

BEFORE MORNINGSID
Columbia's Short Stay
In Midtown | **2**



RIGHT ANGLES
The Man Who Drew
Manhattan's Grid | **3**

ENCYCLOPEDIA KNOWLEDGE
He Wrote the Book
on New York | **7**



 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
TheRecord

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NEWS AND IDEAS FOR THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY

APRIL 20, 2011

**Professor Marable's
Scholarship Lives
On in Biography
Of Malcolm X**

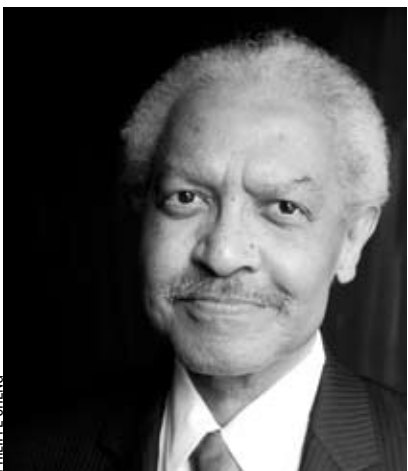
By Ann Levin

In 1988, Manning Marable was teaching a course in African American politics at Ohio State University when he noticed numerous inconsistencies in *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, the standard text about the black Muslim leader written with Alex Haley.

Marable, who would join the Columbia faculty five years later, resolved then to begin what he called "a modest political biography" of the charismatic figure, assassinated in 1965 in the Audubon Ballroom in Washington Heights by rival members of the militant Islamic sect the Nation of Islam.

The 594-page work, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*, was released on April 4 and immediately acclaimed as the definitive biography of a misunderstood man who, since his death at age 39, has become a legend. Marable died just days before its publication. He suffered from sarcoidosis, an autoimmune disease, and had undergone a double lung transplant last summer.

Marable, the M. Moran Weston/Black Alumni Council Professor of African American Studies and professor of history, political science, and international and public affairs, was the "epitome of scholarly devotion and capable of such balanced, insightful judgment," said Pro-



Manning Marable

vost Claude M. Steele. "We are all deeply saddened by this loss and the knowledge that he will not be here to enjoy the acclaim his most recent work will surely bring."

The tragic timing of his death, at age 60, produced an outpouring of tributes. Eric Foner, who led the search committee that brought Marable to Columbia in 1993 to establish the Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS), called Marable "the model of a public intellectual."

"His scholarship had an amazing range—from broad overviews of African American history to incisive analyses of key individuals like [W.E.B.] Du Bois and, now, Malcolm X," said Foner, the Dewitt Clinton Professor of History. "He made

continued on page 8

NEW YORK STORIES



In December 1895 Columbia President Seth Low presided over a small private ceremony laying the cornerstone of Low Library on 17 bucolic acres of Upper Manhattan that had for decades been the site of what was then called a lunatic asylum.

Columbia architectural history professor Andrew Dolkart points out that before the University's move from its 19th-century campus in midtown Manhattan, Low acknowledged that "the final buildings in our plan may not be erected for a hundred years." With this year's opening of the Northwest Corner Building, Low was proven right.

Columbia's own fortunes as a great urban university largely parallel the rise, decline and rejuvenation of New York City itself. Columbia historian Kenneth Jackson's best-selling *Encyclopedia of New York* just went into its second edition. Leafing through its 1,361 pages and many

other sources, one can see the many ways Columbia has been shaped by New York and New York by Columbians.

For example, the city's first street grid mapping in 1815, championed by Columbia alumnus Gouverneur Morris, who was among the 15 Columbians who went on to serve as governor of New York and 13 as mayor (including Seth Low). The early subway system was engineered by alumni from Columbia's School of Mines; its extension up Broadway more than a century ago opened a burst of institutional and residential development in northern Manhattan that helps define New York to this day.

In this issue of *The Record* we highlight a few of today's faculty, students and staff who are engaging in partnerships with and scholarship about the city that has for more than 250 years defined Columbia's unique identity.

**The city defines the University's
unique history and identity.**

Lessons From Columbia Community Health Partnerships

By Melanie A. Farmer

From 1998 to 2008, the Northern Manhattan Community Voices Collaborative helped 30,000 residents of Washington Heights, Inwood and Harlem get health insurance, immunized 8,000 children, trained 1,500 health workers and raised the area's vaccination rate from 63 percent to 97 percent. Two leaders of the collaborative have edited a new book on how its lessons can be applied throughout the United States.

The book, *Mobilizing the Community for Better Health: What the Rest of America Can Learn from Northern Manhattan*, was published last November and details the 10-year collaboration's failures and successes. Allan Formicola, dean emeritus of the College of Dental Medicine, the organization that led the collaborative, and Lourdes Hernández-Cordero, assistant professor of sociomedical sciences at Mailman School of Public Health, edited the volume.

The program brought together some 30

institutions and community groups led by Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine, Alianza Dominicana, Inc. and Harlem Hospital Center. Northern Manhattan was one of 13 sites nationwide in the Community Voices program, an effort to improve health care access for the underserved funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

"The collaboration was based on this respect for our colleagues in the community, that it wasn't just about Columbia coming and imposing their programming or their research projects," said Hernández-Cordero.

Community Voices had identified high rates of asthma, high teenage pregnancy rates, drug use and violence as the major problems plaguing Washington Heights and Harlem, as well as low immunization rates among children and some 48,000 people without health insurance. In addition to its success in raising the number of insured residents and the vaccination rate, the program provided 4,000 families with improved asthma management.

"We spent a fair amount of time on the structure," Formicola said of the program. "We also



The co-editors, Hernández-Cordero and Formicola

didn't just go to the community and say, 'We know everything and you need this.' We did a survey with the community and wanted to find out what they thought were their main health problems, what bothered them most, and then set our priorities around their needs."

As an undergraduate, Hernández-Cordero was studying chemical engineering at University of Puerto Rico when she realized she was spending more time organizing health promotion ac-

continued on page 8



ON CAMPUS



SHAWN BRACKBILL

BENEFIT FOR JAPAN

Yoko Ono flashes the peace sign at the end of her cacophonous set with Sean Lennon and the Plastic Ono Band, headlining the sold-out Japan Benefit Concert presented by Miller Theatre at Columbia University School of the Arts on March 27. John Zorn, a musician who lived in Japan for many years, hosted a lineup of singers and musicians that included the hard-rocking Sonic Youth, Japanese art-pop duo Cibo Matto and Zorn's own Alpha Duo. Guitarist Marc Ribot, ex-Faith No More vocalist Mike Patton and pianist Uri Caine also performed. The artists and University staff members donated their services. The event raised \$34,000 to aid Japan, which sustained a devastating 9.0 earthquake and tsunami on March 11.

MILESTONES

ARTS AND SCIENCES VICE DEAN APPOINTMENTS

GERALDINE DOWNEY, professor of psychology at Columbia University and director of the Social Relations Laboratory, will assume the newly created position of executive vice dean for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. **PIERRE FORCE**, professor of French and history, has been appointed dean for humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Both posts will begin July 1.

"Geraldine was very effective as the longtime chair of the psychology department, and she will bring all of that experience into this office," said Nicholas B. Dirks, executive vice president for Arts and Sciences.

Downey trained as a developmental psychologist and has published extensively on people's efforts to cope with rejection and marginalization and the effects of those struggles on relationships, health and achievement.



