



# B

BARNARD  
MAGAZINE

WINTER 2011

## PEAK PERFORMANCES

Lights! Action! – Onstage at Barnard  
Chemistry Department Reacts to NSF Grant  
Women's Studies Majors: Career Paths?  
Ntozake Shange '70 Talks Film, a New Book and a Revival





# The Athena Film Festival

*A Celebration of Women and Leadership*

**February 10–13, 2011**

Barnard College  
New York, New York

The four-day festival will feature more than 20 films that highlight the wide diversity of women's leadership in both real life and the fictional world. Join us for a fun and thought-provoking weekend of feature films, documentaries, and shorts, as well as intriguing conversations with members of the film community.

**For tickets & a full list of films, visit [athenafilmfestival.com](http://athenafilmfestival.com)**

**Athena**

ATHENA CENTER FOR  
LEADERSHIP STUDIES  
AT BARNARD COLLEGE



# B

## BARNARD MAGAZINE

WINTER 2011

### FEATURES

### DEPARTMENTS

76

TERRIBLE  
IDEA

8



#### 18 WOMEN'S STUDIES: THEN AND NOW

by *Lois Elfman*

The careers, changes, and challenges over 30 years.

#### 2 LETTERS

#### 3 PRESIDENT'S PAGE

#### 4 INSIDE

#### 5 THROUGH THE GATES

Library: Up Close and ...

Special Weekend: All in the Family

Sexual Politics: Leading Questions

Faculty: Tow Foundation

Sports Panel: Beyond the Game

Students: Going Global

Exhibit: Remembering Margaret Mead

#### 22 LITERARY LION

by *Sharon D. Johnson*

Ntozake Shange reflects on her work and its interpretation.

#### 14 SYLLABUS

Technology in the Classroom

#### 15 THE SALON

Music: Hilma Carter/Deborah Pearl

Author: Beth Knobel

Author: Monica Miller

#### 25 CENTER STAGE AT BARNARD

by *Annette Kahn*

Dance, music, and theatre: looking at the College's performing arts departments.

#### 32 FORMULA FOR EXPANSION

by *Melissa Phipps*

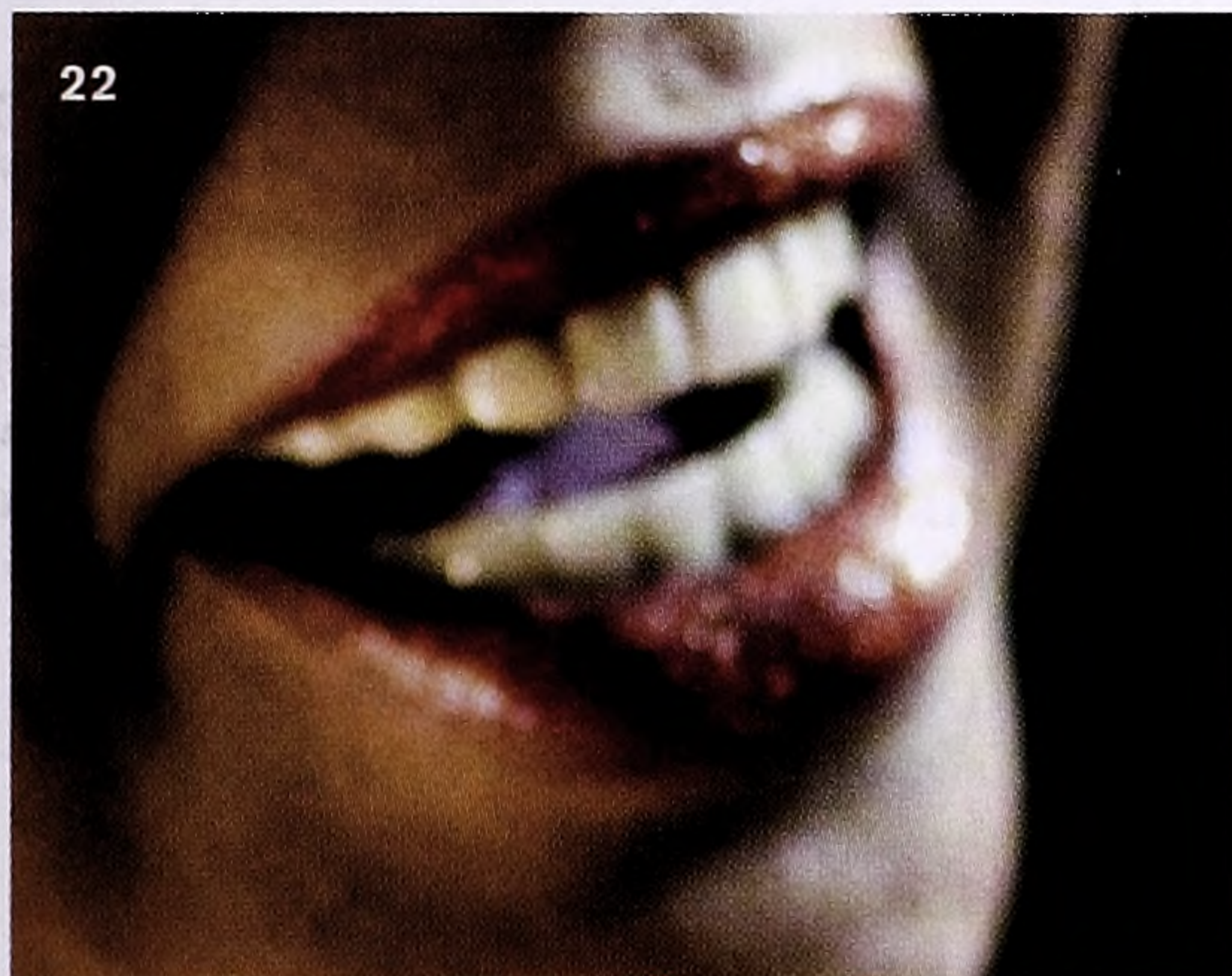
A major grant funds a renovation of the chemistry department.

### ON THE COVER

Student dancers Garnet Henderson (foreground) and Danica Young performing at Dance Theater Workshop

Photograph by Dorothy Hong

22



14



#### 37 ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION NEWS

A letter from the Alumnae Association president, AABC elections

#### 39 CLASS NOTES & PROFILES

Alumnae Profiles: Mierle Laderman Ukeles '61,

Loolwa Khazzoom '91, Rachael Chong '04

Obituary

In Memoriam

#### 69 SOURCES

Faculty: Supporting the Essentials

#### 75 LAST IMAGE

by *Susan Sternau*

#### 76 LAST WORD

by *Madeleine Kitaj*







### Time Travel

I enjoyed June Bell's story about alumnae trips (in the Fall 2010 issue), but must correct one misstatement, about the age of the travel program. When I was director of Alumnae Affairs in the early 1970s we instituted a program of alumnae travel, which should be celebrating a 40th anniversary about now. We had trips to London, Paris, Mexico, and Israel; meetings with local alumnae in each area were a delightful part of the trip. This was the period when easy and inexpensive foreign travel was flowering, and we wanted to take advantage of the opportunities.

—Nora Lourie Percival '36,  
Former Director of Alumnae Affairs  
*Vilas, NC*

### A Dog's Life

I was enjoying the Fall 2010 issue, when I came to the "Dog Days" article. I couldn't help wondering why the Russians would be doing something so stupid as crossing dogs and foxes.

Why do we still use chimpanzees for invasive research when there are much better, efficient, and effective methods available? We are the only developed nation that continues this practice. We know that we share 98 percent of our genes with them; if invasive human research isn't OK, then why is it OK on our close relations? Why do we continue to torture farm animals in factory farms, millions and millions of them daily, when doing so harms them, the environment, and us?

Part of the answer, of course, is that most people have never thought about any of this. They still take animals and our domination of them for granted. But we know better. We cannot hide behind our parents' old excuse: "We didn't know." We do know. We must start not only thinking about what we are doing, but acting on what we know. It's way past time to start healing our fractured and self-destructive relationship with nature.

I'm not a scientist, but I don't think it takes a whole lot of research to know for certain that dogs have emotions, feel pain, fear and joy. Not human emotions. Dog emotions. Call it intuition, or maybe just good old common sense along with a lot of caring.

—Beverly H. Foster '68  
*Wayne, Pa.*

### Corrections

On page 7 of the Fall 2010 issue Jeane Jordan Kirkpatrick's name was misspelled and her class year was mistakenly given as 1985.

We incorrectly stated that Lillian Mongeau '04 taught writing at low-income New York City high schools. She did not teach in these schools but did help organize an event at Barnard that brought in low-income New York City high school students. The quote "It was hard to see 12-year-olds who could barely put a sentence together [in English]" should not have included the bracketed text as Mongeau was referring to grammatically written compositions, not speech. Her students were fluent in English. Although she has written for the *Oregonian*, she never wrote about education for that newspaper. North Oakland, California, should have read northern area of Oakland, California.

Prof. Maria Rivera Maulucci was referred to by the name Maulucci, but should have been referred to either by Rivera Maulucci or Rivera.

We regret the errors.

# BARNARD

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# A STACKED DECK

On December 15, Barnard College, along with schools across the country, released the results of its Early Decision application process. We sent acceptance letters to 240 presumably happy young women and their families, generating a wonderful bubble of excitement in return. “Our entire family is ecstatic to learn that Isabel has been accepted to Barnard,” wrote one delighted grandmother to our admissions staff. “We are all calling each other, laughing and exclaiming with joy.”<sup>1</sup> “We have all worked so hard to get here, so now we can breathe!” scribbled a young woman on our newly assembled Facebook page. “CONGRATS everyone! Barnard College Class of 2015, here we come!”

That same day, though, we also, inevitably, made lots of young women sad—the 311 young women to whom we denied or deferred admission. It was a year of record high applications for us, and Dean Jennifer Fondiller and her extraordinary staff in the Admissions Office were forced to turn away hundreds of wonderfully talented and enthusiastic prospective students—the acclaimed oboist who also started an animal shelter in her local community; the budding actress who rock climbs and is fluent in three languages. These are aching hard decisions, particularly in the context of Early Decision, when Dean Fondiller and her colleagues know that the students are not merely adding Barnard to a list of schools that they might wish to attend; they are applying because they have decided—with their hearts and their minds, their parents and friends and guidance counselors—that this is where they want to be. Where they are meant to be. Or as one applicant put it: “Ever since I was 12 years old, whenever someone asked me what college I dreamed of going to, I would always respond, ‘Barnard!’ without hesitation. It was only recently that I discovered just how accurate a 12-year-old girl’s intuition can be.”

I only see a tiny fraction of the applications, but there is one that will haunt me for a long time.

Tonya comes from a poor, crime-ridden corner of Baltimore. She has several siblings and a mother who emigrated from Puerto Rico. In the blank space that asks for “Father,” she simply wrote “unknown.” In one of her essays, she mentioned in passing that her family has “virtually no income.” Yet the joy and spirit of this girl danced through her application. Rather than focusing on her dangerous neighborhood or dismal financial circumstances, she wrote of the power she had gained from playing soccer; the confidence that was slowly growing as she sang in her school choir and participated in its community outreach programs. She wrote of the books she had read and the inspiration she took from writers like Toni Morrison.

Tonya was lucky. She had participated in a mentorship program that paired her with a wildly successful older woman, a woman who clearly cared deeply about her and had encouraged her to apply to Barnard. But her SAT scores were low and her school record sharply limited, especially in comparison to the 550 other applicants against whom she was competing. Not a lot of AP courses at her inner city school. Not many honors programs or extracurricular activities. The letters from her teachers were positive, but brief and hastily written by hand. Applicants from better-heeled schools, by contrast, often had pages of praise, carefully annotated with details of their progress and achievements.

In our system of higher education—a system still regularly hailed as the best in the world—the cards are perpetually stacked against students like Tonya. She didn’t have



1. Names and some details have been changed throughout to protect students’ privacy.

*Continued on Page 71*



BARNARD REUNION  
June 2-5, 2011

YOU  
KNOW  
THAT  
DREAM  
WHERE  
YOU  
ARE  
BACK  
IN  
COLLEGE?

It's about to  
come true.

All alumnae and their families  
are encouraged to join us.

If you would like to get involved  
in planning for Reunion 2011,  
please contact Alumnae Affairs at  
212.854.2005. You can also  
e-mail us at [reunion@barnard.edu](mailto:reunion@barnard.edu).

[alum.barnard.edu/Reunion2011](http://alum.barnard.edu/Reunion2011)

B

BARNARD  
ALUMNAE

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Peak Performances, the overall theme of this issue, readily applies to the three performing arts departments—dance, music, and theatre—at the College, profiled in a photographic essay within these pages. But, as we considered the various thematic possibilities, our final choice appeared most apt: A liberal arts education at Barnard is designed to provide the tools for a peak performance throughout the life of each student who comes here.

There has been explosive growth within the three performing arts majors in the past several years. Students who choose to concentrate in these fields come not only for the opportunities to work with talented faculty, many of whom professionally practice what they teach, but also to study in one of the world's great performance capitals and gain access to the professional worlds of these arts. They get the chance to gain a deeper knowledge about their chosen field and relate it to other cultural and historical benchmarks. This is knowledge that will enhance creativity and innovation.

Ntozake Shange '70, interviewed in this issue by writer Sharon D. Johnson '85, speaks to the notion that a liberal arts education contributes to excelling throughout life. As an African studies major, she had a foundation in history, literature, and art history, allowing her work to “transcend barriers” and not become “stuck” in a particular genre.

What is true for the arts is also true for other fields of study. This issue spotlights the recent National Science Foundation grant enabling the renovation and expansion of the chemistry department's laboratories. But the grant will do more than improve the physical plant: It will enable more chemistry students to do more independent research under the mentorship of more faculty members, opening up opportunities for the students to study under optimum conditions.

Women's studies as a major came into being during the academic year 1977-1978. Lois Elfman '80, who often reports about diversity issues in higher education, chose to double-major in women's studies and psychology. Recently, she has been thinking

about other women's studies majors, past and present. Her article profiles the diverse careers that these women have pursued, and how the major has evolved over the years. One of the women interviewed notably remarked that she viewed her undergraduate years at Barnard as “learning for life,” a possible “springboard” to continued study in any number of study areas, once again, implying a solid foundation from which to grow and excel.

Articles about newly designated personal librarians to help incoming students learn about library resources; a panel of women discussing the powerful lessons learned from team sports; and a look at the life of anthropologist Margaret Mead '23 through the photographs of Ken Heyman also reflect this issue's theme.

—The Editors

### LAST IMAGE: CALL FOR ENTRIES

Do you have an amazing photograph or work of art that you would like to share with fellow alumnae? Please send submissions to David Hopson at [dhopson@barnard.edu](mailto:dhopson@barnard.edu).





# UP CLOSE AND...

## PERSONAL LIBRARIANS HELP NEW STUDENTS SORT OUT RESOURCES

**Most students enter** college knowing they'll spend many hours in the library. Whether they will use all the library's resources effectively and take advantage of everything it has to offer is a different matter. The librarians at Barnard want to increase the odds that more students will do that. Borrowing an idea from Yale University, they rolled out a new program this past fall: the personal librarian. "We want to make the library a welcoming place," says research librarian Jenna Freedman. Each incoming student is now assigned a personal librarian, loosely based on the department affiliation of the student's adviser. For many years, each librarian has been assigned to several departments. The library staff expects students will switch their personal librarians when they declare a major to align their academic interest.

The personal librarian is the one that students can call upon whenever they're stumped about how to find sources. By developing a rapport with a librarian in the early days of college, the hope is that students will become proficient library users throughout their academic careers. "There are all kinds of sources in our library that students often don't know about," says Lisa Norberg, dean of Barnard Library & Academic Information Services. "It can be quite daunting for an undergraduate."

In addition, each faculty member is now assigned a personal librarian, an expansion of the Yale concept. The librarians are getting the word out about the initiative to students through the faculty by making presentations in various classes. "Every time I've gone to a faculty meeting, it's doubled the amount of use from that department," Freedman says. The library hasn't yet collected any statistics about how usage has changed since the program began, but the librarians say they are busier than ever fielding research assistance queries from students. Freedman even receives instant messages from students in the wee hours of the night. "If I'm awake and my IM is on, I'm fair game," she says. "I'll help."

Norberg has heard from faculty members that the quality of sources cited is markedly improved since the program began. "A lot of students rely on Google or other online searches," says Norberg, "but at the library we can guide them to a lot more sources that are relevant to their research."

Barnard's library is deceptively small. In addition to the materials housed in its building, students also have access to the libraries at Columbia University, through the Columbia Library Information Online (CLIO) system. It's easy for students to feel overwhelmed. A reference librarian can help put order to sheer amount of possible resources.

Students are still figuring out how they'll use the new program. Many like the idea, even if they have not yet taken full advantage of it. "I haven't kept in touch with my personal librarian much," admits first-year Katheryn Thayer, who plans to declare an urban studies major. "But it's another reason why I'm so glad that I'm at Barnard, with personalized small-school resources."

Elianna Mintz '14, who is studying English and Middle Eastern history, made a point of stopping by the library to introduce herself to her personal librarian, Lois Coleman. "I thought it was cool that I get my own librarian," she says. Mintz has largely relied on her professors for assistance in finding source material, but she knows she can stop by the library when she works more independently. By the time students reach their senior year, they will be using the library extensively to write their theses. If the personal librarians have their way, they'll already know where to find every source they need.



# ALL IN THE FAMILY



**Barnard's annual Family Weekend** is a wonderful opportunity for families to visit the campus, meet some of the people who make the College such a special place, and, of course, spend time with their Barnard students.

October 22 and 23, 2010, saw parents and students enjoying open houses in chemistry, psychology, and biology; the last one taking place in the Arthur Ross Greenhouse. Other events included tours of the new, state-of-the-art Diana Center, the Deans' Reception, and student dance and theatre performances. Families were also invited to discussions about student internships and study abroad. In addition to opportunities to meet President Spar and faculty members, all were free to explore the city that is Barnard's extended classroom.

*Family Weekend sessions are available to view at [alum.barnard.edu/magazine](http://alum.barnard.edu/magazine)*



# WINTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 8, 7 PM**

## **JUST LIKE A MAN? BOB DYLAN AND THE CHARGE OF MISOGYNY**

A LECTURE BY CHRISTOPHER RICKS  
*Sulzberger Parlor, Barnard Hall*

What is misogyny, humanly and socially? And why have commentators leveled the charge against "Just Like a Woman" and other Bob Dylan classics? Christopher Ricks ponders these questions, and places them in the light of similar accusations against such artists as John Donne, T.S. Eliot, and Samuel Beckett. Christopher Ricks is Warren Professor of the Humanities and co-director of the Editorial Institute at Boston University. His books include *T. S. Eliot and Prejudice*; *Beckett's Dying Words*; and *Dylan's Visions of Sin*. Ricks was elected Professor of Poetry at Oxford University in 2004, and was knighted for services to scholarship in the Queen's Birthday Honors in 2009.

**FEBRUARY 10-13**

## **THE ATHENA FILM FESTIVAL**

*Barnard College*

Films: They're a universal connector, a medium known to nearly all people in nearly every part of the world. Films have power. They create conversation. They reveal truths. They inspire. For these reasons, we are proud to launch The Athena Film Festival, a world-class celebration of women and leadership. More than 20 films will be shown on the Barnard campus. The festival program includes feature films that tell the extraordinary stories of strong, bold women leaders from all walks of life—stories of ambition, courage, resilience; documentaries that showcase women leaders; and short films that highlight the talents of emerging artists. There will also be intriguing conversations with actors, producers, and other members of the film industry. The Athena Film Festival is a project of the Athena Center for Leadership Studies at Barnard College, an interdisciplinary center devoted to the theory and practice of women's leadership, and Women & Hollywood, a leader of the online conversation about women's roles in the film business. For complete program and tickets, visit [athenafilmfestival.com](http://athenafilmfestival.com).

**FEBRUARY 16, 8 PM**

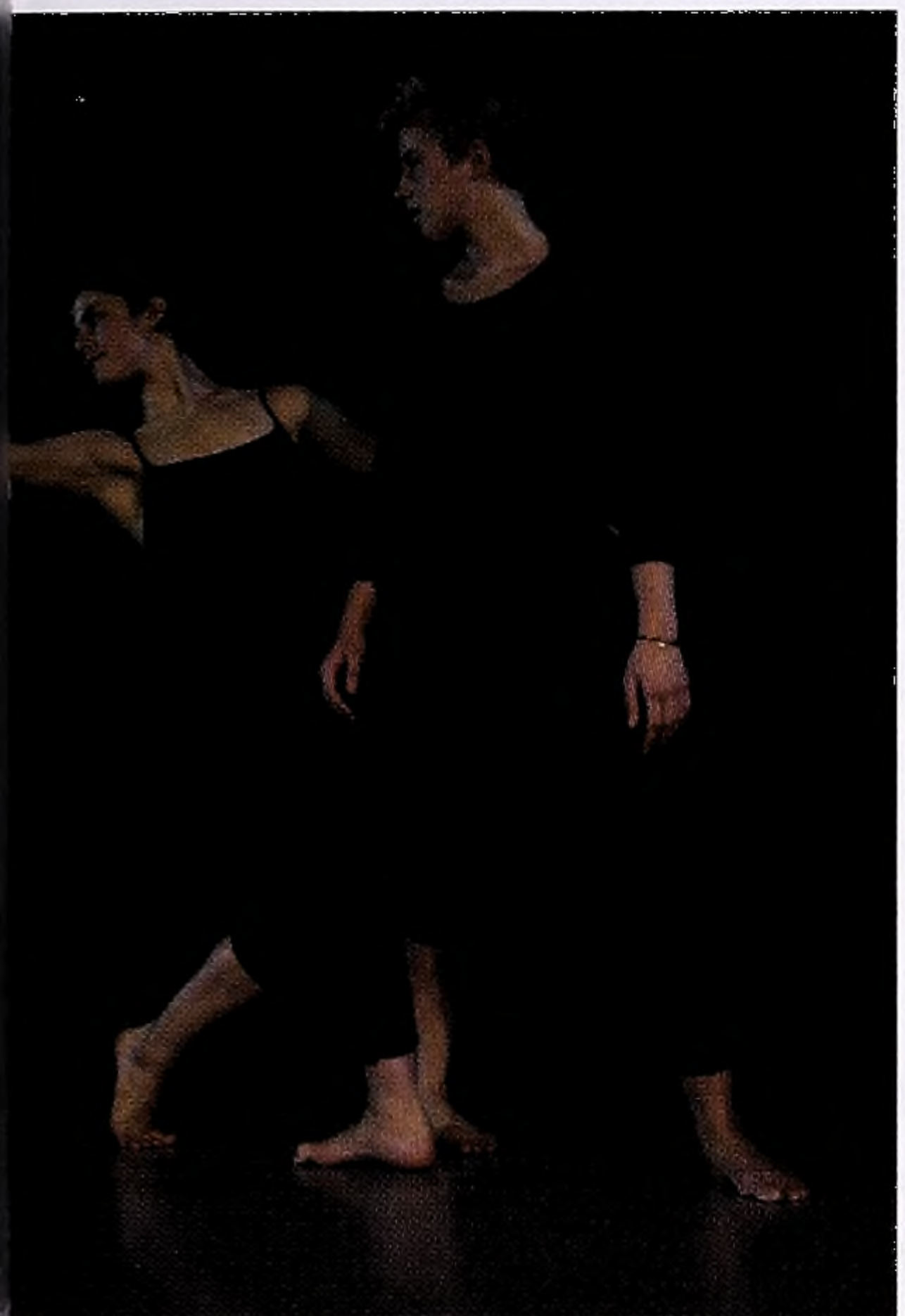
## **BACH'S B-MINOR MASS**

L'ENSEMBLE MEDICAL AND THE BARNARD-COLUMBIA CHORUS

*Carnegie Hall*

The innovative L'Ensemble Médical brings together music, science, and charity in a startlingly new way. Based in Munich, Germany, the oratorio ensemble donates most of its proceeds to Doctors Without Borders, and funds scientific symposia on "Music & Medicine." This February, in conjunction with a symposium sponsored by Columbia, Cornell, and NYU medical schools, L'Ensemble Médical joins the Barnard-Columbia chorus in its Carnegie Hall debut. Proceeds of the concert will go to the people of Haiti through Doctors Without Borders. Tickets: \$15-\$30, 30% student discount. For more information call 212.247.7800.

Full calendar of events at [barnard.edu/calendar](http://barnard.edu/calendar).



**(From left): 1** Kiley Shields '14, father Todd Shields, and her mother, Didrik Schanche, at the Barnard Store **2** From Paris, Olivier, Marielle '14, and Tracy Coutrix **3** Sarah Mullen, Preston Mullen, Barbara L. Micale, Gwen A. Fishel '14, James D. Fishel, Elaine Marsh, and Catherine Mullen '14 **4** Student dancers Tracy Einstein CC '13 and Taryn McGovern '13 **5** Ransford and Aurelia Cline-Thomas, parents of Natasha '12, leave the Dance Annex after the performance. **6** Denise Quinn, mother of Emily Lemonier '14, visited a chemistry lab. **7** Bridget and Elizabeth Walsh '13 from Petersburg, Alaska **8** Avery Vaughn '14 and her father, Robert **9** David Meinhard and Ellen Breger, parents of Kendra '14



# LEADING QUESTIONS

HOW MEN CAN HELP WOMEN

**Rosabeth Moss Kanter** couldn't contain her smile. "I thought about this question," said Kanter, as she stepped up to the Diana Center's stage for the conference, "Building Partnerships: What Men Can Do To Advance Women's Leadership."

"What can men do?" Kanter asked. She grinned. "The laundry." The crowd erupted in laughter. But she wasn't joking.

"Household division of labor has barely budged in years," said Kanter, a professor at Harvard Business School, and a former editor of the *Harvard Business Review*. "Women still do a disproportionate share of household and family work." Kanter explained that "to rise in leadership roles, it's important to have time for extras such as special projects, travel, and development programs. So men can help by freeing up their wives' time."

The largest initiative to date of Barnard College's year-old Athena Center for Leadership Studies, the conference drew more than 200 women of all ages, and perhaps two dozen men. The October 5 event sparked much animated discussion, as speakers proposed strategies to improve women's status in the workplace, ranging from flex-time to female role models—as well as relief from the laundry—and some less widely accepted tactics.

In its focus on men, the conference marked a departure from the Athena Center's previous programs, and may be the first time a women's college sponsored an event of this nature. "When you talk to high-level women you realize that they didn't do it on their own. They did it with colleagues, many of whom are men," said Kathryn Kolbert, director of the Athena Center. "We want to give students the tools to excel in a world that includes men."

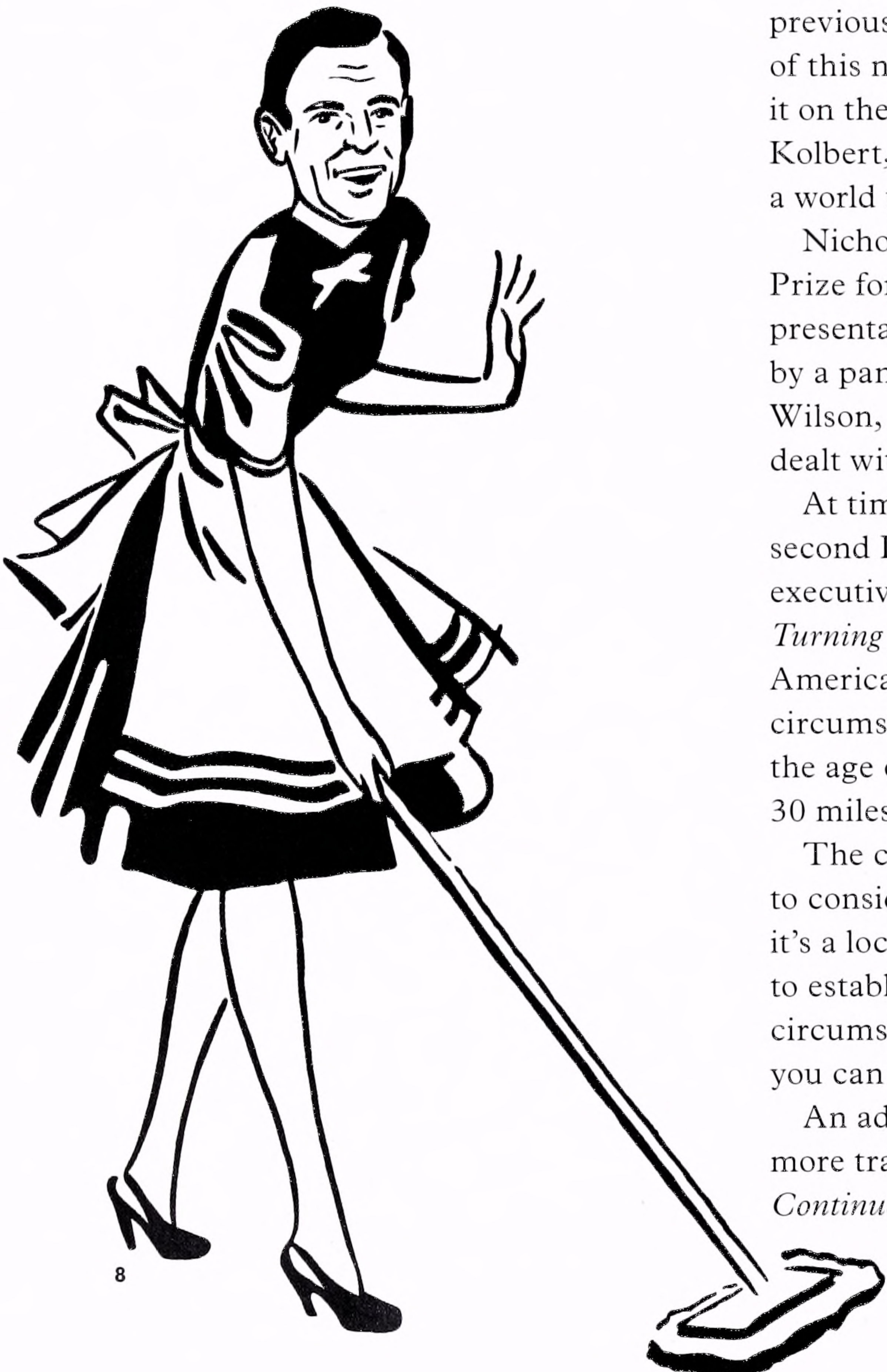
Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, a married couple who won the Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of China for *The New York Times*, kicked off the event with a presentation on the status of women in developing nations. This keynote was followed by a panel on strategies for advancement in the public sphere, moderated by Marie Wilson, president of the White House Project; a second panel, moderated by Kanter, dealt with lessons learned in the corporate world.

At times, discussion strayed from the overall theme. Kristof, who has won a second Pulitzer for his *New York Times* columns, and WuDunn, now a business executive, shared heartbreaking anecdotes from their most recent work, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. The pair focused on how Americans of both sexes can further the opportunities of women raised in dire, dismal circumstances—individuals like the Ethiopian girl who gave birth alone in a bush at the age of 14, was left to die by the villagers, but crawled to an American missionary 30 miles away.

The couple urged the audience members, many of them current Barnard students, to consider leaving their comfort zone and inhabit a world unknown to them, whether it's a local prison or an impoverished village across the ocean. They urged the crowd to establish grassroots projects to help the women they encounter in these desperate circumstances, Kristof said, "You can become a happier person, gain perspective, and you can change the world at the margins—a little bit."

An advocate of women's issues for 30 years, Wilson said she's "given up hope on the more traditional ways."

*Continued on Page 71*







**In the photo** Seated (from left): Kristina Milnor, Elizabeth Boylan, Emily Tow Jackson. Standing (from left): Christian Rojas, Leonard Tow, and Debora Spar.

# TOW FOUNDATION

A GENEROUS BENEFACTOR SUPPORTS FACULTY RESEARCH AND EXEMPLARY TEACHING

**Kristina Milnor**, an associate professor of classics, was pregnant with her first child last May when she received the exciting news. Milnor, along with Associate Professor of Chemistry Christian Rojas, had been named as the first two recipients of a new award for Barnard faculty members offered by the Connecticut-based Tow Foundation: The Tow Professorships for Distinguished Scholars and Practitioners. Designed to help Barnard recognize and promote outstanding teaching and research, the new professorships will be awarded to two associate professors each year and come with two years of support totaling \$50,000 for each professor; the award's uses include summer stipends, research, and professional development.

"It was a real vote of confidence," says Milnor, who joined Barnard in 1998 and teaches lecture courses in classical civilization as well as classes in elementary, intermediate, and advanced Latin. A specialist in Roman history and Latin literature of the late Republic and early Empire, Milnor received the Charles J. Goodwin Award of Merit from the American Philological Association for her 2005 book, *Gender, Domesticity, and the Age of Augustus: Inventing Private Life*. She also recently completed a book about literary graffiti from the ancient city of Pompeii, and says that the Tow award will be a big help as she chooses and begins pursuing her next big project. Milnor's not sure yet of the topic—perhaps something on representations of law and the idea of law in Roman literature—"but stay tuned," she says. "I feel incredibly grateful."

Professor Rojas, the other 2010 Tow award winner, definitely shares that feeling. "It's just a tremendous honor," he says. Rojas joined Barnard's chemistry department in 1997 after completing an NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Scripps Research Institute. His research focuses on developing novel methods for incorporating nitrogen into organic molecules and the application of those methods to the synthesis of amino sugars. "It's very labor-intensive," says Rojas, who notes that the Tow Foundation stipend will enable him to hire two Barnard students to help in his lab this summer.

Along with the two annual professorships, last year the Tow Foundation also announced plans for a new annual teaching award to recognize an exemplary member of the Barnard faculty: The Tow Award for Innovative and Outstanding Pedagogy. The first winner of the award will be announced this spring and will receive \$10,000, which can be used for research or professional development that helps promote innovative teaching.

The Tow family has long been a generous benefactor to Barnard. Leonard Tow, a former cable television industry executive, started the family's foundation together with his wife Claire; their daughter, Emily Tow Jackson '88, began serving as Tow Foundation executive director in the mid-1990s. Since 1996, the Tows have sponsored the Tow Foundation Public Service Internship Program at Barnard; the program has helped dozens of students get practical work experience at a wide variety of organizations including nonprofit organizations, education, public health, and public-service agencies. Moreover, since 2001 the foundation has also funded the Tow Research Fellowships, which enable students to travel and conduct research for their senior theses.

*Continued on Page 71*





From left: Donna Orender, Jane Geddes, Erinn Smart '01, Sarah Hughes, Juliet Macur '92



President Debora Spar



Skaters from Figure Skating in Harlem join the panelists (from left): Zjana Ray, Jiordan Ali, Nyasha Franklin, Sarah Hughes, Sharon Cohen, founder of the Harlem skating group, Erinn Smart, Bria Culpepper, and Eliyah McKayle

# BEYOND THE GAME

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF SPORTS IN THE CREATION OF WOMEN LEADERS

**Confidence, competitiveness, resilience**, and teamwork are some of the benefits that women gain from participating in sports, especially team sports. The message was delivered by a powerful panel of women athletes who spoke at “Beyond the Game: Women, Sports and Competition” on November 10. The line-up included Erinn Smart '01 and Sarah Hughes, two Olympic medalists; Jane Geddes, former U.S. Women's Open golf champion; and Donna Orender, former All-Star player for the Women's Professional Basketball League. *New York Times* sports writer Juliet Macur '92 moderated the discussion.

“Many point to the role of sports in forming their character,” noted President Debora L. Spar, citing a study of women CEOs, which found that 80 percent of that group had played competitive sports in their youth. Some of those character-building lessons gained from participating in sports, suggested Spar, include “how women and men learn teamwork through competitive sports. There's trust, reliance, responsibility, pulling back when it's not your turn, and the concept of resilience, which is what gets you through. As the song says, ‘you pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again.’”

And while “sports may not be the first thing you think of when you think of Barnard, it plays quite a large role at the College,” she added. “Barnard is the only women's college that offers Division 1 athletics, with 15 NCAA varsity sports and 30 club sports,” as well as many intramural opportunities for students.

There are obvious advantages to playing a team sport, said Orender, who is president of the Women's National Basketball Association. “The language of corporate America is the language of sports. Winning is something women have to learn how to do. When you're part of sports, you learn how to do things you ordinarily wouldn't. One benefit of Title IX is that you're doing it side-by-side with your male counterparts. It goes back to cultural expectations. In sports, men expect you to be aggressive and expect you to want to win.”

