and will benefit the organization. Go to [petraluna.com](http://petraluna.com), [plunafoundation.com](http://plunafoundation.com), or [help4guys.org](http://help4guys.org).

**Rexford Robinson (BA '90)** released a CD in October titled *On The Tracks*. The album is a mix of blues, folk, jazz, and rock under the project name RSessions. Visit [reverbnation.com/rsessions](http://reverbnation.com/rsessions).

**Cynthia Sciacca Hooker (BA '99)** was nominated for two BroadwayWorld Los Angeles Awards. Her show, *I Love Lucy Live On Stage*, garnered Hooker nominations in the Best Featured Actress in a Musical (Local) category and in the Person to Watch category. The show was nominated for Best Musical (Local).

**Chelsea Scott (BA '93)** has a CD on iTunes and Rhapsody under her stage name, Bella Queen Be Be.

**David Skvarla ('90)** played the lead role, King Henry II, in the Idle Muse Theatre production of *The Lion in Winter* at The Side Project.

**Joseph Stearns (BA '98)** announced a double bill that included the US premiere of Canadian Playwright Hanna Moscovitch's *The*

*Russian Play* and the Chicago premiere of Moscovitch's *East of Berlin*. The production ran from October through November.

**Aaron Vanek ('97)** moderated a panel at San Diego Comic Con about H.P. Lovecraft in comics and film. Vanek also promoted an H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival in Los Angeles.

**Lidia Varesco Racoma's (BA '94)** design was featured in *The Big Book of Packaging*, a collection of the latest packaging designs and ideas.

**Jay Vinitzky (MA '95)** was the post-production supervisor on the 2011 film *Horrible Bosses*, starring Colin Farrell, Kevin Spacey, and Jennifer Aniston.

**Ian Weaver (BA '93)** had a solo exhibition at the South Bend Museum of Art featuring the work he produced between 2004 and 2011. The show ran from June to September.

**Michael Wojcik (BA '96)** was promoted to senior director of corporate and foundation partnerships for the American Red Cross. He relocated to New York City from Washington, DC, to pursue this role.

## Jason Lazarus (MFA '06)

Jason Lazarus' installation "The Search" was on display at the Andrew Rafacz Gallery in Chicago in fall 2011. The site-specific, viewer-interactive installation consisted of a tower of white steps 24 feet long, 10 feet tall, and 10 feet deep. The inside hid an intimate room accessible only by ladder. Depending on the time and date, visitors to "The Search" encountered a full canvas or an empty one. Lazarus built his ziggurat as a platform for public events and private conversations. He started his career as a photographer.

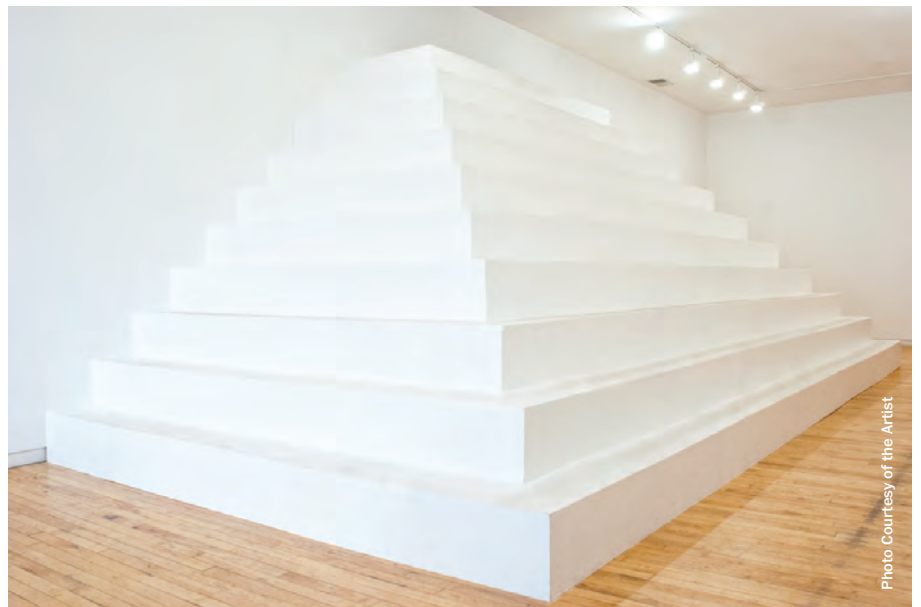


Photo Courtesy of the Artist

## 2000s

**Zach Abubeker (BFA '09)** had an exhibition in December at Artists' Cooperative Residency and Exhibitions (ACRE Projects) in Chicago. A *Few Metaphors for Distance* explored the artist's connection to Ethiopia. Abubeker plans to return to Ethiopia in 2012 to develop ongoing projects.

**Leyla Arsan (MA '01)** produced an event in Chicago called Downtown Dash, a social media scavenger hunt that took place in September.

**Dawn Avello (BA '02)** owns the midday slot at WRXQ 100.7 in Crest Hill, Illinois. Tune in from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Kathy Bardales Sardena (MA '04)** teaches at the elementary level in the Chicago Public Schools system on the north side of Chicago. She also co-directs a Peruvian dance troupe and is working on her first book.

**Lindsay Benacka (BA '09)** was featured in a Columbus, Nebraska, article regarding her Peace Corps service in Cambodia. Benacka has worked under the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports and the Peace Corps Education Sector as a youth development advisor in rural public schools in the Kampong Cham province.

**John Boshier (BA '06)** and **Chris Charles (BA '07)** took first place at the Elgin (Illinois) Short Film Fest for *The Small Assassin*, adapted from the short story by Ray Bradbury.

**Shemeka Buckner (BA '04)** started her own fashion line, Kiyoko Linden, for trendy, urban, full-figured women.

**Evrod Cassimy (BA '06)** joined KCNC-TV as weekend morning anchor.

**Chris Coates (BA '04)** was named city editor of the *Sioux City Journal*. He was previously managing editor of the *Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis*.

**Carl Dahlstedt ('06)** opened C. Dahlstedt in Wicker Park. The boutique features fashions produced exclusively in Chicago.

