

## A Double Discovery for NYC High Schoolers: Columbia's DDC Offers Summer Seminar on Freedom and Citizenship. By Ernest Beck



The 2011 class of Columbia University's Double Discovery Center celebrates its graduation. Public Affairs Office video

This summer, 15 low-income New York City high school students are preparing for a special experience engaging with students and faculty at Columbia University as they take part in the Double Discovery Center's Freedom and Citizenship Seminar. The students will spend three weeks in rigorous, college-level seminars poring over great works that cover the themes of freedom and citizenship, ranging from Plato and Aristotle in ancient Greece to President Barack Obama's groundbreaking speech on race. Casey Blake, a professor in the department of history and founder of the Freedom and Citizenship Program, describes the seminar as a life-changing experience for everyone involved. "It's extraordinary to see the kids grapple with the major works of Western

political philosophy," he explains, "and the extent to which they work through the ancient materials and keep referring to them as they discuss contemporary events."

The Freedom and Citizenship Seminar, funded by the Teagle Foundation, began in 2009 and is a partnership between the Double Discovery Center, an education and youth development program based at Columbia, and the University's American Studies Program. DDC itself has a storied past, having grown out of student and faculty activism in the early 1960s aimed at creating more engagement between the University and the community. Celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2010, DDC each year gives more than 1,000 New York City youth — mostly low-income, college bound, first generation immigrant

students — a chance to improve their academic work, learn about college and careers and participate in personal development activities. One DDC program, called Talent Search, provides counseling and information, tutoring and SAT preparation. Another is Upward Bound, originally part of President Johnson's War on Poverty, which offers college prep courses to students in serious academic need.

The programs also reflect a long-standing tradition of Columbia students and faculty reaching out and connecting with the community, through DDC and other programs. "Historically at Columbia, academic learning is committed to public service, and we see ourselves as part of this vision," Blake says. "It is very much part of what we do at Columbia."

## Professor Manning Marable Dies on Eve of Publication of His New Malcolm X Biography



Manning Marable

The University community mourned the untimely death of Professor Manning Marable on Friday, April 1, just days before the release of his long-awaited biography of Malcolm X.

Marable was the M. Moran Weston/Black Alumni Council

Professor of African American Studies. A highly respected historian, social theorist and political activist, he died at age 60 after a long battle with lung disease.

"Manning's life and work demonstrates both the extraordinary dedication of the scholar and the importance of scholarship in exploring the complexity of life," said Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger. "This is a great loss not only for Columbia, but also for an academic field and

a society that has benefitted so much from his pioneering work."

Marable came to Columbia in 1993 after having led programs in African American studies and interdisciplinary studies at Fisk University, Colgate University and Ohio State University. He was the founding director (1993-2003) of Columbia's Institute for Research in African-American Studies (IRAAS), one of the nation's most respected African American studies programs, and the Center for the Study of Contemporary Black History (2002-2011), an innovative new media research center at Columbia.

Marable was the author of nearly 20 books and more than 275 scholarly articles, but he will also be remembered as a much-loved mentor to his students and for his dedication to social and political causes. He devoted time to speaking throughout the country on behalf of labor, civil rights, prisoners' rights and social justice groups, and he taught courses and lectured at Rikers Island Correctional Facility and Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, N.Y.

"He wanted his body of work to be an important con-

tribution to the black freedom struggle, which to him was a major dimension of struggles for justice and human dignity worldwide," said Farah Griffin, former director of IRAAS and the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies. In an interview with the "Columbia Spectator," Griffin said, "Even in the throes of his illness, he continued to teach, write and lecture whenever he could."

Nicholas B. Dirks, executive vice president for Arts and Sciences, said, "Manning Marable's foundational role in building African American studies at Columbia reflected his own passionate commitment to public and institutional work as necessary supplements to scholarly endeavor. He was an exemplary citizen of the University and a beloved colleague who will be greatly missed."

Marable had spent the last two decades researching and writing "Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention," which early commentators say is likely to reshape the civil rights leader's legacy.

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## Community Leaders Mingle with Columbia Faculty at Second Annual Reception.



Sustainability was the theme of this year's Columbia Community Reception hosted by Columbia University's Office of the Provost and the Office of Government and Community Affairs. The event was designed as part of the West Harlem Community Benefits Agreement in order to foster opportunities for collaboration between the University's various academic programs and the surrounding community. Pictured: Emily Ford, an assistant director at Columbia University's Double Discovery Center, with Rachel Watts, director of Education and Outreach for Ballet Hispanico.