Smart, who earned a silver medal in fencing at the 2008 Olympics and now works in the financial industry where 80 percent of her colleagues are men, said, “I keep up with them because I have the confidence that comes from athletics. I'm usually one of the first women to speak up. It's one of the differences from having been an athlete. I have the confidence to say it. I'm never one to sit back....”

That ability to negotiate and navigate in a man's world is a clear benefit to participating in sports, said Jane Geddes, senior vice president of tournament operations and player services on the LPGA tour. “Golf is such a world, [but] I'm very comfortable with it. I've had the confidence to survive in golf and then survive in business, and keep moving forward.”

There are powerful lessons to learn from athletic defeats and losses that translate into leadership away from the playing field. Setbacks can reveal someone's character, said Sarah Hughes, a 2002 Olympic gold medalist in figure-skating. She compared athletes who essentially give up after a fall to those who still perform with passion, even if a medal is out of reach. “You like to see a fighting spirit,” she said.

The panel emphasized that women can learn from sports, even if they're not athletic superstars. “Physical activity and sports are one of the most important things you can do,” said Orender. “The socialization skills are invaluable no matter what level you're at. It matters that you try.”

*Download audio and browse photos at [alum.barnard.edu/magazine](http://alum.barnard.edu/magazine)*





# GOING GLOBAL

BARNARD STUDENTS STUDY OVERSEAS AS MORE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COME TO THE COLLEGE

**Under the leadership** of President Debora Spar, Barnard is becoming a more global campus. To explain what that means for the College, the annual Leadership Assembly for Barnard's alumnae volunteer leaders featured a panel on "International Study." The October 8 panel included two American students who had pursued study abroad and two international students who chose to attend Barnard. "One of President Spar's primary initiatives is to internationalize the College," says Gretchen Young, dean for study abroad. She explains, "In our increasingly globalized marketplace students must have cross-cultural experience, language skills, and a proven ability to function in unfamiliar environments, to be successful—not only professionally but simply to be good citizens. Beyond that, I feel that it is important for Barnard students to step out of their comfort zones, to be questioned for what they believe or value, and to realize that their way of being, their perceptions of what is true, may not be as widely accepted as they may think."

The Admissions office is actively recruiting a wider pool of international candidates. There is also the Visiting International Students Program, which invites foreign students to spend a semester, or even full year, at Barnard. This spring the campus will welcome 59 students from 10 schools, including the University of Ghana, the University of Melbourne, and colleges in China, Denmark, Italy, South Korea, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

The heart of international study, of course, remains study abroad. "We want to increase the quality and number of opportunities for students," says Young. "Research and internships are part of an undergraduate experience. So are cross-cultural experiences and developing language skills."

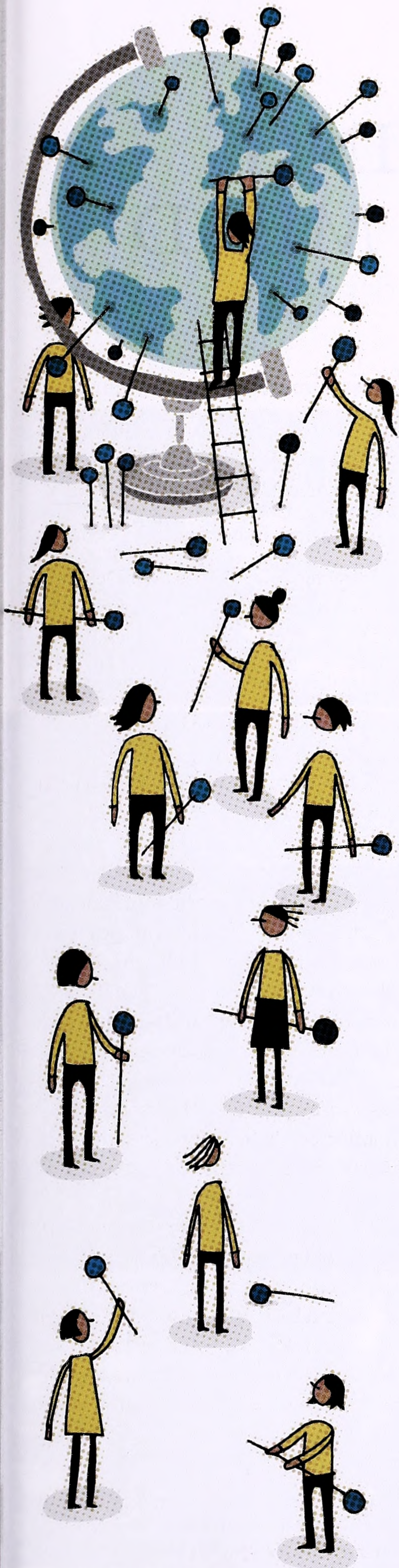
There's more to study abroad than Reid Hall in Paris. With about 150 programs, including American-run opportunities, such as those at NYU, Syracuse, and Sarah Lawrence, as well as foreign ones available to Barnard students, some 66 students studied in 27 different countries this fall, with destinations ranging from Argentina to Nepal. About 35 percent of Barnard students study abroad at some point during their undergraduate years.

"Not only are we trying to better prepare our students to study abroad, but we are also focusing on encouraging students to bring back their learning and helping them to integrate their overseas experience into their overall Barnard education; [we want them to] share their experiences with the rest of the community," says Young.

The students on the panel spoke about their interest in study abroad, as well as cultural dislocations and surprises they experienced as a result. Kenyan native Clare Korir '12 was attracted to Barnard because "I liked the feel of a women's college. Women could be more appreciated in Kenya. I wanted to be with 'strong, beautiful' Barnard women."

As the daughter of Christine Herring Bruscaqli '82, and niece of Pat Herring Parisi '77 and Nancy Herring '79, Elisabetta Bruscaqli '13, who has lived most of her life in Italy, explains, "My American option was always Barnard. It's more than classes and professors. It's about the people you meet. Going to school in Italy for so long, I didn't know that a school could care about you. It's what drew me to the U.S., and to Barnard."

*Continued on Page 72*





# REMEMBERING MARGARET MEAD

IN THE FIELD, AT HOME, OR IN THE OFFICE

**In the late 1950s**, the eminent anthropologist, professor, museum curator, winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and Barnard alumna Margaret Mead '23 invited young photographer Ken Heyman, whom she had met earlier during his student days at Columbia, to accompany her on a field trip to Bali. She had become familiar with his work for *LIFE* magazine. So began a 20-year relationship during which Heyman photographed Mead on additional field trips, in her curator's office at the American Museum of Natural History, at her Greenwich Village home, among other locations across the globe. On November 10, a collection of Mead photographs, contributed by Heyman, became a permanent photographic exhibit at the Barnard Library. Dorothy Anne Minton Brimberg generously funded the installation through the Dorothy Kraus Davis Foundation, named for Brimberg's mother, a friend and colleague of Mead's and a member of the Class of 1924.

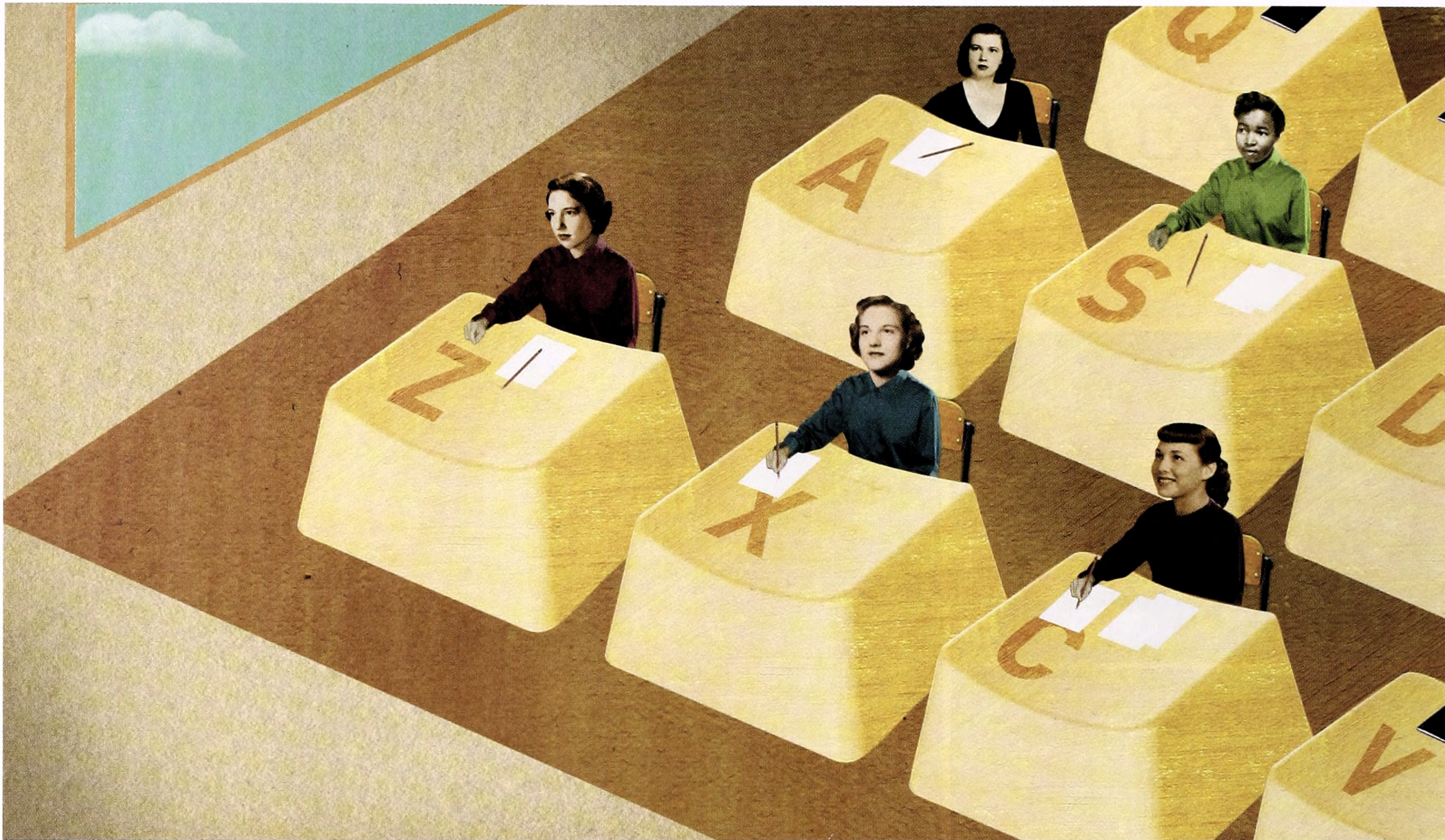


**Photos: 1** In 1957, Mead returned to Byun Gede, in Bali, a village she had visited 18 years earlier. Here, a Balinese woman tells Mead about the recent birth of twins, a bad omen. **2** Talking to a group at Teachers College. At Columbia, her classes varied from lectures for about 400 students to small seminars for specialists who wished to do field work. **3** Her office at the American Museum of Natural History included vast storage for her collections. **4** Mead has a meal with villagers in Atlacholoaya, Mexico. The day before, Heyman said, he had seen the meat covered with maggots. The always intrepid anthropologist replied, "I'm going to eat it, and you're going to eat it too." **5** This photo, from Bali, became Mead's Christmas card one year. **6** Heyman shot this candid portrait as Mead used her hands to explain two interconnecting ideas.









# TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

## BLOGGING, CLICKING, DOWNLOADING—AND OTHER ADVENTURES IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

**It was not long ago** that dry-erase markers and whiteboards began to replace chalk and erasers, or PowerPoint was a new and different format for presenting lectures. Art history classes once featured the calming hum of double-slide projectors to accompany students into the world of the visual. Now digital devices have made slide projectors nearly obsolete, and art history majors do more combing through Google than slide catalogues. Group projects can be organized and executed online, and students can blog into the wee hours only to receive instructor feedback moments later. How has technology changed, if not improved, ways of teaching and learning at Barnard? A recent faculty workshop on the subject offered some answers.

“Faculty Reflections on Teaching with Technology” brought together various Barnard and Columbia faculty and staff, along with professionals from other institutions, to discuss their experiences. Robert Kahn, associate director for educational

technology, shared how the event came about. His department, part of the Barnard Library and Academic Information Services (BLAIS), originally offered “Tech Talks” for the Barnard community, but he noticed faculty rarely attended these presentations. “We realized the topics just didn’t address their core concerns,” Kahn remarks. “For example: With the proliferation of new tools for teaching, how does a particular faculty member decide whether it’s something they want to use?” A small faculty group tends to experiment with and master new technology before the majority understands and feels comfortable with it.

### **Clickers: A means to greater participation?**

A clicker is a handheld transmitter that beams a signal to a receiver set up in the classroom—much like a remote control device. (There are several vendors; Barnard uses the iClicker.)

*Continued on Page 72*



## THE KING IN SONG

HILMA OLLILA CARTER '45

DEBORAH PEARL '72

Benny Carter's widow enlists a friend to breathe new life into the jazz great's gorgeous melodies.



“He’s a whole musical education,” trumpeter and jazz innovator Miles Davis said of Benny Carter, an early influence. “The King,” as he was known, was the Tchaikovsky of jazz composers, an arranger for Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Bennie Goodman, and Billie Holiday, one of the first African-Americans to write Hollywood scores, and an alto sax player of thrilling purity. Late in life, Carter decided to take on songwriting as well.

“We would talk about the lyrics interminably,” recalls his widow, Hilma Ollila Carter. “He liked rhyme—old-fashioned, courtly speech—and he wanted *le mot juste*.” He didn’t find many *mots justes* before he died, at age 95 in 2003, but a close friend of the Carters, singer-songwriter Deborah Pearl, has now produced a whole album of song to his acclaimed melodies, *Souvenir of You*. “Why didn’t it occur to us to ask Debbie?” Hilma wonders out loud.

Pearl’s career rivals Carter’s in its breadth and Hollywood flavor. She has written for half a dozen sit-coms and produced as many screenplays, with a few currently in development. She has sung backup for Roseanne Cash, Neil Young, Oasis, and her sister, 1980s Billboard-100 hitmaker Leslie Pearl. She even once worked as a singing waitress. Her warmly received one-woman show, *Chick Singers*, gives creative form to this vast and various résumé, with opera divas and punk rockers, the aspiring and the overlooked, each telling their idiosyncratic tale.

“The problem with you,” Benny Carter once observed of Pearl, “is you have an embarrassment of talents.” Posthumously he has become the beneficiary of that excess. A few years ago, Carter received a request to set lyrics to one of her husband’s compositions. (Famous numbers include “Malibu,” “Blues In My Heart,” and “When Lights Are Low.”) With his exacting standards in mind, she had reservations about the proposed song and consulted Pearl, who said, “Would you like *me* to give it a try?”

“We had no idea what it would lead to,” Carter admits, laughing. “The album grew like Topsy.” After the success of that first attempt, she fed Pearl other tunes—and these lyrics also worked. The women decided to make a “demo”—a CD of songs to minimal accompaniment for other singers to use. They still hope the tunes will be picked up—by Al Jarreau, for example—but they came to realize that the album had commercial potential; contacts in the music industry to whom Carter sent the work-in-progress were charmed. “We got more and more enthused,” she explains. Pearl says, “It’s brought all of my abilities together.”

Pearl didn’t start with an organizing theme, but as she wrote more of the album she found herself returning again and again to the miraculous love story of Benny and Hilma. Hilma Ollila first met her future husband in the late 1930s

when her older sister, a jazz aficionado, took her to the Savoy Ballroom to hear “this great musician.” She was not yet 19. She and Benny must have talked because soon they were dating. The romance continued until he left for Hollywood in 1942.

He married and she married and eventually “we lost touch,” she says. But in the mid-1970s, after she had divorced and with “women’s lib” and the notion of following your bliss in the air, she realized, “This is the person I have loved—really loved—all my life.” She sent cautious regards via a mutual acquaintance, and soon Carter phoned to invite her to dinner after his next gig back east—at Carnegie Hall. When they met, he said, “I loved you once, and it’s never been any different.” *Souvenir of You* does not recount their story, but it does convey the many feelings that love, separation, and reunion might stir up. It is also a token of Pearl’s affection for the couple, who have regarded her as an adopted daughter.

Hilma Carter met Pearl first. Soon after moving to Los Angeles in 1979 to be with Benny, she sought out the local Barnard Club, which Pearl frequented because being around “honest, authentic, and forthright women makes my heart happy.” The two women, separated by three decades, became fast friends and with time Pearl came to know Benny as well. “Whoever Hilma loved, Benny  
*Continued on Page 73*



QUICK TAKE

## PASSING THE TORCH

BETH KNOBEL '84

Heat & Light: Advice for the Next Generation of Journalists

Random House, 2010, \$14

**When Emmy Award-**winning journalist Beth Knobel set out to become a cub reporter, she applied at every media outlet she possibly could, in New York City and elsewhere. “And I got so many rejection letters, they not only covered the outside of my dorm room door, but the inside as well,” Knobel says.

Eventually she landed her first job at *Ladies Home Journal*; somewhat later she advanced to Moscow bureau chief for CBS News. Along the way, there were a few calculated risks, she says, including falling in love with and marrying a Russian journalist and moving to Moscow.

These days, carving out a successful journalism career isn't any easier for aspiring young wordsmiths. With the Internet sending the titans of the media into a tailspin, reports of layoffs and cutbacks, particularly in the print world, have become so common they aren't really news at all.

But Knobel hasn't lost her optimism and hope. The Internet may have turned the media world upside down, but it's creating even more opportunities for young journalists just starting out in the profession. That's why it's more critical than ever to help them acquire the skills they need to create the kind of journalism that still makes a difference and helps the professional survive and adapt in a new world.

“The only way journalism will stay relevant is if people create high-quality, meaningful journalism,” Knobel asserts. And to help young people do that, she has coauthored a handbook with CBS



News legend Mike Wallace titled *Heat & Light: Advice for the Next Generation of Journalists*. “It's really a guide book that someone can keep with them when they're out working, and if they have questions, they can give the book a little glance to remind themselves.”

The idea for the book was born in 2007, when Wallace stopped by to talk to Knobel's journalism classes at Fordham University. For Wallace, good journalism is a delicate balance between what he calls heat and light. Heat is a story's emotional pull, the drama and conflicts that pull a reader in. Light is information, the knowledge that a well-reported story offers readers.

Knobel and her students were so intrigued by his advice, she called Wallace and told him he should write a book about the subject. “I told him you have some things to pass along,” she explains. “And much to my delight, he said, ‘That's a great idea.’”

They began meeting about once a week to debate and discuss the craft of journalism. Knobel made a list of about 150 questions her students typically ask about the profession. And they talked to dozens of journalists (reporters, editors, and writers) who were either friends or colleagues whose work they admired. “We wanted to get some different perspectives to see if other people agreed with us or had other important things to add,”

“More than anything, journalism is complicated, and it takes a long time to learn how to do it well, and to feel empowered,” Knobel says.

Knobel says. “So I think between my understanding of the academic side, and Mike's incredible wealth of knowledge, we turned out something that's useful.”

With practical tips and anecdotes, the book strikes a balance between the theoretical and the practical. It tackles big-picture questions such as fairness, responsibility, objectivity, and balance. It also outlines the specific writing and reporting skills all young wannabes have to learn to succeed. Consideration is also given to how a journalist can generate and evaluate story ideas, in addition to offering tips on how to master the art of the interview, by learning how to create a rapport with someone while still asking the tough questions. It also outlines the tools that novices need to know to produce and edit news for television, radio, or the Internet. “More than anything, journalism is complicated, and it takes a long time to learn how to do it well, and to feel empowered,” Knobel says.

The book hasn't been out long, but changes in the news business are happening so rapidly that she is already considering how to update it. New media products that didn't exist two years ago when they started writing the book, such as news applications for smart phones or digital newspapers for the iPad, are altering the landscape of journalism. “And that's something we certainly should address....” Knobel says.



QUICK TAKE

## JUST DANDY

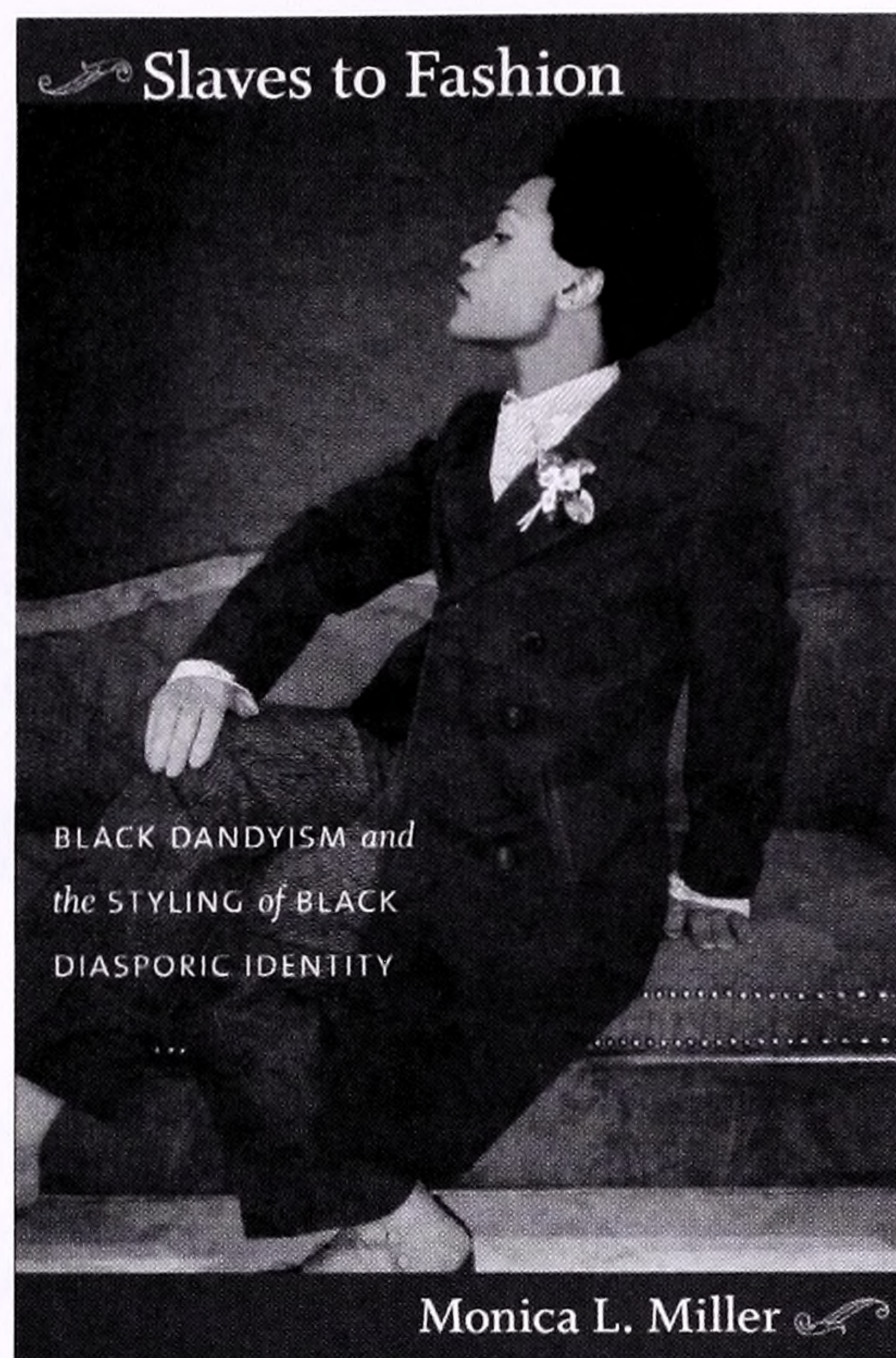
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

MONICA L. MILLER

Donning a prom gown, a pair of paint-spattered overalls, or a fur coat sends strong messages about the wearer's social status, values and sense of style. So what was the significance of African slaves dressed by their eighteenth-century English masters in silks and lace, Associate Professor of English Monica L. Miller wondered. And why was calling a black man a "dandy" a slight?

Her research, begun as a graduate dissertation at Dartmouth more than a decade ago, culminated in *Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity* (Duke University Press, 2009). The Modern Language Association has awarded the book its 2011 William Sanders Scarborough Prize for an outstanding scholarly work on black American literature or culture. Miller has been teaching at Barnard since 2000.

**What launched your research?** In graduate school, I was taking a class with Cornel West on W.E.B. Du Bois. I ran across a footnote about a cartoon ridiculing Du Bois as a dandy. The image I had of him was of a very serious intellectual, one responsible for the image of the race. I was curious about that critique.



**How did clothing become a racially charged tool of social assessment?**

In New Orleans and South Carolina in colonial times, sumptuary laws prevented masters from giving slaves silk clothing. A slave in fancy clothing could be read as trying to be like his master or trying to mock his master—or trying to be like African nobility. One of the most fun parts of the book for me was to research ads for runaway and escaped slaves that listed the things servants took with them—all kinds of clothing, wigs, jackets. Clothing was really important because slaves were marked by it. Slaves on plantations got new clothing only seasonally; those who wanted to pass as free needed to dress on a higher level.

**Did you discover any highlights of African-American fashion?**

The Harlem Renaissance is seen as the height of style for black Americans. A lot of that revision had to do with a new presentation of the black body. And this is where Du Bois came in again. It turns out that in Harlem in the 1920s there was a lot of interest in black image, in ways to self-represent. For the first time, there were famous black style-makers. There were raccoon coats, well-dressed women and men, and the beginning

*Continued on Page 73*

# RELEASES

NEW & UPCOMING

FICTION

**THE CHERRY ORCHARD**

by Anton Chekov, translated with an introduction by Sharon Marie Carnicke '71  
Hackett Publishing Company, 2010, \$6.96/\$24.95

**FRENCH CUFFS: THE LILY FRENCH MYSTERY SERIES**

by Kendra Graham '66  
Amazon Digital Services, 2010, \$3.99

**THE NINTH WAVE**

by Ariella Nasuti '83  
Smashwords, 2010, \$9.99

POETRY

**BIRDS FOR A DEMOLITION**

by Menoel de Barros, translation by Idra Novey (Rosenberg) '00, executive director, Center for Literary Translation at Columbia University  
Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2010, \$16.95

NONFICTION

**SAMUEL BARBER: A THEMATIC CATALOGUE OF THE COMPLETE WORKS**

by Barbara Brody Heyman '55  
Oxford University Press, 2011, \$99

**HOW TO DO THINGS WITH DANCE: PERFORMING CHANGE IN POSTWAR AMERICA**

by Rebekah J. Kowal '88  
Wesleyan University Press, 2010, \$40

**AMERICAN MODERN: DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY BY ABBOTT, EVANS, AND BOURKE-WHITE**

by Sharon Corwin, Jessica May '99, and Terri Weissman  
University of California Press, 2010, \$39.95

**THEORISING INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY: ENGLISH SCHOOL METHODS**

edited by Cornelia Navari '63  
Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, \$85

**THE SURVIVAL KIT FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

by Judith Gutherman Powers '69, Abby Barry Bergman, and Michael Pullen  
Corwin Press, 2010, \$43.95

**FRENCH GLOBAL: A NEW APPROACH TO LITERARY HISTORY**

edited by Christie McDonald and Susan Rubin Suleiman '60  
Columbia University Press, 2010, \$60

**JAMES JOYCE AND THE REVOLT OF LOVE: MARRIAGE, ADULTERY, DESIRE**

by Janine Utell '96  
Palgrave Macmillan, 2010, \$75

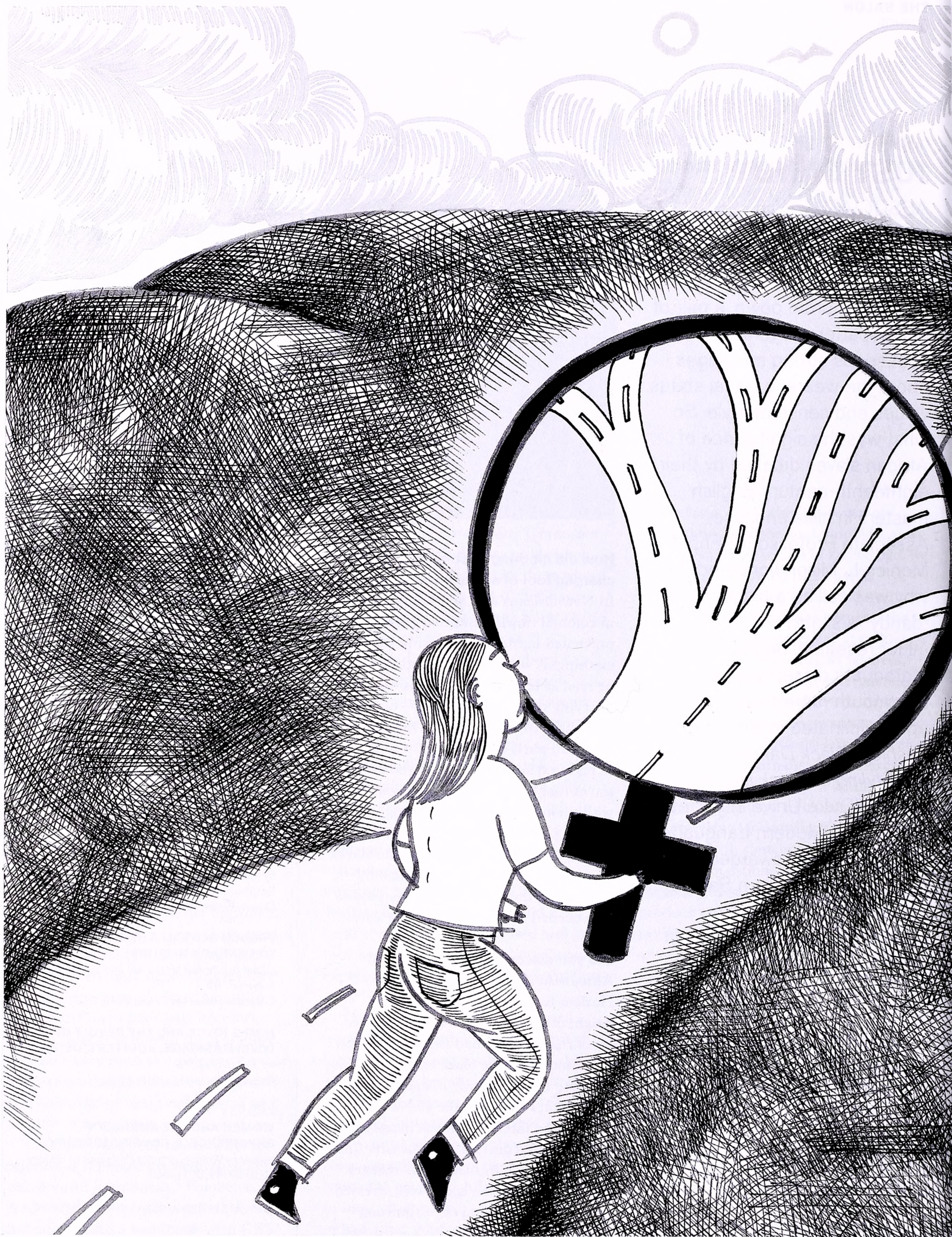
FACULTY

**WOMEN AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: A CONCISE HISTORY**

by Nancy Woloch, Adjunct Professor of History  
McGraw-Hill, 2011, \$46

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# WOMEN'S STUDIES: THEN & NOW

Majors chart varied careers and continue to question the status quo

It was the spring of 1978, my sophomore year at Barnard, and time to declare a major. For me, it would be psychology. I had already taken several of the required courses, so there was room to branch out and explore some other subjects. I enrolled in an economics class taught by Dr. Cynthia Lloyd called “Sex Discrimination and the Division of Labor.” The course was not only fascinating, but it touched me on a deeply personal level. My term paper was about women and volunteerism. Dr. Lloyd told me I had done an exceptional job, and asked if I knew about a new interdisciplinary major at Barnard, women’s studies. Not even a department, it was a program that had only been approved as a major a year before. It didn’t matter—I was in.

At graduation in the spring of 1980, I remember feeling especially proud that I had done something so important and pioneering. I’ve always identified myself as a feminist, but I found people would look at me with a curious gaze when I replied, “Women’s studies,” to their question, “What was your major?” I would make a bit of a joke answer, “It was the ’70s.”

Over the last few years I started to hear discussions about women’s studies in the twenty-first century and became fascinated: Who are the women’s studies majors now? What drives them? What is contemporary feminist scholarship? How has the discipline evolved?

For Barnard College, one development is obvious. Women’s studies became a department in 1988. While it remains interdisciplinary in nature, it has several of its own faculty members, some with tenure. What I explore in this article is how women’s studies is the same today as it was 33 years ago and how it is very different. “I took a class and it resonated on a personal level,” appears to be unchanged through time.

## Beginnings

“There was a small group of people, including me, Lila Braine, Susan Sacks and Catharine Stimpson who pushed for the major at Barnard,” says Hester Eisenstein, professor of sociology and women’s studies at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center. “We were all feminist professors. I wrote a report and circulated it to the faculty and that started a whole debate. Eventually, we were asked, ‘Can you



“Now there’s a  
body of knowledge...

Then, we were just

asking the questions.

design a curriculum? What would your courses be?”

“There were already courses like my course, ‘Contemporary Feminist Thought,’ which later became my first book,” she says. “The students were very receptive. You were thirsty for the ideas. It was very satisfying because people responded and they felt it spoke about their experience.” Eisenstein’s account of the founding of Barnard’s women’s studies program is available on the department’s Web site.

Mary Donovan Moreno, MD, ’84 attended Colby College in Maine prior to transferring to Barnard. She’d taken her first women’s studies course at Colby. After leaving, she took two years off and worked. But she knew she wanted to major in women’s studies, which led her to Barnard. “[That course] had been so empowering for me personally.... It opened my eyes to the politics of feminism,” she says. Her senior thesis was about the psychological dimensions of the effective and ineffective use of birth control among college-educated women. She did not see the major as related to her future career. “I always viewed my undergraduate years as a platform from which I would then go to some kind of graduate school,” she says. “I viewed it more as learning for life rather than as a career springboard.”

After graduation, Donovan Moreno worked for a while, then realized she wanted to become a physician. She enrolled in a college near her home, took the premed requirements, and entered the University of Arkansas medical school in 1987. Finishing her residency in psychiatry in Philadelphia, she worked at the Women’s Therapy Network.

Today she lives in Laramie, Wyoming, where she has a general practice—mostly because there are so few psychiatrists in the state there is no room for specialization. While women’s issues are not part of her day-to-day practice, women’s studies do play a role in her life. “The bottom line of having a foundation in women’s studies is having a foundation in not taking things for granted and looking at the power structure, how power influences social structure and interaction,” she explains. “You question things and you don’t make assumptions. You have a far more critical eye in terms of the

status quo. Should it be this way? How can we change it?”

Jessica Chalmers ’84 double-majored in women’s studies and French, finding her way to the former after spending time at the Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW). Chalmers describes herself as a rebellious kid; women’s studies spoke to her intellectually and had a tangible connection to her life. She didn’t connect it to any future career; possibly because she wasn’t much focused on any career then.

Her intellectual bent and feminist ideology fit nicely with her artistic nature. In her senior year she started a group called The Feminist Union, which staged performance-oriented protests. After graduation, she and three other Barnard alumnae formed the V-Girls. She spent 10 years as a performance artist. “We kind of did a parody of academia,” she says. “We were ... intellectual and functioned more in the art world than in the theatre. Our spoofs were really smart. Academics loved us.”

Eventually she earned a PhD and taught at University of Notre Dame for nine years. She’s working on a book, part of which is about different generations of feminism. “I’ve gone through periods in my life where I’ve wanted to distance myself from feminism because after my initial engagement the institutionalization was disillusioning to me.” Chalmers explains, “I joined it looking for radical solutions, but in the ’90s the institutionalization [of women’s studies] within academia was really disappointing for me. I’m only getting back into it now.”

### Three Decades as a Major

“There are jobs and there are structures,” says Susan R. Sacks, who oversaw my senior thesis and who still teaches psychology at Barnard. “You can get structures and laws in place that mitigate against prejudice, stereotypes, and narrow, boxed-in attitudes, but attitudes are really hard to change and [change] so, so slowly.”

The course offerings have changed since the late ’80s. We took courses with names like “Women and Religion” and “Psychology of Women.” Today, courses include “Theorizing



It was what now seems a  
very elementary process  
because no one had asked these  
questions for decades,”  
says Hester Eisenstein.



