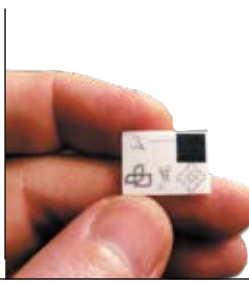




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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
TheRecord

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NEWS AND IDEAS FOR THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 24, 2011

MIDDLE EAST SCHOLARS DISCUSS EGYPT'S DEMOCRATIC UPRISING

By Candace Taylor

The global economic crisis and a recent crackdown on dissent fueled the popular uprising that ousted Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, according to a group of Middle East scholars who spoke at Columbia the day before the longtime dictator stepped down.

"This upheaval and [the one in] Tunisia mark an important seismic shift in the structure of power in the Arab world," said Rashid Khalidi, the Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies. "These changes have the potential to create a whole new balance of power in the region."

Khalidi was part of a panel, "Egypt Arising," held Feb. 10 at the University's Schapiro Center and sponsored by the Department of Middle East, South Asian and African Studies; the Middle East Institute; and the Committee on Global Thought.

Upheavals in Egypt and Tunisia mark an important seismic shift in the structure of power in the Arab world.

Other panelists included Juan Cole, the Richard P. Mitchell Professor of History at the University of Michigan; Mona El-Ghobashy, assistant professor of comparative politics at Barnard College; and Jean-Pierre Filiu, the Alliance Visiting Professor at Columbia, and a professor at Sciences Po in Paris.

El-Ghobashy, who was born in Cairo but raised in New York, attributed the uprising primarily to recent political changes. She noted that Mubarak managed to stay in power for 30 years through "a shrewd mixture of open and closed institutions." His was "one of the most durable authoritarian regimes in the world," she added, despite widespread hatred for him.

Although Egyptian parliamentary elections have been rigged for years, Mubarak allowed a few opposition figures to be elected to give people the feeling that they had a voice, she said. The regime also allowed a number of competing newspapers and a semi-independent judiciary.

"In the past two years," she said, "Mubarak has closed down those channels that used to exist to air grievances." For example, in last year's parliamentary elections, "for the first time the ruling party took 97 percent of the seats instead of giving a quarter of the seats to the opposition," El-Ghobashy said.

Filiu argued that the elements that caused the protests have been in place for some time. "I would say, 'Why didn't it happen before?'" he said. "We are witnessing the catch-up process."

The speakers agreed that the mass demonstrations had little to do with religion.

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BUILDING BANDWIDTH

EILEEN BARROSS

By Beth Kwon

Keren Bergman gets as aggravated as anyone by how long it takes to email a video of her son's recital to her parents. Unlike most people, Bergman, a professor of electrical engineering and department chair at the engineering school, can do something about it.

Bergman specializes in optical data, and her central research project involves the fiber optic network—the portion of the Web that consists of optical fibers over which data can be sent in the form of light waves. Fiber

optics can handle large files—including the huge files of high-definition video—faster than traditional copper wires. Even so, the fiber optic network as it is currently configured isn't very efficient.

"It's like one big, dumb pipe," Bergman says, adding that not much progress can be made if the pipe doesn't smarten up. Internet traffic around the world reached 176 billion gigabytes in 2009, according to a report from the networking firm Cisco Systems Inc., an enormous amount of data for a network developed in the 1970s for a few thousand researchers.

Who could have dreamed that the social

networking site Facebook would have 600 million users, many of whom, like Bergman, want to upload large video files of their children's recitals? Or that the Internet might someday connect doctors at multiple locations via 3-D high-definition conference calls? Both uses require rapid delivery of large, high-quality audio and video files.

At its core the Internet has "waterfalls of bandwidth," Bergman says, and should be able to handle the traffic. But traffic jams start as the volumes of information travel through narrower channels controlled by various Internet service providers. The current

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Preserving the Memory of Folk Music's Premier Preservationist

By Nick Obourn

Music professor John Szwed had his work cut out for him once he decided to write a biography of legendary ethnomusicologist Alan Lomax.

Lomax, whose life work was donated to the Library of Congress after his death in 2002, had amassed more than 5,000 hours of sound recordings; 400,000 feet of film; 2,450 videotapes; 2,000 books and journals; and numerous prints, documents and databases.

Szwed pored through those vast archives in the American Folklife Center to complete *Alan Lomax: The Man Who Recorded the World*, his new and widely praised biography of the folklor-

ist and preservationist.

"The sheer quantity of it all was overwhelming," Szwed said. "Once you enter the largest collection of folk music and dance in the world you can drown in it. A worse problem for me was that I kept running into things that were so fascinating that I wanted to stop work and just enjoy it."

Lomax was one of the first to record native music in the field, starting at age 18 with his father, the folklorist and author John Lomax. As Alan Lomax's career developed, he also worked at the Library of Congress, organized concerts across the United States and edited the landmark 18-volume *Columbia World Library of Folk and Primitive Music*.

Collecting music on location



From left: Woody Guthrie, Lily Mae Ledford of the Coon Creek Girls and Alan Lomax, New York City, 1944

COURTESY OF THE ALAN LOMAX ARCHIVE

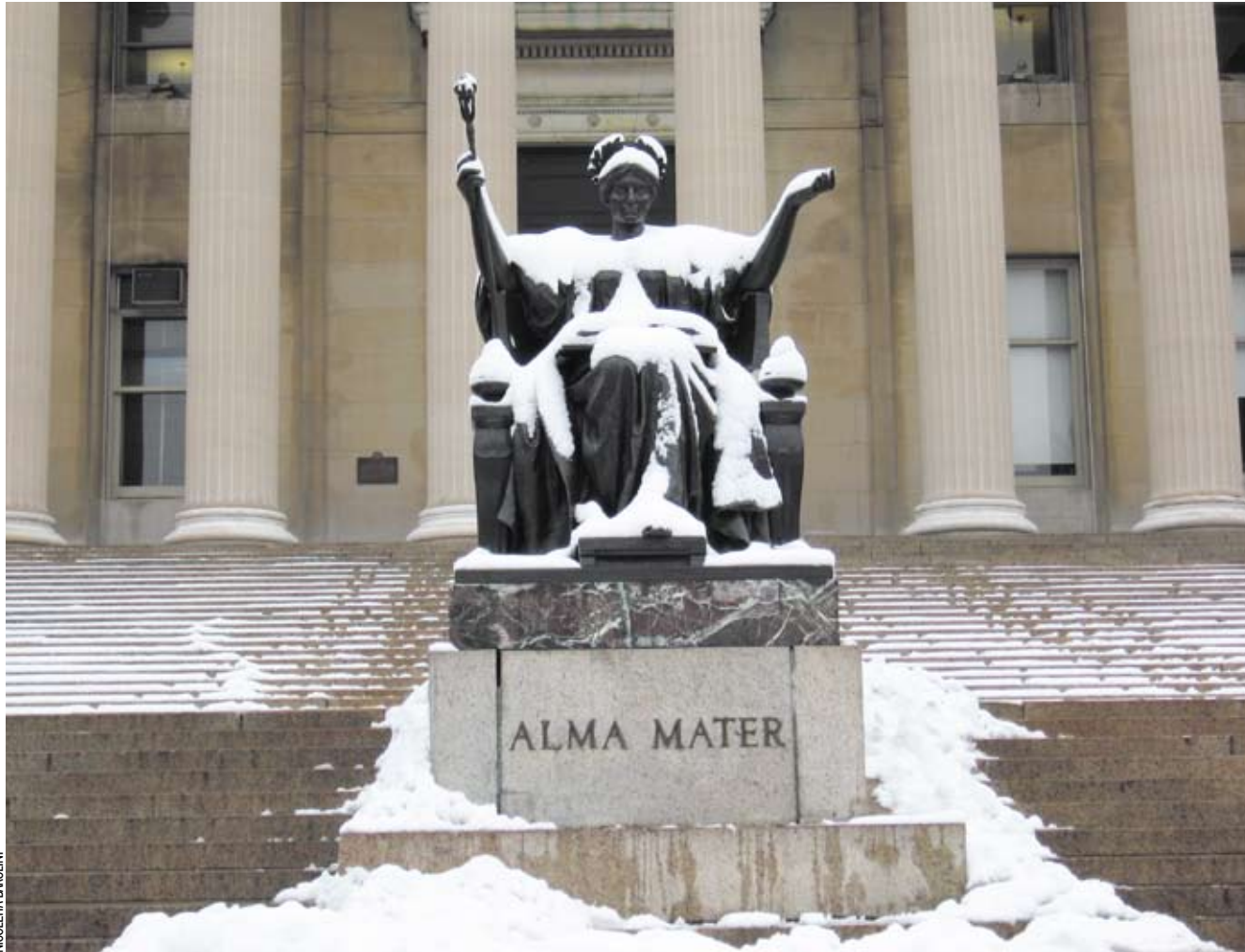
in the United States and abroad, however, was his passion, and his recordings redefined ethnomusicology, which until then had focused on printed lyrics. "Recording allowed songs to be learned

