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The Record

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

VOL. 37, NO. 05

NEWS AND IDEAS FOR THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 22, 2011

MEDICAL CENTER NAMES FACULTY ADVISERS ON COMMUNITY HEALTH

By Adam Piore

For years, researchers at Columbia University Medical Center have worked to bring the latest medical advances and treatment to their neighbors in Upper Manhattan.

Now, two longtime University clinicians, Drs. Rafael Lantigua and Dennis Mitchell, are leading efforts to enhance collaboration between the community and the medical center on pressing health problems including hypertension, stroke, diabetes and bronchial asthma.

"Both of us have been out there working in the community, but now we will be spokesmen for Columbia," says Lantigua, a professor of clinical medicine at CUMC. "We can listen to community leaders and then go to the deans and say, 'This is what the community needs. Who on your faculty should we contact?'"

Mitchell, senior associate dean for diversity affairs at the College of Dental Medicine, notes that while the University has been doing work in the community "for a very, very long time," now it will be part of a strategic plan. "We would like to match the strengths and needs of academia and the medical center with those of the community," he says.



Drs. Dennis Mitchell and Rafael Lantigua

Since their recent appointments, the doctors have been cataloging the myriad community-driven projects of thousands of researchers and clinicians at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, College of Dental Medicine, School of Nursing and Mailman School of Public Health.

Take obesity, a key health concern in northern Manhattan and a vibrant area of research at Columbia. "We may have 10 faculty members working on obesity, but they are not necessarily coordinated, and we may have only one faculty working with the local community," notes Sandra Harris, assistant vice president of government and community affairs.

So far, Mitchell and Lantigua have met with all four medical center deans, the executive vice president of Harlem Hospital and the director of New York State Psychiatric Institute, among others, to put together a summary of their findings for Dr. Lee Goldman, dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine, and offer a plan of action for 2012.

The next step will be discussions in the community to find fruitful new areas of collaboration, for which the past may serve as a guide. In the mid-1990s, neighborhood residents surveyed by Harlem

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CURATOR IN THE CLASSROOM



EILEEN BARROSO

Now Dig This: Seeing Through the Artistic Eye of Prof. Kellie Jones

By John Uhl

It's been a busy year for Kellie Jones. She has just published an anthology of her essays from the past 20 years and curated a well-regarded exhibition at UCLA's Hammer Museum exploring the legacy of African American artists in Southern California.

For the career-spanning *EyeMinded: Living and Writing Contemporary Art*, Jones, an associate professor of art history and archaeology, took a somewhat unusual tack, including essays about herself and her work contributed by her family. Not surprising, perhaps, when you consider her literary pedigree.

Jones is the oldest daughter of the poets and writers Amiri Baraka and Hettie Jones, significant figures in the Beat movement whose respective archives recently found a home at Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Her sister, Lisa Jones, is a writer and filmmaker, and her husband, Guthrie P. Ramsey Jr., is a music professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

That unique family history was on display at a recent packed event at Faculty House sponsored by the Institute for Research in African-American Studies and Columbia Libraries, where Kellie and her sister discussed how their shared upbringing shaped some of the ideas in *EyeMinded*.

Jones included her family's perspective to complement one of the book's central themes:

how artists form different kinds of kinship, connections and communities. This theme has been central to the exhibits Jones has organized over the course of her career as an art curator, including shows for the Johannesburg Biennale in 1997 and the São Paulo Bienal in 1989. The latter, featuring the work of sculptor Martin Puryear, won a grand prize for best individual exhibition. Much of the writing collected in *EyeMinded* was first published in the catalogs of these shows.

The sisters also talked about their years growing up in lower Manhattan in the 1960s and '70s, surrounded by artists, musicians and activists. Lisa remembered her big sister as a precocious "visionary" who in one of their earliest creative collaborations, "had us do paper dolls that were

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ADDING UP THE HIGH COST OF "ZERO-SUM" POLITICS

By Eric Sbarfstein

Tom Edsall has covered every presidential campaign since 1968. He has reported on politics from more than 30 states and written five books on the subject. He sees politics in virtually everything. "If I'm walking down Broadway and I see a school bus hit a police car, my first thought is, does this help the Democrats or the Republicans?" he said.

Edsall, now the Joseph Pulitzer II and Edith Pulitzer Moore Professor of Journalism, shares his perspective with his Columbia Journalism School students with a good measure of humor and skepticism. His years as a political reporter, 25 of them at *The Washington Post*, have made him a clear-eyed observer of the presidency, Congress, lobbying, tax policy, demographic trends and more. What he sees as he approaches his 12th presidential election cycle is "a death struggle



Journalism Professor Tom Edsall

between Republicans and Democrats to protect the benefits and goods that flow to their respective bases, each attempting to expropriate the resources of the other."

His insights about that "death struggle" can be found on the Campaign Stops blog of *The New York Times*.

The inaugural column appeared on the op-ed page of the *Times'* Sunday Review section in November and set forth the thesis of his forthcoming book, *The Age of Austerity: How Scarcity Will Remake American Politics*, arguing that whoever wins in 2012 will have to manage in an era defined by "a new politics of scarcity."

"In place of shared abundance, battles at every level of government now focus on picking the losers who will bear the costs of deficit reduction and austerity," he wrote. In his columns and book, Edsall paints a dire picture of two political parties unwilling to tolerate the kinds of compromise that once kept the wheels of government turning.

"We don't see the give and take that used to be commonplace in Washington," he said. "For example, in 1983, the House Democrats and the Reagan administration agreed to major legislation boosting the financing of Social Security. That kind of common ground is

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ON CAMPUS



EILEEN BARROSO

BALLET SET TO BACH

Richard Isaac (GS'13) dances with two panels of billowing fabric in *Interstice*, a new work by Emery LeCrone, resident choreographer of the Columbia Ballet Collaborative. *Interstice*, set to Bach's *Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor*, was one of six new works, and the only solo, choreographed for the troupe's Nov. 18-20 performances. Founded in 2007 by five professional dancers enrolled at Columbia, the collaborative is comprised of students from all of the University's undergraduate colleges and affiliates. Many, including Isaac, are current or former professional dancers. The Collaborative offers free weekly ballet classes at Barnard's Marion Streng Studio and holds auditions at the beginning of every semester for its fall and spring performances.

MILESTONES

The *New York Times Book Review* included **MANNING MARABLE'S** biography, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*, on its list of the top 10 books of 2011. Marable, who died in April, was the M. Moran Weston/Black Alumni Council Professor of African American Studies. He had spent the last two decades researching and writing the book.



PETER K. MANGURIAN, who has more than 30 years experience coaching football in the NFL and Ivy League, has been appointed the Patricia and Shepard Alexander Head Coach of Football. Mangurian has coached in five bowl games, including two Sugar Bowls. In the NFL, he coached four AFC championships and two Super Bowls.

ALICE KESSLER-HARRIS, the R. Gordon Hoxie Professor of American History, was elected president of the Organization of American Historians, the largest professional society dedicated to the teaching and study of American history.



The 2011 Kenyon Review Award for Literary Achievement has been awarded to University Professor **SIMON SCHAMA**. The prize honors "careers of extraordinary literary achievement, recognizing writers whose influence and importance have shaped the American literary landscape."

The 2011 Claude Lévi-Strauss Prize was awarded to **ANTOINE COMPAGNON**, the Blanche W. Knopf Professor of French and Comparative Literature. The \$134,000 prize is intended to recognize "a scholar who has significantly contributed to the development of social science methods and perspectives with his or her work."