**Jacquelyn Dean's (BA '04)** film, *Hamill*, won seven awards from seven different film festivals, including the Breakthrough Award (AFI Fest 2010), the Audience Award (Miami International Film Festival), and Best American Independent Film (Philly CineFest Film Festival).

**Erik Deerly (MFA '08)** is assistant professor of new media communication at Indiana University Kokomo. Two of his works were selected by jury for inclusion in the 2011 Whitewater Valley Annual Art Competition.

**Danielle Dellorto (BA '04)** won two Emmy awards for Outstanding Coverage of a Breaking News Story in a Regularly Scheduled Newscast and Outstanding Live Coverage of a Current News Story - Long Form.

**Brandon Dermer's (BA '08)** short film, *Fleshlighting*, made the Viewfinder List of the best short films of 2011.

**Daniel Dominiak (BA '09)** produced the third full-length album, *Time To Shine*, for his group I Decline and independently released it on his own Horns Raised Records, available at [i-decline.com](http://i-decline.com).

**Sara Ebel (BFA '09)** was hired as an associate art director by Abelson Taylor.

**Candace Edwards (BA '08)** landed the role of Little Bo Peep for the Theater at the Center's production of *Babes in Toyland*.

**Lorrisa Engel (BA '03)** made a guest appearance on CBS' *The Bold and the Beautiful* in August.

**Brandon Faris (BA '02)** launched his *Road Kings* podcast on iTunes.

**Westley Gathright (BA '07)** was cinematographer on *Munger Road*, working with fellow alumni **Kyle Heller (BA '08)**, producer, and **Nick Smith (BA '08)**, director.

## Geling Yan (MFA '99)

Geling Yan's historic novel, *13 Flowers of Nanjing*, was adapted for the film *The Flowers of War* (pictured), which was China's entry for the 2012 foreign-language Oscar. The book and movie center on the 1937 Rape of Nanking massacre following the Japanese invasion of China's wartime capital, now called Nanjing.

**Jess Godwin (BA '05)** was cast in the Chicago premiere of *Snapshots* at the Northlight Theatre.

**Eric Gross (BA '06)** is the sound designer for Glu Mobile.

**Michelle Harmon (MFA '06)** is the set designer on *Gl Joe 2*, which was filmed in New Orleans.

**Justin Howard (BA '07)** brought home the silver "metal" in the 2011 Air Guitar World Championships.

**Pasquale Iannino (BA '06)** and his company Rockit Projects Incorporated took first place in the Events, Fairs, and Congress category at the International Tourism Film Festival in Barcelos, Portugal.

**Dionne Joseph (BA '06)** and her husband, Dr. Sean Joseph, opened Integrated Chiropractic in Silverdale, Washington.

**Daniel Kibblesmith (BA '05)** appeared on a season 5 episode of Bravo's *Millionaire Matchmaker*.

**Kyle Kinane (BA '02)** is a stand-up comedian who played Zanies in Chicago in November. Visit [kylekinane.tumblr.com](http://kylekinane.tumblr.com).

**Jesse Klug (BFA '05)** was the lighting designer for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for Paramount Aurora.

**Elizabeth Lawrence's (BA '02)** documentary, *Roll Out, Cowboy*, had its homecoming premiere at Facets



© 2011 - Beijing New Picture Film Co.

Multimedia in Chicago in July. The film chronicles the journeys of Chris "Sandman" Sand, the infamous rappin' cowboy from Dunn Center, North Dakota.

**Lisa Lindvay (MFA '09)** won the 3Arts award for her photography on exhibit with 3Arts. The series of photographs depicted the lives of her father, sister, and two brothers as they dealt with the deteriorating mental state of Lindvay's mother. Visit [lisalindvay.com](http://lisalindvay.com).

**Akisha Lockhart (BA '07)** made her Big Ten Network television debut in early October.

**Alex McCrary ('08)** was Gad in the Paramount Aurora production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

**Matt McGrath (BA '09)** traveled the world as the video editor and broadcast technician for Azamara Club Cruises. Prior to sailing the seas, McGrath was one of the top 10 finalists for the

America Cinema Editors Internship in Los Angeles.

**Andrew Micheli (MFA '08)** was named Arts & Business Council Chicago's executive director.

**Norma Monsivais Diers (MAT '06)** achieved national board certification in English as a Second Language.

**Aaron Munoz (BA '01)** shot a recurring guest star role for the acclaimed AMC series, *The Walking Dead*. Munoz also relocated to Nashville, Tennessee, and writes and produces comedy shorts.

**Joseph Muszynski (BA '07)** produced a feature-length documentary titled *Chicago Farmer*.

**Jordan O'Donnell ('09)** joined KCRG-TV as a marketing consultant and interactive media designer.

**Rebecca Ortiz (BA '01)** hosts the CBS Radio Chicago Community Service show *Chicago Connection* on 96.3-FM (B96) and 104.3-FM (K-HITS). Visit [facebook.com/RadioRebeccaOrtiz](http://facebook.com/RadioRebeccaOrtiz).



Photo: Jacob Boll ('12)

## Justin Kulovsek (BA '04) and Lauren McLain (BA '05)

Justin Kulovsek and Lauren McLain may have graduated from Columbia less than 10 years ago, but they are already giving back to the school that has shaped them both personally and professionally. Kulovsek (BA '04) and McLain (BA '05) have pledged \$10,000 over 10 years to fund a scholarship called the Student Leadership Legacy Award. Starting in fall 2012, a \$1,000 award will be given annually to an exceptional student entering their senior year. The recipient must be a member of a recognized student organization on campus and have at least a 3.25 GPA.

It's no surprise that these alumni are rewarding students who volunteer. During their Columbia days, Kulovsek was president of the Student Government Association, and McLain was co-chair of the Student Organization Council and a Student Government Association senator. The two continue to volunteer their time as members of the Young Alumni Committee, a group that aims to keep new alumni connected to Columbia.

Today, McLain works at the business psychology consulting firm YSC, and Kulovsek is managing partner of a social media and digital content firm called Social Media Makers. Both believe it's important for young alumni to give back in some way so that current students can have the same, if not better, experience they had.