Geraldine Downey

In her new role, Downey will work closely with Dirks and his office on all matters related to the Arts and Sciences, helping to coordinate with the two divisional deans, Force and Amber Miller, the Walter LeCroy Jr. Associate Professor of Physics and the recently appointed dean of science for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Downey will also take special responsibility for departments and programs in the social sciences, at least on an interim basis. A new dean of social sciences may be named in future.

Force's teaching and research interests include French classicism and its reception, literature and eloquence, the history of hermeneutics and the development of moral and political thought in early modern



Pierre Force

Europe. He has written books in French and English. He chaired the French department from 1997 to 2007, rebuilding the department at a time of critical transition.

"Pierre Force has the administrative experience and academic vision to enhance the work of our humanities departments in the larger context of the goals for excellence in teaching and research across the arts and sciences," Dirks said of Force's appointment. "Like the other divisional deans, he will also play a major role in the establishment and operation of our new Promotion and Tenure Committee."

GRANTS & GIFTS

WHO GAVE IT: Stand Up To Cancer

HOW MUCH: \$750,000 each

WHO GOT IT: Dana Pe'er, assistant professor of Biological Sciences; Adolfo A. Ferrando, assistant professor of Pathology and Pediatrics, Columbia University Medical Center

WHAT FOR: Pe'er and Ferrando are among 13 recipients of the organization's Innovative Research Grants, awarded to young scientists doing cutting-edge research aimed at solving critical problems in cancer research.

WHO GAVE IT: Andrew Barth (CC'83, BUS'85) and Avery Barth

HOW MUCH: \$1 million

WHO GOT IT: Columbia College

WHAT FOR: The new endowed Andrew and Avery Barth Scholarship Fund will receive an additional \$2 million through the Scholarships 101 Challenge, a program created in partnership with the late John W. Kluge (CC'37, HON'88), for a total endowment of \$3 million.

WHO GAVE IT: Ardie S. Myers (Library Service '71)

HOW MUCH: \$50,000

WHO GOT IT: Columbia University Libraries

WHAT FOR: In making a gift to endow an acquisition fund for African American collections, Myers said she wanted to honor her heritage while benefiting current and future students attending Columbia.

WHO GAVE IT: Anonymous

HOW MUCH: \$5 million

WHO GOT IT: Columbia Business School

WHAT FOR: To support construction of the school's new facilities in Manhattanville.

The Height Of Haight

Dear Alma:

The architects of Columbia's Morningside campus are well known, but who designed the University's now-demolished midtown campus?

— Architectural Adventurer

Dear Adventurer:

The celebrated firm of McKim, Mead & White was indeed the designer of Columbia's beaux arts Morningside campus, but less well-known is Charles Coolidge Haight, the architect behind the University's third home in what is now midtown Manhattan.

Haight graduated from Columbia College in 1861, enlisting in the Union Army a year later. During his service, he befriended fellow soldier Emlyn Little, and he joined Little's New York architectural firm after their service ended. Haight struck out on his own in 1867, specializing in the Collegiate Gothic style, which resulted in numerous commissions, including Union Theological Seminary, St. Stephen's College (now Bard College), Yale University and the New York Cancer Hospital.

His largest commission, however, was from Columbia. The University had occupied two different sites—first Trinity Place, then Park Place, both in Lower Manhattan—when in 1853, the Trustees decided that Lower Manhattan, by then a bustling industrial center, was no longer a suitable place for a university. Adding to plots it already owned further uptown, the University purchased an adjacent block of land between 49th and 50th streets, and Madison and Park avenues. Haight was hired to set about designing the University's new home, which was completed in the 1870s and '80s.



ASK ALMA'S OWL

In addition to buildings for Columbia College, Haight would design buildings for the new law school, a soon-to-open school for teachers (Teachers College), a library and the School of Mines, precursor to the School of Engineering and Applied Science, all on a small part of the sycamore-shaded grounds. An 1876 volume of *New York Sketchbook of Architecture* described the law school as "one of the finest things which New York contains."

Nearly all of Haight's other commissioned buildings are extant, but in a turn of events preservationists would later decry, Columbia's midtown campus was sold for \$900,000 and demolished after the University began moving to Morningside Heights in 1897. The only remnant on the Morningside campus is the iron gate between John Jay Hall and Butler Library.

Haight, who retired in the early 1900s, died in 1917.

—By Sheri M. Whitley

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

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Happening at
COLUMBIA

For the latest on upcoming Columbia events, performances, seminars and lectures, go to calendar.columbia.edu



The Law School on the Midtown campus

THE MAN WHO PUT THE CITY AT RIGHT ANGLES

By Fred A. Bernstein

Just a few years after Lewis and Clark's famous expedition to the great Northwest, another intrepid American set out on a journey through challenging terrain at the government's behest. In 1808, John Randel Jr., a young surveyor, was charged with mapping Manhattan Island and laying out the street grid that, for 200 years, has shaped and spurred the growth of New York City.

In 2004, Marguerite Holloway, an assistant professor at the School of Journalism, found herself writing about the Mannahatta Project—an effort by environmental scientists to “recreate” Manhattan in its natural state. The scientists relied in part on Randel's data. Fascinated by tales of the Albany-born surveyor (1787-1865), she says, “I tried to find out as much as I could about him—at the time, there was very little. It became an obsession.”

Holloway's obsession has turned into a biography of Randel that will be published by W.W. Norton. Researching the book, Holloway, an experienced science journalist, found herself scouring archives throughout the northeastern United States. “I'm used to asking people lots of questions,” she says. “But this time, many of my sources were long dead.”

“I tried to find out as much as I could about him—at the time, there was very little. It became an obsession.”

Her book, she says, will try to paint a complete picture of Randel, whom she describes as a visionary. He “wrestled the wildness of the island as he imposed his vision upon it: Gone, in his mind's eye, were the hills and ponds, the towering chestnut trees, the unruly outcroppings,” she wrote in a *New York Times* piece. “Randel was mesmerized by the image of a magnificent, neatly ordered metropolis.”

Randel was appointed to the task by New



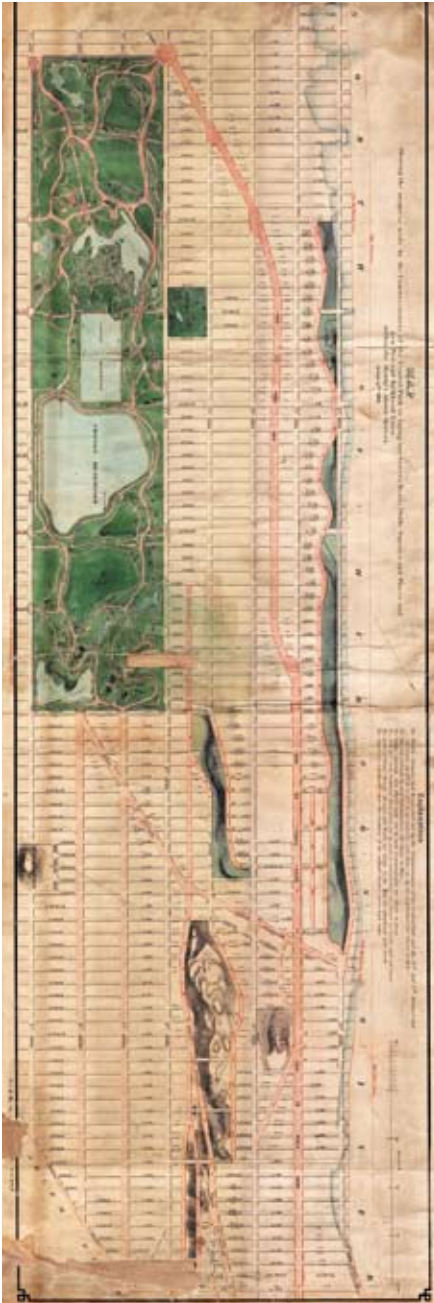
Detail of 1819 map of Manhattan by cartographer and surveyor John Randel Jr. showing the 116th Street area as farmland.