Women’s Activism,” “Women in French Cinema since the ’60s,” and “Unheard Voices: African Women’s Literature and Gender.” Says Eisenstein, “Now there’s a body of knowledge.... Then, we were just asking the questions. It was what now seems a very elementary process because no one had asked these questions for decades.”

Neferti Xina Tadiar, current chair of the women’s studies department at Barnard, says the BCRW is a huge attraction for women’s studies majors as it combines activism with scholarship; both represent the way many of the majors view their paths. “The close relationship our department has with BCRW, I don’t think there are models out there for that. It’s unique to Barnard,” says Tadiar. “Women and feminist views have become very much a part of the world we live in. It doesn’t mean all of the political issues have been resolved or addressed,” she adds.

### The Current Generation

Three recent graduates are carving careers directly related to their women’s studies majors. Julia Kaye ’07 came to Barnard thinking she would major in art history. “On a whim I took a feminist texts class and I just adored it. I was so stimulated, challenged and moved by it. Applying this new lens brought so many areas of my life into focus,” she says.

She went to career services and said she was thinking of switching her major to women’s studies, fearing it was impractical. The advisor assured her she’d probably find even more career options if she switched. A women and health course with Assistant Professor Rebecca Jordan-Young inspired her to pursue a thematic focus in gender and health. Her senior thesis was a feminist analysis of the work of Doctors Without Borders’ mental-health care programs.

She interned with NARAL Pro-Choice New York. “Being a women’s studies major with a focus on health there is at least one clear career path you can take, which is to work in reproductive justice,” Kaye says. “It was a direct application of some of the issues I was grappling with as a women’s studies major.”

She worked initially with TORCH©, the Teen Outreach Reproductive Challenge, supervising and training adolescent peer educators on topics like reproductive health, self-esteem, healthy relationships, and contraception. Just before graduation, she was hired as a consultant for the national expansion of a related program, the Adolescent Health Care Communication Program through the National Institute for Reproductive Health. After nine months, she moved to Washington, D.C., and took a job at the National Women’s Law Center as a health policy associate, working primarily on the center’s women and health reform project. “I used to tell everyone I couldn’t have found a job that better applied my major,” she says.

She is now back in New York attending NYU Law School on a Root-Tilden-Kern public interest scholarship. Her specific scholarship is called the Jacobson Public Service Scholarship for Women, Children and Families. After graduation in 2013, Kaye intends to return to Washington, D.C., and continue to work in the area of women’s rights. “The work is far from done,” notes Kaye.

Devan Shea ’10 grew up with feminist ideology in her family. After her first year at Barnard, she did an internship at the National Organization for Women. “When I came back from that, I was very stirred up, so I took ‘Introduction to Women’s Studies,’” she recalls. “That sealed the deal for me.” Another course about U.S. imperialism from a gender perspective soon followed. “Women’s studies was something that was very interesting to me—not only academically, but personally and politically,” Shea says. Like Kaye, she was hesitant to declare it as a major because she feared a lack of career possibilities, but came to believe she could sculpt a career plan no matter what she studied.

Shea is currently a Klagsbrun Fellow at Alliance for Justice, a national association dedicated to advancing justice and democracy. She works with the outreach department: Shea helps promote the association’s films, and she supports the outreach team with social networking, as well as planning and promoting events. Planning to go to graduate school, she might

*Continued on Page 73*







# LITERARY LION

Ntozake Shange '70 weighs in on *For Colored Girls*, why she writes, and her new book

**When *For Colored Girls*** (34th Street Films/Lionsgate) opened in movie theatres November 5, the film adaptation of the award-winning play by Ntozake Shange '70, *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*, became the third-highest grossing film that weekend. Shange (née Paulette Williams) appreciates the big screen success, describing it positively as “very surprising and very gratifying.” The present momentum feels like “a tremor, like an earthquake” for her. Just as the play’s Broadway debut did 34 years prior, the cinematic debut of polarizing writer-director Tyler Perry’s interpretation of Shange’s seminal work has also caused a disturbance in the cultural atmosphere.

Shange originally created “seven ladies in simple colored dresses” who speak, sing, and dance their painful life experiences on stage. Through their poetic re-telling, these women find mutual support and healing. Perry’s writing and direction takes us out of the suspended time of performance art and into the simulated real time of cinematic narrative. His multi-millionaire independent *auteur* status also attracts

recognizable names to the cast: Loretta Divine, Kimberly Elise, Janet Jackson, Thandie Newton, Anika Noni Rose, Tessa Thompson, and Kerry Washington. The seven women retain their colors throughout their wardrobe, but Perry shuffles the poetry and redistributes it among the women, which include two new voices, Gilda and Alice, portrayed by Phylicia Rashad and Whoopi Goldberg, respectively.

Admittedly, Shange had reservations about Perry as a director. “I was concerned with Mr. Perry because he does primarily [broad comedy],” she says. Recalling director Oz Scott, who directed the play in the 1970s, and the PBS telecast in 1982, Shange says, “Oz was fabulous to work with. He’s a brilliant director, a brilliant artist. Very sensitive. His work has a textual and visual quality.”

Although Perry’s reassignment of some of the poetic language works well, as do many of his cinematographic choices, his own lack of finesse with dialogue at times snags the creative fiber of the film, most evident through the hit-or-miss interweaving of his words

with Shange’s, and by over-writing where visual impact and emotional resonance would be more powerful. Shange has said she’s 85 percent happy with Perry’s results, yet his reputation for conservative, moral-driven films where independent women characters are vilified and require adaptation to traditional roles in their relationships with men has dissatisfied skeptics and critics alike. “I was aware of Mr. Perry being accused of not being sensitive to women and their lives in his films,” Shange acknowledges. “*That was the 15 percent I wasn’t happy with.*”

Perhaps not surprisingly, men also were not happy about some of these characterizations. One male reviewer, for *New York Magazine*, describes the male characters as “one stereotypical dog after another.” The angry, violent reactions of black men to the play in the 1970s are matched by their new-millennium cyber attacks on the film, primarily energized by one *Washington Post* column-gone-viral that suggests the film be renamed *For Black Men Who Have Considered Homicide After Watching Another Tyler Perry Movie*. Shange, however, remains



blissfully out of the loop. “I wasn’t aware of [men’s current criticisms of the film], probably because this time it’s not directed at me,” she admits with a laugh. What the similarity of reactions reveals is a bit more sobering for her. “It makes me very sad, and it makes me think we haven’t come very far in 30 years,” she laments. “We have to communicate with each other. We can’t speak past one another. It’s sad.”

As her surname suggests (Claude Sloan, Shange’s assistant, says the name was a gift bestowed on the author by two South African revolutionaries), Shange “walks like a lion” through both the negative and positive aftereffects. This ability might be attributed to her survival of very challenging moments in her life—attempts at suicide, two debilitating strokes, daily living with mental illness. Asked if any of these personal experiences show up in her writing, particularly in *for colored girls*, Shange concludes, “I’m not sure how much it represents my life. My poems are usually pretty literal. I’m sure there’s some [of myself present].” Yet she shrugs off the notion that she is some sort of cultural figure for women who tell her that they have achieved catharsis and healing through her work. “I don’t think about that. I continue to write. I’ve been writing. I’ve been living in the present.” That present includes the critical acclaim of her new novel, *Some Sing, Some Cry* (St. Martin’s Press, 2010), coauthored with her sister Ifa Bayeza. An award-winning playwright and theatrical producer in her own right, Bayeza has been a part of the *For Colored Girls* journey from its incarnation as a solo performance piece, through its theatrical unfolding, to its feature film success. “[Her] being with me has been very important,” Shange intimates of her sister. “We’re only a year and a half apart. I value her judgment and her vision, and I treasure her talent. I’m able to be frank with her and she’s able to see things in my work that I don’t see or that I miss. She’s an incredible writer.”

Coinciding with *For Colored Girls*’ feature film release, Scribner re-issued the published choreopoem in a hardcover Scribner Classics edition featuring elements from the iconic 1975 cover art. They also created an eBook, updated the trade paperback version (with the original cover), and came out with a movie tie-in paperback featuring the movie art on the cover. All editions include two new poems, a new introduction, as well as photos relating to the work. An audiobook from Brilliance Audio was also just released in January.

This year, Shange will take her writing “back to the beginning,” when *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf* returns to Broadway’s Circle in the Square Theater (a 2008 revival was canceled when a major investor withdrew from the production). “It’s already been cast,” Shange reveals. She’ll also return to her original casting sensibility. Although the play and the film featured all black women in their respective casts, Shange emphasizes, “It was never for black women entirely. The earlier performances in San Francisco [featured] African American, Latina, and Asian actresses. Mr. Papp (Joseph Papp, founder of New York’s Public Theater) insisted on an all black cast because [a diverse cast] would baffle a New York audience. On Broadway in 2011 we plan to have Latinas and Africans in the cast.”

The *For Colored Girls* blitzkrieg across the genres of poetry, theatre, publishing, television, and film is also something Shange takes in stride. “I was an African studies major. I left Barnard as a person who combined history, literature, and art history in my work,” she explains. “I never experienced a separation of the genres. My work transcends barriers of all sorts because I never wanted it to be stuck.”



“I wasn’t aware of [men’s current criticisms of the film], probably because this time it’s not directed at me,” she admits with a laugh. What the similarity of reactions reveals is a bit more sobering for her. “It makes me very sad, and it makes me think we haven’t come very far in 30 years,” she laments. “We have to communicate with each other. We can’t speak past one another.”





# CENTER STAGE AT BARNARD

For those young women seeking an excellent education, with a strong emphasis in the liberal arts, at a small, top-rated private institution of higher learning, Barnard ranks high, a fact borne out by the increasing number of applicants each year. For those who are seeking all the above, as well as a potential path to a career in the performance arts of theatre, music, or dance, the College is irresistible. In the following several pages we offer an overview of these three departments and show why Barnard lures so many potential students to its jewel-box of a campus: The combination of the College's outstanding offerings and its location in a world-class performance arts capital is electric.



# THEATRE

**Alice Brady Pels Professor** in the Arts and Chair of the department W. B. Worthen readily cites the advantages of studying theatre at Barnard: Not only is there an emphasis on performance and artistry, but there is demanding course work in the history and theory of performance that includes theatre history, dramatic literature, and global traditions. A concentration in theatre imposes distinctive critical and intellectual demands. The requirements are combined with the rigors of artistic work and the mentoring of professionals, which include a distinguished permanent faculty as well as adjunct faculty, all of whom have prominent theatrical careers in New York and other major performance centers.

Worthen, who holds a PhD in English literature from Princeton, is a recent arrival at Barnard, joining the faculty in 2008. He has since expanded the permanent faculty to include two assistant professors in research; both have increased the department's offerings in global theatre as well. Shayoni Mitra, who obtained her doctorate in performance studies at New York University, specializes in Indian theatre and post-colonial studies. With a PhD in theatre studies from the University of Helsinki, Hana Worthen is an expert on modern European theatre and ideology. Together, they have contributed to the diverse array of courses, from "Modern Asian Performance" and "Traditional Indian Theatre," to "Nazism in Performance," and "Bertolt Brecht: The Making of Theatre."

New assistant professors of professional practice are Sandra Goldmark, with an MFA in scenic design from Yale, and Alice Reagan, whose MFA in directing was earned at Columbia. Both have extensive professional experience, and have done well-received production work in New York; both lead the formal curriculum in their fields and have contributed to the department's productions this season: Goldmark as costume designer for Moira Buffini's *Silence*; Reagan as director of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *The Physicists*.

As department chair, Worthen wants to develop and train students to become smart actors, directors, playwrights, theatrical scholars, and critics, and sees the department providing both majors and non-majors with a solid grounding in the humanities as well as the arts. And for those who may opt not to remain in theatre? They've received a first-rate education in a rich tradition of world culture, as well as training in writing, design, research, and presentation, skills that migrate well to many professions—the law, the business of theatre, politics, among many others.

**In the photo (all from left):** *Front Row* (seated) Zoe Johnson '11 and Assistant Professor Hana Worthen *Second Row* Chair of the Theatre Department and Professor W. B. Worthen; Assistant Professor of Professional Practice Alice Reagan; Assistant Professor Shayoni Mitra; Kimberly Shepherd '12 (seated); Jacob Lasser CC '12 (painted coverall); and Assistant Professor of Professional Practice Sandra Goldmark *Third Row* Technical Director Greg Winkler; Zachary Lundin CC '11 (gray sweater); Lila Neiswanger CC '12 (red hair); Production Manager Mike Banta (hat); and Sofia Prado-Irwin '13 *Top* Marjorie Shrimpton '14

Photographed in the Glicker-Milstein Theatre in The Diana Center, on the set of Moira Buffini's play *Silence*, directed by Adjunct Lecturer Rob Bundy, which ran December 9-11, 2010. No one in the photo was in the cast.









# MUSIC

**Musicianship is a life skill** one can enjoy forever, says Barnard's Director of Music Gail Archer, a choral performer and a professional organist as well as a conductor. Making her way in fields largely dominated by men, she describes herself as "determined, but joyful," and has high praise for the "energizing camaraderie of music." The departmental photograph, shot

after the annual holiday Candlelight Concert with the Barnard/Columbia Chorus, attests to Archer's strong belief in the notions of music's joy and sense of family; it includes current chorus members as well as former students and colleagues. Archer (with a blue necklace and glasses) is seated at the piano; on her left is accompanist Daniel Goltz.

Archer came to Barnard in 1988 as an adjunct leading the choir and chamber choir. She became director in 1994, and has strengthened the vocal program for both Barnard and





Columbia students since that time. (Those students majoring in instrumental performance take most of their courses at Columbia.) In May 2010, she was promoted to professor of professional practice.

Music of the Broadway theatre, art song, and opera are the chief areas of study. Students study diction, technique, and expression; there are at least three vocal classes each semester and private voice lessons are available. There are also joint programs with the Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of

Music, and two opera companies in residence: Opera Hispánica and Brooklyn Opera Theatre.

The last several years have seen greater emphasis on more culturally diverse traditions, with training in such languages as Czech and Spanish. There has also been greater interest in ethnomusicology, that is, the socio-cultural study of music outside the European art tradition. Accordingly, the vocal program's focus has expanded to include Eastern music.









# DANCE

**Mary Cochran, chair** and artistic director of Barnard's dance department and a former soloist with the Paul Taylor Dance Company (1984-1996), is a dynamic and energizing presence—one whose influence on the program since joining the Barnard faculty, in 2003, has been profound. After a series of visiting professorships at small colleges, large universities, and a conservatory, she had several goals in mind when she arrived at the College. One of those objectives was to build a collaborative and interactive teaching structure that would meld dance theory, practice, history, and creativity within the context of a rigorous liberal arts tradition. In stressing the connectivity between both, Cochran draws parallels between writing a paper and choreographing a dance, neither of which is a linear process. The student begins by doing research to bolster an idea or concept, and begins to create original material; as the piece progresses, she may find that the format or the various sections may need to be rethought or reworked—just as in writing a paper.

Today five full-time professors, including Cochran, provide instruction along with 35 adjuncts and guest artists drawn from the ranks of top professionals in the world-class dance capital that is New York City. In addition to working with accomplished artists, Barnard students also study with outstanding research scholars, gaining a thorough artistic and educational foundation with which to pursue a career or further study. More than 60 courses are offered each semester; these courses are open to Columbia students as well. Cochran estimates the department produces between 10 and 15 dance majors per academic year. With such explosive growth in the department and the expanding interest in non-western, or global, dance, space is becoming a more pressing issue, but Cochran looks forward to renovations in Barnard Hall that will ultimately provide more performance and rehearsal space.

Another of Cochran's aims was to create "a porous and fluid relationship with the professional world [of dance]." The nature of the partnerships she has forged with groups such as Dance Theater Workshop, City Center, Williamsburg Art Nexus, and individuals such as Susan Marshall and Bill T. Jones, brought her vision into focus. Four new premieres were developed and presented to mark the sixth season of a groundbreaking collaboration between Barnard College's dance department and New York's Dance Theater Workshop. Internationally acclaimed choreographer and Barnard instructor Ori Flomin (at center in brown T-shirt), created "All we are" on these student performers: Adrianna Aguilar '13, Eleanor Barisser '13, Nicole Cerutti '12, Lauren DeMaria CC '13, Liana Gergely '14, Garnet Henderson CC '13, Marie Janicek '12, Taryn McGovern '13, Molly McMenamin '12, Ellie Morris, Daniel Pahl CC '14, and Danica Young '13. Lighting by Tricia Toliver; costumes by Liz Prince.





# FORMULA FOR EXPANSION

A modern-day makeover in Altschul Hall is an important step for the department's future

**If you happen** to pass through the Helen Goodhart Altschul Hall on the Barnard campus during the spring or summer of 2011, please pardon any dust, debris, or noise emanating from the chemistry department on the sixth floor. It's not the result of an experiment gone awry, but of Barnard's continued drive to stay competitive in the sciences. The floor will get a full renovation that will modernize the facilities and allow the chemistry department to increase the size of its faculty, with the goal of attracting more students in the future.

In larger research universities such as Columbia, students typically conduct research alongside a graduate student or postdoctoral student. At Barnard, independent research is done under faculty mentorship; the renovation will mean more opportunities to do such independent research. Students will have hands-on experience working with a professional, and often will be able to present their results. This includes taking part in writing the literature that interprets the data, and learning how to submit those research papers for peer review and publication. The experience can make a huge impact on what students do after Barnard—whether they go into the chemical industry,

pharmaceuticals, health, dentistry, or other related fields, doing this kind of research as an undergraduate is invaluable. "It allows students to apply the kinds of things they learn in the classroom in a new and different way," Assistant Professor of Chemistry John Magyar says. "We are fortunate at Barnard that we are able to provide such a high level of research experience to the students."

It's all being done with the help of a generous \$1.84 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant is a small part of President Obama's \$789 billion American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009, which includes earmarks to help rebuild the laboratories of America's academic institutions. Under a program called the Academic Research Infrastructure Program: Recovery and Reinvest, the NSF offered \$200 million to make necessary updates and repairs to school research facilities.

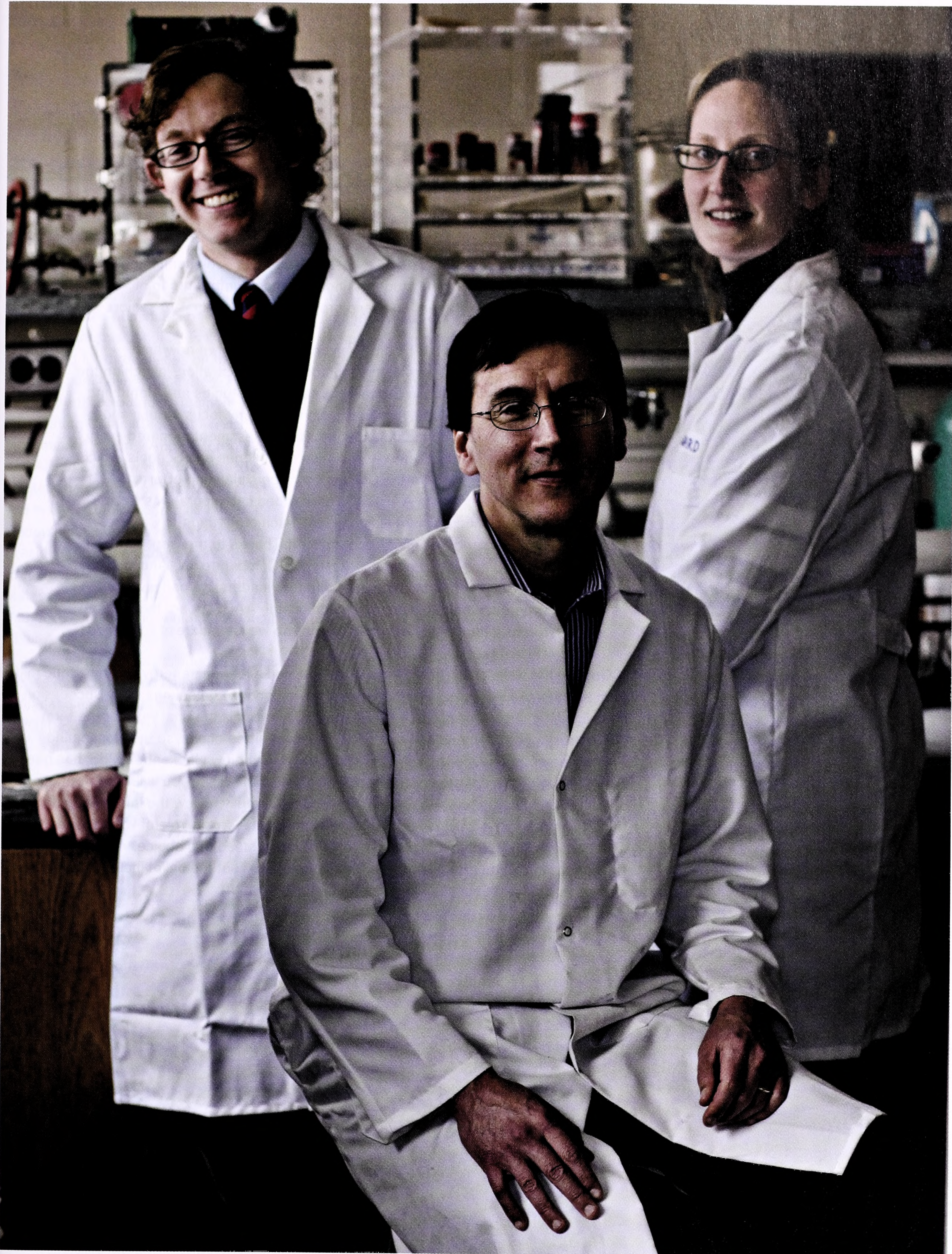
Upon hearing about the grant opportunity in 2009, a team of Barnard science professors—most from the chemistry department, but a handful from other departments as well—went to work on a proposal focused on renovation as a means of expanding research and research training. "Since we are an undergraduate institution, we do most of our research

in-house," says Associate Professor of Chemistry Christian Rojas, a principal investigator on the grant. "That [research and research training] was part of the award guidelines." Renovations will allow the floor to be reconfigured to provide more room for instruments, equipment and, most importantly, department instructors. More instructors mean more research time for students, and a more well-rounded learning experience.

Built in 1969, the tall, imposing Altschul Hall is the main science building on campus. Environmental science is housed on the fourth floor, physics and astronomy on five, chemistry on six, seven, and eight, and biology on nine through 13. The sixth floor currently has two faculty research labs and associated offices, and teaching labs for biochemistry, physical chemistry, and environmental science. While many parts of Altschul have been renovated since it was built, says Rojas, others haven't been touched. That changed in early January, when demolition of the sixth floor began.

"We are going to completely gut-reno-vate, knocking down all of the interior walls," says Magyar. The plan is to reconfigure the space in a more modern way, with four faculty research labs and offices instead  
*Continued on Page 74*





**From left:** the chemistry department's John Magyar, Christian Rojas, and Mary Sever.





## **A Busy and Productive Year**

Dear fellow alumnae,

Another successful fall semester at Barnard College has been completed!

- It was successful for the students, incorporating another group of first-years into the student body and preparing another class of seniors for graduation.
- It was successful for the faculty, welcoming a number of new and returning professors. It was successful for the administration, launching the open classes at the Athena Center for Leadership Studies and identifying a new dean of the College, Avis E. Hinkson '84. Many focus groups and staff provided input into the document for the assessment prepared every 10 years for the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, which provides the foundation for the College's strategic planning efforts.
- It was successful for the AABC. We have rededicated ourselves to our mission of engaging Barnard alumnae with each other and the College through exciting and engaging programming. Thanks to the work by Merri Rosenberg '78 and the Leadership Assembly Committee, the Alumnae Affairs staff, and dedicated alumnae volunteer leaders, we had a very productive Leadership Assembly. In addition, the AABC Board has created more structure for itself and its committees so we can address your needs more effectively.

Outside the walls of Barnard, the country focused a lot of its energy on an historic mid-term election. AABC's attention turned to its own upcoming elections since succession planning is an important function of any board. This year is the final year for the term of the president, vice president, and two of the committee chairs, so the Nominating Committee under the leadership of its chair, Alison Craiglow Hockenberry '88, has been busy identifying candidates for the open positions. In this issue you will find information about the candidates they are presenting. Please carefully review the information and VOTE. The results of the national elections highlight the crucial role of voter participation. Just because our election process presents a slate instead of a choice, your vote is no less important. If you are reading this letter, please tear out the ballot included in the magazine, and cast your vote NOW instead of putting it off.

As ever,  
Frances Sadler '72



## Elections

The Nominating Committee of the Alumnae Association of Barnard College submits for your consideration the following slate of candidates to fill each of the positions that will become vacant on July 1, 2011. The committee nominates one person for each position; six candidates have been nominated for three places on the nine-member nominating committee. Thank you to the three outgoing members of the Nominating Committee: Ruth Weichsel Hoffman '61, Audrey Appel Sterenfeld '55, and Alison Craiglow Hockenberry '88, who chaired the committee this year. Thank you to our outgoing Board members for leadership in the Alumnae Association: President Frances Sadler '72, Vice President Mary Ann LoFrumento '77, Alma Maters Committee Chair Nicole Lowen Vianna '81, and Young Alumnae Committee Chair Ashley Kelly '04.

A postcard ballot is included in this issue. Please mail completed ballots OR vote online at [alum.barnard.edu](http://alum.barnard.edu) no later than May 1, 2011. Results will be shared at Reunion.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



#### **MARY ANN LOFRUMENTO '77**

majored in psychology at Barnard and attended the University of Pennsylvania for her medical degree. She is currently a pediatrician and a specialist in newborn care for Atlantic Health in New Jersey, and an assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She has served as the President and Correspondent for her class. LoFrumento has also served as vice president of the AABC for the past three years, where her main focus has been strategic planning and producing two videos celebrating Barnard for Leadership Assembly. As president, she will focus on taking the AABC into the next decade forging new and improved connections with alumnae.



#### ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION VICE PRESIDENT

#### **TERRY NEWMAN '79**

majored in anthropology and is a partner and director of marketing and client service at Armstrong Shaw Associates, an investment management firm in Connecticut. She has worked in institutional sales and marketing positions for the past 26 years: as a managing director at Credit Suisse Asset Management and as vice president for Bankers Trust's Investment Management Group, among others. Her involvement with Barnard includes serving as Class Fund Chair, a member of the Leadership Assembly Committee, as a speaker on career panels, and as a mentor to a Barnard intern. She is a former board member of the United Jewish Federation of Stamford, Darien & New Canaan, and she cochaired a concert to benefit Argentine Jewry during the country's financial crisis. She lives in Stamford with her husband and two teenage daughters.

#### DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE/ALMA MATERS

#### COMMITTEE CHAIR



#### **MEW CHIU '95**

is an artist and stay-at-home mother of two, Oliver, 7, and Penelope, 5. Her professional experience includes 10 years working in various roles in the Barnard office of Development and in Alumnae Affairs, including several years as an Associate Director of Reunion and Leadership Council. She is currently a member of the Barnard Alma Maters Committee and the Scholarship Dinner Alumnae Outreach Committee.

#### YOUNG ALUMNAE COMMITTEE CHAIR



#### **PAMELA WIZNITZER '07**

graduated from the double degree program between Barnard College and Jewish Theological Seminary. Pam has remained involved as the Fund Chair for the Class of 2007 and as a member of the Young Alumnae Committee since 2008. She has attended and represented her class at Leadership Assembly for the past two years. Wiznitzer lives in New York City, working in the hospitality and restaurant industry as an accomplished mixologist and pursuing academic studies within the field.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES



**Roberta Caploe '84**

is currently the executive editor of *Prevention* magazine, the no. 1 healthy lifestyle brand in the world. Roberta has been a proud member of the Barnard community as a panel speaker and mentor and is currently President of her class. She lives in New York City with her husband and beloved dog, Pancake.



**Francine Glick '77 P09**

majored in computer science and received an MBA from New York University. She started her own company, Water Journey, and holds two patents for Hands2GO, the first alcohol-free hand sanitizer. She is an active BAAR, class officer, and has served on the AABC Reunion Committee. Currently she is a member of the Professional and Leadership Development Committee.



**Sharon D. Johnson '85**

is a Los Angeles-based writer whose more than 20 years' experience spans academia, journalism, arts, and entertainment. She has been a featured panelist at the Great Writers at Barnard Conference (2005), Class Correspondent (2005-2010), host of the Alumnae of Color Dinner (2010), and she currently serves on the AABC Reunion Committee.



**Ashley Kelly '04**

majored in English with a concentration in film and has served on the Young Alumnae Committee since 2005, becoming Chair in 2008. She recently joined the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton as a litigation associate. Kelly credits Barnard for taking a small-town New Mexico girl and shaping her into a strong New York City woman.



**Soo Ji Park '90**

majored in biology at Barnard and recently served on her 20th Reunion Planning Committee. She has been the Class Fund Chair for more than 10 years and first began volunteering for Barnard as Class Networking Chair. She has been the general manager of SCP Consulting LLC since 2006, which specializes in human resources, accounting, and health plans. She is an active mother of three boys.

**ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION**

The Alumnae Association of Barnard College was established in 1895 to further the interests of the College and connect alumnae worldwide. Learn more online at [alum.barnard.edu](http://alum.barnard.edu).

PRESIDENT & ALUMNAE TRUSTEE  
Frances Sadler '72

VICE PRESIDENT  
Mary Ann LoFrumento '77

TREASURER  
Helene Kener Gray '88

ALUMNAE TRUSTEES  
Judith Daynard Boies '59  
Myrna Fishman Fawcett '70  
Jeanine Parisier Plottel '54

BYLAWS CHAIR  
Lois Lempel Weinroth '63

BARNARD FUND COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Daphne Fodor Philipson '69

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE/AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Barbi Appelquist '98

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE/ALMA MATERS COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Nicole Lowen Vianna '81

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE/PROJECT CONTINUUM COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Reeva Starkman Mager '64

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Kimberlee Halligan '75

LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Merri Rosenberg '78

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Alison Craiglow Hockenberry '88

PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Peri Horowitz '96

REGIONAL NETWORKS CHAIR  
Susan Sommer Klapkin '76

REUNION COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Patricia Tinto '76

YOUNG ALUMNAE COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Ashley Kelly '04

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
Lara Avsar '11

**ALUMNAE AFFAIRS**

The Alumnae Affairs staff work closely with students and alumnae volunteers to carry out program initiatives and further the mission of the Alumnae Association.

DIRECTOR  
Erin Fredrick '01

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
Carly Sorscher

PROGRAM MANAGERS  
Stefanie Landsman  
Maryangela Moutoussis '06  
Susan A. Seigle '67

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR  
Faith Rusk '10

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT  
Stephanie Neel '10

**May 15 and May 22, 2011**

**Barnard on the Hudson**

AN ADVENTURE FOR BARNARD ALUMNAE AND THEIR GUESTS

Join Barnard faculty members Hilary Callahan, biological sciences, Elizabeth Hutchinson, art history, and Robert McCaughey, history, for an exciting exploration of the Hudson River—its cultural and natural history, its contemporary ecology—and the art it has inspired. This two-day seminar will take place on campus, at the New-York Historical Society, and on the river itself.

More information will be available in February. Questions: Please call 212.854.2005.



# Alumnae Association of Barnard College

*This ballot has been prepared by the Alumnae Association of Barnard College Nominating Committee. No independent petitions have been received. Each alumna may vote once, either online or by returning this postcard. Vote for your candidate by marking an "x" in the box to the left of her name. The ballot must be postmarked no later than May 1.*

## Board of Directors

Vote for one candidate for each office

### President

- Mary Ann LoFrumento '77

### Vice President

- Terry Newman '79

### Director-at-Large/ Alma Maters Committee Chair

- Mew Chiu '95

### Young Alumnae Committee Chair

- Pamela Wiznitzer '07

## Nominating Committee Members / 3 years

Vote for three

- Roberta Caploe '84  
 Francine Glick '77  
 Sharon D. Johnson '85  
 Ashley Kelly '04  
 Soo Ji Park '90  
 Shirley Sherak '63

### Members of the 2010–2011 Nominating Committee:

*Alison Craiglow Hockenberry '88 (Chair), Rosalind Marshack Gordon '62, Ruth Weichsel Hoffman '61, Cheryl Johnson '72, Myra Greenspoon Kovey '65, Ula Lysniak '87, Deborah Newman Shapiro '79, Betsy Wolf Stephens '59, and Audrey Appel Sterenfeld '55.*

*Italics denote outgoing members.*





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**ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION**

Barnard College

Vagelos Alumnae Center

3009 Broadway

New York, NY 10027-9904





# CLASS NOTES

**For classes without correspondents, send notes to:**

Deborah M. Staab  
*Barnard Magazine*  
 Vagelos Alumnae Center  
 Barnard College  
 3009 Broadway  
 New York, NY 10027-6598  
 cnotes@barnard.edu

*Nora Lourie Percival*  
 478 Greer Lane  
 Vilas, NC 28692  
 828.297.2828  
 percival@skybest.com

family, to whom we offer our condolences.

*Barbara Lake Dolgin*  
 150 West End Avenue, Apt. 18D  
 New York, NY 10023  
 212.874.3234  
 bldolgin@alum.barnard.edu

**75th Reunion June 2 – June 5, 2011**

**36** The only news I have this quarter is the loss of two classmates.

**Florence Alonso**, whose letter about her interest in outer space was published in this column some months ago, died in March. Her obituary was sent in by Niki Yiotis, one of Florence's five daughters. And **Dorothy Botwen Parker's** death in July was reported in *The Washington Post*. She is survived by three stepchildren.

My son, Peter, and I are looking forward to our reunions this year, my 75th and his 50th. We're hoping to see my youngest granddaughter, Irene Muller, at that event. She's applying to Barnard this year, and was treated to a trip to New York recently, from which she returned in a state of great excitement. She loved the College and is pinning her hopes on it. Of course I'm thrilled that after four daughters and seven granddaughters, I might actually have a Barnard legacy. Everybody keep your fingers crossed.

I hope all of our ambulatory classmates are making plans to be at Reunion. We had nine at our 70th reunion. Let's see if we can set a new record for our 75th.

## 37

**Ruth Messe Hannes** writes that she celebrated her 94th birthday during Hanukkah 2010. She received many cards of congratulations and good wishes. She has two sons, both bachelors, and no grandchildren.

## 38

I am sad to report three recent deaths. **Marion Hellman Sandalls** died on Aug. 11, 2010. She is survived by a son, a daughter, her sister, and three grandchildren. **Doris Dewis Shallcross** died on July 5. She is survived by two sons, one daughter, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. **Virginia F. Shaw**, our class treasurer, died on Nov. 4, 2010. We all knew Ginny for her many years as a class officer and her gentle letters reminding us to contribute to Barnard. I believe she attended all our reunions except the 70th, and she always participated in the planning meetings. After graduation, Ginny worked for the famous journalist Dorothy Thompson, and later took on the job of administrator in Barnard's registrar, where she worked until her retirement, at age 76. She is survived by many loving relatives.

They will be missed by friends and

## 40

After missing several issues, I'm back. The reason for my absence was that in April I had a bad fall at home. After four days in the hospital and six weeks in rehab, it was obvious I could no longer live alone. So, very reluctantly, I sold my house and moved into an assisted-living facility. Here I have an attractive apartment and I'm safe.

From **Muriel Sanders Blankfort** comes an enthusiastic letter about Reunion. She says she went to "everything" and apparently enjoyed it all. She was impressed with the organizational skills displayed by Barnard staff in planning Reunion and was sorry that there weren't more from 1940 in attendance. Besides Muriel, who is from California, **Nansi Pugh**, from England, and **Agnes Cassidy Serbaroli** and **Louise Salzman Bookstaver**, from New York, were there.

Unfortunately we have some deaths to report. **Caroline Boissevain Lyon** died on March 5, 2010, and is survived by her husband, William Henry. **Laura Schaffer Bricker**, who died on March 20, is survived by a son, a daughter and son-in-law, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. **Jane Hoyt Lamb** died on May 31 and is survived by six children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. **Margaret Pardee Bates**, who died in Carmel, Calif., on Sept. 14, was a philanthropist,



conservationist, and educator. A Barnard trustee as well as a trustee of California State Universities and Colleges from 1960–69, she was also a member of the accrediting commission of Western Association Schools and Colleges. Her papers are in the Hoover Institution. Peggy was for many years a board member of the York School, and she served on the board of international advisors at the Monterey School of International Studies and the advisory board for the Monterey Peninsula College. A direct descendant of Elder William Brewster of the *Mayflower*, Peggy was a member of the National Society of Colonial Dames. She is survived by four sons; a daughter predeceased her.