## In the Know

### School of the Arts Faculty, Alumni, Recognized at 2011 Sundance Festival

Columbia University School of the Arts filmmakers played definitive roles in films that won major awards at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. "Project Nim," co-produced by Film Program Assistant Professor and Director of Production Maureen Ryan, won the World Cinema Documentary Directing Award. Film alumnus Markus Kirschner ('09SOA) is production designer for the film, and alumnus Geoffrey Quan ('08SOA) is production coordinator. "Circumstance," which won the U.S. Dramatic Competition Audience Award, was edited by alumna Andrea Chignoli ('07SOA). In addition, Cherien Dabis ('04SOA) was awarded the 2011 Sundance/NHK International Filmmakers Award, which recognizes and supports a visionary filmmaker on his or her next film. Sundance will work closely with Dabis throughout the year, providing creative and strategic support through development, financing and production. Dabis wrote and directed "Amreeka," which started as her thesis film at the School of the Arts and went on to screen in the U.S. Dramatic Competition at Sundance in 2009, open the New Directors/New Films Festival that same year, win the FIPRESCI Prize at Cannes and be distributed nationally by National Geographic Entertainment.

### Claude M. Steele Resigns as Provost of Columbia University

Columbia University Provost Claude M. Steele announced his resignation on July 13, citing his decision to accept a position as dean of the School of Education at Stanford University beginning in the fall of this year. "The decision to accept the Stanford offer came down to a difficult-to-pass-up opportunity to play a role in the field of education at this critical time in our national history," said Steele, a social psychologist whose best-known research has focused on the effects of stereotype threat on African Americans and women in academic settings. Before coming to Columbia in 2009, Steele was a member of the social sciences faculty at Stanford, during which time he served as director of the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. "I have thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from working with Claude over the past two years," said Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger. "On behalf of the institution, we all appreciate his many contributions to our community, not least his embodiment of an outstanding scholar and teacher."



### New York City Council Approves Athletics Facility at Baker Field

On April 6, New York's City Council voted to modify waterfront zoning rules to accommodate Columbia University's plan to build a 47,000 square foot field house in Inwood. The Council's 46-1 vote to approve the rezoning paves the way for construction of the University's Campbell Athletic Complex at 218th Street and Broadway. In addition to new construction, Columbia's application allows for the restoration and extension of native marshland adjacent to Inwood Hill Park and increases public access to the waterfront, both of which are expected to increase opportunities for educational and recreational activities for the community.

## The Impact of Community Impact After 30 Years

By Melanie A. Farmer

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

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

She is one of 8,000 residents of Upper Manhattan Community Impact serves each year through more than two dozen local service groups that provide education, job training, food, shelter, clothing and health information in Morningside Heights, Harlem and Washington Heights. This year, Community Impact celebrates its 30th anniversary. What began in 1981 as an effort by Columbia students to mentor local youth has evolved into a University-supported volunteer organization that serves low-income people in the neighborhoods surrounding Columbia and provides service opportunities for 900 Columbia students, faculty and staff members each year.

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

"Those friends who I grew up with in middle school, junior high school, always stayed in the back of my mind," said Reese, who has been executive director for 22 years. "I always wanted them to have the opportunities, the pushing, the support that I was lucky enough to have. So when I interviewed for the job at Community Impact at Columbia, one of the things that was most exciting to me was the opportunity to work with the population that I had grown up with."

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

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

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

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# Columbia Professor Locates the “Spirit” in African American Studies

By Kevin Brannon

From Langston Hughes’ chronicle of his fall from faith in “The Big Sea” to the spiritual quest seen in the life and literature of Jean Toomer, so many of the iconic works of African American arts and letters exhibit some evidence of religious influence. Yet, scholarship in African American studies has largely neglected religion as an object of critical study. The reasons for this are various, according to Josef Sorrett, assistant professor of religion and African American studies at Columbia University. Many black intellectuals and artists, Sorrett says, have focused on African religious traditions rather than Christianity as the root of black spirituality, while others wish to avoid the stereotype of African Americans as “inherently religious” altogether.

“Some do not think religion is as central [to African American studies] as social and economic structures,” Sorrett notes. “Early studies of the Harlem Renaissance, for example, were often framed in terms of political utility. Also, the once popular perception that society was increasingly secular may make focusing on religion seem less interesting than other approaches.”