York City's three street commissioners—one of whom was Gouverneur Morris, the 1768 graduate of King's College who wrote parts of the U.S. Constitution. New York's mayor for much of that time was DeWitt Clinton (CC 1786) who later as New York's governor went on to champion a different feat of civil engineering, the Erie Canal.

passing—the targets of landowners alarmed by the arrival of right angles in rural areas. Not only were the property lines going to have to be redrawn, but in many cases the imagined thoroughfares went right through barns and houses, Holloway explains.

A longtime contributor to *Scientific American*, she began teaching at the journalism school as an adjunct in 1997 and took a tenure-track position in 2006; she won a presidential teaching award in 2009. Holloway teaches science and environmental reporting in the M.S. program and in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Program in Health and Science Journalism, part of the M.A. program for experienced journalists.

Living on the Upper West Side, Holloway says, she has long appreciated the Manhattan street grid—“I liked it even before I'd heard of Randel.” She also likes the interruptions to the grid, places like the Columbia campus and Morningside Park, which “give you a different experience within the city”—no matter if the park is one of the “unruly outcroppings” Randel worked so hard to tame.



This 1868 map of Central Park, based on Randel's original grid map of Manhattan, shows the Morningside campus area.

NOW PLAYING:

2011 Film Festival

Columbia University's 24th Annual Film Festival kicks off April 25, bringing together more than 50 new short films by School of the Arts graduate M.F.A. students.

The festival will be bicoastal, with the Los Angeles branch starting in June. Students will screen their films primarily at the IFC Center in downtown Manhattan.

Among the films this year is *I Am John Wayne* (pictured here), directed by M.F.A. candidate Christina Choe, in which a young urban cowboy struggles to face his best friend's death as he rides on horseback from Brooklyn to Coney Island. Another, *Nain Rouge*, written and directed by Jasmine Rivera, a Detroit native, follows a young man who finds himself lost in the

streets of Detroit; the title refers to Detroit's Red Dwarf, a mythical figure who heralds terrible events for the Motor City.

Festival screenings at the IFC Center (323 Sixth Ave at W. Third Street) will be held from April 25 to April 28, but the festival continues through May 12 with events including a May 3 talk at Miller Theatre with director Milos Forman and producer Michael Hausman of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Amadeus* respectively. Some films will also be screened outdoors on Low Plaza and at nearby venues in Harlem.

For a complete schedule, visit www.cufilmfest.com/schedule.php.

—Daphne Chen



Film still from *I Am John Wayne*, written and directed by Christina Choe, produced by Esra Saydam

What's That Central Park Leaf? There's an App for That

By Beth Kwon

Not every child can dream up a smartphone application and see it come to life. But that's what happened when 8-year-old William Belhumeur suggested his father make an app that identifies plants using visual recognition technology.

As a professor of computer science at the engineering school and director of Columbia's Laboratory for the Study of Visual Appearance, Peter Belhumeur has worked on face recognition software since the mid-1990s. He quickly saw that the same algorithms that can process the curve of an eyebrow or the angle of a cheekbone could be applied to the shape of a leaf.

“The idea of building classifiers that say, ‘Is this person in the photo a man or a woman?’ or ‘Is that leaf a sugar maple or a silver maple?’ uses a lot of the same sort of math and technology,” says Belhumeur.

“This is the sort of system we need because species are disappearing off the planet at an alarming rate, and the process of identification is very slow.”

With the help of computer scientist David Jacobs at the University of Maryland and John Kress, research botanist and curator at the Smithsonian Institution, Belhumeur developed LeafSnap, an electronic field guide that will launch on the iPhone this spring and on Android phones later this year. It will be easy enough for a child to use, but goes well beyond the basics for botanists.



Peter Belhumeur developed the LeafSnap application.

The team started by photographing leaves from the Smithsonian's vast library. But they soon realized a viable application would have to be able to recognize leaves in the wild, not just museum specimens. So Belhumeur's student volunteers collected thousands of leaves from Central Park—up to 50 samples each from the park's 145 species—and photographed them with their iPhones.

A leaf's shape is its least variable feature and easiest to capture in a photo, so the team focused on characteristics like smooth versus jagged, many-lobed or single-lobed. They then programmed the computer to perform a sort of process of elimination. “The computer basically ranks images by most similar to least similar,” says Neeraj Kumar,

continued on page 6



THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY IMPACT AFTER 30 YEARS

By Melanie A. Farmer

Flecia Hunter was always bothered that she never finished high school. It stayed in the back of her mind as she worked at a variety of minimum-wage jobs to help support her family. It was not until she came across Community Impact, Columbia's longstanding community service organization, that she was able to do something about it.

The Columbia students who volunteered as teachers at Community Impact "taught me how to get back into the groove of being a student again after so many years," Hunter said. "They never said to me *if* you get your GED, it was always *when*." Hunter got her GED in the fall of 2007, and after earning an associate's degree from the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), she is now a second-year film major at Columbia's School of General Studies.

She is one of 8,000 New Yorkers Community Impact serves each year through more than two dozen local service groups that provide education, job training, food, shelter, clothing and health information in Morningside Heights, Harlem and Washington Heights. (Columbia College's longstanding service program, Double Discovery, focuses on college prep for local high school students.)



Flecia Hunter (left) with Sonia Reese at Community Impact's office in Earl Hall

This year, Community Impact celebrates its 30th anniversary. What began in 1981 as an effort by Columbia students to mentor local youth has evolved into a University-supported volunteer organization that serves low-income people in the neighborhoods surrounding Columbia and provides service opportunities for 900 Columbia students, faculty and staff members each year.

"Our country has tried to realize its principles of equality and fairness, but we obviously have a long way to go in meeting the human needs we see around us," said President Lee Bollinger, who served in a South Bronx legal aid clinic as a Columbia law student. "At college you can come and read books on these issues, find out what scholars think, do your own research. But through Community Impact, you can also assist in a public health clinic or mentor local youth or serve in a food pantry. These combined experiences, in and outside the classroom—that's an education."

For Sonia Reese, the group's executive director, this 30-year milestone has personal resonance. She grew up in the Grant Houses, a housing project just a few blocks from the Morningside Heights campus. At 13, she was offered a full scholarship to the Putney School, a private boarding school in Vermont. She says she never forgot her peers, who didn't have that kind of opportunity.

"Those friends who I grew up with in middle school, junior high school, always stayed in the back of my mind," said Reese,

"Being a student at Community Impact created this domino effect in my life."

who has been executive director for 22 years. "I always wanted them to have the opportunities, the pushing, the support that I was lucky enough to have. So when I interviewed for the job at Community Impact at Columbia, one of the things that was most exciting to me was the opportunity to work with the population that I had grown up with."

At the organization's main fundraising event, its annual auction held April 11, Community Impact honored Columbia University trustee chair William Campbell (CC'62) for his commitment to the group.

"For 30 years, what Community Impact has represented for thousands of our students is the fulfillment of the University's responsibility to the people and the neighborhoods of New York City who teach us all so much," Campbell said. "It constantly proves the truism that, through volunteer service, we ultimately get back even more than we give."

Now that she's a student at Columbia herself, Hunter is a Community Impact mentor, helping other students studying for their own GEDs as she once did. Among the experiences she can now share with others are the time as a community



Carlin Lungu will be a Borough of Manhattan Community College freshman majoring in biology this fall.

college student she spent in Salzburg, Austria as part of an international study-abroad program and the five-week intensive summer program at Vassar College where she studied sociology and religion.