PHILLIP LOPATE, professor and director of the nonfiction M.F.A. program at the School of the Arts, was awarded the Sandro Onofri literary prize for nonfiction. The prize is presented each year by the City of Rome to both an Italian and a foreign author whose recent work demonstrates the best qualities of the genre.



GRANTS & GIFTS

WHO GAVE IT: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

HOW MUCH: \$15 million

WHO GOT IT: Earth Institute

WHAT FOR: To support research and create science-based tools and technologies to help developing nations alleviate poverty and achieve UN-established Millennium Development Goals.

WHO GAVE IT: Durst Organization and members of the Durst family

HOW MUCH: \$4 million

WHO GOT IT: Columbia University Libraries and the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

WHAT FOR: To support the Dursts' companion gift of the Old York Library Collection, a New York City-themed archive of books, ephemera and architectural documentation including renderings, plans and photos from the archives of the Durst Organization, a leading real estate company.

WHO GAVE IT: Joseph F. McCrindle Foundation

HOW MUCH: \$800,000

WHO GOT IT: School of the Arts

WHAT FOR: To support fellowships for M.F.A. students in fiction writing and provide funding for the Henfield Prize, which is awarded each year to an M.F.A. student for excellence in fiction writing.

WHO GAVE IT: Kikkoman Corporation and its chairman Yuzaburo Mogi (BUS'61)

HOW MUCH: \$500,000

WHO GOT IT: Columbia Business School

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

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50 Years of Media Criticism

The Columbia Journalism Review is celebrating its 50th anniversary. How and why was it first published?

—Media Junkie

Dear Media Junkie,

In its founding editorial in fall 1961, Columbia Journalism Review clearly set forth its mission: It would evaluate the performance of journalists and help define "standards of honest, responsible service." And as a publication of the University's Graduate School of Journalism, it also would strive to improve the profession "and to speak out for what it considers right, fair and decent."

A half century later, the magazine's mission remains essentially unchanged, although its platform has grown larger, with a vibrant website supporting the bimonthly print edition. In every important respect, though, the magazine still reflects the original goals of the school's founder, Joseph Pulitzer, who fervently believed that journalism should be a public service for the average citizen and that it needed to be continually improved.

The story of the magazine begins in 1956, when a new journalism dean, Edward W. Barrett, expanded the school's programs and began to use his speaking dates to critique American journalism—something that most journalism schools and professors were not in the habit of doing. Barrett's assistant at the time, James Boylan, noticed a "healthy reaction" to his reviews, and realizing that there was no central repository for thoughtful critical discussion, he sent the dean a memo pitching a Columbia University Journalism Review.

"The proposal might well have died on the desk of a more cautious dean, but Ed Barrett was adventurous, and saw a glimmer of a way to perform a service for American journalism," Boylan, the founding editor, writes in November/December's 50th Anniver-



ASK ALMA'S OWL

sary edition of *CJR*. "We soon had the faculty—in those days, a mere handful—chewing on the possibilities and dangers."

Eventually there was enough agreement on the magazine's goals to begin publication with a staff so small they were able to work out of a former darkroom. The pilot issue was 64 pages, about the same size as today's, although this month's special anniversary edition has grown to 168 pages. The editorial staff is big enough that they would have a hard time squeezing into a darkroom, assuming anyone still uses a darkroom in this digital age.

Reflecting the founders' commitment to "discuss all the means that carry news to the public," *CJR* operates independently of the journalism school's oversight. *CJR* is also now available online at CJR.org and in a variety of digital formats.

—Wilson Valentin

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

Happening at
COLUMBIA

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

Center for Computer Music: 60 Years of Revolutionary Sound

By Nick Obourn

Sixty years ago, music professor Vladimir Ussachevsky received a large package at his office with revolutionary new technology: a reel-to-reel Ampex tape recorder. At the time, most people were using such a device to record and edit sound. Ussachevsky had another idea. He wanted to use it to create original music.

His subsequent experiments led to the founding of the Columbia-Princeton Electronic Music Center, the oldest center for electronic music in the United States. Launched in 1958 with a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, the center sought to encourage the brand-new art of electronic music composition. It installed a custom-built, RCA Mark II Synthesizer, the first programmable synthesizer ever made, a multi-paneled behemoth that today occupies an entire room at Prentiss Hall.

Since the 1980s, of course, computers have become ever smaller and more ubiquitous, raising the question of what happens to a much-vaunted computer music center, one that nurtured the likes of *Switched-On Bach* composer Wendy Carlos, Edgard Varese and Charles Wuorinen, when people can create computer music in their own home using programs like Garage Band?

The answer has been for the center to evolve into a sort of music and technology salon, welcoming students, faculty and staff across many disciplines to collaborate on the

most experimental projects imaginable. “We offer the chance to expand what you do,” says Brad Garton, the center’s current director. “If you come here as a composition student or a music theorist, you can suddenly become immersed in an environment with visual artists, filmmakers and engineers.”

Garton, a professor in the music department and director of undergraduate studies for music, took a decidedly tech route into the arts. “I was a failed pharmacist,” he notes. He received his undergraduate degree in pharmacy at Purdue University, where he spent much of his time on music, producing sound effects and playing keyboards for a punk band called Dow Jones and the Industrials. He got involved in digital music just as the technology was burgeoning in the early 1980s and applied to graduate school at Princeton, where he worked in the Princeton half of the Columbia-Princeton Electronic Music Center.

But in 1984, the two universities went their separate ways. Princeton was going full tilt toward the digital world, while Columbia was sticking with tape. It wasn’t until Garton came to Columbia in 1987 that the music center here went digital. He helped install the first computer systems and in 1994 was named director. Two years later, the Electronic Music Center was renamed the Computer Music Center, and Garton began shaping its direction.

Assisting him are Terry Pender, the center’s associate director, and director of research Douglas Repetto. Between the three, they offer a dazzling variety of classes united by a cross-



Otto Luening, left, and Vladimir Ussachevsky are shown with tape recorders, filters and mixers in the electronic music center they founded at Columbia in 1958. The photo is from the Computer Music Center archives.

disciplinary approach.

Garton recently taught a class on creating music applications for the iPhone, while Repetto co-teaches a class with School of the Arts visual arts professor Jon Kessler on how to create multimedia installations. Soon, the center will offer an M.F.A. degree in sound arts.

Simon Herzog (CC’12) was drawn to the center because of his background as a disc jockey. Now the sociology major is developing mixer/controller hardware with Repetto’s

help, which he hopes to manufacture and sell. “Everyone at the center has been fantastic and helpful mentors to me,” he said.

In other examples of the center’s boundary-blurring work, Teachers College graduate students use the center’s technology to bring digital dance and sound into children’s classrooms, and Barnard dance majors learn digital tracking and sonic mapping of motion.

Garton’s wide-ranging acoustic interests have led to a collaboration with Columbia

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COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB

To see a slideshow on the Computer Music Center, visit news.columbia.edu/computermusic

ON EXHIBIT

Harlem Stroll

In this digital age, longtime Harlem resident Lenore Browne (LAW’83) still works with black-and-white film and develops her prints in a traditional darkroom. Her mission is to record enduring elements of Harlem’s fabled past, and some two dozen of her evocative images can be seen in an exhibition presented by the Office of Community Outreach at the School of the Arts. In the photograph *A Glance*, a young girl looks back at the camera as she walks hand-in-hand with a man toward the elevated platform of the train station at 125th Street and Park Avenue past signs for nail and hair

salons. In another, a pedestrian walks down a sunlit street lined with brownstones. Browne, who gave up practicing law to be a full-time artist, moved to the historic neighborhood in the early 1980s and has closely observed some three decades of development and change. Her photographs vividly illustrate that aspects of the essential Harlem still exist. The show can be seen at the Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion, 1150 St. Nicholas Ave. at 168th Street, and the Lasker Biomedical Research Building, 3960 Broadway, entrance on 166th Street. It runs through March 29.