With his forthcoming book, “The Spirit Is Black: A Religious History of Racial Aesthetics,” Sorrett traces the crucial role religion has played in the production of African American culture by identifying “religion” and “spirituality” as key concepts for discussing what amounts to a black aesthetic. In it, he accounts for African American religious history through the lives and works of black artists and critics who are often thought of as “secular” as opposed to explicitly religious voices. In doing so, he is able to offer an account of the “spirit” in African American culture that is less constrained by the usual interweaving of religion with racial politics and identity so characteristic of American history.

“By working with figures and movements that have typically been cast as secular, I trouble the boundaries of what is considered ‘sacred’ in African American religion

and culture.” By way of example he added, “It is impossible to imagine James Baldwin’s aesthetic without the rhythms and cadences of his early religious life, even if he evolves beyond its dogmas and doctrines.”

Sorrett is also editing a volume that explores the intersection of sexuality and religion in African American churches, a project that evolved out of a forum at Columbia’s Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life (IRCPL) and the Institute for Research in African-American Studies (IRAAS). Previously, Sorrett had met with clergy, bishops and lay members of African American Churches around the nation in focus groups that met in the wake of California’s Proposition 8, a ballot proposition that states that California only recognizes marriages between a man and a woman. “The goal was to produce descriptive accounts of where American African American churches actually are on these issues, for better or for worse, beyond sound-bites and exit polls,” he says. “Sexuality may be perceived as a taboo topic, but members of black churches are wrestling with these questions and looking for more helpful, constructive ways of addressing these issues.”

While narrow views on sexuality are certainly not limited to African American churches, Sorrett notes that the same spirit of progressive politics that characterized black churches in the 1960s has yet to extend to rights issues like gay marriage. However, he hopes the book will help inform a more open and robust public debate about sexuality and religion. “Scholarship can benefit activism, and scholars are always speaking to a variety of audiences,” Sorrett says. “The significance of this book will be measured in the Academy, but there is also some hope that religious leaders might find some use for it in their work.”

Sorrett’s desire to combine his intellectual commitments with his sense of community engagement was also in evidence on May 14, when he moderated a discussion entitled “Jazz and the Spirit” as part of the annual Harlem Jazz Shrines. The conversation featured panelists includ-



Photo courtesy of Josef Sorrett

ing Marcellus Blount, who teaches African American literature and cultural studies at Columbia; jazz composer, pianist and Columbia graduate student Courtney Bryan; and Calvin O. Butts, pastor of the nationally renowned Abyssinian Baptist Church, and president of SUNY College at Old Westbury. “From the spirituals, through blues and jazz and right on up to hip hop, religion has occupied a place of privilege in black musical repertoires,” Sorrett said. “At the same time, Harlem — that premier staging ground of African-American cultural expression — has in many ways figured pre-eminently as a sacred place and space in American history. This panel was a great opportunity to explore the spiritual dimensions of Harlem’s aesthetic legacies and its contemporary vitality.”

# Columbia Public Health Program Reduces Hospital Visits for Local Preschoolers With Asthma

By Michael A. Hernandez



Santa Del Rosario of the community group Alianza Dominicana and her son Jeremy, 7, use an asthma spacer. Photo courtesy of Columbia University Office of Public Affairs

Nearly one in ten preschool children in the U.S. has been diagnosed with asthma. In New York City, neighborhoods in upper Manhattan, including Harlem, and Fordham, in the Bronx, have the highest childhood asthma rates — in some areas, higher than the national average. Yet few asthma management programs are designed for parents of preschool children. A new program established by Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health works to address this gap and help families better prevent and treat asthma.

The program, called Asthma Basics for Children (ABC), provided multiple opportunities for parents to learn about

asthma signs, triggers and management techniques through activities held at 31 daycare centers in northern Manhattan. Program leaders worked with a coalition of community service organizations, educators, parenting programs and community pediatric providers to offer a multilayered approach that includes educational activities as well as training for community pediatric providers. Following participation in the program, 85 percent of parents reported reducing their child’s asthma triggers. The number of asthma-related visits to emergency departments declined sharply, from 74 percent to 47 percent, as did asthma-related hospitalizations, dropping from 24 percent to 11 percent. Full results of the program were published in the February 2011 Journal of Urban Health.