"Being a student at Community Impact created this domino effect in my life," Hunter said.

Carlin Lungu arrived in New York from the Republic of Congo 10 months ago. Thanks to Community Impact's ESL preparation courses, the 23-year-old quickly learned English and will be a BMCC freshman majoring in biology come fall. He wants to attend medical school.

"When I came here I didn't speak any English," said Lungu, who volunteers as a cook in Community Impact's food pantry program. "Columbia's Community Impact is a great place to get started."

It also provides the kind of opportunity for civic engagement that attracts students to the University. Jason Mogen (CC'12) chose Columbia in part because of its community service tradition. He is treasurer of Community Impact's student executive team and volunteer as a tutor and mentor to public middle school students. "It is important for us to

engage the people that live in the area and not just the people who live in the residence halls on campus," Mogen said. "We can benefit from one another."

COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB

For a video on Community Impact and its anniversary, go to news.columbia.edu/communityimpact

Law and Order 101: Practicing in the Queens DA's Office

By Steve Gosset

In New York City Criminal Court in Queens, a domestic violence trial is about to start.

The judge is hearing opening arguments in the non-jury trial of a man charged with misdemeanor assault and unlawful imprisonment. The prosecutor is Jamie Gottlieb—a third-year student at Columbia Law School.

Gottlieb (LAW'11) is one of 14 law school students taking part in a domestic violence prosecution externship at the Queens County District Attorney's Office.

"I really never expected that one of my cases would go to trial," she said. "It's exhilarating just to be able to stand up in front of a judge and ask a witness questions."

While they are not yet members of the bar, the students have been granted special permission from the court system to handle cases as assistant district attorneys do.

The externship, offered for the first time last fall, allows third-year students to see a case through from arrest to plea bargain or trial. While they receive ample guidance from experienced ADAs, the students are in charge of their own cases.

"It's probably the best experience I've had in law school," said Diego Diaz (LAW'11), who will start work in the Manhattan district attorney's office this fall. "It's amazing how much we've learned and how much of an impact we can have."

The program was started by lecturer-in-law Scott Kessler, the domestic violence

bureau chief in the Queens DA's office, who said the externship was born from Columbia's requirement of 40 hours of pro bono service for graduation. Several students did their pro bono work in his office.

"After the 40 hours, the students didn't leave. They didn't want to go," Kessler said. "They were in the middle of their cases."

So Kessler helped create an externship that includes a classroom component where students learn trial advocacy skills. He worked on the curriculum with professors Daniel Richman and Philip Genty.

"I jumped at the opportunity," said Richman, the Paul J. Kellner Professor of Law. "There is certainly broad and deep student



Externship participants from left: Bryan Lee, Jonathan Friedman and Jamie Gottlieb

interest in domestic violence prosecutions. It also gives students the opportunity to see some of the ugliest, toughest cases in the criminal docket."

Kessler has gained national attention for his innovative and aggressive approach to prosecuting accused batterers, where his office may go to trial without the victim's cooperation. As a result, the conviction

rate on such cases is 62 percent, compared with 33 percent elsewhere in the city.

The office uses 911 tapes, first statements to police officers, medical records, eyewitnesses and digital photos of victims' injuries. "We became tired of having victims get beaten, come in, sign forms and cases got dropped," Kessler said. "Students do a lot of evidence-based prosecutions where we never call a victim to the stand, but convince a judge or jury that a defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

The students work out of the Family Justice Center in Kew Gardens, a new facility Kessler had a hand in designing to include dedicated workspace for the externs. Under one roof, a victim can meet with prosecutors and have access to social service organizations that provide assistance with housing, placement in a shelter, vocational training and psychological treatment.

The center also has a playroom staffed by social workers where victims can leave their children while they are interviewed. It has nonviolent toys and equipment donated by the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation, a charity founded by the former New York Yankees manager, who grew up in an abusive household.

The center is at the heart of the most ethnically diverse county in the nation, where more than 160 languages are spoken. While the DA's office has access to interpreters for virtually all of those languages, many students are bilingual. That can take some victims by surprise. "One woman came in and jumped. She said, 'I thought you were Chinese on the phone,'"



Scott Kessler speaking in court

said Steven MacArthur (LAW'11), who is not Chinese but speaks Mandarin.

MacArthur will also join the Manhattan D.A.'s office. However, most students, like Jonathan Friedman (LAW'11), have different career trajectories. Friedman will start next fall as a litigation associate at Skadden Arps, but said students will emerge from the externship as better lawyers, no matter what they do.

"At some point in every law student's life, you begin to recognize yourself as a lawyer," Friedman said. "I think building that confidence has been a key part of this."

Dinkins Forum Focuses on Crisis in State Budgets

By Adam Piore

A year ago, the mood at a conference on city finances, hosted here by former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins, was glum. Mayors of cities in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania warned that tax revenues were plummeting, and layoffs and furloughs would continue unless cities received more help from the federal government.

This year, panelists at the 14th Annual David N. Dinkins Leadership and Public Policy Forum, which focused on the crisis in state budgets, admitted to seeing some signs of economic momentum. But no one was willing to declare that at long last, the sick patient was better.

In his opening remarks April 12 at the Italian Academy, Dinkins, a professor in the practice of public affairs, noted that “leaders of state governments are running out of options. They are between a rock and a hard place.”

Among the speakers was former New York Gov. David Paterson, who said the way out of the lingering economic crisis on both the federal and state levels is “revenue generation.”

While noting that he is no fan of deficit spending, Paterson said the current emphasis in Washington on slashing the federal budget will cause “the engine of the economy to grind to a halt.”

The panelists, including former state Budget Director Dall Forsythe, former city Budget Director Marc Shaw and former city Comptroller Bill Thompson, agreed that a certain degree of periodic budgetary crisis is inevitable in city and state governments.

“The truth is, there’s almost always a crisis in budget in the state or city of New York,” said Shaw. “Politicians have a greater desire to spend money than to tax people. And if you are a politician that makes perfect sense.”

Forsythe noted that economic cycles are predictable and the way to avoid a fiscal crisis is for politicians to put aside money during the good times—as New York City does. But when he also suggested that politicians should forgo the temptation to take credit for cyclical economic upswings, Thompson quipped: “I don’t think that’s going to happen!”



Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins, speaking at forum

Paterson revisited the extreme, once-in-a-generation choices he was faced with when he took office in March 2008. Revenues were already shrinking when he called the Legislature back for a summer session and went on television to declare that the state was in fiscal crisis.

“This view,” he recalls, “was not taken very seriously.”

That soon changed. In September 2008, Lehman Brothers went under, credit markets ground to a halt, and by the following April, New York state’s debt had quadrupled.

To keep the state solvent, Paterson raised taxes and made budget cuts across the board that “more than tripled any other reduction in New York state history.”

As the economy has improved, revenues have begun to rise. But Paterson warned that any progress could be jeopardized by cuts in Washington. He noted that European countries that ended their stimulus spending in favor of slashing budgets are now in deflationary spirals.

“This is a very interesting time in this country’s history,” Paterson said, “because we’re going to see if we can’t prevent turning back the clock on so many issues in the name of budget cutting.”

Helping Newly Employed Make Sense of their Money

By Roger Fortuna

Columbia Business School students are teaching New Yorkers how to manage their money as they transition from unemployment and part-time work to full-time jobs.

