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BARNARD
MAGAZINE

SPRING 2008

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Professor Dennis Dalton Retires After 35 Years
Africana Studies Celebrates Its 15th Anniversary
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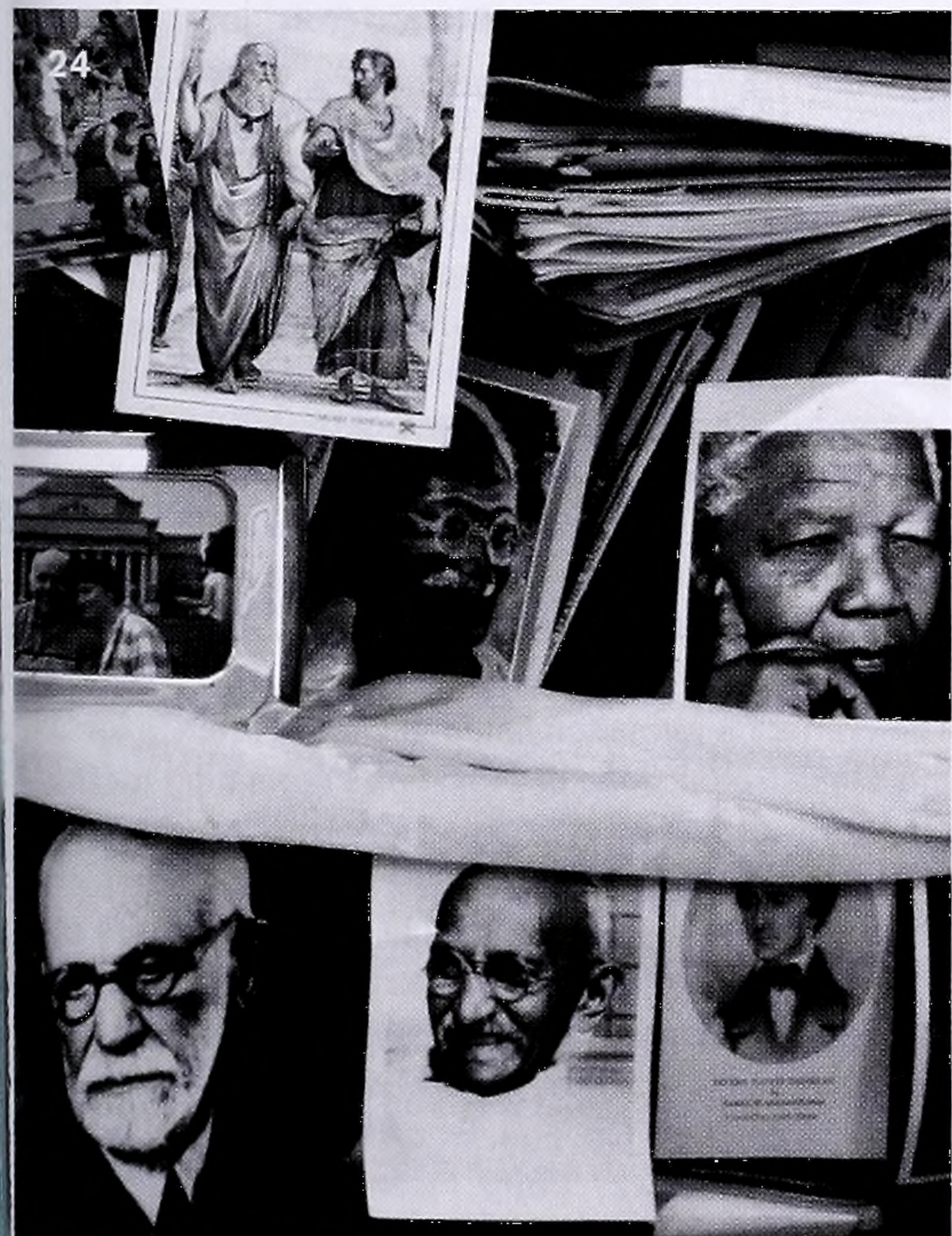
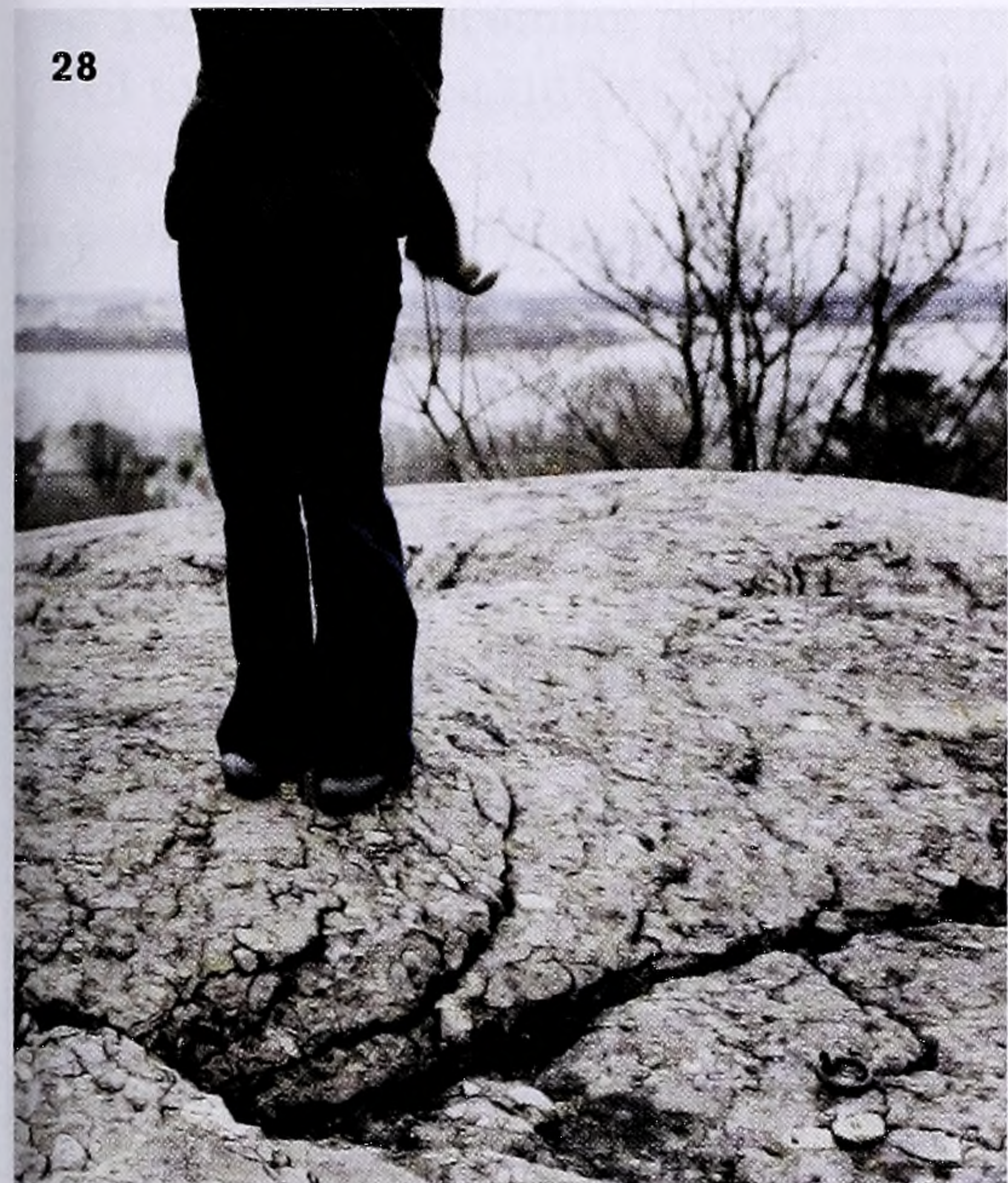
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BARNARD MAGAZINE

SPRING 2008



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Photograph by Juliana Sohn

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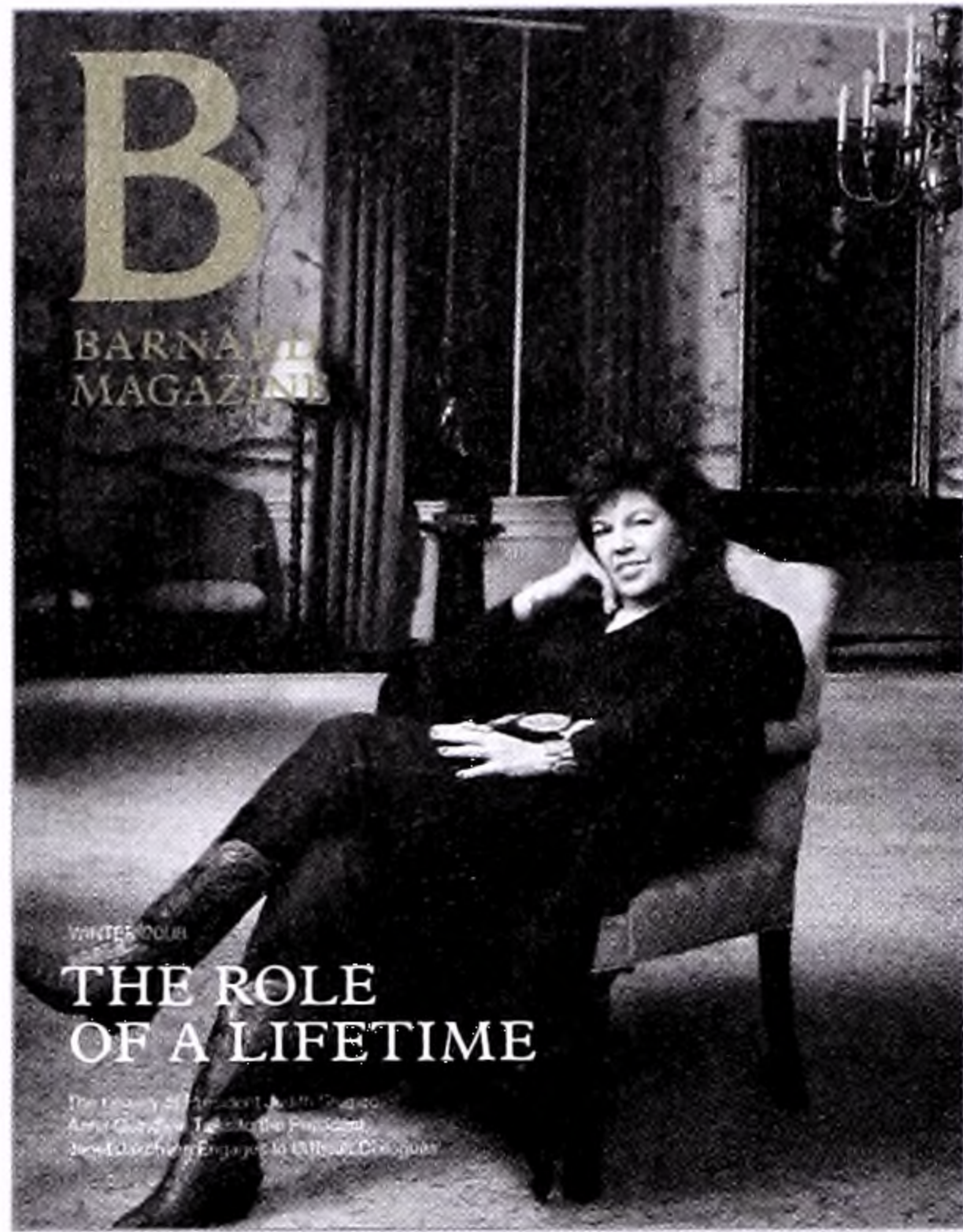
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Cover to Cover

The Winter Issue of *Barnard* arrived with that stunning portrait of Judith Shapiro on the cover. Instead of turning almost immediately to Class Notes, I started to read the magazine from front to back. As I turned the pages from article to article, I realized how much I am looking forward to Reunion and the opportunity to revisit a campus much changed from the one [I knew].

—Vera Halper Schiller '38
Tarrytown, N.Y.

Love the Look

I have loved the new look of *Barnard* and the refocused content... but you really outdid yourselves in the last issue with the smashing Annie Leibovitz photo tribute to President Shapiro, and Anna Quindlen's interview with her, which was a compelling—and memorable—summary of Judith's remarkable tenure at the College and the important changes she wrought (none more important, perhaps, for Barnard's future than her creation and institutionalization of a "peer relationship" with Columbia). It was also a welcome review of what has been accomplished at Barnard in the last decade, as well as its current challenges and strategic priorities, making it much clearer to those of us without day-to-day contact with the College exactly why it needs our ongoing support.

Most of all, though, this last issue reinforced for me why I am so proud to be a Barnard woman—and a member of the remarkable Barnard "tribe."

—Stephani Cook '66
New York, N.Y.

Hollywood's on Hold

Ummm... how GLAM does that Annie Leibovitz cover shot of President Shapiro look by the way??

—Atoosa Rubenstein '93
Excerpted from blog.barnard.edu

Passion and Personality

The interview of Judith Shapiro by Anna Quindlen in the Winter 2008 issue was a wonderfully revealing conversation... I felt like an eavesdropper while reading it. The recurring theme of anthropology and how it resonates in Judith's approach to daily life was very illuminating. And the photographs vividly portray her passions and personality!

I hope Anna will have a similar chat with Debora Spar early in her tenure so we can be in on her interests and views as she embarks on her presidency.

—Susan A. Seigle '67
New York, N.Y.

Editors' note: The Summer 2008 issue of Barnard will feature a Q&A with Debora Spar and Anna Quindlen.

Ave Atque Vale

A fond farewell to Judith Shapiro, our excellent president, who sang for us at our 50th Reunion breakfast, and who shortly will wave goodbye to Barnard. We thank her for all she did for the College and for our class. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. We will miss her.

—Frances Jeffery Abramowitz '48
Hackensack, N.J.

Corrections: In the Alumnae Association News pages of the Winter 2008 issue we mistakenly included varsity track and basketball among Sabiya Mir Amanat '92 many accomplishments and interests. We regret the error.

In a Winter 2008 story on Barnard's new Speaking Fellows program, we neglected to mention that that program is sponsored by Ogilvy & Mather. We regret the omission.

BARNARD

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The contact information listed in Class Notes is for the exclusive purpose of providing information for the magazine and may not be used for any other purpose.

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TURNING POINT

This semester, my final semester as president of Barnard, has been a uniquely rewarding and productive one. It's been a time of looking back and assessing the progress and accomplishments of the last 14 years. It's been a time of familiar day-to-day responsibilities—assorted administrative tasks; meetings with members of the faculty, staff, or students; events and visits locally or out-of-town with alumnae and other supporters of the College; and joint work with civic leaders and the heads of other educational institutions.

Most important, it's been a time of preparing for Barnard's future as my colleagues and I work with incoming president Debora Spar to ensure a smooth transition.

All too often, institutions fall short when it comes to planning the succession from a departing chief executive to an arriving one. There are the extreme situations, of course, when an individual steps down abruptly—by choice or not—and there is a scramble to fill the sudden, unexpected leadership gap. But even when the incumbent's departure is well anticipated by everyone involved, there may be little contact or collaboration between the two leaders. This is too often true in colleges and universities, in the rest of the nonprofit sector, in business, and, as we have certainly seen, in government.

Rest assured. At Barnard, we're doing things right.

The smooth process here has been facilitated by the ample amount of time Debora and I have for this shared endeavor. Because Debora was such a perfect choice for Barnard's next president, the search committee was able to make its decision months before its projected deadline. The specific reasons for this expeditious decision were noted by board chair Anna Quindlen '74 in her public announcement of Debora's appointment. In that announcement, Anna said that when committee members interviewed Debora and her Harvard colleagues, they were "continually impressed by her prodigious intellect, her global expertise, her ability both to build consensus and introduce innovation as an administrator, and her devotion to acting as a mentor and resource for female faculty and students."

As soon as the committee reached its decision, Debora and I started to work together. At the same time, a transition committee was put in place, co-chaired by Anna Quindlen and Barnard's provost, Elizabeth Boylan. Debora has begun making regular working visits to the College and will continue to do so until her presidency officially begins on July 1. For her, it's been advantageous to have an extended, relatively relaxed introduction to Barnard, its people, and its special institutional mission and priorities. For me, it's been a pleasure to work with someone who is exceptional not only in her intelligence and judgment, but in her warmth, friendliness, and sense of humor.

During our time together, I have been sharing my long-accumulated experiences of Barnard, delving into matters of strategic planning, and examining institutional strengths and weaknesses. Since Debora and I share many intellectual interests, we have found much to talk about. And I am glad to say that she appreciates my skill in making the perfect martini.

Debora's campus visits have been well timed to coincide with events where she

Continued on Page 72



WHAT'S INSIDE

Well over 60 percent of Barnard alumnae make their homes in the Northeast corridor stretching from Massachusetts to Washington, D.C. But these numbers do not tell the real story. The reach and impact of Barnard women are profound and encircle the globe. As humanitarians, entrepreneurs, and other professionals, Barnard women are to be found in just about every corner of the world—solving problems with can-do activism, determination, and the belief that the world can be made a better place, not only for the future, but for the “now.” This issue presents several alumnae at work in various hot spots—Afghanistan, South Africa, and Latin America, among others. Many of these women attribute their years at Barnard as having inspired a global focus in their careers and attitudes. Barnard offers multitudinous opportunities to cultivate a more worldly perspective. Some of the scholarships for study years abroad, grants that enable internships in foreign countries and on-campus programs are outlined in this issue. The College has always shared its students' interest in the world and its differing cultures; Barnard itself embraces a community of openness in which boundaries are unusually permeable—between cultures, otherwise unrelated academic disciplines, and what's known and what could be.

Two remarkable women are off to explore possibilities. Jane Celwyn, dean of career development, has announced her retirement in June after 20 years of creative and caring leadership. In addition to strengthening the student employment program, the internship program, and others, she has impacted the lives of countless alumnae with her sound counsel.

Cameran Mason, vice president for institutional advancement for the past seven years, became vice president of resources and public affairs at Wellesley College, her alma mater, on May 1st. She has left us in great shape: Our target for Nexus fund-raising is close to met; and unrestricted revenues and restricted gifts and pledges have escalated.

Jane Celwyn and Cameran Mason have strengthened Barnard through their unstinting and greatly appreciated efforts. We wish them all the best.

—The Editors



Elizabeth Benedict studied writing at Barnard with Elizabeth Hardwick in 1976 and has written five acclaimed novels, including the bestseller *Almost*. She writes often for *The Huffington Post* on books, politics, and culture, and has taught creative writing at Princeton, the Iowa Writer's Workshop, Swarthmore, and, this spring, at Barnard. Writing for this issue (page 5) about the college's internationalization efforts brought back fond memories of her visit as a student to our Paris campus, Reid Hall.

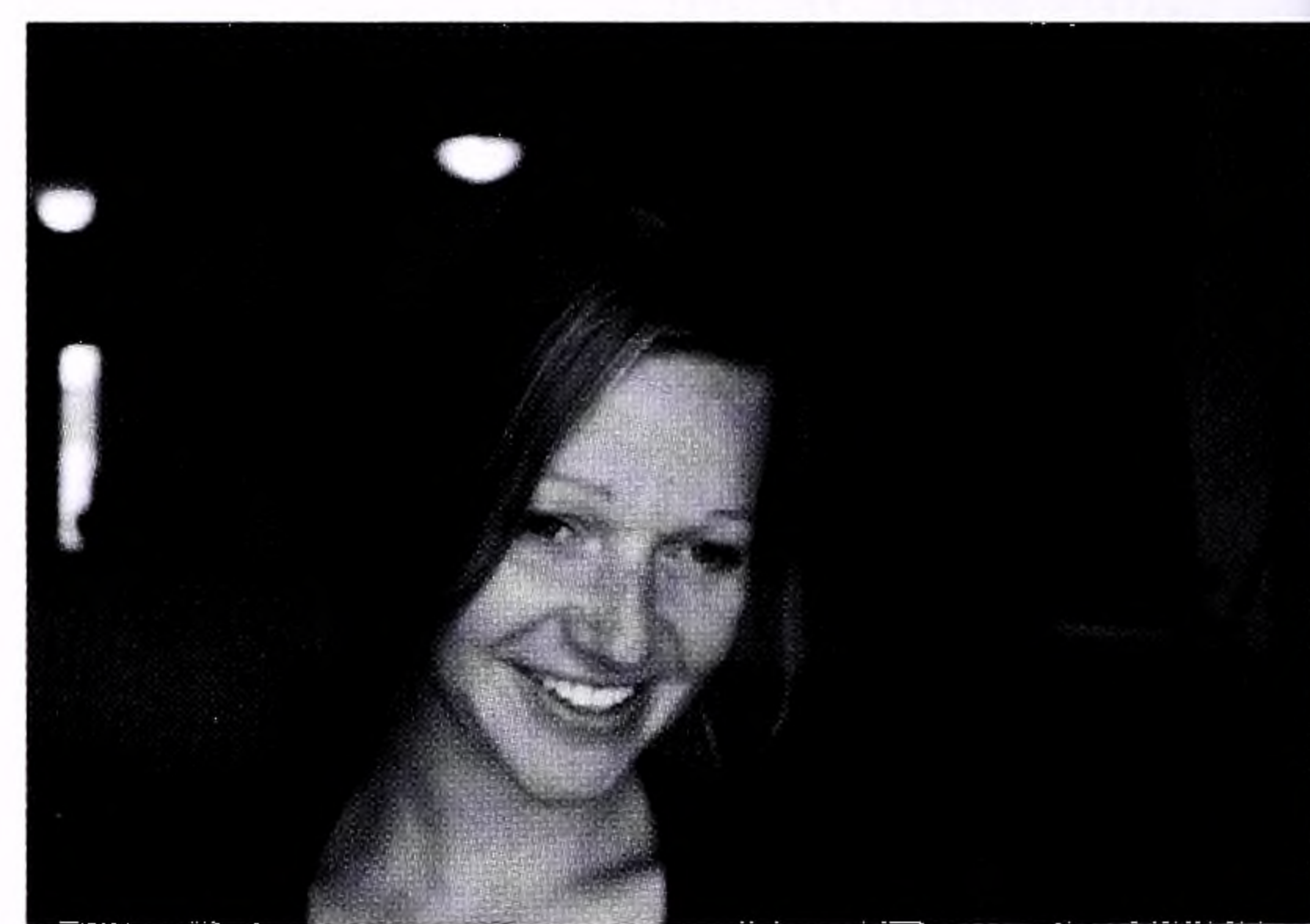
Photograph by Emma Dodge Hanson



Melissa Phipps is a writer and editor specializing in personal finance, small business, and charitable giving. Currently the business and finance editor at About.com, she lives in Jersey City with her husband and two young sons. For a writer and working mother, profiling Margaret Cezair-Thompson '79 (page 16), a professor, writer, and single mom, was inspirational. Melissa's work has appeared in magazines including *Worth, Inc.*, *Institutional Investor*, and *Glamour*.



New York-based photographer, **Juliana Sohn**, who photographed Professor Dennis Dalton for the cover specializes in shooting environments and environmental portraiture. “Meeting Professor Dalton reminded me how inspiring learning and academics can be,” Sohn says. “While on set I e-mailed a high school friend who had attended Barnard to see if she remembered Dalton. ‘Yes! He’s a legend: political scientist, dynamic, loves London. All the girls were in love with him!’ was the enthusiastic response I received within minutes.”



Katherine Wolkoff '98 received her MFA in photography from Yale School of Art in 2003 and was awarded the Richard Dixon Welling Prize. Her first solo exhibition opened at Danziger Projects, New York, in September 2005. Her photographs were also exhibited in 2004 both as part of the Art + Commerce Festival of Emerging Photographers and in *Silhouette* at Momenta Art, Williamsburg. Editorial commissions include works for *The New York Times Magazine*, *W*, *Gourmet*, and *Travel & Leisure*. Her one-year cycle of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was published in *Aperture* magazine. She's been photographing her friends (page 28) since their Barnard days.



GOING GLOBAL

ENRICHING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

By every measure, Barnard students are intellectually and culturally adventurous, whether they're studying string theory or string instruments. Looking to expand the horizons of students and faculty beyond the campus, Barnard's 2001 Strategic Plan made a commitment to engage students even more with resources available in New York City. Now, through the efforts of Provost Elizabeth Boylan's two-year-old Advisory Committee on Internationalization, students will have more opportunities to develop their cultural and scholarly antennae as new Barnard programs reach far beyond the city limits.

Study abroad has been a robust and popular program, enabling about a third of every graduating class to spend a semester or year abroad. With the recent appointment of Dean of Study Abroad Hilary Link as assistant provost and dean for international programs, the College will enlarge Barnard's potential in the international community. Part of that effort will be to integrate study abroad experiences more into the totality of a student's academic program.

"I'm very excited about these initiatives and the possibilities they open up for our students and faculty," Boylan says. "It's essential to prepare graduates to have a broad and deep understanding of global issues. That's part of our mission—to prepare graduates to flourish in an increasingly interconnected world—and it's part of what we want to achieve through our continuing focus on women's leadership."

While Boylan has always had a personal stake in the international arena (she was born in Shanghai, China, and has traveled widely), she began to focus on new opportunities for Barnard in 2005, when she was invited to join the Internationalization Forum for Chief Academic Officers of the American Council on Education. Over a two-year period, the 50 educators gathered to compare internationalization activities on their campuses. This prompted Boylan to establish the Advisory Committee on Internationalization, composed of Dean Link and faculty whose work involves global issues. They include Guobin Yang (Asian and Middle Eastern cultures), Rajiv Sethi (economics), Caroline Weber (French), Jose Moya (history), Sheri Berman (political science), Xiaobo Lu (political science), and Wadda Rios-Font (Spanish and Latin American cultures).

With the goal of developing more global affiliations and new models for international experiences, the Committee has surveyed the College's resources by collecting data on faculty language skills and the scope of faculty time spent abroad.

A program that should begin a year from now will fund students to accompany faculty members who are doing short-term research abroad. Boylan is enthusiastic about FASTRIP, the Faculty and Student Travel Research Inquiry Program, because, she says, it "replicates the research-apprentice model that is so much part of a Barnard education." FASTRIP's initial endowment has been provided by the Lana Schwebel '92 Memorial Fund for Faculty and Research Abroad; the hope is that additional funds will allow 10 students to accompany faculty every year.

Barnard is fortunate to have current funding through Tow Foundation fellowships for student travel between junior and senior years, both international and domestic.

The College hopes to increase its exchange and visiting-student programs, so that more international students can study on the Morningside campus. In the meantime, the provost is looking forward to working with Dean Link to create and sustain multiple international opportunities for students, faculty, and graduates.

FOR THE FUTURE



On April 15, 2008, Barnard held one of the most important celebrations in its history. President Judith Shapiro and an assemblage of administrators, trustees, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the College, joined by construction workers and senior construction management, all celebrated the “topping out” of the Nexus. Topping out—the installation of the highest beam in the steel frame—is a building-trades rite marking the successful completion of a key phase of construction. At Barnard, it signified a major step toward completion of the campus’s magnificent new center for academic, cultural, and social life.

April 15 was also Spirit Day at Barnard, an annual event organized by the McIntosh Activities Council and co-sponsored by the Student Government Association. A student barbecue with ice cream, music, crafts, and Greek Games lent an air of festivity to the afternoon. McAc and the SGA helped organize the Topping Out celebration as well.



BARNARD ON THE WEB

For more information on the Vagelos Challenge, visit giving.barnard.edu/vagelos

President Shapiro chose the Topping Out as the setting for a momentous announcement: The Nexus would soon have a permanent name, thanks to a \$15 million naming gift from trustee Diana T. Vagelos '55 and her husband, Dr. P. Roy Vagelos. The couple's gift is the largest ever to Barnard College, declared President Shapiro. Thunderous fireworks rose from the lawn as the crowd broke into cheers and applause.

At a quieter moment, Diana Vagelos spoke to *Barnard Magazine* about the couple's philanthropic priorities, their enthusiasm for Barnard's new building, and why the Nexus has attracted their sponsorship.

In general, Mrs. Vagelos said, she and her husband believe that supporting excellence in higher education is the best way to influence future generations and build a better world. At Barnard in particular, their support first went to financial aid for students through a scholarship fund named for her parents. They also supported the creation of the Vagelos Alumnae Center, which transformed the old Deanery into a welcoming hub for graduates, students, and others on campus.

Serving on the board's executive committee and chairing the committee on buildings, grounds, and environment has made Diana Vagelos an expert on Barnard's institutional needs and strengths, and during this conversation she noted that while many donors are inspired to provide support for scholarships and academic programs, she wishes that more understood the importance of funding bricks-and-mortar projects as well. Barnard's strategic plan, she said, clarified the need for an innovative new building with 70,000 square feet of multi-use space.

"Roy and I are excited about the Nexus because it brings Barnard into the twenty-first century in many different ways. The building looks to the future in its light and transparency, qualities that will visually unite the campus from Milbank to Barnard Hall and provide a welcoming presence along Broadway. When we first saw the plans, we knew this would be award-winning architecture—and it already is," she said, referring to the prestigious prize the uncompleted building has won from the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Mrs. Vagelos described the building's public events space as "a catalyst for programs and performances that will attract a citywide audience and give Barnard a more significant presence in New York." She also praised the black-box theatre as a tremendous boon to the theatre department, and the studios and exhibition areas as vital enhancements to the study and practice of visual arts and architecture. Equally important, she observed, are the benefits that other academic departments will derive from the square-footage freed up in other campus buildings. "In order for departments to thrive, they need space," she stated plainly.

Student life, campus organizations, and a sense of community will also thrive in the new building, she predicted, mentioning that in recent years, her work as a trustee has brought her into contact with students "who across the board expressed their need for a better place to interact and socialize." She recalled that when she was an undergraduate, the soda fountain in the Barnard Hall Annex was a popular destination. The favorite gathering spot has changed over the decades, she reflected, but the new building "will be the most exciting one ever, and the most visible."

Fund-raising figures show that the excitement felt by Diana and Roy Vagelos is shared by many supporters of the College: More than \$8 million has qualified for Nexus matching funds under the Vagelos Challenge. Expressing hope that more donors will step up, Diana Vagelos remarked, "Things are better than ever at Barnard, and this project, in particular, deserves generous support."

When Dr. Vagelos joined the interview, he cited his awareness that during Diana's four years as a commuting student, she felt the need for a special central meeting place for the entire Barnard community. He said, "You can imagine what pleasure it gives us to be involved in the planning and building of such a space 50 years later."



She had a seductive air of seriousness and casualness, self-assuredness and diffidence, which got to me and helped make me who I am today, for better or for worse.

CAUSE & EFFECT

REMEMBERING MARY MOTHERSILL

I first got to know Mary well my senior year at Vassar, in 1950–51, although I had met her before and heard all about her classes from my friends, who took her famous “Philosophy of Modern Literature” course, the only place you could read European contemporary literature in translation. I never took a course with her, but we talked about all sorts of things—people, books, ideas. It was her style I admired, palpable yet elusive at once, not necessarily the substance of her thought, although that impressed me too. Mary was so different from the usual tweedy, gruff, unfashionable, and to me, highly unalluring women faculty. She had a seductive air of seriousness and casualness, self-assuredness and diffidence, which got to me and helped make me who I am today, for better or for worse. She gave me the *Collected Poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, which I have to this day, and Hart Crane as well.

When I finally got to visit her and her family in British Columbia, we would sit on the rocks in the Pacific and look out to sea and talk over the expanse of reddening water as the sun set. Here, we would share intimacies and insights and sometimes she would lead me in philosophical discussions. I remember talking about David Hume and causality with her at great length. Here was my problem: the summer before I had lived in a tenement overlooking the Third Avenue El. Each morning, exactly at the moment when I flushed the toilet, the train would rush by. Did my flushing cause the train to appear? Causality seemed slippery after that, needless to say. Mary never let me get away with intellectual sloppiness. “Your teachers think you are so smart they don’t bother to challenge you, to criticize you,” she said. She criticized me, but even better, she showed me alternatives to clichés or lazy assumptions.

Later, when I graduated, we continued our friendship and it grew and changed. Through her, I met all sorts of interesting people, her friends: Sidney Morganbesser and, although I only met her briefly, a poet whom I greatly admired, Muriel Rukeyser. Mary accepted the task, half joking, of being the godmother of my oldest daughter, Jessica. She gave her a beautiful silver key ring and said she would take charge of her moral education.

To say she was unique is to say little. It is harder to suggest the qualities of that uniqueness, the quirks of mind, the turns of gesture, the nuances of putting down a glass, phrasing a criticism, commenting on a piece of music that were particularly Mary’s. No matter how funny or off-handed or oblique she might be talking about ordinary things, when it came to ideas she was lucidity itself, a model of rationality, always open to argument or further discussion and clearly enjoying the process.

It is clear I think, that in mourning Mary, I am mourning myself and my own lost youth and approaching death as the past closes in and the lines of the future converge more and more rapidly. I will end by quoting the final lines of a poem by Hopkins that I have read many times in the volume she gave me for graduation, and that I think Mary liked, too: The poem, “Spring and Fall,” begins: “Margaret, are you grieving / Over Goldengrove unleaving?” and ends: “Sorrow’s springs are the same. / Nor mouth had, no nor mind, expressed / What heart heard of, ghost guessed: / It is the blight man was born for, / It is Margaret you mourn for.”

Excerpted and reprinted with permission of Linda Nochlin, Lila Acheson Wallace Professor of Modern Art at the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU. For the complete memorial go to http://aesthetics-online.org/memorials/index.php?memorials_id=34.



NOTES ON THE NEVA

STUDY-ABROAD BLOG BY ALLEGRA PANETTO

Studying in St. Petersburg this spring, Allegra Panetto '09 chronicled her experiences in an illustrated interactive blog. Panetto's major is Russian regional studies and human rights, an intellectual focus she credits her Ukrainian-born grandmother for inspiring: "I want to be able to tell her story one day. And to be able to talk to her in Russian is very rewarding."

Following are chronological excerpts from the blog titled *From Russian With Love*.

January 26, 2008

First and foremost, my grandmother told me to look out the window while the plane was landing because "it will be like something you have never seen." It truly was. The vast amounts of snow-covered land were insane. Definitely not anything I was used to, except maybe the extreme opposite example of vast desert surrounding Las Vegas. My [host] "family" is only an old woman in her late sixties named Marina. She is really sweet and cooks absolutely delicious meals. She also has a son who is an engineer and a grandson who is 18 and still in school. We exchanged pictures and family stories. She was very surprised that I was Ukrainian and Filipino.

There are only two problems: She's a little overbearing and serves me too much food. In Russia you're expected to finish every last bit of your meal, and it is extremely rude to leave food on your plate ... in St. Petersburg specifically, this is especially true due to the fascist blockade during World War II that the city valiantly overcame. The memory of it is very painful, and as Marina told me about it (tomorrow is the anniversary of the blockade being lifted, complete with parades and celebrations), she teared up.

February 4, 2008

I have five classes including grammar, phonetics, conversation, culture, and civilization ... it's really awesome learning about culture and civilization only in Russian ... to get to school I spend about 40 minutes on a bus with pushy *babushkas* yelling at people.

February 24, 2008

Putin's Kremlin really likes the idea of "rule of law," and it is rampant throughout their quotes. I find this particularly intriguing and reflective of the type of power Putin wants over his state. Of course, the issue of Kosovo is adding more fuel to the fire in the age-old battle of Russia vs. the West.... Speaking of "rule of law," the head of Human Rights Watch, Kenneth Roth, was denied a Russian visa to present a report titled "Choking on Bureaucracy: State Curbs on Independent Civil Society Activism." This is the first time anyone from HRW has been denied a visa since the fall of the USSR.

March 18, 2008

I found an opportunity to volunteer at an orphanage here, and I couldn't be happier about it. The children are loving, energetic and adorable.... This past Saturday I went to a choral performance of Rachmaninoff's liturgy music at St. Isaac's Cathedral. It was profoundly spiritual and moved me very deeply. I was talking to my mother earlier in the day about fate and how cyclical life can be. The people in my life both past and present were with me; I felt my soul in a way I haven't before.

To read more about Allegra Panetto's experiences in and reflections about Russia, go to her blog at <http://allegrainrussia.wordpress.com>.



LOOKING AHEAD

PROFESSOR KIM HALL HEADS THE AFRICANA STUDIES PROGRAM AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

With invigorated enthusiasm for its mission and recognition of its place within Barnard and the larger academic community, the Department of Africana Studies marks its 15th anniversary this spring. On April 4, supported by a donation from the Virginia C. Gildersleeve Fund, the program celebrated its milestone with a reception, banquet, and exhibit highlighting the program's history and bringing together current students with alumnae, faculty, and visitors. Events during the spring term included three major lectures for the "Race, Communities and the Diaspora" series. Yale associate professor of anthropology Kamari M. Clarke gave a talk, "Shifting the Terrain for Diaspora Studies: Democracy, the Rule of Law and the 'New' Souls of Black Folk"; University of Chicago political science professor Cathy Cohen presented a lecture, "Black Youth and Empowerment: Politics and Rap Music"; and Amina Mama, Barbara Lee Distinguished Professor at Mills College, gave a speech titled "Rethinking Gender in African Universities."

"The discipline has been in place for 50 years," says Kim Hall, program director and Lucyle Hook Professor of English, whose academic research has focused on the development of Anglo-American race thinking regarding slavery, material culture, and black feminism. Originally founded as Pan-African Studies, the program has shifted its focus along with its name change. "Our focus is on the Diaspora," says Hall. "We study the Black Diaspora from the Middle Passage to the spread of Africans around the globe. We look at the framework of the migration of Africans, by choice and not by choice. Barnard is almost uniquely positioned to make contributions in diaspora studies, to be able to have a focus on gender and the African Diaspora. The strength of women's studies is here."

Students are required to take at least one social sciences and one humanities course. There is also a Harlem course requirement, on topics such as Literature of the Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance. Among the electives, students take two courses about Africa and one that focuses on the Diaspora.

"My job is to train and prepare students in the field," explains Hall. "Eighty percent of our students study abroad in Africa, the Caribbean, Spain, and Latin America." One of the more challenging courses is a seminar on the Middle Passage, designed for juniors and seniors. This year, marking the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the United States, the focus is on "Gender & the Middle Passage"; the course work will include site visits related to slavery in New York and South Carolina.