Parent participation was made more convenient through flexible workshop and activity scheduling. The Columbia researchers found that parent participation rates in the study exceeded rates found in most other preschool or school-based asthma programs.

“Although emergency room visits and hospitalization rates for this age group are more than twice that of older children with asthma, until we developed the ABC model, only a handful of programs had been designed to promote better asthma management by their parents of preschoolers,” said Sally E. Findley, professor of clinical population and family health at the Mailman School and lead author of the paper. “Our study suggests that this is an excellent time to engage parents in learning how to control their child’s asthma, which is evidenced in the huge gains that parents made in asthma control.”

Another key element of the ABC strategy was design-

ing asthma education activities for the daycare setting to improve communication between parents and their child’s healthcare provider. Parents in the program said they were often reluctant to share concerns with their physician, especially about possible side effects of their child’s asthma medications. After participating in the program, however, nearly 90 percent of the parents said they found it easier to talk to their doctor, and 80 percent said they were confident in their ability to manage their child’s asthma. The two-pronged strategy of strengthening communication skills of parents and their child’s healthcare provider is likely to have contributed to the changes in asthma management behaviors, improved confidence and improved asthma control, said Dr. Findley.

Asthma control outcomes improved progressively as the child’s exposure to ABC’s multilayered interventions increased. “This study shows that you can improve asthma outcomes for preschoolers with an approach that integrates activities for children, parents, teachers and healthcare providers,” noted Dr. Findley. “The greatest impact occurs when you combine education interventions at all of these levels. Our hope is that the asthma control skills that parents learn through this program will continue to help them support asthma control as their children progress in their schooling at community elementary schools.”

The project was funded by the CDC’s Controlling Asthma in American Cities Project.

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# Columbia Employee's Baseball League Offers Summer Sports Programs for Uptown Youth

By Ernest Beck

Kelvin McAllister grew up in the streets of Manhattanville, part of a large sports loving family that played ball in the parks and watched the neighborhood lurch through many crises. So in the 1980s, when McAllister saw the impact that the closing of community and daycare centers was having, he decided to do something about it: he started the Uptown Inner City League, a free sports program aimed at providing “outdoor activities that would keep kids safe and off the streets and out of trouble,” says McAllister, 52, who has worked as an electrician at Columbia University for the past 27 years.

Today, the League offers a co-ed sports programs for around 400 kids, ages 2 to 18, for nine months a year. While focused on baseball, the League also has basketball, softball and recreational activities based in a playground on 131st Street and Amsterdam, which makes it very much a community-based organization — one that also receives substantial financial, material and personal support from the Columbia University community. For the past eight years, Columbia Community Service, which supports critical community organizations, has provided an annual grant of \$5,000, or half of the league's \$10,000 annual budget.

That might seem like a small amount, but the money is essential to the League's operation. Funding goes toward the cost of essentials like bats, uniforms and trophies and a much-anticipated trip each summer to Greensboro, North Carolina, to attend the Black World Series baseball event. Yet Columbia provides much more than just money: Columbia engineering students and faculty are currently involved in helping design and build a shed for storing sports equipment and a durable, lightweight easy-to-assemble mobile batting cage for the League.

It's the kind of helping hand that McAllister believes is crucial for the University and the League. “Columbia plays an important role in the community, and we are in the community too,” he says. “We work hand in hand for the community.”

In that sense, the league is very much a grass roots



Columbia University electrician Kelvin McAllister with members of the Uptown Inner City League

operation. It serves kids in the neighborhood regardless of race or ethnicity — or even sports skills — who might otherwise end up in gangs or criminal activity. Many participants come from low income, single-family homes. They would have few opportunities to get involved in sports. “This gives kids another direction,” McAllister says. Even if they can't afford to pay, he adds, “we want them to be able to enjoy sports.”

With the League firmly established, McAllister is now thinking about a new direction: setting up a learning center that would, with the help of Columbia students and

staff, provide academic tutoring to kids in addition to the sports program. The idea is to find a small classroom for about 10 students, possibly at SIPA, who would receive help on weekends to prepare for their SATs, to be staffed by faculty, students or even retired teachers in the community. Like the League and its sports program, this academic offshoot would be all about supporting kids and the community with the help of Columbia. “You got to give back to the community, and give kids something to believe in,” McAllister says, “something they can depend on.”