“We’re learning about interest and inflation,” said Carlos, one of the participants, whose last names were omitted to protect their privacy. “How to keep your money instead of spending it on reckless things.”

The semester-long mentoring program called Money Makes Cents is run by more than 75 student volunteers from the business school. Last fall, Andrea Davila (BUS’11), Chris Durlacher (BUS’11) and Joe Silver (BUS’11) started the program in partnership with the business school’s Financial Education Society and FECS Health and Human Services System, a nonprofit agency of the UJA-Federation of New York. Drawing on backgrounds in social enterprise, which applies market-based strategies to bring social benefits to the community, the three students are using their experience and training at Columbia to help people get back on their feet financially.

“We want to share all the finance information we’ve learned at Columbia with people in the community who can greatly benefit from it,” Durlacher said, “so we’re giving people the building blocks they need to create a strong financial life.”

Karen Zuckerman, associate vice president of FECS’ student internships and volunteer programs, said, “We’ve taken people who are just about to go to work because we want them to be able to understand how they can save some of the money that they’re earning.”

Hudson, another participant, emphasized the importance of being able to put money away. “Saving money impacts my plans big-time,” he said, “because I want to be able to have a house. I want to be able to have a car.”

Program participants begin by filling out a money checklist. “Once we know a client’s problems, we get

to work on teaching them how to take responsibility for their own money and how they are going to spend and save—very much like a financial planner does in the private sector,” said Silver.

Each person must attend at least five sessions to graduate. About a dozen residents from New York’s five boroughs participated in the fall session, and a similar number are now enrolled in the spring term. Working one-on-one with the business students, participants each receive a financial plan tailored to their needs.

Fred, 51, said the individual attention helped him overcome fears that financial ideas might be too complicated to understand. “I was a little scared when I started,” he said. “But the students put things into plain English, and then you own the ideas.”

All the sessions are held on campus. Participants are expected to attend regularly and are awarded a certificate upon completion of the program. “Getting our clients on campus and making them feel like a part of Columbia shows that we take them seriously, and that we take this teaching seriously,” Davila said.

Lionel said the program brought new focus to his financial planning. “When you come here and you speak it out loud and you have somebody sitting with you and they’re listening,” he said, your plans “become a little bit more real.”

The hope is that graduates will take home new skills including an understanding of how compound interest can increase wealth, the ability to create a realistic budget and a clear view of their financial goals.

“It’s awesome to see my fellow classmates—future bankers and Wall Street titans—using their knowledge right here in Morningside Heights,” Davila said. “This is the kind of program you keep with you for a long time.”

For the clients, the benefits can be long-lasting, too. “I really learned to prepare myself for the future,” Fred said. “I’m not just going to get by from paycheck to paycheck anymore. My new goal is to be ready for retirement.”

“This is the kind of program you keep with you for a long time.”

OPEN ACCESS DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC OF MANHATTANVILLE CAMPUS

By Record Staff

One of the most distinctive things about the Morningside campus is the gates at 116th and Broadway. President Lee C. Bollinger likes to say that when you walk through them, “you just feel smarter.”

Bollinger notes that the campus was built at a time in New York’s history when growing American universities wanted to set themselves apart from the rest of society to call attention to their unique mission.

But just as the purpose and goals of academic institutions have evolved over the past century, the design of Columbia’s future campus will reflect a very different kind of relationship with the city around it.

There will be no gates on the 17-acre Manhattanville site, which is virtually the same size as the core of the Morningside campus, where the University moved more than a century ago; every street through the onetime industrial area will remain a public thoroughfare. Retention of the existing street grid is one of the hallmarks of the master plan for the campus developed by architect Renzo Piano in collaboration with Skidmore Owings & Merrill.

From the viaduct of the Broadway No. 1 train at 125th Street, the transformation of the site is evident in the one building that’s already been designed—the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, which, at 450,000 square feet, will be the largest building Columbia has ever devoted to scientific research. It will house as many labs and researchers as the renowned Rockefeller University on the Upper East Side.

Piano, who worked on the master plan, designed it with his signature transparent facades that erase the division between indoors and out. His New York Times building, for instance, contains a block-wide public space overlooking a cluster of birch trees.



Conceptual rendering of the Manhattanville campus large square, the café corner, looking northeast toward Studebaker from the southwest corner of the square.

Thomas Jessell, the renowned neurobiologist who will co-direct the Mind, Brain, Behavior Initiative, to be housed in the Greene building, says the connections the science center will have to the larger community beyond Columbia are architectural and programmatic.

The center will establish an educational outreach facility and clinical programs whose goal is “to inform the local community, from kindergarten through grade 12, of what brain science means in the 21st century.” Research into the brain affects everyone, he adds, “and the building will only be a success if it engages the community in the efforts that are going on within it.”

Columbia Business School, the School of International and Public Affairs, and the School of the Arts will also move to the Manhattanville campus in the years ahead. That proximity, says Jessell, will foster interdisciplinary work.

The new campus will contain nearly two dozen buildings encompassing some 6.8 million square feet. Bollinger has described Manhattanville as “the release of Columbia’s pent-up potential” after decades of space constraints on its dense urban campuses.

Buildings that depend on public access, including much-needed conference and performing arts facilities, will face Broadway, 125th Street and 12th Avenue, as will new stores and community facilities. When it comes time to fill the retail spaces, preference will be given to businesses with roots in the Harlem area, says Executive Vice President for Facilities Joe Ienuso.

On the smaller streets that cross the site—126th, 127th and 128th—buildings will be set back to allow extra-wide sidewalks leading to the new West Harlem Piers Waterfront Park and expansive

continued on page 8

COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB

For video on the program, go to news.columbia.edu/moneymakesense



SENATE SUPPORTS THE RETURN OF ROTC TO COLUMBIA



The University Senate on April 1 called for a historic change in Columbia policy, voting to authorize negotiations to bring ROTC back after an estrangement of four decades.

The resolution said Columbia welcomed “the opportunity to explore mutually beneficial relationships with the Armed Forces of the United States, including participation in the programs of the Reserve Officers Training Corps.” The final vote was 51-17, with one abstention.

Proponents of ROTC’s return envision a program similar to those at Princeton and MIT, where ROTC resembles an extra-curricular activity. Any decision to award credit or appoint instructors teaching ROTC courses would be made by regular committees on instruction and faculty procedures.

Columbia Security made elaborate preparations for a demonstration on the day of the vote. About 20 Columbia students protested across 116th Street behind NYPD barricades in the rain. Some later attended the plenary, without incident.

The ROTC ban dates from June 1969 when, amid intense opposition to the Vietnam War and only 14 months after the student strike that shut down the Morningside campus, Columbia’s trustees announced the creation of a University Senate and spelled out conditions for maintaining a Naval ROTC program on campus — mainly Columbia faculty authority over appointments and curriculum. These proved unacceptable to the Navy, which phased out the program, commissioning the last cadets in 1971.

The Columbia Senate reaffirmed those principles of academic autonomy in 1976 and again in 2005, when it decisively rejected a bid to restore ROTC after a debate focusing on Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, the federal policy barring homosexuals from serving openly in the military.

After the U.S. Congress repealed DADT last December, a University Senate task force of nine students and faculty members conducted intensive open deliberations. Their 228-page report, presented on March 4, provided useful background infor-

mation and a range of compelling statements (see www.columbia.edu/cu/senate/militaryengagement/) but did not recommend a course of action on ROTC.

On March 25, a draft resolution supporting ROTC won unanimous support in the Executive Committee. It was subsequently endorsed, with revisions, by Faculty Affairs (8-1, with two abstentions), Student Affairs (17-5-1) and Education (10-5).