"Whether giving back with volunteer work or fiscally, staying connected to Columbia in a giving capacity helps support the future of the creative community," McLain says. Adds Kulovsek: "I think giving back shows that you believe in your alma mater."

In addition to funding the Student Leadership Legacy Award, Kulovsek and McLain have pledged an additional \$10,000 that will go toward other college funds of their choosing. For example, this year, some funds will go toward the Sharon A. Palermo Memorial Scholarship, which assists talented students committed to careers in the television industry.

— KRISTEN KUCHAR (BA '11)

**Yunuen Oseguera-Pardo (BA '06)** took the stage in December in Steppenwolf's production of *Penelope*. *Chicago Tribune* listed her as one of the hot new faces in Chicago theatre.

**Michael Parrott (BA '00)** is employed as an ELC director for KCNC in Denver,

Colorado. He was previously employed as a newscast director for FOX/CW in Denver and as an assistant editor for E! Entertainment Television in Los Angeles.

**Gabriel Pastrana (BA '05)** earned his master's degree in humanities from the University of Chicago and moved

to Los Angeles to continue his career as an actor, writer, and producer.

**Thomas G. Petersen (BA '05)** published his first book, *All I Needed to Know About Projects, I Learned as a Kid Shoveling Snow*, under the name Pete Thompson.

**Ronnie Polidoro (BA '09)** was nominated for two News and Documentary Emmys for *NBC Nightly News'* coverage of the earthquake in Haiti and NBC News' coverage of "Decision 2010." He moved over from MSNBC's *The Last Word* to an associate producer position at NBC's primetime magazine show, *Rocket Center with Brian Williams*.

**Samantha Sanders (MFA '01)** and **John Farbrother (MFA '03)**, co-founders of Green River Films Inc., won a Chicago/Midwest Emmy for Outstanding Achievement for Arts and Entertainment Programming for "Chicago Symphony Orchestra 2011 Youth in Music Festival" in November. (See page 6.)

**Donnie Seals (BA '02)** was interviewed by Slam Online regarding season two of his web series, *Findlay Prep*.

**Michael Slaboch (BA '05)** earned two Grammy nominations for Best Album Notes and Best Historical Album for the Numero Group's *Syl Johnson: Complete Mythology* box set.

**Michael Glover Smith's (BA '00)** short, *The Catastrophe*, screened as part of the 2011 Illinois International Film Festival at the Viaduct Theatre in November.

**Brian Ulrich (MFA '07)** had his first major photography exhibition at Cleveland Museum of Art.

**Julia Vazquez-Zimmerman (BA '04)** moved to Key West, Florida, and is pursuing her master's degree in higher education. She freelances as a nonlinear editor, massage therapist, and pharmacy technician.

**Daniel Vendt (MFA '08)** is the assistant to the ex-

ecutive producer of *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. Vendt works alongside two other Columbia alumni, **Chris Schmitt (BA '07)**, lead assistant editor, and **Lauren Willems (BA '05)**, a casting producer.

**John Zuiker (BA '05)** returned to Chicago with scenic design for Porchlight Musical Theatre's 2011 production of Stephen Sondheim's *Putting It Together*.

## 2010s

**Matt Avignone (BA '11)** received the Second Runner-up Award from Blurb for his book *An Unfinished Body*. His book will go into the permanent collection at the International Center for Photography and the George Eastman House.

**Celeste Ball (BA '10)** was promoted to a staff writing position at WGN-TV News.

**April Bocchieri (BFA '10)** works as the event director for Chicago RAW: natural born artists.

**Brian Caffrey (BA '11)** was hired as a production assistant at 103.5 Kiss-FM.

**Cynthia Calderon (BA '07)** celebrated her one-year anniversary as an account coordinator at Univision Communications.

**Safa Eshrawy (BA '10)** is a full-time news writer/editor at FM News Chicago.

**Whitney Fox (BA '11)** was hired as the script coordinator for the new Nickelodeon show *Robot and Monster*.

**Kristina Gosh (MFA '10)** contributed to Chicago's art festival Built Fest in August, along with fellow alumni **Erin Cramer (MFA '09)**, **Stephen DeSantis (MFA '08)**, and **Loni Diep (MFA '08)**, and students Chelsea Middendorf ('12) and Don Widmer ('12).

**Zachary Green (BA '11)** and Frank Schweih's ('12) were selected for inclusion in the 2011 anthology *plain china: Best Undergraduate*

*Writing 2011* for their work, which originally appeared in Columbia College Chicago's *South Loop Review: Creative Nonfiction + Art, Vol. 1.3*. Green earned his place in the anthology for "I Will Send You This" and Schweih's for "Gauche Chemistry."

**Tempestt Hazel (BA '10)** is a jury/curatorial consultant for the Chicago Artists' Coalition.

**Becca James (BA '11)** was hired as a secondary English language arts teacher by Higher Ground Academy in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

**David (Christopher) Johnson (MA '11)** released three feature films in 2011 and plans on three short films in 2012. Johnson is also participating in art shows in Japan and Paris. Visit christopherkellyarts.com.

**Devin Katayama (MA '10)** was hired as a general assignment reporter for WFPL Public Radio in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Jenny Lazaroff (BA '10)** was hired as a music coordinator at Bunim/Murray Productions in Los Angeles.

**Dimitri Moore (BA '11)** joined Free Spirit Media as special projects producer in October.

**Keri Morgan (BA '10)** is lead producer on the Emmy-winning show *Chicago's Best*.

**Allison Rodriguez (BA '11)** headed to Yuma, Arizona, to become an anchor/reporter for KYMA-TV.

**Spencer Roush (BA '11)**, former *Columbia Chronicle* editor-in-chief, works for the *Frankfort (Ind.) Times* as government reporter.

**Judith Ruiz-Branch (BA '10)** was hired as a writer with WGN-TV and is training to be a producer with CLTV.

**Lucas Seiler (BA '11)** is a reporter with the NBC affiliate KCWY in Casper, Wyoming.

**Suree Towfighnia (MFA '06)** screened her film, *From Pine Ridge to Chicago*, at the Wicker Park Arts Center in



November as part of the Reeling 30 Film Festival.