A group of 23 northeast liberal-arts colleges, including Barnard, awarded a grant to the College's Africana Studies program to develop a consortium of black-studies programs. Other program goals that Hall would like to see include expanding the use of technology, so that students from places like Ghana, Senegal, and other African countries can work with students in an online course.

Hall says, "This recent generation of students wants Barnard to pay as much attention to the contributions of people of color as to women. There needs to be a place where race operates. You have to understand race and colonialism as part of a global phenomenon. What they can learn is not just the history and cultures of Africa, but the tools for how to approach different cultures globally and how to work in the world, which is so necessary in the twenty-first century."

NEW CURRENTS

THE FUTURE OF THE FORUM ON MIGRATION

Jose Moya, professor of history, director of Barnard's Forum on Migration, and himself an immigrant to the United States via Cuba and Spain, emphasizes that immigration and migration are an intrinsic aspect of the human experience. As an example, he relates the vignette with which he opens his course on world migration, currently the history department's most popular course.

"I tell my students: Five, six, or seven million years ago, give or take a few months, we separated from our chimpanzee ancestors in central eastern Africa. Today, there are about one-quarter million chimpanzees, and they're still all there. But there are over six and one-half billion humans, and we're all over the planet. Why?" Moya asks his class to consider an answer, and then offers his interpretation: "We became successful migrants and chimpanzees did not." We are all migrants, he reminds them, each one of us descended from African immigrants.

In his role as director of the Forum, he relishes the intellectual challenge of planning its programs. "We want to keep it accessible," he says, stressing that, in contrast to scholarly symposia and conferences, "the Forum is a space for intelligent public discourse." To that end, in the three years he has served as director, Moya has organized events around food, language, music, and education, encompassing topics as disparate as the Asian Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean, popular culture in Northern Nigeria, and Israeli-Argentine identity.

This spring the Forum is co-sponsoring a conference with the Institute of Latin American Studies at Columbia, of which Moya is the interim director, titled "Iberia & The Americas—Contacts and Migrations." "Currently, there is a migration of Latin Americans to Spain and Portugal," Moya says, describing hundreds of thousands of Ecuadorians, Dominicans, and Brazilians in Spain and Portugal. "For the first time, the ex-colonial powers of Latin America have become the recipients of Latin-American laborers. It's created a lot of tension and conflict, along with accusations of racism." Whenever possible, the director strives for a comparative approach. Last fall, the Forum sponsored a one-day conference on Gender & Migration with both Columbia's Institute of Latin American Studies and Barnard's Center for Research on Women.

Looking ahead, Moya is hoping to organize events on the presidential election ("Why is the weakest demographic in the Obama campaign among white ethnics?") and Islamic migrants in the United States and Europe ("Has the United States been more successful than Europe with the integration of Muslim immigrants?"). He is also considering bringing ethnic comedians to Barnard to illustrate how immigration plays out in their routines. "We address popular issues," he reflects, "but from a slightly different angle." Moya's approach appears to be working. Though Forum presenters are mostly scholars, the audience regularly comprises not just students and faculty but also artists and United Nations staff. Receptions usually follow each event, and, to his satisfaction, the conversation continues over coffee and pastries. "That's the goal of a forum," says the director, "to get people talking."

Lectures offered through the Barnard Forum on Migration are supported by a bequest establishing the Weiss International Fellowship Fund to bring distinguished scholars in literature and the arts to Barnard. For program details, go to barnard.edu/migration.

"There are over six and a half billion humans, and we're all over the planet. Why?" asks Jose Moya, director of the Forum on Migration.



WITHIN REACH

BARNARD STUDENTS HAVE THE WORLD AT THEIR DOORSTEP

Technology has made the world a much smaller place, but for some new Barnard students the neighborhoods of Morningside Heights, Harlem to the north, and the Upper West Side to the south, may be their first exposure to areas with a rich tradition of ethnic diversity. Along these streets, a range of culturally distinct businesses, institutions, and products beckon—from restaurants to personal service salons, straw hats to really fresh chickens, street games to houses of worship: A microcosm of the world. An area anchor is Morningside Park, surveyed around 1870, whose name reflects the rising sun's brilliant illumination of the landscape. And the sun is still smiling here.

NOTED

HAPPENINGS AT BARNARD

NORWEGIAN VISIT TO BARNARD

On March 25, a delegation of Norwegian politicians, professors, and a university student visited Barnard as part of a trip to the Northeast to learn about liberal-arts programs in the United States. In Norway undergraduate students are required to choose a specialized area of study, so general education requirements and liberal-arts programs do not exist. The delegation visited Barnard because it is a women's college and because of the Nine Ways of Knowing, Barnard's innovative general education program. While on campus, the group took a tour of the College before sitting down for a conversation with President Judith Shapiro, Provost Elizabeth Boylan, Dean Hilary Lieberman Link, and professors Lisa Tiersten, Sheri Berman, and Carl Wennerlind. The group plans to share their knowledge with others who want to bring the liberal-arts system to Norway. barnard.edu/newnews/news040808b.html

BARNARD STUDENT AWARDED GRANT FOR PEACE

Barnard student Kristine Hassan '09 recently received a Davis Projects for Peace grant. The \$10,000 grant, the maximum amount that can be awarded, will be used to support a community health project in Cairo, Egypt, this summer. Davis Projects for Peace allows students to develop their own grassroots programs, which they will implement over the summer all over the world. A total of 100 grants are awarded to college students, with funding provided by philanthropist Kathryn Wasserman Davis.

columbiaspectator.com/node/30155

FACULTY DELEGATION TO TURKMENISTAN

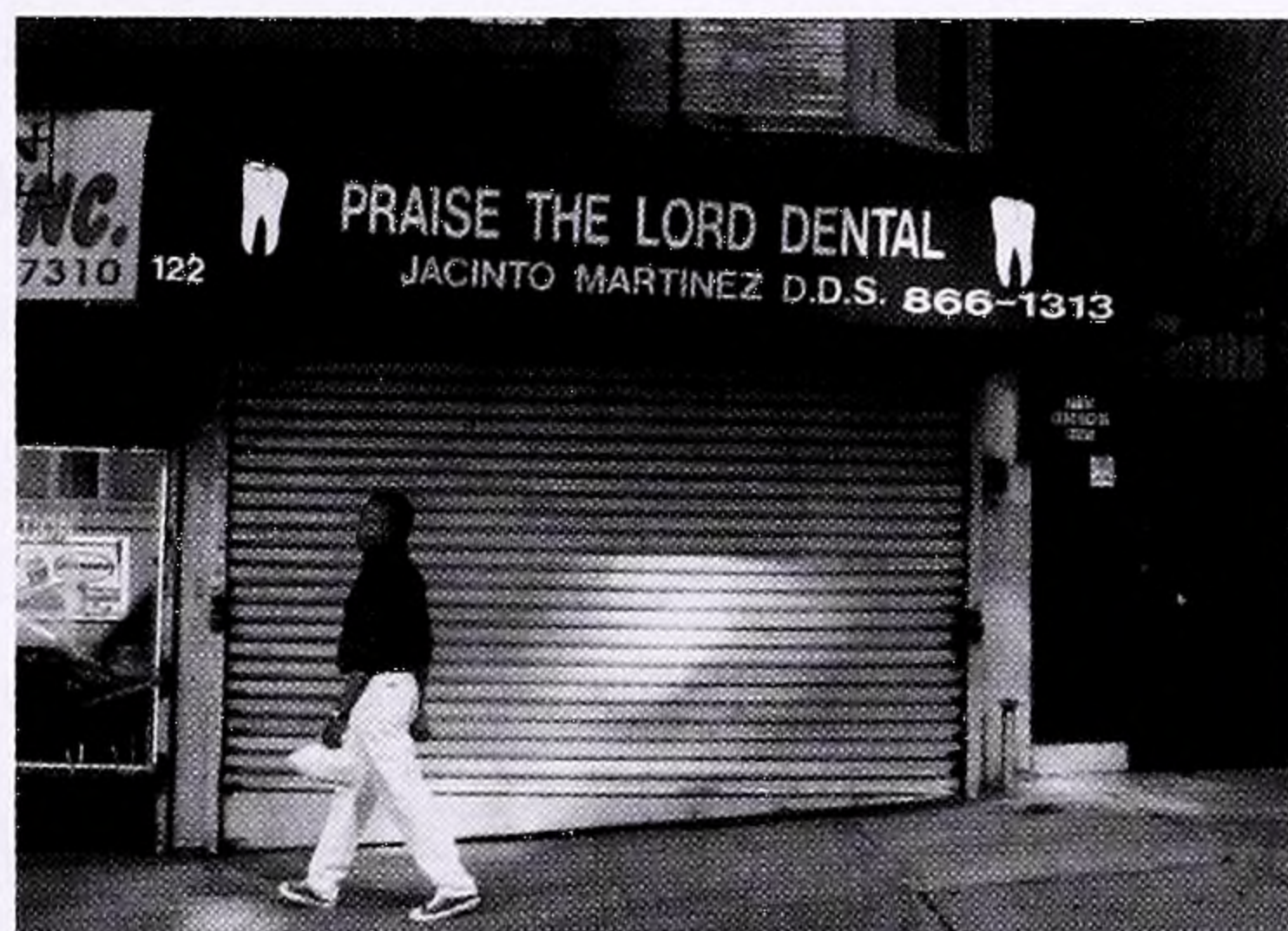
Professors Catharine Nepomnyashchy, chair of the Slavic department and director of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, Kimberley Marten, and Alexander Cooley traveled to Turkmenistan in March as part of a five-person delegation. Organized by the Harriman Institute, the group went to the former Soviet country in order to work with the Turkmenistani government to implement education reform, which has become a priority. The government and the Harriman Institute will continue to collaborate, and they hope to have students from Turkmenistan studying at Columbia in the fall.

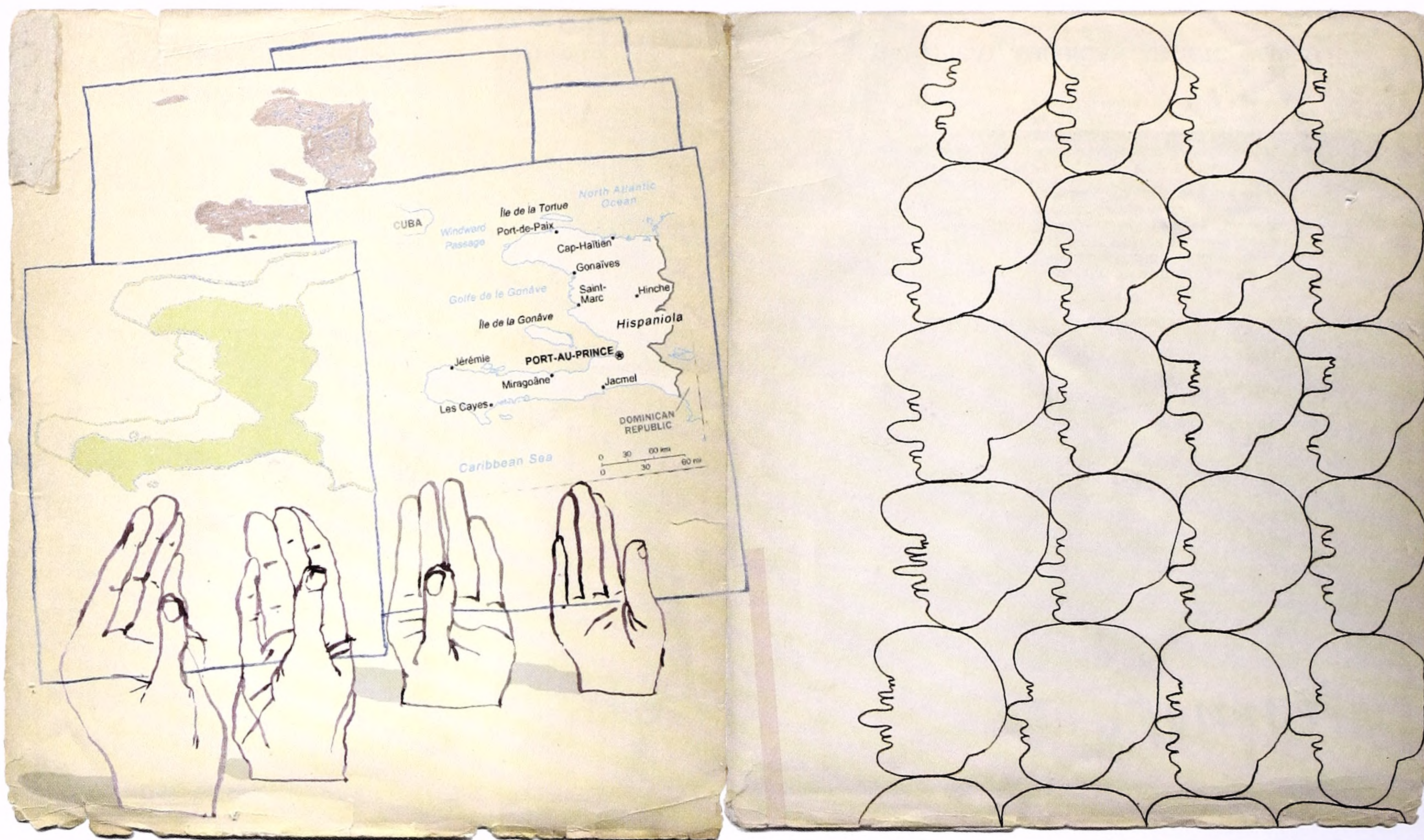
alum.barnard.edu/turkmenistan

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE-WINNER SHIRIN EBADI GIVES LECTURE

An Iranian lawyer and human rights activist, Shirin Ebadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her significant and pioneering efforts in democracy and human rights, especially the rights of women and children. She is the first Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the prize. On April 22, Ebadi gave a lecture at Barnard, "The Role of Women in World Peace," which can be viewed online at barnard.edu/newnews/news042308.html

Visit barnard.edu for other news and events.





HAITI THROUGH FOREIGN EYES

Examining the literary viewpoints of colonial occupiers, compassionate observers, and other outsiders

In 1915, following the assassination of Haitian president Jean Vilbrun Guillaume Sam, the United States military occupied Haiti for the first time. American forces ran the country for the next 19 years. A leader of the occupation forces, Marine Corps captain John H. Craige, wrote about his experiences in the 1933 book *Black Bagdad: The Arabian Nights Adventures of a Marine Captain in Haiti*. Craige portrayed the occupation as an altruistic act and Haiti as a land whose people and customs were as primitive and exotic as those in the tales of Scheherazade.

Three decades later, British author Graham Greene wrote a book that depicted the American role in Haiti in a very different light. Published in 1966, when the U.S. government was nine years into its long alliance with Haitian dictator François “Papa Doc” Duvalier, *The Comedians* reflected Greene’s hardbitten view of American motives and conduct in foreign affairs.

Black Bagdad and *The Comedians* are two readings on the syllabus of the spring 2008 Junior Colloquium in Africana Studies (AFRS BC3110). While the colloquium is a fixed requirement for students majoring in Africana Studies, its focus changes from one semester to another. The past semester’s colloquium was “*Black Baghdad: How Haiti’s Story Tells the West*,” created and taught by Kaiama L. Glover, an

assistant professor of French whose distinguished scholarship on the literary canon of the Caribbean has included a thoroughgoing analysis of Haitian history and culture.

The readings for the spring colloquium were culled from literature about Haiti by writers of other nations. As Glover’s course description states, this enables a class to “consider the manner in which Haiti has been configured to meet the discursive needs and fill the racial fantasies of the colonial and postcolonial ‘Western’ world.” Moreover, works by French, English, American, and Caribbean writers reveal as much about the authors, their times, and their own cultures and prejudices, as about Haiti itself.

This was certainly true of the class’s mid-semester study of *Tell My Horse*, a nonfiction book by anthropologist, novelist and alumna Zora Neale Hurston ’28. Most of the 14 students expressed great admiration for Hurston and her famous novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. But they came to a reluctant consensus about the shortcomings of *Tell My Horse*, faulting Hurston’s quasi-anthropological travelogue for its imprecise, contradictory, and highly subjective descriptions of voodoo and other Haitian customs.

Like most class sessions, this one began with an oral book critique by two students and a wide discussion of that critique,
Continued on Page 72

THE IRRESISTIBLE LURE OF MUSIC

ELIZABETH OVERWEG '89



At Barnard, Elizabeth Overweg was a political science major, but a lifelong passion for music won out and led her to enroll in the Manhattan School of Music for graduate study. In 1991, after receiving a master's degree in violin performance, she began exploring the music worlds in Spain and Nevada. Eight years later, she landed in New Orleans, where she is now a member of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

One of Elizabeth Overweg's most enduring memories is of being 7 years old and playing the violin together with her older sister, Eleanore, as they were accompanied on the piano by their mother, Angelique. By then, Elizabeth had been playing the violin for about three years, and she remembers those weekend musicales—when melodies of Bach and Vivaldi wafted through the living room of their Riverdale apartment—as a “fun family thing to do.”

Not that her immediate family was composed of professional musicians. Her mother was a homemaker and freelance Dutch-English translator who played “some piano.” Her brother, Harold, took violin for just one year. Her father, Norbert, a medical researcher, played only the radio. Still, Overweg recalls, the household “revolved around music.”

In addition to playing trios at home, Overweg and her family attended student concerts, performances by the New York Philharmonic, and violin recitals by the likes of Yehudi Menuhin and Nathan Milstein. She attributes the emphasis on music to her parents being born in the Netherlands, from which they emigrated in the early 1960s. “I think music was their way of keeping alive European culture in our house,” she says.

When the Bronx High School of Science graduate entered Barnard, she was so sure she wanted to take a break from music that she left her violin at her parents' apartment. “I even thought about giving it up entirely,” she recalls. After a couple of weeks, however, she missed her fiddle and retrieved it, then joined Columbia University's orchestra in her first year. For the three succeeding years, Overweg was the orchestra's concertmaster, the leader of the first violin section who serves as assistant to the conductor, “I always enjoyed playing in an orchestra—I like the way it resonates throughout my body. I also like the sense of camaraderie, and of contributing to a greater whole.”

In her sophomore year, she and three Columbia students formed a string

quartet. Despite devoting so much time to music during her first two years at college, she never considered making it a vocation. “I was thinking of premed, and I thought a little bit about business, then poli sci,” she says.

The summer between her sophomore and junior year was when music kicked in big time. She attended the Spoleto festivals in Charleston, South Carolina, and Spoleto, Italy. Later that summer she attended The Quartet Program then in residence at a boarding school in Troy, NY, where she focused on playing solo string and chamber music pieces.

“I was thinking about professional music then, but it's scary,” she says. “It's not the most secure vocation.” After graduation, encouraged by her music teachers, she took the plunge, and began laying the foundation for a music career by enrolling in the graduate program at the Manhattan School of Music, taking a four-year stint with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León in Spain, and doing additional graduate work at the University of Nevada at Reno.

Today Overweg is a member of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and lives in the Uptown neighborhood of New Orleans with her husband, John Roberts, a fourth-year medical student at Tulane University, and their daughter, Sofia.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, LPO's concerts came to a stop. Overweg, who was in Houston at that time, performed mainly with the San Antonio Symphony and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. She was elated when the LPO returned to its regular 36-week season for 2006-07. However, because Orpheum Theatre and Mahalia Jackson Theatre remain damaged, the music makers have become a “gypsy orchestra” performing at various venues around New Orleans. Regardless of where, Overweg looks forward to the LPO's performance of Mahler's second symphony in May. “It's not the easiest of pieces to play, but some of the melodies are so beautiful and it can be both elegant and passionate at once,” she says.

QUICK TAKE

PARADISE RETOLD

THE PIRATE'S DAUGHTER
BY MARGARET CEZAIR-
THOMPSON

Unbridled Books, 2007, \$24.95

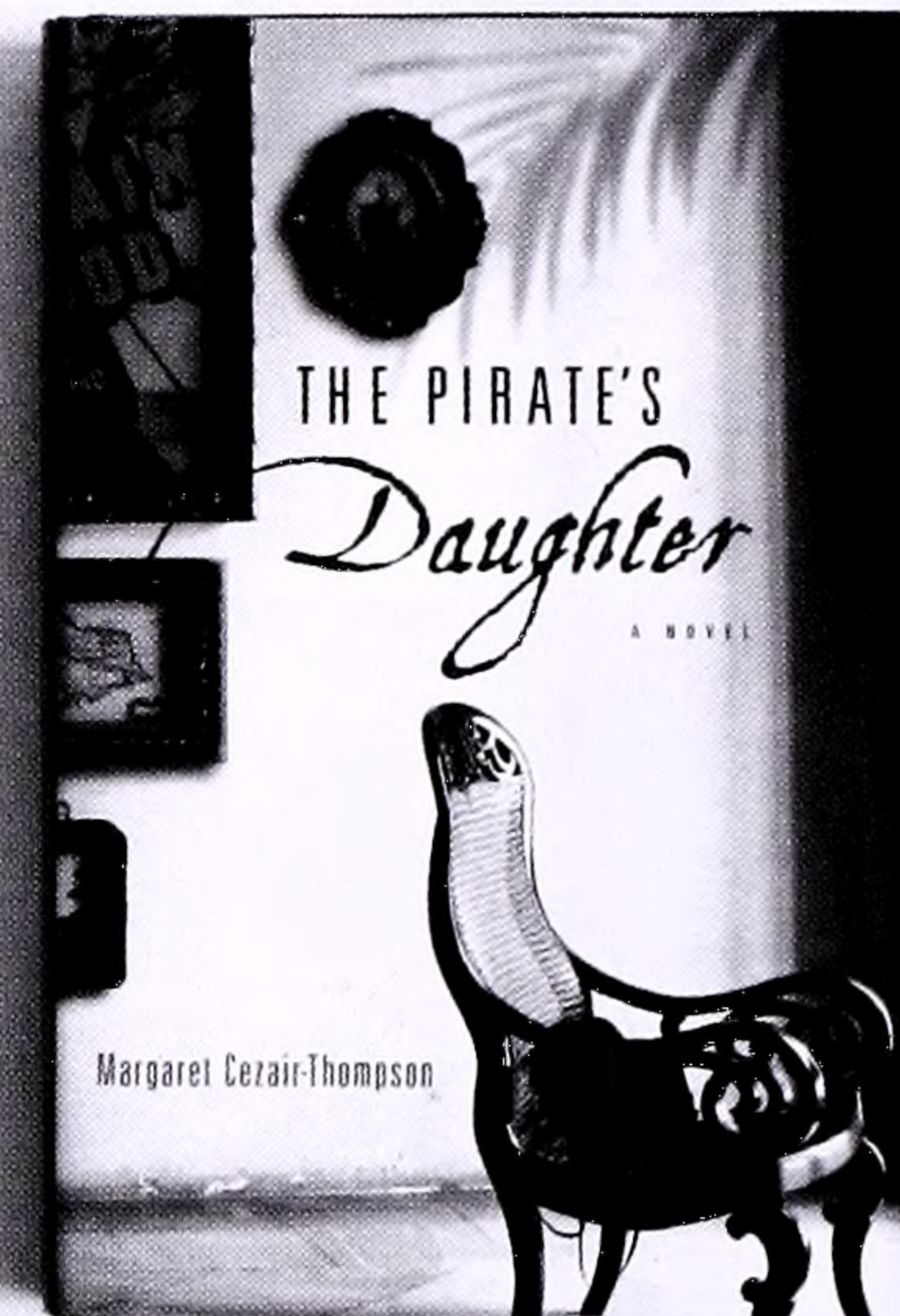
Born in Jamaica, West Indies, Margaret Cezair-Thompson has witnessed her country change greatly during her lifetime.

After gaining full independence from the United Kingdom and the British West Indies in 1962, Jamaica entered into a period of political and economical turmoil and violence during the 1970s. In her latest novel, *The Pirate's Daughter*, Cezair-Thompson '79 explores the country's turbulent recent history through the eyes of a family whose lives are changed after swashbuckling Hollywood actor Errol Flynn's yacht, *Zaca*, nearly shipwrecks off Jamaica's Port Antonio in 1946.

In reality, the legendary Flynn did spend much time living in Port Antonio before his death in 1959, and encouraged a litany of other celebrities and wealthy travelers to discover the region as well. Cezair-Thompson incorporates some of Flynn's history to tell the fictional tale of Ida, a young Jamaican woman who falls in love with Flynn and gives birth to his illegitimate daughter, May. The book begins as a romance set somewhere near paradise, and evolves to tell a more complex story of two generations of Jamaican women struggling with independence in a country trying to establish its own.

"I was very conscious of coming of age at the same time that the country was coming of age," she says. "Wondering, can you belong to a country that is changing so much?"

Like Flynn, Cezair-Thompson has experience adjusting to a foreign island. As a 19-year-old arriving at Barnard in



1975, she was initially overwhelmed by Manhattan. "I think I spent as much time in those four years trying to adjust to the city as I spent in my classes," she says. She joined a black theatre company on campus and was involved in founding the Caribbean Students Association. Still, she found it difficult being away from her home. While in New York, she got secondhand accounts of sometimes frightening political and economical unrest. "They seemed to be describing another place," she says of newspaper reports of her country.

An English major with a concentration in theatre, Cezair-Thompson discovered writing while taking a fiction class in her senior year with Professor Marjorie Dobkin, who inspired her and set her on a path leading to a master's degree in literature from New York University, and a PhD in English from the City University of New York.

Today, Cezair-Thompson attempts to inspire young writers as a professor at Wellesley College, where she teaches literature, fiction writing, and screenwriting. She also hopes to pass

along inspiration and encouragement that female artists really can have it all. Her first novel, *The True History of Paradise*, which was short-listed for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, came out in 1999, the same year her son was born. As difficult as the first book was to write, balancing the writing of the second book with raising a child was even more of a challenge. "As a single mother teaching young women, I feel it's important to open up a dialogue about how women can keep pursuing a dream of a life in the arts while becoming wives and mothers, and earning a living," she says.

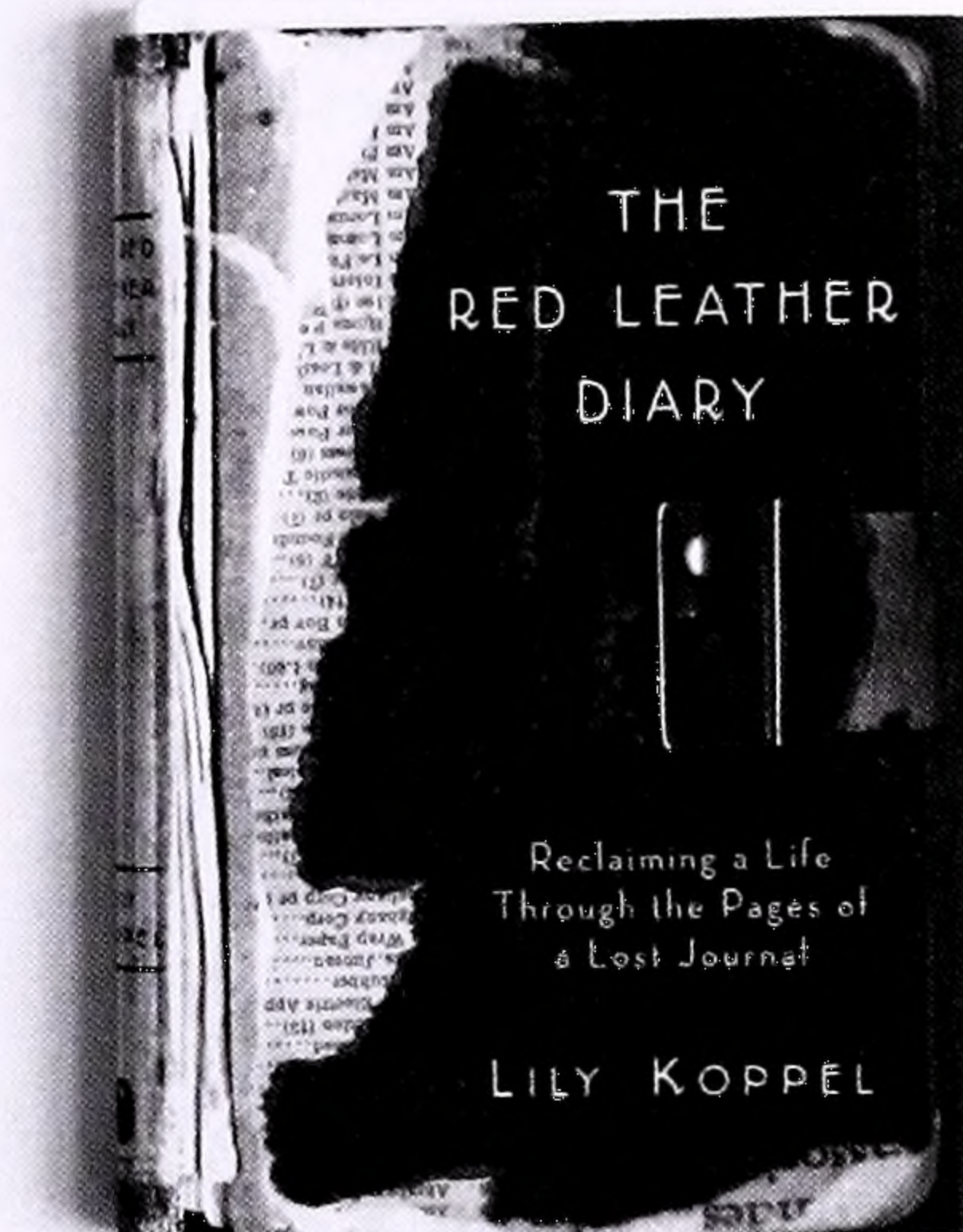
For Cezair-Thompson, the effort was worth the struggle. Along with positive praise in the *Washington Post* and *USA Today*, *The Pirate's Daughter* earned a 2008 Essence Literary Award for Best Fiction. *The True History of Paradise* is being reprinted in paperback by Random House in 2009. Additionally, her screenplay *Photo Finish*, about a Jamaican-American female athlete, was bought by Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions. In the meantime, she has begun work on a third novel.

QUICK TAKE

TRASH TO TREASURE

THE RED LEATHER DIARY:
RECLAIMING A LIFE
THROUGH THE PAGES OF
A LOST JOURNAL
BY LILY KOPPEL '03

HarperCollins, 2008, \$23.95



In the fall of 2003, not long after graduating from Barnard, Lily Koppel found a diary in the trash. The red leather-bound journal recorded five years in the life of a teenage girl named Florence Wolfson living on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in the 1930s. Koppel used her journalism skills to track down the book's owner, write about the incident for the *New York Times*, and then turned the piece into a book.

Can you recount the story of finding the diary? When I graduated, I wanted to become a writer. I got a job on the Metro desk at the *New York Times*, and I rented a small room on the Upper West Side from an eccentric older woman. One day, I came out of the building and found a large pile of old steamer trunks stacked up in a dumpster. I climbed up and started going through them. There were flapper dresses, old black and white photographs, and then a diary, kept by a young woman for five years. I read the diary, and it spoke to me in a way that few other books had. This young woman, even though she was still a teenager, and I were on a very similar path. She became sort of a guide for how to navigate my life and inspired me, in a way, to pursue my art and writing. [The diary] was something I came back

to every so often, kept in my bedside drawer, over three years.

Eventually you discovered that the person who wrote this diary was alive?

I wrote a [*NY Times*] story about an attorney named Charles Eric Gordon, who is an “investigative counsel,” and looks like a sleuth from a 1930s pulp novel. He specializes in finding missing persons. I shared the diary with him. He was as fascinated by the woman as I was, and wondered if she could possibly be alive. Gordon has a collection of vintage phone books going back to the teens, and by searching through those, and also through New York City's birth records, he ended up finding her. She was living in Pompano Beach, Florida, with her husband of 67 years.

Why was the diary so interesting to you?

It provides a really rich portrait of the artist as a young woman. As a 19-year-old graduate student in English literature at Columbia, she hosted a literary salon in her apartment that was attended by the existential philosopher William Barrett and the poet Delmore Schwartz. Many of her peers went on to have literary careers. She did write for a time in the '40s, but ultimately gave into her parents' expectations and got married to a nice Jewish doctor. The magic of the diary was that this young woman was longing for a creative and artistic life of her own and she was able to reclaim that authentic younger self through the recovered diary.

RELEASES

NEW & UPCOMING

FICTION

A RICHER DUST

by Amy L. Boaz (Nugent) '83
Permanent Press, 2008, \$26

LAND SO FAIR

by Firth Haring Fabend '59
iUniverse, Inc., 2008, \$20.95

SCOTTSBORO: A NOVEL

by Ellen Feldman '69
W.W. Norton, 2008, \$24.95

AND SOMETIMES WHY

by Rebecca Johnson '86
Putnam Adult, 2008, \$24.95

CORNER OF THE DEAD

by Lynn Lurie '80
U. of Massachusetts Press, 2008, \$19.95

NONFICTION

THE GLASS HOUSE

edited by Irene Shum Allen '93
Assouline, 2008, \$18.95

1001 BOOKS FOR EVERY MOOD: A BIBLIOPHILE'S GUIDE TO UNWINDING, MISBEHAVING, FORGIVING, CELEBRATING, COMMISERATING

by Hallie Ephron (Touger) '69
Adams Media Corporation, 2008, \$14.95

MOOSE: A MEMOIR OF FAT CAMP

by Stephanie Klein '97
William Morrow, 2008, \$24.95

DON'T BITE YOUR TONGUE: HOW TO FOSTER REWARDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR ADULT CHILDREN

by Ruth Nemzoff '62
Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, \$14.95

OPTING IN: HAVING A CHILD WITHOUT LOSING YOURSELF

by Amy Richards '92
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008, \$15

IF I'D KNOWN THEN: WOMEN UNDER 35 WRITE LETTERS TO THEIR YOUNGER SELVES

edited by Elyn Spragins '77
Perseus Books, 2008, \$18

CHEER!: THREE TEAMS ON A QUEST FOR COLLEGE CHEERLEADING'S ULTIMATE PRIZE

by Kate Torgovnick '02
Simon & Schuster, Inc., 2008, \$24.95

YOUNG READERS

WE DARE YOU!: HUNDREDS OF FUN SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS, TRICKS, AND GAMES YOU CAN TRY AT HOME

by Vicki Cobb '58 with Kathy Darling
Skyhorse Publishing, 2008, \$19.95

Complete listings online at alum.barnard.edu/salon.

PRESIDENT-ELECT DEBORA SPAR NEWS FROM THE HEIGHTS

A recent query to President-elect Debora Spar, *What have you been doing lately?*, elicited a long list of current projects and should assure all those who care about Barnard College that this is truly a remarkable woman to whom we have entrusted our future.

Since the announcement of her appointment to the presidency, in February, she and President Judith Shapiro have been orchestrating a thoughtful, orderly transition of roles. But, in addition to the transition, Spar has a schedule and a list of “to-dos” that might make any crack multitasker pause for a deep breath.

As an example, a list of upcoming articles and papers gives eloquent testimony to the range of her research and intellectual curiosity. “Selling Stem Cell Science: How Markets Drive Law Along the Technological Frontier,” coauthored with Anna Harrington, will appear in the *American Journal of Law and Medicine*. Another piece with the same coauthor, “Building a Better Baby Business,” is slated for the *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science and Technology*. Related to this piece is a paper on “baby markets” to appear in a book, *Free Markets, Free Choices?*, to be published by Cambridge University Press.

On the lecture circuit, Spar gave the keynote address at Canadian Music Week, the biggest annual music event in the country, in March. Her topic tackled a much-in-the-news subject these days: The evolution of digital media and what this evolution



suggests about the future of intellectual property rights in music. She also paid a visit to Ottawa to discuss intellectual property issues with Canadian policymakers. April brought more speaking engagements: a talk at the University of Chicago about reproductive markets and how they might actually be used to protect reproductive rights, an address at Harvard Medical School about current problems with the market for reproductive medicine, and a sociology class at Harvard College on the political and social evolution of the Internet, among them.

Spar also continues her research for her book about water—how it is sold around the world, how water markets work, and why they “rarely work well.” April in Paris for most would signal sunny afternoons spent sipping chilled *vin blanc* in a Left Bank café, but Spar plans to pursue research on how various countries established their municipal water supply. June brings a trip to Johannesburg, South Africa, where she will co-teach a course on “Building National Competitiveness,” at the Gordon Institute of Business Studies. (To read about building links among women in South Africa, please turn to page 34 in this issue.)

And finally, there is the packing up and clearing out of her Massachusetts home in preparation for her move to New York. She arrives at Barnard on July 1. Stay tuned.



ON THE GROUND IN AFGHANISTAN

At the crossroads of South, Central, and West Asia, Afghanistan registered on the general American consciousness with the Soviet invasion in 1979, and has remained in the headlines ever since. An eminent authority on the cultural heritage and history of Afghanistan who has written extensively about both, Nancy Hatch Dupree '49 traveled widely and lived in Afghanistan with her husband, Dr. Louis Dupree, an anthropologist and consultant on Afghan affairs. But she is not alone in her fascination and activism. Here are the accounts of two more recent alumnae—both irresistibly drawn to this troubled but compelling land—who describe their work in Afghanistan.

A TEACHER AT HEART

by Mary Lu Christie '67

It has been five years since I began working in education and women's rights in Afghanistan. Even before September 11, 2001, I was interested in the country. Like many Americans, I had become aware of the plight of Afghan women under the Taliban. I had followed the career of Ahmed Shah Massoud, legendary mujahideen who routed the Soviets in the 1980s and later led the Northern Alliance against the Taliban with little help from the outside world.¹ After the attack on the World Trade Center, I devoured the *New York Times* section on events in Afghanistan. I found obscure Web sites about Afghan history and culture and read books about the 23 years of war. I began studying Dari (Afghan Farsi).

Finally, in spring 2002, at the age of 57, I left a well paid but no longer satisfying legal career, sold my San Francisco house, and took off for New York City. My plan: Take refresher courses at my other alma mater, Bank St. College of Education, and find an opportunity to work in education in Afghanistan.

I took my first trip there in March 2003 with Global Exchange, the San Francisco human-rights organization. That summer I returned to volunteer with a local women's NGO as a preschool teacher-trainer. Through expatriate friends I connected with Catholic Relief Services on a project to establish preschools in Kapisa and Panjshir provinces. During three stays in 2004 and 2005, I worked with CRS training village women to set up playgroups in their homes. In summer 2005, I worked on the start-up of the American University of Afghanistan.