April 1 was the first opportunity for floor debate on ROTC, but the push for a vote resulted in extensive parliamentary maneuvering to prolong or close discussion, and some muddled procedure. A request from Lydia Goehr (Ten., A&S/Hum) to postpone the vote until April 29 and reserve the present meeting for discussion failed after swift motions to cut off debate, which prevailed with two-thirds majorities— an early sign of the Senate’s mood.

Substantive debate consisted of five-minute presentations, two favoring the measure and two against it, and a half-hour of floor discussion. Among dissenters, Rebecca Jordan-Young (Fac., Barnard) argued that Columbia needs no more than its current “crosstown” ROTC arrangements with nearby institutions; said warnings from military authorities against the use of WikiLeaks material by ROTC cadets at other schools were infringements of academic freedom; and questioned Columbia’s commitment in its nondiscrimination policy to transgendered people, who are excluded from the military. Philip Genty (NT, Law), the lone abstainer in the final vote, asked for language linking any ROTC agreement to the actual repeal of DADT, which is not expected before next year. President Lee C. Bollinger responded with assurances of his vigilance on this point.

As the meeting neared the two-hour mark, Bollinger ignored several attempts to cut off debate but piloted the Senate to the vote without further objections.

The last plenary this year is April 29. Anyone with CUID is welcome.

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.

COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB



Theater of War

Among the literary names carved above the columns of Butler Library and discussed in Core Curriculum seminars is Sophocles. But the words from his 2,500-year-old play *Ajax* resonated anew at Miller Theatre on April 5, in a dramatic reading produced by the nonprofit group Theater of War, whose goal is to engage mostly military audiences in difficult conversations about the enduring physical and psychological wounds incurred by combat veterans. A quartet of actors, including Academy Award nominee Amy Ryan, performed the excerpts.

The reading was followed by a panel involving Columbia alumni and student veterans, the wife of a Columbia veteran and a recently retired military psychiatrist. Theater of War co-founder Bryan Doerries then led a town hall-style discussion with the packed audience about the challenges faced today by service members, their families and communities. The event was sponsored by the University’s Department of Narrative Medicine. To see a video on the Theater of War, go to news.columbia.edu/theaterofwar

LeafSnap

continued from page 3

a Ph.D. candidate in computer science who manages LeafSnap’s software coding and is in charge of the volunteer leaf identifying team.

Back in a Schapiro Hall lab, the team trained the computer to distinguish one species from another. “We pick one feature we extract from the leaf, and using that we can say, ‘This looks more like all of these maples I’ve seen and less like something else,’” says Kumar.

The app, which will be free, allows a user to photograph a leaf, upload it and see a list of possible matches within seconds. There is also a complementary website (<http://leafsnap.com>) with profiles of each species.

In addition to the Central Park trees, LeafSnap’s database covers the 160 species in Washington, D.C.’s Rock Creek Park; between the two parks, most native species in the northeast are represented. Belhumeur’s team hopes to eventually map species across the United States and use a crowdsourcing element to let users add their own images

to the database. “This is the sort of system we need because species are disappearing off the planet at an alarming rate, and the process of identification is very slow,” explains Belhumeur.

Belhumeur went to Brown as an undergraduate and received his Ph.D. in engineering sciences from Harvard. He came to Columbia in 2002 after eight years as an electrical engineering professor at Yale. For him, LeafSnap bridges his high-tech background and love of nature. As a child in Providence, R.I., he remembers looking up at trees with his parents and trying to identify leaves with a field guide. Now his family has a farm in Cornwall, Conn., where they raise cattle, sheep, pigs, geese and chicken. “It was fun to take that visual recognition technology and drop it into this domain, working with biologists and doing something I cared about as a kid,” he says.

His son is already thinking of new apps. “I think it is time for Fishsnap and Bugsnap,” says William, “so there is still a lot of work to do.”

COLUMBIA PEOPLE

Derek Davis



WHO HE IS: Head Coach, Women’s Archery Team

YEARS AT COLUMBIA: 7

WHAT HE DOES: Davis coaches a 12-member team of undergraduates from Columbia College and Barnard. During his tenure, 24 student-athletes have earned All-American rankings, and the team won two national titles (in 2005 and 2008) at the U.S. Intercollegiate Archery Championships. The 2009 squad set a number of records including the most Columbia archers to earn All-East, All-Academic and All-American honors. Team practices are held four evenings a week, with strength training three days each week. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Davis teaches a strength training physical education class that is open to all students.

BEST PART OF THE JOB: Helping his archers reach their full potential. “Over the four years, a student athlete will spend more time with me than any other staff here,” he says. “A bond will develop, good or bad, and it will last a lifetime. It’s up to me to set an example of integrity.” Davis keeps in regular contact with at least 10 of his former archers and with others on Facebook.

ARCHERY IN NYC: Davis aims to raise archery’s profile in New York City through several programs. He runs off-campus archery clinics several times a year with the Children’s Sports and Fitness Expo, an organization focused on battling obesity in inner-city youth. In the summers, Davis offers an archery camp on campus for 12- to 18-year-olds. He leads archery instructor certification courses for public school physical education teachers, and he hosts a campus Friends and Family Day each winter to introduce the sport to the public and raise awareness of the women’s archery team. His dream is to one day open a public outdoor archery facility. “Archery is exploding in New York City and we deserve a place to practice the longer outdoor distances.”

ROAD TO COLUMBIA: A native of Sherman, Texas, Davis was in-

troduced to the sport as a freshman at East Texas State University. He signed up for two reasons: It fulfilled his physical education requirement and, he adds jokingly, “there were a lot of girls in archery.” Davis, 47, was a computer technician who built and maintained audio systems for HBO and SiriusXM radio, and for recording artists such as Alicia Keys and Bruce Springsteen.

He fell into coaching after his son, then eight, took up archery. “It was personal and that’s as far as I ever thought about taking it,” he says. But at the 2003 Archery World Championship, Davis was a volunteer in the same demonstration booth as Larry Brown, then Columbia’s head archery coach, who talked to him about an assistant coach opening. Hearing himself called “Coach Davis,” he was hooked. He joined Columbia and became head coach the following year when Brown retired.

MEMORABLE COLUMBIA MOMENT: Davis led the women’s archery team to the national title win in his first year as coach, but it is the 2008 championship that stands out for him. “Those athletes came on in my first year. We grew and built that team together,” he says. “And there was one of those moments when a senior athlete put her own glory aside and did what was best for the team. Those are the Disney movie moments that make you proud.”

IN HIS SPARE TIME: Davis and his team participate in Relay for Life, an American Cancer Society program in which teams of people take turns walking or running laps over a 24-hour period. Many of the women in his family battled breast cancer. To honor his late mother, who died from the disease last year, he has set up a fund in her name with Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Davis’ son, Derek Jr., now 21, studies marketing and advertising at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Following in his father’s footsteps, he plans to start an archery team at FIT.

By Melanie A. Farmer

FACULTY Q&A

KENNETH T. JACKSON

POSITION:

Jacques Barzun Professor of History and the Social Sciences, and Director of the Herbert H. Lehman Center for American History

JOINED FACULTY:

1968

HISTORY:

Professor, Columbia, 1970–present

Assistant Professor, Columbia, 1968–1970

Assistant Professor, Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, 1965–1968

Editor, *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, 1995

President, The New-York Historical Society, 2001–2004

Editor, *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, 2nd Edition, 2010

Interviewed by Bridget O'Brian



ELEN BARRISO

It's rare to see the words "best-seller" and "encyclopedia" in the same sentence, especially in the Internet age, which has rendered print reference books all but obsolete.