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70th Reunion June 2–June 5, 2011

## 41

This has been a time to catch up with classmates. It all began with **Rita Roher Semel**, who was reminded of our last reunion and dropped a word to say she hoped we would have a nice group in June. Rita's still active as chair of the board of directors of the Interfaith Center at the Presidio in San Francisco. She's also vice-chair of the board of the Graduate Theological Union, a consortium of more than a dozen seminaries and centers for religious studies, including Buddhism and Islam, as well as many more standard schools. She's fortunate to be able to continue such an interesting program. Then I contacted **Vicky Hughes Reiss** to learn more about Staying in Place, the project she has established in her hometown of Shady, N.Y. She now has a group of 42 people who are anxious to help older people who need assistance in order to remain resident in their own homes. To read the articles that have been written about Shady, you can Google "Vicky Hughes Staying in Place." Vicky continues to visit Broadway. At the time of her writing, she was planning to see *La Bête*, in which her nephew, David Hyde Pierce, has one of the leading parts. You'll remember him as the amusing younger

brother in TV's *Frasier*.

I was glad to learn that **Alice Drury Mullins** is fully recovered from surgery and is still comfortable in the retirement home she and Jack moved to about 14 years ago. Sadly, Jack suffered an attack of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease last spring and is no longer with her. Just recently, Alice was able to join her son and his wife, and their lovely little 2-year-old daughter for a visit to another son and his family, who live in Colorado.

Having heard that Rev. **Vera Arndt Bush** had retired from her many years of faithful ministry, I was delighted to find that she's still able to sing in her church choir. They were preparing a musical program in honor of returning servicemen for Nov. 10. Now that Vera has reluctantly given up driving, she's using her longer hours at home to write a family history for her children and grandchildren.

**Elizabeth Lotz Blodgett** and I shared a suite in our senior year at Barnard, so we try to stay in touch. It was a pleasant surprise to catch her standing in the kitchen at the phone. Both she and her husband, Don, are happy in their spacious home, with a son living nearby. The last classmate I called was **Bettina Boynton**, whom I remembered because she and Betty were both Spanish majors. Tina recalled being at our last reunion, but says she doubts she'll be able to join us in June, although she's doing very well. She still drives and plays bridge, but she finds trips to New York difficult these days.

We're sorry to say that as our deadline was reached, word came that **Athena Capraro Warren** died, on Nov. 7, 2010, at the age of 90. Athena served for a number of years as the class correspondent, although she never fully recovered from the automobile accident she suffered about 10 years ago. Since then she had been mainly our cheerleader and supporter. No one could be discouraged or blue around Athena as, despite her poor health, she continued to look on the bright side. Her friend **Marie Turbow Lampard** says that they had enjoyed a Chinese dinner about a week before Athena's death, and a joyful time was had. Athena was admitted to the nursing home where she had served as a social service worker since 1970 and later as a volunteer, which made her very happy. A more complete obituary will follow later. Athena is survived by her son, Tony, and daughter,

Hera Cohn-Haft '69. The class sends its condolences and will truly miss Athena.

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## 42

**Doris Bayer Coster** celebrated her 90th birthday in early August at a large family reunion in Rhode Island and then at a smaller gathering on her actual birthday at her house in Connecticut. She extends her best wishes to all the members of our class who are celebrating a 90th birthday.

**Helena Percas-Ponseti** is working with the *Cervantes Journal*, which she used to edit. Her husband of 45 years died in October of 2009. Helena still drives and plans to stay in her lovely home on a bluff overlooking the Iowa River.

**Juliette Kenney Fager** and her husband, Paul, recently moved to an apartment in Wellesley Hills near their previous home. They're still active in local politics, and Juliette is a member of the League of Women Voters. They enjoy living in the Boston area.

**Flora Bridges Harper** still lives in her own home in Washington, D.C. She loves gardening and volunteers at the United States Botanic Garden. She enjoys traveling to Elderhostels and is already planning her next trip.

**Phoebe Hykin Lane** has moved to an assisted-living home in West Orange, N.J. She's now legally blind and is writing stories she hopes to publish. She uses a special pen to "visualize" what she has written.

**Edith Borner Oppenheim** and her husband live in their home in Woodland Hills, Calif. Edith retired more than 30 years ago and has been traveling ever since. She keeps in touch with **Mabel A. Campbell** in New York City, and she goes to Paris every year. Her most recent adventure was a barge trip along the Upper Danube with her husband. They stopped over at remote villages and then had a delightful stay in Vienna.

**Dorothy Whitaker Sebesta** has



retired after many years of teaching. She lives in the house that she and her husband bought in Katonah, N.Y., and is still trying to tend their large garden. She published a booklet of *haiku* poetry.

**Doris Noakes Booth** lives in Florida and enjoys being near the ocean. Her husband, Albert, died five years ago. She has been very active all her life and was playing golf until last year. Her present preoccupation is computer proficiency.

We have learned that **Louise Morse Herrick** died last June. She had been living in a retirement community for many years. Louise is survived by a large family, to whom we send our condolences.

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## 43

Sadly, for all those classmates who remember her, I must report the passing of **Jane Petetin Bradshaw**. She is survived by her daughters, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

Our other news was a letter from **Verna Tamborelle Beaver**. She figured out a way we can all help Barnard. Having set up a Barnard gift annuity, she suggests donating the periodic payments to which the donor is entitled, to the Class of '43 Scholarship Fund. I'm sure that this will help us to reach our goal more quickly, which is to help the College that gave so many of us a great start. Verna talked to Audra Lewton in Planned Giving to put the plan in place. If you're interested in more information, call Audra at 212.854.0787.

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## 44

We have lost two classmates, **Patricia Warburton Duncombe** and **Adeline Pope McConnell**. Patricia died on

Aug. 28, 2010, and is survived by three sons, one daughter, her sister, Dame Anne Warburton '46, two brothers, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Adeline died on Oct. 17, 2010. After a career in newspaper reporting and teaching, she went on, in widowhood, to write a book, *Single after Fifty*, and to become a crusader for environmental and political causes. From March to November of 1986, she walked from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., as a member of the Great Peace March for global nuclear disarmament. She is survived by her partner, a sister, three sons, and their families.

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## 45

Belated new year's greetings to all from the Class of 1945 who are influencing their colleagues to remain active in their continuing education. I'm so proud of your spirit. Activity helps to keep you interested in the world. May the new year bring you unexpected joy.

First, a report from 1945's angel of mercy, **Marjorie Raphael Wysong**, SSM. Several of you have asked this correspondent to keep you updated on Sister Marjorie's situation. She writes, "Now I am anchored in Boston." You will recall she was in Haiti when the earthquake struck and lived out-of-doors for an extended period of time. She returned to the Dominican Republic this past summer to participate in a conference with Haitian clergy, Sisters of St. Margaret, and displaced families to discuss dealing with wellness, post-traumatic emotions, etc. The conference was restricted to persons who had been in Haiti at the time of the Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake. Problems that remain were discussed—the many people still sleeping outdoors, thousands still suffering from trauma disorders, food/housing scarcity, and medical needs. Marjorie's words summarize it all: "Earthquakes may happen

in 12 seconds, but the disaster goes on for years." She sends her love to all of you. As a sidebar, she spent her eight immediate post-Barnard years as an apprentice to a Philadelphia mural painter and then made this dramatic career switch and lifetime commitment to the Sisters of St. Margaret.

Due to space constraints in last issue's column, I wasn't able to include **Ruth Carson West's** report on the 2010 Leadership Assembly. She writes, "Barnard has always been a 'teaching college' but with a strong emphasis on personal as well as professional development." She learned we now have a dean responsible for study abroad, and she heard an analysis of Barnard's financial situation and how the educational jewel keeps going—sound investments and wise spending have been the answer. Ruth was also impressed that some students performing chemistry research had had their work published. We are indebted to Ruth for her role as class fund chair. The statistics in the Giving to Barnard/Reunion Classes section of the insert in the fall issue reported that 1945 had 45 percent class participation in 2010, the highest of all the classes that graduated before us. Congratulations, Ruth, for your work on behalf of our class!

And now the sad news that we have lost more classmates in 2010: **Elisabeth Little**, a transfer student who majored in fine arts, died on June 23. **Edith Bornn**, who died on June 4, came from the Virgin Islands with her sister, **Angela Bornn Bacher**, to attend college. Both were thrilled by the sight and feel of their first snow. Edith is survived also by three sons and three grandchildren. **Elaine (Skippy) Engelson Schlanger** died on July 9. She is survived by her husband, Robert, and three sons.

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65th Reunion June 2–June 5, 2011

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## 46

**Mary Louise Stewart Reid** writes, "**Margaret (Peggy) Cummiskey** invited **Louise (Petey) Du Bois Perkins** and



me for a lunch at her Stamford, Conn., apartment. There was talk of Barnard yesterdays—life at the College during World War II.” Louise continues, “I moved into a retirement community in Bethlehem, Pa., over a year ago. I still spend long summers at the family house in the Massachusetts Berkshires. I feel as though I were running a family boardinghouse there, which is a joy for us all. I spend two days a week working as a chaplain at St. Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem in winter. They like having an ‘aging’ chaplain on the staff, and I like working with young peers.”

And **Virginia Warfield Brieant** writes, “It is hard to compress the years since graduation in a few words. I was happily married for almost 60 years to Charles L. Brieant, a judge of the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York. We have three daughters and one son. My husband was in politics, so that meant I was busy on the campaign trail, as well as being a very busy mom at home with the children, four horses, three dogs, and two cats. When he was chief judge, he was on the executive committee of the United States Courts, so we traveled frequently around the country to meetings. For 12 years I was on the executive committee of the March of Dimes and then for another 12 years on the board of the SPCA. All our children married: My eldest daughter, Cynthia, moved to Virginia and then Georgia; my son, Charles III, married Joy Beane Brieant '76 and built near us in Ossining; my daughter Tory moved to California, then to Florida; and Julie moved to a wonderful horse ranch outside of Boulder, Colo. I worked for Warner Communications as chair of the contribution to the arts committee, giving money to 501(c)(3) arts organizations, which included exhibitions at the Metropolitan, Whitney, and MoMA museums, and many orchestra, dance, and theatre groups in the area. When I retired, I spent the next 20 years traveling with my daughters to many countries around the world and enjoying my nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.”

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# 47

On Oct. 21, 2010, the Class of 1947 organized a mini-reunion luncheon held at

the Garden Court Café at the Asia Society in New York. Those who attended were **Ruth Maier Baer, Dorothy Rogers Dewey, Helen De Vries Edersheim, Bernice Mattus Hift, Mary-Ann Hirsch Hobel, Virginia Kanick, Meredith Nevins Mayer, Georgia Rubin Mittelman, Jane Allen Shikoh, Beatrice Arlt Wolfe, and Frances Warshavsky Zehngebot.** We were sorry that our president, **Marguerite Traeris Harris-Chinkel,** was unable to be there. Those attending had a lovely time.

**Marina Diterichs Christman** died on July 13, 2010, at her home in Valle Verde, Calif. She was born in New York, and while at Barnard, she met her future husband, Arthur C. Christman, Jr., who was a midshipman in the Navy Program at Columbia during World War II. (Both of her grandfathers had been admirals in the Imperial Russian Navy.) She is survived by her husband of 65 years, six children, 12 grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, a great-grandchild, two step-great-grandchildren, and eight nieces and nephews. In addition to a full life as a wife, mother, and homemaker, she was active in the churches where she lived, teaching Sunday school and decorating the sanctuary for Sunday services. She was cochair of the German-American Women’s club in Heidelberg, Germany, and coleader of the Brownies and Girl Scouts, and was active in the Valle Verde retirement community. She loved music and art and was an avid gardener and a gifted decorator. In retirement, she and her husband were enthusiastic travelers, visiting 50 countries on six continents.

**Elizabeth Wallace Gordon** died in Woodbury, N.J., on March 5, 2010. At a young age, her father moved the family to China, where he had entered the rug business. There she was exposed to other cultures and children from all over the world. At the age of 14, she returned to the States and earned her degree from Barnard. In 1948, she married Raymond Gordon. After he had accepted a job with the DuPont Chemical Company in 1958, they settled in South Jersey and it was there they raised five children. Elizabeth was involved in a committee set up to examine the water quality of Gloucester County and she helped establish the Greenfield swim club in West Deptford as a haven for neighborhood children. Throughout the 1980s, she taught English

in the Mantua Township school district and the West Deptford Middle School. Her husband died in 2004. She is survived by four children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

A death notice for **Bettina Liebowitz Knapp** appeared in *The New York Times* on Aug. 29, 2010. She died on Aug. 27 and had been married for 61 years to Russell Knapp, who survives her. She was the Thomas Hunter Professor of Hunter College and a respected faculty member of the Romance languages department at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. A prolific author and recipient of numerous academic and scholarly awards, her true memorial will be the hundreds of students whose lives she touched and guided. She will be missed by many, including her husband, her two sons, her daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters.

We regret the delay in informing you of the death of **Anne von Phul Morgan** on Nov. 23, 2009. For the last several years, Anne and her husband, Raymond, had been in an assisted-living residence, Juniper Village in Chatham, N.J. As many of their friends know, for most of their lives they were both dedicated followers of the Metropolitan Opera. Even after moving into Juniper Village, for many years they traveled into Manhattan during the opera season to occupy their balcony seats. She is survived by her sister, Marie Ruth von Phul Wilcox '50, a daughter, two grandchildren, five nieces, and a nephew.

**Andree L. Powell** died on Aug. 3, 2010, in Lakewood, N.J. After Barnard, she earned a bachelor’s from the Columbia-Presbyterian School of Nursing in 1947. She then began her nursing career at Presbyterian Hospital, from which she retired in 1980, at which time she had become supervisor of nursing at Harkness Pavilion. Her brother tells us she had a wonderful and enjoyable residence at the Fountain View Care Center in Lakewood. Andree was a member of the Ocean County Evangelical Free Church for more than 20 years. She is survived by her brother and his wife, a sister and her husband, and several nieces and nephews.

**Nancy J. Cahen Knopka** died at home in Woodmere, N.Y., on Aug. 18, 2010. She earned a master’s degree in Spanish from Columbia and three years later, she married Dr. Felipe Knopka. They lived in Havana, Cuba, until 1961, at



which time they were divorced. In 1981, Nancy received her PhD from New York University; her doctoral thesis, "The Royal Production," combined her love of classical music with her appreciation for the work of Cervantes. She was the coauthor of a chapter on Jorge Luis Borges in the book *Homenaje a Humberto Piñera: estudios de literatura, arte a historia* (Madrid, 1979). Her master's thesis, "Estanislao del Campo, Gaucho Poet (1834–80)," is in the Columbia library. Nancy was also a dedicated musician and played bassoon and contrabassoon with community bands, including most recently the North Shore Pops Band. And she was an accomplished poet. Nancy was predeceased by a sister and a brother. She is survived by a niece, a nephew, and five great-nieces. —JAS

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## 48

**Barbara Hewlett Conolly** writes: "I am healthy and active in local conservation work. Latest project is planning a 25th anniversary trip for the Long Island Botanical Society in Florida this spring. We'll visit eight habitats in eight days, from Tallahassee to the Everglades. I live alone on Beaver Lake, a wildlife paradise. My husband died in 2008, a great 55 years."

**Isabel Riso Wright** tells us, "I am doing OK, still some freelancing in local media and keeping active in my retirement community in Macon, Ga. Like the cruise ship that never leaves the dock. But I do get to see my kids and grandkids in Pennsylvania and western New York at least twice a year." We all appreciated Isabel's efforts in preparing the class survey report for our 50th reunion.

**Elsie Koerner Youtcheff-Rayl** writes: "My husband, George, and I just returned from a Mediterranean cruise to Spain and Italy. It was a busy, stimulating trip." Her oldest grandchildren have celebrated

graduations, Ryan from Temple and Kirsten from Penn State, with honors. Elsie's daughter, Heidi, teaches minority women skills to start their own businesses. Heidi and her husband, an ER physician, live in China with their four children. He's the only doctor taking care of the medical needs of a remote village and travels there by overnight bus. Elsie's son, Jack, who works in Washington, D.C., married a French PhD student and has a 4-year-old bilingual daughter. Elsie's looking forward to our 65th reunion. That will be May 30–June 2, 2013.

Thanks to one of our spies, we learned that **Constance (Jane) Sterling Canter** celebrated her most recent birthday with a balloon ride. Tell us about your latest "I can't believe I did that" adventure.

Sadly, we must now report the death of several classmates in 2010, and we send our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends. **Ann Aldrich**, a senior district judge of the Northern District of Ohio (Cleveland), died on May 2. Four sons and eight grandchildren survive her.

**Margaret (Peggy) Podell Shulman** died on Aug. 28. She is survived by her husband, Mark, five children, and nine grandchildren. Her cousin, Carol Podell Vinson '57, tells us that Carol lived in Mexico for the past 36 years, where she was an active volunteer providing medical treatment, education, clothing, and food for needy children.

**Jane McCown Fern** died on Sept. 1, just one week shy of what would have been her 90th birthday. She is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and her companion, Ann Hanson. Her daughter, Marie, told us that her mother had served as a lieutenant senior grade in the WAVES before coming to Barnard. A French major, Jane had a career in banking and later worked as a parish administrator in Evanston, Ill. She had a full and wonderful life and was active until weeks before her passing.

We were just notified of the death of **Yoko Omura Anderson** on Jan. 23, 2009. She is survived by two daughters and one son. Her husband, Robert, whom she met at Columbia, and a second son predeceased her. Her surviving son, Robert, wrote us personal memories of his mother that we want to share with you. Born in Hiroshima, Yoko grew up and attended public schools in New York City. A zoology major at Barnard, she helped

with research on malaria and mosquitoes at the Rockefeller Foundation for Medical Research and worked as a lab tech in hospitals. She earned her master's in botany, specializing in ecology before it was fashionable, at Rutgers (much easier than Barnard, Yoko said). She later earned an RN degree after the family relocated to Kalamazoo, Mich. She worked in nursing homes, but after retiring she truly loved volunteer work as a zoo educator at the Binder Park Zoo in Battle Creek, at the nature center, and in various animal rescue efforts. In conclusion, Robert writes, "Somehow I feel I can imagine those days when my parents and you were young. Then I feel a closeness that much connects young people of all generations. Please do remember Yoko to her classmates." Amen.

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## 49

In spite of the short distance from my home to Barnard, I've been unable to see the campus for several years and welcomed my invitation to the 2010 Leadership Assembly, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 7–8. I was eager to see the Diana Center, an up-to-date computerized monument to Barnard's future, which somehow still fits in with all the edifices, many built before we left in 1949 and some dating back to the 19th century. A reception and a dinner were held at the new building. Women from the Classes of 1945 to 2009 were together and anxious to do our part to make sure that Barnard will continue to succeed in spite of its limited endowment. Yearly contributions are very much needed. Since many of us are writing wills at this time, let's not forget that Barnard needs our financial help if it is to continue attracting well-qualified students, such as the members of the Classes of 2010 through 2013; the Friday meeting featured some of these students. Foreign students from Africa, Asia, and Europe gave me hope for world peace, and science students, introduced by a most enthusiastic Professor Dina Merrer, gave me hope for a renaissance of interest in science in America. Later, a tour of the



organic chemistry labs led by Prof. Merrer introduced me to the original research done by today's chemistry majors, an activity unknown in our day and indicative of the quality of today's Barnard students. **Jane Gordon Kaplan**, a zoology major, attended the Friday program.

For those of us who live within commuting distance of Barnard, many organizations at the College offer an array of lectures and seminars open to alumnae at lunchtime and in early evening. On Oct. 19, I returned to Barnard to attend a thought-provoking talk for women our age, "You and Your Aging Brain: What's 'Normal,'" by Professor Davangere Devanand of Columbia's College of Physicians & Surgeons. Although the lecturer was candid about the lack of a cure for various dementias, he inferred that the statistics for people in our age group are not as frightening as what the popular media would have us believe.

**Marilyn Heggie De Lalio** alerted me to the death on Sept. 22, 2010, of Guri Lie Zeckendorf, the daughter of the Trygve Lie, the Norwegian first secretary-general of the United Nations. Gurie was a Barnard student during our first year. I later found her obituary in the Oct. 10, 2010, *New York Times*. She maintained a lifelong interest in the United Nations and is survived by two sons.

Alumnae Records informed me of the death of **Audrey Skelton Kelly** on Jan. 4, 2009. No other details were provided. —YDD

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## 50

Once again, **Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum** has received widespread admiration for being "not only brilliant but also wise," according to Amrit Singh, in the *Wall Street Journal*. After detailed questioning that displayed a deep

knowledge of history, she sentenced Faisal Shahzad, telling him, "I do hope that you will spend some of the time in prison thinking carefully about whether the Koran wants you to kill lots of people." Miriam says, "I have the most interesting job I can imagine because I learn something new every day of the week. Federal judges are generalists in a world of increasing specialization, and it is a great privilege to be exposed to the variety of human problems and legal issues that I see on a regular basis."

Although unable to attend Reunion, many classmates have checked in with news. **Mary Louise Luginbuhl Kearns** is busy with volunteering and enjoying life in New York with her "gorgeous" chocolate standard poodle. **Silvia Pfeiffer Tennenbaum**, encouraged by **Maureen McCann Miletta**, had planned to attend, but found that recovery from open-heart surgery was slower than anticipated. We all hope she's back in fighting trim by now. **Elizabeth Aschner Laster** is happy that one of her grandsons is attending Columbia College and is a member of their tennis team. **Diana Graham Hodgins** would have liked to see the Diana Center, but lacked the strength and energy for the trip. We missed her. **Rita Abrams Kaufman** was celebrating her granddaughter's graduation from Phillips Academy the same weekend. She conveys her good wishes to the class. **Marguerite (Meg) Maier Rothschild** had "just too many trips at once," including a vacation in Norway, time with children, and a Scandinavian coastal voyage.

Last September, **Joan Houston McCulloch** attended the inauguration of Jim Yong Kim as 17th president of Dartmouth College. She informs us, "Dr. Kim is the first Asian-American to become president of an Ivy League college."

**Mary Elizabeth Krueger** writes from Evanston, Ill., that she spends her time volunteering for the heart center of St. Francis Hospital, making quilts for charity, and learning through reading.

**Chris Lammers Hirschhorn** plans to move back to Colorado after selling her condo in Verona, N.J. She'll also spend time in Brussels, visiting **Claire Raick**, and in Germany and Paris. **Mary Carroll Nelson** continues her involvement with the Society of Layerists in Multi-Media and enjoys life with family, travel, and reading. **Elizabeth Bean Miller** writes from Kennewick, Wash., "New York City is truly another world to me now." She has adapted her

reference librarian skills, based in the arts and philosophy fields, to assist her daughter in her anatomy and physiology research. She also keeps active through gardening, fishing, knitting, and enjoying family generations, including four grandchildren. She has been in contact with **Elaine Wiener Berman**, who lives in Palo Alto, Calif.

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60th Reunion June 2 – June 5, 2011

## 51

**Mary King Swayzee's** book, *Leaving a Trace: My Garden and Other Art Projects*, covers her life in the New York art world in the early 1950s and a pivotal visit to the garden of Ian Hamilton Finlay in Scotland. If you're interested the book, please contact Mary or visit her Web site, marykingartist.com.

Sadly, **Candace Benjamin Owen** died on Feb. 9, 2010. She is survived by her husband, H. Martin Owen, three children, six grandchildren, four nieces, and five grandnieces.

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## 52

**Jacqueline Hyman Scherer** lives in Alexandria, Va., engages in volunteer activities, and enjoys Washington, D.C., and visits with her four children and six grandchildren. A retired Oakland University (Michigan) professor of sociology, she looks forward to our 60th reunion and her 60th anniversary with her husband, Ralph, whom



she married three days after graduation.

**Miriam Schapiro Grosf** continues to teach in New York City, where she tutors students at The Door, a center for high-risk adolescents, and she also trains other tutors. In October, she was in Washington State, visiting her son for her granddaughter's bat mitzvah. **Eloise Ashby Andrus** and her husband were also there. **Alice Ribbink-Goslinga** joined Eloise and her husband on a cruise to Alaska in 2008. Alice usually sees them when she visits her daughter, Philippa Ribbink '85, in Portland, Ore. Eloise is active in Democratic politics and the Barnard Club of Seattle. They travel as their schedule allows.

**Doris Gray Roberts** continues her lifelong love of art, does oil paintings, and lives in a historic house in her hometown, Centralia, Ill. She has three sons and has six grandchildren. Two of her granddaughters are lawyers.

**Beatrice Nissen Greene** and her husband moved to a retirement community in Basking Ridge, N.J. Despite physical problems, they're doing well without the responsibilities of home ownership. They enjoy a large apartment, independence, time for reading, reflection, music, and local library courses taught by Drew and Rutgers faculty. Recently they saw **Bettina Lomont Winter** and her husband en route from Boston to Washington. They see **Joan Farago Lomont** and her husband, Max (Bett's brother), when visiting their son in Chicago.

**Lee Fleshman Jiraneck** has recovered from knee replacement surgery, feeling fortunate that her son, an orthopedic specialist, advised her on her surgeon and clinic. Her 130-year-old book club chose Jane Goodall as their Woman of the Year.

Music and Spanish major **Frances Schmidt Havens** and her husband have lived in the United States and abroad, including 16 years in Nice, France, where she served as substitute organist for the Protestant church. They have settled in, and love, California.

**Eva Stadler Brooks** retired as chair of the Fordham University English department. She also taught film studies; she continues to teach and is writing a book.

**Joan Bonime Glotzer** says, "Hello!"

And **Argie Manolakis Taylor**, despite her despair at man's continued inhumanity to man, searches for evidence of such love as Mother Teresa exhibited.

Your correspondents seek your news, always. **Nancy Stone Hayward** goes between Florida and Cape Cod, where she's busy with historical commission activities and town meetings. **Priscilla Redfearn Elfrey** keeps in touch electronically with family in Washington, D.C., and California. She's codeveloping a NASA Center for LifeCycle Design, serving as technical expert for a university-level senior design course, and is organizing conferences and conference activities this year in Orlando, Boston, the Hague, and Rome.

We are saddened to report that **Joan Breon Foth** died of cancer in July, and we extend our sympathy to her son, daughter, grandchildren, other relatives, and friends.

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## 53

Music for Miracles, the fund-raising gala for leukemia research sponsored by the Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation, was held in October at the Lincoln Center's jazz theatre. **Evelyn Ilton Strauss** is president and founder of the organization. They have already awarded millions in grants that supply seed money to innovative projects at some of the country's most respected medical institutions.

Security on Campus, the group founded by **Constance Benjamin Clery**, is celebrating more than 20 years of improving safety on college campuses and making the reporting of campus crime mandatory throughout the country.

A research Web site has revealed the passing of **Barbara Kumble** on Oct. 20, 2008. She is survived by two sons.

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## 54

June was especially busy for my family and me. We had two graduations on opposite coasts within a day of each other. Our granddaughter, Caitlin Dudley, graduated from East Chapel Hill High School in North Carolina on June 12. On June 13, we flew to Eugene, Ore., to attend our grandson Tyler Bernstein's ceremony at the University of Oregon on June 14. We were very proud and exhausted!

I heard from **Shirley Henschel**, who writes, "I spend the months between mid-December and mid-May in South Palm Beach, Fla., where I occasionally see **Laura Sheskin Rotstein** and **Doris Dobrow Gilman**. Then it is back to New York City. I go to exercise classes in both places, go to the theatre, sometimes meet Barnard women from other classes, try to stay mentally active. How did we get so old so fast?" (I certainly don't know and am doing my best to ignore it.)

I'm sad to report that **Joanne Slater's** son, David, has died of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was the victim of a drunk driver intent on committing suicide. The driver succeeded, but David struggled for two years before he died. Joanne is now working with MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) on legislation regulating police response to drunk drivers. She has moved to Cranston, R.I., to be near her youngest daughter. You can contact Alumnae Affairs for her new address; I'm sure she'd be happy to hear from you. We send our heartfelt condolences to her.

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## 55

Fifteen classmates enjoyed gathering at the Asia Society for lunch on Sept. 15, 2010. In attendance were **Gisela von Scheven Fort, Jane Were-Bey Gardner, Doris Joyner Bell Griffin, Gayle Abouchar Jaeger, Norma Haft**



## 56

Sad to say I received no news for this issue. I suspect that's because many of you think that you have to do something extraordinary to contribute—not true! Write a few sentences about your ordinary stuff—volunteer activities, retirement hobbies, or just brag about your grandchildren. For example, I spend several hours a week as a volunteer at the Adult Literacy League in Orlando, Fla., both teaching and training new tutors. I still sing in the 150-voice Bach Festival Choir of Winter Park, and one of my paintings won a blue ribbon in a local exhibit of “hobby-artists.” My five grandchildren are amazing, bright students and good athletes; the oldest boy is already in college, one girl is a dancer and poet, and the other girl sings. So, that's my “ordinary stuff.” What's yours?

**Janet Bersin Finke, Lilly Spiegel Schwebel, and Toni Crowley Coffee** send this message: Our class committee hopes you've saved June 2–5 for our 55th reunion. In addition to the activities the College has scheduled, these events are just for members of '56: a Thursday evening cocktail party at a Manhattan apartment; a Friday class dinner in the new Diana Center; a Saturday breakfast that will include a talk with a member of the architecture department about the creation, construction, and utilization of the Center; and a luncheon, where we will meet with members of the Class of 2006 to share views of the 50-year interval between our graduations, facilitated by a faculty member. There will also be a class lounge for relaxing and visiting throughout the weekend.

For those in the Barnard area: Would you like to have a classmate stay in your home for Reunion? For those from afar: Would you like to stay at a classmate's home? Please reply to [tonicoffee@aol.com](mailto:tonicoffee@aol.com) or [janetbmw@aol.com](mailto:janetbmw@aol.com).

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**Mandel, Florence Federman Mann, Marion Toman Marchal, Duane Lloyd Patterson, Marcella Jung Rosen, Carol Held Scharff, Ellen Blumenthal Sehgal, Mirella d'Ambrosio Servodidio, Louise Cohen Silverman, Toni Lautman Simon, and Hessa Levinsons Taft.**

Marcella Rosen has accepted an invitation from Norma Mandel, chair of the Social Justice Committee at Temple Beth Torah in Nyack, N.Y., to speak at a Friday night service on “Bias in the College Community.” Marcella, president and founder of the Campus Tolerance Foundation, will speak about issues of anti-Semitism and bias based on gender, religion, and sexual orientation.

Class President Carol Scharff is delighted that her granddaughter, Ilana Zucker-Scharff, is a first-year at Barnard. Former Class President **Renee Becker Swartz** is president of the Barnard Club of Central New Jersey, which held a fundraising luncheon at the Molly Pitcher Inn in Red Bank on Oct. 21. Guest speaker Jean Zimmerman '79 discussed her book *The Women of the House: How a Colonial She-Merchant Built a Mansion, a Fortune, and a Dynasty*. Attending the luncheon were Erin Fredrick '01, director of Alumnae Affairs, Stefanie Landsman, manager of regional alumnae programs, and **Tamara Rippner Casriel** and Louise Silverman (club treasurer).

In celebration of the Samuel Barber centenary in the spring, **Barbara Brody Heyman** gave pre-concert lectures on Barber's songs and piano music at the National Concert Hall and the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin. On Oct. 28, she gave a pre-concert lecture at the Library of Congress before Thomas Hampson's recital of American songs. Her second book, *Samuel Barber: A Thematic Catalogue of the Complete Works*, was published in January.

**Kathryn Shohl Scott** enjoyed our 55th reunion and particularly liked hearing about the Athena Center for Leadership Studies. She also had fun singing with a combined Columbia/Barnard chorus. Although retired from regular cataloging, she volunteers at the National Archives. She also sings with the World Bank Chorus and enjoys traveling, with trips this year to Brazil, Hawaii, and the Mediterranean (via a music cruise). Finally, this has been her year to “go green”—she

bought a hybrid car, reinsulated her house, and installed solar panels on the roof.

Carol Scharff and Florence Mann, class fund chair, represented our class at Leadership Assembly in October. The organizing meeting of the class fundraising committee, which includes Jane Gardner, Duane Patterson, and Louise Silverman, was held on Oct. 13 in the Vagelos Center. The class sorely needs volunteer participation on this committee. Florence continues as a member of the Barnard Fund committee.

Duane Patterson says she was lucky to take two recent trips. The first was to visit gardens, abbeys, and cathedrals in Yorkshire and Northumbria. The second was to Lake Como, Italy, with a Barnard, Columbia, and Georgetown mélange. Alden Prouty, director of leadership giving, was their “intrepid traveler/Barnard host.”

**Marjorie Lobell Feuerstein**, who lives in upstate New York, is cochair of the Shandee Music Festival, a summer concert series of classical music, is a trustee of the local library, and a member of the “Renaissance” committee, a Sullivan County beautification project for local villages.

From Barranquilla, Colombia, **Eva Nauenberg Faillace** reports that she keeps busy as a high school counselor at the local Marymount school. Her three children and seven grandchildren live in New York and San Francisco. Two grandchildren attend Boston University and a third will graduate from the Collegiate School next spring. Eva regrets that she missed our 55th reunion, but she “sure hopes to make it to our 60th.”

On a sad note, the class extends condolences to Florence Mann on the loss of her daughter-in-law, Shiyun Zhu Mann, and to **Alice Bilgri Weinbaum** on the loss of her twin brother, Sheldon.

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# 57

**Ying Yao Wang** lives in Manhattan with her husband, who is a physicist. She sends us a summary of the past 53 years: She received a PhD in mathematical statistics from the University of Chicago and did research at Bell Laboratories and Pfizer Drug Company. She also taught at Cornell. Her family includes her daughter, Lisa Wang Booker '90, and her son, Juin, who graduated from Harvard in 1994, as well as their respective spouses (both lawyers), three wonderful grandkids (who keep Ying and her husband laughing all the time), and one "grand-puppy." As a retiree, Ying enjoys auditing courses at Barnard, the alumnae film group, travel, photography, and reunions with her relatives.

**Laura Rosenbaum Randall** has professional news: "I'm writing the section on the political economy of Mexico for the next issue of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, and I provide a more-or-less daily newsletter about Brazil, via e-mail." To receive it, contact Laura.

And from **Margot Curtin Parker**, "I have been retired from GM for more than 10 years. I am still living in Grosse Pointe, Mich. Earlier this year, I traveled to Tunisia, a crossroads of Western and Eastern cultures from the Phoenicians to Germans in World War II. In January, I plan to visit Southeast Asia, with particular interest in Angkor Wat. There is much to see in this world, and I hope I can continue my travels and learning experiences. Thank you, Barnard, for instilling that passion in us."

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# 58

**Hannah Razdow Simon** reports the death of our classmate and her very good friend, **Susan Israel Mager**. Sue passed

away at her home in Newton, Mass., on Sept. 4, 2010. Hannah writes that Sue was a wonderfully upbeat person who loved words, puns, and books. She founded the local Barnard Book Group and was instrumental in its continued existence and success. She welcomed Hannah when she moved to the Boston area and they became good friends. She was very proud to be known as "silly grandma" to her 10 grandchildren. We all send condolences to her sister and her children, as we do to the family of another classmate.

**Bettine Kinney Wallin**, who died of breast cancer, is survived by her husband, Lawrence, daughter, brother, sister, four grandchildren, four nieces, and three nephews.

**Betty Reeback Wachtel** and **Marcia Spelman De Fren** attended a luncheon event sponsored by the Barnard Club of South Florida and held at the Norton Art Museum in West Palm Beach during the week of Oct. 18, 2010. They were treated to a special "highlights" tour given by Bei Bei She '95.

**Reiko Kase Nagura** performed a classical Japanese dance piece onstage, complete with wigs and costume, with her daughter, Mika, and two of Mika's three children. Reiko's obi was bound so tightly by her male dresser that she knew exactly how Arthur Golden's heroine felt when her obi was bound: she felt like a chicken about to be strangled to death.

**Zenia Victor Giachetti** lives in Santa Fe, N.M., and is involved with the Bali Art Project.

My former roommate, **Dorrie Siegel Rosen**, sent me the Barnard Club of Seattle's fall/winter 2010-11 newsletter. Dorrie serves as the club's president. All but one event were book discussions. All alumnae are invited to the meetings, even if they haven't read the books. They stated that it's great fun to be with bright women engaging in stimulating conversations.