Throughout this time, I have worked with New York City-based Women for Afghan Women. Last year, WAW established a local NGO in Kabul and opened its Family Guidance Center. The Center offers counseling and services to women victims of domestic abuse, forced marriage, rape, and other human rights violations. It is unique in that it also welcomes and serves the male family members.

The International Reconstruction Effort Since 2003

Travel to Kabul in spring 2003 was an adventure. The first wave of aid workers had gone in behind the United States military, but civilian travel was just beginning. Our plane was an ancient rickety prop-jet donated by the people of India. People bought tickets by giving cash to a man sitting in the coffee shop at the Dubai air terminal.

Everyone was excited when we approached Kabul airport. People stood up to look out the window. Afghans had tears in their eyes as they saw home after so many years. Some passengers cheered. I suspect we all were stunned by the surrounding fields littered with bombed plane parts and abandoned tanks. Everywhere I went for the next 10 days, I saw demolished and bombed out buildings, people huddled

around fires in the shells of houses.

Today several airlines fly into Kabul. You can go first class. Now you see new warehouses for foreign companies that sell supplies to other foreign companies who have the big United Nations and United States Agency for International Development contracts to rebuild Afghanistan. "Logistics" is the boom economy here—few Afghans participate.

Construction abounds in Kabul: hotels, shopping centers, hastily thrown up apartment buildings, and homes being rebuilt. Although Afghans do not receive adequate medical care and over-crowded schools run on two-hour shifts, you will not see many new schools or hospitals.

In 2003, there was a giddy feeling of promise, belief that conditions would get better. Afghans were enthusiastic about the American presence and President Bush. That March, Americans in Kabul clustered around guesthouse televisions, bemoaning the invasion of Iraq. Afghan acquaintances, who did not feel kinship with the Arab Islamic world, were more bemused than upset. Their concern was that this new war would deflect resources from Afghanistan. They were right.

Afghanistan Today

Over time, the positive feelings have soured as the number of Taliban attacks and suicide bombings have increased. Afghans lament that the U.S. and Karzai governments have empowered the same warlords who committed atrocities during the civil war. They see repeated incidents in which Afghan civilians in rural areas are killed in what are called attacks on the Taliban. Tight security around the compounds of big NGO's, contractor offices, and embassies make it difficult for Kabulites to move freely in their own neighborhoods. People see a decrease in international aid as violence increases. They know relief dollars go mostly to foreign contractors with little change in their own economic condition.²

Recent reports from the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, and the U.K. charity Womankind Worldwide, find that rape, domestic violence, and forced marriage are still prevalent. Despite lofty pronouncements by USAID and UN officials about their successes, little has changed for women. Tradition, ignorance, and generally weak law enforcement all contribute to the failure of the state to protect women.³

The Continuing Strength of Afghan Women

What is heartening over the past five years is the resiliency of Afghan women as they emerge from the closeted Taliban years. With support from international and local NGO's, women are starting small sewing businesses, raising chickens and goats, selling homemade jam, and learning how to market their products. They are appearing in radio and on television. Women now serve as police officers. Fahima Vorghetts, an Afghan-American with Women for Afghan Women, began by raising funds for villages to build schools and wells. Last

spring I watched Fahima go a step further, convincing a *shura*, the all male village council, to let women organize their own *shura* to take care of the new school building.

In 2004 I saw men and women in the Panjshir Valley going together to register voters for presidential elections. Later, walking to a preschool with CRS colleagues, I heard excited chatter from women coming up the path. They joined us and proudly displayed voter registration cards. They would be voting for the first time.

Last year WAW's Family Guidance Center took in a case that illustrates how poverty and the cultural issues that lead to domestic abuse also cause men to suffer. Afghan marriages are arranged and the groom may have little choice. He is expected to finance an elaborate celebration, often resulting in years of debt. A young man took on this debt for an older brother who left Afghanistan for a job. Hounded by creditors, the young man became frustrated and began hitting his brothers and sisters. He came to our center, where male staff members are helping him control his anger and improve family relationships.

These are some of the experiences that fuel my attachment to Afghanistan. Next summer I will go back to work with Manizha Naderi at the Family Guidance Center on services for children. I am hopeful that, with a change in administration in 2009, U.S. aid to Afghanistan will be more effective and committed to sustained programs. I do not have much hope that violence, particularly in rural areas, will subside any time soon. But I know I'll always go back one more time.

¹ Al Qaeda arranged the assassination of Massoud two days before the September 11 attacks.

² Carlotta Gall describes the failure of Western countries to deliver \$10 billion of pledged assistance. *New York Times*, 3/26/08. As much as 40% of international aid actually goes back to the donor country in salaries and contractor services. Consultants can cost \$250,000 to \$500,000 a year in salaries, living allowances and security expenses. A road from Kabul airport cost more than \$3 million a mile.

³ "Afghanistan: Sharp rise in reported cases of violence against women," www.irinnews.org, March 18, 2008.

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women coming up the path.
They joined us and proudly
displayed voter registration cards.
They would be voting
for the first time.

BOOSTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

by Nita Colaco '04

On my way to work I drive through Shar-e-now, a vibrant, bustling neighborhood of Kabul. Street vendors selling dried fruits and nuts mingle with storeowners charging \$50 for ersatz designer jeans. Sitting in Kabul's inevitable traffic, I see small children disfigured by land mines and women hidden under blue burkas approach my car begging for change.

After Shar-e-now comes Shash Darak, an area encompassing the United States Embassy, a United States military base, and the headquarters of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). The streets are a labyrinth of concrete barriers and barbed wire. The Afghan police regulating traffic, international soldiers patrolling the streets, and private security workers guarding doorways all prominently display weapons.

Afghanistan, my home for the past seven months, still overwhelms my senses. It is a beautiful, complicated country filled with inspirational individuals and massive challenges. My journey to Afghanistan originated at Barnard College and continues to be motivated by alumnae like Nancy Dupree '49, a legendary authority on Afghan history and culture whom I befriended in Kabul. During my time here I have become certain of two things: Afghanistan's future is tied to our own, and Barnard women have the power—and the responsibility—to make a positive difference. I hope my story encourages others.

Getting There

My interest in international issues developed during my frequent childhood trips to India—my father's homeland. At a young age I knew I wanted to combat poverty on a global scale. Then, at Barnard, I watched smoke fill the sky on September 11, 2001. When the United States went to war in a country I didn't understand, I reacted by studying political and economic development initiatives. I then realized that development and security directly relate.

My junior year I researched Afghanistan for a policy proposal concerning economic development programs for women. This became the basis for a senior thesis, in which I explored the connections between economic and political empowerment for women in Central and South Asia.

After graduating with a bachelor's in political science and a minor in economics, I spent three years at a foreign policy think tank, and I realized I was ill-suited for the academic lifestyle. I longed to be where the action was and witness the practical side of policy implementation. I grew frustrated with our government's leadership in the Afghan reconstruction effort. Afghanistan was becoming America's "forgotten war" and was slipping back into chaos. As an American and a



humanitarian, I felt a responsibility to act. I accepted an offer from a nonprofit organization and headed to the place my skills were needed most—Afghanistan.

First Days

In August 2007, my plane left Dubai for Kabul, a city in a once lush valley situated between the Hindu Kush mountains. (These days, from the sky Kabul appears barren and faded; a thick cloud of dust hangs heavily over it.) The flight ended in a shaky descent onto an airfield full of military and UN planes.

My first week passed by in a blur. I had heard only morbid news about Afghanistan; for days I lived in terror of becoming a Taliban hostage. Lack of proper sanitation led to illness; the change in altitude (Kabul sits at an elevation of almost 6,000 feet) made me dizzy.

I threw myself into consulting for Peace Dividend Trust (PDT), an international organization with the mission of increasing resource procurement by Afghan businesses. I chose to work with PDT because I was disappointed by bureaucratic institutions like the World Bank and the UN. PDT's approach to strengthening the private sector—helping Afghan businesses win contracts from international agencies—immediately attracted me. It was a young, small organization with fresh ideas. To me, building the private sector meant creating jobs, economic growth, and better lives for Afghans.

Building Businesses

At PDT I help link international buyers with Afghan

suppliers. I meet with contractors, military officers, and procurement directors to advise them on the Afghan marketplace and recommend goods and services to buy locally. At first I wondered whether these individuals (almost all are men) would listen to a 25-year-old woman speak about Afghanistan's private sector. But I live in Afghanistan, have an understanding of the Afghan economy, and speak with the assurance of a Barnard woman. People do listen.

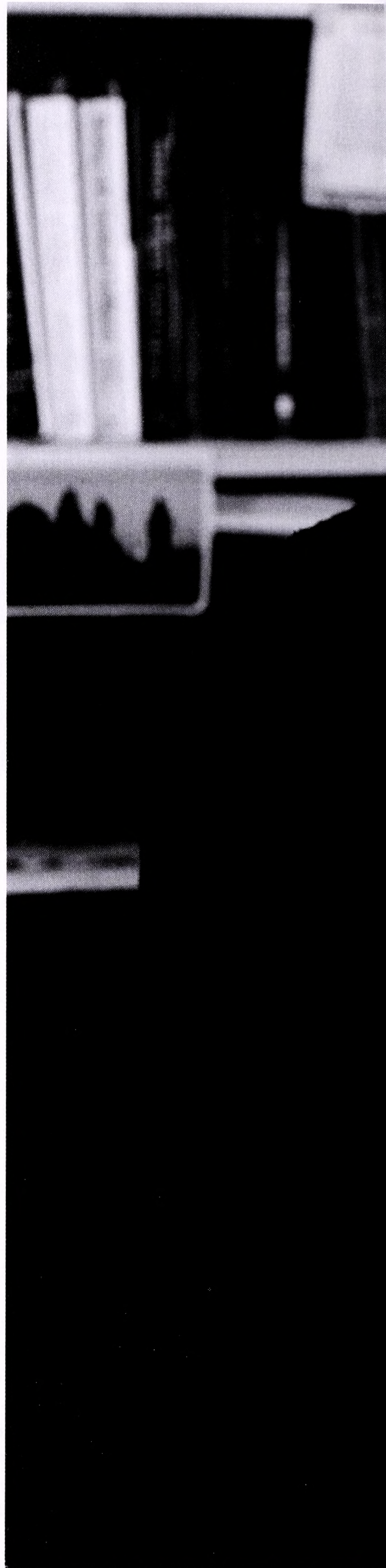
With my Afghan colleagues, I interview local business owners and hear about their frustrations firsthand. Security concerns prevent companies from working in the provinces, powerful warlords and government officials demand bribes, stringent requirements from international companies preclude local businesses from bidding on high-value contracts. The sorry state of the Afghan government and legal system causes confusion in terms of property rights, tax policy, and access to credit.

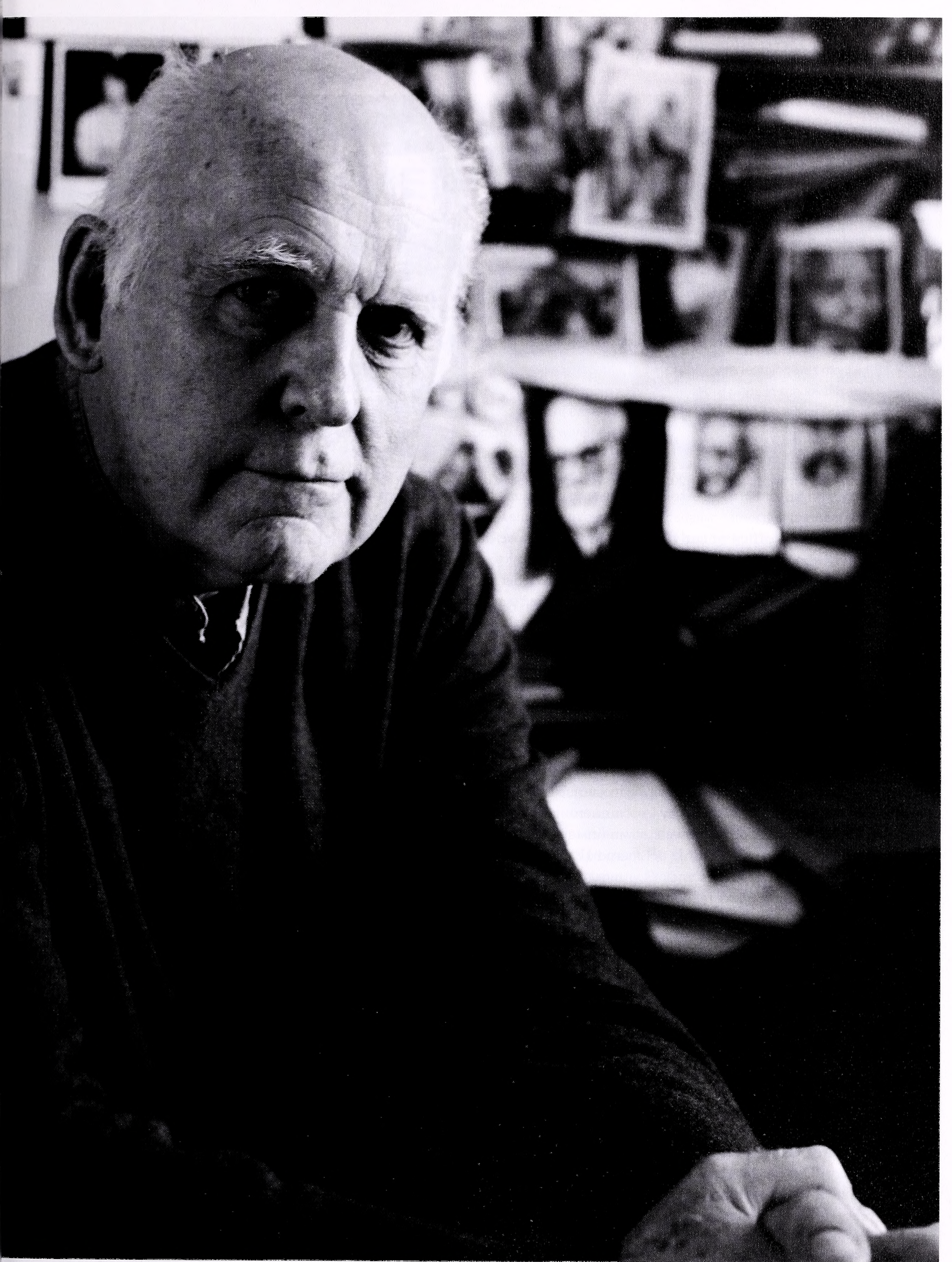
Despite these setbacks, many Afghans become entrepreneurs. New companies sprout up each day; Afghans who fled during the war return to run businesses. Hakim, for example, withstood imprisonment by the Soviets and 30 years away from his country during the mujahideen and, later, Taliban eras. He now owns the largest dry-cleaning chain in Afghanistan. If I do my job well, I can convince an international organization like NATO to use Hakim's service, instead of shipping laundry to Dubai. I have had success in linking the U.S. military to an Afghan manufacturing company; now boots and uniforms worn by the Afghan army

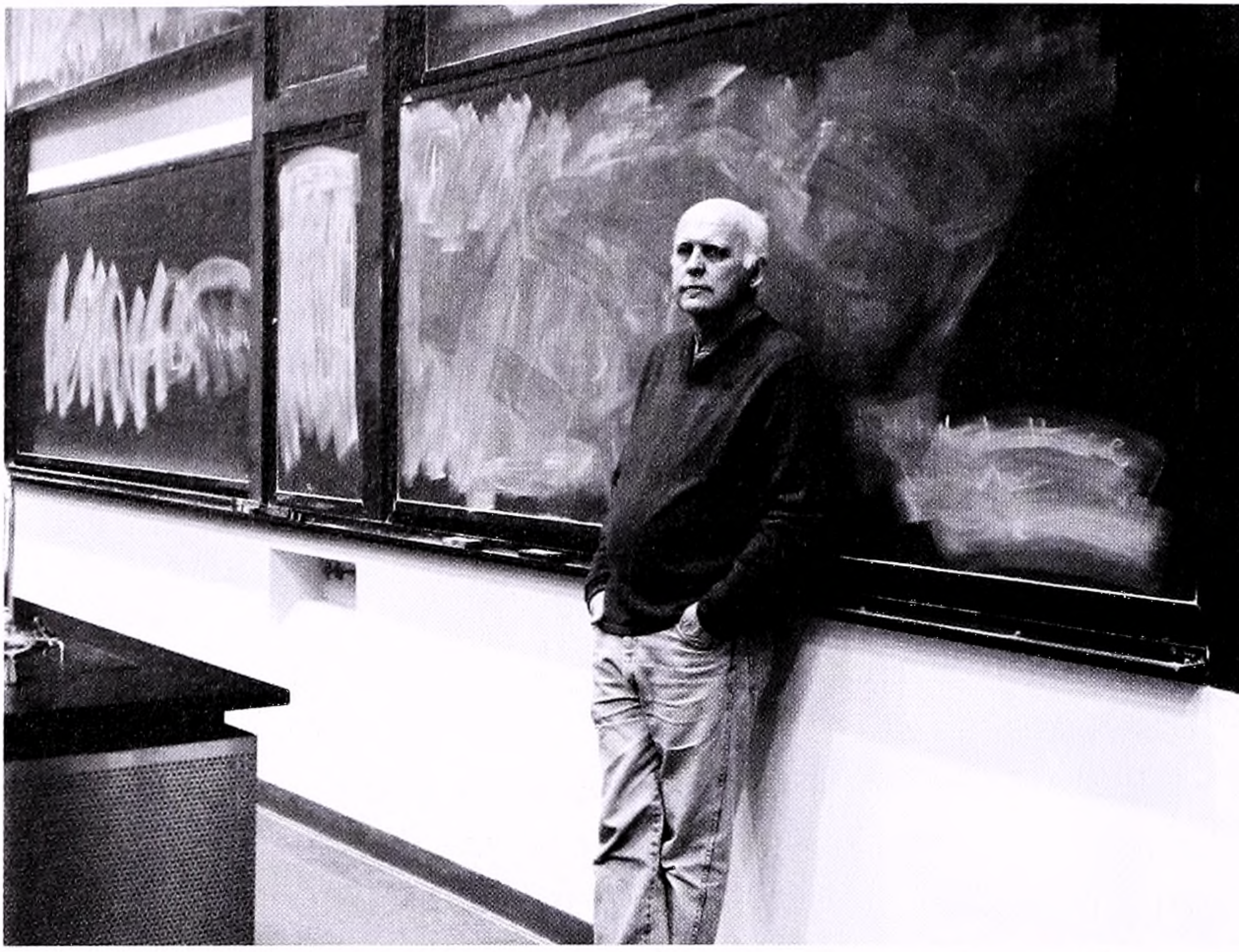
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After nearly four decades at Barnard, political science professor Dennis Dalton is preparing for his retirement at the end of December. The spring '08 term will be his last on campus, and his last in his office in 404 Lehman Hall, the very space he was assigned when he first came to Barnard in 1969 and where he has spent a big portion of his life.

PILLAR AND PASSION FOR POLITICAL THEORY







Professor Dalton from left to right: in Altschul 202; student Idris Leppla '08, recent recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship in France; inspiring faces line Dalton's office shelves.

Sitting in his cluttered office in early March, Dalton, who turned 70 this year, says that he has been doing his best to get a jump on packing. He has already found a good home for the hundreds of books on his crowded shelves. At the suggestion of friends from Sri Lanka, he has decided to donate them to small libraries in towns along that country's coast which are still trying to rebuild from the devastating 2004 tsunami. Roughly a third of his collection, by his count, has already been shipped. The rest will be gone by May, and the process of saying farewell to those books—volumes by Gandhi, Thoreau, Plato, and other writers and philosophers which Dalton has read and reread and consulted and underlined over the years—has not been easy. “It’s wrenching,” says Dalton, who notes that some of those books have been with him since his days as a Rutgers university undergrad. “It’s like saying goodbye to all my old friends.”

Of course, as hard as that is, Dalton contends that saying his final goodbyes to the campus and the wider Barnard community will be even tougher. “As I look back on it, I’ve been genuinely privileged,” says Dalton. Not only has he had a job he loves—teaching—but over the years, he notes, that work has enabled him to forge strong connections and friendships with many students,

and he says those daily interactions are what he is going to miss the most. “The students have become unbelievably special to me,” says Dalton. “They are just phenomenally warm and supportive in every respect.”

The feeling is clearly mutual among generations of Barnard alumnae, for whom Dalton has served as a mentor, a friend, a role model, as well as a beloved professor. Dalton has gotten consistently stellar marks from students in course evaluations, along with numerous teaching awards. His two mainstay classes—“Political Theory I and II”—have long been among the most popular offerings on campus, so much so that his Barnard colleagues finally had to persuade him to impose tighter enrollment caps, according to former political science department chair Professor Richard Pious, just to preserve Dalton’s peace of mind. “He’s probably the best teacher Barnard has had over the last three to four decades,” says Pious. “His popularity speaks for itself.”

Dalton’s primary research focus has been in South Asia and the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, and besides political theory, he has long taught a smaller colloquium on the philosophy of nonviolence. Dalton has a clear passion for his subject matter. But it’s not just his insight or his gift for analysis

that win praise. Current and former students say his empathy for students, as well as the profound passion Dalton brings to teaching, made his classes truly stand out.

“It kind of felt what college is supposed to feel like,” says Joanie Terrizzi ’05. “He really made it all come alive.” A former “Political Theory I” student, Terrizzi recalls voraciously reading books from Dalton’s syllabus that she never imagined she could get so excited about. “I’d find myself poring over Plato’s *Republic*—200 pages at a sitting,” she adds.

“It was a joy and privilege to take every class I took with him,” agrees political science-major Marina Metalios ’85. She credits Dalton with introducing her to the concepts of justice and social justice, and says that those ideas resonated so deeply that she ultimately decided on a career in public advocacy. “He’s largely responsible for what I ended up doing,” says Metalios, a project director at the Manhattan-based Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, which promotes affordable housing.

For Fatima Bhutto ’04, Dalton was such a formative influence that she actually dedicated the book she published on Pakistan’s devastating 2005 earthquakes to him. Had it not been for Dalton, Bhutto says she probably would not have had the courage to pursue



a career in writing, or the courage to return to her native Pakistan, where her family, a political dynasty, has been a frequent target of violence. Her father, grandfather, and most recently her aunt, Benazir Bhutto, have all been assassinated for their political beliefs. But Dalton's lessons on nonviolence and the ability of individuals to bring about social change inspired her, says Bhutto, who is now based in Karachi and writes a weekly column for Pakistan's largest Urdu-language paper. She says they continue to be a source of inspiration today. "If everyone could have a dose of Dennis Dalton," says Bhutto, "the world would be a better place."

In person, Dalton is friendly, accessible, and unassuming. He brings that same humility to the classroom, according to current and former students, who say he genuinely listens to and respects their opinions and actively encourages debate. Not that Dalton makes any secret of his own point of view. An unapologetic pacifist and committed vegetarian, Dalton says he has tried hard to follow Gandhian principles—and though those ideas are not exactly in vogue he says that "nonviolence is at the heart of my personal and professional creed."

Dalton was initially drawn to pacifism at Rutgers, where as a political science

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MORE THAN A MENTOR

BY JENNY MINCIN

Whether you are a Columbia or Barnard student, most likely you have either taken a class with or have heard about the much loved and legendary Professor Dennis Dalton. As a student fortunate enough to have taken his class I can attest to his ability to change his students' lives. He gave me the gift of courage: to try, to learn, to question, and to engage.

As an undergraduate, I attended Professor Dalton's "Modern Political Movements" course. Even in a lecture hall with over 200 students, I felt as though my learning was most important to him. As a student with a learning disability, I often felt out of place in school, misunderstood and anxious, but in his class I felt at ease. Professor Dalton was always willing to work with me and reasonable accommodations were never an issue. He would always ask what the students' needs were. In my case, with the disability, Professor Dalton always asked me what I needed to successfully learn in the class given my dyslexia. It was Professor Dalton who inspired me and encouraged my intellectual talents; he never gave up on me nor did he question my capacity to learn. There were times throughout my academic career that teachers did question this capacity and did not understand dyslexia. It's easy to judge yourself when others are judging you. Because Professor Dalton had confidence in my abilities, it helped me be more confident in what I can do, not what my limitations may be. For instance, when I presented him with an uncertain idea for a paper, he encouraged me to pursue the idea to its end. The theory fell apart; the paper was less than stellar. Another professor might have dismissed the pursuit of such a loose hypothesis, but Professor Dalton was more concerned that his students not fear trying and failing as long as they were learning. Indeed, he subsequently met with me for over an hour and commended me for having the courage to try a new theory. Of course, he also had me write another paper, which I gladly did.

Later I studied with him throughout graduate studies at the School of International Public Affairs. As I pursue my doctorate in social-welfare policy at the Graduate Center CUNY and a career in teaching, he continues to mentor me as a professional, academic advisor and friend. Now my husband and I are embarking on our greatest adventure—starting a family—and again I witness Professor Dalton's true nature as a deeply compassionate and committed human being. His own warm, rich family life, with his wife, Sharron, two sons, and grandchildren, came vividly to the fore when I told him I was pregnant. His joy and love for his family is the joy and love he has for his students and for all humanity. Professor Dalton's dedication starts at home and continues in his professorship and his commitment to changing the world for the better.

It is with mixed emotions that I wish Professor Dalton a blessed and fulfilling retirement. I know he will get the greatest happiness being a doting, loving grandfather and instilling in his grandchildren the same compassion and tenacity he has instilled in his students. I am also dreadfully sad that academia is losing one of its greatest professors.

In my career, I aspire to challenge students and give them the room to push societal barriers as Professor Dalton did for me and so many others over his nearly 40 years of teaching. Even more, I aspire to pass on the gift of courage that he gave me. As he embarks on his next stage of life, I know he will continue to teach and touch his students in a way few professors can do. It is only fitting to end this homage to Dennis Dalton with a quote from Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Professor Dalton, thank you for being that change for all of us and for passing on the legacy of peace and compassion. Now it is our turn.

Jenny Mincin '96 works with Elizabeth Davis '89 in the area of vulnerable populations and disaster and humanitarian work. Jenny is a doctoral candidate in social welfare policy and she and her husband, Jerry Esmond, are expecting their first child.

SIX CLASS OF '98 ALUMNAE HERE & NOW

Photographer Katherine Wolkoff speaks warmly of her five Barnard friends: All have stayed in touch since graduation although Wolkoff is the only one remaining in New York. There are two teachers, in Boston and London; one PhD student in London; a poet in New Hope, Pennsylvania; and a comedian/administrator of a Jewish film festival in Boston. Says Wolkoff, "We are all over the place doing very different things, but Barnard brought us all together and there is level of intimacy that is unique. There is something about Barnard women that I see very clearly in us: quirkiness, brains, a bit of the contrarian, wit ... and a level of pride about being independent and strong women."

HEATHER CURRIER

New Hope, Pennsylvania

My husband and I left our home in Brooklyn two years ago for Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It's a new world for us, not just in terms of its pace and landscape but also what the move signaled. My life has taken a very different turn here. I went to work with my mother-in-law, who owns a local business, we bought our first house and I gave birth to a daughter, Willa.

Of course there are many ways to make one's way in the world. My best friends are still my Barnard friends, the group of us who spent our four years tightly knit at school. I have watched all our different paths over these 10 years since graduating; watched the impacts made from different approaches, thrilled by the separate ways we have all gone about our lives. The joy for me in these friendships is that we share in each other's successes, we're there for each other

when we struggle, we expect to hear from each other when we need that voice, no matter how many months have passed. We keep in orbit around each other.

I see my place in the world very clearly these days. I feel more of a participant than ever before, because having a daughter made me a parent. It has profoundly altered my world again and made me a different force in it. We Barnard girls have become Barnard women with girls of our own. It's terrifying and exhilarating and it requires strength. I gather my strength from many sources, but not the least of these is from my old friends, who knew me before, during, and through all these changes.

Unfortunately, Heather was not able to be photographed at the time of publication.



LAUREN ANTLER

Brookline, Massachusetts

After Barnard, I stayed in New York for nine years—had the shmancy career in TV, wore cowboy boots, traveled for work (and had my cell phone paid for), traveled to nine cities in a year, met a man in an airport in Puerto Rico who is now my partner, worked as a comedian, got a TV pilot, and went to graduate school. Throughout it all, it was my '98 girls I called on: When you've sat up till 3 AM, smoking (not me), talking politics, gossip, love, fighting, telling each other the truth about who you are and teaching each other how to be better people—better women—the mark that is made is indelible. Ten years later they remain my closest friends.

Last June I moved back to my childhood neighborhood in Brookline, Massachusetts, to move in with the boyfriend, take a new job in my postgraduate school career, and live five minutes from my parents.

I've never felt more at home than I do now. In my first week back, I went into the fishmonger's and announced proudly that perhaps he knew my mother, she'd been coming in for 30 years, and now it was my turn. To that he said—completely

uninterested—what can I get you? But I persisted and within months, he was telling my mother to relay to me that my boyfriend's favorite fish, sardines, were in! Success! Belonging!

I have discovered here, back home—working in a nonprofit group, making far less than I would have in New York, living close enough to my parents to help shovel the snow in the winter, taking the city bus past my elementary school in the morning—that my impact on the world is far smaller, and more gratifying, than my 21-year-old self had imagined. For me, the world doesn't need to be so big. The issues that I care about are local—is art accessible to everybody, is there recycling, are those in the community who cannot do for themselves taken care of, and did I remember my canvas tote bag?

I'm just happy to see that the candy store next to my elementary school—with the same woman who's run it for 65 years, sitting in her folding beach chair, with mountains of change in her pocket—is still there. The shelves are much shorter than I remembered, but I am, without a doubt, taller (especially in my cowboy boots).



MOLLY MACDONALD

London, England

My decision three and a half years ago to uproot myself and move to London to pursue a PhD was not made without considerable thought. I knew that I would be 31 when I finished the degree, that this was not a quick adventure so easily made in one's early 20s, and that I was making a choice to settle myself for at least four years across the Atlantic. I was leaving behind my family, my Brooklyn studio apartment, and a rather enjoyable job in publishing. Leaving my family was, as it is for many, the hardest part. What allowed me to make the move was the knowledge that everything I knew to be the most important I could take with me: My grounding, my real home had nothing to do with geography. I found my

first intellectual home at Barnard, where I was encouraged to push the boundaries of my thinking. This was the foundation of my desire to pursue my doctorate and to make my own mark in academia. I found a home with these Barnard women, whose love, laughter, intellect, and creativity were woven into the fabric of me. I have discovered real joy in teaching undergraduates; many are young women who are the first in their family to go to university. To be a part of and to witness their intellectual development is more important to me than any bit of research I ever do. I have no plans to leave London any time soon; I have put down new roots.



LAURA ROSENFELD

Dorchester, Massachusetts

For the past six years I have been living in Boston. As a child I vowed I would never end up here, since my visits to Boston were limited to my grandmother's house and the nearby Star Market, and I aspired to live someplace a bit cooler than that. I eventually chose Boston because it was close to New York, where my Barnard friends were at the time, and close to Maine, where my family is.

My husband and I recently bought a condo in Boston and I love that I have made a home here. We are both employed by the city, so Boston is our community as both residents and professionals and our lives are very much enmeshed with the city. I teach high school history in the Boston public schools. It is time consuming, but I love every day in the classroom and I count my blessings. My Barnard experience is with me every day. Two of "the girls" just helped me edit a recent project, and all of them have been my editors and brainstorming partners since I left. I can see Kate's Sharpie handwriting from first-year, when she taught me how to write an introductory paragraph; that is how I teach my students today. But most of all, what I bring to the students is the

love of an academic setting, which is what I fell in love with at Barnard. I try to convey to them the idea that hard work is satisfying, that it is all right to struggle as long as you ask for help, and that there is a whole world filled with ideas that are exciting to research and learn. Teaching in a large urban public high school makes me conscious of the challenges of raising the quality of education for all of our students and effectively preparing them for life after school. My wish list: more art, more music, more books, and smaller class size.

I love being a BAAR and meeting with the young students who are interested in Barnard. And I would not be complete without my Barnard friends. I love seeing how their lives change, the places they move to, the academic degrees they begin, their husbands, and their new children. The weekends when we are all together are magical. Even though it's harder to be in close contact with the friends in faraway places like London, I still find myself thinking of them when I am faced with a situation where I want their support or guidance. When I do see them, it is like they never left my side.



DAPHNE WALKER

London, England

There's a photograph of the six of us on moving-in day senior year. We're leaning up against the balcony outside one of the rooms in the apartment-style suite at 620 West 116th Street. You can see the Quad buildings in the background, and you can tell how hot the day is because of our bare limbs and somewhat clammy appearance. I don't think any of us displays this picture in our homes now—we're all too vain—but I like to look at it sometimes to remember how good it felt to be back in the company of these girls. Instead of studying abroad my junior year as I should have, I had spent an unimpressive year floating around France—bussing tables, babysitting, a short stint teaching English. I insisted that I didn't want my experience of the world to be limited by an academic program, that I was an independent type who enjoyed traveling alone. Coming back to Barnard and to my friends at the end of that very long year was like crawling into bed after an exhausting day; my loneliness and the sense of aimlessness lifted and I felt at home again. At the time the photograph was taken, I was in the process of adjusting my outlook on life. Forget

the independence, I rightly decided, I needed my friends to experience the world.

More than 10 years later, I am again overseas, this time in London, where I have built a life that doesn't allow a lot of time for aimlessness. It didn't happen instantly, but now, almost four years after I moved to the United Kingdom, when I ride my bike to the school where I teach or order dinner at the pub or take in the milk delivery, I feel I am where I should be. One of the pleasures of settling down has been that I think a lot less about the future. I'm just being and living. Some things I know about the future: I want to continue teaching fifth graders—how well you spell is a lot less important than what you think about. Big questions, like having children and returning to the U.S., just don't bother me as they once did. Some of my growing up has been thanks to my family's support, some is being in a long-term relationship, some is a result of teaching, but a lot of it has been what I've learned from watching and listening and talking to my girlfriends. Their love is something special.



KATHERINE WOLKOFF

Brooklyn, New York

I live in Brooklyn, and I find that one of the hardest parts of growing up is the changing roles of friendship. In college we were everything to each other and constantly present in each other's lives. Now we all have significant others and careers and babies, but the friendships are still strong and pure.

Although making a career in photography is incredibly daunting, my education and my friendships give me a sense of self and strength that allow me to forge ahead. I have

spent years photographing my friends in part because I see so much of myself in them. We all share the same precarious balance of strength and vulnerability that is ultimately so fascinating.

I have done a few projects at Barnard, photographing the students. In each of them I find reminders of myself and my friends. It makes me so happy to see that the same quirky smart women are filling the halls of the school.



“I thought I was joining a group of women on a trip, but I learned I was joining a movement.” That comment from one traveler to another summed up the feeling of many of us who spent 10 exhilarating days in South Africa last October.

The goal of the journey initially was to learn how women of that nation—rich in resources yet plagued with seemingly intractable problems—have been coping with life since apartheid officially ended in 1994.

We were 28 women of whom 25 are alumnae of the top women's colleges in the United States. Barnard's contingent consisted of Toni Crowley Coffee '56, Carol Herman Cohen '59, Marcella Jung Rosen '55, and Frances L. Sadler '72.

On the tour we met women in tin-roof shanties trying to lead their communities out of poverty. We interviewed women in positions of corporate and political power who were frustrated by bureaucratic red tape in health, welfare, education, and the workplace. We saw children ravaged by malnutrition and neglect. And we talked to upscale young Africans who were eager to help the poor climb educational and economic ladders. As the trip progressed, we held conversations on tour buses and site visits, at lunches and dinners with South Africans.

Our group, Among Women, was having the kind of dialogue that the trip planners had expected. Betsy Baird Hopkins, an official of the Alumnae Association of Smith College, coined the name "Among Women: An International Dialogue," and organized the first trip to Jordan in 2006 after consulting with several travel experts, among them, J. Mara Delli Priscoli '75. "We wanted the alumnae from the Ivy League colleges to engage in serious dialogues with women in other countries about the personal problems and the more universal issues that affect women's rights," Hopkins explained.

For the 2007 trip she contacted Wendy Greenfield, executive director of the Alumnae Association at Bryn Mawr, who helped organize the Jordan trip, and Janet Moore, who heads a travel agency specializing in educational and cultural expeditions. Greenfield recruited Mary Patterson McPherson, a former Bryn Mawr president, to lead the 2007 tour. McPherson, a former vice president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, traveled to South Africa five times in recent years to help oversee its projects. With widespread contacts, the three devised a full schedule for us.

Their efforts produced what for many of us was its highlight—a meeting with Helen Suzman, for years the lone person in South Africa's all-white Parliament consistently fighting its repressive measures against people of color. She was one month short of her 90th birthday when we arrived at a Johannesburg conference center in the area that she represented from 1953 to 1989.

Suzman detailed how the Parliament had begun the apartheid era in 1948 by relentlessly passing laws even more stringent than the segregationist policies of previous Dutch and British governments. In those laws, she said, whites told blacks "where they could live, where they could go to school, whom they could have sex with, what jobs they could take. The most evil part was that they did not allow black children to learn math or science."

After the talk, Cohen, chair of The Barnard Fund committee of the Alumnae Association, said Suzman's "graphic words gave me a better understanding of why the country still has so many problems." Rosen, a former trustee, added, "Her bravery reminds me of a lesson learned from my parents that Barnard reinforced: If you really care about an issue, it's always worth raising it even against all odds because you just may prevail."

In Cape Town, our first stop, we assembled to hear Pregs Govender, a women's-rights activist who served in the first post-apartheid Parliament from 1994 to 2002. She accused her former party, the ruling African National Congress (ANC), of not doing enough for women on such issues as poverty, domestic violence, and HIV/AIDS. She also attacked the country's old patriarchal system that still adversely affects women.

Afterward, our tour bus took us on a 12-mile ride southeast to Khayelitsha, a black township in one of country's poorest areas. We were shocked to find that even before we arrived, we drove

past miles of tarpaper and wood hovels along the highways. We had suddenly encountered the third world, a sharp contrast to the gleaming business and residential districts we had left in the core district of Cape Town.