**John Trierweiler (BA '11)** joined KVLY/KXJB, the NBC and CBS affiliate in Fargo, North Dakota, as a reporter.

**Emmanuel Wallace (BA '11)** and **Ben Bennett (BA '11)** were consultants on the equipment selection and configuration, and acoustical

treatments, respectively, for a music production teaching facility at Options Laboratory School in Chicago's Kenwood neighborhood.

**Jayme Wojciechowski (BFA '10)** was in the production of *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity* in Scotland in September. He is finishing his postgraduate degree at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

## Marriages

**Lacey Bauman (BA '11)** is engaged to Tyler Coleman. The wedding is planned for May 26.

**Zelda Robinson (BA '93)** married chef Tony Hogue, author of *Southern Cookin' with a Twist*, on September 7.

## In Memoriam

**John Garrett (BA '80)** passed away on September 28 at Beth Israel Hospital in New York. Garrett was the keyboardist for the Nitecaps, a band that has opened for the Ramones and U2.

**Ivory Ocean (BA '81)** died at age 65 on January 8 in Los Angeles. He was a touring company alumnus of Second City and taught in the Theatre Department at Columbia College Chicago.

## FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

**David F. Arieti** (Science & Mathematics) co-authored and published the book *Prognosis Disaster: The Environment, Climate Change, Human Influences, Vectors, Disease and the Possible End of Humanity?*

**Stephen Asma** (HHSS) wrote an article about gender and sex called "Gauging Gender" that appeared in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

**Annette Barbier** (Interactive Arts & Media) was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Chicago-based Propeller Fund for the project "Expose, Intervene, Occupy: Re-interpreting Public Space," a collaborative between two arts collectives: one featuring Barbier, and the other featuring **Mat Rappaport** (Television). The project proposes an Augmented Reality application for Internet-enabled mobile devices.

**Anne Becker** (Education) is the president of the Illinois Art Education Association.

**David Berner's** (Radio) story for radio station WBBM-Chicago about memorials being placed in front of Apple stores after the death of the company's founder, Steve Jobs, was selected for broadcast on the CBS Radio Network.

**David Bernstein** and **Noah Isackson** (Journalism) contributed an article to *Chicago Magazine* titled "Gangs and Politicians in Chicago: An Unholy Alliance," which chronicles how violent street gangs and politicians trade money and favors for mutual gain.

**Bonnie Brooks** (Dance) observed, tracked, and recorded the final days of the legendary Merce Cunningham's troupe through written form.

**John Casey** (English) was the recipient of the Upton Fellowship in Civil War America, which provided a total of \$8,000 for a two-month residence.

**Paul Catanese** (Interdisciplinary Arts) was the featured artist at Wright State University's Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries through January 8.

**Sandi Chaplin** (Film & Video) was one of the featured alumni artists in *Revolution of Self* that ran through March 9.

**Suzanne Cohan-Lange** (Interdisciplinary Arts), **Sherry Antonini** (Interdisciplinary Arts), and **Niki Nolin's** (Interactive Arts & Media) installation *Little Black Dress* was invited to The Meijer Sculpture Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as part of its fall exhibition, *Sculpture Today: New Forces, New Forms*.

**Susan Cook** (Music), director of Sherwood Community Music School, went on a European tour as a saxophonist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

**Kevin Cooper** (Film & Video) directed what he believes is the first live-action indie 3-D family comedy, *Shakey*, last fall in Chicagoland.

**Dan Dinello** (Film & Video) wrote the chapter "AutoFac" for the book *Philip K. Dick and Philosophy*. He also wrote a chapter called "Lucifer Rising and Falling" in the book *The Rolling Stones and Philosophy*.

**Dave Dolak** (Science & Mathematics) displayed four handmade musical instruments and also highlighted photographs of student projects from his Honors class "The Physics of Musical Instruments" in July at the Convention of the Guild of American Luthiers in Tacoma, Washington.

**Robert Duffer** (Fiction Writing; MFA '05) won first place in the Chicago Public Library's "One Book, One Chicago" short fiction contest for fall 2011.

**Nick Eipers** (Audio Arts & Acoustics; BA '94), along with Columbia alums, founded Chicago Sessions, a record label devoted exclusively to Chicago-based jazz.

**Mindy Faber** (Interactive Arts & Media) co-managed a team of female developers that won Chicago's Place-making App contest from the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Council. The Mi Parque app is designed to engage Little Village residents in the process of building a neighborhood park. (See page 6.)

**Ron Falzone** (Film & Video) is the regular film commentator on WGN Radio 720's *The Steve and Johnnie Show*.

**Lynn Floriano's** (Art & Design) work "Flower on the Vine" was accepted by The 13th Biennial International Enamel Exhibition, which highlighted the best in contemporary enamels. It was housed at the Knoxville Museum of Art from November through January, and will be at The Metal Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, from March through June 3.

**Kelly Forsythe** (English; MFA '11) was named a Fall 2011 Emerging Poet by the Academy of American Poets.

**Julian Grant's** (Film & Video) *Fall Away* won five awards at the 2011 New York City International Film Festival.

**Ann Gunkel's** (HHSS) article, "On Cultural Studies in the Future Tense: Pedagogy and Political Work in Cultural Studies," which was published in *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, was

translated into Chinese for *Wen Hua Yen Giu* (Cultural Studies), a Beijing Capital University publication.

**Deborah H. Holdstein's** (School of Liberal Arts and Sciences) essay "Rhetorical Silence, Scholarly Absence, and Tradition Rethought" was published in *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition, and Culture*.

**Allan Johnston** (English) published poems in *R.KV.R.Y., Epiphany Magazine, New Verse News, White Pelican Review, Write Room, and Third Wednesday*.

**Jonathan Keiser** (Science & Mathematics, Academic Affairs) was invited by the University Council of Jamaica to be a member of a reaccreditation team reviewing four biology programs for Northern Caribbean University.

**Mark Kelly** (Student Affairs) was chosen to receive the 2011 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) IV-East award for Outstanding Performance as a Senior Student Affairs Officer.

**Aviya Kushner** (English) published an essay in *Gulf Coast Magazine* titled "Give Me Shelter" about the efforts to help international refugee writers who come to America.