On Nov. 14, 2010, the Barnard Club of Seattle had a private tour with its own docent, Janet Seery '61. They viewed "Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée Nationale Picasso, Paris." Following the tour, they enjoyed lunch at Taste. If Barnard gals aren't discussing books, they visit art museums. What a joyful intellectual life came because of Barnard's preparation for life.

Your correspondent is teaching a series of seminars at my residence, the

Woodlands Retirement Community, on the three main monotheistic religions. As of this writing, the two presentations have been on the history of the Jewish people and some fundamentals of Judaism. The seminars are being well received.

This news might stir up memories of your first love: I received an e-mail from the Iranian who owned my heart while I was a student at Barnard. He's going through a semi-amicable third divorce! He refuses to grow up and goes out almost every night and even dates, usually younger women, as he is 74. —EWS

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# 60

Alas, the essay submitted (on time) by **Judith Shapiro** was omitted from our 50th reunion book. So here it is, brutally edited to fit this column's constraints.

"I have no sense of doing anything amazing with my life, but I am satisfied with its balance and diversity, which proceeded according to convention: education, become a doctor, marry, have children. It was at 'happily ever after' that the plan fell apart.

"A thought came to me, at age 8 or 9, that I could solve my problems by becoming a physician. When it came to a choice of specialty, a (woman) professor said succinctly, 'dermatology or psychiatry,' and I chose the former. My father said, 'Do you know anyone who wants to marry my daughter, the doctor?' and someone said, 'Yes.' Marriage, childbirth during my two-week vacation, solo practice, planning dinner as I drove home to cook it, just happened. Years later, 'private time' was defined, but I hadn't known what it was.

"The crash came after years of an abusive marriage (where satisfaction came from my children, my patients, and



cooking). Instead of going to a medical meeting one day, without conscious thought, I turned my car around and went into my office to make a private phone call to a psychiatrist. The soon-to-be ex-husband said, 'Shape up and everything will be fine.' I couldn't believe it.

"The children were away at college, and I had a new life: of medical practice and planning my own vacations, of inadvertently generating trouble and bailing myself out. I discovered you didn't need a Y chromosome to hang pictures or fix a toilet. I settled into a pattern of work, exercise, dinner alone standing in the kitchen, socializing on weekends, and signing up for more and more trips.

"Then came the friend's call asking if she could give out my phone number. 'Yes,' I said. 'None of this glass of wine stuff,' he said. 'Let's have dinner. Do you like impressionist art?' 'Yes.' 'Will you come to an art exhibit with me?' 'Yes.' 'It's in Montréal.' I bought my first peignoir at SFA in NYC.

"Sell your medical practice and move with me to North Carolina.' My daughter, of all people, said, 'Don't marry him, Mom, just live with him.'

"His daughter, meeting me for the first time, said, 'Just don't think you're my mother or the grandmother of my child.'

"We married in the city hall of Durham, N.C. It is 10 years later and they have been my happiest. The relationship works. There are trips, seven grandchildren, hour-long phone calls from the previously belligerent step-daughter.

"In my youth I expected marriage, children, a career. I never expected to be divorced. (I never expected an abusive relationship.) I never expected a child not talking to me for 20 years, but now starting to come around. I never expected to meet a significant person or to form a solid relationship. I can't believe it took 70 years for this."

On a sadder note, **Marcia Walder Gottlieb**, of Winston-Salem, N.C., died on Aug. 9. Her funeral was standing room only. Her career as an interior decorator, her community service, her 50-year marriage to Lou, and her loving children and grandchildren are all mentioned in her obituary. Sharon Doyle Johe '61, who sent the news, wrote, "She lived a life of beauty and I miss her more each day." Our sympathy goes to those Marcia left behind.

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50th Reunion June 2–June 5, 2011

## 61

Let's see you all at our 50th reunion, June 2–5, 2011. There are lots of great plans in the works—something for everyone. You will receive a request for a short story, summary, statement, or whatever you want to write, as a contribution for a class book. We hope everyone will respond, even if you aren't able to attend Reunion. Books will be available online to order.

The only news I have this time is from **Suzanne Frank Ruta**, who writes: "I have a novel coming out January 2011 with Virago Books in the U.K., *To Algeria with Love*. I began writing it in the spring of 2003, as a protest against the Iraq War and the mindless stereotypes circulating after 9/11, and still now. It's a love story set in France in the last year of the Algerian war, 1961–62. I was there that year on a Fulbright grant. Einaudi is publishing the novel in Italian later on, and I'm hoping it will be picked up in the U.S., and maybe France. I wrote it in English, it is printed in English, but the main characters, a romantic couple, speak French during their time together. Later on they devolve to American English and Algerian Arabic. I arrived at Barnard with French and some Latin. At college I studied classical Greek and German, which turned out to be useful, as my husband, painter Peter Ruta, emigrated from Nazi Germany to Italy and the U.S. early on. At Barnard we had wonderful teachers: for Latin, Professor Chittenden, who had done the classical trips at Cambridge and climbed Mount Olympus; for German, Professor Stabenau, a woman of grace and dignity; and Professor Walter Sokel of Vienna, at Columbia, who loved the adverb *kolossal*, as in the sentence, 'Ottillie war kolossal sexuel erregbar'

('Ottillie was colossally excitable in a sexual way'). We were very young to be discussing these things."

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## 62

"On Paper: Painted, Printed, Drawn," an exhibition of works on paper by eight contemporary artists curated by **Karen Kissin Wilkin** was at the Jill Newhouse Gallery in New York in the Fall.

Also in the Fall, **Karen Charal Gross** hosted the Barnard '62 Book Group for a discussion with the charming and insightful Anna Quindlen '74 on her newest book *Every Last One*. Anna talked about her book, her family, the process of writing, and her future writing plans. The following alumnae attended: Dana Gross '88, Joan Simon Hollander '64, **Valerie Horst, Susan Lippman Karp**, Cynthia Wellins Kirsch '60, **Eleanor Traube Kra, Barbara Lovenheim, Linda Rosenblum Persily, Nancy Brown Schmiderer**, and **Marcia Stecker Weller**. The group selects books, usually fiction, by consensus a few months in advance and meets the third Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. in participants' apartments. Contact me if you'd like to join.

Our 50th reunion is in June of 2012. If you'd like to work on the reunion-planning committee, please contact our class president, **Libby Guth Fishman**, at [lafishman@comcast.net](mailto:lafishman@comcast.net), or the reunion cochair, **Marsha Corn Levine**, at [mclevine@aol.com](mailto:mclevine@aol.com). It doesn't matter where you live, as all meetings will be held both in person and by conference call. We need as large a committee as possible to make this special reunion a big success, so please join us.

Also to prepare for Reunion 2012, we must refill our class treasury, which was depleted at our 45th reunion. Please send in your \$10 per year, \$50 total, for the five years of class dues from the years between our 45th and 50th reunions. Make out your check to Barnard College and write "Class of '62 Dues" on the memo line, and send it to the Vagelos Alumnae



Center, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027. Your class dues are totally separate from your annual donation to the Barnard College Fund.

I'm sorry to have to report the death of **Rosalie Miller Zanderer** on June 17, 2010, of cancer. Rosalie is survived by her sister, brother-in-law, and nephews.

**Elaine Landis Koster** died Aug. 10, 2010, and is survived by her husband, Bill, and her daughter. Our condolences were sent to the families.

**Alice Finkelstein Alekman** and I attended Leadership Assembly last fall and toured the beautiful new Diana Center, among many other worthwhile activities. We got many good ideas for our 50th reunion and look forward to planning it with many of you soon.

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## 63

We have news from several of our 21 classmates living abroad: **Claude Forthomme Bonanno di Linguaglossa** married Giuseppe Bonanno di Linguaglossa, lives in Rome, and paints and writes—short stories, novels, novellas, and recipes! She has participated in 14 exhibitions and had personal shows in Paris and Rome. In 2007, she published a novel written in Italian, *Un Amore Dimenticato*, a love story set in Sicily. She maintains a blog in English, under the pen name Claude Nougat, and would love to have classmates visit her site, [claudenougat.blogspot.com](http://claudenougat.blogspot.com). Until 2004, she worked in the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization, based in Rome and focused on Third World rural development. Her work took her to more than 50 countries.

**Cynthia May Sadek** graduated as a history major, then studied Egyptology at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts and at the University of Chicago, also doing graduate work at UCLA. She married Ali Reza Sheikholeslami (later divorced). Cynthia came to the Middle East working on a Chicago-UCLA expedition

## Trash Talk

### Mierle Laderman Ukeles '61

What do mothers and sanitation workers have in common? They both engage in work that is largely undervalued. When Mierle Laderman Ukeles, became a mother in 1968, she started to see how much of the work she was doing in her daily life was invisible to others. "People would say, 'Oh, you're not doing anything now that you have a baby,'" she recalls. "And I felt like I was drowning just trying to keep my head above water by being both a mother and an artist."

One day when her daughter was a little more than a year, Ukeles sat down and began to write all about the ways maintenance work—the act of simply living day to day—was her art. She wrote her *Manifesto for Maintenance Art* in one sitting, but it had been months in the making. "I had this epiphany," she says. "If I am the artist, then I define art, then I say what is art."

Taking her cue from Dadaist and Surrealist artist Marcel Duchamp, Ukeles saw that she had the power to call her work art. "My whole life both as a maintenance-worker mother and artist, I call that art," she affirms. For the next 40 years Ukeles extended her idea of maintenance beyond her personal life to the public sphere. She began to perform her art in museums, galleries, and eventually the streets of New York, becoming the artist-in-residence with the New York City Department of Sanitation, an unpaid position that was created for her. Though Ukeles has done other types of art works, it is maintenance art in public places with which she is synonymous. Her goal is to make viewers aware of the life cycle of garbage through her art. She notes, "Our culture doesn't accept maintenance as part of the culture, it was always done behind the scenes and we don't talk about it."

In 1976, Ukeles performed *I Make Maintenance Art One Hour Every Day*, in which she spent two months working alongside 300 sanitation workers at a bank in Manhattan. Another work, *Touch Sanitation*, involved 8,500 workers in the sanitation department. She spent 11 months shaking the hand of each of the workers, saying, "Thank you for keeping New York City alive."

*Flow City* provided public access at the 59th Street Marine Transfer Station so visitors could see how garbage was loaded onto barges in transit to landfills. Since 1989, Ukeles has worked alongside design teams at Fresh Kills, the former landfill for New York City located in Staten Island, helping to transform the site into safe, usable public land. "Maintenance is a big idea," she says. "Now people call it sustainability or survival." —Ilana Polyak

in Iran, and then had a Fulbright to do research in Egypt. After shuttling back and forth between Egypt and the U.S. for a few years, in 1983, she married Abdel-Aziz Sadek, an Egyptian Egyptologist, and settled in Cairo. Meanwhile, she acquired a master's from the University of Washington in teaching English as a second language, which was her job for 24 years at the American University in Cairo. Now retired, she looks forward to being a full-time Egyptologist, hoping for another quarter of a century in which to complete



Photograph by Susan Egan. Courtesy of Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York.

all her projects. She plans to move back to the States in the next few years.

Another international classmate, **Connie Brown Demb**, lives in Toronto, Canada, with her husband, Alan. Since retiring, she has volunteered on committees working to improve Toronto's main sewage-treatment plant, learned Hebrew, and helped a friend write her memoirs. She coordinates participants in Sabbath services at their synagogue at "The Beach" on the edge of Lake Ontario. Connie and **Camille Perrotta**



**Hodgson** participate in the Toronto Barnard alumnae group. Connie's son works at the City of Toronto's bicycle promotion and infrastructure program. Her daughter works in London as the institutional archivist and records manager at the Museum of London. Connie has been in touch with **Jane Ruben Guttman**, who lives in New York City. When visiting London in 2005, Connie connected with **Cornelia Navari**. Cornelia is teaching international trade law at Buckingham University, and finishing a book on intellectuals and foreign policy from 1870 to 1980. Cornelia reports that she's in touch with several classmates: **Sally Hill** is a full-time professional organist at a Dallas Presbyterian church; **Johanna Hoornweg** lives in Berlin, where she's retired but still busy copyediting; and **Joyce Sitrin Malcolm** teaches at the George Mason University School of Law, which she reports is "a nice berth for a historian, non-lawyer, and fun."

Sad news: **Joyce Levy Shane** succumbed to cancer on July 2, 2010, in Seattle. Joyce and her husband, Barry, lived in the Northwest for many years. She was very active in Congregation Beth Shalom, as a member and educator. Most recently, Joyce was principal of the Seattle Jewish Community School.

Are you among the 185 classmates with no e-mail address listed with the College? Get connected by sending your current e-mail address to [alumrecords@barnard.edu](mailto:alumrecords@barnard.edu). —RGD

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## 64

In this season of 50th high school reunions, I went, as a spouse, to one for the Newton (Mass.) High School Class of 1960. I saw **Edie Cohen**, who's doing

freelance writing and editing and tutoring in an adult literacy program. Her daughter, Molly, is now a college sophomore. **Peggy Rosenbaum Morrison** teaches in adult education at Temple Israel, Boston, where her son, Jeremy, serves as a rabbi.

**Helen Pugatch Duffy** was also there, having flown in from Los Angeles. Helen's an actress, known for her roles in (among others) *The Unit*, *Hannah Montana*, *The West Wing*, and *The Practice*. She has also appeared in movies, including *Breakdown*, *Hijacking Hollywood*, *Starforce*, and *Venomous*.

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## 65

**Jane Finsmith Charnas** is in full-time private practice as a psychotherapist in Columbia, Md. She and her husband of 31 years, Lee Sartoph, have a blended family of four married adult sons. Their son Daniel Charnas is the father of Jane's first grandchild. Daniel's book, *The Big Payback—the History of the Business of Hip-Hop and Rap*, was released by Penguin Books in December. Dan has a master's degree from Columbia's School of Journalism. Jane has been in touch with **Lynn DiResta Kechejian**.

**Roberta Holland Donis** writes that her widowed daughter, Katherine Nicole Donis, DVM, married Wyatt Markus on Aug. 28, 2010, at the Wildlife Center and Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks in Tupper Lake, N.Y. Kate's daughter, Sylvia, took her job of spreading flower petals very seriously, and her son, Lucas, managed not to lose the rings from their pillow. Roberta continues to work for her son, a cardiologist, in his office on East 76th Street. A recent move has made her a neighbor of **Barbara Rieck Morrow**.

Because of a series of health problems, **Lyvia Brazenas Garsys** has moved from DeLand, Fla., to Sandpiper Village, near her son, Darius, in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., just outside Charleston. Lyvia had planned to visit her father in Vilnius, Lithuania, to assist him with his autobiography and to help some of the organizations of political

prisoners, political exiles, and former freedom fighters with which her father was involved. His schedule had become quite crowded, particularly after one of the organizations submitted his name to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee. Her father's sudden death at age 97 has changed those plans, but Lyvia still hopes to visit Vilnius in the spring or summer.

**Maria-Elena Nochera Ouimette** has retired from teaching Spanish at Montréal's Concordia University. She spends winter in Puerto Rico with her mother, age 93, and spring in Madrid, where Maria-Elena has an apartment. She has also traveled around Europe and been to China, South America, and Turkey, and she notes that half the fun of such trips is in the planning and gathering of information about the destination. She plans to visit Egypt in November.

**Carol Symonds Worthey** is living her dream as an internationally recognized composer, painter, and writer. A special two-hour interview and concert was broadcast internationally on Classical Music Discoveries Internet radio. Her book, *Turning Life into Art: How a Composer Works*, is due to be published in 2011. Her "Fanfare for the New Renaissance" has been performed by orchestras around the world. In addition to numerous musical compositions and performances, Carol has exhibited artworks in Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, Calif. Carol has been married for 30 years to Ray Kornis.

Your correspondent **Martha Andes Ziskind** hosted a 100th birthday celebration for her father, Samuel Andes. Martha's daughter, Minna Ziskind, and son-in-law, Gabriel Miller, came from Philadelphia with their three daughters (and potential Barnard students), Ariadne, Sarah, and Rebecca, to celebrate with their *bepa*. Martha's father has become a great favorite of the University of Louisville's Medical School because he enjoys meeting with the residents in geriatric medicine and amazing them with his mental acuity and quick, dry wit. Let's hope these encounters with an active centenarian help them take a different view of patients of a certain age.

Finally, **Patricia Zimmerman Levine** asks that you mark your calendars for our mini-reunion, scheduled for Columbia's Homecoming in October 2012. She'd love to receive suggestions for programs, including how much time should be set



aside for just talking (plevine42@comcast.net). Patty emphasizes that there's very little planning that can't be handled by telephone or e-mail. She'll be coming to New York from Amherst, Mass.

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45th Reunion June 2 – June 5, 2011

# 66

Some news of our classmates and then exciting plans about our reunion: **Judith Schatz Schaeffer-Young** writes that her prediction in our last reunion booklet about her retirement was a bit premature. Judy did retire from Wills Eye Hospital in 2006 and promptly went to work as a librarian at the Abington Memorial Hospital Dixon School of Nursing. She's involved in a research study on the use of pet therapy to relieve test anxiety in nursing students, so she gets to take her golden retriever, Goldilocks, to work with her. She has published three articles in *Home Healthcare Nurse* and in April was named to the journal's editorial board. Grandchildren also play a big role in Judy's life. Her son, Stephen, moved in January 2010, so she has his two sons, ages 8 and 5, every other weekend. Her daughter lives 15 minutes away, so she gets to see her third grandson, age 6, as well. On her husband's side of their blended family, their granddaughter Kate married a classmate from both Princeton and the University of Virginia School of Law. Kate's older sister, Emily, graduated with distinction from the University of Michigan School of Medicine and is now doing a psychiatry residency at NYU Medical Center. Judy reports that she might be a great-grandmother by the time Reunion rolls around, and since Kate lives in New York City, she has an added incentive to come to Reunion.

Thanks always to **Carrie Wilson**, who periodically checks in with interesting

news. She's proud to be on the board of directors of the Aesthetic Realism Foundation. She and her colleague Marcia Rackow '60 attended a gathering at the Diana Center with about 25 Barnard alumnae from different classes who work in the field of visual arts. Carrie and Marcia are both at the Terrain Gallery in SoHo. Carrie and her husband, Ed, continue to be involved in theatre through the Aesthetic Realism Theatre Company. Ed spent three weeks in Buenos Aires as a Fulbright Senior Scholar. Carrie missed him, but spoke to him every night via Skype.

Reunion plans are in the works. For Thursday evening, **Susan Weis Mindel** has graciously offered to host a cocktail party at her beautiful town house, as she did for our 40th. This is an evening not to be missed. Friday night will be our class dinner at Barnard. The committee is putting together an interesting and helpful program dealing with the new directions and opportunities in our lives. Barnard has a whole day of activities planned for Saturday, capped by the gala dinner. Thanks to **Linda Rappaport Ferber**, we have a great day planned for part of Sunday as well. Linda has arranged for a special class visit to the Century Association to see an exhibit on the Hudson River School of painting. This is not ordinarily open to the public, so thanks again to Linda. After the exhibit there will be a farewell brunch.

If you'd like to volunteer to make fundraising calls to classmates, please e-mail [lrenner@barnard.edu](mailto:lrenner@barnard.edu).

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# 67

**Eva Mayer** writes: "Hard to believe I've started my seventh year of retirement after 36 years of teaching middle school French and Spanish in Greenwich, Conn. I am very busy with classes at Learning in Retirement in Stamford on a plethora of interesting topics, and I am often in New York City for theatre and museums. I have also found wonderful concerts, both

symphony and chamber music locally. I've also taken several big trips, including Costa Rica, the Galápagos, Machu Picchu, and Tanzania. I feel my life to be very full."

**Lauren Oldak Howard** retired six years ago from a 30-year career in private law practice, specializing in representing United States industries with import problems. As the 12th lawyer and first female lawyer at her firm (and eventually its first female managing partner), she encountered many interesting situations as her much older male clients found themselves dealing with a woman attorney. She found her law firm to be very supportive, and the firm grew to more than 100 lawyers, with approximately 25 percent of them women. In retirement, Lauren spends time helping Democrats succeed at the polls, raising money for solar cookers for the women of Darfur, serving on the boards of various nonprofit organizations, including a local theatre, and taking swing dance classes and Japanese flower-arranging lessons. Travel is also high on her list, having recently visited Eastern Europe, the Galápagos, and South Africa. She and her husband, Glen, have celebrated 32 years of wonderful marriage, and their 25-year-old son, Greg, is quite successful in his work on Microsoft's smart phones.

**Ilene Rubin Fish** and her husband, Herb, are both retired and generally enjoying life. "This past year, we spent time in Australia, and we recently returned from China, two incredible trips in one year." A teacher Ilene had 45 years ago in her senior year was the leader of the China tour. She and Herb both write professionally—currently revising a popular textbook on qualitative interviewing—and she's working on reviving her mastery of Chinese and Spanish, both windows into other cultures. She has also begun to write short stories, and in doing so is developing a new respect for real novelists. They each just purchased a Kindle, and with all the free downloads, are reveling in the classics. She wonders how anyone can be bored in retirement.

**Estelle Haferling** recently turned 65 and went online to get her Medicare card. She's ambivalent about when to retire, realizing the complexities of leaving a job that has been "the agony and the ecstasy," a job that has been a large part of her life and, therefore, her identity. As a program specialist for the U.S. Department



of Health and Human Services, she has had the opportunity to consult for some caring, creative, and competent people in the nonprofit world. They work in the runaway and homeless youth programs that her agency funds and for which she has been responsible in New York, New Jersey, and, previously, in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Outside of work, she's a member of a secular humanistic Judaism congregation called the City Congregation, and she pursues her love of music, especially early music, but she's not immune to the charms of Guitar Shorty. She attends offerings on the Barnard and Columbia campuses, including programs at the Italian Academy and a conference on mental illness in antiquity, and retains her strong interest in studying architecture.

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## 68

Last October, **Linda Rosen Garfunkel**, our class president, and I attended Barnard's Leadership Assembly. It's a series of meetings for class officers and/or designees designed to help us get our classmates to become involved alumnae via active participation or financial contributions or both. Even in these difficult economic times, there are ways to donate money, and self, if one is dedicated and clever. Please consider Barnard in your future planning.

We had our Leadership meetings at the Diana Center. It's quite impressive. If you're in the neighborhood, go visit. It's a far cry from the tennis courts and parking lot that occupied the space when we were there.

**Nina Moliver** was kind enough to send in modifications to the material in the last column so we'd have the correct information about her. Nina earned her PhD in psychology from Northcentral University in Arizona, with a specialization in health psychology and behavioral medicine. NCU was Nina's best educational experience. Thanks Nina, and I'm sorry for any misinformation.

**Perry-Lynn Moffitt** and **Laurie Gross**

**Israel** have continued their friendship, which started early in their first year with their connection to the Columbia/Barnard orchestra. Last July, Laurie and her spouse, Elaine Sidney, traveled from the Boston area to spend a week in New York visiting Perry-Lynn and her husband, Edward Rogoff, in Brooklyn Heights. Highlights of the visit were sharing their 64th birthday celebrations, and a visit to Edward's boxing club, where Elaine received her first boxing lesson, a gift from Edward. Perry-Lynn continues to be engaged in work relating to pregnancy loss (including writing and counseling). Laurie has been practicing law in the Boston area for 23 years, working in divorce mediation, collaborative law, and estate planning. She's also working on developing the field of marital mediation, using mediation to help couples who wish to preserve their marriages.

**Jeri Siefe Famighetti**, my partner in crime for the past few years, has had to withdraw, and I'm looking for a new colleague, or if someone wants the whole responsibility, that would be OK too. Please get in touch with Linda or me ASAP. I've been doing this job for a long time and don't mind doing it, but if there's another who wishes to put her stamp on things, be my guest. Maybe someone with another circle of friends can generate activity that I haven't.

My daughter, Miriam Kurnit '00, got married last August to a wonderful fellow she met on JDate! I always knew that computers were useful, but this was life-altering, to say the least. My husband, Jeff (CC '68), is set to retire at the end of this school year, and we're planning (now in the thinking and dreaming stage) a trip to Italy for next fall. Any advice?

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## 69

**Karen Vexler Hartman's** son began studies at Brooklyn Law School after an "amazing road trip with his girlfriend, who is starting her third year of veterinary school," says Karen, noting that she

and her husband celebrated their 25th anniversary in Charleston, S.C. Her leadership-development consulting practice, LearnTech, "gained several new clients, including an Asian-based commodities firm, a start-up professional services firm, a global French bank, and a technology-based consultancy network. I love the newfound variety in my clients and the challenges of leadership development in the new business model," she writes.

**Jacqueline Thompson** reports, "After being laid off from a research compliance job during the BofA-Merrill Lynch merger," she writes, "I returned to school for the first time since graduation. The federal government gave me a grant for a vocational certificate in medical billing/coding/records management. I graduated in June, after getting association certification as well. However, jobs in this new field are scarce. I'm pursuing positions on both tracks, but Wall Street compliance is looking more promising."

**Andrea Alpert Ziegelman**, who has lived in Haifa since 1976, writes that last August she celebrated 40 years of marriage at a "beach picnic with my two married children, their seven children, and my three single children with boy/girlfriends. My husband and I run a market research and consulting business, which one of our sons has joined. My work is market research vis-à-vis markets around the world, for mostly highly technical products. My hobby is Jewish genealogy. I've made family trees for all my ancestors back to 1800, and for one of my lines I've gotten back to 1680 and beyond, with the help of an international team of seventh cousins."

**Susan Anderman Einhorn**, who is directing the world premiere of *Starry Messenger*, Ira Hauptman's new play about Galileo and his relationship with his three children; it's set to open in early 2011 at Theater for the New City.

**Hallie Ephron Touger** "still can't believe" that her suspense novel *Never Tell a Lie* is being made into a movie for Lifetime TV. It will air in 2011. Her new novel, *Come and Find Me*, is being published by William Morrow in April. Hallie lives near Boston and says she's "still married to the same good guy I got fixed up with when I was at Barnard."

**Katherine Shenkin Seal** says she's "working with the Sierra Club to get Los



Angeles to stop using coal-generated energy. The city currently gets 39 percent of its electricity from coal mines and plants in Arizona and Utah.”

**Carol Polis-Pearson**, who is enjoying her semiretirement after practicing law full-time in New York for more than 26 years, has a new activity. “I’ve taken up Argentine tango and enjoy going to *milongas* at dance studios in NYC,” she writes. Her husband, Roger Pearson, a lawyer who attended Harvard Law School, passed away in February 2009. Their son, Eric, graduated from Cornell in May 2010. Since August, Eric has been in Japan teaching English to Japanese junior high school students.

**Jane Hurwitz Nadel-Klein**, a professor of anthropology at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., writes that she has a new specialty: master gardener. Her daughter, Cory, and Cory’s husband, Jeffrey, live in Los Angeles with their twins, Araminta (Mina) and Lorenzo Robin, who are now 2. Jane’s doing research for a book on ornamental gardening as a social practice in the U.S. and the U.K.

**Linda Lawson Elman** writes, “Left my job with Tukwila School District, near Seattle, at the end of August. I am currently working as a consultant running the testing in Tukwila and coordinating an assessment project in mathematics for the state of Washington. Don and I became grandparents in 2009 with the birth of our grandson, Robbie, on Nov. 8, and the birth of our granddaughter, Sierra, on Nov. 11. The kids all live in Silicon Valley, but we have been able to see them about every two months. In addition we use Skype and FaceTime. It’s a different world we live in.”

**Daphne Fodor Philipson** welcomed classmates to a mini-reunion at her New York City home last October. Carol Pearson was there, along with **Judith Gould Cavalier, Carolyn Chaliff, Peggy Elwert, Pamela Durborow Gallagher, Laura Adler Givner, Susan Gould, Carol Stevenson Harlow, Frances Hoenigswald, Ellen Shulman Lapson, Delores Moss, Aigli Papantonopoulou-Burgess, Jorganne Hazel Pierce, Cecelia Ward Riddett, Susie Spelman, LaVergne Trawick, and Ellen Yamasaki Williams**. “There was lots of fond reminiscing about classes and professors and a wonderful feeling of just all being together again for a little while,” Daphne says.

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## 70

**Gail Wolff Smith** thoroughly enjoyed our 40th reunion, seeing longtime friends and making new ones. She had a few days after Reunion to enjoy the city, including a wonderful breakfast catching up with **Jane Schwartz** at the Hotel Edison’s café in the theatre district.

**Carole Greenberg Wilson’s** film, *Reconciliation: Mandela’s Miracle*, was shown at the opening night of the Hollywood Film Festival and will be shown around the country. Information, a schedule, and a downloadable press kit are available at [reconciliation-mandelasmiracle.com](http://reconciliation-mandelasmiracle.com).

**Evelyn Langlieb Greer** writes from Miami that her daughter, Rachel Greer Narvaez ’03, gave birth to Jules Nora. Perhaps Barnard Class of ’32?

**Karen Steingart** is a physician/researcher specializing in tuberculosis. She recently visited South Africa and Switzerland and is planning trips to Germany and India. She lives “bicoastally” in Portland, Ore., and Manhattan.

**Susan Jacobson Gaztañaga** ran as the Libertarian candidate for governor of Maryland. Although not included in the televised debates, she crisscrossed the state to campaign. Her husband, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, is running for the second time as the Libertarian candidate for U.S. Congress, Second District, Maryland. Susan writes of the challenges of working full-time and running “two campaigns from one house, on one computer.”

Arriving at a career in medicine via marine science, biochemistry, and plant science, **Lynn Boshkov** is professor of pathology, medicine, and pediatrics at Oregon Health & Science University. She received her medical education at McGill and McMaster universities in Canada, and she lived there for 28 years before settling in Portland, Ore., where she has been for the past 12 years. Lynn is an internist/hematologist with major clinical and research interests in hemostasis and

thrombosis and transfusion medicine. She has been separated for five years, and has “two wonderful sons, Alex Deley, 26, (international master’s in urban planning) and Theo Deley, 21, (completing a two-year welding program), both of whom live in Portland.” Lynn’s hobbies are photography, hiking, and gardening, including building hardscapes. She writes, “Coincident with a midlife crisis, I acquired a BMW 650 GS motorcycle and a black belt in karate.”

**Martha Gaber Abrahamsen** sends news from “sunny, chilly Copenhagen,” where she has been living, editing, and translating a two-volume book project about Danish architect and furniture designer Kaare Klint. This year found her at her cabin in Norway, and in Munich, the Scottish Highlands, the Danish island of Bornholm, and Switzerland. Over the years, Martha has become an avid rower.

**Ida Susser** is a professor in the department of anthropology at Hunter College and at the Graduate Center of CUNY; she’s also adjunct professor in the department of socio-medical sciences at Columbia’s School of Public Health. The mother of two grown sons, Philip and Jonah Kreniske, Ida is a prolific writer whose most recent book is *AIDS, Sex, and Culture: Global Politics and Survival in Southern Africa*; excerpts are available at [wiley.com](http://wiley.com). She also was the editor of *Rethinking America* (Paradigm Press, 2009), and she’s engaged in a current debate related to women’s access to microbicide gel, which kills the AIDS virus, but not the sperm. A blog she wrote during the Vienna International AIDS Conference was published on the front page of Open Democracy, a progressive U.K. Web journal, [opendemocracy.net](http://opendemocracy.net). Her article arguing for immediate universal monitored access to the newly successful microbicide is to be published in the *AIDS Legal Network Quarterly*. Ida feels this treatment “could save thousands of lives in Southern Africa, but also in the U.S. among women at risk for AIDS.”

The unofficial “Intrepid Classmate Award” goes to **Rachel Val Cohen**. Attacked by a fox on Sept. 21, 2010, she grabbed and strangled it, as she says, “I knew that a head was required for an accurate rabies test, and a normal fox would never have persisted in an attack. The local paper was called, and in a short time the story was picked up internationally. The fox was indeed rabid,



and I have had a series of shots. Almost as interesting as the immediate experience have been the distortions and hijacking of the story ... as well as the love and support of friends and strangers." Rachel's "secret desire" is to be interviewed by Anna Quindlen '74.

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40th Reunion June 2–June 5, 2011

## 71

**Frieda Feldman Horwitz** writes of changes in her life since turning 50. Following 16 years directing a national educational foundation in Israel, she ran a three-year experimental social welfare project in Jerusalem, helping 60 families move economically and socially from poverty to the middle class; edited and directed photo credits for the beautifully illustrated book *A Mosaic of Israel's Traditions*; currently works for Melabev, helping improve memory and quality of life for elderly Alzheimer's patients through therapeutic and computer activity; and continues as assistant director of Beit Moetzet Yachad, smoothing relations between varied sectors in Israel and working alongside the Citizens Accord Forum for Israeli Jewish and Arab relations. She has raised four sons and one daughter, and delights in the company of her four grandchildren.

**Patricia Goughan** has returned to the part-time practice of environmental law in San Francisco. "I am still searching for my next path in life, and still expecting to find it," she says.

**Sherry Walters** is teaching a new class, "Spice Up Your Life—A Cultural and Musical Journey Across Mexico, Latin America, and Spain," through the Experimental College of the University of Washington, Seattle.

**Joy Horner Greenberg** had so much fun at our November mini-reunion that she returned to present her paper, "Revisioning Christian Traditions as Environmental Ethics," to the mid-Atlantic regional

conference of the American Academy of Religion in Newark, just so she could visit with **Lee Canossa, Susan D'Andrea Lee, Wini Montuori, Linda Kay Nealon, Adrienne Schure, and Barbara Shear.**

**Vikki Stark's** new blog for *Psychology Today*, *Schlepping Through Heartbreak*, is located at psychologytoday.com under "relationships."

Alarming (to me) news came from **Katherine Reitzel**, my traveling partner of old: "My boss, the superintendent of schools in Monroe County, Fla., was reelected in November 2008. In February 2009, I discovered that his wife ... had been stealing money from the district through taking cash fees for her department's classes and also through her district-issued credit card. This had been going on for quite a while, before I became finance director in 2005. Long story short: She was arrested and charged with ... fraud and embezzlement. He was arrested and charged with ... obstruction of justice by an elected official—all having to do with his interaction with me in February, before I blew the whistle in March. I testified at his trial last year and he was convicted on all three counts. He received probation and a \$15,000 fine. She pled out this past August, a year after her husband's trial, and received eight years in jail, 22 years probation, and is to make full restitution of over \$400,000. I was fired three days after her husband was found guilty. I have filed a whistleblower lawsuit under the Florida state whistleblower statutes. That will take some time. In the meantime, I am trying to reinvent myself and doing some public accounting work to keep busy."

Reunion plans are gearing up. You will have received a vision statement for the Oral History Project, as well as an invitation to participate. We hope to have a rough cut of interviews to date to present during Reunion. If you are, or will be, in the New York area before Reunion, please schedule a time for your interview. Be one of the first to participate, and become a leader in recording our class history.

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## 72

**Peggy Ellen Ludwig** writes that her son, Adam, is a junior at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and studying abroad in Florence. He appeared on the *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* recently doing a short skit about a freshman student moving into NYU dorms. Her daughters, Alexandra and Annie, are both working and going to graduate school. Peggy still teaches in Berkeley, Calif., and was sorry to hear of **Carole Grad Sherwood's** death in 2008, as they had been good friends.

**Francine Ellen Berman** reported from New Hampshire that she felt like she reconnected with her activist days in the Barnard/Columbia Experimental College when she joined the Leftist Marching Band, an activist street band in Portsmouth. They had a real blast playing at this year's HONK! festival in Somerville, Mass., along with 30 other activist street bands from all over the United States. The band also takes to the streets of Portsmouth for community events and just has a great time engaging the public. Otherwise, she continues working as a freelance editor, and is active with her synagogue and the nonprofit group Seacoast Family Promise, which helps homeless families. Last summer she vacationed with her two children and their significant others in Seattle, a beautiful city none of them had visited before.

**Martha Kramer Fox** writes that she joined Brown Harris Stevens as senior vice-president last year and is having a great time doing residential real estate in the city she has gotten to know so well since moving there for Barnard. She says, "It's made me a better businessperson than I ever was when in the fashion business." She was recently featured in the *Wall Street Journal* for an \$18.5 million sale and is representing that owner in the sale of his current home. She represents and locates everything from studios to town houses and has found this to be a great second career.