Yet when we reached Khayelitsha, we found progress as well as poverty. In a shanty workshop women were sewing beaded figures to make whimsical dolls and sculptures to be offered for sale around the world. The MonkeyBiz Bead Project was started in 2000 by Cape Town ceramic artists Barbara Jackson, Shirley Fintz, and Mathapelo Ngaka. It provides jobs for 450 Khayelitsha women, often the breadwinners of their families. Coffee, a former editor of *Barnard*, explained, "Monkeybiz sets up bank accounts for the bead artists and pays their wages by direct deposit. This means they don't have to worry about their money being squandered by the men in their lives," often a problem in this male-dominated society.

Also in Khayelitsha, we met Rosalia Mashale, who for 18 years took in babies left at her door as well as abandoned children rummaging for food in a nearby trash dump. She enlisted neighborhood women to help her care for the children. Over the years Mashale garnered support from local businesses, a national dairy chain, health professionals, and international nonprofit organizations. Under her guidance they have built a nursery, a preschool, a woodworking shop, and a hospice for children and parents with HIV/AIDS.

The next morning we heard a lecture by a feminist scholar, Amina Mama, who met us at a local art gallery. Mama founded the first gender-studies program in Africa at the University of Cape Town; this year she chairs a program in women's leadership at Mills College in California and spoke at Barnard this spring (see page 10). "I was awed by her vision of how gender issues can motivate change," said Sadler, president-elect of Barnard's Alumnae Association. "She articulated things

I remember as an African-American during the 1970s women's movement. I saw then that getting a better education, making a living wage, and gaining freedom of movement led to a better quality of life."

Another speaker, Mamphela Ramphele was an anti-apartheid activist, a physician, an academic leader, and a World-Bank managing director. She now heads a capital investment company that helps black-owned businesses. She said South Africa desperately needs "transformative leadership" like that of Nelson Mandela, the first post-apartheid president, to create a nonracial, nonsexist democracy, but doubted it will soon develop.

We also interviewed Cape Town Mayor Helen Zille, who described a practical approach to tackling tough problems. For example, she said that since the city's subsidized housing budget is low, she tells most applicants the government cannot build houses

for them, but will give them land and services—water, sewers, and electricity.

Our group visited a black township called Diepsloot, 15 miles northeast of Johannesburg. Many came away upset after witnessing even deeper poverty than that in Khayelitsha. In Diepsloot, a white woman, Glenys Van Halter, runs a combined school and community center, with little financial aid except for help from some churches, providing education for the children and job training for their mothers.

That visit propelled many in our group to talk more seriously about helping the poor in South Africa. While many of the group had expressed a mix of skepticism and hope about the country's future, Sadler argued that despite the uncertainty, "it is all the more urgent for us to help people there through the tough times."

A few days after we returned home, Rosen e-mailed a questionnaire listing

goals and options discussed on the trip and asking which we preferred. Eight group members met in Manhattan to review the poll results. Sadler, one of the eight, sent their recommendations to us all: Adopt a township other than the two we saw and aid its early childhood education efforts through a nonprofit group called Room to Read, which provides books, computers and libraries for schools in developing countries and long-term scholarships for girls so they can finish high school.

The effort continues. Some of us are contacting friends and family about the project. Others are networking via e-mail with women they met in South Africa. A dozen of us have spoken at New England meetings of alumnae, book clubs, and health-care and religious groups. A Web site, www.AmongWomenSouthAfrica.org, is expected to be up in May, according to its sponsor, Deborah Bailey, Bryn Mawr '75.



Alumnae Association

The Alumnae Association of Barnard College was established in 1895 to further the interests of the College and connect graduates worldwide.

News & Notes

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

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Lisa Phillips Davis '76

Alumnae Trustees
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Jeanine Parisier Plottel '54
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Rebecca Amitai '79

Leadership Council
Linda Sweet '63

Regional Networks
Myra Greenspoon Kovey '65

Reunion
Nieca Goldberg '79

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Young Alumnae
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ALUMNAE AFFAIRS

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Ellen Reynolds

Interim Co-Director of Alumnae Affairs
Vanessa Corba '96

Interim Co-Director of Alumnae Affairs
Erin Fredrick '01

Manager of Regional Alumnae Programs
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Manager of Recent Alumnae, Students, and Multicultural Programs
Elizabeth H. Glynn

Project Continuum Coordinator
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Financial Fluency Coordinator
Christine Valenza Shin '84

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this letter, my last to you as president of the Alumnae Association, verbs like “engage,” “connect,” and “reconnect” come to mind. During my tenure as president, my goal has been to better develop the role of the Alumnae Association in engaging alumnae with each other and the College.

Access to the Barnard library, permission to audit classes, online and magazine communications, and career counseling represent some of the tangibles of membership in the Alumnae Association. However, the real value of the Association lies in the connections we foster among alumnae, with the College, and with current students. In essence, the greatest benefit we offer is the opportunity for lifelong learning in the company of other engaging, distinctive, smart Barnard women. Hopefully each of you has been touched in some way by the work of the Alumnae Association—through our affinity-group or life-stage programs, Reunion and class events, networking opportunities, special events, or online resources, whether in New York or through our dynamic network of regional clubs. If so, we have done our job to keep you connected and to reinforce the power of a Barnard education and of being a “Barnard Woman.”

I want to especially thank the Alumnae Association Board of Directors, regional club and class leaders, committee members, and Alumnae Affairs staff for their amazing commitment to the work of the Association over the past three years. It is truly a team effort.

Keep in touch,
Lisa Phillips Davis '76

THE MCINTOSH FILES

Attention: Writers, Storytellers, Diarists, Tell Us Your President McIntosh Stories

Were you a student during the days of Millicent C. McIntosh's celebrated tenure as dean from 1947–52 and as Barnard College President from 1952–62? If so, the Alumnae Association would love to hear from you. We invite you to share your stories, anecdotes, photos, souvenirs—anything that will illuminate some facet of President McIntosh's impact on your life and, of course, on Barnard.

Now that the McIntosh Student Center is only a memory, and the Nexus is on track for completion as an exciting new multi-use addition to the campus, we want to be sure that we preserve Barnard's distinctive culture, traditions, and memories for future generations to appreciate. The lobby of the Nexus will be dedicated to Millicent C. McIntosh, but your contributions will be an invaluable addition to her legacy.

Please submit your stories and photos to the Alumnae Affairs office: alumnaeaffairs@barnard.edu. In the subject line of your e-mailed story and/or attached photos, please write “The McIntosh Files.” By mail, send submissions to “The McIntosh Files,” Vagelos Alumnae Center, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027; 212.854.2005.



Photos

1. Lois Golden Champy '67, an architect as well as a trustee of the College, greets President Shapiro at the Boston reception.
2. Two farewell receptions were held in Florida for Barnard's departing president during the month of January. Here, at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens the afternoon of January 27, she shared stories of her years at Barnard at a tea hosted by Evelyn Langlieb Greer '70, mother of Rachel Greer Narvaez '03.
3. Emilia May Fanjul '68 held a reception for President Shapiro at her Palm Beach, Florida, home.
4. President Judith Shapiro spoke with alumnae, parents, and friends of the College at a Boston reception in November at the home of Maureen Strafford '71, trustee, parent, and president of the Science Advisory Council, and her husband, Alex MacDonald. Both pictured here. The couple's daughter, Nora MacDonald, is a member of the Class of 2009.
5. Professor Randall Balmer, at his Barnard Club of Connecticut lecture, stands with club members, from left, Pat Tinto '76, Elaine Tom '77, Carol Christiaanse '67, and Nancy Newill-Doniger '72.
6. At the Barnsdall Art Park in Los Angeles with (from left) discussion moderator Maggie Mahboubian-Noorani '84, Marion Weiss, Michael Manfredi, and Barnsdall Art Park Foundation President Cheryl Johnson '72.

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Busy Barnard Alumnae Schedule Activities Across the U.S.

Between summer 2007 and spring 2008, Barnard alumnae outside the New York metro area gathered for discussions, celebrations, and, of course, farewells to President Judith R. Shapiro. Some of the highlights are on this page.

Barnard communities in Washington, D.C., Boston, California, and South Florida gathered to recognize Judith Shapiro's achievements and wish her good luck. At each of these receptions with alumnae, parents, and friends of the College, President Shapiro shared her first impressions of Barnard, her assessment of Barnard today, and plans for the future. Guests at all events spoke warmly of their appreciation for her exemplary leadership of Barnard over the past 14 years.

In October, alumnae and parents in Los Angeles and San Francisco hosted discussions with architects Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi about the planning and building of the Nexus on campus.

Randall Balmer, professor of religion and author of *God in the White House: How Faith Shaped the Presidency from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush*, spoke to alumnae in New Jersey and Connecticut about the role of religion in presidential campaigning.

For information on how to connect with a regional club in your area, please visit alum.barnard.edu/regional.

Class Notes

For classes without correspondents, send notes to:

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cnotes@barnard.edu*

32 **Ethel Greenfield Booth** was disappointed to find no news in a recent class column so she sends news of her adventures. At our 75th Reunion, where she saw **Hilda Minneman Bell** and **Helen Greenebaum Joffe**, she was joined by her son and two granddaughters for reminiscences and a speech by President Judith Shapiro. Afterward, Ethel went to Chautauqua, N.Y., on a weeklong Elderhostel-sponsored seminar on American diplomacy in the 20th century. Next was a trip to London with one of her granddaughters. Ethel wanted her to meet the Booth relatives, all of whom Ethel says are descended from "men intimately associated with the Industrial Revolution as ship-owners, and with the start-up of the railroads and, later, the airline BOAC," all of which Ethel always found very romantic. She believes her granddaughter did, too. Ethel finished with a trip to Siena, Italy, for the Palio, a horse race dating to the 12th century with thousands of participants in medieval costumes. She was able to attend thanks to a Smithsonian-sponsored group trip. "It may have been a bit overambitious for a 93-year-old, but I loved every minute, and never missed a beat, although occasionally I elected to admire the view from a balcony when others walked up long staircases in extensive gardens in rural Tuscany," she says.

35 The *Oxford (MI) Leader* reports that **Marie Leis Pearce**, 94, has found love at her

retirement home, Independence Village in Oxford, Mich. Marie met Marco "Mike" Maniace, 91, about four years ago when she asked him if he wanted to help her build a dollhouse, one of her hobbies. On Christmas Eve 2007 they became engaged, but the couple insists that "it's going to be a very long engagement." Family and friends are all pleased and excited for them. "Every morning when I wake up I have something to look forward to. I know he's always going to be there," Marie says. "She's a great gal and I love her for it," Mike says.

36 Our class president, **Margaret (Midge) Davidson Barnett**, sends a note with a clipping featuring **Sonya Turitz Schopick**. A *New York Times* ad for The Watermark, a Bridgeport retirement community where Sonya has been a resident and active for many years, was highlighted by a great portrait of her with a delighted smile, conducting a chiming group of 17 fellow residents. Midge was pleased to find a member of our class "getting into the news, and not just for an obituary." Midge is still engrossed in gardening and bird-watching. She complains that an ice storm in December caused the cancellation of her annual Audubon Christmas bird-count party. Our fund chair, **Adair Brasted Gould**, sends a gracious thank-you note with a little news: "I had a wonderful 10 weeks at Chautauqua, N.Y., with a lot of my family coming and going... good lectures and fine concerts. My daughters, Mary Ellen and Alisa, sing in the Sunday choir of 150, and this year we got to sing

in the chorus for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. My sister joined us for that ... and spent a week with me." I received an article from the July 28, 2007 *San Francisco Chronicle* about the death of **Marjorie Friedman Leonard**. They referred to her as "a San Francisco labor lawyer whose clients included dockworkers during World War II and pacifists during the Vietnam War." Her son Stephen was quoted: "My mother had a powerful sense of right and wrong ..." Marjorie met her husband, Norman Leonard, as a classmate at Columbia Law School. "The couple shared a passion for liberal politics and the rights of the underdog that would last nearly seven decades." They moved to San Francisco, where Marjorie did legal work with the State Relief Administration, which helped ease the effects of the Depression. Her husband joined a law firm representing Harry Brides and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. During World War II, Marjorie took over her husband's labor practice. Later she worked at home while raising two sons, returning to work after they were grown up. During the Vietnam War, she managed the Selective Service Lawyer Referral Panel, which helped find attorneys to represent draft resisters. Marjorie is survived by her sons, her sister, and four grandchildren. I'm sorry to report that **Elizabeth Maier Blackert** died on Aug. 4, 2007. She will be missed by her Barnard friends.

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37 We thank **Florence Krinsky** for this reunion rundown: "Our class was particularly notable for its absence from Class Notes in the 2007 Reunion issue, leaving the impression that none of its members attended their 70th Reunion. We hope it is not too late to correct that impression. Two of its members, **Shirley Adelson Siegel** and I, were there, and report that the events we chose as part of the reunion program made the occasion memorable. Specifically these were the exciting performance of the Taylor 2 Dance Company; a preview of the plans by Weiss/Manfredi architects for the Nexus, the new building being constructed on campus; and the moving accounts of Barnard's first entry into the lives of the seven [alumnae storytellers] in *Barnard Women Through the Ages* produced by The Moth."

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70th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

38 **Edna Holtzman Senderoff's** funeral was reported in the Dec. 14, 2007 *New York Times*. Edna taught high school English in the New York City public schools for more than 35 years. Her husband, Ben, predeceased her. She is survived by one son, one daughter, and two grandchildren. She was a beloved and effective teacher; many of her students kept in touch with her all her life. She will be missed by her friends and family. We also have been informed of the death of **Sofia Simmonds Fruton** on July 27, 2007. And we have been told by Holly Giannino that her mother, **Henrietta Gerken Giannino** died on Nov. 27, 2007. I understand that Sofia was professor emeritus at the Yale University Medical School. **Elsbeth Davies Rostow**, who died on

Dec. 9, 2007, had been an illustrious member of our class since our student days. A lengthy article in the Austin, Texas, *American-Statesman* records some of her achievements and says she was an internationally recognized expert on public policy and a former University of Texas dean whose love of teaching kept her working as a professor for more than 70 years. She was married to Walt Whitman Rostow, a national security advisor to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Elspeth taught at several Washington, D.C., universities during her husband's time in D.C. After they moved to Texas, she served as dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs from 1977 to 1983. She was on several presidential commissions and was a former editorial columnist for the *American-Statesman*. Her daughter, Ann, says her mother was an incredible teacher who made an extraordinary impact on people's lives. Elspeth is also survived by her son, Peter.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Margaret Blun Bowden** who died on Oct. 30, 2006. We have no further information.

Elizabeth Chadbourne Minor, reports that she lives in a retirement complex in Rye, N.Y. Her son and three daughters are scattered, with one as far off as Australia. Elizabeth has 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Audrey Snyder Harding's daughter Meg e-mails that Audrey would love to come to reunion. If possible, Meg and her sister, Cathie, will bring her.

Elizabeth McMenamin writes that she will attend reunion.

Ruth Gregory Nedelsky lives in a retirement community in Santa Cruz, Calif., and enjoys the mild weather. She has fond memories of her seven years at Barnard and Columbia.

Jean Libman Gollay is quoted in full because she expresses my feelings exactly: "Did you ever imagine we'd get this far? It doesn't seem real. We'll need a moment of silence for those who have gone ahead of us and a lot of joy that we're still facing trouble and triumph." We hope that means you're planning to attend reunion, Jean.

Frances Boehm Gross telephoned to say she'll be joining the celebration.

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41 Thank you to those who sent news, especially to those who included notes about classmates.

The luncheon that has been planned for so long has yet to happen. **Alice Kliemand Meyer** and **Betty Clifford Macomber** would like everyone who's interested in attending to contact them so they can make plans to suit you. Alice reports on an interesting cruise she and her husband, Ted, took last fall. They traveled up the Norwegian coast from Bergen to the Russian border and back. On the return, the ship, which was a working freighter, stopped at different ports. They found it most enjoyable. Alice mentioned that **Doris Prochaska Bryan** and her husband, John, moved to a retirement home in Durham, N.C. Since it adjoins Chapel Hill where they lived for many years, they're still near old friends, as well as their daughter, who teaches at UNC Law School. They enjoy being near their three grandsons.

Doris adds that **Vera Arndt Bush** is doing well. She walks regularly and sings in her church choir, but has retired from serving as interim pastor.

Betty Macomber talked with **Mary Graham Smith**, who is happy to be able to share her home with friends in Palm Coast, Fla. Betty reports that **Estelle De Vito** has some medical problems but still enjoys her home in New York City. My brief note to **Susan Riley Clagett** brought a lovely long letter. I had asked if the *Life* magazine she had worked for was THE *Life* we all used to enjoy weekly. She replied that it was indeed Mr. Luce's magazine, and she enjoyed working on it. She had to resign when she married Marshall, as few women worked after marriage in those days. Sue, at 93, is in excellent health and is fortunate to have a daughter and a daughter-in-law who take trips with her. Sue had a trip to Ireland last summer and plans to travel to Scandinavia on the Cunard Line's new *Queen Victoria*. Notice was received too late for the winter column that **Ruth (Toby)**

Taubenhaus Gross died on Oct. 16, 2007. Toby was a very active member of our class. She had retired from Stanford University as pediatric professor emeritus and had finally settled in a home in New Orleans.

We have learned that **Anne Halsey Roberts**, who lived in St. Simons, Ga., for a number of years, died on Aug. 21, 2007. This was reported by her daughter, Cathy Roberts Kane, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

—JRM

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42 Doris Bayer Coster, our class president, moved in March. She's designing and building a small home on a lot adjacent to her daughter and her family.

Helen Baker Cushman edited a book by her son, which has been published. Helen is involved in the publicity and book-signing phase of the project.

Lois Voltter Silberman enjoys the independence and companionship of living in an apartment in the same building as her daughter. Lois is enthusiastic about all the treasures of Manhattan and hopes that we can have a mini-reunion soon so that she can share some of these with you.

Glafra Fernandez Ennis is still running her translation and interpretation service and dashing off to badminton tournaments all over the world.

Elizabeth Alleva Diaz doesn't drive anymore and finds this a handicap. She enjoys hearing from friends and classmates.

Lillian Godwin Patterson has been an enthusiastic resident of Cincinnati for more than 20 years. She tells us that there is much to see and do there, especially with the new National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Amelie Anderson Sloan still makes

ceramic masks, and she had an exhibit at the Rehoboth Art Center. Amelie teaches pottery and clay sculpture at the local art league and for the Academy of Lifelong Learning near her home in Delaware. She's somewhat hampered by her macular degeneration.

Katherine Cooper Cary, who has been splitting her time between New York City and Cooperstown, N.Y., is an active supporter of the Glimmerglass Opera of Cooperstown, where she spends more and more time.

Alice Gershon Lassally lives in Beverly Hills, Calif., and is very happy. She retired from writing for radio and TV some time ago. Her husband is a TV producer, and one of her children is in the movie business. She loves the California climate.

Juliette Kenny Fager and her husband, Paul, sold their house and now live in an apartment in Wellesley Hills, Mass. Paul doesn't miss the snow removal and other chores. Juliette is taking full advantage of the program that allows seniors to audit courses at Wellesley College for free. Dr. Bertie Julian Beechem who lives in Cardiff, Wales, informs us that his wife, **Enid Pugh Beechem**, passed away after a long illness on May 7, 2006. Enid attended our 50th Reunion and had been hoping to come to the 65th. In the '50s she taught at a rural college for students of the hill tribes of Assam, India, near the Burma border. After she and her husband moved to Cardiff, Enid organized tours in Wales. Later, she assisted her husband in his work with the disabled. Enid attended music classes at the University of Wales until her arthritis made her less and less mobile. Our condolences go to her family and to her sister, Nansi Pugh '40.

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65th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

43 I was delighted to hear from **Gertrude Pace Rigdon**. She spotted my first name and wondered whether I was the person she knew as part of the group she socialized with while she was dating Carl, her husband of almost 60 years. It was me,

and her note evoked many memories. We hope **Carol Hawkes**, our class president, will be able to give us a progress report on the problems of setting up a new branch of Western Connecticut State University. She says she's immersed in the project 24/7. As all of us reach 75 and older, sadly, we miss some of our old friends. Among them are **Ellen Barnett Schmidt**, who passed away in a Tallahassee, Fla., rehabilitation center on Oct. 18, 2007, after a long illness. This news was sent by a member of her son Peter's family, who got in touch with his mother's old friend, **Marilyn Haggerty**.

On Nov. 28, 2007, a car accident claimed the lives of **Margaret (Maggie) O'Rourke Montgomery** and her husband, James. Her niece and namesake, Margaret E. O'Rourke '73, told me of her aunt's passing. Maggie was a cryptanalyst's aide during World War II for the U.S. Navy. She then joined Condé Nast, serving for more than 10 years in various editorial positions with *Glamour*, eventually leaving in 1955 as an associate editor. With the birth of her first child, Alexander, in 1957, Maggie began a new life as a mother. Her daughter, Katherine, was born in 1958.

Among her many volunteer positions, Maggie served on the editorial board of the *Barnard Bulletin* from 1953–63. Maggie had a passion for artistic expression, her preferred medium being watercolors. She left an impressive body of work, for which she held an exhibit just weeks before her death. She was the first in her family to attend Barnard. Her sisters, the late Honor O'Rourke Williams '44 and Mary Louise O'Rourke Smith '51, also helped set a family tradition, which was followed by their niece, Margaret. In Maggie's words, they shared "a bond of loyalty to and an enduring interest in the College." Maggie and James were extremely generous and caring. They are survived by two children, two grandsons, three siblings, and many nieces and nephews. Please keep in touch.

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44

We are sad to report the recent death of **Martha Messler Zepp**, our longtime,

beloved correspondent, on Feb. 16, in Staunton, Va. Our sympathy goes to her family. She is survived by her sons Jeffrey, Jason, and Jonathan, who informed us of her passing.

We're very grateful to **Marian Lafountain Stark** who has agreed to take over the position of class correspondent.

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45

Avra Kessler Mark, our class president, has been conferring with Mary Louise Reid,

the president of the Class of 1946, to plan a joint mini-reunion at a midtown Manhattan location in May for the two classes. You may have already received a letter with details. Avra reports a wonderful accidental generational Barnard introduction. She met with a new board member of the Westchester Student Advocacy organization (Avra's prime outreach activity). The board member commented that Avra reminded her so much of her grandmother in her spirit, sensitivity, and outlook on life. The grandmother turned out to be Vera Schiller '38. Avra and she have become close friends.

Again we have some sad news. **June Marie Kaley** died on Sept. 8, 2007. She had been on the staff of a research company. The 1945 *Mortarboard* said of June, "Taking Teachers College courses preparatory to becoming a high school teacher ... but also harbors desire to travel ... hails from Williamsport, PA ... likes classical music, especially Wagner, and everything about Barnard, especially New York ... history major and Glee Clubber." June was, like most Barnard graduates, a person with interests that cross many academic disciplines. She is survived by two cousins. Shame on you, 1945, our class news well is as dried up as the Arizona desert.

Please write to me at the e-mail address below so we can share your news.

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Isabel Sarvis Aird has been an Episcopal deacon in a church in Eugene, Ore., for

14 years. She was influenced by the services she attended at Columbia Chapel while at Barnard. Her husband and two children have been supportive. Her son, Kenneth, helped build and install a telescope at the South Pole in 2006.

I spoke to **Mary Roush Baxter**, who worked as a teacher and later a nurse but is now enjoying retirement as well as being with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her two daughters work in medical fields.

Anne Attura Paolucci is busy publishing and editing her literary work, in addition to translating Giacomo Leopardi's poetry. She recently received an award from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for her work.

Jane Allen Shikoh, our vice president and co-class correspondent, modestly tells me that she worked for more than 23 years for the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City as an officer in the humanities area. She also spent time at their conference center in Italy and has taken many trips abroad. She's involved in church activities and belongs to a history discussion group. A recent Elderhostel trip that she took followed the Lewis and Clark expedition route to the west.

On a sad note, I report the deaths of several classmates. **Marjorie White Lohwater** died on June 24, 2007. We have no further information.

Audrey Walker Newell Perkins died on Oct. 2, 2007. Audrey was a well-known artist who had studied painting at the National Academy and the Art Students League. Her paintings are in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Newark Museum, and the National Art Museum of Sport.

Jacqueline Branaman Bogart died

on Jan. 14, 2008. Jacqueline joined the U.S. Foreign Service after college and worked in various embassies overseas. After government service, she worked for the *New York Herald Tribune* and the Asia Foundation. She died in St. Paul, Minn., where she was convalescing. She is survived by her sister, Patricia Branaman Blackadder '46, three step-children, one daughter-in-law, and one step-granddaughter.

We extend our condolences to the families and friends of all.

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60th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

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As we write this column, we hope many of you will be meeting and greeting your

classmates at our 60th Reunion. To those who are unable to join us, you will be missed.

Special thanks and appreciation go to the dedicated networkers whose combined efforts enabled us to individually write to, telephone, or e-mail more than 220 classmates. Because of them, each of you will have experienced a personal connection to Barnard. We wish we could put their names up in lights: **Helen Allen Archibald, Nancy Ross Auster, Lois Williams Emma, Elinor Cahill Georgopulo, Helene Wall Gersuny, Elizabeth Eastman Gross, Ruth Hill Jones, Nancy Ackerson Kowalchuk, Lawrie Trevor Nomer, Katherine A. Battley Phipps, Ruth Trencher Rosenbaum, Nora Ravsky Schwartz, Jean Dunn Silver, Joan Jacks Silverman, Carol Hoffman Stix, Elizabeth (Betty) Zlotsky Tavian, Isabel Riso Wright, and Elsie Koerner Youtcheff-Rayl.** Words can't convey our admiration for **Frances Dowd Smith** for her labor-intensive contribution to our reunion festivities. You'll be amazed at the results of her effort. Thanks, Fran. We appreciate the efforts of **Jean**

Matters Burn, who spearheaded and coordinated the preparation of our class commemorative booklet, to which each of you contributed a page. The final product will be unveiled at reunion. Be sure to pick up your copy. Thanks, Jean. Thanks also to each of you who generously contributed to The Barnard Fund in honor of our 60th Reunion. Gifts received before June 30, 2008, will be credited to this year's fund drive, so it's not too late to make your contribution. Celebrations: We're still hearing about your 80th birthday or 60th anniversary galas and are happy to share good news. **Marian Reigel Ross** celebrated her 80th birthday while touring Argentina and Uruguay with one of her daughters, her son-in-law, and two grandsons. Is there any one of us who will not have turned 80 as of reunion? We'll think of some award for that child prodigy, whoever she may be. And the oldest? Hmmm.

I celebrated my 80th early, going on safari in Tanzania with my son, Mark, and thousands of elephants, gazelles, giraffes, lions, wildebeests, and zebras. Truly, the trip of a lifetime. Don't think you're too old; one of our tour companions was a feisty lady of 88. On my actual birthday I hoisted a Guinness in Northern Ireland with an Elderhostel group. With that crowd, I knew I wasn't the oldest person in the room.

We recently enjoyed a Barnard mini-reunion with Ruth Trencher Rosenbaum and her Florida-based neighbor, Sondra Berger Dickler '49. We sat in disbelief as Ruth described her cruise around South America with only her passport and credit cards, but no luggage. It was a comedy of errors, but apparently it can be done. She shopped for what she needed but doesn't recommend this style of light travel for everyone. Ruth has joined our posse of networkers.

Nora Robell visited Costa Rica with her new passport firmly in hand (and her luggage). Mission accomplished. We were honored to get a beautiful book about **Eleanor (Elly) Thomas Elliott**, who passed away on Dec. 3, 2006, that focused on the service of remembrance held at Barnard on Feb. 28, 2007. The book was prepared by Ogilvy & Mather, where Elly's husband, Jock, had served as chair. Several copies will be available for your inspection at reunion. Our

thanks to Elly's niece, Cammy Thomas, for facilitating this display.

Sadly, we must report the loss of two classmates. **Shirley Miller Knowles** died on Oct. 25, 2007. Shirley was born and raised in Montclair, N.J., and graduated from the Northfield School for Girls in Northfield. Shirley and her husband, William, resided in Montclair from 1961, moving to Clifton in 2000. They owned and operated The Cheese Shop of Caldwell, from 1974 until their retirement in 1989. In prior years, Shirley had served as manager of Vera Plum Bridal Samples in Montclair and had been employed with Eastern Airlines. She is survived by her husband, four sons, and 13 grandchildren.

Rosemary Ullman Howley died on Jan. 7, 2008. Her sister, Marjorie Ullman Hawksworth '41, writes to us about Rosemary's life and family—her husband, Frank, five children, and numerous grandchildren—and her love of Barnard. A zoology major, Rosemary earned her master's degree in child psychology and in counseling, and taught life and earth science at Westridge School for Girls in Pasadena, Calif. She had a lifelong love of music and enjoyed singing, even after Alzheimer's had taken much of her memory and abilities away.

Joan Norton died on Jan. 13, 2006; she has no immediate survivors. Our condolences to their families and friends.

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49 Time to start thinking of our 60th Reunion! In the meantime a spring mini-reunion was held on May 1, at the home of **Ruth Musicant Feder**, our class president. The gathering consisted of lunch and a private tour at the New-York Historical Society led by Linda Rappaport Ferber '66, a renowned scholar of American art. Ruth and her husband, Arthur, have seven grandchildren. They're especially proud of Bliss, who has recently finished her appointment as a U.S. Senate page. Each page, who is 16 years old and in the 11th grade, is recommended by the senators from his or her state. Bliss, as

a resident of Manhattan, was a page for the state of New York. The pages work on the floor of the Senate, day or night, whenever the Senate is in session for a period of four months. Their work facilitates the day-to-day workings of the U.S. Senate.

Mary (Schofie) Schofield Conway moved to southern California several years ago. One bonus, aside from the weather, is being able to watch her grandchildren, Lauren and Kevin, grow up. Mary is a docent at the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art in Santa Ana, and she's looking forward to the arrival The Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of the First Emperor exhibit, which will move from the British Museum to the Bowers in May for the exhibit's first stop in the United States.

My co-correspondent, **Rosary Scacciaferro Gilheany**, tells me that she and her husband, Tom, had an automobile accident on Dec. 11. They were both hospitalized in Morristown, N.J. Rosary had a broken hip and Tom two fractures in one leg. As of this writing, they are both in rehabilitation. Our very best wishes to both of them.

—YDD

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50 Despite rainy weather, our mini-reunion at Rockefeller University in November, with a concert by The Escher String Quartet, was attended by **Rose Sgammato Annis, Carolyn Ogden Brotherton, Jean Scheller Cain, Harriet Costikyan, Noreen McDonough Fuerstman, Christina Lammers Hirschhorn, Nancy Nicholson Joline, Marjorie (Peggy) Lange, Irma Socci Moore, Isabel Berkery Mount, Mildred Moore Downs Rust, Cecile Singer**, and **Myra Koh Sobel**, plus guests Carol Herman Cohen '59 and Marilyn Heggie De Lallo '49.

Also in November, Irma attended a discussion at the Colony Club where Margo Meier Viscusi '56 interviewed **Barbara Novak** about her book *Voyages of the Self: Pairs, Parallels, and Patterns in American Art and Literature*. They talked about Barbara's insights into the visual and written language of artists and writers including Copley and Edwards, Whitman and Church, and others. "Barbara was, as always, very articulate and stimulating," says Irma. Artists at Waterside, a fall exhibition at the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, featured four oils by Myra Koh Sobel.

Barbara Dawson Briller reports from Seattle that she enjoyed a visit in September with Jean Scheller Cain (who was en route to a Canadian holiday with her husband). Barbara writes, "I still like living in my condominium overlooking Green Lake Park, and, if your eyes are good and the air is clear, the peaks of the Olympic Mountains." Barbara enjoys McCaw Hall for opera, and Beniroya Hall, where the symphony plays. She lives in the city proper because macular degeneration has meant no more driving. Her neighborhood has three bus lines and her two daughters and grandchildren live nearby. "My third bedroom is an office, with my computer and a big closed-circuit television (for magnification). I also have a handheld portable CCTV for reading restaurant menus, price tags, and my boarding pass when I travel. Right now I am writing to state legislators to get electronic visual aids excluded from the sales tax, as hearing aids are. As the old joke goes, 'after 60 a girl needs cash.'"

Katie Lihn Riggione writes from Vineland, N.J., "Although I currently serve as broker of record in the real estate company we have owned since 1962, my main thrust in life is our local soup kitchen, which serves hot lunches each weekday at five local churches, and we are in process of obtaining facilities for a rescue mission to rehabilitate those in need." Katie's sons are a psychologist and a musician. "Our youngest daughter, Amy, died in 1990, but not before she and her husband started the ministry of feeding in our city. I shall always be grateful for my life at Barnard."

We send our condolences to **Barbara Gaddy Judd**, whose husband, Burke, died in June. Barbara writes, "We had

54 wonderful years together, but now it's time to move on. I hope to join you for our 60th Reunion."

—NNJ

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Marisa Macina

Hagan writes that she had signed up with a Smithsonian tour of

the Gulf States and was sent a list of participants. One name looked familiar: **Janet Heller**. She sent Janet an e-mail that was bounced back. She then thought she would just look for Janet during the trip, but would they recognize each other? About three days into the trip, she saw someone in the dining room who looked like she could be Janet. Marisa asked, "May I see your name tag?" The woman looked up and said, "Marisa!" Janet was totally unchanged but for some silver in the raven hair. On another tour, Marisa met **Francis Ryder Zwanzig**, MD, but she can't remember where they went.

Rhoda Sussman Weidenbaum is listed in *Who's Who in America, 2008*. Her major at Barnard was foreign affairs, concentrating on China, and now she's an associate in research at the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research at Harvard University. Prior to that Rhoda was a fellow in the history department at Yale University. She's active at Beth Jacob Synagogue in Norwich, Conn., where she leads services, reads Torah, and occasionally composes music. Her husband is professor emeritus at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. They celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary last October and have 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Their two daughters live in Israel with their families. Their son, Mark (P&S '81), is a spine surgeon at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons and associate professor of orthopedic surgery there. Mark's

daughter just graduated from Columbia. We have some sad news. Following a brief illness, **Bertie Frankenhuis Argyris** died in September 2007. Born in Holland, she came to the United States in 1949 and became a citizen in 1955. She studied biology in school and received her master's from Brown and a PhD from Syracuse. She was a professor of microbiology and immunology at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y., and published numerous articles on transplantation immunity and the development of the neonatal immune response. She was appointed professor emeritus of immunology upon her retirement in 1985.

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Travel, work, writing, gardening, music, reading, deep-sea diving, kayaking,

learning, volunteering, and seeing family and one another keeps us productive and busy. **Eloise Ashby Andrus** writes from rainy Washington State that not only is she active in the book discussion group of the Barnard Club of Seattle and in the League of Women Voters, but she and her husband also travel frequently. Last fall **Alice Ribbink-Goslinga** joined them for a tour of national parks in the southwestern United States.

Marlene Barasch Strauss, an art historian at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, visited Vietnam last spring. As a cruise ship lecturer, she traveled with six passengers and a Vietnamese tour guide from Hanoi to Ho Chi Min City (Saigon). She found the people friendly and eager to learn English, with children in the south attending after-school English classes. Marlene observed various new, fashionable French shops opening in Ho Chi Min City.

Maleva Tankard De Palma worked as an anatomy instructor at New York University, married a serviceman, and raised a family. She enjoys sailing, deep-sea diving, and mountain climbing, in addition to singing in a chorus that participates in three or four concerts each year.

Wanda Wilson Boulgarides, who holds a PhD in education development, is married with four children and seven grandchildren. She has worked for public schools and private companies in education development, and has been a school administrator and a school board member. Wanda enjoys ocean diving and spending time with her grandchildren, and she dreams of studying philosophy.

Cynthia Fansler Behrman's favorite pastimes are gardening in the summer and reading in the winter. She also is a busy volunteer at her local library and a fund-raiser for the Jefferson Academy of Music in Columbus, Ohio.

Charlotte Shermer Dubnick reports from a senior retirement community that she was widowed early and worked as a federal government employee and as a substitute schoolteacher. She finds pleasure in writing poetry, painting in oils, and taking adult education courses. Charlotte raised two successful children and enjoys her grandchildren, who live nearby.

In the fall of 2007 **Michela Mitchell Halpern** arranged a brunch, at the Larchmont (N.Y.) Yacht Club, sponsored by the Barnard Club of New York. The event included Barnard clubs from New Jersey, Connecticut, and Westchester County. In attendance on that bright, beautiful day were **Carol Connors Krikun, Margaret (Peggy) Collins Maron, Claire Delage Metz, Marilyn Rich Rosenblatt, and Elizabeth Bache Shwal.**

Michela spoke at the New York Academy of Science Lyceum on how to recognize mythological figures on ancient Greek vases by their attributes.

Nancy Stone Hayward did a wonderful job reporting all this news.

Priscilla Redfearn Elfrey is using e-mail to collect news and looks forward to knowing more about what you're doing. The class gatherings understandably mostly in New York, prompted an idea to have an informal central Florida Barnard lunch gathering, perhaps, in Orlando. If you're interested, let us know.

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55th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

53 This is your last reminder to come to our 55th Reunion. The committee, headed by **Nancy Underwood Lourie**, has planned a wonderful weekend and we'd like to see as many of you as possible. Thursday night, May 29, is a cocktail party, graciously hosted by **Bobbie Glaser Sahlman** and her husband, Ira, in their fabulous loft apartment on lower Broadway. We have invited the Class of '05 to join us and it will be interesting to see where they are five years after graduation.

On Friday, breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be served on campus. The dinner will be in a private room for our class. During the day we'll have the chance to attend several lectures by current faculty. Saturday will include lectures and panels, followed by the gala dinner. For Sunday, **Elise Alberts Pustilnik** has arranged a lecture at the Whitney Museum, where she has been a docent for many years. Also, we will be saying goodbye to President Judith Shapiro. Our condolences to both **Connie Benjamin Clery** and **Evelyn Ilton Strauss** on the deaths of their respective husbands. Connie and Howard Cleary founded Security on Campus Inc. after the tragic death of their daughter on the Lehigh University campus. Evelyn and Herb Strauss established the Laurie Strauss Leukemia Foundation following the death of their daughter from the disease. Both couples turned family tragedy into a positive foundation for the future.