or studied for their style and performance, not just for their words and music," Szwed said. "And even words and music were different when they were heard, and not simply read off a page. It was now

continued on page 4



ON CAMPUS



NICOLETTA BAROLINI

A 'MATER' OF SNOW

Alma Mater is covered in yet another blanket of snow during the latest snowstorm to hit this season. With a record amount of snow falling in New York City this winter, the University's snow removal team has had its hands full. At the height of each storm, dozens of Facilities employees fan out on campus with 50-pound bags of salt and scores of shovels, ice choppers, snow blowers and other machinery to clear away tons of snow and ice.

MILESTONES



Chemistry Professor **GERARD PARKIN** was among 11 individuals and four organizations named by President Obama as recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, administered by the National Science Foundation. Obama praised the mentors for helping keep the U.S. "on the cutting edge of science and engineering." Recipients are honored at the White House and receive awards of \$10,000 to advance their mentoring efforts.



DeWitt Clinton Professor of History **ERIC FONER** was awarded the Lincoln Prize for his latest book, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*, a study of Lincoln's views on slavery. The \$50,000 prize honors the best scholarly pieces on Lincoln each year and is given by the nonprofit Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

DAN MIRON, the Leonard Kaye Professor of Hebrew Literature, was honored for his scholarship in the 2010 National Jewish Book Awards, which are given annually by the Jewish Book Council for outstanding works on Jewish topics. Miron won for his book *From Continuity to Continuity: Toward a New Jewish Literary Thinking*.



MARCIA SELLS, associate vice president for program development and initiatives in the Office of Government and Community Affairs, has taken on an additional role at the School of the Arts. Sells was named an associate dean of community outreach in charge of creating the school's first Office of Community Outreach to further enhance ties between the University and the cultural organizations in Upper Manhattan.

BARBARA RUCH Professor Emerita of Japanese literature and cultural history, and director of the Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies (GSAS'65), received the Kyoto Culture Award for 2010 in a ceremony in Kyoto on Jan. 27. The award is given to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the arts and culture in the city and prefecture of Kyoto. Professor Ruch is only the second non-Japanese person to receive the award in its 29-year history.

GRANTS & GIFTS

WHO GAVE IT: Richard Paul and Ellen S. Richman Private Family Foundation

HOW MUCH: \$10 million

WHO GOT IT: Columbia Business School and Columbia Law School

WHAT FOR: To establish the Richard Paul Richman Center for Business, Law, and Public Policy, an interdisciplinary academic center to be jointly administered by the two schools. Richman (LAW'72, BUS '73) is chairman of the Richman Group, a real estate development firm; he also serves on the Dean's Council at the Law School and is a member of the Business School Board of Overseers.

WHO GAVE IT: Estate of Linda Matheson (SSW'66, SSW'74)

HOW MUCH: \$761,000

WHO GOT IT: School of Social Work

WHAT FOR: This bequest by the longtime donor to the School of Social Work's annual fund establishes a fund in her name to benefit the school's library.

WHO GAVE IT: Karl J. Hirshman

HOW MUCH: \$100,000

WHO GOT IT: School of Nursing

WHAT FOR: To endow a scholarship fund named for the donor's late wife, Laura "Poppy" Schwartz Hirshman (NRS'59).

Leading Chemist

Dear Alma,

True or false: Columbia graduated the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry?

—Curious Chemist

Dear Chemist:

True. Columbia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences conferred a doctorate to Marie Maynard Daly in 1947, making her the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry, according to the American Chemical Society, and the first woman at Columbia to earn a chemistry doctorate.

The New York City native was born in Queens in 1921, one of three children of Ivan C. and Helen Page Daly. Her father had been a chemistry major at Cornell University but was forced to drop out for financial reasons. He became instead a postal clerk and inspired a love of science in his daughter.

Profiles of Daly often cite her love of books—she reportedly spent long hours reading in her maternal grandfather's large personal library as a child—particularly her fascination with Paul De Kruif's best-seller *The Microbe Hunters*, as helping to spark her interest in chemistry. First published in 1926, the historical thriller chronicled early scientists as they discovered microscopic life forms.

Daly attended the Hunter College High School, then as now one of the city's most elite schools. After high school, she began classes at Queens College, commuting each day from her parents' home to save money. She graduated magna cum laude in 1942 and then enrolled in graduate school at New York University, earning a master's degree in only a year while working as a lab assistant. Enrolling in the chemistry doctoral program at Columbia, Daly finished in 1947 after only three years. The title of her dissertation was "A Study of the Products Formed



ASK ALMA'S OWL

by the Action of Pancreatic Amylase on Corn Starch."

While at Columbia, Daly researched the effect of sugars and cholesterol on digestion and the heart, work she continued when she joined Howard University and later Rockefeller University. In 1955, she returned to Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons to teach biochemistry.

Best known for work that was geared toward practical applications for heart health and nutrition, Daly also made contributions to understanding the impact of cigarette smoking on the lungs.

Daly retired from teaching and research in 1986, and eased the path for those following her success by establishing a scholarship for African American chemistry and physics majors at Queens College in memory of her father. She passed away in 2003.

To learn more about some of the great African American Columbians in our history, visit www.columbia.edu/blackhistory.

—Sberi Whitley

Send your questions for Alma's Owl to curecord@columbia.edu.