**Sigrid Nunez's** new novel, *Salvation City*, was published by Riverhead Books in September. She also recently wrote a book about Susan Sontag, *Sempre Susan: A Memoir of Susan Sontag*, which will be published by Atlas and Co. in spring



2011. More information can be found at [sigridnunez.com](http://sigridnunez.com).

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## 73

**Melissa T. Smith** writes, "**Marcy Roth Drexler, Jo Goldman**, and I had a reunion of our own for three glorious midsummer days in New York City, despite having migrated widely from our meeting point of 6 Reid in September 1969. Marcy opens the eyes of preteens as a children's librarian, Jo helps her clients sort out their confusions as a psychotherapist in the Boston area, and I advocate for international perspectives as a professor of Russian language and literature at Youngstown State University in Ohio. We integrated our internal culture vultures by attending two Tony Award-winning productions (*Memphis* and *Fela!*), the American Ballet Theatre, and the Metropolitan Museum, punctuated by indulgences in Thai, French, Indian, and trendy New York cuisine, over a 72-hour (less, actually!) period. Amazingly, the weather broke in our favor, allowing us to cover considerable distances on foot in the bright sunshine, trading old and new experiences and insights on the way."

**Lyvia Kalisky** writes, "I [have been] living and working in Jerusalem since 1974. In addition to bird-watching and knitting, one of my favorite hobbies is reading. We have a great Barnard book club here in Jerusalem, which is often attended by women from other parts of Israel. It is a pleasure to be in touch with alumnae of different classes from the 1950s to this century, with a wide spectrum of backgrounds. Jerusalem is an endlessly fascinating and intense city."

After Barnard, **Sylvia Lifschitz** got a PhD in psychology from SUNY Stony Brook, and has been consulting and doing marketing research. "I have been married for 28 years and have a 21-year-old at Dickinson College," she writes. "I live in the northwest suburbs of Philadelphia."

**April Lane Benson** writes, "Jim Benson, my recently retired husband,

and I celebrated our 38th wedding anniversary ... incredibly hard for me to fathom! We're extremely grateful that our sons are thriving: Eric lives in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and is a reporter for *New York* magazine; Corey's a senior at Williams and has become passionate about energy consulting and management. Ever the psychologist, I continue to work with compulsive buyers—speaking, writing, and training other therapists. I have a Web site with resources for 'overshoppers' and their families—[stoppingovershopping.com](http://stoppingovershopping.com). And I am doing a research study designed to test the efficacy of the treatment model I've developed and present in my book, *To Buy or Not to Buy: Why We Overshop and How to Stop*. When I'm not in my office, I'm often tending our garden in northern Westchester, and, if not there, you can find me hiking and biking with Jim, and, when we're really lucky, with our sons.... [I'm] more involved with Barnard than when I was a student: I hire Barnard interns, am involved with the Athena Center for Leadership Studies, and hope to conduct part of my research on campus."

**Deborah Pearl** is working with Hilma Ollila Carter '45, writing lyrics to the tunes of Hilma's late husband, the legendary jazz multi-instrumentalist, composer, and bandleader Benny Carter. See the Salon article on page 15 of this issue.

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## 74

Ghostwriter, copywriter, and the author of two books on work/family balance, and a recent first novel, **Susan Bacon Dynerman** lives in Memphis. Her son Max is at the University of Virginia, and her son Alex, who also lives in Memphis, has made her a grandmother twice. Susan reconnected with old Barnard friends in Chicago at the wedding of the daughter of **Beatrice (Bunny) Schreiber Tier**.



**"Barnard changed my life.** It opened the door to stimulating cultural experiences and lifelong friendships. And, because my faculty advisor knew me well, she set me on the right career path. **My gift annuities are my way of thanking Barnard** and giving future generations of Barnard women the chance to enjoy experiences as rich as mine."

**Ruth M. Chester '57**

**LEAVE A LEGACY!**  
**Include Barnard in your estate plan.**



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**BARNARD**  
THE ATHENA SOCIETY



**Jody Spiro**, who has published her first book, *Leading Change Step-by-Step: Tactics, Tools, and Tales*. Jody is senior program officer at the Wallace Foundation and adjunct professor of public administration at NYU's Wagner School.

The writer, producer, director, choreographer, and video/computer animator **Felice Lesser** has just completed her largest production to date in the comedy *Funding the Arts*. This spy spoof, about rogue ex-CIA and ex-KGB agents who join forces to form a ballet company but run amok when attempting to run a "nonprofit" in the U.S., was premiered in May at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York. Check it out at fldt.org.

**Sheila Murphy Moar** writes about a "very eventful and busy year," highlighted by the marriage of her daughter, Amanda, to Matt Kerbawy. Sheila is a marketing consultant working with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation. One art project was Minne, a 15-foot-high sculpture of a lake monster, placed over the course of last summer in Minnesota lakes at unexpected times. Sheila is on the board of the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota. She's also engaged professionally as a jewelry designer for her "other" business, Fashion Fusion, and her designs have been featured several times at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Her son, Zachary, is working in management for Target in Denver. Her husband, Jim, is in the process of a job change to a new CEO position.

After 20 years of silence, **Carol Goldberg Copeland** felt it "was time for an update." Carol and Lindsay, her husband of 28 years, sold their bed-and-breakfast in Kennebunkport, Maine, in 2002, and she entered Maine Law School. She worked first representing parents in child protective cases and as a *guardian ad litem*. Carol has just started a new job as a staff attorney working for a domestic violence project, representing victims. Her daughter Sara graduated from the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU and now works as a bartender as she writes a book. Her daughter Liz, a Tufts graduate, works as a grant writer for LIFT, a nonprofit in Washington, D.C.

Another class lawyer, **Rachelle V. Browne**, has worked in the Smithsonian's general counsel's office for 21 years and was named to the International Council of Museums' legal-affairs committee.

Rachelle is enjoying teaching a graduate distant-learning class on law and the arts for Goucher College, and serving as an adjunct at George Washington Law School. She may have the record for the largest number of alum sightings. During homecoming weekend, she saw **Sheila Turner Abdus-Salaam**, Beverly Plummer Downs '73, Beverly Russell Fleiss '73, Elaine Johnson James '72, **Patrice Johnson, Gayle Robinson**, and Frances Sadler '72. Over the summer, she met up with **Ellen Holder Honeywell**, and in New Orleans she met up with Rena Wheaton Haviland '75, **Lauren Anderson**, and Cheryl Quick Pope '73. She joined with **Sheila Williams Fuller** and **Cynthia Chapman Belton** and Cheryl Quick Pope at the funeral services in Atlanta for friend Jesse Parks (CC '73). "Each passing year, I realize more and more just how special and precious are the friendships from my time at Barnard."

**Miranda Pluchenik Zuber** is still active in her family's business, custom men's clothing, doing all the bookkeeping and accounting work. Whatever spare time she has is taken up with helping take care of and visiting her grandchildren and also caring for her elderly mother, who now lives with her. Miranda writes that her oldest son is a lawyer at Sullivan and Cromwell. Her next three children are her married daughters, with their own full lives. One son is learning in Israel and her youngest returned from a year in Israel and is continuing his learning in Queens. Yes, that does add up to six children.

Writing in for the first time, **Batya Hyman** has a doctorate in social work and is an associate professor in the department of social work at Salisbury University in Connecticut. In March, Batya and her longtime partner, Belinda Cross, married in a Jewish ceremony in Washington, D.C. Batya writes, "I never thought I would see the day that lesbian couples could legally marry!" Their son attends college.

**Rachel Hendrickson** had the pleasure of attending the Chicago wedding of Jennifer Yurcak, daughter of **Marilyn Chin**. "It was a beautiful event and I had the opportunity to see some Barnard alums from other class years," she says.

Our class congratulates new alumna Miriam Manber '10, daughter of **Helen Muhlbauer**. Helen is on the faculty of Columbia's College of Physicians & Surgeons.

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**Jane Leavy '74**

This fall award-winning sports writer Jane Leavy's new book, *The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood*, received an excellent review

by Keith Olbermann in *The New York Times* and landed on the paper's bestseller list, in addition to the Barnes & Noble top 30. Jane's other books include *NYT* bestseller *Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy*, and the novel *Squeeze Play*.

## 75

We have received notice that **Frances E. Ficklen** passed away. We extend our sincere condolences to her family. Her sister, Ellen Ficklen, tells us that Frances majored in anthropology at Barnard. She's very interested in receiving any memories of Frances that you'd like to share. Write to me if you'd like her e-mail address.

Our sympathy also goes to the family of **Shelley Bernard** of New York, who died on Aug. 11, 2010. She was a member of the Massachusetts and New York bar associations and an active volunteer at the homeless shelter at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun. "She will be sorely missed by her loving family, relatives, and large community of friends around the world," read the notice in the *Brookline Tab* of Brookline, Mass.

On a personal note, your correspondent's father died on Oct. 20, 2010. Arthur De Santis was 97, had a full and eventful life, contributed to society, loved his family and was loved by them, and passed peacefully into the "undiscovered country, from whose bourn no traveler returns."

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## 76

The countdown to our 35th reunion has begun and **Sandi Ingram** is the first to report that she won't make it. Guess she's got a good reason: She'll be in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1995, Sandi has served in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Guyana, and Mexico. She's chief of the consular section at the embassy in Dhaka. Also checking in from overseas is **Jill Whitehurst Robbins**, who is directing a learning center at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The Skills Lab provides academic support services for students at this graduate-level university. Says Jill, "Living on the Red Sea is interesting. Wearing a black abaya in 110 degree heat gets a little old, so I'm looking forward to the cooler weather they say comes in November." Jill has two children at the University of Maryland, another at UCLA, and the youngest is finishing high school. Her husband, John Robbins (CC '76), is a patent agent in Washington, D.C.

**Joyce Cooper-Kahn** will attend her first reunion this spring, and she rose to my challenge by submitting her first update. "I am happy to report that I have achieved what once seemed hard to fully envision: a lovely balance between an interesting career and the delightful companionship of a long-term marriage. My husband, Michael Kahn, and I have a son and daughter (my step-daughter) and two granddaughters." Joyce and Michael live in Severna Park, Md., where they are both clinical psychologists. Joyce specializes in attention and learning disorders. She's coauthor of the book *Late, Lost, and Unprepared: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children with Executive Functioning*.

**Deborah Krupp Ketai** is consulting at Cigna HealthCare as an IT project manager. "It's a chance to see old friends, learn my way around new areas of technology (call center and claim-intake applications, EDI, and IVR), and replenish my bank account," Deborah says. She lives in Waterbury, Conn., and has worked on and off at Cigna as both a consultant and an employee since 2004.

**Resa Schleifer Fogel** is in private practice in psychology, and she provides

consulting services to various schools in Bergen County, N.J. Her husband, Joseph, is opening a dental practice in Teaneck while continuing to work in lower Manhattan. Her daughters are Rivka, a senior at UPenn, Yonina, at Stern College, and Yaffa, a high school sophomore.

It's worth it to Google the *Hollywood Reporter's* super lawyer edition from last summer—you'll find our own **Nina Shaw** on the cover. Nina sent me the picture and let's just say she makes us 40-somethings look great (hey, 50 is the new 40!).

Finally, I need to report that another classmate has passed away. **Marion Kwartler** died of breast cancer in August. She is survived by two brothers.

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## 78

Lately, I seem to be reconnecting with Barnard in unforeseen ways, and finding the depth and quality of the conversation reaching new levels. Is something in the air? Are age and wisdom paying dividends at last? Or perhaps I've been sleepwalking until now.

Example: I was the speaker at a recent fund-raiser for Movement for Life, an organization that helps breast cancer survivors heal through movement and exercise, and one of the award winners was **Freya Schnabel**. I don't remember the last time I saw Freya, now director of breast surgery at NYU Langone Medical Center, but when she got up to accept her CARA award (Caring Advocate for Recovery through the Arts, given to people with "deep appreciation for the role of creativity in health and healing"), what ran through my mind was ... when did this woman get to be so awesome?

Freya offered a fascinating glimpse into the world of cutting-edge thought and research on genetics, healing, and the future of breast cancer treatment. I leaned over to **Amanda Kissin Low**, a member of the event's host committee, and whispered, "Invite her to dinner, STAT!" Or something like that. Or maybe it was

Amanda's idea.

Amanda is another example of Barnard's continued reach. She spends quite a bit of time as a trustee and mentor at the Children's Storefront, a tuition-free, independent school on 129th Street in East Harlem; its mission is to educate children of varying academic strengths from Harlem and the South Bronx. "I really believe the Storefront is creating opportunities and changing lives," writes Amanda. "Many of the students face challenging situations every day."

Meanwhile, Amanda's own children have apparently survived the challenge of having a mother who never wore the same hairstyle twice. Charlie is now a junior at Washington University in St. Louis; Evan is in his first year at Wesleyan. Amanda's husband, Peter Low (CC '78), is president and CEO of Ensequence.

Other Barnard classmates have been coming into view. I had coffee with TV director **Martha Mitchell**, who recently experienced a "Eureka!" moment while speaking on a recent panel at the Director's Guild: turns out she enjoys teaching!

At the Barnard 2010 Leadership Assembly, the conversations again underscored my belief that the way to think of "reunion" transcends the year we graduated and goes more toward revitalizing spirit and creativity simply by being in each other's company. I was so caught up in conversation with Dorothy Urman Denburg '70, for example, that we held up the buffet line. I also ran into old friends—Toni Crowley Coffee '56, Mary Ann LoFrumento '77, Joan Storey '79 and **Merri Rosenberg**—at the idea-sparking opening remarks of Frances Sadler '72. I tried to make **Emily Gaylord Martinez** prove she had undergone hip replacement surgery by encouraging her to dance on the tabletops, as of old. "I have a new right hip joint," she swears. "I'm the Bionic Woman and I feel fabulous!" She looked it, too.

In Memoriam: **Melissa Nathanson** reports this sad news: "Our classmate **Trudy Balch** passed away on Nov. 1 after a long struggle with breast cancer. Trudy was a prolific translator of Spanish and Ladino books into English. Her most recent work, released in April 2010 by Brandeis University Press, was *Gaby Brimmer: An Autobiography in Three Voices*. It received excellent reviews, and



Trudy was ebullient over its publication and warm reception. She was a longtime member of the Women Writing Women's Lives Seminar, a group of biographers meeting under the aegis of the Center for the Study of Women and Society and the Center for the Humanities at CUNY's Graduate Center. She served on the group's steering committee and co-chaired its 20th anniversary celebration at NYU last May."

Jami Bernard  
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## 79

"I won, I won," reports **Deborah Newman Shapiro**, who was sworn in on Jan. 1, 2011, as the first Republican town councilman for Livingston, N.J., since 1994.

**Ilise Levy Feitshans** completed a video project with the students in her course about gender and globalization at the Geneva School of Diplomacy in March 2010. The video, *Is There Global Gender Apartheid?*, explores the roles of women in a range of activities from domestic workers to diplomacy. Ilise also offered testimony on behalf of the International Safety Resources Association regarding the case for U.S. participation in the Globally Harmonised System for the classification and labeling of chemicals at the OSHA hearings in Pittsburgh. She has also written about the health needs for Deepwater Horizon first responders in the Gulf of Mexico oil-spill cleanup.

The eldest of **Miriam Goldstein Altman's** three sons, Evan, is a sophomore at Boston University with an undeclared major. Miriam's son Lee is a senior in high school and in the process of applying to college. And her youngest, Seth, is in middle school. Miriam practices family law at the Law Offices of Miriam G. Altman, P.C., in Lexington, Mass., with several talented associates. In the past, traditional divorce law was the bread and butter of family law, but with the emergence of so many nontraditional families, the field has expanded as new statutory and case law develops. Miriam informs us, "It is an exciting field, and I enjoy the practice of law and running my own business."

**Petra Schaefer Nosenzo** left her position as school psychologist for the

Newport, N.H., school district and is now assistant director of the academic development department and disability resources at Colby-Sawyer College.

**Lauren Plante**, MD, MPH, is the director of maternal-fetal medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. She's "raising two children and far too many pets."

**Sondra Oster Baras** writes, "After graduating from Columbia Law in 1982 and working for a bit on Wall Street, my husband, Edward (CC '78), and our two children made *aliyah* in 1984. I qualified as an attorney in Israel and practiced there for a short time. I had three more children in Israel, and today we have five wonderful young adults in our family. We have been living in Karnei Shomron, in Samaria, for 23 years. Today I am the director of the Israel office of Christian Friends of Israeli Communities, an organization that connects Christians from all over the world with the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria and with the Jewish refugees from Gush Katif in the Gaza Strip. It's been an interesting journey for an Orthodox Jew, but I love every minute of it. I am in touch with a number of alums in Israel and will be meeting with **Sara Averick**, Leora Reich Bejell '80, Wendy Friedman Serlin '80, and **Linda Kalish-Marcus** for lunch in Jerusalem."

**Holly Williams**, professor in the department of theatre and dance at the University of Texas, Austin, is currently president of the American Dance Festival Association (ACDFA). In November, she choreographed and taught via a Fulbright grant in Turku, Finland. Her daughter, Rose (a high school senior), is looking to continue her mother's path to Barnard.

**Jodie Rood Garfinkel** writes that she's "pleased and privileged to report that my youngest daughter, Daryl, started at Barnard this fall as a sophomore transfer student. She's enjoying her Barnard experience, bringing back fond memories of my time on campus. Some things feel exactly the same, while others illustrate the tremendous progress and growth Barnard has obviously benefitted from."

**Nieca Goldberg** will be the medical director of the NYU Langone Medical Center's Center for Women's Health, scheduled to open on the Upper East Side in June 2011. The launch party was held at the 92nd Street Y on Oct. 27 and attended by several alumnae.

**Cristina Garcia's** fifth novel, *The Lady Matador's Hotel*, was published by Scribner.

WWFM The Classical Network has launched *The Spanish Hour* featuring music from and inspired by Spain and hosted by veteran radio announcer **Candice Agree**.

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## 80

Filled with warm, sappy Reunion feelings, I promised to create a Facebook presence, and, with the help of a couple of my children (tech support to you), I have done so. I was not welcomed by a rush of Barnard women wearing garlands of flowers and bearing sheaves of news, but I did learn that my niece at Smith has a paper due and that walking in the rain makes my former student Rafael feel like Grace Jones. I still have a Facebook presence, on Wednesdays. (I bet some of you go on the computer every day of your lives!) Drop in and see me sometime.

By the new old-fashioned way (e-mail), I received this exciting announcement: **Victoria Augustine** made quarterfinalist in the 2010 Nicholl Fellowships, the most prestigious competition for screenwriting. Of 6,304 scripts entered, hers was one of 326 chosen. She was a semifinalist in the 2009 A Feeding Frenzy Screenwriting Competition and a quarterfinalist in the 2007 Writers' Network Competition. She's married to the executive director of alumni affairs at Columbia and lives in Astoria.

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# 83

**Ariella Nasuti** writes, "I've turned my hand to writing. I sold some short stories (under the name Ariella Golani), and my first novel, *The Ninth Wave*, was published by Smashwords in 2010. The novel is the first in a series and grew out of an independent study in Irish law I did while at the University of Michigan Law School. To view the novel's trailer or read a 50-page excerpt, go to [smashwords.com/books/view/29512](http://smashwords.com/books/view/29512)."

# 84

**Catherine Carey**, like many, is regrouping due to the changing economy. Her friends, associates, and a young terrier-mix dog help her focus on what's important: being helpful and asking for help.

**Julie Smerling Kerem** reports that after a two-year stint in Los Angeles, she and her family have returned to their home in Tzur Hadassa, Israel. She's really happy to be back at the physiotherapy department at Alyn Hospital and not have to continue house-to-house work in L.A. Their kids are adjusting well: Shai, 10, is in fifth grade; Eliad and Erez, 6, have started first grade and are having a difficult time getting used to Hebrew again; and Achva, 4, enjoys kindergarten and has developed Hebrew jargon. They had a wonderful visit with **Frae Delman Saltzberg** at her house in Chicago and when they came to Israel to celebrate their son's bar mitzvah.

**Irene Friedland**, along with her sister, Shelly Friedland (CC '87), and her extended family, recently celebrated the 80th birthday of her father, Bernard, just blocks from the Barnard campus. Bernie, who earned all four of his degrees at Columbia (an AB from the college and his BS, MS, and PhD at the engineering school), teaches electrical engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

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# 85

Karen and I are so excited about being your new correspondents and hearing from you. We thought we'd tell you a little about what we have been doing.

**Karen Estilo Owczarski** lives in northern Virginia with her husband and four children. Working full-time as an intellectual-property attorney for the U.S. Postal Service and raising kids who swim and play soccer, tennis, lacrosse, basketball, and musical instruments continues to present new challenges in time management. She works from home at least two days a week and can't wait until her oldest starts to drive—especially for those 5:30 a.m. swim practices.

**Karen Edwards** lives in Memphis, Tenn. She obtained her law degree at Fordham Law and worked at the New York City Law Department's Office of the Corporation Counsel for almost four years. She then moved to Atlanta, where she joined a midsize Atlanta law firm practicing in the area of commercial real estate development. She later joined International Paper Company in Savannah and relocated five years ago to their corporate headquarters in Memphis. Karen is a chief counsel of procurement, global forestry, and real estate at International Paper Company, handling varied legal transactional matters for this Fortune 100 paper and packaging company. She participates in community and volunteer activities.

**Jillian Medoff** will release a new book, *I Couldn't Love You More*, from Grand Central Publishing in 2012. In 1994, Jillian received her master's in fiction writing from NYU. She's the acclaimed author of *Hunger Point* and *Good Girls Gone Bad*, and she lives in Brooklyn with her family.

**Victoria Cammarota-Curto** enjoyed attending our 25th reunion last June and meeting such distinguished and accomplished women. She has been a teacher at PS/IS 180 in Borough Park, Brooklyn, for about eight years. This

year, besides teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, she has the privilege of teaching Latin to about 120 fifth graders. Although she began working as an administrator for the prestigious Fulbright scholarship program, she realized that teaching children every day fulfilled her need to make an immediate difference in the community in a much more direct way. She writes, and we wholeheartedly agree, "Teaching is not a business, it is an art sprinkled with love." On an exciting note, she's organizing a trip to Venice and Rome, this spring and summer.

**Karen Bloom** writes that she's alive and well in the Boston area. She's a project manager in information technology at John Hancock Funds, and though she often thinks about moving back to New York, she's enjoying life in Boston. Last year, Karen moved back to the Coolidge Corner section of Brookline, Mass., just outside Boston, after being farther away from the city for about nine years. Recently, she took a two-week trip around China with a group of 20 from Columbia and Georgetown. They traveled from Beijing to see the terracotta soldiers in Xi'an, then took an interesting cruise along the Yangtze River, through the ship locks of the Three Gorges Dam, and finished with a few days in Shanghai. While this tour route was the same as other China tours, they had a great guide and an instructor from Georgetown who lectured and was available on the bus and at meals for interesting educational discussions about the country. Her favorite time was her solo trip to the tea market in Shanghai to purchase some of her favorite beverages. Karen has had two previous trips to China and has studied Chinese internal martial arts. She has now resumed her study of Mandarin in Boston's Chinatown and begun practice in her company's IT group in Malaysia.

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## 86

**Maria Alba Brunetti** shares, “I took an *Eat, Pray, Love*-year last year and went to the small town in Italy where my family is originally from. I was working on a book called *The Goldberg Variations*, which I finished in Turkey. I visited Turkey for 10 days in October 2009 and fell in love with Istanbul. Except for the Christmas holidays, I have been here ever since.” She plans to write a book about her experiences, which have been very *Eat, Pray, Love* as well. “I am finishing work on a play, a screenplay, and an online workshop called ‘The Art of Play’ with Ezgi Sorman (theartofplay.info), which is something we both know a lot about!”

After a few years off to raise her two children, **Robyn Lewis Lefcourt** reentered the field of law in 2006 through an agency in Rockland County, N.Y., that provides legal services to the indigent: “Since 2006, I have been the cochair of their Committee on Integrated Domestic Violence Court. I am now in private practice in Suffern, N.Y. I have two terrific children: Hanna, who is entering 11th grade, and Jacob, who is entering eighth grade. Both attend Dwight-Englewood School in New Jersey. Balancing career and family is challenging and wonderful. Our family enjoys boating, both in the Northeast and in Southern waters.”

**Laurence Madsen** attended Columbia Business School and is a managing director in the equities division of Deutsche Bank. She lives with her husband and 3-year-old son in New York.

**Mary Zicopoulos** lives in Lexington, Mass., with her husband, Christos Monovoukas (SEAS '87), and family. They celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary in November. “My oldest son, Michael, is a junior at Princeton, in the Woodrow Wilson School of Policy; my youngest son, Demetri, is a senior at Lexington High School.” Mary practices corporate/regulatory law in the medical-device industry.

**Phyllis Wan** was named deputy chief diversity officer for her law firm, Hogan Lovells US LLP, on Jan. 1, 2010. In May 2010, *Law Week Colorado* named Phyllis one of its nine “2010 Top Women Lawyers.” Phyllis lives in Denver with her

two children, Anna and Aidan Whitney.

**Julie Goss** lives in a suburb of Washington, D.C., with her husband and two beautiful teenage daughters. She recently completed a second master's degree from Corcoran College of Art and Design, and she's actively doing commercial and residential interior design work in the D.C. area.

**Ann Price-Moskowitz** lives with her husband, Roy, on Staten Island, N.Y. “I spend most of my waking hours working at NYSE Euronext, as a managing director with the strategic analysis team.”

**Chisa Hidaka** reports that there is progress with her Dolphin Dance Project. Her debut short film, *Together: Dancing with Spinner Dolphins*, premiered on Nov. 6, 2010, at the Big Apple Film Festival and the Colorado Environmental Film Festival. It's available online at [dolphin-dance.org/dolphin-dance/Together.html](http://dolphin-dance.org/dolphin-dance/Together.html).

“Going to the Galápagos, and Trying to Limit the Footprint,” an article **Wendy Long Blake** wrote for *The New York Times*, appeared in an October 2010 issue of the Travel section. It describes Wendy's experiences as an environmentally conscious traveler in the Galápagos Islands. She lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with her boyfriend, Sam.

**Eva Grayzel Cohen** reports: “I've lectured at a number of dental conferences this year, sharing my journey battling late-stage oral cancer. In June, I was the keynote speaker at the Tufts Oral Cancer Symposium, followed by a trip to Athens, Greece, to speak at the International Association of Supportive Care of the Oral Cavity in Cancer. I returned to the United States to speak for the American Association of Women Dentists and the American Dental Hygienists' Association. Dental professionals are moved after hearing the patient's perspective and are inspired to perform thorough oral cancer screenings on all their patients. I am always reminded that every time I speak, I save lives.”

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## 88

**Amelia Burgess** writes, “I had a great visit with **Sarah Bliss De Angelis** and **Sara Yeglin** in Des Moines, Iowa, in August, all spouses and children in tow. It was great to see them, though it reminded me how much I miss my old friends from New York. We love Minnesota—I'm still at West Side Community Health Services, and Aaron is at Metro Urology. I went to Haiti several times this year, before and after the earthquake, and am hoping to make an ongoing commitment to a clinic in Haiti beginning next year. I've also been involved in a new organization called *Li Li Li*, which means ‘Read Read Read’ in Haitian Creole. The goals are to provide comfort to children affected by the earthquake, to promote literacy, and to support the Haitian economy by providing jobs. We translate children's books into Creole and hire readers to go to the camps and provide story hours. It's been very successful. Other news—Isaiah is 9 and in fifth grade at this cool charter school that meets three days a week, then goes online two days a week. Sam is 7 and in second grade. Both are doing great. I busted my elbow pretty badly ice-skating in July and actually couldn't work for two months. Went to Alaska in August, looked at glaciers, ate halibut.”

**Jennifer Hering Butler** lives in Newton, Mass., and is happy to be able to see **Lisa Terrizzi** and **Shelagh Lafferty Moskow** frequently. She also visited **Daryl Bright**, her husband, Ian, and daughter, Lily Belle, in Wilmington, N.C., this summer. Thanks to Facebook, she's excited to connect with other classmates and looks forward to seeing them during an upcoming visit to New York City.

**Nina Kruger Davis** writes, “After graduating, I spent 10 years living in San Francisco, where I enjoyed the struggling life of a laid-off wannabe architect, waitress, and blues-band roadie. At 30, I realized I'd maybe want to make better use of that Barnard education, so I applied to grad school, moved back East, and graduated with a master of architecture degree from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. I now work as an architect in Baltimore, Md., specializing in health-care/hospital architecture. I am amazed that I've lived in Maryland



for 12 years—longer than anywhere else in my life. I met my husband, Brian, five years ago. We celebrated our two-year wedding anniversary on 10/10/10. Brian has brought me two excellent step-kids to help raise: Brian, Jr., 16, the football jock, and Sarah, 13, the brilliant student and fabulous field-hockey player. Brian and I live with our basset, Elvis, and beagle mix, Buddy ... while planning our eventual escape and expatriation to the Caribbean. When I think of Barnard, I remember the Friendly Furnald Grocery Gang, the College Residence Hotel, and my favorite roommate, **Kathleen Flynn.**"

**Shahzad Mohammadi** is a pediatric hospitalist in Stamford, Conn., and "mother of a 10-year-old girl with serious attitude and two cats. [I've] been divorced for more than eight years. Currently feeling very domesticated here in Connecticut. Foong-Yi Lin '89 and I are going to have a reunion soon."

Since 2005, **Jennifer Steenshorne** has been the associate editor of "*The Selected Papers of John Jay*, a historical editorial project based at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia. Our first volume was released in March of 2010. I received my PhD in history from the University of California, Irvine in 2002."

**Martha Pittenger Ingram** lives in her hometown of Dallas, Texas, with her husband of 13 years, Kelly, and two daughters, Lila, 9, and Joy, 6. Martha works part-time at the Book Doctor, a book-binding and restoration business, and part-time as a stay-at-home mom.

**Eileen Livers Brinberg** lives with her husband and two kids nine blocks from the Barnard gates. "In fact, I just started swimming at the pool again, which looks exactly the same as it did 20 years ago. For the past three years, with my business partner, I've been running She & Me, a consultancy focused on developing content strategy for Web sites. We've been fortunate to work with some great clients, from Four Seasons to Cleveland Clinic."

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## A Dancer Healed Loolwa Khazzoom '91

During her years at Barnard, Loolwa Khazzoom spent many nights dancing in Village clubs. "I'd go to party after party after party—when I wasn't studying, of course," she says with a laugh. "It really transported me to an altered state."

Injuries she suffered in a head-on, hit-and-run car collision in 1997 and her consequent medical treatment ended that joyous release. Suffering from severe chronic pain and depression, Khazzoom abandoned dance. Watching from her seat as others grooved during a dance retreat in Israel in 2005, she wept in grief at her limitation.

Later that night, alone under the vast desert sky, she had a stunning realization: She could no longer dance as she once did, but she could move her arms without pain. She promised herself she would dance with her arms and beat a *djembe*, a West African drum. The more she danced, the better she felt. "I had that life back again," she says, crediting dance with healing her body. "It was this opening."

Now largely pain-free, Khazzoom, 41, has committed herself to sharing the therapeutic power of dance with anyone who hurts. She created Dancing With Pain® to provide natural pain relief and pain management. Her students have included people wracked with aches resulting from arthritis, lupus, degenerative discs and fibromyalgia. "You don't need to do any particular movements," says Khazzoom, who lives in Sacramento, Calif. "Every movement is valid in this class as long as you're not jacking up your pain."

Dancing With Pain participants are astonished to discover that dance is a portal for them to move without discomfort. "What I love is, at the end of class, people look stunned," she says. "This happens over and over." Surveys of participants have found that 96 percent report significantly less pain after class. Khazzoom hopes to quantify that number with more rigorous study. Also a freelance writer, she has written about chronic pain management for magazines including *AARP* and *Proactive Massage*. She's working a book about the Dancing With Pain method, and blogs at [dancingwithpain.com/blog](http://dancingwithpain.com/blog).

Grateful that she has been released from relentless misery, Khazzoom wants to unlock that prison cell for others. She's creating podcasts of her classes, with upbeat music to accompany her voice-over, so chronic sufferers can plug in anytime. "I'm like a soundtrack pulling people away from that vortex of pain," she says. —June D. Bell



## 89

I recently had the enormous pleasure of connecting with **Anne Ellis Ruzzante** on Facebook. Anne lives in Paris with her husband, Roberto, and their children, Luca, 7, and Gaia, 10. Anne is a translator, working from French and Italian into English, although sometimes she works in

reverse as well. Her translation subjects vary from a hotel-trade magazine to fine arts and market surveys. Anne's favorite jobs have been for the Prada Foundation, GAMeC of Bergamo, and Franco Maria Ricci. Anne and Roberto are cofounders and codirectors of ARR Consulting, LLC. Anne's a member of the Barnard Book Club in Paris. The club regularly organizes potluck dinners for the group to meet and discuss books by Barnard authors. Anne



was recently stateside for a Miss Porter's School reunion and met up with Kirsten Magnani '90 in New York. I'm eagerly awaiting the opportunity to put my 7-year-old Luca together with her 7-year-old Luca in the City of Light.

In other news, **Tara Polen**, a freelance editor/photographer for sportspagemagazine.com, was recently in Ostrava and Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) in the Czech Republic covering the FIBA basketball World Championships for Women. Team U.S.A. won gold by beating the host nation, reclaiming the world champion title it had lost in 2006. The win also gives the women's team an automatic berth for the 2012 London Olympics, for which Tara is crossing her fingers for a credential. Tara's photos from the World Championships can be seen in the international basketball section of the site.

When not schlepping to Eastern Europe to shoot hoops, Tara tends to keep it closer to home, covering women's basketball at Rutgers, Seton Hall, and even our own Columbia Lions. During the summer, she photographs at West 4th Street, edits articles, and sometimes gets around the nation to fill in for photographers and to experience women's professional basketball in different cities and venues. She strongly encourages classmates to get to a WNBA game. Not only is it fun, but it's feminism in action. That has always been one of the key motivating factors for Tara's work. Tara writes: "PS: I did not attend a single sporting event the entire time I was at Barnard, and I never played basketball."

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## 90

**Vicki Curry** is still in Los Angeles, but left PBS in 2009 after 14 years. She's now producing an independent documentary about Botball, a national educational robotics competition for middle and high school students. The project recently received its first grant from Northrop Grumman, but she's looking

for more funding from supporters of science education. Otherwise, she's been taking advantage of her new schedule by traveling when possible, including two fellowship trips to China and a Thanksgiving visit to Peru.

**Cathy May Kalinowski** reports that she's working as a licensed social worker, employed full-time at OptumHealth as an employee-assistance program specialist (read: in a cube in corporate America doing phone counseling and resource referral). She enjoys that her job allows her to be with her kids, Hannah, 5, and Alex, 10. Alex has high-functioning autism, which Cathy recently began blogging about at [autismhomerescue.wordpress.com](http://autismhomerescue.wordpress.com). Other than that, she enjoys cooking gluten-free comfort food, and is still hoping to make a trek to Burning Man before getting too old.

**Rachel Kobin** has started her own business offering writing workshops in the Philadelphia area. She's enjoying being her own boss immensely. All of the sweat equity she put into marketing is paying off for something she's passionate about: helping others unleash their creativity. Her Web site is [phillywriters.com](http://phillywriters.com), and Philadelphia Writers' Workshop is on Facebook—Rachel will appreciate a "Like!"

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20th Reunion June 2 – June 5, 2011

## 91

It was great to hear from **Danielle Rudolph**, who lives in Riverside, Conn., with Richard Cohen, her husband of eight years. Richard is from England and they met soon after she earned her MBA at London Business School in 2000. They have two sons, Aaron, 5, and Micah, 1. Danielle was fortunate to have lived and worked in Germany and the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2003, when they relocated to the New York area. She's on maternity leave from a career in marketing-services account management.

**Meg Rheingold Westbury** moved to Cambridge, England, with her family. She's

working from home as a librarian for an online university and taking care of her two boys, ages 4 and 3.

**Tania Zamorsky** is based in the New York City area and in the past few years has transitioned from practicing law to working on public and media relations for law firms and other, mainly corporate, clients. She recently completed her sixth children's book adaptation (of *The Odyssey*) for Sterling Publishing's *Classic Starts* series. Last year, she bought her first apartment, a Jersey City condo in what used to be the original Joseph Dixon Crucible Co., maker of the yellow Ticonderoga pencils—only fitting as, even as a little girl and well before coming to Barnard, she always loved school supplies.

Congratulations to **Alex Guarnaschelli** on season three of her show *Alex's Day Off*, which airs on Sundays on the Food Network.