On March 4, Elise Alberts Pustilnik hosted a "Reunion Prelude" for our coming 55th at her west-side duplex. Members of the reunion committee and classmates from the New York area gathered to catch up on events during the past five years and to share their ideas for a memorable reunion.

I received a lovely note from **Barbara Perkel Bleemer**. She and her husband, Art, now have six grandchildren, ages 6

to 16. They get together every summer at their beach cottage, which is 120 steps from Cape Cod Bay. Barbara took her three granddaughters on a visit to Barnard in the spring. Art was seriously ill three years ago, but thanks to an experimental program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, all is well again. Last year they traveled to the South of France and ended up in Paris. Barbara had a short story, "Tuxedo Junction," published last summer in Connecticut's *Weston Magazine*. Her writing was discovered in the local library in a self-published collection of writings by a fiction group that Barbara participated in for several years.

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54 It's funny how we are drawn to certain people in a group, and lo and behold, we find they're fellow alumnae. So it was on a trip to Russia last year, when I discovered, quite by accident, that Rhoda Lampidis Papaioannou '61 and Rita Stein Kobler '64 were fellow travelers. It is a small world after all.

I had a wonderful conversation with **Isabella Bick**. In the past, she was a teacher and the director of a social service agency. Currently, she's a psychotherapist in private practice in New York and Connecticut. Isabella studied Buddhist meditation and has attended a workshop for mental health professionals in Santa Barbara, Calif. The workshop linked Buddhist meditation and philosophy, and connected them to psychotherapy for use in areas such as stress reduction and obsessive-compulsive disorder. In addition, Isabella is a writer and is looking for a publisher. Isabella has three children and one grandchild. Her husband, who passed away five years ago, was the architect of Madison Square Garden.

Gaila Perkins Coughlin has done many things, starting with working for the Ford Foundation right out of Barnard. Subsequently, she taught at the Bank Street School, and was a teacher to the

homeless, high school dropouts, and welfare moms. She also has edited many texts. Now retired, Gaila is doing exactly what she wants to: reading, writing, and ballroom dancing. She has one son and two grandchildren.

Marjorie Fatt Chester studied Chinese for 10 years at Columbia after graduation and then taught English to Chinese immigrants at a Chinatown church. I asked why she hasn't taken advantage of this skill recently, and I learned that schooling here is in Mandarin but the majority of the population speaks Cantonese. Besides, she has many other passions, including antiques. Marjorie has written articles for the *Maine Antiques Digest* and the *East Hampton Star*. She also collects steam irons, aluminum smoking pipes, cast iron tractor seats, and typewriters. She has exhibited some of these at the Parrish Art Museum in Southampton, N.Y. For another passion—sailing—Marjorie started a racing fleet of Beetlecats (a type of boat) at a pond in East Hampton. Her daughter teaches graphic design at the University of Virginia, and her son, who works for the Associated Press, just returned from Iraq.

Renee Rauch Block was a travel agent for many years and visited many interesting places, such as Borneo and China. Because of her husband's recent illness, she regrets that her traveling days may be over.

My apologies to **Patricia Hazeltine Duhnkrack** for leaving her married name off our last column.

Patricia Ellsworth Wilson passed away on Dec. 14, 2007. You may have seen the article in the *Athena's Forum* newsletter in January. We extend condolences to her family and friends.

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55 It is depressing to write of the death of a classmate, much less four. **Doris Berger Berkstresser, Henriette Doll De Vitry, and Katherine Miller Sprague** all died during the last half of 2007. **Sydney Rice Katznelson** died in

2005 but the College didn't learn of her death until late 2007. In memoriam, it is appropriate to note the accomplishments of these remarkable women and to send condolences to their families.

Doris died on Oct. 26, 2007, after being hit by a car while crossing a street. She is survived by her three sons, a stepson and a stepdaughter, two grandchildren, and her fiancé, Alfred Pandiscio. Doris lived in Lexington, Mass., and practiced psychology in Bedford, reducing her practice to part time only recently. She transferred to Barnard after two years at Mount Holyoke. After graduating from Barnard, Doris obtained her master's in counseling at Columbia. She became a licensed psychologist in 1973, specializing in hypnosis, biofeedback, and related behavioral mind/body areas. Divorced from her college sweetheart, she remarried in 1979. Her second husband, Bob Berkstresser, a software engineer, died suddenly in 1999. At the time of her death, she was planning to remarry. Doris, writing for our reunion booklet, expressed her joy in seeing friends, seeing movies, eating out, playing tennis, and playing in general. She advised us "to keep a good book going" always.

Henriette died on June 2, 2007, of a heart embolism. She had been battling the long-term effects of diabetes for many years. Henriette is survived by her husband, Arnaud, two daughters, Anne and Catherine, and seven grandchildren. Henriette came to Barnard after two years at Radcliffe. Henriette was married and had her eldest daughter, Anne, while still a student at Barnard. The family returned to France in the early '60s even though Henriette had not completed her PhD in French literature at Columbia. Back in France, Henriette embarked on a new career, practicing psychoanalysis, particularly active counseling diabetics and their families. In addition, according to **Lenore Prostick Gouyet**, Henriette had a profound love of music, played the cello for 20 years, and helped numerous young musicians in their careers. Hundreds of people attended her funeral and all the musicians who had been close to her in life came to play. Lenore, who taught piano to all of Henriette's grandchildren, described the exceptional funeral. Lenore writes, "Yo-Yo Ma played excerpts from the

Bach suites for solo cello between the different remarks by Henriette's children and grandchildren. In addition, he played the slow movement of the Schubert quintet with the Ysaÿe Quartet, a trio with Sophie (one of Henriette's granddaughters), and then led about 15 cellists in a memorable rendition of the Fauré Requiem, accompanied by Adrien (another grandchild). As you can imagine, it was an exceptional service, for a very exceptional person."

Catherine Berger, the stepdaughter of Katherine Miller Sprague, informed the College of the death of her stepmother on July 21, 2007. Katherine lived in New York City and was a generous contributor to Barnard. She is survived by her second husband, two children, and two stepchildren.

Unfortunately, little is known of the post-Barnard life of Sydney Rice Katznelson, who died in 2005. The College learned of her death through a research Web site and no further information has been provided. If you kept up with her in her later years, please contact me so that a fitting memorial to her may be added.

Condolences are extended to **Marlene Medjuck Green** whose husband, author Gerald Green, succumbed to Parkinson's disease last year.

With the world we knew diminishing, it's important for us to reconnect with classmates and attend Barnard events. In New York City, we have quarterly lunches. If you're planning a trip to New York, please contact **Jane Were-Bey Gardner** (myblueboat@aol.com) to see if these coincide with your visit.

On a happier note, **Judith Burg Besserman**, who lives in Jerusalem, Israel, has coauthored a book, *The Jerusalem Diet: Guided Imagery and the Personal Path to Weight Control*, which is available on Amazon.com. Judy advises that this "is not a diet book in the conventional sense, although it does help the reader to lose weight and, more importantly, since this is where many diets fail, to maintain that weight loss. *The Jerusalem Diet* is about how we can restructure our internal image of who we are and who we want to be, in body as well as in spirit. Through a series of 43 guided visualizations, which are clearly presented and fully explained, *The Jerusalem Diet* helps readers to identify their reasons for holding on to

unwanted weight. It then assists them in the process of re-imagining the self in all its aspects, in order to become the slimmer, happier selves they wish to be." Judy held a book event at her house in Jerusalem attended by 19 alumnae from classes ranging from '47 to '96. Judy is married to a university professor in Jerusalem. She often travels to New York to see her daughter, Alison, and her two grandchildren in South Salem.

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56 At the annual Alumnae Affairs Lunch and Learning event in February, **Sylvia Schor Boorstein** gave a talk. And it was a dilly! (I haven't used that word in decades, but it's the one that came immediately to mind. For you sticklers, it's still in my fine dictionary.) Sylvia's fifth book, *Happiness is an Inside Job: Practicing for a Joyful Life*, was the centerpiece of her talk, but she spoke, too, about how she first got into the practice of meditation, described the path she ended up following Mindfulness Meditation, and how that practice has affected her innate impulse to fret over everything and nothing. Sylvia, an enormously engaging speaker, offered us numerous self-insightful sidebars as she proceeded jauntily through her planned remarks and three brief excerpts from her new book, which she says she "loves." This listener was captivated by the entire talk but especially enjoyed that unusual bit of authorial candor.

A good-size group showed up to hear Sylvia, and nearly all of us attended a breakfast organized by **Toni Crowley Coffee**, which took place beforehand in the Vagelos Center. It was friendly and fruitful, as it seemed to whet the appetite of attendees for a proper mini-reunion this spring.

In the recent past, I've been chastised for omitting the name of a couple of classmates who attended an event at which I was present. Taking good notes was not my forte at Barnard, and some things don't change. This time, I

drafted Toni to help. If I do omit anyone, be gentle with me, okay? Attendees, in addition to Sylvia and Toni, were **Ellen Rae Batt, Janet Bersin Finke, Sifrah Sammell Hollander, Phyllis Jasspon Kelvin, Anita Favata McKenna, Doris Nathan, Barbara Koenig Quart, Nicole Satescu, Lilly Spiegel Schwebel, Sarah Barr Snook**, and your faithful-as-I-can-manage correspondent.

Unfortunately, we have more deaths to report. **Audrey Askin Rosenman** died on Oct. 18, 2007. Audrey put her Barnard education, a Columbia master's in social work, and a family tradition of service to children to fine use. She worked for many years as a therapist in private practice and as a counselor at the Chapin School. For most of her life, following in the footsteps of her mother, Audrey was actively involved in the Henry Street Settlement, on whose board she served as president and chair for 24 years. She was also a supporter of the Citizens' Committee for Children of New York. Audrey showed her commitment to Barnard by serving on the President's Council.

Alice Kirman Gerb died on Sept. 1, 2007. Alice did her graduate work at Princeton in educational measurement, which led to a long career in the field of educational testing. In 1994, she switched to a new career as a travel agent, which meshed superbly with her love of travel. Illness during her last decade didn't keep her from traveling, theatre-going, family entertaining, or ongoing service commitments, all of which she pursued enthusiastically. To the families of these classmates, we extend our condolences.

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57 Here's a note from a classmate we have not heard from since our Barnard days: **Paula Druth Ballin** writes, "I married Don Ballin six months after leaving Barnard; I had transferred to University of Chicago but became pregnant before I

could finish my degree. We have three daughters, four grandsons (one of whom is now on full scholarship for a master's in music at Michigan State). My oldest grandson is an artist, oil on canvas, very abstract. To make a living, he paints females (like Goldie Hawn used to be painted for *Laugh-In*) for nightclub shows, trade shows, etc. My youngest grandson is working on being a tennis pro. When my youngest daughter started school, I went to work as a travel agent. I have owned my own agency since 1984 and moved it into my house four years ago. Don and I have been married now for 52 years (sheeeesh), and we're both arthritic and feeling our age. We've traveled a great deal, naturally, but of every place, China was absolutely the most interesting, and Maui the most wonderful. If I could have a travel agency on Maui, I'd move in a minute, but I would probably lose everything because who in their right mind wants to leave Maui?" To see a lovely example of **Toby Goldman's** flower-rich painting, visit tobygoldman.com.

We also have a couple of sad notes. **Martha Harris Moskowitz's** husband, Morris, died in November from a heart attack following cancer surgery. We extend condolences to Martha and her daughters. **Maryalice Long Adams** died on Dec. 17, 2007. **Rhoda Mermelstein Berley** writes remembering her as "funny, outspoken, and good company." Our condolences to her three children and husband, Peter.

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50th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

58 As of this writing, according to our co-presidents, **Doris Platzker Friedensohn** and **Carol Schott Sterling**, we're expecting more than a hundred of you to attend our 50th Reunion. We're especially enthusiastic about

the round of breakfast discussions planned for Friday and Saturday mornings. We're also looking forward to receiving our reunion book, edited by **Janet Burroway**, the novelist and distinguished professor of creative writing. It will be a very exciting and momentous event.

Judith Johnson (formerly Judith Johnson Sherwin), poet, fiction writer, and editor, was twice honored at the national writers' conference of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs in New York on Feb. 2, 2008. Fellow writers and students spoke about her work, which Judith read from. Judith has published nine books of fiction and poetry. She is professor emerita of English and women's studies and former chair of both departments at the State University of New York - Albany, where she taught from 1980 to 2007. She is editor-in-chief of 13th Moon Press, which publishes poetry, fiction, and two literary journals. While at Barnard, Judith was editor of *Focus*.

Dr. **Annette Raymon Smith** writes to let us know that her book, *The Social World of Alcoholics Anonymous: How It Works*, is finally available. It's a qualitative study of A.A. and the impact of integration into the social world on recovery.

Marcia Spelman De Fren reports on a Florida get-together that included **Rhoda Lichtig Kleid**, Annette Raymon Smith, and **Maida Zuparn Maxham**. Marcia says, "We had a very pleasant visit—luckily we're all Democrats so there were no disagreements. We traded stories, reminisced, and somehow the time flew."

We have learned that **Barbara Milton Andrews** (known as Barbara Milton Happe in our yearbook) passed away on Oct. 8, 2007, in Princeton, N.J. We offer our condolences to her three children, three grandchildren, one sister, and one great-grandchild.

As you know, new class officers will be elected this spring. Marcia and I have completed two terms as co-correspondents. We'll be stepping aside in order to give others the opportunity to take on this very nice job. I want to thank all of you for 10 enjoyable years. It was great to be in contact with so many classmates. Thank you as well for keeping us supplied with items for our

column. Personally want to thank my wonderful partner, co-correspondent Marcia Spelman De Fren. Our collaboration was smooth, helpful, and a lot of fun!

I hope to see you at reunion.

—HRS

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59 Sara Beyer Webster got her doctorate in art history in 1985 from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Since then she has been teaching at Lehman College in the Bronx, also part of the CUNY system. About 15 years ago she was appointed to the faculty of the Graduate Center where she teaches 19th-century American art and is finishing her fourth book, *Liberty's Heroes: Commemorating War and Freedom in Eighteenth-Century New York*. Sally and her husband of 46 years have two grown children and three grandchildren. She is serving as class president for our 50th Reunion. Although **Joan Schneider Kranz** has retired as a social studies teacher, she still supervises student teachers and is involved with various nonprofit organizations. She and **Barbara Whalen Decker** met at a Literacy Volunteers party. Although they had both lived in Stamford for more than 40 years, their paths had never crossed before. Joan marvels at her daughters: both wives and mothers, they are also successful entrepreneurs—for Joan, that is a path not taken. She's looking forward to our 50th Reunion.

Since space here is limited, we had to leave out lots of news in our last column. We're putting some of it back now.

Bernice Kramer Leader's grandchild, Gabriel Jordan Kay, was born in April 2007. Bernice loves being a grandma.

Evelyn Farber Karet has five young grandchildren who she and her husband, Jim, often visit in Pittsburgh

and Chicago. Her daughter, Kate, is a Class of 1989 alumna. **Suzanne Weber Ross's** young granddaughter and daughter are very supportive of Suzanne's political work.

Barbara Carson Mayer's son has an 8-year-old son and a 4-year-old daughter in Chicago. **Audrey Gold's** daughter Laurie, a doctor, has two children: Eliot, a Brown graduate who was married in June 2007, and Lynn, a senior at Brown. Audrey's other daughter, Sharon, an attorney, also has two children: Brian, in seventh grade, and Emily, in third grade. Both of Audrey's daughters live in New York City.

Betsy Wolf Stephens has four children and nine grandchildren. She and her husband, Ralph, live in Chevy Chase, Md., and spend their summers in Bozeman, Mont. Betsy and Ralph are actively volunteering for Barack Obama's campaign, being concerned as they are about the "state of the union" and the current administration.

Lillian Wishnia Rand's first grandchild was born in April 2006. Two of her three daughters are married; one is a stay-at-home mom, one is a physician in San Francisco, and the third is a psychotherapist in Manhattan.

Judith Daynard Boies and her husband, David, have five children and 10 grandchildren between them, and they're all in the metro New York area. **Dorothy (Dottie) Beckwith Tauber** has two daughters and four grandchildren. She works at Sotheby's Realty in Chappaqua, N.Y., and her husband, Bob, is a retired dentist teaching twice a week at Columbia Dental School. **Louise Heublein McCagg** has informally adopted a friend's two grandchildren, and is still very busy in her studio. **Rosalind (Roz) Snyder Paaswell's** oldest grandchild is at the University of London, while youngest is in preschool in New York. Her daughter, Judy, is a London banker, her son, George, is a movie producer, and her husband, Buz, is a professor of civil engineering at City College.

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60 **Betty Binder** writes from California that she and her partner, Ed Monroe, have taught 12 seminars and written two books in the past two years. The books are *Discover Your Past Lives and Other Dimensions of Your Spirituality, Vols. I (In the Spirit Universe) and II (Harmonic Balance)*. Susan received the following from **Joyce Levenson Tichler**, "It's been a long time. The latest *Barnard* prompts this e-mail. **Rosemarie Tichler** and I have remained close friends as well as sisters-in-law. My husband and I moved back to the New York in 2005 and are loving it! Rosemarie and I now live quite close to each other and see each other much more often.... If Barnard is not yet aware of it, Rosemarie was the coauthor of a book published in 2007, *Actors at Work*, published by Faber & Faber." **Andrea Penkower Rosen** urged **Billie Herman Kozolchyk** to share news of her honor with us. The citation reads, "We are pleased to announce Billie Kozolchyk as the recipient of the 2007 Tucson Jewish Community Relations Council Margie Fenton Award. This recognition is well-deserved for Billie's numerous community activities over the years, including involvement in the Yom HaShoah commemoration, Holocaust education, Freedom Run for Soviet Jewry, Hispanic-Jewish Dialog, Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations, Tucson Jewish Community Center, Israel Center, Israel Festival Day, Dorothy McConnor Educational Enrichment Programs, Conscientious African-American Males, American-Israel Friendship League, and being a letter writer extraordinaire." Billie apparently writes many letters to the editor, and many of those are published. **Diana Shapiro Bowstead** informed me that she attended a mini-reunion in New York City on Jan. 6, 2008, at the home of **Joy Hochstadt**. Also there were **Margaret Backman, Judy Barbarasch Berkun, Olga Shniper Boikess, Priscilla Dunn Carter, Barbara Berkman Goodstein, Judith Roses Greenwald, Wilma**

Solomon Harrison, Adele Idestrom, Rochelle Schreiber Kaminsky, Ellen Blanck Kulka, Carol Murray Lane, Nancy Lane, Hallie Ratzkin Levie, Rebecca Levin Lubetkin, Katherin Perutz, Sydney Stahl Weinberg, and Stephanie Winston. Attendance wasn't taken, so if we omitted you, please let us know!

—MLS

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61 I hope you'll be inspired to send me news before our next deadline, which means sometime in July. **Nora Fox Goldschlager** writes: "Got my *Barnard* magazine yesterday, read the class news, and figured it was time for my quadrennial progress note (as we say in the medicine trade) especially since so many are retiring. I am NOT retiring! I'm still professor of clinical medicine (cardiology) at University of California, San Francisco, and working full time at San Francisco General Hospital, coming up to 30 years. Thirty years *anywhere* gets you chief of staff, interim division chief (X2), operations director, and on and on. The job involves direct patient care, teaching, giving lectures, and writing papers and books—educating, as it were—[which are] skills that I owe to Barnard (and the philosophy department where I majored). [It's a] good career for a woman. [I have] two daughters, one is a swim coach, and the other is in video production. Nobody went into medicine, despite both parents being MDs! I will be at our 50th Reunion."

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62 I wasn't particularly active when I was at Barnard: I majored in European history, participated in the education program, chaired the Thursday Noon Committee, and lived in the dorms. However, since graduating and becoming more involved with our reunions, I feel more connected with and impressed by my classmates. We're a group of lively, intelligent, involved, special women, with whom I'm very happy and proud to work. Please share your news and views, even if they're not all positive. Also send me your updated e-mail address so you can receive our e-newsletters.

Harriet Kaye Inselbuch is chairing the annual Drama League black-tie gala honoring Roger Berlind at the Rainbow Room. She has served on the League's board for more than 10 years. Harriet also is an active duplicate-bridge player. **Roslyn (Roz) Leventhal Siegel** works four days a week at a small independent publishing company. On the fifth day she makes jewelry, so far mostly for her daughter, daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters.

News of **Janet Weinberg** comes by way of **Maya Rosenfeld Freed Brown**. Janet, a retired psychologist, lives in Ithaca, N.Y., is learning to play the recorder, and is writing a book, *Still Going Strong*, with contributions from other women. She also skis and canoes. Congratulations to **Barbara Lovenheim** whose book *Survival in the Shadows: Seven Jews in Hitler's Berlin* has been optioned for a film by Nico Hoffman, one of Germany's top producers specializing in epics of World War II.

Susan Tiktin Yemin retired from Prudential after 20 years and still gets corporate matching contributions and supplementary health insurance. She's active in her synagogue, volunteers at the Newark Museum, and is training to sit on a Child Placement Review Board for the Union County (NJ) court system. Susan has two married sons and two grandsons.

Susan Huhn Eustis and her daughter, Dr. Susie Eustis, have written a book, *After Florida and the Netherlands Are Underwater It Is Too Late*, a comprehensive review of energy systems you can install yourself, and who makes

them. Susan is president and co-founder of Wintergreen Research, which works on energy, communications, and software applications. Wintergreen Research published her book, which you can read online. It's interesting, topical, and understandable.

To clarify information about the Class of 1962 Reunion Fund, which some of you have asked about: Our class has \$50,000 in a fund that was established at the College in 1993 for the purpose of providing financial aid. The current class officers want to bring this fund up to a fully endowed level of \$100,000 during the next five years, for our 50th Reunion. We'll be sending more information about how to give to this endowed fund as we move toward this milestone year.

Giving to this special fund should be in addition to, not in place of, giving to The Barnard Fund. Barnard needs our annual donations for operating expenses, scholarships, and campus renewal. So please continue to give generously to the College. We want to help Barnard educate tomorrow's leaders. They're lively, intelligent, involved women, as are we—they're just a little younger.

I'd also like to remind those in the New York area that auditing certain courses at Barnard is free and open to alumnae. It's a great way to learn, connect with the College, and meet new people.

For more information, contact Alumnae Affairs at alumnaeaffairs@barnard.edu or 212.854.2005.

Please note my new address listed below.

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45th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

63 We hope to see you at our 45th Reunion. **Susan Robbins Stern** is heading up the committee to give us a picture of our class at our 45th anniversary, and of course there will be a booklet so we can read about each other.

On Thursday, May 29, we'll begin festivities with a cocktail party at **Shirley Sherak's** fabulous Soho loft. On Friday,

we'll dine together as a class on campus. On Saturday, before the gala dinner, we'll have some stimulating discussion in our class lounge. **Marian Mandel Bauer** and **Judith Rothgart MacDonald** are doing the planning and they seem to have something else wonderful in mind.

Marlene Lobell Ruthen has retired from book illustrating and from designing Kutubahs (Jewish marriage contracts), which she pursued for some 25 years. Now she devotes her days to paintings so large she has to do them as triptychs. They reflect her intense concern for the environment and its destruction by global warming. She reports that although she has always painted, her work began to assume larger and larger meaning as she became aware of the danger to our earth. She has been married for 46 years to Gerald Ruthen, a retired physician, and she has two children, Paula and Russell, and five grandchildren. She loves to travel around the world and often to Massachusetts, where both of her kids reside with their families.

Alice Norman Golin has just retired from Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School where she was principal of the elementary division for five years. Alice has operated in many educational environments since graduating from Barnard. She has a master's in education from Harvard and a master's in special education from Bank Street College. In Manhattan, Kan., while her husband taught history at Kansas State she joined a group of friends to establish a Summerhill-type open classroom school on a farm. After returning East, she taught in a community school in Newark, N.J., for two years, then, moved to a private school where she combined teaching and administration. Later she was director of a parent co-op nursery to fourth grade in Hoboken, then a curriculum coordinator of a private school and went on to work in a nonprofit organization that ran charter schools that lost funding after 9/11. She has two children, Elaine, a lawyer, and Josh, who works for a child-advocacy nonprofit group. Alice is writing a children's novel, learning Italian, and spending more time with her husband. But she keeps up with peace-related work: anti-Iraq War movement and bringing Israelis and Palestinians together.

Harriet Schaffer Rabb, who we

elected president of our class in our first year, writes, "After teaching in the law clinics at Columbia Law School for more than 20 years, I joined the Clinton Administration in February 1993 as general counsel to the Department of Health and Human Services headed by Secretary Donna Shalala. Among the department's agencies are the National Institutes of Health, the Center for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration and, at that time, the Social Security Administration, as well as the agencies responsible for the nation's Medicaid and Medicare programs. At the end of the second Clinton term, in 2001, I returned to New York City to become vice president and general counsel to Rockefeller University, a post I currently hold and very much enjoy. My husband is in active law practice. To our delight, our son, daughter, son-in-law (all lawyers), and twin grandchildren live near us. Barnard was a great springboard for the personal and professional opportunities life has given me."

Bette Steinberg Tiago, one of our three class presidents, writes, "Still in my early 1960s social justice mindset, I've been exploring new technologies (kicking and screaming, I admit) to 'heal, mend, and repair the world.' My friend, the director of development and public affairs for the Rockridge Institute, coached me for the past four months so I could attend RI's debut on a public affairs program in Second Life. RI utilizes the latest research in cognitive science to deepen and broaden understanding of the political world. After eight years sinking into progressive apathy and despair, watching public language distorted to justify pernicious stupidity I'm hopeful again. I'm proud to be in the first emerging group of Rockridge ambassadors."

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64 Until her recent semi-retirement, **Ellen Berman** headed the Consumer Energy Council of America and was a

Moving?

Send name, telephone, address and e-mail address changes and updated employment information to: Alumnae Records, Barnard College, Box AS, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027-6598 Fax: 212.854.0044. You can also submit updates online at barnard.edu/alum by clicking on "Keeping in Touch" and "Alumnae Online Records Form."

A Lifelong Activist

Grace Lee Boggs '35

In a 2007 television interview, journalist Bill Moyers praised her as a "philosopher activist" whose goal is "to make America work for everyone." But Grace Chin Lee Boggs' beginnings would hardly suggest such an outcome. Born in 1915 to immigrant parents above their Chinese restaurant, Boggs says the waiters who worked for her father often taunted him about his bad luck having a daughter. Today, the veteran activist and writer says the stinging words played an early role in shaping her view of the world.

Witnessing her mother's dissatisfaction and rebelliousness, she often thought about what it meant to be born female. "My mother never learned to read or write," says Boggs, who was studying Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Women and Economics* at 15. At 16 she came to Barnard, pleased to find a diverse population that included "people like myself, the daughters of immigrants and the first ones in our families to go to college."

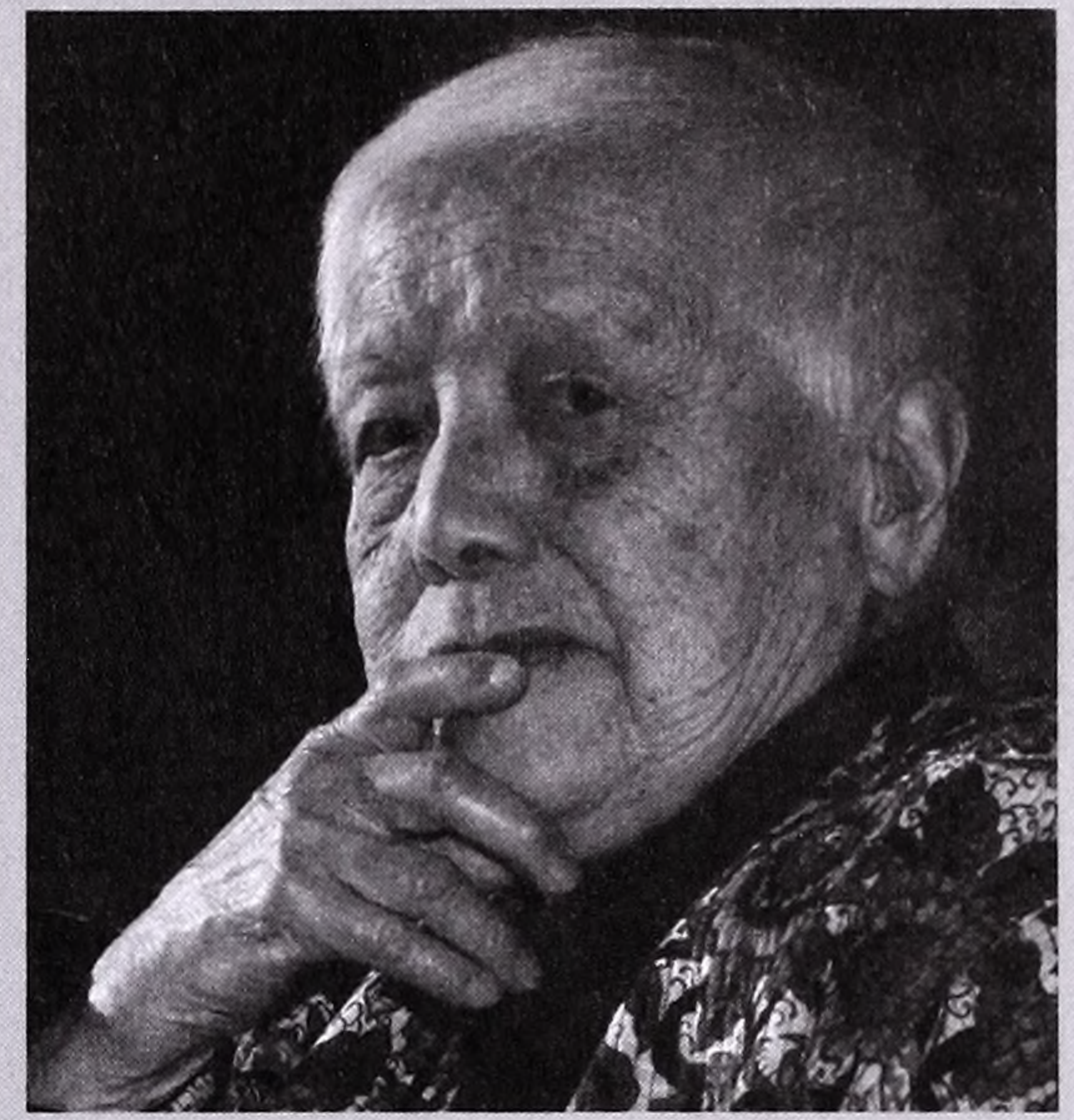
She admits that while she loved science, Barnard's laboratory classes took precious time away from tennis and her duties as vice president of the Women's Athletic Association. She majored in philosophy and earned a PhD at Bryn Mawr. Despite her degree, "even department stores wouldn't hire 'Orientals.'"

Boggs eventually worked part-time at the University of Chicago for \$10 a week. Living rent-free in the basement of a private home plagued by vermin, and motivated by her own immediate distress, she joined the local black community in its struggle against rat-infested housing. That led to her participation in A. Philip Randolph's campaign for a 1941 March on Washington demanding jobs for black workers in wartime industries. "When FDR faced the threat of a demonstration by 100,000 black people, he issued Executive Order 8802 banning discrimination in defense plants," Boggs says, "and I found what I wanted to do with my life: become a movement activist."

In the movement she also found James Boggs, an African-American auto worker, labor organizer, and radical political theorist, who proposed marriage on their first date. Until his death 40 years later, they lived and worked together in Detroit—as strategists and fighters for social change, founders of the youth-focused Detroit Summer initiative, and coauthors of books such as *Revolution and Evolution in the Twentieth Century*.

Boggs, who turns 93 in June, writes a column for the *Michigan Citizen*, speaks to local and national audiences, and participates in community and political life. She has been honored by a wide range of American institutions, and in 2000 she received Barnard's Distinguished Alumna Award. Commenting on her autobiography, *Living for Change*, Cornel West said, "Grace Lee Boggs has made a fundamental difference in keeping alive the traditions of the struggles for freedom and democracy."

—Anne Schutzberger



theatre producer, with *Enchanted April* on Broadway and the off-Broadway *Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* to her credit. Now she spends about half of her time in Sarasota, Fla., where she co-chaired the Sarasota International Design Summit. Having always been involved with both energy and the arts, she continues to be interested in the intersection of the arts and science as an active member of the Council for the Arts at MIT.

Diane Buyum Shrager retired in June after many years of teaching English as a second language in Rochester, N.Y. Prior to that she taught French. Diane's husband is still with the faculty of the University of Rochester, and her daughter is a third-year resident in pediatrics at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons. In addition to training to be a docent at the Rochester Museum & Science Center, Diane is taking voice lessons. She remarks that "just being on the receiving end of instruction is very nice," and she likes the work of learning to produce vocal sound.

Our class president, **Jane Gross Perman**, has been spending time with her growing family: three grandsons in the past three and a half years, with her first granddaughter in April. She reminds us to save the dates of our 45th Reunion, June 4 through 7, 2009.

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65 The husband of Dr. **Anne Botsford** sends an admiring account of his wife's accomplishments because, he says, "she is far too modest" to write in about herself. Already holding a master's in philosophy and a master's in social work,

Anne worked as a supervising social worker and earned her PhD in public policy at SUNY Albany's Rockefeller College while raising two children. She received her degree with honors in 1997. Anne is now a full professor at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and enjoys competitive swimming as a multiple gold-medal winner at the

annual Empire State Master's Games, where she holds a number of records. In addition, she's a widely published author and a lecturer, having made presentations at the World Health Organization in France, Geneva, Ireland, and Taiwan. "Not bad," he says, "for a girl who grew up on a ranch and attended ... Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler, Texas."

Thank you to those who shared memories of **Alice Levin Sokolik** with her daughter, Julianna, who let us know in the previous issue that she hoped to learn more about her mother through Alice's classmates. If you have stories or pictures for Julianna, I'm sure she'd be thrilled to hear from you. Being able to connect people is the most gratifying part of writing this column.

Karen Rothstein Brody writes, "My daughter, Debra Brody, received a bachelor's of science from Sy Syms School of Business, Yeshiva University, summa cum laude, last May, and an associate in arts degree from Stern College for Women. She's working as the events coordinator in the dean's office of Sy Syms School of Business. To celebrate Debra's graduation, we went to Europe for two weeks and hooked up with **Marie Françoise Allain** and **Henrietta (Henni) Josefsberg Goldstein**. I got to know Marie Françoise well when I lived in France. We actually met when I had her as a teacher at the Université d Paris 8 in the mid-1970s. We could not believe that we had been classmates at Barnard." Regrettably, as we went to press, Karen was "summarily dismissed" from a new job that she loved. She had been working with the elderly in Brookline and was very engaged in the work. Suddenly, she was told, "We are letting you go. It is not a fit." Before this shocking experience, Karen wrote, "I love my job and cannot wait until I get out in the field and really start making a difference in the lives of elder citizens to help them remain at home." Karen "was forming some wonderful relationships" with the program participants. She received an e-mail from her supervisor reading, "Great work." Then without warning or a goodbye from the same supervisor, she was let go. Because Karen was still in a six-month probationary period, she didn't receive severance pay, nor an extension

of her health-insurance coverage.

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66 Robert F. Southard, husband of **Edna Carter Southard**, died on Nov. 11, 2007. He had served as a professor of history and Jewish studies at Earlham College since 1971 and as associate academic dean for five years until 2006. He was teaching at an advanced research seminar at Newberry Library in Chicago for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest when he died. He and Edna were married 38 years and have two sons, David of Fort Myers, Fla., and Jared of Burlington, Vt. If you'd like to contact Edna, you can look her up in the online directory (barnard.edu/alum), or call Alumnae Affairs at 212.854.2005 for her contact information.

Linda Lovas Hoeschler sends sad news as well. She reports the passing of her beloved mother, Hildur Wederquist Lovas, on Nov. 29, 2007, just short of her 93rd birthday. Hildur, who lived in Minnesota since 1999, was an independent and productive person devoted to caring for ailing family and the elderly. In 1942, she joined the Army Nursing Corps and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. At Fort Leonard, Mo., she met and married Linda's father, Lieutenant Stephen Edward Lovas. After World War II the family moved to Westchester, N.Y., where she lived until 1976. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Linda and her family. My husband and I took a walk through Soho a few weeks ago on a balmy winter day and saw the offices of the Aesthetic Realism Foundation and art gallery on Greene Street. We went in and asked for **Carrie Wilson**. We were delighted to catch up and learn about the Foundation and view the artwork. If you're in the area, I recommend this as a destination.

Anna Quindlen '74, chair of the board of trustees of Barnard, reports that Debora L. Spar has been appointed the next president of Barnard College, effective July 1, 2008. Debora, 44, is a Harvard Business School professor. Helene Finkelstein Kaplan '53, a Barnard Trustee, says "We never expected to have anybody until March or April or May, but she was too good to pass up." We wish Debora good luck.

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67 **Christine Nodini Bullen** writes, "After our great 40th Reunion, a Yahoo discussion group was created just for our class. Since it is a closed group, if you are interested send me an e-mail at cbullen@optonline.net." Christine is the first president of a nonprofit organization she has been helping launch, The Global Sourcing Council, which focuses on the social and economic effects of sourcing, including all forms of outsourcing—domestic and off shore, near and far. Stakeholders in the global sourcing arena include countries and their trade representatives (in Africa, North, Central, and South America, Asia, and Europe), clients of sourcing, providers of sourcing, and academic researchers. If anyone has any interest in the sourcing world and these issues, please contact Christine.

Gloria Leitner has been volunteering at Massachusetts General Hospital in the field of patient education. "Premed was the path I didn't take at Barnard," she says, explaining that when she went to her adviser to declare her major she fully intended to go premed. But on the spot she had a sudden change of heart signed up for philosophy, which she has never regretted. Gloria says she's retained a lifelong interest in medicine and sees her volunteer work now as a late fulfillment of that early inclination. Gloria's hobby is photography, and she recently exhibited her work at a local gallery. She also sells photographs at

stores in the greater Boston area.

Paula Fass teaches at the University of California at Berkeley, where she's Margaret Byrne Professor of History. Her most recent book, *Children of a New World*, was published this year and a family memoir, *Inheriting the Holocaust*, will be published next year. Her daughter, Bluma Lesch, is in the fifth year of a joint MD-PhD program at Weill Cornell Medical School and Rockefeller University. Paula's son, Charles Lesch, is a junior at Yale. "It is an odd reversal to have my children in New York while I am in California."