Marie Maynard Daly (GSAS'47), the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry

COURTESY OF QUEENS COLLEGE

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Tune In: Columbia Professor Turned TV Star

By Melanie A. Farmer

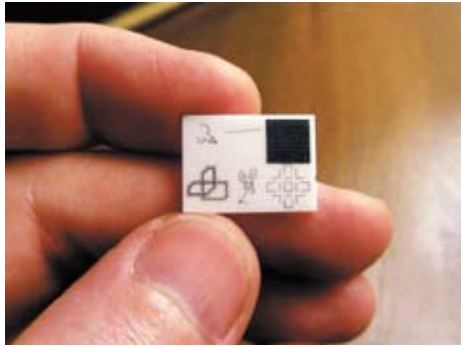
When a British television producer called Gwendolyn Wright a decade ago to ask if she would be interested in hosting a new TV show, she quipped, “You do realize I’m a 55-year-old woman?” Age, it turns out, did not matter. The producer wanted her for her expertise in American architecture and urbanism.

The show was *History Detectives*, which is entering its ninth season. It is consistently among the three most-watched shows on PBS each summer, along with *Antiques Roadshow*.

“It’s terrific,” says Wright, a professor at Columbia’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. “It has been a nice opportunity for me to actually bring scholarship into a medium that often doesn’t follow it and to discover there’s a sizeable public who really likes it.”

Wright is a co-host with four other experts in history, sociology, anthropology and art history, helping to trace the history of a wide selection of artifacts, houses and even locations. Series producer Jennifer Silverman says Wright’s “knowledge and enthusiasm” is key to the show’s success. “It is her incredible curiosity—for history, for accuracy and for ways to tell a story—that make her a great detective,” she says.

The show illustrates the process of historical investigations including how you track down the provenance of a specific object. In one episode of *History Detectives*, Wright investigated the history of a small ceramic tile that contained drawings by six prominent artists, including Andy Warhol, who wanted to have it sent to the moon with the Apollo 12 mission. After interviewing three witnesses including the launch pad foreman of the mission, Wright concluded that the tile likely made it to the moon, though she emphasized



The ceramic chip holds six small drawings and was purchased at an online auction by a Florida art curator.

that she had only circumstantial evidence that it was smuggled aboard the spaceship.

Each hour-long show has three segments, each based on a question about a particular object. A recent story focused on a three-page document dated 1791 that was tied to the Universal Friends, the first religious group founded by an American-born woman. The document was submitted by a viewer in Maine whose family had kept it for over two centuries. Another investigated a ceramic jug made by potters from the Congo who were the last illegal slaves to arrive in the South.

Wright says the challenge includes not just finding evidence, but also showing the audience different ways to evaluate a subject and competing points of view about an event. She brings in other experts for every story, including fellow Columbia faculty members like historian Eric Foner, who appeared in the show’s first season.

Wright’s TV stardom has been an unexpected addition to an academic career that includes six books, scores of articles and Guggenheim and Getty fellowships. The first woman at the architecture school to receive tenure in 1985, she also holds appointments in the departments of history and art history.

It was her research on American housing and the cultural history of buildings that



In season two, Wright, with an archaeologist, investigates 17th-century artifacts, including this clay tobacco pipe, found atop a dead body discovered in an old basement.

caught the attention of producers. At the time they wanted to shoot a pilot about the history of artifacts found in various American homes. When Wright signed on, she convinced the producers to include all types of dwellings, including apartment buildings and even the space that a homeless person considers home.

When Wright decided to take on the TV project, some colleagues warned it would hurt her academic reputation. But she sees the medium as yet another vehicle for education, and an exceptional way to reach a wide range

of people. “I’ve done enough work in my life that I am taken seriously for,” she says. “I pride myself on showing people how you do history and how you ask questions about the past. In fact, many historians are enthusiastic about this historical outreach.” And, she adds, her TV career has made her a better teacher.

Doing the show “is expanding my commitment to scholarship and the things that Columbia is so good at doing,” she says. “We’re not just training future sociologists, historians and physicists; we’re training people in the world to think critically and to like doing it.”

ON EXHIBIT:

Project Europa: Imagining the (Im)Possible

The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery considers the social and democratic impact of the fall of the Berlin Wall with *Project Europa: Imagining the (Im)Possible*, on display through March 26.

Nineteen artists, representing 13 European nations, contributed a range of work to the exhibition, including photography, video, painting and sculpture.

Among the artists in the exhibition are Francis Alÿs, Kader Attia, Yto Barrada, Marcel Odenbach, Dan Perjovschi, Andrea Robbins and Max Becher, and Superflex.

The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. To see a video about the exhibit, go to news.columbia.edu/europa.

—By Nick Obourn



The Entry Drawing, 2011 by Dan Perjovschi, commissioned by the Wallach Art Gallery in conjunction with the exhibition *Project Europa: Imagining the (Im)Possible*

Sebastian Junger Visits J-school to Talk About Oscar-nominated Film *Restrepo*

By Adam Piore

One of the primary reasons magazine journalist and author Sebastian Junger began carrying a camera into combat was to keep himself calm when the shooting started.

“No one takes notes in combat,” Junger told a packed crowd at the journalism school Feb. 3. “And if you’re a writer stuck behind a rock with nothing to do, it can be terrifying.”

Junger, the best-selling author of *The Perfect Storm* and a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair*, turned the footage he shot over the course of a year in Afghanistan into the 2010 film *Restrepo*, which has been nominated for an Academy Award for best documentary.

Junger was on campus with co-director Tim Hetherington for a screening and discussion of the movie, which documented the harrowing experiences of a platoon of soldiers posted in 2007 and 2008 to a remote hilltop base in Afghanistan’s notorious Korengal Valley.

“We wanted to provide the feeling that you were there, that you’re in danger, and you’re feeling everything they are feeling,” Junger said. “Then when soldiers come home, you can have a sense of what they went through.”

The project grew out of a series of articles Junger wrote and Hetherington photographed for *Vanity Fair*. Junger’s experiences at the isolated outpost, named for an Army medic Juan Restrepo who was killed in action, are also the basis of his best-selling book *War*.

The idea for the documentary “really crystallized when Tim came on,” Junger said. Both wanted to explore similar themes: masculinity, comradeship, violence and fear. And both were far more interested in capturing the experiences

of the young men fighting than any geopolitical implications of the conflict.

In the end, there was no place in their movie for armchair interviews with generals, diplomats—or even shots of families at home. They didn’t want anything that would take viewers outside the claustrophobic confines of the mountaintop base, except the dangerous missions of the soldiers themselves.

The result is a heart-stopping, immersive trip to the remote and barren hills of a violent patch of Afghanistan, where the possibility of sudden bursts of gunfire or explosions keeps the sol-

“We wanted to provide the feeling that you were there, that you’re in danger, and you’re feeling everything they are feeling.”

diers—and the audience—constantly on edge. The camera stays on during attacks, ambushes—and even the detonation of an improvised explosive device.

The New York Times called *Restrepo* one of the essential 21st-century combat movies, along with *The Hurt Locker* and *Gunner Palace*.

During the J-school discussion, Junger and Hetherington discussed their reasons for taking such a dangerous assignment—at one point Taliban rebels detonated an IED (improvised

continued on page 4



Lenfest Awards Celebrate Faculty Excellence

By Record Staff

Eight faculty members received this year's Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards at a dinner at Casa Italiana on Feb. 8. The annual awards, established by University Trustee Gerry Lenfest (LAW'58, HON'09) in 2005, are given annually to faculty of unusual merit across a range of activities—including scholarship, University citizenship and professional involvement—with a primary emphasis on the instruction and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students.

This year's winning faculty members come from disciplines ranging from medieval art to earth science and will receive a stipend of \$25,000 per year for three consecutive years.