**Yaffa S. Grossberg** is busy preparing for her daughter's bat mitzvah, which will be next September. She returned to teaching second grade this year at the Hand in Hand Bilingual School for Arabs and Jews in Jerusalem and continues to sculpt in clay, which she began while on sabbatical from teaching.

**Carrie Stewart** feels privileged to be a Barnard alumna because she feels intellectually prepared to meet the challenges she encounters in her career and always has an immediate kinship with the alumnae she meets. Carrie's a social worker in child welfare at a terrific neighborhood-based agency, serving a primarily immigrant community. In 2008, she married her partner, Edgar Davila, after 10 years, just before having their son, Nathaniel. They're living the adventure of making it in Brooklyn on two nonprofit salaries and trying to get as much sleep as they can. Blessings to all the over-40 new parents out there!

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## 92

**Jennifer Byron Mercurio** was pleased to



be admitted to the United States Supreme Court Bar in July, as she has been working on an *amicus* brief to submit to the court on the violent video game case *Schwarzenegger v. EMA*.

**Abby Weinberg** just moved back to Philadelphia to be closer to friends and family. She had been working in marketing and development for a small private school in Ann Arbor, Mich. She's now being challenged by the title "mom" and enjoying the adventure of parenthood.

**Lorna Gottesman** and her partner, Mary Ann Carlese, had a son, Leo James Carlese Gottesman, in October 2009. Lorna and Mary Ann got married in Massachusetts on Aug. 5, on their 10th anniversary as a couple. Mary Ann went back to work and Lorna is home with their son, planning to return to her job as a social worker at the Center for Comprehensive Care, the HIV center at St. Luke's-Roosevelt. Lorna adds that she got to spend time with **Jill Colton Sulka**, her wife, Kris, and their 5-year-old twins, Sabine and Cody, at the end of August, and has also seen **Sarah DeLeo** and her two sons.

**Claudia Euler Vigil** lives in Wellesley, Mass., with her husband, Terran, stepson, Myles, and two sons, Nicolas, 2, and Tomas, 1. She works part-time for a parent support agency.

**Pamela Yee** has rejoined the Center for Health and Healing, where she earlier did a fellowship in integrative medicine. Pamela specializes in complementary therapies in cancer and complicated medical conditions. She's also started an organic micro-farm with her husband in the lower Hudson Valley called Hook Mountain Growers. She says, "They're playing an integral part in bringing farming back to Rockland County, N.Y. It's a great way to combine both worlds, since my emphasis in both fields is on food."

**Lydia Beck Schulz** has three daughters, ages 6, 4, and 2. They live in Summit, N.J., and Lydia is still working full-time for American Express, where she has been for 10 years. Lydia adds, "I have just started taking dance classes again, after a seven-year hiatus while I had my kids—feels great to be dancing again!"

**Becky Michaels** lives in Amherst, Mass., with her husband, who is a park ranger, and their two daughters, ages 6 and 9. Becky is an attorney and spent the past year working in the Massachusetts Court of Appeals for a justice whose daughter

graduated from Barnard in May. Becky has a new job clerking for a federal district court judge in Springfield. She says on a personal note, "I have celebrated many 40th birthday parties with Barnard friends this year, including **Michelle Doty, Andrea Bundonis Glimcher, Julie Parker, Amy Richards, and Daphne Theotocatos.**"

**Zara Lawler** has been in New York for the past two years, after an eight-year absence in Indiana, playing flute with the ensemble Tales & Scales. She's now concentrating on solo playing and work that combines music with dance and theatre. Highlights for this year include a world premiere of a work for alto flute, written for Zara by Jerome Kitzke, and a residency at Yellow Barn, a music haven in Vermont, where she'll create new transcriptions of works by Bach and Shostakovich with her marimba partner, Paul J. Fadoul. Zara will perform with fellow flutist Eugenia Rich Zukerman '66 in April 2011 in Bedford, N.Y. In May 2008, Zara was married in Massachusetts to her partner, Aine K. Zimmerman, who teaches German at Hunter College.

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## 93

It's a short update this issue. I hope this will motivate those who read but haven't submitted in a long time to flood my inbox with news.

**Jayasri Mahadik** writes that she graduated dental school in 2001 and worked in Atlanta for eight years before getting married. She and her husband, Shyam, who is an engineer with Nokia, now live in Chicago.

For me, my short life as a high school principal has been challenging and exhausting, but I'm already beginning to see indicators of success and the future that will be.

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## 94

**Laura Allen** graduated from University of California, Berkeley, with a master of architecture degree in 2007, receiving the AIA Henry Adams Certificate of Merit. She works at Siegel & Strain Architects, an Emeryville-based firm that focuses on sustainable design and historic preservation.

**Patricia Flaherty Pagan's** humorous nonfiction story "The Seating Plan" was published in the collection *Chicken Soup for The Soul: True Love*. The anthology is available in bookstores and on Amazon.

**Susan Vecsey** is a painter represented by Spanierman Gallery in New York, where she just had her first solo show—a lifelong dream.

**Janine Gutheil Agoglia** reports: "I'm the director of acupuncture at Integrative Therapeutics in Natick, Mass., where I practice acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, and therapeutic yoga. I've been in practice since 2003. I'm also a founding member of Veterans Acupuncture Care, which offers free acupuncture treatments to veterans, active military, and their family members. We opened in 2008 and have treated almost 1,000 people. I also teach ongoing yoga classes in Wayland and Sudbury, Mass. And I put out a yoga DVD called *Vinyasa Yoga for Regular People*, which has been very well received. My family and I moved to Stow, Mass., out in the countryside, complete with farms, fruit orchards—a far cry from Morningside Heights. My son, Jake Rocco, is 7, and my daughter, Lily Rain, is 3. My husband, John, and I celebrated our 14th anniversary in August."

**Rebekah Evenson** lives in Oakland, Calif., with her husband and two daughters. She works as a staff attorney at the Prison Law Office, fighting to improve the conditions of confinement for California prisoners and juvenile detainees.

**Allison Cooperman** graduated from the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2009 (another Barnard '94 vet—yay!). She works as a small-animal veterinarian in Rochester, N.Y. She married Paul Chappell, a music therapist, on April 17 on Long Island. In attendance were **Krista Armstrong**, Jami Bacchus (SEAS '94), Jonas Kellner (SEAS '95), and Michael Hall (CC '93).



Your class correspondent participated in a pre-veterinary student panel with Dr. Kristin Kutscher '90 in the striking new Diana Center this fall.

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**Jennifer Spieler  
Waldref '94**

An online series of articles for which Jennifer Spieler Waldref was a contributing writer received a 2010

Exceptional Merit in Media Award from the National Women's Political Caucus. The series, entitled "The Memo: Special Report: Status of U.S. Women," won in the category of Exceptional Internet Story. Jennifer's piece focused on employment barriers that persist for U.S. women. The 2010 Emmas were held on Oct. 14, 2010, at the Cornell Club in New York.

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## 95

**Evan vanDommelen-Gonzalez**, currently with RTI International, works in reproductive-health research and intervention development, with a focus on adolescent health and unintended pregnancy prevention. She lives with her husband, Mark, and two daughters, Nina and Inez, in San Francisco.

After graduation, **Kieren van den Blink** performed on Broadway in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. She studied Shakespeare at Oxford University and became the voice of Rogue in the animated television series *Wolverine & The X-Men*. In addition to cofounding the Little Bird Theatre Company in Los Angeles, she tested for *Saturday Night Live* and bought the movie *Happy Birthday/I'm Dead*, which she will produce and star in. Kieren published an essay in the collection *Women Reinvented: True Stories of Empowerment and Change* from LaChance Publishing. She had a deal for a five-book series of children's books based on the senses, *Boom*, *Sniff*, *Ouch*, *Yum*, and *Wow*, but that deal fell through and she's now seeking a new publisher. She's also pitching a memoir titled *Mighty Forces Are Gathering on Your Behalf*, about

growing up in New Jersey in the 1980s.

**Ilise S. Carter** will discuss her career as The Lady Aye, a professional sword-swallower, on the History Channel's show *Oddities*.

**Sarah Bronson** lives in Israel, where she worked as a freelance writer for Fodor's Inc., updating the Galilee and Golan chapters of their Israel travel guidebook. For this assignment, she visited nature reserves, a Druze village, and Christian sites in Nazareth and around Lake Kinneret. Also, she had great fun in her stage debut as Shaindel in a community-theatre production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. She's now seeking new freelance assignments and trying out for other plays and musicals.

**Bernadette Clemens** is the leadership-giving officer of the Cleveland Orchestra and vice-president for development of Chagrin Arts. She continues her Actors' Equity Association stage career and will be appearing at Cleveland Public Theatre in March in an original production titled *Voice Over*. Bernadette is also a new faculty member at Chagrin Falls Performing Arts Academy, where she directs *The Heiress* this season.

**Jessica Claire** and her husband, Peter Smith (CC '95), had a second daughter, Nessa, in August 2009. Although her two girls keep her very busy, she continues to coach actors and business professionals in voice, speech, and dialects in Los Angeles. She also serves as the president of the board of the preschool that her 5-year-old daughter, Roxie, attends, and she's a lactation-support volunteer through La Leche League.

**I-Jung Chiang** is an attorney for the EPA in Dallas. She and her husband, Jeffrey Clay, welcomed their second child, Anders, on Sept. 1. Anders joins his big sister, Isabel, who just turned 4.

**Natalia Leltchouk** started her own pancake house in Bergen, Norway. That pancake house went bankrupt, but she's now considering a Russian tearoom.

**Elham (Ellie) Cohan** became vice-president of development for the Shalom Hartman Institute. In this position, she'll travel to the West Coast, Florida, and Canada, and she'd love to reconnect with Barnard friends while there. She lives in New York, has two children, and is exploring new beginnings in her personal life after her recent divorce.

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15th Reunion June 2–June 5, 2011

## 96

**Janine Utell** writes that she received tenure a year ago at Widener University and has a new book out, *James Joyce and the Revolt of Love: Marriage, Adultery, Desire* (Palgrave Macmillan), looking at the representation of adultery in Joyce's fiction. She's also spent some time teaching in Germany at the University of Greifswald. She's traveling a lot, enjoying teaching, and living in Philadelphia.

**Ronak Kordestani** filled us in on the big brushstrokes of her life. After receiving a JD/MBA at the University of Southern California, she worked as an entertainment lawyer and then as an agent/manager representing mostly writers and producers in the Los Angeles area. After selling her own show to NBC a few years ago, Ronak has segued into television development full-time. She frequently sees **Reggie Park** and **Liz Edwards**, when she can be lured away from her baby.

**Rosanna Perry Stephens** and her husband, Jeremy Stephens (SEAS '96), as well as their furry, four-legged "kid," Henry, welcomed Benjamin Kaspar Stephens on Feb. 13, 2010. "Parenthood is wonderful, and like many moms, I'm learning how to balance family and work," she writes.

Finally, we're excited about our 15th reunion, June 2–5, 2011. Please be in touch with us if you want to join the planning committee (the more the merrier!) and if you have any ideas for our time together. If you haven't joined the Class of 1996 Facebook group, please do so. Be on the watch for more details.

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# 97

I heard a while back from **Risa Chopp Butbul**, who says she's married to an incredible guy named Hersh and still loves life in Miami. She's using the skills she acquired with her recent MBA to grow her own copywriting and marketing consulting firm, and helps her husband with marketing his own kosher cruise company, [koshercruises.com](http://koshercruises.com).

I saw a lot of Laura R. Rosenfield '98 and her sweet son before it got so cold. We walked around Boston and talked about work, motherhood, and remembering the fun and crazy times at 116th Street. Meanwhile, my son Asher is turning 3, and my son Jonah is 1. These boys are the best thing of my life—but day job (book publishing) + playing with a toddler + sleep deprivation because of the baby = one crazy life. But I wouldn't trade it, and I feel very lucky that my sweet husband, Nick, does all the (amazing) cooking.

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# 98

After nearly a decade making some of America's favorite guilty-pleasure reality television (producing, directing, writing), **Rebecca Hertz** is now a senior producer on NPR's nationwide weekly storytelling show *Snap Judgment* ([snapjudgment.org](http://snapjudgment.org)). In addition to writing and producing documentary pieces for the radio program, Rebecca's producing a public-television show based on it for WGBH Boston/PBS. She lives in Oakland, Calif.

**Nancy Chan** lives in Huntington Beach, Calif., where she's a compensation analyst for Resources Global Professionals, a global consulting company that serves businesses from the

## Innovating For Social Justice

Rachael Chong '04

As a young investment banker, Rachael Chong longed to direct her business acumen toward the public good. But the volunteer opportunities she found didn't fulfill that need. Hauling lumber through a Bronx schoolyard, she wondered if a five-foot, two-inch woman like herself couldn't contribute to society in a more effective manner.

The experience sparked an idea. This fall, Chong, who is 28, launched Catchafire, a Web-based company that matches skilled volunteers with nonprofit organizations seeking free assistance with projects in marketing, finance, technology and public relations, among other areas. By Chong's calculations, Catchafire has already signed up 4,000 volunteers and nearly 700,000 nonprofits, saving \$1.5 million for the organizations involved. She expects that Catchafire will place 300 volunteers by the end of 2010. By the end of 2011, she anticipates that the company will have spread beyond its New York City base, blazing across the nation.

"This company can change the world," says Chong, who foresees a day when volunteerism becomes so routine that people ask a new acquaintance, "What do you do?" followed by: "What do you do *pro bono*?"

Before founding Catchafire, Chong helped start the American affiliate of BRAC, a large nonprofit organization dedicated to alleviating poverty in Africa and Asia through microfinance projects. But Chong's burning desire for social justice dates back to childhood. At the age of 8, Chong moved with her family from their comfortable home in Canberra, Australia, to Beijing, China, where Chong's mother worked as a diplomat. There, Chong witnessed poverty for the first time. She recalls seeing a boy her own age begging in the streets.

Later, as a student at Barnard, Chong learned about building a company when she founded the Multicultural International Student Association (MISA), which taught Chong "you need to get the right people on the bus." One person who's climbed aboard the Catchafire bus is Jane Slusser '04, Chong's college roommate. Slusser, who serves as chief service officer at Catchafire, says that she and Chong complement each other. "She's the one who has the ideas. I'm the one focused on the nitty-gritty details."

One idea that drives Chong and the eight other employees of Catchafire through the long days and nights: "If you have a good experience giving back, you'll become someone who gives forever," says Chong. "It's good for the community and it's good for the soul." —*Elicia Brown*

inside. She'll be celebrating her seventh anniversary with her husband, James, this year. They have two sons, ages 6 and 3.

**Amanda Stein-Enneking** writes, "After many, many, years of graduate school, I finally completed my PhD in psychology (clinical) from the University of Cincinnati, and I am now working as a postdoctoral fellow in the department of psychiatry of the UC College of Medicine. I'm really enjoying my job—it's very interesting and I'm learning a lot, which



Photograph by TalismanPHOTO, courtesy of Catchafire

is always fun. I live in Cincinnati with my husband, Tom, and our two wonderful, little boys, Matthew, 5, and Andy, 2."

After being laid off in October 2008 from Hearst Magazines, where she was a photo editor for 10 years, **Jessica Levey** decided to fully immerse herself in her artistic practice and career. She completed an MFA in photography at Hunter College last May and has been exhibiting work in various spaces around New York. She teaches at an amazing art program in



Chelsea called HiArt, as well as at Packer Collegiate Institute.

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## 99

Let's get straight to the news ... firstly, lots of baby news: **Elana Konstant** and her husband, Darryn Schneider, had their first child, Jacob Allan Schneider, on Oct. 18. He's gorgeous, and Elana and Darryn are over the moon. In other baby news, **Kate Bittinger Eikel** and her husband welcomed a baby girl, Frances Margaret, who was born on Aug. 30. Perhaps a Class of 2032 attendee? (We strongly urge our classmates to avoid thinking about that number for too long!) **Jessica Ullian LaCount** also welcomed a baby girl, Shiloh Hannah, on July 30. Jessica lives with her husband in Boston, where they run his family's inn, the Coolidge Corner Guest House. In her spare time (and she can't have much), she writes short stories, two of which were published over the summer. **Elizabeth Zick** had a daughter, Willa, in May. Willa joins her big brother, Russell, 2. Elizabeth recently returned to her job as a senior psychologist at the Jewish Child Care Association. She writes that she's also been seeing a lot more of **Sheila Brosnahan**, **Jennifer Kettner**, and **Myra Shankin** since reconnecting with them at our recent 10th reunion.

It was a busy summer for **Regan Murphy**: she welcomed a son, Michael Aedan; in May she received a PhD in East Asian Buddhism from Harvard; and in August she moved to San Francisco to start a postdoctoral fellowship at UC Berkeley. And finally, in our baby news section, last summer **Elysha Hammerman Shainberg** welcomed a son, Benjamin Eric, and moved into a new house in Florida.

Weddings! **Jennifer Taylor** was married in January 2010 at the Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas. **Kate Breiting-Schmitz**, **Elana Konstant**, and **Molly Solomon** were in attendance. This September in Michigan, **Sabreen**

**Rahman** married Paul Armaan Tompkins. After completing a general psychiatry residency program at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Sabreen is now at the University of Michigan doing a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship.

Degrees! **Charlotte Andrews** earned her PhD in heritage and museum studies from the University of Cambridge in the U.K. She's now back home in Bermuda with her husband, Andrew, and has resumed her local work as a museum curator and heritage researcher. Similarly, **Kate Burlingham** reports that she's finished her PhD in history from Rutgers.

Jobs! **Uswah Khan** recently joined the law firm Bai Pollock Blueweiss & Mulcahey. In addition, **Rosevelie Marquez Morales** was made a partner at Harris Beach. **Jenny Lee** relocated back to New York City from San Francisco in March. She jokes that she can't get enough of the town, as this is her third move back to the Big Apple. Jenny is a managing director at CPI, a recruiting firm based in New York City. **Melanie Cruz** reports from Los Angeles that you can catch her on television this season on FOX's *House M.D.* and HBO's *Big Love*. She also stars in the forthcoming indie film *In Medias Res*.

Jeopardy! I am perhaps most excited to report that **Stefanie Strauss Small** was a contestant on *Jeopardy!* in June, and she came in second place, "having lost to a two-time champ who was super-fast on the buzzer." She reports that it was an amazing experience, in part because she got to leave Pittsburgh in its two feet of never-melting snow to go to Los Angeles for a paid vacation with her husband. (Two feet of snow in June?!)

*Laura Levin Schreiber & Jolanka Fisher*  
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## 00

**Raphaelle N. Steinzig** and her husband, Mike Godwin (CC '99), welcomed their first child, Penelope Ethel Laxmi Louise, on Aug. 9, 2010. Her godmother is Jennifer Barros '99. Raphaelle is still working on her PhD in history at the University of Southern California and now lives a few blocks away from her old Barnard

roommate, **Jesse Noonan**, in the Echo Park neighborhood of Los Angeles.

We mourn the loss of **Janice Chang**, who passed away on March 11, 2009. No further information is available.

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### **Jennifer Berman '00**

A 2007 graduate of University of Michigan Law School, Berman was honored on Nov. 15, 2010, at the Sanctuary for

Families Above & Beyond *Pro Bono* Achievement Awards & Benefit in New York. As an associate at the law firm of Latham & Watkins LLP, she was selected for expertly handling numerous immigration cases for Sanctuary for Families clients, supervising colleagues on cases, and for strengthening the *pro bono* partnership between Sanctuary for Families and Latham & Watkins.

## 02

**Susan Tran** lives in Shanghai, China, where she has been working in digital advertising for about a year.

**Erin Thompson** obtained her JD in May 2010 from Columbia Law School, and her PhD in February 2010 from Columbia. She's an associate at Hogan Lovells in New York, where she focuses on intellectual property, international law, and art law.

For seven years, **Lisa Weinert** worked at Random House, but she recently became the digital marketing manager for Jane Friedman's e-book publishing house, Open Road Integrated Media (openroadmedia.com).

**Erika Palmer Shen** and her husband, Mike (CC '00), live in Burbank with their son, Spencer. She works at Disney doing product development and production for disney.com.

**Irina Vodonos** is married and lives in Seattle, where she's pursuing concurrent



master's degrees in public affairs and Russian, East European, and Central Asian studies at the University of Washington. Irina works as a grant writer at WACAP, a nonprofit adoption-and-child-welfare agency. She also teaches Russian cooking classes and does catering through her new business, Moscow Gourmet Kitchen.

Yale University Press published *An Ethical Compass: Coming of Age in the 21st Century*, which features "The Ethics of Transformation," an essay from **Courtney E. Martin**. She also published *Do It Anyway: The New Generation of Activists* with Beacon Press.

**Susan Pulley** just renovated a new office space in Amsterdam for her ayurveda and yoga practice.

**Lisa Biderman Goldfine** completed her doctoral program in clinical psychology at the City University of New York. She earned her PhD in September and is working as a postdoctoral fellow at the William Alanson White Institute. Lisa has been happily married for five years to Evan Goldfine, whom she met through her friend Amanda Goldfine Hoffman '03.

**Eve Pomerantz** is teaching eighth grade art and art history at Hunter College High School. **Jenny Labendz** completed her PhD in May and married Zalman Newfield in July. She also began teaching as an adjunct assistant professor in Barnard's religion department in September.

**Laurie Susser Beckerman** and her husband, Zev Beckerman (SEAS '00), welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Joshua Michael, in May 2010. He joins his big sisters Allie, 6, and Carrie, 3. Laurie was thrilled be back at Barnard this May for the graduation of her sister, Sandy Susser '10.

**Ejima Baker-Morales** was awarded an SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant to support her doctoral work in anthropology on Afro-Latino religion and sexuality. In July she married Anthony Morales (CC '02).

**Stephanie Daddi** has been living on the coast of Tuscany for five years with her husband and 3-year-old daughter, Laila. Stephanie and her husband run a mountain-bike tour and rental business, puntalacyletours.com.

**Victoria Aviles-Zamora** received her master's degree from the Columbia School of Social Work in 2005. She has been working as a social worker at Bellevue Hospital for more than four years. Last

October, she married Xavier Zamora.

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## 03

After meeting in Beijing on a Columbia Chinese-language summer program nine years ago, **Katherine Don** and Daniel Touff (CC '04) were married in Beijing at the Aman Summer Palace last May. Friends from all parts of the globe celebrated for an entire week in the capital, including **Eleanor Allen, Crystal Ho, Lisa Kalikow, Laetitia Lemaistre, Ann Schuster,** and **Elizabeth Shaw.**

Other dear CU friends joined the festivities, ending with a dance party in an artists' compound in Beijing, including Geoffrey Barrows, Travis DiRuzza, Anna Fang, Paul Gelinias, Graham Moore, and Pan Qing.

**Lisi Langer Metzger** gave birth to a baby boy, Charles Daniel, on Sept. 8, 2010.

In October, **Flo Low** took on a position at the Jerusalem College of Engineering as the director of the department of resource development. She enjoys spending time with fellow Jerusalem alumnae, including Rachel Kessler '05, Penina Chinitz '76, and me.

*Anna Melman*  
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## 04

Congratulations go to several classmates on their weddings: **Jessica Schreckengost** on her marriage to Kathleen Kallstrom '07; to **Danielle Cherrick** on her marriage to David Bender; and to **Jody Mullen** on her marriage to Gary Oeters.

The Class of 2004 is doing exciting things: **Michelle LaRocco** began a master's of environmental management at Duke University. She spent the summer at the Duke Marine Lab as well.

**Julie Cohn** has been working hard as a psychiatry resident at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth and lives in Norfolk, Va. When not at work, she has continued to play rugby. Also a psychiatry resident is **Pascale Chrisphonte**, who has moved to New Haven, Conn., to work at Yale-New Haven Medical Center. **Pnina Grauman** works in a hospital in a different capacity. She's a child-life specialist at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore and notes that she loves her job.

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## 05

**Patricia Lee** was featured in a cover story in the August 2010 *Mann Report* and is a senior project manager at Code Green Solutions. **Marina Tsukerman Hod** works for CPower, a clean-technology energy management company in London and is pursuing an MBA at NYU Stern's Langone Program. **Suman Saran** completed her master of public health degree in health policy and management from Columbia's Mailman School in May 2010. **Pamela Cole** recently published a sports-nutrition section of acclaimed mixed martial arts trainer Greg Jackson's new book, *The Ground Game*. **Bethany Brown** took the semester off from her third year of law school at American University Washington College of Law to intern at the United Nations in New York, where she writes about global security and labor participation for those over 65. **Lauren Tal** is working on her MD/PhD at Albert Einstein School of Medicine and lives in New York City with her husband. **Elisabeth (Eli) Garrett** is pursuing an international MBA at HEC Paris, where she has mini-Barnard reunions with **Francesca Lentini** and **Elizabeth Curtis**, when they are in town. In July, she enjoyed meeting up with **Nancy Linthicum** in Morocco, where Nancy was interviewing Moroccan poets in Arabic for her PhD research. After a 2008 stint at a small organic farm in Monroe County, Ky., **Lea Mae Rice** is working in the



publications office at the Transportation Research Board, part of the National Academies in Washington, D.C. **Rebecca Rubin-Schlansky** is starting her PhD in U.S. women's history at the University of California, Irvine. **Rachael Arons**, who continues her work in pharmaceutical advertising, recently moved from New York to Chicago with her husband, Asher Gelman, and 10-month-old son, Emmett. **Carolyn Cavaness** wishes to thank BC '05 for the opportunity to serve as class president from 2005–10. She's finishing her master of divinity degree at Union Theological Seminary and has accepted the position of director of development at George Jackson Academy, an all-boys school in the East Village.

Congratulations are extended for all the new marriages and babies! **Rachel Ginsberg** married Michael Bressler in Philadelphia. She's an IT project manager at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in New York. **Allison Goldstein**, who started her sixth year of teaching at Bronx Science, married Seth Berger on June 20, in River Vale, N.J. **Katherine Camp** was the maid of honor, and Dr. Elizabeth Colvin Berger '68, **Angelica Ortega**, Danielle Sussan '04, and Yana Zorina '04 attended. **Briane Sorice**, a teacher at the Professional Children's School in Manhattan, married John Miccio III in July. Her sister, Brittany Sorice '08, was the maid of honor, and Seechung Lee '04 was a bridesmaid. **Erica DiMarco**, Candace Park (SEAS '05), and Kathryn Peppers '08 attended. **Aliza Slosberg Weinstock** married Stu Weinstock (CC '05) last August. **Daniella Steger Steinberg** welcomed her daughter, Aviv Hannah, on Sept. 28, 2010. **Sara Woldin Fieldston** was delighted to attend the Tel Aviv beach wedding of **Naomi Dabi** and Zvi Lantsberg this past May. **Ruthie Schulder** celebrated her wedding to Forrest Zlochiver in Israel last summer and is currently pursuing her MBA at NYU. **Debra Wolf**, an attorney, and her husband, Jonah, welcomed their daughter, Jessica, in June. **Michal Bitton** and her husband, Danny, had their third child, Arianna, in August. Michal is attending dental school at UMDNJ. **Stephanie Goldenberg** returned to the United States from a three-year stint in Haifa, Israel, with her husband, Perry, and an international MBA. **Abigail Zausmer Weiss** is proud to announce that last June she and her husband welcomed their

first child, Max Gilad. **Jessica Sanchez** married Ray Lee Gomez in July at Queens Botanical Garden. **Crystal Diaz, Roenice Gonzalez-Caraballo**, Sheena Hopkins, **Jaime McCaw**, Erica Molina '03, and **Cynthia Rosario** attended.

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5th Reunion June 2–June 5, 2011

## 06

**Anthe M. Vorkas** graduated from Fordham University School of Law in 2009. Over the past year, she has worked in-house under the general counsel for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible HIV/AIDS vaccines for use throughout the world. In October, Anthe joined White & Case LLP as a first-year associate in the firm's transactional group. She attended the August wedding of **Nadya Strizhevskaya** and Ethan Bair in Los Angeles.

In 2008, **Kelly A. West** graduated from the H. John Heinz III College at Carnegie Mellon University with a master's in public policy and nonprofit management.

**Cindy Phan** married Daniel Wong on June 5 in Bayside, N.Y. Suitemates **Michelle Go, Sofia Leung, Laurie Sugatan**, and **Merilee Teylan** attended the ceremony. **Lady V. Reyes**, another suitemate, couldn't attend as she was traveling abroad, but she sent her love.

**Christina Sardinias** married her college sweetheart, Matthew Disney (SEAS '06), on June 12, in New York. Many Columbia and Barnard alumni celebrated with the couple, including Christina's sister Elise Castillo '08, **Karen Famighetti, Amelia Freeman-Lynde**, Brisa Hurlocker '10, Erin Moughon (CC '06), Maria Sardinias '04, and Elizaveta Volkova '09. Christina has also kept in touch with **Justine Caccamo**, who joined her in celebrating at her bachelorette party, and she caught up with **Kristina Janson** and her husband when they visited the city last March. Christina has worked as a publicist handling a number of consumer and real-estate clients, including

the opening of M&M's World in Times Square and the successful launch of sales and leasing for more than a dozen luxury developments in the Tristate area. Her clients have appeared in *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*. Christina has resumed acting in stage productions and on TV.

**Anna Danziger** celebrated her marriage to Evan Halperin last August in Washington, D.C. Bridesmaids included **Sarah McNally, Sasha Stern**, and **Nicole Tsang**. Anna began a doctoral program in history at Columbia in September.

**Marianna Dougherty** writes from London, where she works in market research for Debenhams, the second-largest retailer in the U.K. She graduated from the University of Cambridge with a master's in land economy in 2009.

**Rebecca M. Steinberg** and **Shelby Semmes** are enrolled in master's degree programs at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where they have both been awarded Doris Duke Conservation Fellowships by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Fellow alumnae at Yale Forestry include Salima Jones-Daley '03 and Sarah Federman '09.

**Christina (Tessa) Angle** conducted malaria-related public health and health-economic research in Uganda after graduation. In 2008, she completed master of science degree in international health management in London. Tessa is currently in Paris, where she works as a health economist for Sanofi-Aventis.

**Meryl Kramer** reports that **Dena Roth** and Rivka Friedman '05 were married on Oct. 17, in a Washington, D.C., court and then in a Jewish ceremony at the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase, Md. The ceremony was officiated by their friend Jeremy Kadden. In attendance were Meryl, Deena Fox '03, **Elana Jaffe**, Rena Kaufmann '05, Lilah Pomerance '98, Elana Roth '03, Miriam Weiler '07, and Aliza Slosberg Weinstock '05.

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# 08

**Khadijah Abdul-Nabi** has been working as a refugee-youth program manager at the International Rescue Committee since 2009. She says it's amazing to see resilient and dedicated youth from war-torn countries start new lives in New York City. Their main priority is their education, and she finds it deeply rewarding to be involved in their struggle to start over, learn (or perfect) the English language, and become successful young adults. She says it has also been a bittersweet time sending off her youngest sister, Zaineb, to the University of Michigan to start her first year of college and see her sister Fatima '11 finish up her last year at Barnard.

**Elizabeth Case** is studying environmental law at Northwestern Law School and will graduate in 2013.

**Carly Isman** is working on a BS in nutritional sciences at the University of British Columbia and is volunteering at BC Children's Hospital. She has also moved into a new apartment.

**Cathaleen Kaiyoorawongs** is serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the municipality with the highest child and maternal mortality in all of Guatemala. She runs a co-op to help empower women to believe in their abilities and provide better nourishment for their young children ([temuxmayanartisans.com](http://temuxmayanartisans.com)).

**Rachel Levine** was married to Jeremy Baruch on Aug. 29, 2010. She has recently begun a PhD in clinical psychology at Fordham University.

**Ranya Saadawi** has said good-bye to New York and *ahlan wa sahlán* ("hello") to Cairo, Egypt. She moved to Cairo in summer 2010 to work for Ashoka, a global organization supporting the world's leading social entrepreneurs.

**Leslie Smail** has been living in Denver, Colo., for the past two years, first working for the Colorado Democratic Party during the 2008 elections, and now for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. She's also cochairing the executive board of HALO, a nonprofit foundation that provides arts programs to at-risk youth in Denver.

**Dara Wilensky** is enjoying her first year of medical school at the Mount Sinai Medical Center.

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# 09

**Kacie Rice** lives in Houston and is a research assistant at Baylor College of Medicine, where she's researching antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains.

**Rachel Rosenfelt, Jennifer Bernstein,** and Mary Elizabeth Borkowski '08 are the cofounders of a community called the New Inquiry ([thenewinquiry.com](http://thenewinquiry.com)), which has been endorsed or featured by *Arts & Letters Daily*, *Bookforum*, the National Book Critic's Circle, and *The New York Times*. Other New Inquiry members include Atossa Abrahamian (CC '08), Sarah Leonard (CC '10), and Clare Needham '08.

For three months this past winter, **Alexandra Sukalo** interned at the State Department in the regional security office in the embassy in Moscow. She's a master's candidate in Russian security studies at Yale University, where she was awarded a European Council fellowship.

On Oct. 17, **Dena Nachman Tolkin** married Aaron Tolkin (CC '08). Among her bridesmaids were **Aviva Erlich, Anna Gilman, Carly Katz,** and **Jennifer Schloss**. The guests included many Barnard and Columbia alumni, among them Dena's new mother-in-law, Julie Blauer Tolkin '83. Dena and Aaron are now living in Miami, Fla.

**Melanie Kress** curated a show for her new art space, Concrete Utopia ([concreteutopia.org](http://concreteutopia.org)), in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The theme of the show was "the manifesto," and it featured work by alumnae, including **Abi Cohen, Cibyl Delaire, Kate Ryan,** and **Ashley Smith**, as well as Barnard faculty member John Miller.

**Katie McCully** lives in Boston and works at the advertising agency Digitas on an automotive account, doing site work, online ads, owner-testimonial videos, promotions, and sweepstakes. She helped lead the project and site launch for [momentoftruth.com](http://momentoftruth.com), which has been nominated for several advertising awards. She has completed her first marathon and her goal is to run in the Boston and New

York City marathons one day. She travels for work quite a bit and hopes to get on an account that allows for travel to New York instead of Detroit.

**Susanna Franks** is a research coordinator at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, where she assists in the study of planar cell polarity. She's also studying for the MCAT and hopes to be applying to medical school in the near future.

**Camille Avestruz** is in her second year of a physics PhD program at Yale University, doing research in computational cosmology, with funding from the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

**Angel Geeng** received her master's in elementary education from Teachers College and has officially started her first year teaching fourth grade.

**Tess Brustein** is in her second year of the Teach for America Corps, teaching second grade at a charter school in Brownsville, Brooklyn.

**Theo Balcomb** lives in Washington, D.C., and works for the program *All Things Considered* at NPR, where she generates story ideas, finds guests for the show, and writes scripts.

**Yael Weisfogel Gevertzman** and her husband, Jason, wrote a cookbook together. With 150 recipes, *Newlywed Kosher: A Marriage of International and Traditional Kosher Cuisine* gives traditional kosher dishes unique twists and alters international cuisine to accommodate kosher dietary restrictions ([newlywedkosher.com](http://newlywedkosher.com)). They have already sold out of their first printing, and are ordering the second edition.

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1st Reunion June 2 – June 5, 2011

# 10

After a temporary position with the Experiment in International Living and leading a cross-cultural exchange program in Scotland for high school students, **Hannah Fitzpatrick** will start a master's in social anthropology of development at



the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

**Lauren Ely** accepted a position at the Morgan Library and Museum in the administration department in September.

**Katherine E. Fitzgerald** is studying Tibetan language and performance at Tibet University in Lhasa for the 2010–11 academic year.

**Emma Siesfeld** lives in Boston, and with Teach For America, she teaches sixth and eighth grade special-education mathematics. Emma is also working on completing a master's degree in education at Boston University.

**Annette LaRocco** received a Clarendon Scholarship to complete her master's in African studies at Oxford University in the U.K. Annette is looking forward to traveling to Africa for her dissertation's field research in the spring.

In addition to pursuing a master's in education at Hunter College this year, **Sandra (Sandy) Susser** is teaching seventh grade humanities at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School, in Manhattan.

**Cyrena Lee** is working with a new online start-up, ReFashioner, which is a members-only, curated swap site for high-end designer clothing and accessories. The idea of the site is to promote sustainable fashion within a unique online community. Cyrena says that the company is also hoping to start working with charities for women in the future.