A Glance, one of the images in an exhibition of photography by Harlem resident Lenore Browne.

NROTC PREPARES FOR RE-LAUNCH

By Meghan Berry

The newly reinstated Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) will be open to Columbia undergraduates as early as the start of the spring 2012 semester, and the program will be fully implemented by next fall.

The Office of the Provost recently appointed an advisory committee to guide the program’s rollout. Representatives from the State University of New York, Maritime, in Throgs Neck, N.Y. where Columbia cadets will receive military training, visited campus in early December to discuss careers in leadership in the Navy and Marines, as well as opportunities for financial aid.

The committee, chaired by Jeffrey Kysar, a professor of mechanical engineering, will convene monthly and work with University faculty to determine if any of the courses taken at SUNY Maritime should also qualify for credit at Columbia. ROTC participants, who must report to the SUNY campus in the Bronx twice a week, will study naval history and sciences, navigation, leadership, ethics and military customs, in addition to rigorous physical training.

“We want NROTC to get off to a very strong start,” said Kysar. “We’re here to make sure students can begin taking advantage of this opportunity, while ensuring that our high academic standards are met.”

Captain Matthew Loughlin, a SUNY Maritime professor, discussed NROTC with about 10 students during a Dec. 6 information session at the Morningside campus. Current Columbia undergraduate students and high school seniors admitted for next year may obtain federal scholarships for their college tuition in exchange for a commitment to post-graduation military service. Roughly 900 scholarships are available nationwide, and Loughlin said some Columbians are already in the running.

Current freshmen and sophomores who want to begin NROTC in the spring semester can apply directly to the SUNY Maritime unit. This non-scholarship route includes a stipend and puts students on a path to service as active duty officers after graduation.

College students already enlisted in the Navy can take advantage of the NROTC’s Seaman to

Admiral Program, which trains sailors to become officers while providing financial aid for college. Loughlin said two active-duty sailors from the School of General Studies have already been accepted. A similar program is also offered to active-duty Marines.

Columbia has a long history of educational programming with the U.S. military and the Navy in particular, including a Midshipmen’s School that trained more than 20,000 officer candidates for duty during World War II. The University’s formal NROTC agreement dissolved in 1969 amid anti-war protests but was revived this year after the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” went into effect, allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military.

Today, more student veterans—nearly 400—are enrolled at Columbia than any other school in the Ivy League, said Vice Provost Stephen Rittenberg.

The School of General Studies oversees the University’s Yellow Ribbon Program, which supports education for veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. And a handful of undergraduates participate in the Army and

Air Force ROTC programs at Fordham University and Manhattan College, respectively.

The NROTC at SUNY Maritime, the fifth-largest unit in the country, has 165 cadets—full-time SUNY Maritime students, as well as participants from Fordham University and Molloy College on Long Island. Rittenberg noted, “This is also a unique opportunity for the University to attract a different kind of undergraduate student.”

The provost’s advisory committee includes history professors Kenneth Jackson and Elizabeth Blackmar; Leora Brovman, assistant dean for undergraduate student affairs at the engineering school; sociology professor Thomas DiPrete; Patricia Grieve, the Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Professor in the Humanities; Curtis Rodgers, dean of enrollment management at the School of General Studies; Eduardo Santana (CC’13); Mi Wang (GSAS’13); and Kathryn Yatrakis, the academic dean at Columbia College and senior associate vice president for Arts and Sciences.

“The military is going to benefit from having this cadre of folks ascending to leadership,” said Loughlin, “and it’s of strategic benefit to the United States to have Ivy League-educated officers serving our country in uniform.”

“We’re here to make sure students can start taking advantage of this opportunity.”



RESEARCH

Researchers Find Evidence That Acquired Traits Can Be Inherited Through RNA

By Gary Goldenberg, CUMC News

Researchers at Columbia University Medical Center have found what they call the first direct evidence that an acquired trait can be inherited without any DNA involvement. The findings suggest that Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, who proposed a theory of evolution based on heredity of acquired traits a half century before Darwin's theory eclipsed it, may not have been entirely wrong.

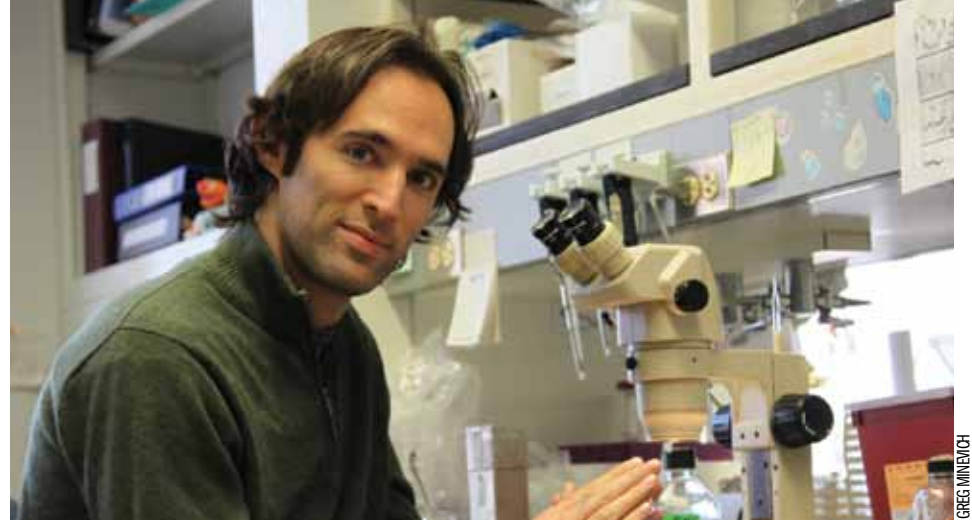
In the study, which appeared in the Dec. 9 issue of *Cell*, the scientists reported that changes introduced to a roundworm's RNA—the messenger molecules in cells that carry genetic information—could be passed to the organism's offspring even if the changes weren't encoded in its DNA, the double-stranded helixes containing genetic instructions.

"In our study, roundworms that developed

that offer an organism a competitive advantage drive a species' evolution. In the case of the giraffe, individuals who happened to have slightly longer necks had a better chance of securing food and thus were able to have more offspring. The subsequent discovery of hereditary genetics supported Darwin's theory, and Lamarck's ideas faded into obscurity.

However, some evidence suggests that acquired traits can be inherited. "The classic example is the Dutch famine of World War II," said Rechavi. "Starving mothers who gave birth during the famine had children who were more susceptible to obesity and other metabolic disorders—and so were their grandchildren."

Nevertheless, Lamarckian inheritance has remained controversial, and no one has been able to describe a plausible biological mechanism, according to study leader Oliver Hobert, professor of biochemistry and molecular bi-



Oded Rechavi, associate research scientist in biochemistry and molecular biophysics at the Hobart Lab.

"In our study, roundworms that developed resistance to a virus were able to pass along that immunity to their progeny for many consecutive generations."

resistance to a virus were able to pass along that immunity to their progeny for many consecutive generations," reported lead author Oded Rechavi, associate research scientist in biochemistry and molecular biophysics at the medical center. "The immunity was transferred in the form of small viral-silencing agents called viRNAs, working independently of the organism's genome."