Rachel Adams, professor of English and American studies in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, is a specialist in 19th- and 20th-century American literature. Her first book, *Sideshow U.S.A.: Freaks and the American Cultural Imagination*, broke ground in exploring themes like the role of spectacle in American life and changing concepts of "otherness," while her second book, *Continental Divides: Remapping the Cultures of North America*, drew connections between the U.S., Canada and Mexico and made the case for a "continental consciousness." Adams' pathbreaking studies have also made her a leader in the emerging field of disability studies.

Stuart Firestein, professor of biological sciences, is known for his groundbreaking research in olfaction. His laboratory was the first to link a specific olfactory receptor with a corresponding odor, a discovery that

has been called the Rosetta Stone for understanding our sense of smell. Firestein has won many honors, including a Nakanishi Award for Excellence in Olfaction Research, a Human Frontiers Science Program award and the R.H. Wright Award. He has also been a Whitehall fellow and McKnight scholar.

Mahmood Mamdani, the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government and a professor of anthropology, is a leading authority on African studies. Mamdani's book, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*, is regarded as a definitive history of late colonialism in Africa. Mamdani's courses are very popular with students, with his class sizes limited only by the space available in the lecture halls.

Stephen Murray, the Lisa and Bernard Selz Professor of Medieval Art History in the Department of Art History and Archaeology, is one of the world's leading authorities on medieval architecture. He has pioneered the use of digital images to illuminate aspects of Gothic structure and design. Murray participated in the PBS *Nova* special *Building the Great Cathedrals* and his current book project, *Narrating Gothic: The Cathedral Plot*, couples his vast scholarship with his innovative use of technology to explore the rhetoric of architecture.

Paul Olsen, the Arthur D. Storke Memorial Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, studies the evolution of continental ecosystems with a particular interest in the impact of climate change on mass extinctions. His fieldwork includes the recovery of core samples from Triassic lake deposits in New Jersey. A National Academy of Sciences member, Olsen has served as editor of the *Proceedings of the National*

Academy of Sciences. He teaches some of the department's most popular courses including one on dinosaurs and the history of life.

Susan Pedersen, history professor and the James P. Shenton Professor of the Core Curriculum, specializes in the British empire, comparative European history and international history. Pedersen's *Eleanor Rathbone and the Politics of Conscience* was a co-winner of the 2005 Albion Book Prize sponsored by the North American Conference of British Studies, and her honors include fellowships from the American Academy in Berlin and the Andrew Mellon and Guggenheim foundations.

Achille Varzi, chair of the philosophy department, specializes in logic, formal semantics and metaphysics. An editor of the *Journal of Philosophy*, he is also working on a series of mini-books of philosophy for children. Varzi's rigorous work has helped focus philosophy's attention on important yet overlooked themes such as the concept of the absent, which he explored in his first book, *Holes and Other Superficialities*. An ardent student of the arts, humanities and sciences, Varzi's work demonstrates a truly interdisciplinary approach to academic life.

Katharina Volk, associate professor of classics, is a prolific scholar whose chief interests are Latin poetry, Greek literature and ancient science, especially astronomy. Her recent book, *Manilius and His Intellectual Background*, explores the astrological poem *Manilius* and was the recipient of the 2010 Lionel Trilling Book Award. Her latest book, *Ovid*, is an introduction to the work of her favorite Latin poet. She is also the editor of *Transactions of the American Philological Society*.



Rachel Adams



Stuart Firestein



Mahmood Mamdani



Stephen Murray



Paul Olsen



Susan Pedersen



Achille Varzi



Katharina Volk

Lomax

continued from page 1



Alan Lomax (right) recording banjo player Wade Ward in Galax, Va., Aug. 31, 1959.

possible to hear breathing, vocal quality, tempo, all the elements that are part of emotion and meaning in music."

Szwed, who is also the author of *So What: The Life of Miles Davis* and *Space is the Place: The Lives and Times of Sun Ra*, chronicles Lomax's 60 years crisscrossing the United States in search of folk and blues music in rural and predominantly African American areas. In 1933, Lomax and his father were the first to record blues legend Lead Belly, or Huddie Ledbetter, who was serving a sentence for attempted murder in Louisiana's Angola prison. He was the first to record Woody Guthrie and Muddy Waters, and he was among the first to record Bob Dylan, Sam Cooke and Pete Seeger.

Author and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston (BC'22) played a crucial role in helping Lomax navigate rural

areas in the south to record folk music, especially in segregated areas. Lomax was once in Florida when Hurston convinced him to darken his skin so they could move more easily within black communities and avoid running afoul of the Jim Crow laws.

Lomax also traveled to Europe to find native music in England, Ireland, Scotland, Italy and Spain. He went to places few outsiders would go, and was trailed for much of his life by the FBI, which believed his interest in desegregation and unionization and folk songs made him a leftist.

Lomax studied for a master's in anthropology at Columbia in 1939. In 1962 he was invited by anthropology professors Margaret Mead and Conrad Arensberg to base his research here. He worked at Columbia for more than 20 years, researching systems of non-

verbal communication and developing a map of the world's song and dance styles.

It was during this time that Szwed got to know Lomax. "Alan was a controversial figure, but I soon found out that this was the result of the bold sweep of his work, the radical nature of his research and his relentlessness," said Szwed.

His conversations with Lomax and Arensberg over frequent dinners at a Chinese restaurant near Columbia "was to me a way of glimpsing an earlier period of anthropology, a time before its professionalization, when it was driven not by teaching and careerism, but by a raw lust to know and experience everything in the world," Szwed recalled. "It seemed I was regaining what Alan called 'that early morning feel' of life."

Restrepo

continued from page 3

explosive device) under the humvee Junger was traveling in, and the two journalists came under fire more times than they could count.

Both said they were drawn by a deep desire to explore human themes that had long fascinated them. Junger divided his book into three sections: fear, killing and love. For both men, the boundaries that traditionally separate journalist and subject melted away, and they became part of the story.

"I wanted to be emotionally embedded," Hetherington said. "I wanted to document the emotional terrain of war. ... After a while, there was [both] a lot of fighting and [times when] things got boring. I realized what was really interesting was my relationship to [the soldiers] and their relationship to each other."

Junger began his career in journalism "out of desperation," he recalled. He was 30, working as an arborist for a tree company, and his post-college ambition to become a writer seemed a distant dream. So Junger quit his job and moved to Bosnia in the middle of the Balkan Wars, hoping to "figure it out."

"I was participating in something bigger than my own life."

"I became sort of intoxicated by it," he said. "For the first time in my life, I was participating in something bigger than my own life. I was in the middle of history, reporting on it for the people back home who needed to know about it."

"I felt this sense of purpose," he said. "It was very interesting to see young soldiers who would come back from combat and missed it. At the end of the day, I think they missed being necessary, having a clear sense of purpose. The purpose was to defend the comrades around you and I think they missed that sense of brotherhood."

For the soldiers, coming home is "incredibly confusing," Junger added. "That group dispersed and they can't find it anywhere else, and I think they're more scared than they were when they were out there."

What Songbirds Can Teach Us About the Brain

By Beth Kwon

Professor Sarah Woolley does research on males who mate for life and help out around the home. If you asked where these creatures can be found, she might direct your attention outdoors.

For Woolley, a neuroscientist and assistant professor of psychology, studies songbirds and what their exemplary mating life might tell us about the human brain. Her work could shed light on afflictions ranging from hearing loss in menopausal women to speech difficulties experienced by autistic children.