**Larry Lundy** (Film & Video) was selected to design the 40th anniversary fundraising exhibition for Opportunity International of Oak Brook, Illinois. He created a “nomadic global village” at the Hyatt Regency, San Francisco Airport, in October.

**Martha Meegan** (Campus Safety & Security) received a scholarship to attend Northwestern University’s Center for Public Safety Executive Development Institute in November.

**Andrew Micheli** (AEMM; MFA '08) was appointed executive director of the Arts & Business Council of Chicago.

**Jack C. Newell** and **Ron Falzone** (Film & Video) signed a distribution deal with Shorts HD for their short film *Typing*. The film ran on the Shorts HD channel.

**Carolina Posse** (Film & Video) curated *Mostra II: Brazilian Film Series* on November 9-16.

**Douglas Reichert Powell** (English) gave the keynote address at the conference “Critical Regionalism: Determinants of Community Sustainability” hosted by the Centre for Regional Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, in October.

**Pegeen Reichert Powell** (English) was invited to give a lecture and conduct a writing workshop at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in October.

**Teresa Puente** (Journalism) was the *Newsday*/David Laventhol Visiting Professor at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism for fall 2011.

**Michelle Rafacz** (Science & Mathematics) authored the manuscript “Hormonal Correlates of Paternal Care Differences in the Hylobatidae,” which was accepted into the *American Journal of Primatology*.

**Philippe Ravanos** (AEMM) was asked to join *The International Journal of Arts Management* (IJAM) editorial team as associate editor. Also, he was voted into the board of directors of the Arts & Business Council (A&BC) of Chicago.

**Brendan Riley’s** (English) essay “The E-Dead: Zombies in the Digital Age” appeared in *Generation Zombie: Essays on the Living Dead in Modern Society*. In addition, Riley was quoted in *New York Times Magazine* and Discovery Channel stories about zombies, and his entries in the World Book Online Encyclopedia, “Zombie” and “Necromancy,” were published in the fall.

**Jane M. Hussein Saks** (Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media) was appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to the City of Chicago’s Cultural Advisory Council serving Commissioner Michelle Boone.

**Jonn Salovaara** and **Qween Wicks** (English) were awarded the Timothy J. Densmore Faculty Fellowship following the completion of the 2010/2011 Service-Learning Course Conversion workshop facilitated by the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Center for Community Arts Partnerships. They’ve infused service-learning into their existing courses.

**Mark Schimmel** (Film & Video) completed a 30-episode campaign for True Value Hardware. His YouTube channel is [youtube.com/user/Dogdirector](http://youtube.com/user/Dogdirector).

**Joanie Schultz** (Theatre) directed Next Theatre Company’s *The Girl in the Yellow Dress* at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center in January and February.

**Sandeep Sharma’s** (Film & Video) *A Portrait in Bombay* placed second in the Heroic Individual category of the 2011 MY HERO International Film Festival.

**Patricia Ann McNair** (Fiction Writing) released her book *The Temple of Air* in September. The book contains 11 linked stories, which take place in a small town called New Hope.

**Samuel Park** (English) released his novel *This Burns My Heart* in 2011. The book was chosen as one of Amazon’s “Best Books of 2011,” a *People* magazine “Great Reads in Fiction,” and one of *Today’s* “Favorite Things.”



**Louis Silverstein’s** (HHSS) paper “Engaged Contemplation” was accepted for presentation at the 3rd Annual Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education Conference at Amherst (Massachusetts) College in November. He also presented on the subject matter of his book *Encountering Life’s Endings* at the 2nd International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, in Vancouver, Canada, in February.

**Michael Slaboch** (Audio Arts & Acoustics) and the entire Numero Group team received two 2011 Grammy nominations for Best Album Notes and Best Historical Album.

**Jill Sultz** (Film & Video) was awarded a First-Year Experience Award for Outstanding Faculty Member after being nominated by fellow members of the Columbia community.

**Ben Sutherland** (Audio Arts & Acoustics) will be featured on an upcoming album of curriculum-based rock songs.

**Chris Swider’s** (Film & Video) *Children in Exile* was the winner of the 2011 Amsterdam Film Festival Van Gogh Award for Best Human Rights Film, and was featured in *The Cosmopolitan Review*.

**David Tarleton’s** (Film & Video) web series *Dorkumentary* played in festivals, including the Abbie Hoffman Festival, and won Best Ensemble at the Indie Incubator Festival.

**Peter Thompson’s** (Film & Video) *Lowlands* premiered at the Gene Siskel in October.

**Fereshteh Toosi** (First-Year Seminar) received a \$6,000 grant from the Propeller Fund for her project *Garlic & Greens*. In December, she presented her paper, “Oral History through Touch and Sound: Multisensory Design for People with Low or No Vision,” at the Sensory Worlds conference in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh.

**Marie Ullrich’s** (Film & Video; MFA '11) *Faster!* was picked up by Shorts International for distribution.

**Guy Villa Jr.** (Art + Design) was invited to give a lecture on book form at the Ninth International Conference on October 14-16 at the University of Toronto, Canada.

**Mia Wicklund** (Film & Video) won a 2011 Weisman Award for her short documentary *Bananafesto!* The documentary was associate produced by Dimitri Moore (BA '11).

**Daniele Wilmouth** (Film & Video) talked about her documentary *Eleanore & the Timekeeper* on NPR radio station WBEZ.

**Fo Wilson** (Art + Design) curated the exhibition *The New Materiality: Digital Dialogues at the Boundaries of Contemporary Craft*, which opened at the Asheville Museum of Art in North Carolina on November 18 and ran through March 18. Wilson was also the juror for the 101st Annual

Exhibition at the Society for Contemporary Craft.

**Sharon Zurek** (Film & Video) was awarded Best Feature Documentary at the Illinois International Film Festival for her feature *A Mind in Quicksand, Life with Huntington’s*. The film also won a CINE Golden Eagle Award.