Lamarck (1744-1829) proposed that species evolve when individuals adapt to their environment and transmit those acquired traits to their offspring. For example, giraffes developed elongated long necks as they stretched to feed on the leaves of high trees, an acquired advantage that was inherited by subsequent generations. In contrast, Charles Darwin (1809-1882) theorized that random mutations

physics at the medical center and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

Hobert suspected that RNA interference (RNAi) might be involved in the inheritance of acquired traits. RNAi is a natural process that cells use to turn down, or silence, specific genes. It is commonly employed by organisms to fend off viruses and other genomic parasites.

Intriguingly, the gene-silencing occurs not only in the treated animal, but also in its offspring. However, it hasn't been clear whether that effect is due to the inheritance of RNA or to changes in the organism's genome—the hereditary information encoded in DNA—or if this effect has any biological relevance.

To investigate this question, the medical school researchers turned to the roundworm,



A roundworm infected with a virus that is tagged with a green fluorescent protein.

which has an unusual ability to fight viruses using RNAi.

The researchers infected roundworms with a virus and then bred the worms so that some of their offspring had nonfunctional RNAi machinery. When those worms were exposed to the virus, they were still able to defend themselves.

"We followed the worms for more than one hundred generations—close to a year—and the effect still persisted," said Rechavi.

The experiments were designed to ensure the worms could not have acquired viral resistance through genetic mutations. The researchers concluded that the ability to fend off the virus was "memorized" in the form of small viral RNA molecules, which were then

passed to subsequent generations.

According to the researchers, Lamarckian inheritance may provide adaptive advantages to an animal because it allows for the transmission of genetic information outside the chromosomes of the genome.

"Sometimes, it is beneficial for an organism to not have a gene expressed," explained Hobert. "The classic, Darwinian way this occurs is through a mutation, so that the gene is silenced either in every cell or in specific cell types in subsequent generations. While this is obviously happening a lot, one can envision scenarios in which it may be more advantageous for an organism to hold onto that gene and pass on the ability to silence the gene only when challenged with a specific threat. Our study demonstrates that this can be done in a completely new way: through the transmission of extrachromosomal information. The beauty of this approach is that it's reversible."

Any therapeutic implications are a long way off. "The basic components of the RNAi machinery exist throughout the animal kingdom, including humans. Worms have an extra component, giving them a much stronger RNAi response," Rechavi said. "Theoretically, if that component could be incorporated in humans, then maybe we could improve our immunity and even our children's immunity."

UNDERSTANDING THE MECHANICAL BIOLOGY OF LIFE'S BONDS

By Beth Kwon

When he was 10 years old, Julio Fernandez took a correspondence course in electronics and earned a certificate for putting together a doorbell. Today, the Columbia professor of biological sciences builds and takes apart proteins, the building blocks of the body which, when they bond improperly, may cause disease.

Traditionally, scientists study proteins in a test tube, a method that Fernandez believes does not offer an accurate enough picture of complex body biochemistry. "In a test tube how would you know what's happening to something that requires mechanical force to extend and relax?" he says, referring to the stretching and contracting that happens to proteins when they bond with one another in the body. "You have to study proteins and biological molecules in an environment as close to their native condition as possible."

"We're trying to revolutionize protein biochemistry from the point of view of mechanical forces."

To that end, Fernandez has spent his career developing a new field—mechanical biology—to understand organic substances with tools from physics, engineering and computer science. His team in the Northwest Corner building builds its own equipment, engineers its own proteins and writes its own computer programs to analyze the data. Though the students each have academic specialties, many have picked up expertise on the job in other disciplines.



Julio Fernandez, professor of biological sciences, has a lab at Columbia devoted to understanding the mechanics of proteins central to the body's biochemistry.

In a paper published in the October edition of *Nature Chemistry*, Fernandez's team made the first direct observation of how disulfide bonds reshuffle within a protein. Disulfide bonds play a central role in controlling the elasticity of tissues. They used an atomic force microscope, a device developed by physicists in the 1980s to study items such as computer chips at the nanoscale, but adapted by his team to examine biological substances.

"Think of a protein as a rope tied up in a knot that is held together by a disulfide bond," explains Pallav Kosuri, a Ph.D. student on Fernandez's team. "Someone breaks the disulfide bond and the knot can now unfurl. We're watching knots unfurl in a single protein molecule." The team placed proteins on the examining surface of the atomic force microscope,

which is fitted with a sensitive tip that is more than a thousand times sharper than the thickness of a human hair. The tip is attached to the protein, and a laser is used to record the exact position of the tip as the knot unfurls—or when the protein bonds reshuffle.

Disulfide bonds occur in nearly 30 percent of proteins; because they're so prevalent, scientists believe their interactions may be clues to unraveling a broad range of illnesses, from infectious disease to cancer. Viruses, for example, interact with human cells through proteins that contain disulfide bonds. Marfan Syndrome is a disorder in which fibrillin, a disulfide-bonded protein in connective tissue, malfunctions. Symptoms may include extraordinarily stretchy skin, and in heart tissue, a faulty elasticity that can affect healthy blood flow.

As a physics student at the University of Chile, Fernandez met a group of neuroscientists from Los Angeles studying a squid native to the shores of that South American country. They lured Fernandez to the UCLA School of Medicine, where he received his Ph.D. in physiology and was a post-doctoral research fellow. Following appointments at the Max Planck Institute, the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine and the Mayo Foundation, Fernandez came to Columbia in 2002.

His lab is currently at work studying how muscle elasticity works. They're also trying to understand the elasticity of the main receptor implicated in HIV infection—another protein with disulfide bonds. "We're trying to revolutionize protein biochemistry from the point of view of mechanical forces," he says.

COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB

To see a video on Julio Fernandez and his research, visit news.columbia.edu/fernandez

Architecture Students Visit India's Mid-Century Modern City



Professor David Smiley (second from left) and architecture students, including (from left) Jacob Goren (CC'12), Jin Xiu Chen (BC'12) and John Buonocore (CC'12), visited the Chandigarh College of Architecture, where they learned about the challenges facing this planned city whose population is expected to double in the next 50 years.

By Meghan Berry

Many people visit India to see the Taj Mahal, the majestic mausoleum built by a 17th century emperor as a tribute to his wife. But last month, a group of Columbia and Barnard architecture students went to India with a lesser-known destination in mind—Chandigarh, a 20th century planned city designed by the famous architect Le Corbusier.

When India gained independence in 1947, Lahore, then the capital of Punjab, fell within the borders of Pakistan. A new capital had to be built to house the Punjabi government. A group of Modernist architects, led by Le Corbusier, stepped forward with a plan for a new city comprised of 47 precisely divided sectors. Chandigarh was built over a 15-year period and today is home to more than 1 million people.

"We were all awed by the vast scale of the undertaking," said David Smiley, an assistant professor of architecture at Barnard, who accompanied 14 students in his Architectural Design III class to the city about 150 miles north of New Delhi.

The design studio, focusing on new towns including Reston, Va., Brasilia and a neighborhood outside Rotterdam, studied the ways architects interpreted urban design principles during the mid-20th century and how these places have adjusted to changing demographics. The class compiled their work in a book, *New Town Field Guide*, which describes the history, current status and possible future of these communities. "Our job wasn't to pass

judgment, but to look at how a planned city operates because so much of life isn't planned," Smiley said.

During the 10-day trip to India in November—funded, in part, by Columbia College, Barnard and the Earth Institute—the group met with local architects, community groups and citizens. "These people are very proud of their city," said Smiley. "We were invited into their homes because they wanted to talk about where they live."

Each sector in Chandigarh was planned to be its own self-sustaining community with a school and all the amenities re-

"To an extent, it reminded me of urban planning in the U.S., particularly the Lower East Side."

quired to live comfortably. Judges, lawyers and government officials live in the sectors closest to the capital complex—a collection of monumental government buildings designed by Le Corbusier now surrounded by a barbed wire fence because of security concerns. The poorest residents live the farthest from the capital, though poor in Chandigarh is relative. The city does not have the sort of slums seen in Mumbai and Calcutta.