"Songbirds, like humans, have the rare ability to learn complex vocalization—what we call 'song,'" explains Woolley. "This makes them very important for studying vocal communication and auditory perception."

She primarily focuses on zebra, Bengalese and blackheart finches, which learn to sing from their parents, just as humans learn speech from their parents.

Bird songs play a crucial role in reproduction among songbirds, as males croon and warble to advertise themselves or to defend their territories. They learn to sing from their fathers; the females, who don't sing at all, respond and select mates based on the qualities of their songs, evaluating volume, spectrum, tempo, and even how frequently the males sing.

Songbirds mate for life, so choosing wisely is important; male birds play a big role in raising their young, sharing incubating duties, building the nest and helping feed the chicks.

A primary discovery Woolley's team has made is that when a baby male finch of one species is placed with adult males of another, the chicks learn that species' song.

Woolley analyzes the neurological behavior of the baby bird, gathering information on how the brain responds during speech acquisition. "We could, using songbird research, get some insight into what is happening in the brain when the vocalizations you're exposed to during development are abnormal."

More recently, Woolley has made inroads into a still somewhat mysterious connection suggesting that estrogen may modulate women's hearing. Woolley's team places female songbirds in a long cage with an audio speaker on either end, each playing a different song, and observes which song they gravitate toward.

Woolley also records neural activity when the female hears different songs. "We may someday be able to relate that back to exactly what effects estrogen has on the human brain and the human auditory system," she says. One potential use of her findings could be to develop drug therapies for hearing loss.

Woolley grew up near the woods in rural Ohio, raised by parents who were English teachers, and her interest in animals started at a young age. "We were fortunate enough to have a swimming pool, and each morning I would gather my subjects—frogs, toads, salamanders—that had fallen into the pool," she recalls. "I built little villages of them in my parents' garage, with cardboard boxes and pools of water, and I observed how they interacted with each other."

As an undergraduate at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Woolley worked part-time in a lab and happened upon bird researchers at a scientific meeting, where she "became obsessed with songbirds." She went on to the University of Washington, where she received her Ph.D., and then to the University of California, Berkeley, as a post-doctoral researcher.

Woolley joined Columbia's faculty in 2006. Her Schermerhorn Hall office is decorated with Art Deco bird cages, a wooden guinea fowl from Kenya and modernist bird prints by the artist Charley Harper, revealing a fascination with birds that goes beyond their research potential.

"Songbirds are charming and beautiful," she says.



Neuroscientist and psychologist Sarah Woolley studies songbirds, including zebra finches like the ones pictured above, to shed light on the brain.

COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB

To see video on Woolley's songbird research, go to news.columbia.edu/songbirds

Editors of NYT and Guardian Discuss WikiLeaks

By Adam Piore

A former Justice Department official believes the government would lose if it tried to charge Wikileaks founder Julian Assange in the release of sensitive diplomatic cables, and two of the editors who published the explosive documents say they'd support him if he were prosecuted.

Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger and New York Times Executive Editor Bill Keller were at Columbia on Feb. 3 to offer a behind-the-scenes look at events that led to their collaboration with Assange.

Former assistant attorney general Jack Goldsmith, now a Harvard law professor, was also on the panel, which was sponsored by the Tow Center for Digital Journalism and drew a standing-room-only crowd in the Low Library rotunda.

Goldsmith discussed the legal implications of leaking classified information and the government's subsequent announcement that it was investigating whether any laws were broken.

When pressed by moderator Emily Bell, director of Columbia's Tow Center for Digital Journalism, on the likelihood of an Assange prosecution, Goldsmith responded: "I think the political pressure to bring a prosecution is enormous, and it will be brought. I also don't think that it will succeed."

He added that it is "very difficult to imagine a scenario where they could prosecute him without sweeping up Bill's



From left, Emily Bell, director of Columbia's Tow Center for Digital Journalism; Bill Keller, executive editor of *The New York Times*; and Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger discuss their collaboration with Wikileaks founder Julian Assange at a Feb. 3 panel.

[*New York Times*] journalists."

Rusbridger and Keller described Assange as a mercurial and often irate source, who disappeared for long stretches of time and eventually severed his ties to the newspapers because he did not like how he was portrayed in their pages.

Reflecting back on how the adventure began, Rusbridger said that Guardian reporter Nick Davies decided to try and track down Assange last spring, after Assange released a classified video depicting U.S. military helicopters in Baghdad

killing Iraq civilians and two Reuters staffers in 2007.

U.S. authorities had already arrested Bradley Manning, the 22-year-old intelligence analyst accused of providing Assange with the video. And the Pentagon had publicly stated that they were looking for Assange—who had gone underground and was "essentially on the run."

Davies had read that Assange "had an amazing treasure trove of documents and he thought he would be an interesting man to seek out," Rusbridger recalls.

When Davies finally caught up with Assange in Brussels, the Wikileaks founder quickly volunteered that he had millions

continued on page 6

COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB

To see video of the WikiLeaks event, go to news.columbia.edu/wikileaks

COLUMBIA INK

New Books by Faculty

Bad News: How America's Business Press Missed the Story of the Century

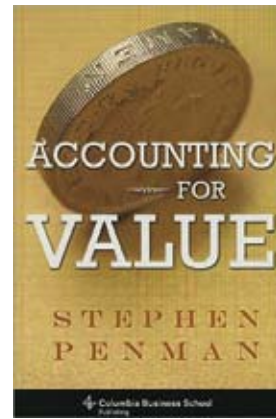
BY ANYA SCHIFFRIN
The New Press

Anya Schiffrin, director of SIPA's media and communications program, looks at how the business media covered the global financial collapse in *Bad News: How America's Business Press Missed the Story of the Century*. The collection of essays by leading journalists and academics suggests that many business reporters were too close to their Wall Street sources. After hyping the financial bubble, many were then at a loss to explain the complicated reasons why it burst in 2008. She also notes that the crisis unfolded when the news industry was reeling from plunging ad revenues and layoffs, leaving many reporters worried about their own jobs.



Accounting for Value

STEPHEN PENMAN
Columbia University Press



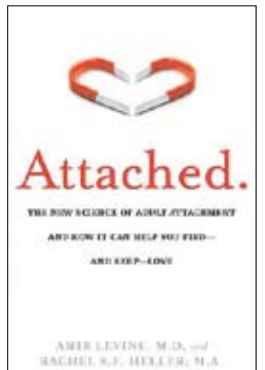
Stephen Penman, the George O. May Professor of Accounting, is an expert in how to value equity investments. In *Accounting for Value*, he offers investors and regulators commonsense advice on using accounting tools to get at valuation. For starters, forget about the CAPM capital asset pricing model, cost of capital and discounted cash flow analysis. Stick with the basic accounting principle that price is what you pay, but value is what you get. Stanford University Professor

Charles M. C. Lee calls the book "a gold mine of ideas for investors, academics and market regulators."

Attached

AMIR LEVINE & RACHEL S.F. HELLER
Tarcher

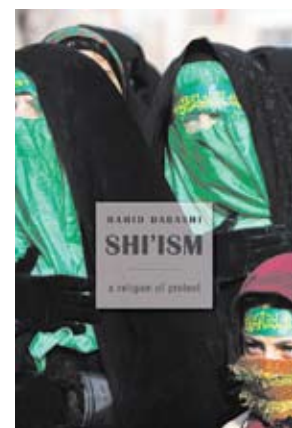
Amir Levine, an associate research scientist in the Department of Neuroscience, and psychologist Rachel Heller explain the neuroscience of romantic attachment in their new book, *Attached*. They argue that every adult has a unique "attachment style"—anxious, secure or avoidant—similar to the relationship they had with their parents. By understanding one's attachment style, an individual can avoid romantic heartbreak and find a life partner whose style complements his or her own. The book includes tips, questionnaires and case studies to help readers navigate the rocky shoals of romance and establish long-lasting intimacy.