## In Memoriam

**Rose Economou** (Journalism), an Emmy Award-winning television producer, died on October 2 at her home in Oak Park. She was 65. Economou joined Columbia as an artist-in-residence in 1990 and became a member of the Journalism faculty two years later. The Journalism Department established a scholarship in her honor. This scholarship will help students pay for international travel courses, which Economou developed and championed. Contributions to the fund should be made payable to Columbia College Chicago and directed to Chris Richert in the Journalism Department, [crichert@colum.edu](mailto:crichert@colum.edu), 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL, 60605.

**Gerry Pinka** (Building Services) died on December 10 after a brief battle with cancer. Pinka started at Columbia in April 2009. His attention to detail and vast knowledge endeared him to his colleagues across the college campus.

# POINT & SHOOT



Photo: Jorge Garza Norrick



Photo: Brian Kinyon

## CONVERSATIONS IN THE ARTS

Political strategist and former interim chair of the Democratic National Committee **Donna Brazile** visited Columbia College on October 25. Brazile spoke about the US deficit, Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street movements, and the upcoming 2012 elections.

Writer, lecturer, editor, and feminist activist **Gloria Steinem** spoke at Columbia on February 7, discussing her time as the co-founder and editor of *Ms.* magazine, and her interest in gender roles, roots of violence, and peace and justice.



Photo: Brent White (BA '08)

## LAS DEAN'S LECTURE, OCTOBER 13, 2011

**Dr. Stephen Asma**, professor of philosophy; **Dr. Deborah H. Holdstein**, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and **Allen M. Turner**, Board of Trustees chairman, at the fall 2011 lecture. Turner and Asma debated the future of morality and ethics in our dangerous and changing world.



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## CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OCTOBER 6 & 11, 2011

At the Chicago International Film Festival, Columbia hosted alumni, students, and college supporters at a private reception, Q&A session, and private screenings. *The Return of Joe Rich*, written and directed by **Sam Auster**, and *Lenny Morris vs. the Universe* by **Evan Powers** (BA '10) were shown.

[ 1 ] **Sam Auster**, center, and **Bruce Sheridan**, left, lead a panel discussion. [ 2 ] **Evan Powers** (BA '10), left, directed and co-wrote *Lenny Morris vs. the Universe*. [ 3 ] **Gary Cole** and **Dennis Farina** starred in the Opening Night film, *The Last Rites of Joe May*.

Photos: Robert Kusel (BA '78)



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## ALUMNI WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2011

The 2011 Alumni Weekend featured a casting panel that included alumni talent agents, casting directors, and executives. Alumni also enjoyed the Student/Alumni Luncheon as well as several career-based and creative workshops. Don't miss this year's Alumni Weekend, which will be held September 28-29.

[ 1 ] Theatre students **Charlie Cook** and **Katie Mathias** perform a scene from *The Odd Couple* [ 2 ] **PA Cadichon** (BA '01) and staff member **Pattie Mackenzie** [ 3 ] Alumni enjoy the memoir workshop [ 4 ] **Adriana Galvan** (BA '01) and Director of Alumni Relations, West Coast, **Sarah Schroeder** (BA '00) [ 5 ] **Navid McIlhargey** (MFA '00), senior VP of New Regency Pictures; **Orion Barnes** (BA '97), agent/owner of Rogers Orion Talent Agency; and **Sara Isaacson** ('99), casting director, *Fringe*

Photos: Vladimir Zaytsev ('12)



Photo: Vladimir Zaytsev ('12)

## WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER? FILM SCREENING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

The Office of Alumni Relations and **Karyn Bosnak** (BA '96) hosted an on-campus screening and Q&A for the film *What's Your Number*, based on Bosnak's book, *20 Times a Lady*.



Photo: Vladimir Zaytsev ('12)

## STUDENT ALUMNI ALLIANCE OCTOBER 14, 2011

**Marlon West** (BA '85), center in white shirt, discussed film animation and his career path with students on campus. During his 19-year tenure at Disney, he has worked on many notable films, including *The Lion King*, *Pocahontas*, *Tarzan*, and *Chicken Little*, and served as visual effects supervisor on *Atlantis: The Lost Empire*, *The Princess and the Frog*, and *Winnie the Pooh*.

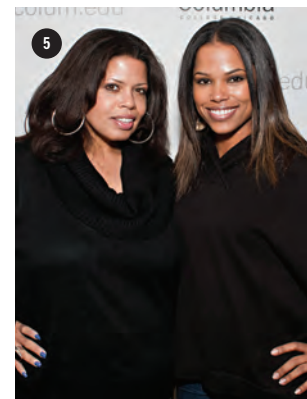


## OPEN DOORS GALA, NOVEMBER 5, 2011

The Open Doors Gala raised nearly \$700,000 to benefit the **Open Doors Scholarship** fund for Chicago Public Schools' graduates to attend Columbia College. About 250 community and business leaders and college supporters attended the event at the college's Media Production Center.

**[ 1 ]** President Warrick L. Carter and John Rogers **[ 2 ]** Linda Johnson Rice, Jerome Russell, and Stephanie Russell **[ 3 ]** Serafin Lopez ('12), recipient of an Open Doors Scholarship, addresses the audience **[ 4 ]** Students perform

Photos: Steve Becker



## SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL, JANUARY 20-23, 2012

For a fourth year in a row, Columbia College Chicago had a big presence in Park City and a full slate of activities during the film festival at Sundance. The college hosted alumni, friends of Columbia, industry professionals, and festival goers at several weekend events at the Waldorf Astoria Park City.

**[ 1 ]** Len Amato (BA '75) and President Warrick L. Carter greet fest goers **[ 2 ]** T.J. Mino and Aaron Washington **[ 3 ]** Carrie Beck, Bruce Sheridan, and School of Media Arts Dean Robin Bargar lead a discussion **[ 4 ]** Tanya Savard (BA '10), John Brankin (BA '09), Bethany Barnes (BA '10), and Brian Henderson (BA '10) **[ 5 ]** Casting director and producer Sharon King (BA '88) and writer, producer, and actor Diandra Lyle

Photos: Samantha Kanzler

# Thank you.

In fiscal year 2011, which ended August 31, generous individuals and organizations contributed a total of \$12,889,644 to support the educational mission of Columbia College Chicago. Many of those gifts were designated for Scholarship Columbia, a five-year matching program backed by \$1 million, to address the financial needs of our students.