The Encyclopedia of New York City, edited by Kenneth T. Jackson, the Jacques Barzun Professor of History, defies conventional wisdom. The first edition, published in 1995, sold more than 75,000 copies, and the second edition is going into reprint, after selling almost 13,000 copies. That puts it among the five best-selling books in the history of Yale University Press, its publisher.

The second edition, which came out in December, is even more comprehensive than the first, with 2.2 million words and 5,000-plus entries. What makes it such an attraction? Ironically, the fact that it isn't available on the Web.

"With the Internet you find what you're looking for, but sometimes the most exciting information is what you're not looking for, the things we find serendipitously," says Jackson, who has taught at Columbia since 1968 and whose "History of the City of New York" course each fall includes an all-night bicycle ride from Columbia to Brooklyn. "As you turn the pages of the encyclopedia you almost always find something that you were not looking for, but that turns out to be interesting."

The new edition, he says, includes hundreds of new entries that reflect a changed New York over the past 15 years. Where the first book had a single entry on the World Trade Center, the second has 13, reflecting the Sept. 11 attacks. Also new to this edition: MetroCards, EZPass, and synagogues and mosques, "which are a little bit more on our mind now than in 1995 when the other one came out," Jackson says.

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Jackson came to Columbia as an urban historian, drawn here because he wanted to live in tall buildings in a real city before continuing his academic career in the hinterlands. "But I took to New York," he says. "I love the city, its density, its mysteries, and the fact that you can go down a street and you have no idea what you're going to see."

Q. *What is the biggest change in the city since you got here?*

A. When I moved to New York in 1968, it looked as if the suburbs were the future. Most Americans regarded cities as too big, too dirty, too crowded, too dangerous to call home. And New York was in tough shape in the late '60s and early '70s, measured by the exodus of corporations, the loss of middle-class families, the decline of subways and the abandonment of so many commercial buildings. Crime was getting worse every year. It just seemed inevitable that we were on a downhill slide. Ridership on public transit system declined to below 1 billion in 1974, down from 2 billion riders per year in 1948. It looked like Gotham would follow old industrial cities like Buffalo or Detroit and fall into terminal decline. The metropolis seemed out of control with its best years behind it. Luckily, things changed.

Q. *Such as?*

A. One answer would be the decline in crime. Two crimes that are generally accurately reported are homicide and automobile theft, and those statistics are both down roughly three-fourths in the last 20 years. The rebirth of the transit system was also a huge factor. The

transit authority spent more than \$75 billion in capital improvements between 1980 and 2010 and the subway system is now carrying 1.6 billion riders per year. Persons of all economic and social classes ride the subway.

Q. *Are there other factors?*

A. The city has been well served by its municipal leaders. Mayors of many other cities, like Newark and Detroit, have been indicted. But not in New York. Since Jimmy Walker was mayor in the 1920s, residents of Gracie Mansion have generally been honest and do a good job.

Q. *You're not a native New Yorker, but you consider yourself one by now. What makes a New Yorker?*

A. A great thing about Gotham is that you can become a New Yorker in a week. Almost all ethnic groups, all people, can come to New York and feel comfortable that it's their city—everybody's here. New York doesn't have insiders who care whether your great-great-grandparents came over on the Mayflower. The common denominator is people who want to live a vibrant, exciting, multicultural life. Kokomo, Indiana, is a wonderful town where it would be cheaper, quieter and gracious to live, but it wouldn't offer the opportunities, the diversity or the potential romantic partners of a city.

Q. *Why do you think New York has thrived over so many years under such different conditions?*

A. History is a good indicator. New York has been diverse for a long time, more diverse than any other place, and we can infer that in the next 10 years there probably will be a lot of other foreign-born people who will make their way to New York. Not because it's the cheapest or easiest city in the world, but because they expect if they come here, nobody's going to try to stop them because they're Muslim or they're Jewish or they're black or they're female or they're gay or they play chess—nobody gives a damn in New York. We allow people to be whoever they are. Tolerance here is born of necessity. And New York is dense. No other American city comes close, and it's a defining characteristic of New York City.

Q. *Other major U.S. cities offer plenty of diversity. What makes New York stand out?*

A. The city has, at least in the past, been able to change its orientation, in this case toward financial and legal services, stocks and bonds, and new entertainment and tourism. The city has a different kind of economy from what it had 60 years ago. Of course, other cities are going through the same pressures, but New York is unique, and not just because it is so big.

Q. *What else was added to the book?*

A. We have a few more living people; in the first one we had only Woody Allen and Donald Trump. There are a few more women, like Eartha Kitt and Katherine Hepburn. In the first edition we had sports figures like Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig; people wanted Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle. It has long entries on all the boroughs, more than 100 ethnic groups and more than 450 neighborhoods in New York City. We have entries on things you can't find anywhere else, like the worst fires in New York history, all the armories in the city and all of our squares. We even have lists of songs written about New York City.

Q. *What do you think drives the popularity of your encyclopedia?*

A. This book is a physical manifestation of a particular kind of a love affair with New York. While many people hate the city, there are a lot of people who love it. Taken all together, you can't look through this book or remember this great city without being in a sense overwhelmed with its unimaginable potential, its unimaginable reality, its incredible history of opportunity. It reminds you of Samuel Johnson's telling phrase, "When a man is tired of London, he's tired of life." If you can't find anything in New York to interest you, then I'd say you're tired of life.

COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB

For video of the interview with Kenneth Jackson, go to news.columbia.edu/kenjackson

Manning Marable

continued from page 1

the institute a place where people of every outlook and every race and ethnicity felt entirely comfortable. There was no party line—just a shared commitment to studying the black experience and relating that history to the world we live in.”

Marable’s colleague Farah Jasmine Griffin, the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies and former director of IRAAS, recalled first encountering Marable through his scholarly works, then getting to know him at Columbia and through his work at the institute.

“What distinguished IRAAS was its location in Harlem, its early focus on the social sciences and its core philosophy of creating a space where scholars, students and members of the broader communities of Harlem and New York could engage

“He made the institute a place where people of every outlook and every race and ethnicity felt entirely comfortable.”

in genuine debate, dialogue and conversation,” she wrote in a tribute on Blackvoices.com. “The opportunity to work at the institute, to share in and help to build that vision was a dream come true for me. I have never encountered anyone with his singular focus and boundless well of energy.”

Marable’s monumental effort to reclaim the “historical Malcolm” began with a methodical process of figuring out the sources of Haley’s best-selling autobiography. He hired more than 20 graduate students and undergraduates, most from Columbia, to write profiles and abstracts of important individuals and institutions mentioned in the book. He oversaw the construction of a detailed chronology of Malcolm X’s life, with almost daily entries for the last two years of his life.

He also scoured the Haley archives to reconstruct the “authorial tensions” between Haley and Malcolm X, said Garrett Felber, who got his master’s at Columbia (GSAS’09) and worked on the project. In the end, Marable concluded that the autobiography, released nine months after the assassination, was a “brilliant literary work,” but one that distorted the complex truth about Malcolm X’s evolving beliefs.

Haley, a liberal Republican, had wanted to depict Mal-

colm X as firmly within the mainstream civil rights tradition, Marable said. And Malcolm X embellished aspects of his own life story, exaggerating “short-lived” criminal exploits to show that redemption was possible through the Nation of Islam.

The book, which offers startling new details about Malcolm X’s life and legacy, is based on extensive interviews with close associates of Malcolm X, including Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and a former New York City police detective, Gerry Fulcher, in charge of wiretapping Malcolm X.