Shi'ism

A Religion of Protest

HAMID DABASHI
Harvard University Press



Hamid Dabashi, the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature, has written a book examining the doctrinal foundations and historical development of the Shiite denomination of Islam. He also looks at its expression in the visual and performing arts. Dabashi considers Shiism through the lens of Western thinkers such as Freud and Weber, arguing that it is a religion of protest and revolt that loses its legitimacy when in power. Part of the book focuses on the role of Shiite Muslims today in three violence-torn nations of the Middle East: Iran, Iraq and Lebanon.



SENATE OFFERS GUIDELINES FOR NEW FRINGE BENEFITS POLICIES



On Feb. 11, the University Senate reopened debate on a campus smoking policy it had approved at its previous meeting and adopted a set of principles to guide an administration task force planning changes in fringe benefits for Columbia officers.

Last December, when the Senate approved a policy prohibiting smoking less than 20 feet from Morningside campus buildings, it tabled an amendment from Sens. Mark Cohen (NT, Bus.) and Soulaymane Kachani (NT, SEAS) that would have substituted a complete smoking ban for the 20-foot restriction. On Feb. 11 Cohen received permission from the parliamentarian to request a vote to “untable” his amendment. He prevailed in that vote, 26-14, and will bring a resolution to replace the newly instituted 20-foot policy on March 4.

Faculty Affairs Committee co-chairs Robert Pollack (Ten., A&S/NS) and Letty Moss-Salentijn (Ten., Dental Medicine) presented the fringe benefits resolution. Pollack said Senate efforts to participate in recent benefits deliberations had run into an “important initial impediment”—a separate advisory committee established by Provost Claude Steele. The provost would not “muddy” that process, Pollack said, by sharing information before the administration committee issues its recommendations.

Without data to consider, the Senate group opted to offer a set of priori principles, calling on the administration task force to “honor expectations that have been established over the course of the careers of current officers, and [to] assure grandfathering of essential health, tuition, and retirement benefits to the maximum extent possible.” The faculty committee also urged the provost’s advisory group to “socialize” new cost burdens through the fringe pool as much as possible and, for cost increases that must be borne by individuals, “to apply a principle of progressivity, so that the lightest burden will

fall on those least able to pay.”

Steele agreed to these principles, Pollack and Moss-Salentijn said, but objected to two others in the resolution. One was “that any Columbia officer on whose position the fringe rate is assessed should be entitled to fringe benefits,” a provision meant include adjuncts and other part-time officers. Steele, who missed the Feb. 11 plenary, said the university could not go beyond the commitment, which it shares with peer institutions, to provide fringe benefits only for full-time officers, particularly in the current environment. In response, the FAC co-chairs offered to delete this clause.

The second problematic clause called on the provost to consult more with Senate constituencies on fringe benefits than he had so far. Pollack and Moss-Salentijn adjusted the language to remove any implication of criticism.

After brief discussion, the revised resolution was adopted by voice vote without dissent.

Sen. Ron Mazor (Stu., Law) reported on the work of a special Senate task force on ROTC, which he co-chairs. The task force is managing a series of three open hearings, a website with historical information, a growing collection of e-mail submissions from the Columbia community, and a survey of student opinion on ROTC. On March 4 the task force will submit a report to the Senate, which may vote on a recommendation on ROTC later in the spring.

The Senate also heard an update on the work of the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing from alumnus Arnie Friedland, one of its members.

Anyone with CUID is welcome at Senate plenaries.

Tom Mathewson is manager of the University Senate. His column is editorially independent of The Record. For more information about the Senate, go to www.columbia.edu/cu/senate.

of pages of controversial diplomatic and military cables that he was preparing to release on his website. That’s when Davies made the case for the historic collaboration that culminated in the publication of the first batch of diplomatic cables by five international newspapers last November, Rusbridger said.

Soon after Davies’ initial meeting with Assange, Rusbridger contacted Keller and invited *The Times* to participate, in part because he knew the cables would generate enormous controversy. American media laws, Rusbridger said, are far more open than those governing what one can print in Britain.

“We thought that it would give our joint enterprise a kind of legal robustness,” he said.

Keller described Rusbridger as “mildly paranoid” during their first call, fearing the phones were bugged. For his part, Keller had “some misgivings” about the trustworthiness of Assange.

Still, despite their current estrangement from Assange, both editors said they would likely support him if the U.S. or British governments tries to prosecute him for sharing the cables with their newspapers.

“If, God forbid, any of this came to court, I would completely side with him in terms of defending him,” Rusbridger said.

Keller noted that the *Times*’ lawyers “would prefer that I not declare what I would do in a court of law.” But he added: “It’s very hard to conceive of a prosecution of Julian Assange that wouldn’t stretch the law in a way that would be applicable to us.

“Whatever one thinks of Julian Assange, certainly American journalists and other journalists should feel a sense of alarm at any legal action that intends to punish Assange for doing essentially what journalists do, that is to say, any use of the law to criminalize the publication of secrets.”

COLUMBIANEWS ON THE WEB

Tackling the World’s Water Challenge



The global water challenge is not simply about a lack of access to clean sources; in fact, it is a complex problem that is related to competing demands, climate change and variability, public education and resource management.

The Columbia Water Center, part of the Earth Institute, is working in a number of hotspots including Haiti, Ethiopia, India, China and Brazil to address the many threats to this vital resource. The Center is combining scientific research and effective policy and working closely with diverse stakeholders to create sustainable models of resource management and development. For an audio slideshow about the Columbia Water Center, visit news.columbia.edu/watercenter.

COLUMBIA PEOPLE

Richard Fontenelle



ELENY BARROSO

WHO HE IS: Superintendent, Residential Operations

YEARS AT COLUMBIA: 22

WHAT HE DOES: Fontenelle is the superintendent for three Columbia-owned apartment buildings at West 122nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue. A mix of undergraduates and faculty members occupy the 103 units in the buildings. Fontenelle is in charge of maintaining the buildings, with the help of a porter and handyman. “There’s a lot of troubleshooting involved,” he says. “Before I call a contractor, I make sure it is not something I can fix myself.”

BEST PART OF THE JOB: Getting to know the residents, who are from many different countries and cultures. “Just being here in the lobby, doing my work, I get to see and talk to so many different people. It’s important to keep talking ... because we’re all unique and can learn from each other.”

ROAD TO COLUMBIA: Fontenelle, who is the youngest of 10 siblings, was featured in a 1968 *Life* magazine photo essay by the renowned photographer Gordon Parks. The photos, which showed the poverty-stricken conditions of the family’s tiny two-bedroom apartment in Harlem, brought donations from Parks, *Life* and some of its readers, enabling the family to buy a house in Queens. Just months after moving in, the house caught on fire, killing Fontenelle’s father and a brother. Eventually, the family moved back to Harlem. Following high school, Fontenelle worked as a stock clerk for a supermarket in Harlem. Fontenelle is a people person who can easily strike up conversations with strangers. When he worked at a different grocery store on Broadway and West

115th Street, he befriended a Columbia superintendent, who helped him get his first job at the University as a porter. He worked at 601 W. 115th St. for 12 years and was promoted to handyman before accepting his current job as superintendent in 2002.