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40th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

68 Just a brief reminder of what's on tap for our 40th Reunion: Thursday, May 29, **Karen Mandell Fleiss** and her husband will host a cocktail party at their home on Fifth Avenue. This will be a wonderful way to start your evening and reconnect with lost classmates. Friday, May 30, is the night of our class dinner, which will begin with a cocktail hour (are you picking up a theme here?). We will be joined at dinner by Professor Serge Gavronsky and Professor Emeritus Peter Juviler. The guest speaker will be Gail Collins, an author and an op-ed columnist for the *New York Times*. On Saturday, May 31, we'll meet in our class lounge in Sulzberger Hall to discuss how we became the fabled Class of 1968 and what it all meant. There will be a separate outdoor luncheon on that date as well. Additional events commemorating our noteworthy (to say the least) senior year are being coordinated with Columbia. This will be a special time, and we hope to see a lot of you there. In other news: **Beatrice Beebe**, PhD, writes that she's a practicing psychoanalyst and psychologist affiliated with the Columbia's Center for Psychoanalytic Training & Research, and has published widely over the years. A researcher with the

Parent-Infant Project at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, where she specializes in mother-child communication, Beatrice also is leading a project to help young mothers who were pregnant and widowed on 9/11. Her husband, Edward McCrorie, a poet and translator of Homer and Virgil, plans to retire from his teaching post at Providence College this summer. Beatrice notes that she'll miss reunion because she'll be lecturing in Munich. If I had a nickel for every time I've heard that one.

Emilia May Fanjul reports that the recent dinner-dance sponsored by Casita Maria at the Mandarin Oriental in New York, the organization raised \$650,000 to be used for programs benefiting local Hispanic communities.

Alice Friedman Appel, MD, had a chapter published on glomerulonephritis (a class of kidney disease) in *The Year in Renal Medicine*, as well as a chapter on newer immunosuppressive drugs in *Therapy in Nephrology and Hypertension*. Alice asks us to note that although kidney disease gets little publicity, it's a very significant health problem in the United States, affecting millions of individuals of all ages and their families and playing a major role in the development of cardiovascular disease. She writes: "I'm just fixated on that stuff right now because we went to a dinner on Monday for a disease called FSGS that affects hundreds of thousands of people, many of them small children, and we got to see a number of the sick kids and speak with their parents. It's totally heartbreaking—there's no cure and, even with a kidney transplant, the disease often recurs in the new kidney, shutting it down."

Abby Sommer Kurnit and I, along with our spouses, had dinner with **Martha (Marti) Shames Groen** and her husband, Cliff. Abby brought along her *Mortarboard*, and as we looked at the pictures it was amazing how quickly we were transported back to those years. We can't wait for reunion and are looking forward to seeing friends with whom we've lost touch.

—JSF

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70 Jane Jelenko coauthored a book, *Changing Lanes: Road Maps to Midlife*

Renewal, published this year by Radom Press. According to the book's summary, "two former 'suits' take to the road in search of meaningful second acts and find inspiration in the stories of other baby boomers who changed lanes and renewed their lives." Jane was the first woman partner in the consulting arm of KPMG, the international professional services firm, where she served for 25 years before retiring in 2003. She currently serves on several corporate and community boards and resides in the Los Angeles area.

Rebecca Cook has edited a new volume, *Health and Human Rights*, which draws together key articles that address the challenge of applying human rights to promote health in a variety of local and global settings. Essays explore the determinants of ill health, examine ways to promote self-determination in health, and show how courts have applied rights to improve access to health services. Rebecca is professor and faculty chair in international human rights at the University of Toronto, where she holds positions in the faculties of law and medicine and at the Joint Centre for Bioethics.

Soching Tsai is on the move again! She's now living in Vienna, Austria, where she is a counselor for United Nations Affairs at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations Office. Her husband, David Kornbluth, is "telecommuting" from Vienna to his Washington, D.C., State Department position. Soching muses that life in Vienna has its pluses ("sunrise seen from my apartment, the gardens of Schönbrunn Palace") and minuses ("high euro and no *New York Times* hard-copy version"). The German language courses that Soching took at Barnard, combined with a refresher course she took in Washington, D.C., are helping to ease her relocation.

Claudia Goldin Ross is on sabbatical from her position as professor of

Chinese at the College of the Holy Cross, and currently lives in chilly Beijing. She is completing her third reference grammar for Mandarin Chinese and working as lead author on a Mandarin Chinese textbook project. "I started studying Chinese almost 40 years ago to satisfy the non-Indo-European language requirement for Barnard's linguistics major. I had no idea it would lead me here," she writes. On the homefront, **Thulani Davis** reports that over the weekend of April 24 through 27, a group of veterans of the 1968 Columbia strike put together a 40th anniversary weekend conference on the Barnard and Columbia campuses to re-examine events of that historic year. Thulani says many members of the Barnard-Columbia community then and now helped with the planning, including **Christine Clark-Evans, Cheryl Leggon, Xiomara Cortes Metcalfe '71, M. Alexis Scott, and Ntozake (Paulette) Williams Shange.**

Cheryl Leggon has been named a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for "advancing understanding in underrepresentation—primarily where gender, ethnicity, and race intersect—and for showcasing career pathways in science and technology." Cheryl is an associate professor of sociology in the School of Public Policy at Georgia Institute of Technology.

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71

First-time contributor **Miriam Vogel Gold** writes that she graduated from New York University School of Law in 1975. From working at a New York law firm she 'went in-house' as deputy general counsel of a Swiss-based multinational. In February 2007, she started a private

law practice focusing on general corporate and business matters; acquisitions, divestitures, and antitrust; product regulatory compliance; and legal department administration. She married Tomas Gold in 1978. They have three sons: Joshua, 27, who graduated from Tufts University and Fordham University School of Law; Daniel, 25, also a Tufts graduate; and Noah, 22, at SUNY Binghamton. She is interested in networking with alumnae business owners and entrepreneurs in the greater New York area.

From across the Atlantic, **Dorothy Hase Alexander** writes, "I graduated from Barnard in 1972 as a German major. In 1976 I got my PhD in medieval German literature from NYU. I am married 35 years to an Australian, David Geoffrey Alexander, a graduate of the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU, and world expert in Islamic arms and armor. We have two girls who attended St. Hilda's College, Oxford, and a son who studied architecture at Bristol. And we are the proud grandparents of a 9-month-old girl. We have lived in France for 19 years, and for eight I have been following my dream and passion—food."

Susan Slyomovics moved to Los Angeles, where she's a professor of anthropology at University of California, Los Angeles.

Lily Soohoo Louie spent over a month traveling with family in Peru, Ecuador, and the Galápagos, hiking Machu Picchu, crossing volcanoes, and living the simple life. Later, she and her daughter, Aileen Louie '05 (SEAS '06), visited MoMA, and during New York's restaurant week they went to L'Impero. Lily and **Julia Hong Sabella** rang in the Chinese New Year together, dined at River Café and Anthos, and saw the musical *Legally Blonde*. Lily would like to see a class bulletin board posting gourmet restaurant weeks, museum events, or Broadway shows that classmates could enjoy together in town. Former class president Julia Hong Sabella has been busy traveling. Because her youngest son is off to college, and her oldest daughter, Jennifer (CC '06), has graduated and works at CNN, Julia was free to accompany her husband, Jim, on a trip to Latin America. She also took her 87-year-old mother on a tour of Italy, where they met the Pope.

Their next trip together will be to France. We regret to announce the death of **Sherrie Echols** on June 13, 2007, of ovarian cancer. If you have any additional information or have memories of Sherrie to share, please contact me.

Mary Gorayeb Friberg has agreed to be co-vice president with **Marget Fahey Wallace**. Recently, Marget's job has kept her tied up with leading sequestered out-of-town workshops and working weekends. We're all grateful to have Mary join our working group.

Joanna (Jodi) Devaron Reynolds writes that she "had a relatively easy divorce; currently camping out in a newly bought condo undergoing renovation (not fun!). I keep telling myself it'll look and feel great eventually; I just have to keep on keeping on. I still enjoy my job as a research associate at the American Humane Association, children's division. Call if you come to Denver." You can obtain classmate contact information through the online directory, Alumnae Affairs, or your correspondent.

Vikki Stark is a family therapist and writer living in Montreal. In 2006, the day she returned from her 3,000-mile book tour for *My Sister, My Self* (she drove herself across America) her beloved husband of 21 years turned to her and said, "It's over." "I was completely shocked," she writes, "because he had never mentioned that 'it' was even in trouble ... I was very happily married. He moved in with his girlfriend that day." Urged by friends to write a book called "Dumped!" she began work on *Runaway Husbands: Making Sense and Bouncing Back from a Divorce You Didn't See Coming* (runawayhusbands.com). She's looking for male and female abandoners and abandonees to interview for the project; to obtain an online questionnaire go to vikkistark.com.

In June, **Sandra Willner Horowitz's** daughter, Jeanne, completes her radiology residency at Northwestern Memorial, where Sandy is a neuroradiologist. Her special interest is brain tumor evaluation with magnetic resonance spectroscopy, perfusion, and imaging. Sandra's son, David, had his first stop-motion animation film, *Urban Oasis*, accepted for the University of Southern California First Look film festival, where he is pursuing a master's in fine arts degree.

Since retiring from Wall Street a few years ago, **Linda Parnes Kahn** has been busy studying Spanish, traveling extensively with her husband, Alan, (mostly in connection with their support of a medical research foundation) and promoting Barnard. But her favorite thing to do is enjoy time with her 3-year-old granddaughter.

Katherine Brewster is expanding her yoga classes to offer Deeper Svaroopa® yoga instruction, which will include an introduction to yoga philosophy via Patanjali's yoga sutras. She has teamed up with Larry Hurst, a relationship life-coach focusing on transitions, to offer Ready to Fly, a unique, experiential, transformative yoga-based spiritual journey designed to reveal the wondrousness of the soul, and take one to the inner place of living life from the inside out.

Catherine Bilzor Cretu and her husband, Octavian, are elated to pronounce their three-year-long renovation of a vacation/rental/someday-retirement-home on the idyllic Caribbean island of Vieques "close enough to call it finished."

Your class officers invite you to our mini-reunion on campus Saturday, May 31.

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72 Some news in this column is also on our class Web page, go to Barnard's site and just type 1972 in the search field to find it. **Stephanie Wallach** took a job at Carnegie Mellon University in August 2006 as director of undergraduate research and fellowship resources. She had worked at Carnegie Mellon part-time since 1995 as an undergraduate advisor and internship director in humanities and social sciences. Her current position supports students who want to participate in undergraduate research—whether with a faculty member or on their own. It's a very democratic program to encourage participation and creativity and an annual campus-wide research symposium called Meeting of the Minds

is held—last year over 450 students participated. Stephanie's son Michael, 26, graduated from Amherst College, spent a year at Cambridge, England, and is now in a PhD sociology program at Princeton; and her son Adam, 23, graduated from Duke last May and works for the Federal Trade Commission, consumer division, and is in an honors paralegal program. Stephanie's husband, Steve Schlossman, teaches history at Carnegie Mellon, and they are both enjoying the empty nest more than they thought. She writes, "I feel especially fortunate that I was able to move forward on my career after years of combining motherhood with part-time work. I love my job and it is a great time in my life to devote my creative energies more fully to work. Barnard remains a model for me of encouragement and support for women."

Ann Nowak writes that she was unable to attend reunion because it was the same weekend as a big fundraising show for the Jacobson Center for the Performing Arts, for which she was one of the directors as well as a performer (dancing, singing, and acting). The purpose of the show was to raise money for a permanent location with a theatre and rehearsal space in the Hamptons. The Jacobson Center is a nonprofit community group, offering professional-quality dance, singing, and acting training to locals of all ages. The youngest participant is 12, and the oldest is over 80. She reports that the best part is that everyone is in class together, so the kids learn poise and teamwork from the adults, and the adults get motivated by the kids. Her favorite is learning how to do multiple pirouettes from the 12-year-olds, who love it when the adults ask them for pointers. The fund-raiser was a labor of love.

Juliana Flinn writes that she spent 2006–07 in Alaska as a Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA), which she also did just after college in Kansas. In Alaska she worked for Big Brothers, Big Sisters in a rural area that was 2/3 Yupik Eskimos with immigrants from Albania, Central America, Korea, and Russia. She's now back at the University of Arkansas teaching anthropology and directing a program to prepare students for careers in nonprofit organizations. She also is the acting chair for the anthropology department while the

university searches for a replacement. She likes the human resources part of the job and, unsurprisingly, she isn't too keen on the paperwork.

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74 Frances Sadler '72 writes to say that as provost of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C., **Marilyn Sanders Mobley** is "carrying on the important work of educating women to be leaders in today's society at an historically black college." Marilyn had been associate provost and associate professor at George Mason University, where she founded and was first director of the African-American studies program. She has a master's degree from New York University and a doctorate in English from Case Western Reserve. Marilyn also is associate minister at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Woodbridge, Va. She has two sons.

CD versions of *Tell Me a Story: Timeless Folktales from Around the World* and *Tell Me a Story II: Animal Magic* by **Amy Friedman** are available from MythsAndTales.com.

Diane Cooperman Wander, EdD, reports that a few years ago she retired from her position as elementary school principal at the Samuel Scheck Hillel Community Day School in North Miami Beach, Fla. She has opened an educational consulting practice devoted to teacher professional development and to assisting families to find appropriate resources for children with learning difficulties. Her greatest accomplishment, she feels, is becoming an empty nester, after first raising triplets and then one more.

Elizabeth Leonard Lascoux has joined the New York-based law firm of Frankfurt, Kurnit, Klein and Selz. Elizabeth is a leading expert on the issues surrounding advertising and marketing to children, and privacy protections. Her work was highly instrumental in the formation of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998. Elizabeth has been active as a

public speaker on advertising issues. A graduate of Fordham University School of Law, she is the former director of the Children's Advertising Review Unit of the Council of Better Business Bureaus.

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75 **Barbara Solomon-Spergen** writes from Brooklyn where she is a psychologist and her husband, Mike, works in IT. Barbara used the Barnard online directory to contact Claire Jacobs Elson '74, who was a bridesmaid at her first wedding. The marriage ended, but not before it produced three great children: Sidney, a young actor, Gella Rachel, just beginning rabbinical studies, and Adina Devora, who married Torsten Scheihagen last fall at the Kane Street Synagogue. Barbara often sees Ellen Shaw '89 and Judith Roses Greenwald '60.

Kimberlee Halligan lives in a Riverside Drive apartment within a stone's throw of campus. Kim works as an agent in Manhattan's astonishingly priced residential real estate market.

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76 **Sheila McGee-Smith** writes to us from Newark Airport, while waiting for her flight to San Francisco. She's spent 20 years as a telecom space-industry analyst, which means a lot of time on the road. In the next few months she'll be in Austria, Boston, Orlando, Paris, San Antonio, San Diego, and Washington, D.C. **Michal Frankel Rosenthal** reports from Milwaukee, a place she "never in a million years" thought she'd live. Michal's son, Ari, is 9 and headed for a black belt in Tae-kwon-do. Michal's husband has four children, ranging in age from 9 to 17. Michal maintains her psychotherapy practice in Chicago, flying to the Windy City once a week to see her patients.

In her spare time, she manages her husband's urology practice. She has two nieces at Barnard and continues to experience the College through them." If Michal had the time, she'd catch up with **Nancy Lerner Frej**, who lives in Chicago with her husband and daughters, Willa, 16, and Austin, 14. Nancy is our resident entrepreneur. Her latest venture, which she launched two years ago with her husband, is called Brill Street. The company places high-performing college and graduate students with client companies. And, she still oversees the company she started nearly 20 years ago, Otherwise, Inc.

Linda Prado Annawah has been married for 32 years and has three grown children, two of whom have doctorates. Linda taught for the Department of Education for more than 30 years and now teaches at LaGuardia Community College, helping students with difficulties qualify for college admissions.

Judy Levitan reports from the Bay Area, where she has lived for the past 25 years. She gave up "work" 10 years ago to do the work of parenting three boys. Her oldest is graduating from the University of Chicago and heading to law school. Her middle son is at Boston University. The youngest has two more years at home.

Felice Zwas has been practicing gastroenterology for the past 20 years in Greenwich, Conn. She also serves as professor of medicine at Yale and New York Medical College, and she's on the Top 101 Fairfield County Doctors list. In her spare time, she managed to hike and camp the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Nancy Matis Dreyfuss is a speech/language pathologist in New York. Her daughter is a senior at Fieldston School and, like my senior, decided Barnard wasn't right for her. As Nancy says, "Boohoo!"

Lisa Lerman is a law professor at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., specializing in legal ethics. She and her husband are finishing the second edition of a text on the subject. Their son Sam, 21, is at Colorado College and is in the Air Force Reserve. Their daughter, Sarah, 18, is a first-year at Oberlin College.

Sandy Caskie's son, Ben, graduated in May from Brown with a degree in

mathematical economics and is working for a real-estate development company in Washington, D.C., while considering graduate school.

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77 Many of this column's notes were obtained through our January Phonathon, and I thank all of our class volunteers for their help. The more I learn about the lives our classmates are leading now, the more impressed I am with the diversity of our choices and experience. The common thread: we're all dedicated in our own ways to making the world a better place.

Marcia Felth and Fred Schindler (SEAS '79) have just one child left at home, Greta, a seventh-grader. Their son, Eric, a first-year at University of Michigan, majors in music and plays jazz saxophone. Their daughter Anna, a junior at Wesleyan, studies Italian and religion and runs track and cross-country. Currently, Anna is studying in Bologna, Italy, just as her mother studied at Reid Hall, Paris, in 1976.

Ruth Susser King has four children, aged 9 to 19, and lives in northern New Jersey. Her eldest child is at Goucher College. When not busy at home with her family, Ruth is a librarian in a local elementary school instilling the love of reading.

Michelle Adler Schneck is a learning specialist at Sidwell Friends School, a coeducational Quaker day school. She has five children between ages 14 and 28. Her three older children have given her three grandchildren.

Elaine Wong Tom received her master's of business administration from Columbia in 1979 and has been working in banking for the past 30 years. She has two daughters, one in college and one in high school, both in Connecticut where she lives. Elaine, who has taken on the role of vice president of the Barnard Club of Connecticut, is happy to be networking with her classmates and other alumnae in her area.

Finding her inner artist, **Michelle Neumann Finkelstein** is taking painting

If you graduated from Barnard and would like to take additional courses (e.g. in order to fulfill premedical requirements) or if you would like to resume studies toward the BA after having left five or more years ago without the degree please contact: Aaron Schneider, Senior Associate Dean of Studies and Director of Resumed Education:
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classes. She's working with watercolors and loves it.

Karin Chenoweth published a book last spring, *It's Being Done: Academic Success in Unexpected Schools*. I snuck a peak at the book's reviews, which praised Karin for showing "that a good school can make a decisive difference in giving every child a chance to achieve the American Dream" and demonstrating "that an unyielding belief in the ability of all children ... can radically transform public education in this nation."

Maria Foscarnis, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, published "The Growth of a Movement for a Human Right to Housing in the United States," an article on the rights of the homeless, in the Spring 2007 issue of *Harvard Human Rights Journal*.

Enid Krasner, who earned a master's in health services administration from the University of Michigan, lives in Philadelphia with her husband and stepdaughter. She was promoted to director of ancillary and specialty networks in the provider-affairs division of Health Partners, a not-for-profit health plan serving Philadelphia's medical assistance community. In her new role, she'll oversee relationships with nursing homes, home health agencies, and durable medical equipment companies.

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80 By way of New Year's greeting, **Meta Brophy** sent me a lovely letter: "In December I was elected president of the board of directors of the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, a national coalition of nonprofit organizations which share a vested interest in postal policy," Meta writes. "The Alliance, based in Washington, D.C., was founded in 1980 (as we were graduating). I am the first woman to preside over the board and I represent Consumers Union, publisher of *Consumer Reports*, *ConsumerReports.org*, *Shop Smart* and other publications, where I am director of publishing operations. I have been with Consumers Union, headquartered in Yonkers, N.Y., since 1985. I am also a member of the Direct Marketing Association's committee on environment and social responsibility as well as the Magazine Publishers of America's Operations committee. It is gratifying to work for a mission-driven organization and to work with associations on improving environmental stewardship across the publishing and direct-marketing industries. It isn't work all the time for me, thankfully. This is a sporting time of life (who knew?) for my husband, curator Ludwig Datené, and me. Our leisure time is taken up watching our 11-year-old son, Aidan Datené, play club soccer and half a dozen other sports. We live in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y." I wish I had a statistician on my staff (sometimes I pretend I have a staff) to tell me how many Barnard alumnae are the first women in their positions, as Meta is. I'll bet it's a high number.

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81 The *Richmond Times Dispatch* profiled **Lynn Haire Andrews**, who lived in Europe during her first marriage and is now an event planner in Charlottesville, Va. Lynn fell into event planning after 25 years of working in television, securing talent

for various programs during stints at ABC, NBC, and CNN. Eleven years ago, because of her experience producing charity events, a friend asked for her help in coordinating an African-themed wedding. The day after that event, another woman called and asked Lynn if she would help arrange her daughter's wedding, and Lynn's new business was born. The weddings she plans range from \$40,000 to \$1 million affairs. Lynn also handles major events for companies including Smith Barney, Abbot Laboratories, Citigroup, Inc., and Philip Morris. Lynn and her second husband, Dean Andrews, have four children, Justin, Olivia, Adrian, and Philip. Closer to our alma mater's home base in New York City, **Maria Deutscher**, PhD, has her hands full with her toddler, Daniel, and her husband, Joel. "It's an ongoing balancing act of working, spending enough time with Daniel and Joel, and trying to sneak a little bit of time for myself to keep up with friends and socialize [in a way that's] not centered around toddlers." To top it off, Maria, who was always the most compassionate and thoughtful listener, has a private psychotherapy practice in Brooklyn.

Meanwhile I, your loyal correspondent, have taken up hiking Temescal Canyon in California. It's wonderful to slip away for a few hours and hike a beautiful trail, complete with a waterfall, and panoramic vistas of the ocean and mountains, and then get on with a day of healings, writing, and planning workshops. I'll soon see the desert and hike in Joshua Tree National Park. I'm finally getting to see a bit of California, my adopted state.

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82 **Lesley Pratt** reports that she's beginning a job with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Delaware chapter, in Philadelphia as their executive vice president/chief operating officer. She has her master's in nonprofit management and a master's in

information technology. Congratulations! **Elisabeth (Lisa) Simpson Pires-Fernandes** writes that she completed her master's in mental health counseling in July 2007. She's a TRUST (To Reach Ultimate Success Together) counselor with fourth through sixth grade students in the Miami Dade County Public School system. Lisa's working toward her state license in mental health counseling. This year has been a big transition, returning to work after 14 years as a stay-at-home mom. Her oldest daughter, Catie, 15, is in 10th grade at the drama magnet program at Coral Reef Senior High School in Miami. Lisa's daughters Ellie, 13, and Meggie, 11, are in middle school.

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25th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

83 The *National Journal* notes that **Bettina Jacobs Poirier** received her law degree from New York University and spent nine years working at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she "focused on cleaning up mining and Superfund sites on National Forest Service lands." Later she served as minority counsel for the House Energy and Commerce Committee and worked closely with Senator Barbara Boxer on lowering arsenic levels in drinking water and on banning pesticide testing on pregnant women, infants, and children. Bettina is working with Boxer on an environmental agenda emphasizing global warming and efforts to restore environmental protections.

84 In November, the *Charleston Post and Courier* featured an article on **Judith Ranger Smith**, who is the executive director of Jimmy Buffett's charitable foundation, Singing for Change. Last year, she moved to Sullivans Island, S.C., with her husband, Tyson, and 8-year-old son, Denver, to be closer to people who were like her dad. He was the first

Citadel graduate to be shot down in Vietnam, only nine months after her birth. The story was an uplifting account of Judy connecting with her father's classmates at his 50th college reunion. **Jennifer Goodale** writes, "I am still at Altria Group, in New York City, heading up their contributions program, which is a fantastic job. We fund programs in the arts, domestic violence prevention, and hunger relief. My son is almost 5 and adorable ... but so much work. In fact, he goes to school with children of other Barnard graduates. How cool is that? So I get to see Wendy Determan Amstutz '87 and Paula Throckmorton Zakaria '89 regularly at drop off." Jennifer's husband, Mark, just completed his very successful theatre festival, *Under The Radar*, at the Public Theater, and is now curating a festival at PICA in Portland, Ore. Jennifer also reports that she happily has worked alongside Diane Bennett Eidman '80 for the past 20 years at Altria, and they have become very close friends.

Sheila Chong is applying to business school and would love to talk to alumnae who have received an MBA, to get an idea of what to expect. Her children are grown and off to college, but Sheila has not slowed down one bit. In fact, she did her second triathlon and is training for a half-marathon. She'll be participating in the MS150 for the fifth time on Labor Day weekend 2008.

Maureen Kedes lives in Los Angeles with her boys, Sam, 8, and Nolan, 6, and her husband, Boris, a reality TV producer and actor/writer. She's president of Vertex Communications, a boutique PR firm specializing in health, medical, fitness, sports, beauty. Her family took a trip to Israel for spring break.

Arielle Orlow Hendel caught up with **Regina Asaro** and three of her five kids this summer in a whirlwind East Coast trip (four states in 48 hours).

Sansi Sussman visited Arielle and family in February. Arielle and her husband, Doron, will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary this year. Their eldest child is starting to drive, their daughter is preparing for her bat mitzvah, and their youngest is, "well, no longer in single digits." Arielle is working hard as campaign director of the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley (jvalley.org) and is quite proud of the organization's work to build and

support community.

Benette Rosen lives in Florida and breeds Champion Pedigree Maltese Puppies. As a singer, she has reinstated her SAG card and has an agent in Tampa. She has written an adventure chapter book for children that she's trying to get published. She writes, "It is a unique story—kind of a cross between *Bug's Life*, *Finding Nemo*, and *Charlotte's Web*." Her daughter, Miranda, 11, is a singer; her son Maxwell, 10, is a cellist; and her son Adam is "just being 5."

Jody Abramowitz Weisman has lived in Westfield, N.J., for 13 years with her husband, Andrew (CC '82), and three kids, Hannah, 17, Isabelle, 14, and Henry, 7. She retired from working in Manhattan after a great career in municipal government and is happy keeping track of the home and kids. She reads, cooks, plays tennis, and does crafts, and recently relearned how to swim properly. She's proud to be on the board of a Camphill Community in Kimberton, Penn., where her brother lives. It's a cooperative community of developmentally disabled people and coworkers who live together and farm over 600 acres. Her oldest child is deciding on colleges and Barnard and Columbia are on the list.

Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker is pleased to announce the opening of her New Jersey law offices, E. Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, LLC. Carolyn spent 18 years practicing law at two major firms in New York and Philadelphia. She concentrates on providing business solutions in the areas of small business start-up and international ventures, as well as bankruptcy, debtor-creditor rights, individual/corporate restructurings, and loan work-outs. Carolyn is admitted to practice in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, and she speaks Arabic, French, German, and Hebrew.

Yvonne Kerno has lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for more than 15 years, the last five with her life partner, Henry Dokonal. Yvonne is the director of development and marketing at Advocates for Children, a nonprofit Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program serving abused and neglected children in the San Mateo

County foster-care system. She writes, "I am blessed to be part of a great team with a meaningful mission."

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85 Last summer **Lisa Hunter Epstein** was interviewed in the Saskatchewan periodical the *Star Phoenix*, where she shared advice on finding and buying original art.

Elaine Charnov was featured in the *New York Times* last November. She discussed her position as director of public programming at the American Museum of Natural History, and her 18 years running the Museum's Margaret Mead Video and Film Festival.

Karen Estilo Owczarski writes that she and Melissa Front Cain '90 have organized another Barnard-in-Washington Alma Maters event in early March, at the McLean Community Center. Carol Stock Kranowitz '67 is scheduled to speak about her book, *The Out-of-Sync Child*.

Congratulations to **Virginia Perez**, who received the Certified Kitchen Designer designation in January from the National Kitchen & Bath Association, after passing nine hours of design examinations. She'll sit for the Certified Bath Designer exam this spring. Last fall the Bronx, N.Y., weekly, *Riverdale Press* featured a lovely tribute to **Alexandra (Sandy) Arrowsmith**, who passed away on April 27, 2007. Sandy was a successful art-book editor and photo archivist who had planned to relocate to Arizona to pursue her interest in Native American culture and archaeology.

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Vintage Wine

Susan Kristal Wine '68

Wine may have a storied history, but Susan Kristal Wine is betting that it's a drink with a glorious future too. In addition to two wine shops in Manhattan called Vintage, Wine (it's not like she hasn't heard the jokes before) and her husband, Robert Ransom III, also own the wine bar adjacent to their SoHo store. Riding the wave of enthusiasm for locally grown foods, both the stores and the bar feature exclusively wines from grapes grown instate and serve by the glass each of the 200 bottles they sell. Fifteen of those bottles are produced at the couple's own winery, Rivendell, in New Paltz, N.Y.

When Wine, who majored in government at Barnard, and Ransom opened the Vintage New York WineBar in 2005, there were just 10 others. These days, the city is dotted with these dark, cozy corners devoted to sipping. The added competition, says Wine, simply reaffirms how appealing wine bars are, particularly in SoHo, a neighborhood that continues to draw young trendsetters. "Every restaurant sells wine, but a wine bar is a really unique thing," she says. "Wine isn't just about drinking, it's about tasting and experiencing." All the better that it has health properties, too.

Wine, who serves on The Barnard Fund committee, came to winemaking not long ago. For 17 years, she and her ex-husband, Barry, owned the Quilted Giraffe, a Manhattan icon of fine American dining that earned a four-star rating from the *New York Times*. "Being in the restaurant business means you're also in the wine business because you have to maintain your wine list," she says. A few years after the restaurant closed and her marriage ended, her life as an oenophile took on strength. Living in New Paltz, a college town about 90 miles north of New York City, she met Ransom one day in 1995 when he turned up in her hot tub, the brother of one of her tenants. (Their 2006 wedding was featured in the Vows section of the *Times*.)

Ransom's family has been in the wine business since 1986, when he, his brothers and late father founded Rivendell Winery and its tasting room in New Paltz. Eventually Wine bought out the others' shares and became Ransom's partner in the winery, which among other accolades, took the Governor's Cup in 2004 for the Best New York Wine for its 2003 Dry Riesling. She also began work on a plan to open retail wine stores featuring the winery's product in Manhattan. Vintage New York WineBar is the amalgam of her two worlds. "I promised myself I was never going to go into the restaurant business again," she says. "But this bar can gain a much bigger audience for wine than a store can. That way, more people can experience New York wines."

—Ilana Polyak



87 My dear friend **Christianne Orto** serves as an associate dean at The Manhattan School of Music. A pioneer in the art of long-distance learning and video conferencing, Christianne scored a great success for the school, and the music world at large, with a fabulous trip to China last fall. Traveling as an ambassador of music, Christianne

introduced her work to various regions of this great country. Congratulations, Christianne.

With a sad heart, I report that **Sara Zolondek** died on Friday, Nov. 30, 2007, in Kentucky. The following information comes from her obituary: Sara was a member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church and a clinical social worker with Eastern State Hospital. She was a graduate of Henry Clay High School. She graduated from Barnard

with honors, and received her master's in social work from the University of Kentucky. In addition to her mother, Sara is survived by her brothers: Leo Haviland of New York City, Sam Zolondek of Seattle, and Max Haviland of Bedford, Mass. Her father Leon Zolondek preceded her in death. Her nephews, Macsen and Samuel, and her nieces, Emma and Martha, also survive her. We extend our condolences to Sara's friends and family.

—WA

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20th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

88

A recent article in the *New York Times* provided an update on **Elizabeth Rieger**

Wiatt. Last October, Elizabeth, along with several members of a group called the Leadership Council, made a visit to Capital Hill that made the news. The article led me to her Web site where I learned that she's an environmental activist and a member of the board of the Natural Resources Defense Council whose mission is "to safeguard the earth, its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends." She's chair of the board's communication committee and founder of its Leadership Council, as well as the cofounder of its Los Angeles Action and Executive forums. The article detailed her recent audience with congressional Democrats and Republicans to urge them to pass legislation to reduce mercury pollution and argue for increased fuel efficiency for vehicles and stronger renewable-energy provisions in energy bills. The *Connecticut Jewish Ledger* had an article on **Carolyn Mostel Weiser** and her work as director of the Mandell Jewish Community Center's youth theatre program. Carolyn's love

for theatre began when, as a child, she was encouraged to take ballet lessons as a less-invasive alternative to treating a "bum hip." As director of the youth program, she hopes to instill a love of theatre and the ability to work together in the hearts and minds of her students. "I love to watch kids rehearsing in the aisles together," said Carolyn, "or helping each other to learn lines. I especially like watching the older kids take care of the younger ones." After graduation, Carolyn received her master's degree in English literature from Hunter College. She teaches advanced placement English at Simsbury High School and serves as the second vice president of Beth El Temple. Carolyn and her husband, Jeff, reside in West Hartford and have three children, Samantha, Emily, and Sydney. I received a holiday e-mail from **Deborah De Rosa** with some great stories and adorable photos of her daughter, Isabella, 3. Deborah taught in the spring and took sabbatical last summer and fall. Though her sabbatical was a welcome break from grading and teaching, she was looking forward to returning to an environment that would be intellectually stimulating. In addition, she found time to work on an article on William Lloyd Garrison's abolitionist fiction for children, and she participated in a graduate student's dissertation defense. She summed up saying, "Other than that, my beautiful, brilliant, and tiny, little, big girl consumes my days."

To all of you planning to attend our 20th Reunion, I look forward to hearing your news in person. I have been class correspondent for 10 years now and would like to open up the floor for a new correspondent to step forward for the next five or 10 years.

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89

Karen Wallace and her husband, Jeff Dean (SEAS '91), a senior manager at Sony, top the news this quarter with

the Dec. 28 birth of their *seventh* child, Susanna Fern, at their Ramona home in rural San Diego County. Susanna joins Rachel, 16, Ted, 13, Sarah, 10, Elizabeth, 7, Seth, 5, and Lydia, 2, and it's a good thing they were all there to help—the midwives didn't arrive until 20 minutes after the birth. ("Oops! We hadn't called them soon enough," says Karen.) The midwives were able to advise Jeff over the phone while en route. Karen, who teaches Bradley Method childbirth classes, managed just fine with the assistance of Jeff and the older kids (the little ones slept through it all). They're excited about their new sibling.

It was certainly a better experience than the one they had in October, when the infamous California wildfires forced Karen and company to evacuate their home. They found shelter in a condo belonging to **Laurie Bergman's** parents. Although the house was surrounded by fire, it did not burn, but some other things on their property were lost, including the henhouse and almost two-thirds of their 60 chickens. Having a new baby to look forward to was undoubtedly a much needed mood lifter.

We have two more birth announcements. Rabbi **Jennifer Weiner** and Jeffrey Sachs welcomed Aaron Matan in December. They live in Woodbridge, Va. **Brenda Mendlowitz Berman** and Mark Berman (CC '86 and Law '89) welcomed Jesse Clayton on Jan. 27. They live in New York. I doubt anyone in our class can top seven children (although please correct me if I'm wrong). I see that a number of us are involved in this year's presidential election. No matter which candidate you support or in what capacity you're involved, I'm sure some of you've had some interesting, inspiring, or just plain old funny experiences along the way, which I invite you to share with us. Also, I know we have some classmates in the television business. How did the writers' strike affect you, and now that it's over, what are your plans?

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90 With no news from you, I guess I'll have to share my own. On Feb. 1, 2008, I started a job as tasting-room manager at Stoller Vineyards. Stoller is a family-owned grower and producer of chardonnay and pinot noir in the Dundee Hills American Viticultural Area of the Willamette Valley, Ore. Stoller boasts the first LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) winery in the United States, powered by solar panels and incorporating many green building aspects. The vineyard is also LIVE-certified (Low Impact Viticulture and Enology), further showcasing the commitment to sustainable practices. After more than seven years as a consultant in the IT industry, I decided to follow my long-standing passion into Oregon's growing wine industry. Check out stollervineyards.com, and please come by for a winery tour and tasting if you find yourself in the area.

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91 It was great to hear from **Gina Gionfriddo**, who at the time was looking forward to the end of the writers' strike so she could return to her job as a writer-producer at *Law & Order*. She was also preparing two of her plays for production in March. *U.S. Drag* will be presented off Broadway by StageFarm. *Becky Shaw* will have its premiere in Actors' Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival.

Jenny Bruce writes that she still lives on the Upper West Side with her husband, Bernard, and their two boys, Felix, 3, and Theodore, 1. Jenny works at the Claremont Children's School and in her spare time continues to write songs and perform, even managing to release another album last summer. Her sister, **Elizabeth Bruce**, comes to visit Jenny's boys often. No, the sisters are not twins! Jenny was supposed to graduate in 1988 but during her junior year abroad at Reid Hall in Paris, she fell in love with

that same Frenchman, Bernard, and took the slow boat to graduation. She sends her regards to Gwyneth Fairweather Dumont '89 and Sara Yeglin '88. In October, *New York Magazine* published an interview of women chefs and restaurant owners, including **Alexandra Guarnaschelli** of Butter. It was great to hear from **Elona Kogan** who is associate general counsel for a Fortune 500 pharmaceutical company. She and her husband, Mark Rigel, are expecting their first child in March. **Wendy Nolan Joyce** writes that after graduating from Barnard, she did a master's in Paris through New York University, then lived and worked in Paris for many years before returning to do a PhD at Princeton in French literature. There, she met her husband, Richard, a philosopher, and they moved to England for three years. They lived in France and New Zealand before settling in Australia, where they've been for the past five years. They have two children, Max, 4, and Lucia, 2. Wendy lectures on French literature and publishes on aspects of 19th-century French sculpture and painting, in particular the representation of the female artist's model.