**For information about giving to Columbia, visit [colum.edu/giving](http://colum.edu/giving), or call 312.369.7287.**

## 2011

### Columbia College Chicago Honor Roll of Donors

Fiscal Year 2011 (September 1, 2010, through August 31, 2011)

#### Individuals

##### \$250,000 to \$499,999

Richard P. & Susan Kiphart  
Spencer Family

##### \$100,000 to \$249,999

Anonymous  
Carol A. Cohen  
Diane N. Dammeyer ('01)  
Michael B. & Susan Frank  
Allen M. & Lynn Turner

##### \$50,000 to \$99,999

Anonymous (2)  
Terry & Lee Anne Box  
Georgia & Gerald W. Fogelson  
John R. & Patricia A. Gehron  
Gigi Pritzker Pucker & Michael A. Pucker  
David Teplica MD, MFA

##### \$25,000 to \$49,999

Bruce R. & Ann R. Bachmann  
Steve Devick  
Paul Freeman  
Averill & Bernard Leviton  
Howard Mendelsohn (BA '49)  
James N. Pritzker  
Barry M. & Anne M. Sabloff  
Peter G. ('80) & Gloria Teschner  
Leslie A. Weaver (MA '87)  
& Hilton H. Weinberg (MA '85)  
Susan and Bob Wislow

##### \$10,000 to \$24,999

Anonymous (3)  
Jay Albanese  
Andrew & Diane Alexander  
Soraya Betterton  
Paul B. Broucek (BA '74)  
& Carolyn Manetti  
Evette Cardona & Mona Noriega  
Warrick L. Carter PhD & Laurel Carter

Melissa Catanese  
Michelle L. Collins  
Bruce A. & Deborah A. Crown  
Allan & Ellen Drebin  
Scott D. Fortino (BA '80)  
Marcia Frank  
Ralph W. & Karen C. Gidwitz  
Isaac & Jennifer Goldman  
Leo S. Guthman\*  
Mary Louise Haddad & Samuel Perry  
Lenore W. & Richard Hervey  
James T. Holliday  
Bill & Vicki Hood  
Juanita V. Jordan  
Paul R. & Nancy J. Knapp  
Justin A. Kulovsek (BA '04)  
Nate Larson  
Marcia Lazar (MFA '03) & Alan Amos  
Elizabeth A. Liebman PhD  
Barry A. Mayo ('01)  
Lauren M. McLain (BA '05)  
Margaret R. ('05) & Michael Meiners  
Mark J. & Linda L. Micheli  
Sylvia Neil & Dan Fischel  
A.M. & K. Ombregt-Cool  
Cynthia S. Raskin ('92)  
Pamela & John Rijos  
Arlen D. Rubin & Elaine Cohen Rubin  
Lisa Sandquist & Peter Kinney  
Laurence Sloma & Lyn Persson  
Lawrence K. & Maxine Snider  
David S. Solomon MD  
& Brenda C. Solomon MD  
Sterling Stuckey

##### \$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous  
Brian Arnold  
Madeleine & Thomas J. Burrell  
William F. Cellini Jr. (BA '94)  
& Carmen Cantarin  
Warren K. Chapman PhD  
& Bonita Chapman  
Michael & Barbara Collins  
William Collins (BA '10)  
Susan V. Downing  
Natasha H. (MFA '98) & Zach Egan  
James F. Feldstein  
Rebecca Ford Terry ('91)  
Kim & John J. Gallagher

Sonny Garg & Julia Harris  
Susanne Ghez  
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 Jeanne Parker Trust  
 Rodriguez & Associates, Inc.  
 Sarah Siddons Society, Inc.  
 US Bancorp Foundation

### \$1,000 to \$4,999

Anonymous  
 American Airlines  
 Ariel Investments  
 Asian American Coalition  
 of Employees at Harris Bank  
 Bulley & Andrews LLC  
 Chicago Bar Association  
 The Chicago Drama League  
 Chinese Fine Arts Society  
 Christie's  
 Comcast Corporation  
 Community Media Workshop  
 East Balt. Commissary, Inc.  
 Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.  
 Financial Straight Talk, Inc.  
 Hoover Treated Wood Products, Inc.  
 Illinois Humanities Council  
 Interior Investments, LLC  
 IssueLab  
 J.R. Clancy, Inc.  
 Klaff Family Foundation  
 The Liberate Foundation  
 Links Hall, Inc.  
 Motorola Corporation  
 Noise Barriers, LLC  
 OnCampus Advertising, LLC  
 Opening Night Arts Group  
 The Oppenheimer Family Foundation  
 Packaging Corporation of America  
 Partage Group LLC  
 Premier Relocation Inc.  
 PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP  
 Pugh, Jones, Johnson & Quandt P.C.  
 Lya & Louis Rosenblum  
 Family Foundation  
 Ross Family Foundation  
 Sacks Family Foundation  
 Schuler Shook, Inc.  
 Sperian Protection USA, Inc.  
 Jerome H. Stone Family Foundation  
 Swartwerk Media Design  
 Tip-Top Branding  
 Valparaiso University

American Library Association  
 Catharsis Productions  
 Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
 Iowa State University  
 Jen Bekman Gallery  
 Kinetic Noise Control  
 The Lawrence Pucci Wedgewood  
 Society of Chicago  
 Malibu Horses, Inc.  
 Morgan Stanley  
 One Smooth Stone  
 Pearson Education  
 Process Creative Studios  
 Taipei Economic and Cultural Office  
 in Chicago  
 Koko Taylor Celebrity Aid Foundation  
 Time Warner Employee Grants Programs  
 TransUnion, LLC  
 Ungaretti & Harris  
 Samuel Weinstein Family Foundation

**\$250 to \$499**  
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 Baker & McKenzie LLP  
 Cerato Boutique  
 Chicago Association of Hispanic  
 Journalists  
 The Chicago Council on Global Affairs  
 Konik & Company, Inc.  
 Microsoft Matching Gifts Program  
 Mobility Innovation  
 Neo  
 Northern Trust Charitable  
 Giving Program  
 Save A Sample!  
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 University of Washington  
 Waco Composites I, Ltd.