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## Obituaries



**Gertrude Neumark Rothschild '48**

On November 11, 2010, Gertrude Neumark Rothschild passed away; the cause

was heart failure. We were proud to see Gertrude's lifetime achievements in scientific research recognized at our 60th reunion in June 2008, when she received Barnard's Distinguished Alumna Award. Most recently she

## In Memoriam

- 1934 **Lenore Oppenheim Provisor**, Nov. 8, 2010
- 1935 **Theresa Haimes Drucker**, Sept. 24, 2010  
**Edythe Weiner First**, Oct. 14, 2010  
**Margery Smith Hubert**, May 9, 2010
- 1936 **Bettina Vander Woude Garber**, Sept. 23, 2010
- 1937 **Marie Bell Davis**, Sept. 6, 2010  
**Helen Farquhar Lloyd**, Sept. 1, 1998  
**Belva Offenbergl Plain**, Oct. 12, 2010
- 1938 **Virginia Shaw**, Nov. 4, 2010
- 1940 **Margaret Pardee Bates**, Sept. 14, 2010  
**Naomi Letsky Kahn**, Nov. 4, 2010  
**Elizabeth Thompson Stevens**, Sept. 20, 2010  
**Marion Pratt Wells**, Sept. 5, 2010
- 1941 **Athena Capraro Warren**, Nov. 7, 2010
- 1942 **Sylvia Gaus Oleksak**, Nov. 3, 2010
- 1943 **Lucille Osmer Hutchinson**, July 15, 2009
- 1944 **Claudia Cambria Covo**, Oct. 1, 2007  
**Adeline Pope McConnell**, Oct. 17, 2010
- 1947 **Katherine Simon**, Sept. 6, 2010  
**Dolores Cooper Sonne**, Sept. 4, 2010
- 1948 **Ruth Proudman Ivey**, Jan. 24, 2010  
**Edith Warner Jones**, March 26, 2010  
**Betty Kirschner Lifton**, Nov. 19, 2010  
**Gertrude Neumark Rothschild**, Nov. 11, 2010
- 1949 **Ann Bushnell Bailey**, Sept. 25, 2010
- Arlene Propper Silberman**, May 3, 2010
- 1950 **Helen Petritis Stratigos**, Nov. 8, 2010
- 1951 **Edith Belsjoe**, Oct. 27, 2010  
**Betty Martin Viereck**, July 11, 2010
- 1952 **Judith Loeb Chiara**, Nov. 14, 2010  
**Joyce Lasky Reed**, Sept. 12, 2010
- 1953 **Diana Oreamuno Shaw**, May 30, 2008
- 1955 **Miriam Shapiro Harris**, Sept. 28, 2010  
**Evelyne Hirsch Lang**, Nov. 22, 2010  
**Erica Rosenzweig Lindenstrauss**, Nov. 27, 2010  
**Jeanne Nordheim Pfister**, Sept. 12, 2008  
**Eileen Barry Waddell**, Dec. 19, 2008
- 1956 **Kirsten Eilertsen Liebhaber**, Oct. 17, 2010
- 1960 **Marcia Walder Gottlieb**, Aug. 9, 2010  
**Ann Dawson Johnson**, Nov. 2, 2010
- 1965 **Joan Steiner**, Sept. 8, 2010
- 1972 **Jane Carnahan**, Nov. 16, 2008
- 1973 **Catherine de Bary Sleight**, Nov. 25, 2010
- 1975 **Barbara Grossman**, Feb. 14, 2008
- 1976 **Candace Howard**, Sept. 11, 2010
- 1977 **Selina Kim Conner**, June 20, 2009
- 1978 **Trudy Balch**, Nov. 1, 2010
- 1979 **Ingrid Menken**, Oct. 23, 2010
- 1980 **Natalie Elman Wengrin**, Nov. 2, 2010
- 1988 **Sylvie Myerson**, Nov. 11, 2009
- 1996 **Jennifer Tanguosso**, Dec. 20, 2005

was Howe Professor Emerita at CU's Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. At SEAS, her research into semiconductor technology led to great improvements in the quality of consumer products ranging from flat screen TVs

to mobile phone screens. She graduated Barnard *summa cum laude*, and earned a master's at Radcliffe and a PhD at Columbia. The College and her class send condolences to her husband, Henry.

—Fran Jeffery Abramowitz '48



# Support for the Essentials: Two Funds Target Faculty Research



**Carole Rifkind**, photograph by Dorothy Hong



**Janet Helman**, photograph by Joe Wigdahl

If there is one word that rattles young professors, it might be this one: tenure. To attain this status, which offers both job security and prestige, a faculty member must undergo a grueling review process of skills and scholarship. At Barnard, tenure-track instructors often endure an intensely challenging stretch, as they are expected to turn out research in the manner of faculty at a large university like Columbia while frequently carrying the heavy course load typical of professors at smaller colleges like Barnard.



Those are just two aspects of the job. “In addition to teaching and scholarship, faculty must also advise students, run labs, supervise student projects and complete their service commitments on various college committees,” says Angela Haddad, who is associate provost at Barnard.

While many Barnard donors stress students’ needs, two alumnae stand out for their focus on advancing the scholarship of Barnard’s junior faculty: Janet Helman and Carole Rifkind, both graduates of the Class of ’56. The alumnae, who know each other only slightly, are affiliated with two separate funds to support faculty research. Both have generously contributed to Barnard in a variety of roles in the past.

Enhancing the research opportunities of Barnard’s faculty, of course, serves more than just the professional advancement of the recipients involved. It provides “resources and knowledge they can impart to our students,” says Haddad. And, depending on the nature of the research involved, the results can—and do—impact communities around the world.

### Carole Rifkind: Ever Evolving

In the years since the founding of the Richard Rifkind and Carole Lewis Rifkind ’56 Faculty Support Fund, Carole Rifkind has delighted in learning about young Barnard faculty members, who, with this support, pursue research on topics ranging from sex differentiation in the womb, to sixteenth-century Aztec ritual dance, to groundwater contamination in Bangladesh.

Both Rifkind, who has pursued various careers, and her husband, who is chair emeritus at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research in New York City, understand the importance of start-up money in research. She also says she enjoys the exposure to “the newest wave of academic research,” and the benefit of “seeing what new scholars are pursuing in their evolving disciplines.”

Rifkind credits Barnard for her personal confidence in the face of change. She’s drawn upon this reservoir several times over the course of her life. An art history major, she switched from teacher to architecture writer after her children grew up. She is the author of several books, including *A Field Guide to Contemporary American Architecture*, and is active in numerous not-for-profit cultural organizations.

One day in this past decade, however, she announced to her husband, “I want to make a movie.” “In short order,” remembers Rifkind, her husband countered with, “I’ll make it with you.” The couple, with no prior background in filmmaking, have since produced two documentaries: *The Venetian Dilemma*, in 2005, about the impact of increased tourism on the fabled city’s cultural and civic life; and *Naturally Obsessed: the Making of a Scientist*, about the experience of doctoral candidates in a molecular biology lab at Columbia University Medical School. Both films aired on public television. “I identify with people pursuing ideas of great

interest to them,” says Rifkind. “The thrill of exploring a novel idea is something that both of us share.”

### Janet Helman: In Memory of a Mentor

More than a half-century after she first studied nineteenth-century literature with Barry Ulanov, Janet Helman can still reel off the titles from the extensive reading list that accompanied the course, and still grows awed as she recalls the English professor whom she eventually chose as an adviser. With special expertise in Renaissance and twentieth-century literature, Ulanov was the author or editor of more than 50 books on topics ranging from jazz to Christian humanism; “a true polymath,” says Helman. Four years ago, she endowed the Professor Barry Ulanov Fund to honor her professor, and to provide resources for English department faculty.

Helman, who lives in Chicago, knows firsthand the central role that professors play at Barnard. To this day, she tackles new subject areas with a passion she credits in large part to Ulanov’s influence. A volunteer researcher for the University of Chicago, she spends her time mapping out an archaeological site where shards of Iranian pottery have been discovered. Her interest in the region dates back at least 25 years. In 1984 she was asked to chair the volunteer program of museum docents affiliated with the University of Chicago’s renowned Oriental Institute. She completed an eight-week course on the history of the Near East, but still felt she needed to know more. She agreed to take the job only if the Institute permitted her to take one course on the topic each quarter. “I really felt that when I started to work seriously at the Institute I would need to be more of scholar about this,” affirms Helman.

As for the Ulanov fund, she says, “It’s not a private endeavor. If anyone else wants to make a contribution, the fund could use more money.” After all, as Helman points out, “Students come and go, but the faculty [stays].”

## Interested in creating a Faculty Support Fund?

To learn more, please call Alden Prouty, Director of Leadership Giving at 212.854.7637 or e-mail [aprouty@barnard.edu](mailto:aprouty@barnard.edu)



## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

*Continued from Page 3*

parents who played educational videos for her or took her to piano and theatre classes. She didn't have SAT tutors or even teachers with the time and incentives to look after her as a student or a person. She was strong and brave and curious, but by the age of 17, her educational chances had already been slapped down.

Like many of our peer schools, Barnard tries desperately to find the Tonyas of the world; to attract them to campus, to admit them, and to cover the costs of their education. Once they matriculate, we offer a wide and growing range of support services and enrichment options. But it is still hard. Because often a student like Tonya simply hasn't had the kind of educational background that she needs, not only to get into our most selective colleges, but to thrive there. These students are just losing too much ground in primary and secondary school and falling farther and farther behind their already better-placed peers.

In the end, and after several rounds of heart-wrenching consideration, we decided to defer Tonya. We will try to bring her to campus in January, to interview her and get a better sense of her academic potential. I hope we will admit her in the next round of decisions. I hope that she comes to Barnard, and succeeds beyond her wildest dreams. But at a time when so many of us are caught in the frenzy of college applications, it is critical to remember that this country is still damned by the tragedy of millions of Tonyas—good kids, smart kids, whose access to education is condemned by the circumstances of their birth.

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## LEADING QUESTIONS

*Continued from Page 8*

"I've asked women around the world what works, and they say, 'quotas,'" Wilson said. She pointed to the transformation in Norway, where 2004 legislation required that 40 percent of corporate boards be composed of women. But Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and a speaker on the public sector panel, suggested that while "quotas played a significant constructive role in opening up opportunities for women around the world, in the United States they are an anathema

for a whole variety of reasons."

Instead, Henderson called for wage transparency. "We need collateral ways of showing inequality, some way of comparing salaries," he said. Several practical solutions were proposed by James Basker, a speaker on the public sector panel who is a professor of English literature at Barnard as well as president of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Basker spoke of the role of mentors in building female leaders, and the importance of offering flexible schedules, including project-based work that can be done at home.

As a general matter, the corporate panel adopted a more pragmatic, less idealistic approach than the public-sector panel. Two of the three speakers on the corporate panel came from the fast-paced, competitive world of finance, a sector "not known to be warm and fuzzy," in the words of Kanter. Ravi Singh, a speaker and trustee of the College who is a managing director of Credit Suisse, spoke bluntly of his focus—"making sure the top people stick around," he said, explaining that sometimes that means finding ways to allow employees more time with their families. "Getting talented women in the door is really easy," said Singh. "Keeping them in the door is hard."

*Highlights from the Kristoff/WuDunn keynote at [alum.barnard.edu/magazine](http://alum.barnard.edu/magazine)*

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## TOW PROFESSORS

*Continued from Page 9*

In the past few years, however, the Tows decided they would like to expand their focus to give faculty members extra support. "We thought it was essential to recognize really top-quality teaching," says Tow Jackson, who majored in American history. She and her father spoke with Barnard president Debora Spar about how they could best support great teaching, and the ideas for the Tow Professorships and the new Tow teaching award were born. "One of President Spar's goals was to really shore up faculty recognition," says Tow Jackson. "We think there's a tremendous benefit to the College in helping high-performing staff pursue their interests."

News of the Tow Professorships and the new teaching award was greeted with rousing applause at a faculty meeting last May. Barnard Provost and Dean of the

Faculty Elizabeth Boylan was thrilled that Barnard was able to recognize Professors Milnor and Rojas, each is a "wonderful and distinctive embodiment of the scholar-teacher ideal." Boylan says she believes the new Tow teaching award will send a strong signal both within and to the outside world about "the value we place in innovative and effective teaching."

Spar says that the experience of working with Emily and Leonard Tow and witnessing their strong support for Barnard has been a real pleasure. "They both know the institution so well and clearly understand higher education," she adds. "We are very lucky to have them as part of the Barnard family and I look forward to seeing all the good that will come from the generous awards they have established."

The Tow Foundation last year also decided to double the funding available for both the public-service internship program as well as the Tow Research Fellowships. The fellowship program was launched a decade ago; 89 students have received funding for summer travel and research projects since 2002. These projects have covered everything from microfinance in the nonprofit sector in China to the study of graffiti from the Ptolemaic and early Roman period in Egypt. "We knew that travel costs were prohibitive for many students," says Tow Jackson, who notes that her father, the Tow Foundation chair, is a strong proponent of travel for students. "He really believes it's an essential experience," she says.

With the public-service internship program, Tow Jackson says the goal was to assist students who wanted to explore potential careers in the nonprofit and public policy spheres, while also providing some extra support for the organizations for which the students interned. "We saw it as a double bang for the buck," she says and notes that many nonprofits struggle to do their work with limited budgets and staff. Since the program started 15 years ago, it has provided support for some 230 interns working for a mix of organizations including public-interest groups and government agencies, such as the Revenue Watch Institute, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the New York State Office of the Attorney General.



Brooklyn native Dueaa Elzin '11, a political science major, attended the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. Elzin found that because the British system expects students to be “hyper-specialized,” as compared to Barnard’s liberal arts approach, the students she encountered immersed themselves in their fields, “like being a PhD student,” Elzin observes. “At SOAS, the students I encountered didn’t have the preoccupation with postgraduate plans that students have here, and were studying languages, such as Burmese and Tagalog, and cultures that they were truly passionate about.” A fascination with China that stemmed from an eighth-grade, 10-day trip to that country motivated senior Elizabeth Reynolds, an Asian and Middle Eastern cultures major, to pursue nearly every opportunity to study in China as an undergraduate, including summer and semester programs. “I have my heart set on going back to Asia for two or three years,” says Reynolds. “I’m not sure what I want to do; I know where I want to do it.”

Studying abroad—overseas for American students, or Morningside Heights for international ones—is likely to be even more important going forward. As Elzin believes, “You can’t be global and open-minded without actually leaving Barnard and [your home] country.”

*Watch highlights and browse photos from Leadership Assembly at [alum.barnard.edu/magazine](http://alum.barnard.edu/magazine)*

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## **SYLLABUS: TECHNOLOGY**

*Continued from Page 14*

An instructional approach developed by Harvard physics professor Eric Mazur, clicking takes the form of interactive peer instruction. Faculty from the biology and psychology departments talked about how they have embraced clicker technology. Some instructors require students to purchase clickers (responses can then be identified by individual student) while others distribute them during each class. Professors utilize clickers in several ways, the most common being to pose multiple-choice questions, which an instructor hopes

will be thought provoking and lead to challenging discussions. Students then click their responses, the results of which may be shown in a graph appearing on screen. Although the multiple-choice format poses some limitations, such questions can open up lively class discussions.

Clicking facilitates communication between students in class, one of its main goals; the method also allows faculty to assess anonymously students’ comprehension of the material. If everyone understands certain information, the instructor can quickly move on to other concepts. Clickers work particularly well with large lecture courses but small groups can benefit as well. Breaking up the lecture with clicker questions keeps the class moving and increases students’ focus. Professors have found that clickers energize and excite students about new topics, leading to stimulating discussions that do not usually take place in very large classes. Instructors may also take attendance or administer quizzes with clickers.

Are there drawbacks? John Glendinning, professor and chair of the biology department, recommends that those who adopt clicker technology must use it consistently throughout each class for the entire semester to maximize student engagement. If students purchase clickers individually, the professor is pressured to use them constantly, which can lead instructors to spend a lot of time composing questions and reworking their lectures. Overall, faculty who have instituted clicker technology have seen increased course attendance and interest; students enjoy using them.

### **E-Textbooks: Saving Money and Paper**

College textbooks are no exception from the shift from paper to digital content. E-books are environmentally friendly and cost less to purchase. The electronic book can take different forms: a scanned or photocopied version of a text made into a PDF, or that which comes directly from the publisher (the electronic book can replicate the text from the paper copy or be a true e-book with features for annotation and references). The cost for using (or “renting” as one professor described it; publishers give access for a certain length of time) an e-book is

substantially cheaper than purchasing a textbook. E-textbooks work well in the context of courses where the majority of the content is found online. It places more responsibility on the student to access and download all material for class—professors can merely hand out a paper syllabus.

### **Blogs and Wikis: Convenient Communication**

Both blogs and Wikis take the learning out of the classroom and place it in the hands of students. The online world abounds with bloggers posting their thoughts on myriad subjects. Professors are harnessing the blog (short for Web log) form and bringing it to the center of students’ coursework. The Internet provides Web-based, often free, platforms for creating blogs. In Professor Robert McCaughey’s “Early American Maritime History” class, students use WordPress to blog about a body of water of their choice. Rebecca Stanton, assistant professor of Russian, noticed how students thoughtfully expressed ideas in their own words, bypassing academic jargon and putting forth immediate and fresh perspectives. Blogging is also a means for increased communication with professors outside the classroom. In the past, feedback meant comments on students’ papers. Professors participate in blogging by engaging in dialogue with their students and offering quick responses to postings. Diane Dittrick, senior associate in environmental science and codirector of the environmental science laboratory, is interested in how her students relate to ethical concerns in her course on environmental leadership development. Students engage in citizen journalism through blogs hosted by the Natural Resource Defense Council’s digital magazine, *On Earth*. Dittrick thinks blogging helps shape students’ writing styles and understanding of their own points of view. Students also have the option to extend the blog after the course is over. Faculty who assign blogs are mindful of student privacy and that blogging tools are password protected. In cases where content is public, professors inform the students before they start their blogs.

A Wiki is a Web site that allows multiple users to change and post content,



and creates an interactive online space where students can easily communicate and collaborate. Irene Motyl-Mudretzky's German class used Wikis for a group project in which they created television episodes based on the German version of *Ugly Betty*. Students wrote and posted scripts that the professor was able to view and quickly edit. Each group's Wiki served as a platform where students could generate ideas. Motyl-Mudretzky saw the Wiki as increasing students' autonomy, control of content, inclination to self-assessment and self-correction.

These are just a few of the innovations that Barnard faculty incorporates into their classes. Technology is constantly changing; each semester brings opportunities for fresh approaches to teaching and learning in and beyond the classroom. Workshops such as this one raise awareness. Kahn observes, "An ancillary benefit is that the publicity surrounding the event raises interest, even among those who don't get to attend. We fully expect some of them will reach out later to the faculty presenters at this event, or to Educational Technology, to ask questions and to explore options for their own courses."

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### **SALON: THE KING IN SONG**

*Continued from Page 15*

loved," she explains. "Whenever I felt bummed, I'd go over to their house and sit on their couch and talk to them," she says. "And I'd feel that all was right with the world. They are such a peaceful couple—no palpable tension anywhere. They are self-planted, secure and loving people." Many of the album's 13 songs reflect this spirit.

Pearl approached the songwriting as "a wonderful puzzle," with the melody and whatever clues she could glean from each number's title and back story helping to answer "the underlying question: What is the story?" Though a song is three minutes, not three acts, her experience as a playwright and screenwriter proved useful. "You still need a beginning, middle, and end," she points out. "I imagined the songs as mini stories." Sometimes the lyrics would come in a rush and sometimes she would have to

wait for the right words, running through the songs as she walked the dog in the Hollywood Hills.

Her first test drive—at a local Jewish community center right after lunch, when the audience of seniors had their heads bobbing toward their laps—was hardly ideal. "When I tell other performers, they fall over laughing," says Pearl. But the information was useful. "When we perform 'Doozy Blues,'" she promises of one of the swinging numbers she has since added, "believe me, nobody's going to be sleeping." In fact, she feels confident about the whole album. "I don't have to worry if the melodies are good. They're spectacular! Being on the shoulders of Benny—I can't think of anything more elevated."

*Souvenir of You will be released on Evening Star Records this spring.*

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### **SALON: MONICA L. MILLER**

*Continued from Page 17*

of black middle and upper class. The images of those people are designed to express to everyone that they are respectable, that they are people, and rights should be extended to them.

**What kind of reception has the book received?** It's in its second printing, and available on the Kindle. I was interviewed by an African fashion magazine, *Arise*, started by a Nigerian in London; I get random e-mails from people. A black gay man said he was so moved by it and was waiting his whole life for my book. I was like, really? *A Free Man of Color*, playing at the Lincoln Center Theater, is set in New Orleans around late 1800s. The main character is a black dandy. A *Times of London* reporter told me that George C. Wolfe, the director, began rehearsals for the play with my book in his hand.

**Has your research changed how you dress?** It's put a lot of pressure on me! You don't show up with this topic looking kind of shabby. I spent too much time in maternity clothing in the past two years, and now that's all over, so I'm hoping to ramp it up again.

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### **WOMEN'S STUDIES**

*Continued from Page 21*

pursue nonprofit advocacy or a doctorate in women's studies; approximately 12 universities now offer PhD's in the subject.

For Rachel Jacobson '07, interest in women's studies dates back to high school, when male classmates treated her with disdain after she wrote a paper about Simone de Beauvoir and her impact on French feminism. The criticism backfired; she was devouring feminist texts before she took a single class at Barnard. "It seemed so clear and obvious that's what I wanted to do with my life and what I wanted to study at school," Jacobson says. "That's very much what drew me to Barnard." Her senior thesis was about the prosecution of rape as a crime against humanity, and the international criminal tribunals for Rwanda and Yugoslavia.

She went to work in the women's rights division of Human Rights Watch, and was the program director for the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS. In 2009, she moved home to Austin, Texas, where she now works as a counselor in an abortion clinic. "This work is incredibly satisfying on a different level than policy work," Jacobson says. "I feel women's studies prepared me for almost anything." With her eye on graduate school, she is particularly intrigued by a program in activist anthropology. "One of the things the BRCW does so well is bring together the scholarly world and the advocacy world," Jacobson says. "There's an emphasis on creating productive knowledge and doing something with that."

### **To the Future**

Tadiar says the women's studies department is currently working on revising the curriculum and crafting a new mission statement. The department recently became part of a consortium with Africana studies and American studies called the Center for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies at Barnard (CCIS). "Our faculty in women's studies does not deal solely with issues of gender, but rather sees it in relation to issues of race and sexuality as well," she adds. "Because issues of race figure very importantly in our courses and in the work we do, the chairs of women's studies, Africana studies, and American studies got together to create mutually supportive programs."



“One of the ways we’re doing that is also seeing ourselves in relation to these other interdisciplinary programs and taking on transnationalism, race, and sexuality. We do see Barnard as having a role nationally in helping to redefine women’s studies,” she affirms, “[and] we definitely see women’s studies on a path to the future.”

### A Bond Across Generations

“I took a class and it resonated on a personal level.” With women’s studies, women follow their gut instincts and passions. We share a feminist ideology, which perhaps 30 years ago was fueled by the newness of it being voiced and today has the momentum of career possibilities in activism and social justice. The first generation of Barnard’s women’s studies majors and the professors who taught us knew we had to explore the possibilities of change. While the current generation knows change is possible because they live it, they also know the scholarly inquiry and activism still have a long way to go.

### FORMULA FOR EXPANSION

*Continued from Page 32*

of two, a reconfigured teaching lab for bio- and physical chemistry, and separate climate-controlled rooms for equipment and instruments. (The environmental lab will move to a new spot on the fourth floor.) The architects on the project are with Mitchell Giurgola Architects, a New York City firm that has worked with Barnard in the past—leading the roughly \$2.8 million design renovation of the organic chemistry teaching labs on Altschul’s seventh floor in 2004, and two new faculty spaces consisting of labs and offices on the eighth floor completed in 2009.

The modernization will also include updates to some of the built-in ventilation equipment, such as fume hoods. “We included in the proposal some nice pictures of peeling cabinets and small hoods that were acceptable back in 1970 but certainly wouldn’t be part of a lab that you would design now,” continues Rojas. Today’s fume hoods are larger and much more energy efficient. Additionally, the space will have a new autoclave and dishwashing system for sterilizing and cleaning glassware. A separate NSF grant awarded

in April allowed the department to buy new spectrometers to be housed in a new instrument room.

Along with Rojas, Magyar was the grant proposal’s co-principal investigator. Also involved were Associate Professor Dina Merrer, Assistant Professor Marisa Buzzeo, and Senior Lecturer Alison Williams of the chemistry department; Assistant Professor Brian Mailloux from environmental science; and assistant professors Kristen Shepard and Krista McGuire in biological sciences. Mary Sever, an assistant professor who joined the chemistry department in 2010, is involved with implementation of the project. Rhonda Zangwill and Abigail Feder-Kane from Barnard’s department of institutional support helped with proposal preparations.

The finished proposal, submitted in August of 2009, included a request for \$1.97 million, very close to the \$2 million threshold for many of the grants. (The NSF planned to give approximately 100 to 120 awards worth up to \$2 million, as well as additional awards of \$2 million to \$10 million for some 9 to 15 recipients.) An official award letter of \$1.84 million came in September, and renovations began on January 4. The project will use funds from other sources as well. A \$3 million grant was awarded from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2007 offering a \$1 match for every \$3 the College contributes from certain funds raised to support sciences at Barnard. For every \$3 granted by the NSF, the Mellon Foundation provides a \$1 match for the project. The team is working to get other funding sources as well.

Barnard’s chemistry department is comparable to those at other small liberal arts colleges. The staff, however, is “on the smaller side in terms of faculty members,” says Rojas, and this renovation project is a key component in the department’s future direction. “Part of our strategic plan is looking at how we are understaffed in terms of tenure. We need people, but there’s nowhere to put them. This funding will help break that log jam.” The grant will allow the department to gain two faculty members—increasing staff by a third from the current group of six faculty members on the tenure track. The new facilities should also help in recruiting top talent to Barnard.

The department averages 10 to 15 chemistry and biochemistry majors per year. But with each student spending one or two afternoons per week in the lab, space is a big concern. There is also a limitation on

how many students each faculty member can reasonably advise. “Students need a lot of attention, especially in the beginning,” Rojas says. Each faculty member oversees about three to four students per year. The rigorous summer program is also packed. “We always have considerably more students who want to participate than we can accommodate,” he says.

In the meantime, the department will continue to scramble for space through the summer in what Magyar calls “various creative and cramped ways.” Despite dislocations, the faculty maintains a positive reaction. “It is going to be a challenging spring semester,” says Magyar. “But absolutely worth it in the long run.”

*Chemistry faculty mentors inspire Barnard students in a Web video at [barnard.edu](http://barnard.edu)*

### LAST WORD: MED SCHOOL AT 45

*Continued from Page 76*

make a living seeing only headache patients, but since I had just adopted twins from Bulgaria, I thought I would try hand at my own business. My practice, Kitaj Headache Center, in Southbury, Connecticut, flourished. I opened my second office in Croton-on-Hudson, New York, opposite the train station, which allows patients from Hudson river towns, and New York City to take an express train to my office.

I soon found that 60 to 80 percent of my headache patients also had fibromyalgia. So, I became an expert on fibromyalgia, and now do numerous speaking engagements. I like the field because it forces physicians to reconsider their ideas of mind-body division, especially after I explain some of the new neuroscience that explores how psychological issues affect neurological processes. I also treat ADHD in children and adults as so many migraine patients had ADHD that was undiagnosed.

Being my own boss is the best gift I can give myself after all these years of schooling, because I can take time off as I want, read and do research on subjects that my heart is totally into. Having my own neurology practice and enjoying it makes up for all those nights as a resident, going down to the ER with aching knees at 3 a.m.

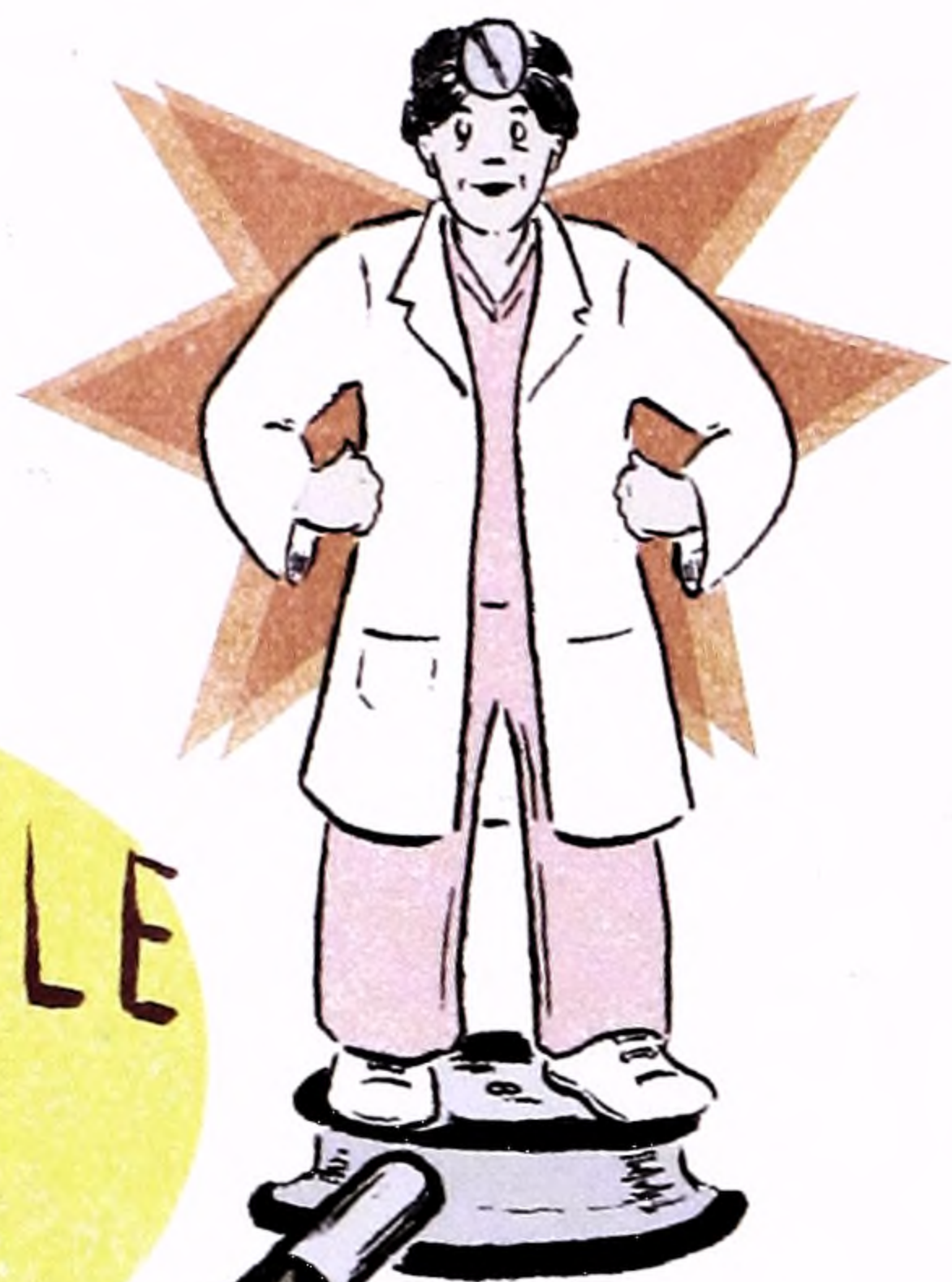






# Just Do It!

How to be a 45-year-old intern at Yale-New Haven Hospital



TERRIBLE  
IDEA

Won't  
work

YOU'RE  
TOO  
OLD

YOU'LL  
NEVER  
MAKE IT

**As a practicing neurologist** for 14 years, I confess that my main memory of my internship at Yale was how much my knees hurt going down to the ER in the middle of the night. But, I am very glad I completed my internship, residency in neurology, and chief residency because I love what I am doing.

Before applying to medical school at 40 years old, I was working at many companies doing computer analyst work at *Time* magazine, Deloitte Haskins Sells, and Chase. Aggravated with my extremely boring computer programming for employee medical plans, and with taking the midnight train home to Croton, New York, I finally realized that if I was going to be up so late computing for other people's medical care, I may as well stay up late as a medical student. Twenty years before, as a Barnard student, I had wanted to go to medical school but became frustrated with the premed courses that I was lousy at.

Almost everyone discouraged me from starting medical school at 40 years old, and I spoke to 17 relatives and friends. Everyone said there was no way any medical school would accept me and, even if I got accepted, I wouldn't be able to handle an internship at 45. One friend of my cousin thought he was giving helpful advice by remarking, "If I saw your application at your age, I'd just throw it out immediately." Comments like that slowed me down for a while, but never stopped me. What really got me moving was my husband's advice: "Stop wishing you made the opposite choice and went to medical school and just do it. What's the worst that could happen? You'll be embarrassed if you really are too old..."

Math started to be difficult for me in grade school and being math-poor made chemistry and physics very tough. If I wanted to pursue medicine, I knew I had to meet my math-anxiety head on, so I got third-grade math textbooks and started working up slowly through old Regents study books on my kitchen table. Although some helpful people advised, "you'll never get into med school starting in third grade textbooks, you're not good at math, and that doesn't change," they were wrong. Surprisingly, I started to like math and my newfound ability. In fact, after applying to Columbia's School of General Studies and taking the math test, the grader informed me that I had gotten the highest score; starting way back in grade school texts had paid off.

To repeat the premed courses I'd taken 20 years ago at Barnard, I went to Hunter, which was cheaper than Columbia, and soon found that listening to chemistry and physics professors was not useful to me. The benefit of starting at age 40 was that I knew something about my learning style that I didn't know when I was in college: auditory learning doesn't work for me. The real learning I was doing was in the question/answer books that I bought at the bookstore, which also brought me through the exams. In finally figuring out that my best learning was from those books, I decided not to go to any classes and to work just with the books. My appearance in class prompted the other students to remark: "We must be having an exam, because Madeleine is in class." Not going to classes combined with studying the question books put me at the top in chemistry and the very top in physics, which led the chemistry and physics professors to ask me to tutor. Although I only got \$5 per hour for tutoring, the experience made me confident and helped me really learn the material.

My great results with the students I was tutoring led the chemistry professor to wonder if I might be "giving the students the test answers." He said the students I tutored couldn't possibly be getting A's and B's, and that students who never answered questions were raising their hands before he got the question completely out. Since I didn't have the test, I explained, I couldn't give them the answers, but I had showed them my easy way to solve problems. He was amazed—and I was chuckling.

Later on, when I graduated from the Yale internship, neurology residency, and chief residency, I first joined a large pain-treatment group at Yale: They wanted a neurologist as director of the headache division. Doing medicine the way I dreamed of was not being done, so I left to form my own private practice. My Yale professors insisted that I could never

*Continued on Page 74*



BARNARD COLLEGE IS HONORED TO PRESENT  
ITS THIRD ANNUAL GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM

# WOMEN CHANGING AFRICA

**Tuesday, March 15, 2011**  
**Noon to 5:00 pm**  
**The Sandton Sun**  
**Johannesburg, South Africa**

Join President Debora Spar for a dialogue on women's leadership and women's voices.

Preeminent panelists include: Gill Marcus, governor of the South Africa Reserve Bank; Mamphela Ramphele, academic, activist and former senior director of the World Bank; Ferial Haffajee, editor-in-chief of *City Press*; Aloisea Inyumba, a senator in Rwanda's Parliament; Ndidi Nwuneli, founder of LEAP Africa; Susan Mboya, Coca-Cola executive and founder of the Zawadi Africa Educational Fund; and Fiona Budd, managing director of South African Ballet Theatre

For more information on the symposium, please e-mail: [globalsymposium@barnard.edu](mailto:globalsymposium@barnard.edu)



## EXPLORE AFRICA

In conjunction with the symposium, the Alumnae Association of Barnard College has planned a very special exploration of South Africa, March 16–23, 2011. Travel with Kathryn Kolbert, director of Barnard's Athena Center, on an exclusive post-symposium adventure that includes a safari, a cultural exploration of Cape Town, and a visit to Victoria Falls.

For more information on Travel in Africa, please e-mail: [travel@alum.barnard.edu](mailto:travel@alum.barnard.edu)



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SCHOLARSHIP  
DINNER AND AUCTION

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2011**

6:00 PM RECEPTION

7:00 PM DINNER, SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION,  
AND AWARDS CEREMONY

THE PLAZA HOTEL  
FIFTH AVENUE AND 58TH STREET  
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# BARNARD

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FOR WOMEN  
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