Meira Schulman Ferziger lives in Israel but practices American employment and labor lawyer for a legal outsourcing company, Outside Counsel Solutions, which is based in New York and has a Jerusalem office (outsidecounsel.net). Her clients are all companies located in the United States, and she practices American law from Israel via e-mail, blackberry, and audio and video conferencing. Her husband, Ari, works as in-house corporate counsel for Israel Aerospace Industries. They live in Bet Shemesh with their four children, Nediva, 13, Ayelet, 11, Daniel, 7, and Hadar, 4. She regularly sees lots of Barnard graduates in Israel, including two of her sisters-in-law. She would enjoy hearing from alumnae who continued onto law school and are interested in legal outsourcing. You can find her through the online community.

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15th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

93 I'm amazed that our 15th Reunion has come so fast, but, when I look at all the great things we've accomplished and the changes we've all been through, it is certainly more real.

Irene Shum Allen is the curator and collections manager at the Philip Johnson Glass House in New Canaan, Conn., which opened in Spring 2007 and is one of 29 National Trust Historic Sites. She's very excited about the upcoming release of the book she edited, *The Glass House*.

Jennifer Abramson had her second baby, Dayna Ruby, in November 2007. She joins her older sister, Sari, 5. Jennifer works in child and adolescent psychiatry in Maplewood, N.J., where she lives with her husband of 10 years, Jeff Rosenberg.

Heather Tamm lives on Long Island where she and her husband are both physicians. She loves being a mom to her daughter, Chiara, who turns 2 this summer.

Emily Roth got married in November 2007 to a man with whom she has a great history. In 2002, they met in a shoe store, Emily gave him her number, and he never called. Two years later, he got in line behind her at a grocery store. Emily didn't recognize him at first, but, when she did, she didn't say anything to him. Instead, she just started walking home. A few minutes later, he pulled up in his car and asked her out. They've been together ever since. Emily's professional life has been keeping her busy. She runs Procutit, Inc., a full-service photography production company in Hollywood.

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94 **Sherrafat (Sherry) Akbar** recently left a home editor position at Hearst to start her own studio called Wisteria Design

(wisterianyc.com). She specializes in interior design and editing/styling. **Frances Ihling Juhasz** works at the Princeton Environmental Institute. Her daughter, Iris, 3, enjoys listening to lullabies written and sung by her mom. **Sonia Bernstein** is working on her PhD in rhetoric and composition at the University of Rhode Island. She brought in the new year by visiting **Michelle Galanter** in Los Angeles. **Lisa Houston** is still the director of drama at The Pennington School in New Jersey. She has two young children. This past summer, her drama students performed *Stargirl*, based on the novel by Jerry Spinelli, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. She has had three students attend Barnard (Classes of 2002, 2005, and 2010), and will have another hopeful applying.

Nina Catubig Nolan had her third baby on Nov. 15, 2007. Emily Jane was welcomed by her big sister, Rosie, 5, and big brother, Alex, 2. Nina and her husband, John, brought the kids to live in Cairo, Egypt, for three months last year. It was a wonderful adventure for the whole family, and probably the last one for a while, since the children will be going to school soon. They live in Cambridge, Mass. Nina works in the Museum of Science, Boston, supervising volunteers presenting science activities to visitors.

Jodi Mones completed her hematology/oncology fellowship at Cornell and is now a hematologist/oncologist at Montefiore in the Bronx. **Patty O'Connell** is a school social worker on the Lower East Side. In her spare time, she leads international Habitat for Humanity trips—this year her teams will work in Nicaragua and El Salvador. She also bought a little summer cottage on the coast of Maine. She spends July and August there.

Courtney Murphy writes, "In 2007, after practicing in the field in for 10 years, I've opened a private psychotherapy practice in Manhattan."

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97 I am bursting with my own wonderful news: My son, Asher Elijah Durbin, was born on Jan. 11. I can't get over that I made this little person (with help from my husband, Nick). Our little peanut is certainly the love of my life.

I was excited to learn that right in my own neighborhood of Porter Square (Cambridge, Mass.), **Rachel Hirsch** has opened a vintage clothing shop called History. This former history teacher divides items and racks by the decade, and pairs garments with story snippets and short quotes to—according to the *Boston Globe*—"capture the essence of each era." The *Cleveland Jewish News* reports that **Ilana Shafran** has "turned her lifelong passion for fashion into a career." She has opened up a business called StyleMatters, a personal shopping business geared to attract "men or women who want to look sharp and have an A-1 body image." In final fashion news, Brooklyn-based **Tara Turner** writes that she works as a designer for Gap, designing intimate apparel and swimwear for their Gapbody brand. Congratulations to corporate lawyer **Tatiana Lapushchik** (JD Harvard Law School), who was named a partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP (New York). Kudos are also in order for **Tayyaba Bashir**, MD, who joined the medical oncology department at St. Vincent's Comprehensive Cancer Center as an attending physician. She treats patients through the breast and intestinal cancer programs. Tayyaba advises patients on chemoprevention strategies that include genetic counseling and testing.

Bravo to **Risa Chopp Butbul**, who graduated Barry University in December with a master's of business administration in management and was inducted in Financial Management Association and Beta Gamma Sigma, two international honor societies. "That was a feat," she e-mailed, "especially considering I am not the math, science, logic type, and because it was while working full time in sunny Florida."

Clara Bouillon writes, "After graduating from Barnard, I began teaching in the New York City public school system. I have a master's degree in literacy and

have done much post-graduate work in the special education field. I currently teach a few blocks away from Barnard. In addition to teaching, I work as a part-time coach to first-year teachers. Recently, I purchased a condo in New York and live close to most of my immediate family." Clara says that **Ana M. Valentin** recently married Javier Arroyo (Clara was maid of honor), and that Ana received her master's in social work from Fordham University and works in psychiatric social work at Montefiore Hospital. Clara was a bridesmaid for **Ernaida (Erna) Hernandez Barenio's** wedding last year and is godmother to Erna's new baby, Lukas. She also tells me that **Susan Tang** is working on her master's in business administration at University of Connecticut; and that **Angelica Diaz** works in the telecommunications industry, bought a house with her husband in Staten Island, and gave birth to a second daughter. I'm not very tech-savvy, but even I have figured out Facebook.com (sort of). Our class president, **Cherith Bailey Velez**, has set up a group for our class there; if you're signed up on Facebook you can find it by searching for "Barnard College Class of 1997" under "Groups" or by sending Cherith an e-mail at cherith@alum.barnard.edu.

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10th Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

98 Our 10th Reunion is fast approaching! **Alibeth Kapelow Somers** from our reunion committee has set up a Facebook Group for our year as a way to reconnect to each other and gear up for reunion. We hope that the site will also serve as a virtual gathering place. Please do check it out. In other news **Lisa Scherzer** reports, "My good friend, and first-year roommate, **Naomi Zuk** got married in 2005 to Julian Fisher. She works at Seedco now. **Sheera Gefen** had her first baby, a girl, in October 2007. She and her husband plan on moving to a house on Long Island soon. She works

as a matrimonial lawyer at DC-37, a New York City union. **Libby (Elizabeth) Goldberg** is an associate editor at *Hadassah Magazine* in New York. I've been at SmartMoney.com for three years. I'm a writer and copy editor there and my title is senior staff editor."

Jill Vasbinder teaches Pilates and dance (modern, ballet, and ballroom) in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. She has danced with Lisa Leizman Dancers in Massachusetts and with Full Force Dance Theatre in Connecticut, both are regional modern companies. She lives in Connecticut with her partner of six years. Right now, she is a first-year master of fine art student in choreography at SUNY Purchase College. Jill says she saw **Kakuti Davis Lin** last summer. Kakuti lives in San Francisco with her husband, Chris. She's in her second year at University of California Hastings College of Law. **Melissa Robison Harris** writes, "My husband, Jaysen, and I are soon to celebrate five years of marriage. Our 4-year-old, Aubrey, is enjoying preschool and, like her father, is already an inventor. Jaysen and I are launching a business, Harris Innovations, which is currently providing computer service and consultation and general problem-solving and brain-storming services for businesses and individuals in our hometown, Galion, Ohio. We're [branching] into book publishing, too. Our debut book [was] a novel about abuse and healing, written by a friend of mine. We will follow that ... with a book I'm writing, *Ralph Cobey: An American Eagle*. Mr. Cobey is a local businessman and philanthropist. I've been interviewing him for several months in preparation for this inspirational biography. Jaysen has invented an ingenious method of bookbinding, and I am editing and marketing already, so we are handling ALL phases of bookmaking. My 'real' job is curator of the Ohio Room at the Galion Public Library, which involves genealogy and local history, giving me a lot of interesting and challenging research opportunities. I also occasionally write for the local newspaper. Once in a while, I try to sleep too! I am blessed many times over, and of course count (most of) my life experiences at Barnard among my blessings."

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99 Congratulations to **Kosturi (Kay) Sanyal-Mukerji**, who provides us an update from Fort Worth, Texas. After graduation, Kay completed her master's in South Asian studies from University of Texas at Austin and then completed a master's in public health in epidemiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Currently, she works for Tarrant County Public Health in biosurveillance and emergency planning preparedness. A few years ago she met Dr. Partha Mukherji in Houston. They are college rivals—he is a Texas A&M Aggie and she is a Texas Longhorn (they watch their teams play each other separately). In May 2007, the couple got married on Long Island and many Texas folk came up for it. Both **Anita Agarwal** and **Shruti Sem** were at the wedding and gave great speeches. Also at the wedding were Rohit Bansal (CC '99), Roy Cheruvelil (CC '00), and Regine Phillipeaux (SEAS '99). Partha and Kay happily reside with their labrador, Baileys Irish Cream, and their Havapoo, Biggie Smalls.

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00 **Solana Nolfo** and her husband, Steven Lichtman, are proud to announce the birth of their twin boys: Jonah David and Max Harrison. The boys arrived on Nov. 19, 2007, and each weighed 6 pounds and 3 ounces. Solana and Steve are enjoying their new family. Rabbi **Ilana C. Garber** and Dr. Adam Jonathan Berkowitz were married on Nov. 11, 2007. In attendance were lots of Barnard and Columbia friends, including **Arielle Freedberg**, Yaffa Garber '07, Andrew Halpert (SEAS '00), Alison Joseph '01, Becky Cole

Lurie '01, Tamar Prager '99, Adina Rosen '11, Yoni and Jessica Rezak Schwab (both GS/JTS '00), Ariel Simon (CC '00), Penny Sinanoglou (CC '00), Michael Strapp (CC '99), Carolyn Mostel Weiser '88, and Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields '94.

Jodi Lipper's new book, *How to Eat Like a Hot Chick*, was published by HarperCollins. It's a funny, sexy, anti-diet book, and it's getting a lot of attention for helping women get over their food and body issues. For more information about the book, visit heydayproductions.com.

Erika Kuver-DelDuca is a corporate real-estate attorney at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy in Manhattan, where she has been since graduating from Fordham Law School in 2003. She lives with her husband, Gianni, and 2-year-old son, Luciano, in Tuckahoe, N.Y. Since graduating from Barnard, Erika has actively continued training in Ryu Renshi-dan karate and is a second-degree black belt and instructor at the Sanchin Dojo in Bronxville, N.Y.

Amy Shiner Latkin also graduated from Fordham Law in 2006 and has been working at the law firm of K&L Gates. Amy married Jed Latkin in August 2005. **Rena Rubin** was a bridesmaid, and Shana Cappell '99, Deborah Oppenheim '99, Elysha Hammerman Shainberg '99, and Stefanie Strauss Small '99 were in attendance.

Lisa Levinson finished her PhD in linguistics at New York University last summer. She moved to the Detroit area in August to be a professor of linguistics at Oakland University in Michigan.

Rena Rubin married Jeffrey Miller in 2004. In 2006 she graduated from Columbia Business School, and has been working for the past year as a marketing director at Macy's. In 2007, Rena's youngest sister, Sarah Rubin, graduated from Barnard, joining her mother and four sisters as an alumna.

Annie H. Lam got her PhD in counseling psychology from Lehigh University, then she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in psychology at New York University's Counseling and Behavioral Health Services. Now, she's a full-time staff psychologist at Temple University's Tuttleman Counseling Services in Philadelphia, Pa.

01 Congratulations to **Catherine Paras** who married Jay Lara in Manila, Philippines, at the Peninsula Hotel. Three days later it was stormed by tanks and set the stage for a failed coup attempt. **Colleen O'Meara** and Vanessa Gerace Bouche (CC '01) came from California and Ohio, respectively. Cathy is a managing editor of a lifestyle Web site. **Hee-Jung Hwang** lives in San Francisco and is an editor for the online sales and operations group at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. **Milena Perez** returned from a whirlwind four-month tour of Southeast Asia with her partner, Barney, last May. She's a senior account executive at Dentsu Communications, Inc., and is eagerly anticipating her next trip. Residing a few blocks away from Milena in Manhattan is **Kayla Rosenberg**, a financial services officer and attorney at Seedco Financial Services, Inc., a New York not-for-profit investment fund. **Chaitali (Tali) Kapadia** is working in the efficiency unit at Anne Taylor while completing her master's in industrial organizational psychology at Columbia University. **Maria Kassimatis** married her high school sweetheart, John Rigalos, last July. Kayla was a bridesmaid and Milena attended the wedding. Maria teaches Italian in Plainview, N.Y. Congratulations to **Abigail (Abby) Cooper** who married Aaron Walters last June. They spent the summer traveling through the Middle East. She's studying for a master's in American religious history at Yale. **Maria Mejia** reports that she loves life in Philadelphia, where she works for an accounting firm that serves the nonprofit community. She recently bought her first home with her fiancé, Robert Jones. **Sheila Slater** is an interior designer at Emma Jane Pilkington Fine Interiors in New York. **Megha Desai** became an account director at Anomaly Communications, which is based in New York City. She's

working on a joint venture between Coca-Cola and Nestlé, called Beverage Partners Worldwide.

Caitlin Duncanson and her husband live in Minneapolis. She recently made the move to private law practice specializing in real estate and creditor-lender litigation.

The Westbeth Literary Series hosted **Migna Taveras** as she read from her new book, *My Body Is a Prayer*. Several alumnae attended including Rosa Alonso '82, **Lilian Pelaez**, and Taren Spearman '00, Lily Tjioe '00.

Julia Mandell is happy to report that she completed her master's in architecture at Rice University. She successfully defended her thesis in January and moved back to New York from Houston in April.

Tara Brannigan is majoring in marketing and operations and working on her MBA at Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation she'll work at Johnson & Johnson in the McNeil division as an associate product director.

Shelley Lavin lives in Cambridge with her husband, Jacob Barandes (CC '04). She reports that her letterpress design and print company, Albertine Press, is taking off. It was recently featured in the *Boston Globe*. **Daphne Berwind-Dart**, also assists with Albertine Press and has her own successful, burgeoning, Roling practice, a holistic system of soft tissue manipulation and movement education.

Sima Stein lives with her husband in Chicago. They are the proud parents of Rena and Aryeh, their 19-month-old twins, who keep them very busy. Sima is teaching at Ida Crown Jewish Academy.

Jamie Hardy has been living in Brooklyn since graduation, but still spends a lot of time in Morningside Heights. She's in the theatre division at the School of the Arts at Columbia. She has started her master's degree in landscape design there and, in her spare time, she has a Web site (gremalkin.com) where she sells neckties and bags made from vintage kimono fabric.

Rebecca Wildman finished her master's in adult oncology at Columbia School of Nursing. She's happy be working as a nurse practitioner at Columbia University Medical Center at

the brain tumor center.

Dina Steinberg is the associate general manager for Broadway shows at The Charlotte Wilcox Company. Right now, she's working on *Grease* and upcoming productions of *Godspell*, *Vanities*, and *Mad Hot Ballroom*.

Congratulations to **Anna Benestate Gutteridge** who gave birth to Luke Maximilian Gutteridge on Aug. 28, 2007. He's a happy, healthy little boy.

Vanessa Garcia was nominated for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative for literature. She received a full fellowship and TA to get her master's in creative writing at The University of Miami, where she's working on a novel.

Patricia Virasin moved back to her hometown, Dallas, where she started her new job as the assistant registrar of the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth. She's also finishing up her master's degree in museum studies from NYU.

Alison Joseph got married on Labor Day weekend to Matt Kirschen. They live in Palo Alto, Calif., where Alison is a doctoral student in Hebrew Bible at University of California, Berkeley.

Mollie Gilbert, Rabbi Adam Lurie (SEAS '02), **Becky Cole Lurie**, Yoni and Jessica Rezak Schwab (GS '00), Rachel Pross Siegel '02, and Ariel Simon (GS '01) celebrated with the happy couple.

Corinne Grafstein has been married since May 29, 2005, to Oren Cahlon. She graduated from NYU's Wagner School of Public Service in May 2007, and received a master's in public administration. She works at Merrill Lynch in health-care public finance.

Ashlyn Nussbaum Gorlin moved to Chicago in July with her husband, Daniel Gorlin (CC '01), and their 16-month-old son, Nitai. She does human resources work for an educational nonprofit group.

Hadas Kushnir is working on her analysis of her field work in Tanzania and writing a dissertation for her PhD in conservation biology.

Jessica Ko Beck and her husband, Aaron, happily welcomed their daughter, Zoe Jin Ko Beck, on Nov. 12 2007.

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03

Lily Koppel is the author of *The Red Leather Diary: Reclaiming a Life Through the Pages of a Lost Journal* (redleatherdiary.com), about her discovery of a young woman's diary, kept in New York in the 1930s, and its return to its owner, Florence Wolfson Howitt, at age 90. Koppel recovered the diary from a locked steamer trunk, found in a Dumpster on Manhattan's Upper West Side, while she was a writer for the *New York Times*.

Sara Levine Kornfield lives in Philadelphia with her husband, Zev Noah Kornfield (GS '04). Sara is attending Drexel University for her PhD in clinical psychology. She defended her master's thesis last spring and is headed for her dissertation proposal.

Hila Ratzabi's poem, "Horatio Street," was published in the *Coal Hill Review* (coalhillreview.com) and was nominated for a 2008 Pushcart Prize. She's enjoying her new job as a marketing assistant at Guilford Publications, an academic publisher specializing in psychology and education books.

Maya (Sasha) Ban received her master's degree in science education at Teachers College and then wound up teaching biology at her other alma mater, Princeton High School, in Princeton, N.J. It was great experience, but after three years, Sasha was looking to expand career opportunities and try life in a different part of the country, so she applied to graduate programs in California. She now finds herself in the midst of her first year of the master of business administration program at University of California, Los Angeles. She enjoys the weather and living near the beach.

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04

Isa Loundon was promoted to marketing manager, corporate communications, at the New York-based software/technology firm IntraLinks, Inc. She lives uptown

Moving Mountains

Kara-Lee Pool '03

Medical school and filmmaking are not two things that one normally links together, but Kara-Lee Pool has combined them for a greater purpose. Pool, a medical student at Boston University, has produced *Mountains of Hope* about the "brain drain" of Lesotho, a small southern African nation. She made the film, which chronicles the departure of many of the country's health-care professionals to a better life abroad, while on rotation there as part of her fourth

year of medical school. *Mountains* highlights the lack of good medical care in a country where the AIDS epidemic has taken a drastic toll. "I thought a film would be a great way to teach an audience," says Pool. "A film makes you feel."

Pool did not spend her years at Barnard preparing for a career in medicine. She was an economics major, who later spent a year studying at the prestigious London School of Economics and working in the field. At that time she realized that she longed for something else. "Since I was a little kid," she says, "I've always wanted to do medicine, but I tapped into economics for a bit to see if I would like it. But my heart was always crying for medicine."

According to Pool, the film allowed her to combine her interests in medicine, the arts, and economics. She had been aware of "brain drain" because her father, a physician, had left South Africa. Lesotho, which is surrounded by South Africa, is now experiencing a massive exodus, with many doctors leaving for the wealthier South Africa, using it as a stepping stone to get to Europe and America.

The small size of the country allowed Pool to have a great amount of access to members of the Lesotho government, and to doctors still practicing in the country. The film was funded by five grants, the largest from the the AMA (American Medical Association) Foundation, with additional grants from Pfizer, Sara's Wish Foundation, Global Primary Care, and the Boston University School of Medicine. *Mountains* was first screened on December 10, 2007, as part of a benefit for Global Primary Care, and Pool has since been presenting it at medical conferences. The Lesotho-Boston Health Alliance hopes to use it as a recruiting tool to get doctors to return to Lesotho, showing them that their country needs them and that they will have the support of the government if they return.

Pool plans to either start her own foundation or work abroad as much as she can with organizations that she believes in after she completes her training. (She will start her residency at NYU School of Medical in July.)

"When I did my clinical rotation in Lesotho, the people were so thankful for anything you did to help," she says. "And I'm doing this because of them."

—Amanda Lanceter '09

with Vanessa Schneider (CC '06), and is active in the health committee of Step Up Women's Network, a professional women's organization of which both **Ebony Wiresinger** and **Ritu Khanna** are members.

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05

Erica DiMarco, in her second year at the Rutgers-Camden law school, received a \$1,000 William S. Kulp Jr. Scholarship. The scholarship is given to students with the potential to contribute to the intellectual community at the school. Erica is president of the Environmental Law society, actively involved with the *Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion*,

and is a Dean's Academic Excellence Scholar. She was an Italian major.

Pascale Lespinasse spent last summer as a medical student intern at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan. She conducted research on the Familial Pancreatic Cancer Registry. She's in her second year of medical school at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health.

Jennifer Gale, a financial adviser in the West Boca Raton office of Merrill Lynch, came to campus recently to meet with alumnae as part of the Smart Women, Smart Money program.

Elizabeth Curtis, returned to New York City after graduating from the George Washington University with a master's in women's studies. She now works at the Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership and lives with Nicole Bufanio '06.

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06 Thanks to all who responded to our call for news. We received so much that we had to save some for the next issue!

Following a three-month post in Iraq, **Megan Greenwell** is back in Washington, D.C., covering education and politics for the Metro section of the *Washington Post*. **Andrea (Andi) Grossman** works with the digital marketing agency Digitas. She reports that, in December, **Elana Slobodien** wed Yoshi Rodriguez, whom Elana met while studying abroad in Chile. Several alumnae attended, including **Gauri Saxena**. **Lora Lithgow**, now a first grade teacher at PS 196 in Brooklyn, was also married in December. **Roseann Burkard** served as maid of honor and **Rebecca (Becky) Cooper** as a bridesmaid. Becky works as an analyst at Winterberry Group, a boutique strategic and management consulting firm that operates within the marketing industry. **Danna Trachtenberg** is in the molecular and cellular biology PhD program at Brandeis University. Also in the Boston area is **Jessica**

(Jessie) Bauer, who is in her first year of medical school at Tufts University after receiving a master's of science degree from Columbia's Institute of Human Nutrition. On the other side of the Atlantic, **Sarah DeShan** is with the Peace Corps in Aioun, Mauritania, West Africa, where she's a girls' education and empowerment volunteer. **Brett Bell** is also with the Peace Corps, working as a community health volunteer in eastern Uganda, East Africa. **Fareeda Ahmed** has been with Morgan Stanley since graduation. She recently saw **Nima Desai** and **Emily Gerstell**, and her roommates happen to be friends with **Rebecca Watson**, who has been working as a paralegal at Kirby McInerney LLC since graduation. **Katherine (Kate) Lamper** is living in the city and working in regulatory compliance. Her roommate **Lindsay Dreyer** works at *Inside Edition* and stays active in the dance community as a featured blogger on DancerUniverse.com. **Catherina (Cathy) Perifimos** is in her second year at Cardozo Law School, along with **Robin (Tzippy) Heszkel** and Olivia Harris '05, and is volunteering as a courtroom advocate for battered women. **Jasmine Sasanian** moved all the way across the street to Teachers College, where she's earning a master's in organizational psychology. On a recent trip to Israel, she met up with co-correspondent **Irene Tenenbaum** who is there with OTZMA, a 10-month community service leadership program. **Anna Bennett** is teaching fourth grade at River East Elementary School in East Harlem through NYC Teaching Fellows. After a year at University of Miami Hillel as a JCSC Fellow, **Leora Rosenblum** is in the city working at UBS. **Tova Ganz Baron** attended Columbia School of Nursing and is a surgical ICU nurse at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. **Dianne Queliza**, a graduate of the NYU College of Nursing, works in the ICU/PCU at the same facility through the William Randolph Hearst Critical Care Nursing Fellowship. Co-correspondent, **Sarah McNally**, is in an accelerated BSN/MSN program at University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. In November, **Christy Carlson Romano**, who had a stint as Belle in Broadway's *Beauty and the Beast*, returned to her hometown of Milford,

Conn., to make two fund-raising appearances. The star of the animated series *Kim Possible* gave a private reading and signing of her new coming-of-age novel, *Grace's Turn*, in the first event. In the second she gave a talk followed by a Q&A session on the ups and downs of her career since age 6. The proceeds of the events will benefit three local Catholic elementary schools.

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1st Reunion May 29—June 1, 2008

07 **Nina Shield** is a personal and editorial assistant for a *Vanity Fair* editor. She loves her Park Slope apartment.

Ashleigh Lau enjoys the "quiet and familial neighborhood of the Upper East Side." She works in Morgan Stanley's Capital Introductions group helping hedge fund managers raise capital. She has helped organize major conferences in locations such as Boca Raton, Palm Beach, and Shanghai. Ashleigh is also becoming "a New York 'foodie,'" by trying out restaurants around the city. **Yael Silverstein** returned from nearly three months in India working at a Microfinance company. She helped women in urban slums procure small loans for income-generating activities in hopes of alleviating poverty.

After graduation, **Brooke Heidecorn** traveled to Israel with her family. She now works in the admissions office of the Trevor Day School, within walking distance of the Upper East Side apartment she shares with **Stephanie Guttman**. She and **Liza Eaton** cofounded the Young Members Circle at the Museum of the City of New York, a reduced-price membership group for professional New Yorkers ages 21 to 40. She encourages alumnae to get

in touch with her for more information. Look her up in the directory at barnard.edu/alum.

Roxana Azizi is enjoying her second semester at Fordham Law along with many other alumnae, including **Raquel Garnett**. Roxana has accepted a summer internship with Chief Judge Bernstein at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

Pamela Wiznitzer is now a lead event planner at Eventique, an event-planning company in New York City. She has planned corporate events, holiday parties, and nonprofit galas. I'd like to thank her for organizing the January happy hour at Society. It was wonderful to see so many '07 graduates, and we hope to see even more in the future.

Mackenzie Haberman voyaged to Venice, Italy, for Carnivale after spending the fall in San Francisco teaching ecology to fourth- and fifth-graders on an 84-foot schooner. She's now bravely sailing on the *Pride of Baltimore II* (note the "II") on its course around the Atlantic and into the Great Lakes, spreading the "good will of Maryland" and teaching about the War of 1812 clipper ships.

Elisa Davis lives in Brooklyn and is pursuing a dance career. She's involved with the Tze Chun Dance Company (tzechundance.com) and rehearsing for a performance at the Merce Cunningham Studio, which will be the company's first self-produced show in the late spring. She traveled to Thailand in February.

Gia Curatola works in the asset management division at Lazard Freres & Co. LLC. It's an "excellent learning experience" that has allowed her to familiarize herself with the company's investment strategies and services. She moved into a Greenwich Village apartment and looks forward to furnishing it with antiques from "the darkest corners of the Northeast."

April Hovav was promoted to assistant buyer of table linens after six months as a marketing assistant for decorative housewares at Macy's. She lives in the East Village and recently learned to ski.

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"My Barnard education has **enriched my whole life**, igniting a lifelong love of learning and an enduring passion for art and classical music.

My bequest demonstrates my eternal gratitude to Barnard."

—**Alice Corneille Cardozo '36**

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Include Barnard in your estate plan.

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BARNARD

ATHENA SOCIETY



Obituaries

Elizabeth Yeh Singh '88

Elizabeth Yeh Singh passed away on Feb. 25, 2008. Born on Oct. 30, 1966, in New York City, she was raised in Miami, Fla. A proud Barnard graduate, Elizabeth provided a generous amount of support for the College. As a trustee since 2006, she endowed the Elizabeth Yeh Singh '88 Scholarship Fund. While at Barnard, she majored in political science before pursuing a career in journalism. Among her many accomplishments, she worked as a producer for CNN Financial News and an anchor for CNBC Asia. She coauthored *The Great Burger Book*, which was published in 2003. She also donated her time as a volunteer chef to City Harvest.

Jolyne Caruso-Fitzgerald '81, member of the Board of Trustees of the College, fondly recalled, "Elizabeth was the quintessential Barnard woman: brilliant, curious, passionate, and witty. When she was in a room, you knew it by her energy and contagious laughter. She will be sorely missed but always remembered with a smile."

Elizabeth Yeh Singh is survived by her husband, Ravi, and their daughter, Maya.

In Memoriam

- 1927 Eugenia Frysick, Jan. 20, 2006
- 1931 Martha Scacciaferro Beattie, Feb. 5, 2008
- 1932 Dorothy Gristede Hansen-Sturm, June 25, 2007
Vera Joseph Peterson, Jan. 26, 2008
- 1933 Meta Glasser Neuberger, Dec. 30, 2007
Lillian Tomasulo O'Brien, Feb. 14, 2008
- 1936 Marjorie Eberhardt Cook, Dec. 6, 2007
Nina Baschuk Rimash, Sept. 12, 2007
- 1937 Elizabeth Chamberlain Cook, Jan. 2, 2008
- 1938 Elspeth Davies Rostow, Dec. 10, 2007
Edna Holtzman Senderoff, Dec. 12, 2007
- 1940 Olga Scheiner Coren, March 5, 2008
Ruth Carter Hok, Feb. 14, 2008
- 1943 Margaret O'Rourke Montgomery, Nov. 22, 2007
- 1944 Mildred Chenoweth Lewis, Nov. 20, 2006
Martha Messler Zepp, Feb. 16, 2008
- 1947 Jacqueline Branaman Bogart, Jan. 14, 2008
- 1948 Mildred Gerds Ferber, May 7, 2005
Alice Kobbe Gilbert, Aug. 30, 2007
Alibeth Howell, Jan. 6, 2008
Paulette Brown McCormack, Jan. 12, 2008
Eileen Gilmore Serocke, Nov. 28, 2007
- 1949 Edith Jackson Calzolari, Oct. 26, 2007
Helen Jones Fredericks, Nov. 11, 2007
- 1951 Catherine Peffer Lynch, Feb. 26, 2008
- 1952 S. Evadne Campbell Flemister, Jan. 9, 2008
Nancy Booth Kurke, Nov. 4, 2002
- 1953 Zita Baliunas Casagrande, Dec. 22, 2007
Margaret Loos, May 1, 1990
- 1954 Merna Hausman Miller, Jan. 31, 2008
Patricia Ellsworth Wilson, Dec. 14, 2007
- 1955 Edyth Knapp Baker, Feb. 24, 2008
Eileen Nitardy Clarke, Feb. 7, 2008
Katharine Miller, July 21, 2007
- 1957 Maryalice Long Adams, Dec. 17, 2007
- 1962 Rhea Gaisner, Jan. 10, 2008
- 1968 Diane Stern Hajagos, Jan. 22, 1999
Sue Kenyon, Aug. 8, 2006
- 1973 Victoria Gill Rodriguez, May 22, 2003
- 1978 Mary Simpson Hanley, Feb. 1, 2006
- 1980 Jean Baker, Jan. 10, 2008
- 1983 Elma Sagarman, Aug. 29, 2003
Christine Solomon, Oct. 18, 2007
- 1988 Elizabeth Yeh Singh, Feb. 25, 2008
- 1990 Karen Usdan, Jan. 11, 2008

Seniors Are Giving Green



Senior Fund co-chairs: Laurie Rabinowitz and Natalia Belland.

The Class of 2008 wasn't precisely sure about the gift they planned to bestow upon the College as they changed status from students to alumnae. One thing was definite: no matter what, it had to be environmentally sound. Not surprising, since this class came of age during the era of *An Inconvenient Truth* and a heightened awareness about environmental issues. Several seniors have been enthusiastic Eco-Reps, students who work for the Residential Life office to help develop a more environmentally aware campus—and many others are strong supporters of those efforts.

"We've focused our gift on something that's environmentally friendly," says Laurie Rabinowitz '08, co-chair of the Senior Fund, vice president of the senior class, and head of Student Government Association's own environmental initiative. The class considered such options as an efficient boiler for a dorm and installing compact fluorescent light bulbs throughout campus, but settled on providing rooftop furniture for the Nexus, which will be the campus's leading environmentally sensitive and efficient building.

What also appeals to the students, adds Rabinowitz, a Maplewood, New Jersey, native and art-history major, is the idea that the Nexus is "incorporating green space in New York City. The Nexus will add more trees to the campus. There's an open patio space, and we're paying for the green furniture. Students wanted something to do with the new building and with the environment."

"This gift was a marriage of the two. The environment is a general concern for our class. The hope is for our campus to

make a step forward. It's also very important for students to give something immediate that they can see, that has a real impact."

They were also delighted at being the first class to do something for the Nexus. "This is the youngest class able to contribute to this innovative building," says Laila Shetty '03, an officer with the Barnard Fund, who works with the senior class on their gift.

Both Rabinowitz and Natalia Belland '08, co-chair of the Senior Fund, who also worked on fund-raising for Barnard's fall campaigns, are indefatigable in their efforts to attend senior social events and activities to gather as much participation from their classmates as possible. But, it doesn't hurt that the Class of 2008 has some extra help to meet its goals. There are matching challenge funds available from a group of parents to encourage a participation rate of 75 percent from the seniors. Further, in another matching gift, Linda Sweet '63 will donate \$10 for each member of the senior class who participates in this gift. Other alumnae in the Class of 1963 are also participating in this challenge. Sweet, an honored guest at the Senior Class Dinner, recalls that the response to the challenge was enthusiastic, "Everyone cheered; everyone was excited." And Rabinowitz notes, "When students hear that Linda will donate \$10 for everyone who participates, they'll say, 'That's really cool—so my \$1 gift is really an \$11 gift.'"

The pride the class takes in their ability to take this step is tangible. "This is the only opportunity we have to give to a specific gift," says Belland, "and the Nexus furniture will be around for a long time. Giving green is such a big, popular thing; it's really starting something."

Internships Abroad

Her daughters say there were a few rules to follow when traveling with their mother, Patricia Cady Remmer '45. "We could have one American meal a day," remembers Susan Remmer Ryzewic, the second of four children and the oldest daughter. "But the rest had to be the local cuisine." In Japan, that meant fish for lunch and rice at most meals, all eaten with chopsticks, a skill acquired before leaving their Old Greenwich, Conn., home. Otherwise, Remmer allowed her children's curiosity to lead them to adventure when they were on the road. "We were encouraged to explore on our own even though we were pretty young," says Remmer Ryzewic, who was 13 the first time she went to Asia with her parents. "We were taught such a sense of courage and not being afraid of new situations and people."

International experiences were frequent for the Remmers. Their father, Gene, headed an engineering consulting business that required frequent trips to Asia and later Africa to meet with overseas partners beginning in the early 1960s. At home in Connecticut, the global experiences continued. "We were always hosting international clients and their families," recalls Ellen Remmer, president and CEO of The Philanthropic Initiative in Boston, and the second youngest of the Remmer children.

From those encounters, Patricia Remmer, who died in 2004, taught her children about their role in an increasingly interconnected world. "The opportunity to see the world and see how other people aren't quite as fortunate, was something that was very important to her," says Anne Cole, the youngest daughter and executive director of the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools in Montana. Even when they were grown, Remmer continued to take her children abroad. The entire family traveled together to locations as diverse as the Galápagos Islands, France, and Tanzania.

When her children were young, Remmer focused her energies on raising her family and helping her husband build the family business. During those years she was an active member of her community PTA and Junior League. Together, the couple were generous supporters of Columbia University, where Gene Remmer had graduated in 1943 with both a liberal arts and an engineering degree.

But in the last decades of her life, she turned her attention increasingly to her alma mater, which had granted her a full scholarship when she was a student. The grant enabled her to earn a bachelor's degree in mathematics. "My mother really felt that her scholarship at Barnard made a huge difference in her life, and she felt really indebted to the College," says Remmer Ryzewic, president and CEO of EHR Investments,

Inc., and a director of the Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida-based Remmer Family Foundation. The foundation's efforts seek to break the cycle of the feminization of poverty. From 1990 to 2001 Patricia Remmer also served as a Barnard trustee and went on to chair The President's Circle. She became a trustee emerita in 2001. In addition, she was a director of New York City Outward Bound.

Shortly after their mother's death, the three Remmer daughters and their husbands wanted to find a way to honor her memory. "We all associated Mom with Barnard, so we got there pretty quickly," says Ellen. As the three couples talked, they realized how important Patricia Remmer's years of travel had been to her, given the global scope of the family business. "She also believed very strongly in supporting individuals," adds Remmer Ryzewic. "She wanted to be able to make a difference in individuals' lives."

Weaving these strands together, the couples settled on the Patricia Cady Remmer '45 International Experience Internship Fund, a gift from their family foundation whose own mission places importance on the empowerment of girls and young women. The fund will award up to four grants per year to students who are planning internships at not-for-profit groups or in the public sector abroad. The first grants will be awarded in the summer of 2008.

This is the first Barnard internship fund to target international internships. "Our students are extremely interested in international opportunities of all kinds, regardless of what they're studying," says Suzy Stein, associate dean for career development at Barnard. "We are preparing our students to be citizens of the world and international internships are an important part of that preparation. Without financial support, many students are unable to take such an internship, which can contribute so positively to their career development and enhance their academic work. Since it is very typical for American students to be unable to work legally in other countries, they often cannot take a part-time job to support themselves while abroad. We are very grateful to the Remmer family for supporting our students in this significant way."

More Than Money

Student support funds create personal connections between students and donors



Yuan Zhao's family encouraged her to study medicine in China. But even as a high school student in Beijing, Zhao '05 knew she wanted to broaden her horizons. So while most of her friends applied to colleges in China, Zhao pursued a more ambitious goal: attending a liberal arts college in the United States. She filled out dozens of applications

to schools across the country and dreamed of continuing her education overseas.

Some significant obstacles stood in her way. The SATs weren't yet offered in China, so Zhao's application lacked one of the primary measures by which many colleges rank applicants. And while Zhao spoke English, her schooling had been entirely in Chinese. "I had a lot of doubts about whether I would be able to do well," she says. "I feared I wasn't going to be able to meet American college standards."