**\$100 to \$249**  
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 Authors and Publishers  
 Boston Public Library  
 Central Michigan University  
 Cornell University  
 Environmental Law and Policy  
 Center of the Midwest  
 Leighton's Garage, Inc.  
 Marian University  
 Maumee Valley Country Day School  
 The New York Public Library  
 The Pew Charitable Trusts  
 Pomona College  
 South Loop Club  
 Swedish Bunk Johnson Society  
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 University Library Utrecht  
 University of Alabama Huntsville  
 University of Central Oklahoma  
 University of Colorado at Boulder  
 University of Maryland Baltimore County  
 University of Missouri-St. Louis  
 University of North Carolina  
 School of the Arts  
 University of Nottingham  
 University of Oregon  
 University of Rochester  
 University of Vermont  
 University of Witwatersrand

\* Indicates donor is deceased.

# UPCOMINGEVENTS

SEE MORE AND GET MORE INFORMATION AT [COLUM.EDU/CALENDAR](http://COLUM.EDU/CALENDAR).  
EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

## Subimago: BFA Fine Art Exhibition 2012

Linda Benjamin. *Map*, 2011. Clear rubber relief and acrylic paint. 18"x12".

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Manifest

May 4

Throughout campus,  
[colum.edu/manifest](http://colum.edu/manifest)

Manifest is an urban arts festival celebrating the work and creativity of Columbia students. It is free and open to the public and features music, exhibitions, screenings, presentations, performances, and much more.

## GALLERIES

### MFA Thesis Exhibitions

April 20–May 26

Center for Book and Paper Arts,  
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 2nd floor,  
[colum.edu/cbpa](http://colum.edu/cbpa)

The MFA Thesis Exhibition features projects by students graduating in the Interdisciplinary Arts Department. Work on view will represent all of the department's interdisciplinary areas of study: book and paper practices, performance, and media.

### Subimago: BFA Fine Art Exhibition 2012

May 4–June 2

A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave.,  
[colum.edu/adgallery](http://colum.edu/adgallery)

Columbia College Chicago's BFA Fine Art Exhibition has been a tradition since 2001 and represents Fine Art students' completion of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.



### Survival Techniques: Narratives of Resistance

Through July 1

Museum of  
Contemporary Photography,  
600 S. Michigan Ave., [mocp.org](http://mocp.org)

The exhibit, featuring 14 international artists, looks at human conflict and the ways individuals and groups endure long-term hardship.

### Works from the Dieu Donné Papermill

June 16–August 11

Center for Book and Paper Arts,  
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 2nd floor,  
[colum.edu/cbpa](http://colum.edu/cbpa)

Dieu Donné Papermill is an artists' workspace and gallery dedicated to the creation, exhibition, and preservation of contemporary art utilizing handmade paper.

### Bad at Sports Summer Residency 2012

June 21–July 18

A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave.,  
[colum.edu/adgallery](http://colum.edu/adgallery)

Bad at Sports will go beyond the podcast to create physical experiences, "sound art objects," and to test installation strategies for experiencing verbal content in a gallery.

### Peripheral Views: States of America

July 13–September 30

Museum of  
Contemporary Photography,  
600 S. Michigan Ave., [mocp.org](http://mocp.org)

As we debate our country's economic and political course this election year, this exhibit brings together artists grappling with the difficulty of picturing America in our time.

### Jan Tichy

October 12–December 23

Museum of  
Contemporary Photography,  
600 S. Michigan Ave., [mocp.org](http://mocp.org)

Jan Tichy (Czech, b. 1974) is collaborating with the Museum of Contemporary Photography for a one-year period to create a museumwide exhibition based on the museum's collection of more than 11,000 images and objects.

## THEATRE

### RENT

April 18–28

Getz Theatre, 72 E. 11th St.  
Tickets: 312.369.6126 or  
[colum.edu/theatre](http://colum.edu/theatre)

Set in the East Village art scene during the height of the 1980s AIDS epidemic, RENT is a year in the life of a band of talented young artists.

# BACKSTORY

## MAYFEST

# 2002

COLUMBIA'S URBAN ARTS FESTIVAL

### BY HEIDI MARSHALL

The strong winds and scattered showers did not dampen the spirits of those attending the first collegewide celebration of the graduating class, MayFest, on May 23, 2002. MayFest evolved into today's Manifest celebration.

In the decade since its inception, Manifest has become an established and integral part of the Columbia student experience.

Some artists featured on the three music stages of the inaugural

MayFest included the Columbia Jazz Ensemble, saxophonist Fred Anderson, blues singer Thornetta Davis, Zimbabwe Afro-pop artist Oliver Mtukudzi, and the North Mississippi Allstars. The Morris Minors, who are on Columbia's AEMMP record label, also performed.

As with Manifest today, the campus galleries for MayFest hosted ArtWalk studio exhibitions, performance poetry in the Hokin Gallery, and Art + Design exhibits

in the Glass Curtain Gallery. All student organizations were represented, and the Fusion dance troupe held a live performance.

There was also a puppetry parade, "Moving Pictures," which included a large snail, a walking merry-go-round, and a man on stilts. Trolleys provided transportation between the events and exhibits.

According to Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelly, "the electricity of Columbia came to life" at MayFest.

JIMMY CARTER WAS AWARDED  
A NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE

CHICAGO THE MOVIE WAS  
RELEASED IN THEATERS

BARACK OBAMA WAS  
RE-ELECTED TO THE ILLINOIS  
STATE SENATE

**Heidi Marshall** is Columbia's college archivist. If you have photos or materials you think might be of interest for the archives, let her know! [hmarshall@colum.edu](mailto:hmarshall@colum.edu) / 312.369.8689. Visit the Columbia archives online at [lib.colum.edu/archives](http://lib.colum.edu/archives).

Logo designed by Jessi Pervola (BA '02)

# Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO

INNOVATION IN THE VISUAL, PERFORMING,  
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For more information visit  
[colum.edu/scholarshipcolumbia](http://colum.edu/scholarshipcolumbia)  
or contact us at 312.369.7287.

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COLUMBIA'S MOMENT.**  
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