All of the residential and commercial buildings in the city embody the simplicity-seeking Modernist aesthetic—geometric, concrete frame buildings line the streets,

most no higher than four stories. Many buildings have been altered by residents. There is more green space in Chandigarh than in most Indian cities. Yet there are also more cars per capita than any other city in the country despite its relatively low population density.

"To an extent, it reminded me of urban planning in the U.S., particularly the Lower East Side," said Chenoe Hart (BC '12). "There are interesting parallels between the two, especially the landscaping and suburban parks. It didn't always feel like we were on the other side of the world."

The architecture students conducted video studies of the "ground plane"—essentially anything on the street level both in and outdoors. And they considered small interventions, such as waste management, that could improve the growing city. "This started a moral debate about our role as planners," said Jacob Goren (CC'12). "Being in Chandigarh for seven days, we couldn't begin to understand the culture and didn't want to impose our Western ideals."

For two days, the class visited Mumbai, where they toured the city's infamous slums. "This was the toughest part of the trip," said Goren. "Most of us had never seen anything like that. It was uncomfortable walking through there and having people look back at you. It made me feel guilty for, well, basically everything I have. It put everything in perspective."

Chandigarh, on the other hand, means the "The City Beautiful," and though it too has its problems, Smiley said, "It remains a fascinating attempt to think through the problem and the very idea of a city."

Public Safety Officer Meets the Boy He Saved by Donating Bone Marrow

By Meghan Berry

The first years of Matthew La Croix's life were consumed with hospital visits. Born prematurely, he underwent brain surgery at five days, nearly died at six weeks and soon after was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder—Diamond Blackfan anemia—that required frequent transfusions. By the time Matthew was 3 in 2010, he needed a bone marrow transplant to survive.

The La Croixs turned to the National Marrow Donor Program registry, knowing the likelihood of a match was low because of Matthew's Puerto Rican, Mexican and French background. Minority donors are underrepresented in the program, leading to efforts to encourage donations from racially and ethnically diverse communities.

Almost 10 years earlier, Columbia University Public Safety Officer Anthony Tavarez, then an undergraduate at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, had his cheek swabbed at a health fair and joined the registry. He forgot about it for nearly a decade until he got the call: His tissue was a perfect match for a desperately ill boy in San



Anthony Tavarez hugs 5-year-old Matthew La Croix at a Nov. 7 benefit for blood diseases at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Francisco. Tavarez, also of Puerto Rican ancestry, didn't hesitate. "When do you ever get a chance to save someone's life?" he asked.

Matthew received the bone marrow transplant on July 23, 2010, and has grown into an energetic 5-year-old who chases the family dog, plays sports and excels in school. "We haven't known what normal is," his mother, Deanna La Croix, said. "Now we get a chance." By law, the donation had to remain anonymous for a year. But La Croix became fixated on the donor: Who would give so selflessly? She got her answer on Nov. 7, when the New York Blood Center, which was involved in the marrow donation, flew the La Croixs to New York to meet Matthew's donor onstage at a benefit at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

La Croix remembers shaking backstage before the introduction. "They called our names and everything turned black," La Croix recalled. "I was crying and crying and couldn't let go of him." Tavarez said he "had thought about that moment for an entire year."

Afterwards, dozens of people told Tavarez how much they admired him, including Christopher W. Tierney, an actor who performs stunts as Matthew's favorite superhero, Spider-Man, on Broadway. The next day, Tierney gave the La Croix family and Tavarez a backstage tour of Foxwoods.

La Croix, who says she is still unsure how to express her gratitude, flew Tavarez to California this month and rolled out the red carpet. As executive assistant to the city manager of Redwood City, a suburb south of San Francisco, she arranged lunch with the mayor, a reception with the police chief and a proclamation honoring Tavarez at a City Council meeting, where he was also given a key to the city. He toured the San Francisco-based entertainment company Lucasfilm, visited wine country and met the extended La Croix family. "My house is too small for the number of people who want to hug Tony," said La Croix, who held a fund-raiser in order to make the trip possible.

"To hear that you're the answer to someone's prayer, to be able to help someone—even going through pain and sacrifice—it was totally worth it," said Tavarez, who says he feels a renewed sense of purpose since his donation. He completed a certificate program in business at Columbia and is pursuing acting in his free time. "I have a much more positive outlook on life," he said. "It might be unusual for a New Yorker to wake up smiling, but I do and I feel great."

"What a selfless act," La Croix said. "What do you do? What do you say? If I had a billion dollars to give him, would that be enough? No, I don't think so."

Study Finds Same-Sex Marriage Has Health Benefits for Gay Men

By Stephanie Berger, Mailman School News

Gay men had significantly fewer medical and mental health care visits in the year after Massachusetts legalized same-sex marriage, a new study has found.

The findings suggest that gay men are able to lead healthier, less stress-filled lives when states offer legal protections to same-sex couples, according to researchers at the Mailman School of Public Health.

"Our results suggest that removing these barriers to marriage improves the health of gay and bisexual men," said Mark L. Hatzenbuehler, a clinical psychologist and lead author of the study published online in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

The study found that gay and bisexual men had fewer medical care visits, mental health care visits and mental health care costs in the 12 months after the marriage law change compared to the 12 months before. This amounted to a 13 percent reduction in health care visits and a 14 percent reduction in health care costs. These health effects were similar for single gay men and those with partners.

Among HIV-positive men, there was no reduction in HIV-related visits, suggesting that those in need of HIV/AIDS care continued to seek needed health care services.

For the study, researchers surveyed 1,211 patients from a large, community-based health clinic in Massachusetts that focuses on serving sexual minorities. Examining the clinic's billing records after the law changed, researchers found a reduction in hyperten-

sion, depression and adjustment disorders—all conditions associated with stress.

"These findings suggest that marriage equality may produce broad public health benefits by reducing the occurrence of stress-related health conditions in gay and bisexual men," said Hatzenbuehler, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholar at the School.

The research on the health impact of same-sex marriage laws was supported by the Fenway Institute, the Eunice Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program. The program, which is focused on population health, enables 12 individuals who have completed their doctoral training to spend two years at one of six universities nationwide, one of them Columbia.

Previous studies have documented that excluding lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals from marriage has a stressful impact on this population. Hatzenbuehler's study is the first to examine whether same-sex marriage policies influence health care use and health care expenditures among sexual minorities.

Lesbians were not included in the survey due to insufficient sample size among the patients who visited the clinic.

Six states and the District of Columbia currently allow gay couples to wed. Massachusetts was the first to allow same-sex marriages, in a court decision in 2003. The law went into effect in May 2004.

"This research makes important contributions to a growing body of evidence on the social, economic and health benefits of marriage equality," Hatzenbuehler said.

Same-sex marriage may produce broad public health benefits by reducing stress-related health conditions.



SENATE DISCUSSES CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY, DEFERS TOTAL SMOKING BAN PROPOSAL



The University Senate finished its work for the fall on Dec. 2 with a discussion of financial conflicts of interest. It also rejected a bid for an immediate vote on a proposal to ban smoking throughout the university, and approved a new master's in Health Administration.

Executive Committee chair Sharyn O'Halloran (Ten., SIPA) presented a two-year review of a University-wide financial conflicts of interest policy adopted by the Senate in April 2009. The review took on new urgency a year ago after the Oscar-winning documentary *Inside Job* highlighted ethical questions about the influence of the financial industry on elite American universities, including Columbia. A review committee convened last spring with new members from Law, Business, and Arts and Sciences. All three units produced their own implementation plans for the 2009 policy. The Medical School, which had been actively involved in the 2009 deliberations, produced stringent new rules for faculty clinical and educational activities. A comparative table in O'Halloran's report lists disclosure requirements that each school has taken to supplement the 2009 guidelines.