# Bloomberg Visits Campus to Launch New Center Devoted to Green Building Technology

Just weeks after Columbia officially opened the Northwest Corner Building, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg used the building's dramatic atrium as the backdrop for announcing a new center devoted to green building technology — part of his plan create a sustainable future for the city.

The NYC Urban Technology Innovation Center was established to promote the development of commercialization of green building technologies in New York City. It was developed through a partnership between The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, Polytechnic Institute of New York University, the city's Economic Development Corporation and City University of New York (CUNY).

“By bringing together New York City's business innovators, academics and building owners, the NYC Urban Technology Innovation Center will capitalize on some of our city's greatest strengths, creating jobs and helping realize our vision of a greener, greater New York,” Bloomberg said at the January 20 event.

On Earth Day 2007, Bloomberg announced PlaNYC 2030, his comprehensive sustainability plan that seeks to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions while accommodating a population growth of nearly 1 million over the next quarter century.

The center has the potential to help the city achieve its goals by funneling the latest scientific research into sustainable building technology to companies that are making green products and real estate developers who are willing to use them. In addition, it will serve as a clearinghouse for information about the costs and benefits of the new technology.

The center “will promote building efficiency,” said Senior Associate Dean Jack McGourty, executive director



Pictured from left: University senior executive vice president Robert Kasdin; Economic Development Corp. president Seth W. Pinsky; Trinity Real Estate president Jason Prizer; IBM researcher Jane Snowdon; Bloomberg; CUNY vice chancellor for research Gillian Small; CE dean Feniosky Peña-Mora; and NYU Polytechnic President Jerry Hultin

of the center, which will be managed by the Engineering School's Center for Technology, Innovation and Community Engagement. “This not only will be vital in reducing the city's overall carbon footprint, but also will promote economic growth.”

Speaking at the event, Robert Kasdin, senior executive vice president of the University, said the Bloomberg administration recognized the importance of scientific knowledge and technological innovation in creating a

vibrant urban economy.

“New York always has been a place of big ideas, many of them fueled by our great colleges and universities,” he said. “Columbia always has taken its identity from being both in and of the city of New York. Today is a day to celebrate that bond and what it will mean for New York's future.”

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## Associate Dean of Community Outreach Appointed at School of the Arts

**M**arcia Sells, an associate vice president in Columbia's Office of Government and Community Affairs (GCA), has assumed the additional title of associate dean of community outreach at the Columbia University School of the Arts. The joint appointment, which became effective in February, formalizes an already ongoing collaboration between the cultural staff of GCA and the School of the Arts and establishes the school's first Office of Community Outreach.

"Marcia's appointment will enable us to develop more opportunities for faculty and students to engage in the cultural development of Upper Manhattan and to establish stronger ties with schools and cultural organizations," said Carol Becker, dean of the School of the Arts.

The appointment also ensures that the wide range of Sells' GCA activities unrelated to the arts will continue to thrive. Karen Jewett, vice president for government and community affairs, will continue her role as the primary liaison from GCA to the Office of the Provost and the academic community and will work closely with Sells on projects and programs that are of joint interest. Joining Sells are Orit Yakuel and Lamar Lovelace.

Sells and her staff will continue to develop and coordinate cultural partnerships and programs with local schools and arts organizations in Upper Manhattan, which has included an exhibition program for local artists, The New York Times Great Children's Read, the Big Read program of the National Endowment for the Arts, and Shall We Dance, an on-campus summer series that brings dance instruction and films to local communities. They will also continue to coordinate partnerships with Columbia Law School and community law offices.

"This innovative joint appointment recognizes Marcia's breadth of talents and will create an ongoing bridge between our office and the School of the Arts, expanding community access to the intellectual and artistic resources of the school," said Maxine Griffith, the University's executive vice president for government and community affairs. "This kind of engagement between the University and our community reflects President Bollinger's vision of how a true partnership can enhance both Columbia's educational mission and the lives of our neighbors, whether through the arts and culture, health care and education, training and economic opportunity. We look forward to working with Dean Becker to help fulfill this important element of what it means to be a great urban university."

Before college, Sells was a performer with the Dance Theatre of Harlem. She is a graduate of Barnard College and Columbia Law School and served as an assistant district attorney in Brooklyn and as an associate in the law firm of Chadbourne and Parke before returning to Morningside Heights as dean of students at Columbia Law School. She went on to become vice president of organizational development and human resources at the National Basketball Association and vice president of human resources at Reuters America. She rejoined Columbia's administration in 2002.