LIFE AFTER LIFE: In 2004, Fontenelle was the subject of a short documentary written and directed by the School of Arts alumna Patricia Rikken. The film, *Family Portrait*, tells the story of the Fontenelle family some 30-plus years after the *Life* magazine photo essay, and it included interviews with Parks, Fontenelle and his sister, Diana Nash. Of the 10 Fontenelle children, only three are living. Fontenelle watched his siblings fall victim to drug abuse, prostitution and crime—yet he remains upbeat and positive. His mother died in 1989, the same day he got the job at Columbia. “I watched all my brothers and sisters get into drugs and get into a life I did not want,” he says. “I just didn’t want to be the one to hurt my mother any more.”

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT: The friendships he has made with tenants. “One woman still sticks in my mind ... She had a daughter who did not treat her very well, and she reminded me how important family is. You can have all the money in the world, but you will always need people in your lives.”

IN HIS SPARE TIME: Fontenelle, 46, plays the piano and drums and composes music, producing songs with his brother-in-law or friends at his home-based recording studio. Fontenelle lives with his wife of 21 years, Michelle. He has four children and two grandchildren.

—By Melanie A. Farmer

FACULTY Q&A

ALFRED STEPAN

POSITION:

Wallace S. Sayre Professor of Government
 Director, Center for the Study of Democracy,
 Toleration and Religion
 Co-Director, Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life

JOINED FACULTY:

1983

HISTORY:

Gladstone Professor of Government and Fellow, All Souls College, University of Oxford, 1996-1999
 The first Rector and President, Central European University (Budapest, Prague, Warsaw), 1993-1996
 Dean of Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, 1983-1991
 Burgess Professor of Political Science, Columbia University, 1987-1993

By Bridget O'Brian



The mandate of the Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration and Religion in Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs is to examine the role of religion in world politics and help nurture new approaches to peace and democracy.

Founder and director Alfred Stepan (GSAS'69) is headed to the Middle East in the next few weeks with a delegation from Freedom House, America's oldest NGO dedicated to human rights, freedom and democratic change.

Stepan and his colleagues will meet with members of numerous opposition groups who successfully toppled the authoritarian regimes in Egypt and Tunisia and who have expressed interest in hearing from participants and specialists in democratic transitions from other parts of the world as they embark on the next phase.

Having begun his career as a special foreign correspondent for *The Economist*, Stepan is the Wallace S. Sayre Professor of Government at Columbia, and former dean of the School of International and Public Affairs. His research centers on military governments, democratic transitions, toleration, religious systems and comparative politics. His books include the recently published *Crafting State-Nations: India and Other Multinational Democracies* with Juan J. Linz and Yogendra Yadav, and with Linz, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe*, which discusses 14 different transitions and has been translated into almost a dozen languages.

As democracy swept central Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Stepan was named the first rector and president of Central European University in Budapest, which was founded in 1991 to help the countries in that region peacefully navigate the changeover from dictatorships to democracy.

Stepan said he is thrilled to have an opportunity to immerse himself in a different region of the world as it appears to move toward democracy. "If anything I have seen or written about in other efforts at democratic transitions can be of use, it would be an honor."

Q. *Is this the Middle East's Berlin Wall moment?*

A. The activists in Tunisia and Egypt have just, with unprecedented originality and peace, destroyed two dictatorships by "civil society" actions. Civil society can destroy an authoritarian regime. But the construction of democratic institutions and practices has to involve something I call "political society." The work of political society has barely begun in either country. Groups of pro-democracy advocates, many of whom may have had a past history of conflict with each other, must begin to work together to agree upon, propose and fight for new laws that will facilitate inclusive elections, the creation of new political parties and relevant civilian-controlled constitutional frameworks.

Q. *Some people argue that democracy is incompatible with Islam. What's your view?*

A. This view is dangerous and uninformed nonsense. There are 1.2 billion Muslims in the world, and what is not generally realized in American public opinion and in our press is that half of them live in democratic, Muslim-majority countries, such as Turkey, Indonesia and Senegal. While India isn't a Muslim country, we must remember that India has the third-largest Muslim population in the world, with at least 160

million Muslims. Moreover, as I document in my newest book, in our survey of 39,000 Indians in India, we found that Muslims, Hindus and Christians all support democracy at virtually identical high levels.

In Africa, one of those democracies in a Muslim-majority country is Senegal. Although extremely poor and facing many challenges, Senegal's Sufi Muslims and French-influenced secularists have found ways to mutually and democratically collaborate, in what I call the "twin tolerations." For example, secular state officials and Sufi Muslims worked together to design and implement a very effective anti-female genital mutilation campaign. I have also documented such mutual religion-state collaboration in Indonesia, where democratic state officials have worked together with democratic Muslim activists in crafting the educational system so that both boys and girls ages 11-15 now have virtually identical (98 percent) literacy rates.

Q. *What about democracy in the Middle East?*

A. There has not been a democracy in an Arab-majority country since the 1970s, when Lebanon collapsed into civil war. A third of all Arab Muslims live in Egypt. Egypt has always been an extremely important intellectual and cultural capital of Arab civilization. If democracy becomes established in Egypt, it will have an extraordinary impact not only on all Egyptians, but on all Arabs and the entire Middle East.

Q. *Was there a moment in the Egyptian protest that gave you hope that democracy is possible?*

A. Yes! When the military said it would not fire on citizens whom they saw as articulating legitimate grievances. In my judgment, this eliminated the possibility of a Tiananmen Square-like silencing of the protests. Analytically, for me this was a classic moment when the "military as institution" realized that it could only advance its interests by distancing itself from the "military as government." This hugely important moment has occurred in many of the transitions I have studied, such as in Korea and Brazil.

But these are revolutionary circumstances and bad things can still happen, of course. That's why the next days and weeks and months are so crucial. Many of the young activists have expressed disappointment that the military itself doesn't want to make extensive changes to the constitution immediately. But from the viewpoint of creating a successful democratic transition, the new constitution should be written by a democratically elected constituent assembly, not by the military. What the democratic movements have to insist on is that all the interim military government should do is make sufficient changes for Egypt to have an inclusive election for a civilian government.

Q. *What do you think should be the form of government?*

A. There are still some major choices to make, such as whether Egypt and Tunisia should have presidential or parliamentary forms of government. I want to point out that every one of the eight post-Communist governments that is now an established democracy and a member of the European Union chose a parliamentary system instead of an American-style presidential democracy. Fortunately, many people in both countries support the adoption of a parliamentary system.

After almost 60 years of continuous rule by three military officers, Egypt understandably has no democratic parties with

established leaders ready to contest elections. I hope the first election is not for a president but is for a constituent assembly whose job is to draft a constitution which could be parliamentary instead of presidential. Just think, if there were a presidential election, a president would be elected for a fixed term of four to five years, and only one person can be in that position. But what if that person is totally incompetent and his or her support falls drastically? You're stuck. The only legal way to get rid of such a person would be impeachment, or a criminal trial. That's very hard to do. You might have to reach out to the military, like they often did in Latin America, to change the president for you. But the military never does it for free. A parliamentary system, on the other hand, allows for coalitions. All you need is 50.1 percent of the people in the parliament to support the government; if they don't, a new government can be formed rapidly, either by forming a new coalition or by holding new elections. Such a parliamentary system has much more flexibility in choosing and dismissing executives than a presidential system.