The report also called for modest expansions in the 2009 disclosure requirements for outside activities to include white papers, policy briefs and other publications whose credibility depends on the faculty member's affiliation with the University. Op-ed pieces were excluded. O'Halloran said new federal regulations might prompt a more fundamental overhaul of the 2009 policy later.

There was discussion of the report, but no vote. Comments included a call for random auditing of some fraction of the 38,000 disclosure forms that Columbia's compliance office processes every year; objections from students to the exemption for op-eds; and an objection of "cultural" discomfort from computer scientist Julia Hirschberg (Ten., SEAS), who said obligatory disclosure in her discipline feels like an admission of wrongdoing and will have a chilling effect on start-up companies.

The proposal for a University-wide smoking ban was added to the agenda from the floor by Sens. Mark Cohen (NT, Bus.) and Samuel Silverstein (Ten., P&S), and included a statement of support from P&S Dean Lee Goldman. Parliamentarian Howard Jacobson ruled that since the measure

did not have the backing of a Senate committee, it should be referred to a committee for further study. The current smoking policy, adopted by the Senate in December 2010, forbids smoking less than 20 feet from any Morningside campus building. It includes a provision for a two-year review.

The Senate approved the master's in Health Administration without dissent, but a disagreement broke out over the kind of majority needed to approve it. Jacobson ruled that as a new kind of degree, the M.H.A. would have to be added to the University Statutes, and therefore required a supermajority (three-fifths of all incumbent senators) instead of a simple majority. Midway through the meeting, 61 of 101 senators were in the room, and a three-fifths vote was possible.

In other business, Interim Provost John Coatsworth said he had reconsidered the issue of tuition benefits for staff—cut this semester from two degree courses per term to one and from two non-degree courses per year to one—and decided to "restore most of the benefit that staff has enjoyed in the past." The provost anticipated a waiting period for eligibility for new hires. He agreed to look into the possibility of restoring the tuition benefit in time for the spring semester.

O'Halloran reported that a long-delayed resolution to rename the School of Continuing Education was ready to be sent on to the Trustees. At the April 1 plenary the Senate approved a new name—School for Professional and Cross-Disciplinary Studies—with the proviso, suggested by President Bollinger, that the measure would be reconsidered if other schools had serious objections. Now, eight months later, O'Halloran said "effective communication" among the schools had been achieved.

School of Continuing Education deans Kristine Billmyer and Marnie Baker Stein gave a presentation on the school's new initiative in distance learning—a "low-residency" version of the already existing M.S. in Information and Knowledge Strategy combining online and on-site teaching methods.

The Senate meets next on Feb. 3. 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.

Medical Outreach

continued from page 1

Hospital identified dental problems as a top concern. Though Columbia had plenty of clinicians eager to provide oral health care, it was only by partnering with organizations in the community that they could identify the thousands of patients who needed care.

The result is a network of eight school-based clinics and a mobile dental van linked to five community-based practices located throughout Washington Heights/Inwood and Harlem. Patient visits overseen by Columbia's dentists-in-training have jumped to 50,000 today from 3,500 in 1995.

"We could not have done this program here at the medical center without partnership with the community," says Mitchell, who supervised the dental care effort.

For his part, Lantigua has been involved in successful collaborations between the medical center and the community, including one of the longest running longitudinal studies of the genetics of Alzheimer's disease in Latino families of northern Manhattan. He currently oversees Columbia Community Partnership for Health at 390 Ft. Washington Avenue near the medical campus, where community leaders and researchers meet to discuss mutual concerns and research projects.

Recently, Columbia hosted a break-

fast for local elected officials, community board members and representatives from community-based organizations "to announce we are going to knock on doors to talk about problems and to talk about strengths," says Mitchell.

N.Y. State Assemblyman Guillermo Linares believes the new appointees "will be instrumental in helping develop the type of vision and type of approach that will build bridges between this institution and the communities that surround it."

In his talk at the breakfast, Goldman emphasized that the medical center has always seen itself as a community resource.

"We take care of people all over the world who choose to come here because of who we are and because of our partnership with New York-Presbyterian Hospital," he said. "But we have the same commitment to the local community, including some of the most vulnerable people in Manhattan and all of New York."

COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB

To see a video on the medical center's new community health advisors, visit news.columbia.edu/cumcadvisors

Music

continued from page 3

neurophysiologist Dave Sulzer on the Brain Wave Music Project, in which sensors are used to turn brain waves into music and paintings.

The focus on the latest technology isn't such a stretch for the 54-year-old Garton, whose mother was a musical prodigy and whose grandfather played for 44 years with the St. Louis Symphony. As a boy, he got hooked on *Switched-On Bach*, the platinum-selling album that helped popularize synthesizers. As a teen, he listened to the progressive rock bands

Yes, Genesis, and Emerson, Lake and Palmer, then techno bands like Devo and Talking Heads.

"It was always music at the core, but music and technology were really mixed together for me," he says. "I still play piano for fun at home, plus use it for recording. But I would say my primary 'instrument' these days is my laptop." Then he added as an afterthought, "As part of a belated mid-life crisis, I did buy a cherry-red Epiphone Les Paul model guitar a few years ago."

COLUMBIA PEOPLE

Richard Gonzalez



WHO HE IS: Project Manager, Urban Design Lab at the Earth Institute; architect and LEED-accredited urban designer

YEARS AT COLUMBIA: 3 ½ years

WHAT HE DOES: "I'm always thinking about how cities work," said Gonzalez. "New York City is my laboratory." As a member of the Urban Design Lab—a research unit of the Earth Institute—Gonzalez focuses on sustainable development in New York City and around the world. His research centers on developing nations, including, most recently, his native Dominican Republic. "I want to pay homage to my country," he said.

Gonzalez, with the help of master's and Ph.D. candidates from the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, is forming an urban development plan for Puerto Plata, the third-largest city in the Dominican Republic and a declining tourism center. These goals will include measures to improve transportation, agriculture and waste management. In the wake of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Gonzalez became involved in disaster risk management in the Dominican Republic, where he is analyzing preparedness for future natural disasters. The quake, whose epicenter was near the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, could be felt across the border in the Dominican Republic, on the eastern side of the island of Hispaniola.

Gonzalez has also done research work in Haiti, West Africa, South Korea and right here at home on 145th Street, which he describes as "the next 125th Street."

BEST PART OF THE JOB: "The perks are the ability to travel, but the best part of my job is the people I meet and long-term relationships I develop," said Gonzalez, who's also visited Ghana in recent years. "By developing a network of resources we can draw upon, we can foster cohesive development, like in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, for example. It's all about networking, not just working in isolation."

ROAD TO COLUMBIA: Growing up in Washington Heights, the 36-year-old Gonzalez was always aware of Columbia but never envisioned being here. He attended the High School of Art and Design in midtown Manhattan and City College of New York in Hamilton Heights. After graduating with a bachelor's in architecture, he joined the architectural firm of Davis Brody Bond, where he worked for eight years. There, J. Max Bond Jr., a principal at the firm who chaired the architecture division of GSAPP in the early 1980s, suggested he consider Columbia for graduate school—and he did. In 2008, Gonzalez completed an M.S. in urban design at the architecture school and moved directly into his position with the Urban Design Lab, "a great opportunity," he said.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT: During one of his trips to the Dominican Republic, Gonzalez visited the presidential palace. "I met the president and he said, 'I know you. I saw you on C-SPAN,'" Gonzalez marveled. "He said I was a model for the country, for what people could achieve." He and the president, Leonel Fernández, are now good friends and speak regularly, Gonzalez said.