That Marable was able to talk to so many figures around Malcolm X who had never spoken publicly before was a testament to his reputation, said his wife and longtime collaborator, Leith Mullings, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

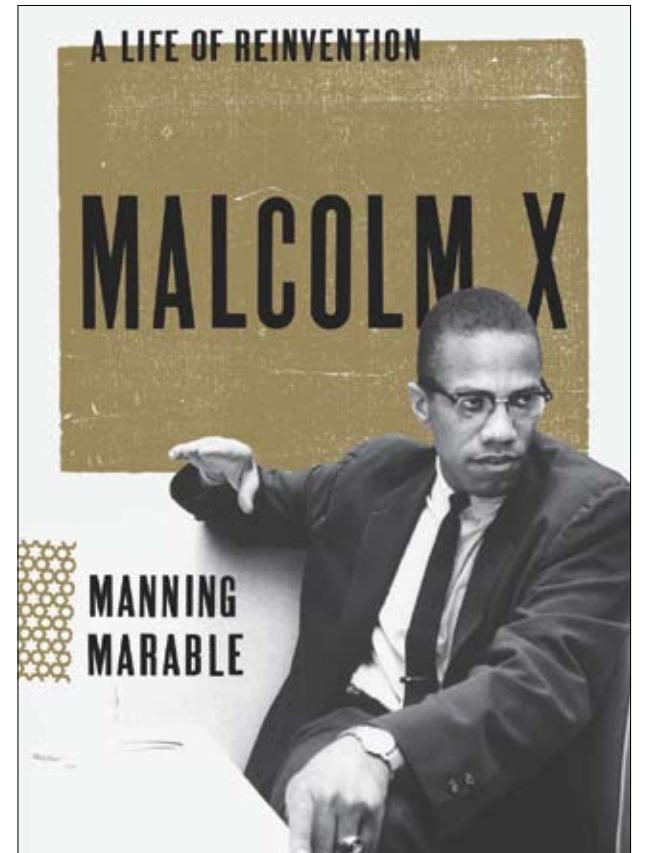
“He was just so well respected that people came to him,” she said. “It was clear to everyone that Manning had a great deal of integrity. They understood that he was a historian and first and foremost was going to tell the history as he understood it based on the evidence currently available.”

Source materials for the book include FBI files, New York Police Department interviews with witnesses at the Audubon at the time of the slaying, Malcolm X’s prison files, and recently released personal papers housed at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Those documents include diaries from 1964, when Malcolm X was traveling around the Middle East and Africa, reaching out to Muslim groups and black leaders, and reinventing himself as a revolutionary supporting the rights of oppressed black people around the world.

Based on his research, Marable asserts that two of the three Nation of Islam members who served time for killing Malcolm X were innocent; that the gunman who fired the lethal shot was never charged and is living today in Newark, N.J.; and that the FBI and NYPD may have had advance knowledge of the plot.

“Dr. Marable believed deeply in justice,” said Felber, now a doctoral student at the University of Michigan. “His hope in writing this book was that the case would be reopened and meaningful questions would be raised about the assassination and the complicity of the government and local authorities.”

Marable was a prolific scholar who wrote or edited hundreds of books and articles. Besides serving as founding director of the IRAAS for a decade, Marable established the Center for Contemporary Black History, which publishes *Souls*, a quarterly academic journal of African American studies. He was also instrumental in the construction of the Web-based Malcolm X Project, which features interviews,



Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention is the result of more than two decades of scholarship.

government documents and archival footage. Mullings says that even though Marable wrote his manuscripts and email by hand, relying on secretaries to transcribe them, early on he grasped the potential of the Internet as a teaching tool.

His roots as a community activist date back to his high school days in Dayton, Ohio, when he wrote a column for a weekly black newspaper. In 1976, he started “Along the Color Line,” a column of progressive political commentary distributed free to black media and later, online. A self-described democratic socialist, he spoke frequently on behalf of labor, civil rights and social justice organizations, and lectured in a master’s degree program for prisoners at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, N.Y.

Marable dedicated the Malcolm X book to his wife, calling Mullings his “constant companion and intellectual compass.” “This work is hers,” he wrote. In addition to his wife, Marable is survived by three children and two step-children. There will be a public memorial service for Marable at 5:30 p.m. on May 26 at the Roone Arledge Auditorium in Lerner Hall.

Manhattanville

continued from page 5

views of the Hudson River.

One crucial aspect of the project will be invisible by design: a shared basement containing parking lots, heating and cooling plants, and other mechanical equipment. The underground facility, comprising almost 2 million square feet, will allow buildings to avoid unnecessary bulk and height, as well as the kind of blank walls normally needed to hide machinery.

Ienuso compares this aspect of the project to Rockefeller Center, whose basement concourses serve the entire complex and, by reducing the number of sidewalk loading docks and curb cuts for each building, allows for a more appealing pedestrian-centered street life. It will also help limit the volume of truck traffic on local streets.

Another example of how the University is aiming for a new, more open environment, is the selection of the architectural firm Diller Scofidio + Renfro to design the new business school buildings. When he announced the selection, Bollinger praised the firm for creating buildings “that have been thoroughly integrated into the surrounding urban fabric.”

The firm’s major projects in recent years have been the High Line, an abandoned railway turned into an elevated park, and the renovation of Lincoln Center’s public spaces, which included opening up travertine-encased Alice Tully Hall to Broadway.

The Manhattanville campus will have several publicly accessible green spaces of its own, including a generous open square as well as a landscaped walkway enhancing the pedestrian experience moving south to north through the campus. The new open space is just one aspect of a plan designed to make the Manhattanville campus both a state-of-the-art university facility and a state-of-the-art Manhattan neighborhood.

“If a project like this is done well,” Ienuso says, “everyone feels like they own it.”



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

Hint: He was educated at Columbia and served as its president from 1801 to 1811. But to find the gravestone of the Rev. Benjamin Moore, a dogged detective would have to travel some 7 miles south of campus and consider *all* of Moore’s illustrious career. Where can his gravestone be found? Send answers to curecord@columbia.edu. The first person to email the right answer wins a *Record* mug.

ANSWER TO LAST CHALLENGE: Stairway to SIPA courtyard
WINNER: Benjamin Frieling (SEAS’14)

Health Partnership

continued from page 1

tivities than working in the chemistry lab.

“I was in and out of the lab and really missed human interaction,” says Hernández-Cordero, describing her fifth year in engineering school. “At the same time, I was working at Student Health Services, mobilizing student organizations to take on community projects. I would always complete my monthly hours and then some. I loved it so much.”

Her fervor for community-based health led her to Columbia’s Mailman School, where she completed her doctorate in sociomedical science in 2004. She joined Community Voices as a student when the program began in 1998.

Community work has played a significant role in Formicola’s career from the beginning. He became dean of the dental college in 1978 and would see patients from the community with no access to preventive care, who suffered from dental disease and could not afford treatment. The experience led Formicola, who specializes in gum disease, to start Columbia’s Community DentCare Network, which provides dental care to underserved and uninsured residents in Northern Manhattan. He has developed several other community-based health programs.

When Formicola began community work as a dean at Columbia, the University’s ties to the surrounding neighborhoods were rocky. Columbia’s relationship with the community “has since come a long, long way,” Formicola said. “I’m a big believer in building solid community relations for universities. That’s what universities should be doing. We should be taking on some of these real and practical problems that people suffer with.”

Formicola’s hope is that more academic medical centers in the United States consider this community-based approach. “We would certainly make a big dent into the health problems we have in the United States,” he said.