Q. *A lot of credit has gone to Twitter and Facebook for recent events in the Middle East. To what extent can this be considered a social media revolution?*

A. Social media was, of course, immensely important, but in Tunisia and also in Egypt, blue- and white-collar unions played a role, which has been virtually ignored. It would be a mistake to see this only as a Facebook revolution. Many Egyptian citizens are so poor that they do not have ready access to social media. But many of them had a role in Tahrir Square and may well be the majority of voters in the election. Political society must begin to more systematically involve those citizens beyond the reach of social media by newly created political institutions.

Q. *What is the outlook for democratizing countries?*

A. More than half of all democratic transitions fail; some end in civil wars. Sometimes the military will never relinquish power. This has happened many times—for example, in El Salvador and in Guatemala; there were elections but the power relations didn't change. Military power may even be so embedded in the constitutions of new countries that the military continues to control their own promotions and budget. As history in Turkey, Chile, Korea and Indonesia illustrates, democratic struggles to reduce military prerogatives can take two decades before civilian democratic rule is consolidated. But the struggle has already begun in Egypt.

Q. *Do you have a prediction on how this will play out?*

A. In my lifetime, the protest and reform movements in the Middle East are already the most exciting and important political events I have ever witnessed. But I do not delude myself that they will turn out well in all places. The Algerian crackdown has been brutal. Eastern and Western Libya could possibly divide into a civil war. In Bahrain the Sunni monarch must allow more democratic space for the Shia majority. However, I am very hopeful that the period of no democracies in Arab-majority countries is about to end.

I am also convinced that Columbia University's institutions, professors and students will continue to play a constructive role in the search for democracy, toleration and religious harmony.



MICHAEL DAVIES

Performance artist and musician Laurie Anderson (SOA'72) spoke at Miller Theatre on Feb. 10 as part of "Refiguring the Spiritual," a lecture series that examines the intersection of spirituality and the arts. The series is a collaborative effort between the School of the Arts Visual Arts Program and the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life. Anderson participated in a question-and-answer with visual arts chair Gregory Amenoff; chair of the religion department, Mark Taylor; and Irving Sandler, co-founder of Artists Space, which played a significant role in launching Anderson's career.



MICHAEL DAVIES

On Feb. 11, music composer David Amram, a collaborator of Jack Kerouac (CC'44) and Allen Ginsberg (CC'48), improvises the music behind the student, faculty and alumni readings of Beat works at the 6th Annual HOWL. The Columbia Alumni Association event featured a reading and conversation with writer Joyce Johnson and Ann Douglas, Parr Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia, and a reading of the complete text of Ginsberg's *Howl*.



CHARLES MANLEY

Thomas J. Kelly of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (second from left) and Bruce W. Stillman of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (second from right) were honored at a Feb. 17 reception in Low Rotunda for the Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize, bestowed annually by Columbia University for outstanding research in the fields of biology or biochemistry. They are pictured here with Lee Goldman (far left), executive vice president for health and biomedical sciences and dean of the faculties of health sciences and medicine, and Rodney Rothstein (far right), professor of genetics at Columbia, who hosted the event.



SANDRO MARATA

Susan Orlean, a staff writer for *The New Yorker* and an author, was welcomed to the J-school by the Society of Professional Journalists on Wednesday, Feb. 16. She spoke with a group of about 40 magazine students in the World Room and discussed her upcoming book about *Rin Tin Tin*.

Egypt

continued from page 1

Cole called it "a labor revolution" triggered primarily by economic factors. The worldwide financial crisis has reverberated in Egypt, where some 20 percent of people live on \$2 a day, he said. Cole said the protests brought together blue-collar laborers, poorly paid office workers and college graduates fearing unemployment in "a remarkable development of cross-class worker solidarity," he added.

"I think the economic downturn we've seen really played a very major role in depriving people of hope," Cole said. "Then they are really forced to look at their circumstances and perhaps to try to change them."

Khalidi said the current wave of populist uprisings against authoritarian regimes in the Middle East could cause a realignment of power in the region. Mubarak is only one of a number of Middle Eastern leaders who exert power "by spreading fear and breeding a pan-Arab sense of hopelessness and despair," he said.

Events in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East have dispelled that sense of powerlessness, at least for now. "Something has been unleashed," Khalidi said. "Once the people get a sense of empowerment as the Tunisians did, the entire political landscape begins to change."

He also noted that the revolts could spell trouble for U.S. interests in the region. "Egypt's alignment with the U.S. and acquiescence [to] Israeli regional dominance—these are core interests for Washington," said Khalidi, who is Palestinian-American. He added, "A democratic Egypt might challenge support of Israel."

Yet the panelists noted that true democracy in Egypt is far from certain. Even if free elections are held, as the governing military council has promised, well-funded Mubarak cronies could win a majority of parliamentary seats, Cole said.

It's possible Egypt will see "a genuine revolution" with substantial amounts of wealth redistributed and an entirely new regime. But, Cole added, "the odds are stacked against it."

The panel was moderated by Saskia Sassen, the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia and co-chair of the Committee on Global Thought. "What is surprising," she said, "is how surprised we are every time a multitude of people can disarm superior military power."



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

Hint: One building is named for the famous dropout whose face adorns the \$10 bill. The other is one of the oldest residence halls on campus. What two buildings on the Morningside campus flank this fountain, named for Dell Publishing founder George T. Delacorte Jr. (CC'13)? Send answers to curecord@columbia.edu. The first person to email the right answer wins a *Record* mug.

ANSWER TO LAST CHALLENGE: Overpass bridge at Columbia University Medical Center
WINNER: Charles Hirschler (BUS'81)

Bergman

continued from page 1

optical fibers can't recognize what kind of data is coming through; when congestion hits, they are not able to prioritize traffic.

Bergman's alternative model would insert a sort of smart switching system—think of trains coming into a station and being routed depending on where they're going.

In her Lightwave Research Laboratory in Schapiro Hall, Bergman has set up circuit boards with fiber optic nodes designed to represent miniature slices of the Internet. The nodes are programmed to read data and direct it depending on what it is. In a perfect scenario, Bergman's smart switching system could prioritize the hundreds of gigabytes carrying a medical video conference over the kilobytes of routine emails.

Bergman's research has captured the attention of industry. Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs and AT&T Research are collaborating with Bergman's team on modeling these in their existing systems to see whether it could work on a larger scale. Bergman's research team is a principal member of the Center for Integrated Access Networks, a consortium of nine colleges and universities, including Columbia, that's based at the University of Arizona in Tucson and is working to solve the high-data transfer problem.

Bergman's work has long straddled academia and industry. A graduate of Bucknell University, the Israeli-born Bergman received her Ph.D. in electrical engineering from MIT, after which she landed a teaching position at Princeton, where she still lives with her family. Before coming to Columbia in 2001, she was a consultant for Bell Laboratories and a lead technologist for the networking startup Tellium.

She hopes her research will also help relieve a problem that's growing rapidly as computers gain capability: energy usage. "The energy consumption of information technology is growing exponentially," she said.

Most of the energy—up to 90 percent—powers hardware (think of an overheated laptop) and copper wiring. Sending data down optical fibers, however, requires a fraction of the energy. Bergman says, "For the long haul in communications, it's all fiber optics."