IN HIS SPARE TIME: Gonzalez's background in architecture and urban design is reflected in his interests outside of work. "New York is New York," he said. "There is nothing else like it. It's a network of communities." So Gonzalez immerses himself in those communities—he visits museums, goes to theater and musical performances, follows fashion trends, enjoys a variety of cuisine, including Korean and Thai, and explores neighborhoods like the Lower East Side. When Gonzalez hosts out-of-town guests, he likes to take them to the outer boroughs. "New York City isn't just the core of Manhattan," he said. Gonzalez is also a newlywed and a new father. Earlier this year, he married Paula Asturias, also an architect, and this month, they had a son, Lucas.

—By Meghan Berry

FACULTY Q&A

KELLIE JONES

POSITION:

Associate Professor, Art History and Archaeology

JOINED FACULTY:

2006

HISTORY:

Assistant Professor, Yale University, 1999-2006

Adjunct Curator, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, 1991-1998

Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellowship, Harvard, 2008

Scholar-in-Residence, Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio Center, Italy, 2005

Ph.D., Yale University, 1999

continued from page 1



EILEEN BARRIOS

multi-culti superstars before there were multi-culti superstars. She was so attuned to organizing the world in our own image, even when we were children.”

“People talk about globalization,” Kellie said, “but if you grew up on the Lower East Side, you experienced that on every block.”

Jones’ latest curatorial project, *Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles 1960-1980*, is part of a sprawling series of Southern California-based exhibitions, *Pacific Standard Time*, that chart the development of the Los Angeles art scene after World War II. Her show, which features 140 artworks by mostly African American artists, explores the changing sense of black identity and American culture in the aftermath of the civil rights and black power movements.

Q. *How is your new book, EyeMinded, connected to your curatorial practice?*

A. Putting together your own essays and then throwing a few other people into the mix—that is curating. One of the things that I realized in putting together the book was that curating for me had been a way to research. I would do a show and then I’d write for that catalog. Then I’d write other essays after that based on meeting those artists. *EyeMinded* is a good place to ask, “What is another way to research and go about writing?” I’m not saying I won’t do exhibitions anymore, but I think my work going forward will be different.

Q. *As a scholar, you have written about archives. What do they mean to you? How do you feel now that the archives of your parents are at Columbia?*

A. It’s been very exciting. It’s also a little bit daunting to know that your baby pictures are right there in the library. But you get over that because when you grow up around people whose lives are public, you know your life is public. When I think about archives, I think about how people make their own archives. They have their own documents that narrate their lives—for instance, a painting your daughter made when she was 3. Some people are privileged to be collectors of great art or even the works of local people in their neighborhood. Their lives are perhaps not the stuff of history while they’re living, but maybe later they become emblems of certain classes of society.

Q. *How did growing up in downtown New York in the 1960s and ’70s affect your own choices and interests?*

A. When you’re a child, you think your world is what the whole world is. It was surprising to me when I went to college that people didn’t personally know artists. I just thought the world was full of people who were creative and that everybody’s goal in life was to be creative in whatever they did. I think that’s what I got from growing up around artists—that life was very passionate. Having said that, I knew that I didn’t want to be an artist. I wanted to be a diplomat. I studied French and Spanish, but after a while I said, “This is not working out.” So I went back to what I knew—art. Then I realized that there are a lot of artists but not a lot of people who write about them and help them—the curator, the writer, the critic. I said, “Wow, I could actually do this.” You’re kind of the go-between between the artist and the institution. It was the same kind of life that I imagined the diplomatic life to be.

Q. *You decided to pursue a Ph.D. instead of an M.B.A., which could have led to a career in museums. Why did you go the academic route?*

A. At the time, people were getting M.B.A.s and becoming directors of museums. Get an M.B.A., direct the Guggenheim. My interest in art was really in the ideas, not so much in the selling. At the end of the dissertation process, I realized that I had grown to really like teaching and the life of the mind. The ability to explore with other people. I always joke with my students, “You think you’re learning from me. I’m learning from you, too.”

Q. *How does your curatorial and scholarly work find its way into the classroom?*

A. My students always ask me, “Why are you in the classroom? You’ve had shows in South Africa, Brazil, London.” And I say, “I have done that. It was very exciting, and it’s your turn to do that now.” All the information and the connections I have to that world I pass on to them. For the last five to 10 years, students have worked with me on my projects. They get to do something that goes on their resume. People always say to me, “What can I do with a degree in art history?” I’ve had students who’ve become lawyers, editors, filmmakers. There are a lot of skills that you get—being able to analyze things visually; being able to write critically; being able to research effectively, and not just on Google. Skills that can translate into a career.

Q. *Can you tell us about some of the artists in your latest exhibition, Now Dig This!, and why you included their work?*

A. There are basically four areas in the show. “Front Runners” looks at people who were influential in bringing attention to the L.A. art scene. People like Charles White, Melvin Edwards, William Pajaud and others, who were there breaking ground. The second section is called “Assembling,” about the art of assemblage, which is making sculpture from found objects. Some of the impetus for that was the Watts rebellion. In the aftermath, artists like Noah Purifoy and John Outterbridge used objects to mobilize communities and young artists. The third section, “Los Angeles Snapshot,” is a snapshot of African American artists and their friends. White artists, Latino artists, Asian American artists. Because in my experience, art moves across racial lines. The fourth section, “Post-Minimalism and Performance,” moves into performance video and other more contemporary styles. In that section is David Hammons, who has influenced global art for the last 30 years. He’s always been identified as a New York artist. But California is where he started. He has always identified his community as the people who nurtured his art—Maren Hassinger and Senga Nengudi and Charles White, who was his teacher. To end with that is to show what goes into the making of a great artist. The show also focuses on artists who dedicated themselves to showing the work of their colleagues: Samella Lewis, who started a magazine, had three galleries and started a museum; the brothers Dale Davis and Alonzo Davis, who ran the Brockman Gallery for 22 years. I really wanted to pay homage to these people.

Q. *Is there any tension within the exhibit between its identity as a show about “contemporary black artists” versus a show about “contemporary artists?”*

A. When you put the word “black” in, there’s a tension. The show is called *Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles 1960 to 1980*. You’ll notice I don’t say “black artists” because I wanted to include a variety of people who were influenced by



Kellie Jones (foreground) and Lisa Jones, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, 1969. Paintings are by Ed Ruda.

COURTESY KELLIE JONES

African American culture. This is a historical show about what people were making at a certain time. The show is about African American artists, but it’s also about their influence on the rest of the country and the world, and their neighborhood. The show also has non-African American artists in it because I was interested in tracking influence through friendship.

Q. *You’ve quoted Nelson Mandela, who once called for museums to “reflect history in a way that respects the heritage of all our citizens.” Have museums lived up to that challenge?*

A. The museum world really tries to live up to the challenge that it should be open to all citizens. I’m really speaking about the U.S., but you can also see the role of museums in other countries. When France was trying to grapple with diverse populations in its suburbs, one of the go-to places was the museum—where you can display people’s culture and celebrate diversity. I think again that goes back to the diplomatic role of museums. In the ’60s, American artists were protesting to have younger artists included in museums like the Museum of Modern Art. They were protesting for access. Out of those protests came the free nights. Also at that time, women artists, African American artists, Latino artists, were saying, “The art of our people is not on display.” The museums responded and then went back to business as usual, but I think there’s still that push to keep museums open. One of the other things people were agitating for in the ’60s was having curators of color. They wanted a diversity of people to be able to frame the discussions. It’s been slow, but now at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the head of contemporary art is an African American, Franklin Sirmans. They have people who are specialists in Latino art like Rita Gonzalez and also Christine Kim, who used to work at the Studio Museum in Harlem. Naomi Beckwith, who was also with the Studio Museum, is now a curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Eventually, things have happened, and that’s why I remain optimistic.