She forged ahead nevertheless, and in the spring of 2001 Zhao received word that Barnard had accepted her for admission. Even better, Barnard offered to help support her financially via the Asian International Scholarship Fund, which had been created a year earlier by lead donor Joyce Fung Kan '72 to provide annual support for a promising young woman from China.

To Zhao, receiving that funding meant more than being able to pay for tuition. "This scholarship made me not worry so much about what my parents and my relatives wanted me to study," she says. "I realized that I had earned this scholarship, so I should be able to pursue the studies I wanted."

Zhao eventually majored in French, with a concentration in political science, and fared well enough academically for her scholarship to be renewed in full each year. The scholarship meanwhile provided Zhao with important personal connections. In particular, Kan was a source of reassurance for Zhao when she struggled with cultural, academic, and personal transitions during her first year on campus. "She was very down to earth and supportive," says Zhao. "I thought, I would like to do well because of her."

That personal connection is a hallmark of Barnard's student support funds, which link donors like Kan with students like Zhao. Barnard's financial aid staff develops aid packages based on financial need as students are accepted. Many students receive Barnard College Grants, which include assistance from the more than 300 funds for scholarships, internships, fellowships, and special gifts of financial aid, which donors like Kan support.

Barnard's stewardship officer, Kate Rood, has what she describes as the "fun, amazing job" of matching students with funds. "I look for students whose community service or academic involvement jumps off the page," she says. "I also read the paragraphs that aid recipients write about their Barnard experience for their financial-aid paperwork—some students really come alive there."

The right fund for a particular student depends on the guidelines the donor has established for the fund. Some donors provide unrestricted funds, which typically support generally outstanding Barnard students. Other donors prefer to support students who are part of a certain population. For example, one restricted fund might focus on students from a particular part of the world, while another supports students in a specific course of study.

In 2006, Bing Liao '10 was matched with the Asian International Scholarship Fund. Liao, a native of Foshan, China, majors in economics and mathematics and minors in political science. Like Zhao, she maintains a personal relationship with Kan—fostered in part by the annual Torchbearers Reception, which brings students and their donors together for an evening of community building and networking.

Donors such as Kan affect not only the individual students they support, but also the entire Barnard community, says Alison Rabil, Barnard's director of financial aid. "An international student population offers a kind of diversity that a domestic population can't provide," she says. "These students share a whole different perspective, and that's really important to our campus. We have to be able to fund those students who wouldn't otherwise be able to come to Barnard."

Yuan Zhao certainly agrees. Currently finishing her master's degree in early childhood development at Sarah Lawrence College, she plans to attend New York University in the fall to begin working on her doctorate in counseling psychology. Zhao plans to specialize in bilingual (Chinese and English) school counseling, with the goal of assisting people who are making cultural transitions. "I want to help them define themselves and accomplish their dreams," she says. "That choice has a lot to do with my own personal experiences—and especially my time at Barnard."

can be introduced to key sectors of the Barnard community. Among the events that have already taken place, the April sessions of the President's Advisory Council and Science Advisory Council presented the perfect opportunity for her to meet alumnae who play a vital consultative role at their alma mater. Another occasion was the Virginia C. Gildersleeve Lecture on March 26, sponsored by the Barnard Center for Research on Women. Given this year by distinguished historian Estelle Freedman '69 and titled "Coming of Age at Barnard, 1968," the lecture offered Debora the opportunity to participate with the speaker and a diverse audience in a discussion about a momentous time on the Barnard and Columbia campuses.

Debora also accompanied Provost Boylan to a meeting of the chairs of our academic departments, and she's met informally with faculty members in political science and economics—departments where she will hold joint appointments as a professor herself. Meanwhile, in an external effort coordinated by Michael Feerman, Barnard's general counsel and government liaison, she is being introduced to local elected officials and community leaders. Her crucial relationship with the leaders of Columbia began on a high note, when President Lee Bollinger offered Debora a warm welcome on the day of her appointment. Not long afterward, she enjoyed a productive, collegial meeting with Columbia's provost, Alan Brinkley.

I am one of the many who are fascinated by Debora's scholarly work, and I especially look forward to reading her latest book, *The Baby Business*, about the intersection of reproductive technologies, commerce, politics, ethics, and morality. Among the book's many highly positive reviews are ones in the *Washington Post*, which called it "as smart and sensible a book as you could hope to find" about a highly charged subject, and *Fortune* magazine, which praised Debora as "admirably thorough" in her "lucid look at the issues more and more parents face." The qualities reviewers praised in her scholarly work are reflected clearly in her years as a professor and dean at Harvard, and will serve her well at Barnard in the years to come.

As I prepare to leave Barnard, I am well aware of how much of my heart will always remain with this wonderfully unique institution. Serving as Barnard's president has been far and away the high point of my working life. At the same time, it is the right moment for a change, both for me and for the College. I am ready to shape the next chapter of my own life and Barnard is set to embark on a new planning cycle, as we complete the ambitious goals of our most recent strategic plan—the crowning achievement of that plan being the Nexus, now rising on our campus.

I rejoice in the fact that Barnard will have such a fine new president—and in the fact that, just as Barnard serves as an example in so many ways, so it does in terms of how to effect a leadership transition. As Anna Quindlen observed with her usual wit, we've avoided the common scenario of leadership change as French farce—with secrets, intrigue, avoidance, and a character slipping out one door as another slips in from the other side of the stage. What our process does have in common with French farce, however, is its meticulous choreography and happy ending. And, like all happy endings, it's a glorious new beginning.

SYLLABUS: BLACK BAGHDAD

Continued from Page 14

plus a presentation by the professor that placed the author and her work in a clear historical and ideological context. That context explained many of Hurston's challenges as an African-American woman in the hostile social and intellectual environment of her era, and helped students better understand the book's shortcomings.

A week later, the assigned reading was C.L.R. James's *The Black Jacobins*, a history of the Haitian slave rebellion and revolutionary war of independence against France at the turn of the nineteenth century. Born in Trinidad-Tobago, James was a Marxist and anti-colonialist who lived for long periods in England and the U.S. The class discussed how James's book on Haiti was a vivid expression of his views on class, race, leadership, and ownership, and how he saw the Haitian revolutionary Toussaint L'Ouverture as a true fighter

for the French ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

One of the students assigned the oral presentation on James's book was Ruthzee Louijeune (CC '08), who has pursued a double major in political science and French/Francophone studies. "I was ecstatic to see this class offered. It's the first time I've read books about Haiti by writers from other countries," said Louijeune, whose parents were born in Haiti. She says that beyond her personal interest in the country, she sees Haiti as playing an important role in the world as a whole: "Once we begin to understand and decipher Haiti, we can discover so much more about humanity, about how we treat each other, about language and politics. Haiti is a case study for self-determination and how revolutions are made, for how we construct and see race."

Louijeune also said she was a huge fan of the instructor, a sentiment echoed by class member Amy Blumberg '09. An Africana Studies major with a minor in dance, Blumberg said, "This is the third course I've taken with Professor Glover. And it's particularly interesting because we're looking at how Western writers of different countries and social backgrounds exoticize, romanticize, and manipulate ideas about Haiti ... whether or not they've been there. Professor Glover has done a fantastic job of picking texts that enlighten in different ways, and of showing us how writing is indicative of time and place."

On her part, the professor has praised the level of engagement of the students in this class. But she openly warned them that she is a tough grader who demands the highest level of clarity and analysis in their writing.

Those high standards are combined with compassion. As she began to return the first paper students were assigned, Glover told the class that the grade and comments were all written in green.

"It's less traumatizing than red," she said, smiling.

DENNIS DALTON

Continued from Page 27

major in the late 1950s, he read Henry David Thoreau's works on nonviolence and civil disobedience. "It caused in

me personally such a profound stir and resonance,” he recalls, especially since Martin Luther King, Jr., one of his idols, was drawing on the same core ideas at the time, and the U.S. civil rights movement was igniting.

In his academic research, he has focused almost exclusively on nonviolence, producing a steady stream of scholarly articles as well as a major biography, *Mahatma Gandhi: Non-Violent Power in Action*, published in 1993. And he continues to be fascinated by how the philosophy of nonviolence circulated around the world. Thoreau and other Transcendentalists, he points out, were deeply influenced by Hindu thought from South Asia. Those ideas wound up migrating back to India, where Thoreau’s writings had a profound impact on Gandhi and the campaign for Indian independence. They ultimately traveled back to the United States, where Gandhi’s example played a large part in shaping King’s commitment to nonviolence in the struggle for civil rights, and also made their way to South Africa where both Gandhi and King had a big influence on the thinking of antiapartheid leader Desmond Tutu. “The whole story is the journey of ideas,” avers Dalton, “and how those ideas traveled, and ultimately inspired major movements for social change.”

After Rutgers, Dalton continued studying political theory, earning his master’s at University of Chicago and his PhD from the University of London, where he specialized in the Indian independence movement and political thought in South Asia. He spent four years teaching in London, but in 1969 his father became ill and Dalton and his wife, Sharron, whom he had married just after college, began making plans to return to the United States. His timing was right. While in New York for a conference that year, Dalton met a friend who was teaching at Barnard and learned a position had opened up for a professor of political theory. Dalton applied, got the job, and in fall 1969 he started his Barnard career.

It was an emotionally charged time, says Dalton, who recalls that the campus was still raw from the 1968 riots at Columbia and political tensions continued to run high. One of Dalton’s inaugural courses at Barnard—a survey class

called “Modern Political Movements,” which he co-taught with Professor Peter Juviler—definitely reflected the intensity on campus. As part of the class, he and Juviler regularly featured an all-inclusive mix of guest speakers, ranging from Black Panthers and Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., (at the time a Marxist) to a leader of the far-right John Birch Society along with a business school professor who touted the virtues of capitalism. When students disagreed with a given speaker, recalls Dalton, they felt no compunction about engaging that person in fierce debate. Or even, as happened in the case of the pro-capitalist business professor, chasing him around the speaker’s stand. “You never knew what was going to happen next,” says Dalton, with a laugh. “It was the liveliest, most intense teaching experience of my life.”

He and Juviler wound up offering the class for the next dozen years. Still for all the excitement, Dalton says that political theory has been “my main pillar and passion” at Barnard, and he contends that “Political Theory I and II,” which gradually grew from a starting enrollment of just nine students to more than 800 students at its peak in the early 1990s, are the classes he’ll miss teaching most. At the behest political science department colleagues, he has since tried to keep the class size down somewhere between 200 and 400, but he still makes exceptions for eager students, even if they’re not formally enrolled. Indeed, Dalton’s lectures have drawn a growing contingent of off-campus fans, thanks to Ben and Gale Armstead, a Harlem couple who began auditing his class in 1992 and have gradually spread the word about Dalton to their neighbors and friends. This past March the Armsteads organized an event at Harlem’s Apollo Theater featuring a lecture by Dalton on Dostoevsky’s “Grand Inquisitor.” As Ben Armstead notes, the goal was to turn the Apollo into a “temporary learning center” to share the professor’s wisdom with the wider Harlem community, and also to pay tribute to Dalton’s contributions as a teacher. “I wanted to thank him for the person he is in a very public way,” explains Armstead.

Dalton hasn’t just limited his efforts to the classroom. In the mid-1980s, for instance, he fasted for 14 days as part of a Columbia campus sit-in to

push for the university’s divestment from companies doing business in South Africa. And last fall, he joined with students in another fast aimed at slowing down Columbia’s plans for a new campus complex above 125th Street. “It was really an attempt to have the university pause to consider the effect on the Harlem community,” says Dalton.

In 2004, he organized a free weekly film series at Barnard’s Altschul Hall featuring documentaries on a range of violence- and nonviolence-related topics. He also has been an active supporter of numerous campus organizations, including Barnard’s Take Back the Night group, which holds an annual march, among other events, to protest violence against women, as well as Students Against Silence, a group he helped launch in 2000 to raise campus awareness about suicide.

Dalton says he continues to be inspired by the idealism of many of his students. Still, the overall mood on campus has definitely shifted since he arrived at Barnard, he notes. Students today are far less caught up in political concerns, and far more anxious about grade-point averages, and about getting into top law schools and graduate programs—part of a syndrome he calls “pre-professionalism.” In fact, he says that the anxiety before exams can get so intense that he often ends up feeling anxious himself. Dalton is certainly sympathetic to students. “I understand why they’re so concerned,” he says, given how fiercely competitive the job market has become. He has tried to do his part to alleviate that anxiety. At the start of every semester, for instance, he gives out his home phone number, along with his e-mail and office number, making it clear that he’s available (even at odd hours) if students have any concerns. He also routinely passes out all the questions that will appear on midterms and finals a month before the exams, just so there will be no surprises and students will have plenty of time to prepare.

Those efforts haven’t been lost on Dalton’s students. “He just goes far above and beyond the usual expectations of a professor,” says Courtney Martin ’02, who double-majored in political science and sociology. “He’s such an example of someone who walks the talk.”

Dalton, for his part, says that as a professor he always tries to remember

an idea that Ralph Waldo Emerson once proposed—namely, that the secret to education lies in having a genuine respect for students. Judging from the rave course evaluations he gets, and the many lasting friendships he has built with students, it's an approach that definitely appears to have served him well. Indeed, Dalton notes that he regularly corresponds and socializes with a wide network of former students, and was even asked to be godfather of the children of two Barnard alumnae.

When he leaves campus this spring, he and Sharron will be heading first to London to spend time with friends. From there they'll be moving to their new home on St. Croix, where one of his two sons lives and where Dalton and his wife plan to spend a lot of time with their two granddaughters. They also hope to occasionally get to Phoenix to visit their other son, an English professor, and his wife and two kids. To ease the transition to retirement, the professor has decided that for the time being he won't actually retire. He recently accepted a new teaching post, and starting this fall he'll be offering an adaptation of his political theory classes at a high school in Christianstad, St. Croix's main city.

Dalton isn't entirely sure how his teaching will play to high school students. But he knows the students will be different, and the teaching experience won't be the same. When he really thinks about not being at Barnard anymore, he says it's almost too painful to bear. "There's a spirit of community here that I don't think I could have found anywhere else," says Dalton. "There's no place like Barnard in terms of that."

AFGHANISTAN: NITA COLACO

Continued from Page 23

and police will be made in Afghanistan.

I meet many hardworking, inspirational individuals in Afghanistan—both Afghan and expatriate alike. Nancy Dupree '49, a spitfire octogenarian, is leading an initiative on Afghanistan research at Kabul University. My friend Masuda, an Afghan-American, left an arranged marriage in the U.S. to become an advocate for women's rights and start a

consulting company in Kabul. Masuda works tirelessly to create a sustainable enterprise because, as she says, "I want the people of Afghanistan to have something left when the international community leaves."

Although I treasure the relationships made here, I am still disappointed by the lack of access to Afghan women, not surprisingly, underrepresented in the private sector. Language is a barrier: my Dari is basic and most women have no opportunity to learn English. But women are also hesitant to befriend me. In this country; I am a member of the "third gender." Afghans consider me different from both Afghan women, often still hidden from public view, and expatriate men. Conservative Afghan men sometimes refuse to shake my hand or acknowledge me during business meetings. Working with Afghan business owners (about 98 percent of whom are men) and training and managing my male colleagues were initially daunting tasks. I am still learning how to strike a balance of patience, persistence, and aggressiveness.

Days Off

I have experienced only a little of Afghanistan's beauty, but what I have seen is breathtaking. I hike through the Hindu Kush mountains on weekends and revel in the stunning views and fresh air. Afghan friends take me on a tour of the province—to the bombed out presidential palace that was once a landmark; to Babur's tomb and gardens, built for the sixteenth-century Moghul emperor; and to Qargha Lake, a resort with a boardwalk, paddle boats, and golf course.

On warm, sunny days, kites speckle Afghanistan's sky as far as the eye can see. Kiteflying, outlawed under the Taliban, is a national pastime for boys and men, who spend hours trying to cut the strings of their neighbors' kites. The cordless kites float through the air eventually littering rooftops and trees. I have also been introduced to *buzkashi*, a popular sport consisting of horsemen fighting over a headless goat carcass. Like many things in Afghanistan, *buzkashi* is intriguing, complicated, and violent. On the day I attended a match, horses galloped out of control and mauled several audience members.

Despite these adventures, confinement and restriction remain overbearing. Unable to do anything in public by myself, I'm learning to rely on others, which is difficult because of my independent nature.

Learning Curve

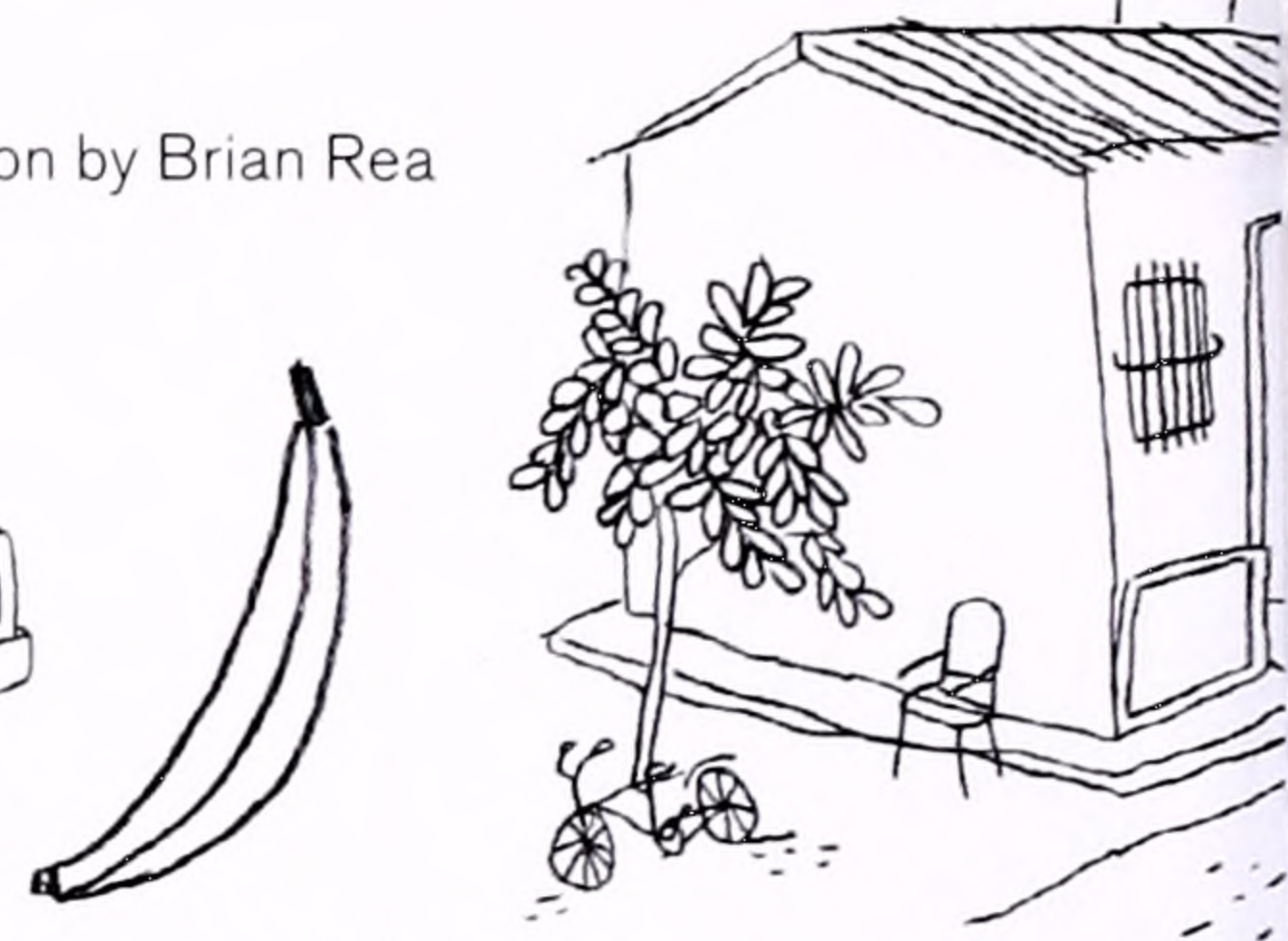
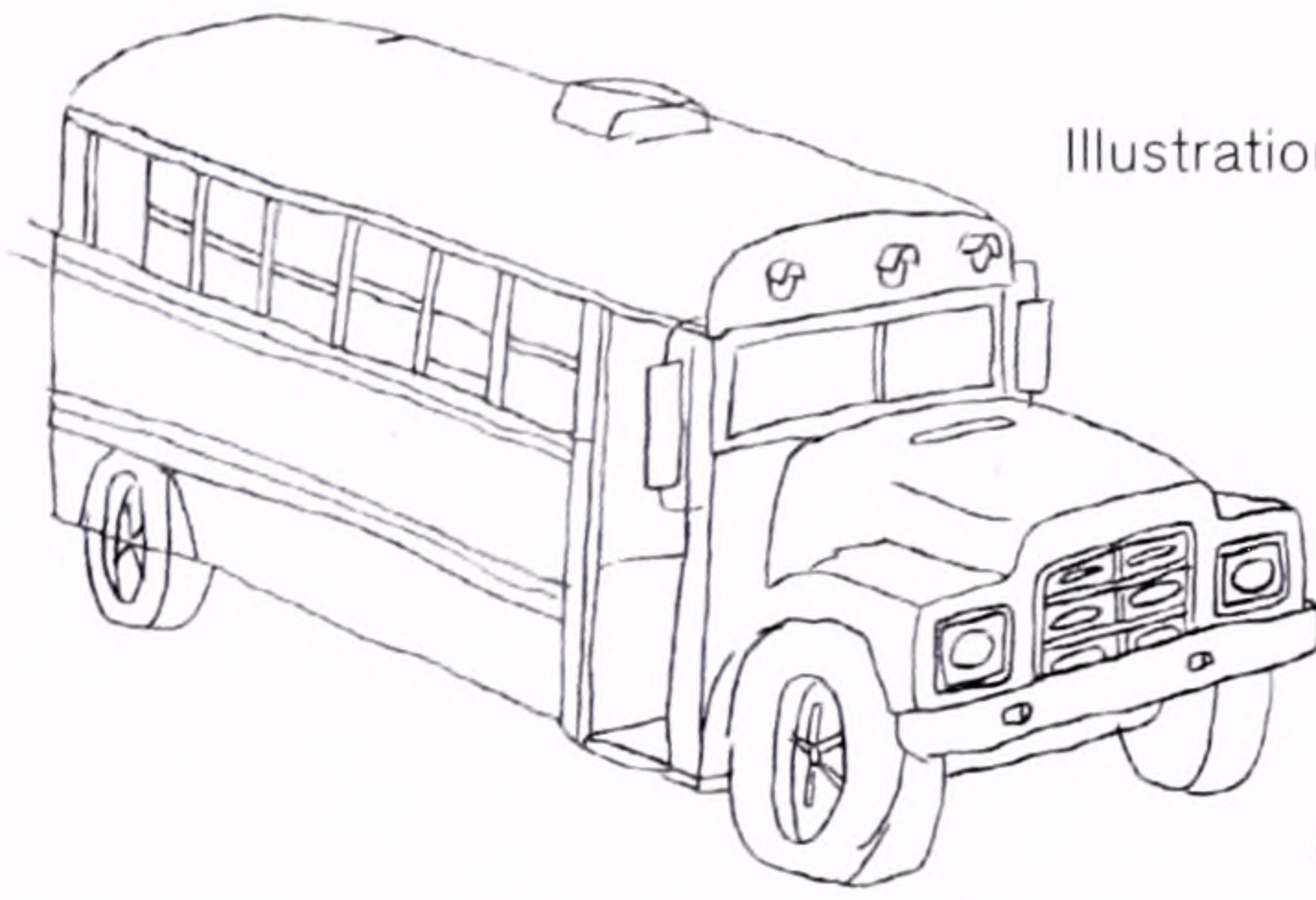
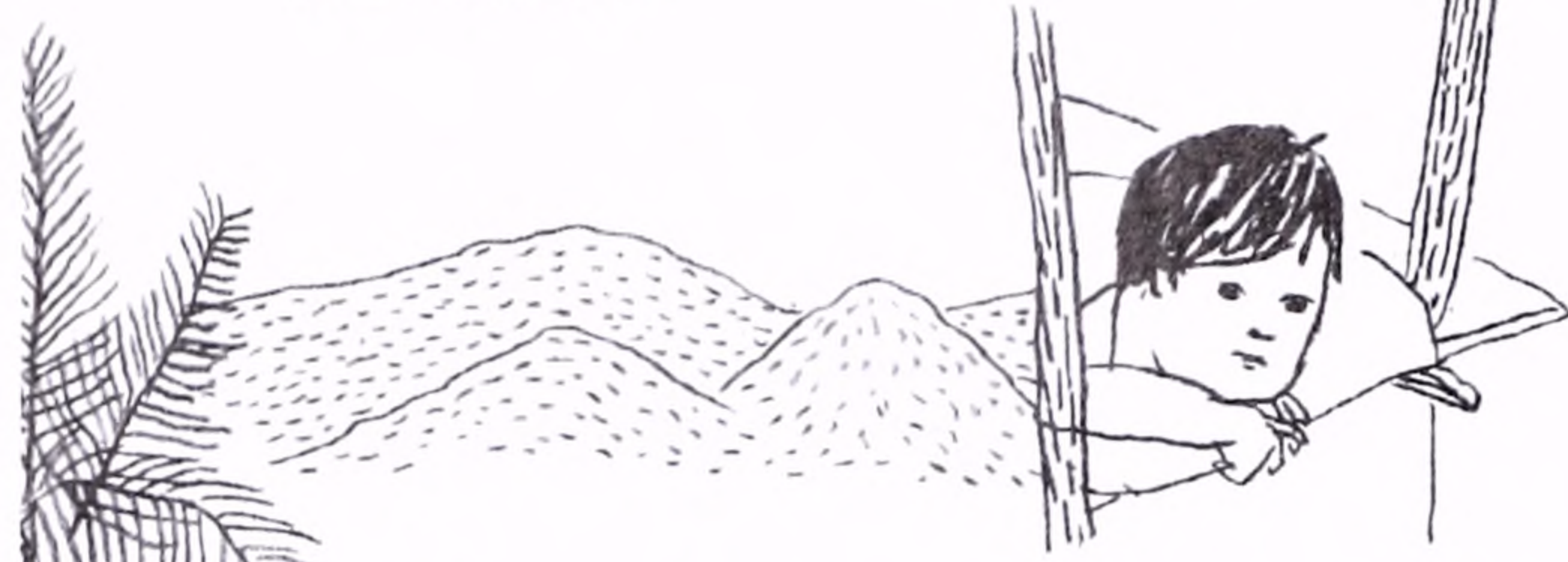
Four years out of Barnard's classrooms, my education continues in Afghanistan. The situation on the ground is often frustrating. I watch organizations become proprietary and competitive. Some projects actually run counter to each other—one foreign government arms the local militias at the same time another foreign government fights to disband them.

President Hamid Karzai, often referred to as the "mayor of Kabul," has little legitimacy in the eyes of the Afghan people. After the Soviet withdrawal in 1989 a bloody civil war consumed the country; the leaders of the violence still hold positions of power today. Four main ethnic groups—Pashtuns (the majority), Tajiks, Uzbeks, and Hazaras—comprise Afghanistan's population and the country lacks a national, unifying identity, and fighting among warring factions occurs regularly.

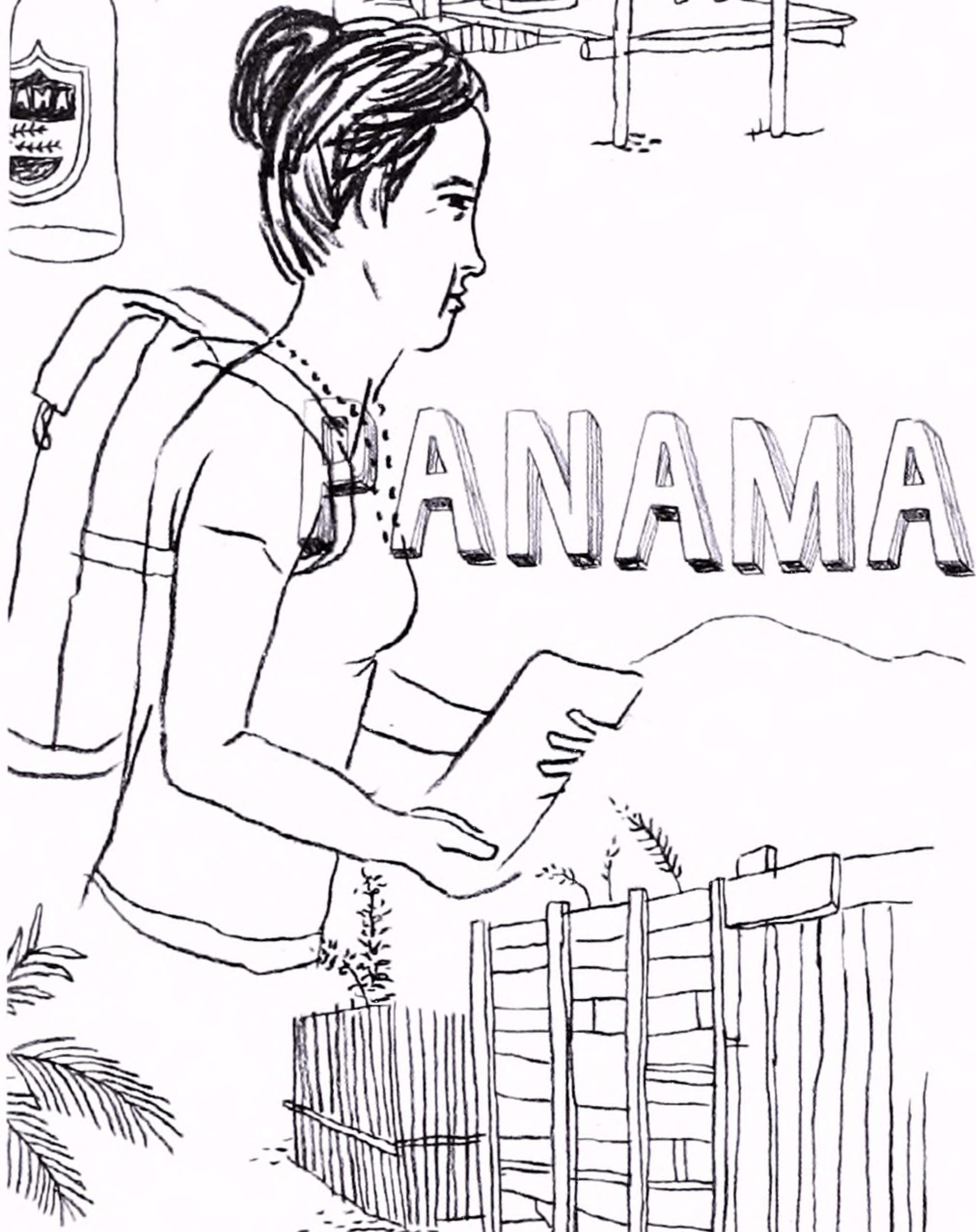
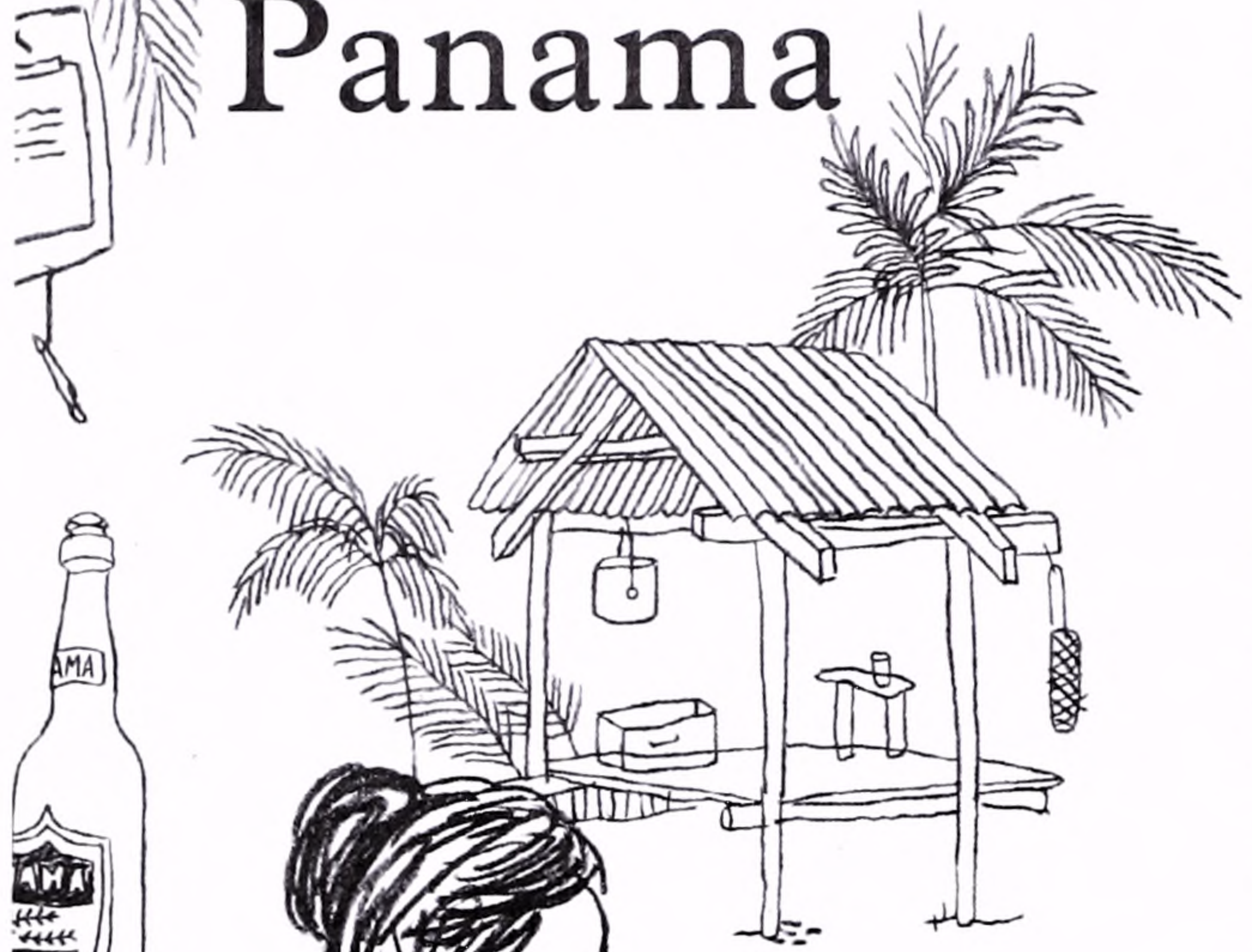
Daily challenges include working and living with little infrastructure. During the winter, when it was below 20-degrees Celsius, my house had six hours of electricity a day; we relied on wood-burning stoves for warmth. Trash piles on Kabul's streets tower to five feet high, the absence of a proper sewage system leads to air rich with fecal matter, and the city lacks street signs and paved roads. Kabul is proof that the international-aid system needs fixing.

But the biggest tests I face are at the workplace. Building capacity within a population that had—and continues to have—little access to higher education, proper nutrition, and meaningful work experience is challenging. The other day, I asked my colleague Akbar to select his favorite photographs for PDT's marketing materials. He found it exceedingly difficult. "Nita, we [Afghans] never have to make decisions in our lives. From the time we're born to the time our marriage is arranged, we never have the chance," he said. After this moment of panic, he made his decision then smiled.





My Personal Panama



PANAMA

Aventura



DE AGENCIA

RANCHO

When the opportunity arose for me to take a job with the United Nation's World Food Programme working on HIV prevention in Panama, I jumped at the chance. I would be working to address the connections between food insecurity and HIV vulnerability by linking HIV prevention with food-based social programming, directly under WFP's regional adviser. It sounded both interesting and like a good fit for me, a Barnard senior about to graduate a semester early. I had been hoping to take a temporary job in Latin America before going to graduate school as a substitute for the time abroad that I did not manage to squeeze into my typically busy schedule during college. It seemed as if everything was falling into place.

Although I had previously spent time abroad, I must admit that I did not fully appreciate the challenges and opportunities my new job and its accompanying life would provide. However, Barnard's belief in its students and its nurturing yet demanding environment gave me the confidence I needed to navigate my new life in Panama. In addition to the many useful things I learned in my classes and through jobs and internships, Barnard helped me to embrace my inner spunk. My years in Morningside Heights helped develop the combination of tenacity and compassion that would be fundamentally necessary in my new life.

The challenges here can sometimes be overwhelming; work can present impressive demands and frustrating bureaucratic navigation. The UN system has its own language of acronyms, divisions, and agencies, which, of course, change between languages. Working for WFP, an organization dedicated to the poorest of the poor, and being based in a land of immense contrasts like Panama, can be both stimulating and fulfilling. But the realities of poverty, HIV, and hunger are often simply overwhelming.

In Panama, just getting to work can be a challenge. To date, my car has been hit four times while waiting at intersections or parked. It's caught fire while I was lost, and seen many mechanics of questionable integrity. These adventures occur between periodic street closures, often for protests, riots, or unexplained construction activities.

Nonetheless, I try to spend my weekends exploring the country or volunteering at an orphanage near La Chorrera, an effort that is always worth it and usually reminds me why I love Panama and my job. When I first went to Hogar Malambo, Catholic-run orphanage and school serving disadvantaged children on the outskirts of Panama City, a new baby had arrived in the area set aside for children living with HIV. His name was Vicente, and his tiny body wrapped in a blue blanket broke my heart. He seemed so completely alone and, even though a child's HIV status is typically unknown for 18 months, I was sure he would have to face great adversity. Although my own small piece of work and the UN's overarching Millennium Development Goals face great odds, we make some progress every day. And Vicente is growing to be a strong baby, big for his age and full of smiles, already a charmer.

At college I knew that I wanted to travel and, however clichéd, attempt to truly help people in whatever field I chose. Barnard helped those vague aspirations coalesce into something that is more than a "day job." My work is intellectually stimulating and allows me to learn more about the world every day, and also allows me to believe that what I do, in some small way, can help improve someone else's life. HIV as a disease plays into so many human vulnerabilities—poverty, discrimination, lack of education, and gender inequality chief among them. Addressing HIV prevention and mitigation with WFP allows me to feel that my work helps some of the people who need it the most: Is there any better reason to go to work?

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