COLUMBIANews ON THE WEB

To see a video on Kellie Jones and her curatorial work, visit news.columbia.edu/kelliejones



COLUMBIA INK New Books by Faculty

The Rites of Return: Diaspora Poetics and the Politics of Memory

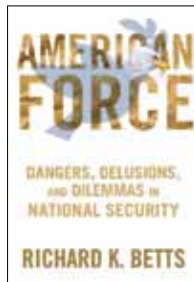
EDITED BY MARIANNE HIRSCH AND NANCY K. MILLER
Columbia University Press



This collection of essays by 24 writers, artists and academics explores the themes of origins and return in contemporary culture. Topics include new methods of genealogical and genetic research; the popularity of roots-seeking journeys; and organized trauma tourism. Several Columbia and Barnard faculty contributed to the volume, including co-editor Hirsch, the William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature and co-director of the Center for the Critical Analysis of Social Difference.

American Force: Dangers, Delusions, and Dilemmas in National Security

BY RICHARD K. BETTS
Columbia University Press



Betts, the Arnold A. Saltzman Professor and Director of the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, investigates the use of American force since the end of the Cold War and offers guidelines for making it more selective and successful. One of the nation's leading national security experts, Betts argues for greater caution and restraint, while encouraging more decisive action when force is required.

Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination

ALONDRA NELSON
University of Minnesota Press



An associate professor of sociology with an appointment at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Nelson examines the health care activism of the Black Panther Party, including its network of free health clinics and campaign to raise awareness about genetic disease. She argues that the radical political party best known for its militancy was also an important voice in the efforts to achieve equal provision of health care.

Sovereign Wealth Funds and Long-Term Investing

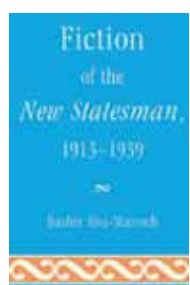


EDITED BY PATRICK BOLTON, FREDERICK SAMAMA AND JOSEPH STIGLITZ
Columbia University Press

Columbia's Committee on Global Thought, which includes some of the University's most distinguished faculty, has published its first book: a look at investment vehicles owned primarily by developing countries. Authors Bolton, the Barbara and David Zala-znick Professor of Business at Columbia Business School; Stiglitz, Nobel laureate, University Professor

and former chief economist of the World Bank; and Samama, an international banker affiliated with Paris Dauphine University, contend that these funds are becoming bigger, more stable players in financial markets.

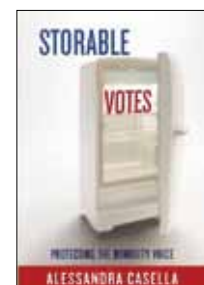
Fiction of the New Statesman: 1913-1939



BY BASHIR ABU-MANNEH
University of Delaware Press

An assistant professor of English at Barnard and director of the Film Studies Program, Abu-Manneh analyzes the fiction published in the center-left British journal the *New Statesman*, founded in 1913 by George Bernard Shaw and other Fabian Society members. He contends that the short stories reveal a strong preoccupation with ordinary life and indicate how British domestic concerns had a strong hold on the working-class imagination of the period.

Storable Votes: Protecting the Minority Voice

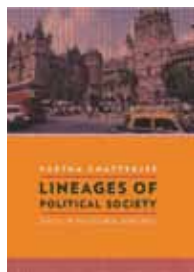


BY ALESSANDRA CASELLA
Oxford University Press

Casella, an economics professor, explores a novel method of voting designed for situations where voters, such as committee members, must vote yes or no on a series of proposals over time. Voters would receive a certain number of votes, which could be stored for future use, and would be allowed to cast more votes for issues that mattered most to them. This method seeks to protect the minority's interests. Voters would cast more votes for decisions they cared most about, but issues would be decided in their favor only if the majority did not feel as strongly.

Lineages of Political Society: Studies in Postcolonial Democracy

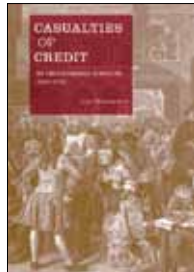
BY PARTHA CHATTERJEE
Columbia University Press



Chatterjee, professor of anthropology at Columbia and of political science at the Centre for Studies in Social Science, Calcutta, examines whether Western democracy is a viable political system in postcolonial societies, particularly in India. A member of Columbia's Committee on Global Thought, Chatterjee helped establish the subaltern studies group of historians of India, whose members consider the viewpoints of people excluded from the nationalist elite.

Casualties of Credit: The English Financial Revolution, 1620-1720

CARL WENNERLIND
Harvard University Press



In this book, Wennerlind makes the case that the development of modern credit laid the foundation for England's political, military and economic dominance in the 18th century. Wennerlind, an assistant professor of history at Barnard, reconstructs the intellectual context of Britain's financial revolution of 1620-1720, arguing that it ultimately helped to facilitate the Industrial Revolution.

The Fate of Greenland: Lessons from Abrupt Climate Change

PHILIP CONKLING, RICHARD ALLEY, WALLACE BROECKER & GEORGE DENTON
The MIT Press



Broecker, the Newberry Professor of Geology at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory and winner of the National Medal of Science, teams up with three other scientists to explore the danger posed by abrupt climate change from uncontrolled carbon emissions. The book warns that continued rapid melting of the ice sheet covering most of Greenland could cause sea levels to rise 24 feet worldwide, submerging lower Manhattan.

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Winner: Xiomara Perez-Betances

Edsall

continued from page 1

impossible to locate today."

Since the 2008 economic collapse, battles have raged over everything from health care, taxes, union rights and unemployment benefits at the national level to law enforcement, garbage collection and teacher-to-student ratios at the local level. Without substantial economic growth, politics is now a zero-sum game—my gain is your loss—or worse.

"Scarcity creates more intense hostility between liberals and conservatives because they're both trying to protect what they have, and they know they have to hurt the other side to do it," he said.

At the core of Edsall's argument is his conviction, based on social science research, that liberals and conservatives have fundamentally different personality traits that make it difficult for them to even speak the same language.

"Liberals tend to believe in compassion, non-violence and progressive redistribution of wealth, while conservatives embrace competitiveness, risk-taking, and law and order," says Edsall. "Conservatives already lean toward seeing the world as a zero-sum game, whereas liberals do not."

He asserts that Republicans were psychologically prepared for the debt-ceiling fight last summer because they were willing to risk everything. Democrats, by contrast, were more focused on the prospect of long-term harm arising from the country defaulting on its debt.

Edsall believes the financial collapse has given Republican priorities traction by dealing a blow to the instinct of generosity so central to liberalism. He credits the Tea Party with driving the Republican focus on the deficit, while the Occupy Wall Street movement has pressured Democrats to concentrate on income inequality and joblessness.

He recently wrote in the *Times* that the 2012 election will hinge on which view voters favor. "Will deficits and debt continue to dominate as they did in 2010, to the advantage of Republicans, or will inequality and government intervention to promote job creation be central, favoring Democrats?" he wrote.

Either way, he sees the reduction of politics and policy-making to a naked resource war as a dangerous development and is concerned that, if not reversed, the age of austerity he describes in his new book could signal a prelude to American decline.

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