Marcia Sells celebrates National Poetry Month with Orit Yakuel and Lamar Lovelace.

Kevin Brammon

## Lessons From Columbia Community Health Partnership



The co-editors, Hernandez-Cordero and Formicola

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

imposing their programming or their research projects," said Hernandez-Cordero.

Community Voices had identified high rates of asthma, high teenage pregnancy rates, drug use and violence as the major problems plaguing Washington Heights and Harlem, as well as low immunization rates among children and some

applied throughout the United States.

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

The program brought together some 30 institutions and community groups led by Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine, Alianza Dominicana, Inc. and Harlem Hospital Center. Northern Manhattan was one of 13 sites nationwide in the Community Voices program, an effort to improve health care access for the underserved funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

"The collaboration was based on this respect for our colleagues in the community, that it wasn't just about Columbia coming and

48,000 people without health insurance. In addition to its success in raising the number of insured residents and the vaccination rate, the program provided 4,000 families with improved asthma management.

"We spent a fair amount of time on the structure," Formicola said of the program. "We also didn't just go to the community and say, 'We know everything and you need this.' We did a survey with the community and wanted to find out what they thought were their main health problems, what bothered them most, and then set our priorities around their needs."

As an undergraduate, Hernandez-Cordero was studying chemical engineering at the University of Puerto Rico when she realized she was spending more time organizing health promotion activities than working in the chemistry lab. "I was in and out of the lab and really missed human interaction," says Hernandez-Cordero, describing her fifth year in engineering school. "At the same time, I was working at Student Health Services, mobilizing student organizations to take on community projects. I would always complete my monthly hours and then some. I loved it so much."

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

When Formicola began community work as dean of the dental college — he would see patients from the community with no access to preventative care, who suffered from dental disease and could not afford treatment — the University's ties to the surrounding neighborhoods were rocky. Columbia's relationship with the community "has since come a long, long way," he said. "I'm a big believer in building solid community relations for universities. That's what universities should be doing. We should be taking on some of these real and practical problems that people suffer with."

*Originally published in the April 20, 2011, edition of the Columbia University Record.*

Lynn Saville

# Dinkins Forum Focuses on Crisis in State Budgets

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

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

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

Among the speakers was former New York governor David Paterson, who said the way out of the lingering economic crisis on both the federal and state levels was “revenue generation.” While noting that he was no fan of deficit spending, Paterson said the current emphasis in Washington on slashing the federal budget would cause “the engine of the economy to grind to a halt.”

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

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

Forsythe noted that economic cycles are predictable and

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

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

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

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

As the economy has improved, revenues have begun to rise. But Paterson warned that any progress could be jeopardized by cuts in Washington. He noted that European



Former New York City mayor David N. Dinkins

countries that ended their stimulus spending in favor of slashing budgets are now in deflationary spirals.

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

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## In the Mix



Don Sussman



Clockwise from top: University Facilities showcases Columbia’s award-winning landscaping on the Morningside Heights campus through self-guided tours available at: <http://facilities.columbia.edu/garden-tours>. For more information visit [www.facilities.columbia.edu/garden-tours](http://www.facilities.columbia.edu/garden-tours). Columbia University chemistry professor Gerard Parkin was one of 15 recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, awarded by President Barack Obama. Yoko Ono headlining the sold-out “Benefit For Japan” concert presented by Miller Theatre at Columbia University School of the Arts.



Shawn Brackbill

# Our Elected Officials and Community Boards

## FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Sen. Charles E. Schumer**  
757 Third Ave., Ste. 17-02  
New York, NY 10017  
Phone: 212-486-4430  
TDD: 212-486-7803  
Fax: 212-486-7693  
www.schumer.senate.gov

**Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand**  
780 Third Avenue, Ste. 2601  
New York, New York 10017  
Phone: 212-688-6262  
Fax: 212-688-7444  
http://gillibrand.senate.gov/

**Rep. Jerrold Nadler (District 8)**  
201 Varick St., Ste. 669  
New York, NY 10014  
Phone: 212-367-7350  
Fax: 212-367-7356  
www.house.gov/nadler

**Rep. Charles B. Rangel (District 5)**  
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building  
163 W. 125 St., Ste. 737  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-663-3900  
Fax: 212-663-4277  
www.house.gov/rangel

## STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224  
Phone: 518-474-8390  
Fax: 518-474-1513  
www.governor.ny.gov  
contact@transitionny.org

**State Sen. Bill Perkins (District 30)**  
163 West 125th Street, Suite 912  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-222-7315  
perkins@senate.state.ny.us

**State Sen. Adriano Espaillat (District 31)**  
5030 Broadway  
New York, NY 10034  
United States  
Phone: 212-544-0173  
Fax: 212-544-0256  
espailla@nysenate.gov  
www.nysenate.gov/senator/adriano-espaillat

**Assemblymember Daniel J. O'Donnell (District 69)**  
245 W. 104th St.  
New York, NY 10025  
Phone: 212-866-3970  
odonned@assembly.state.ny.us

**Assemblymember Keith L.T. Wright (District 70)**  
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building  
163 W. 125th St., Ste. 911  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-866-5809  
wrightk@assembly.state.ny.us

**Assemblymember Herman D. Farrell Jr. (District 71)**  
2541-55 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.  
New York, NY 10039  
Phone: 212-234-1430  
farrellh@assembly.state.ny.us

**Assemblymember Guillermo Linares (District 72)**  
210 Sherman Ave., Ste. A  
New York, NY 10034  
Phone: 212-544-2278  
linaresg@assembly.state.ny.us  
www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Guillermo-Linares

## LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg**  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: 212-788-9600  
Fax: 212-788-2460  
www.nyc.gov/mayor

**Public Advocate Bill de Blasio**  
1 Centre St., 15th Flr.  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: 212-669-7200 (General)  
Phone: 212-669-7250 (Ombudsman)  
Fax: 212-669-4701  
ombudsman@pubadvocate.nyc.gov  
www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov

**Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer**  
1 Centre St., 19th Flr.  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: 212-669-8300  
Fax: 212-669-3380  
bp@manhattanbp.org  
www.mbpo.org

Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building  
163 W. 125th St., 5th Flr.  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-531-1609  
Fax: 212-531-1610

**Comptroller John C. Liu**  
1 Centre St.  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: (212) 669-3500  
TTY: 212-669-3450  
Fax: 212-669-2707  
www.comptroller.nyc.gov  
action@comptroller.nyc.gov

**City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn**  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007  
Phone: 212-788-7210  
Fax: 212-788-7207  
www.nycouncil.info/rightnow/  
speakerspage.cfm

**City Councilmember Gale A. Brewer (District 6)**  
563 Columbus Ave.  
New York, NY 10024  
Phone: 212-873-0282  
Fax: 212-873-0279  
gbrewer@council.nyc.gov  
http://council.nyc.gov/d6

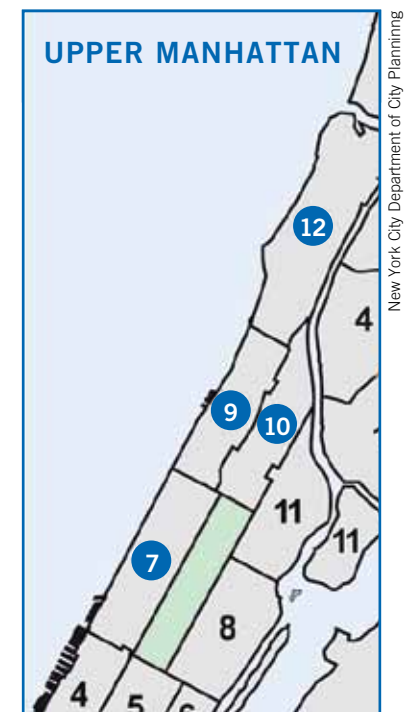
**City Councilmember Robert Jackson (District 7)**  
751 W. 183rd St.  
New York, NY 10033  
Phone: 212-928-1322  
Fax: 212-928-4177  
rjackson@council.nyc.gov  
http://council.nyc.gov/d7

**City Councilmember Melissa Mark Viverito (District 8)**  
105 E. 116th St.  
New York, NY 10029  
Phone: 212-828-9800  
Fax: 212-828-9813  
mviverito@council.nyc.gov  
http://council.nyc.gov/d8

**City Councilmember Inez E. Dickens (District 9)**  
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building  
163 W. 125th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-678-4505  
Fax: 212-442-2732  
idickens@council.nyc.gov  
http://council.nyc.gov/d9

**City Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez (District 10)**  
618 W. 177th Street, Ground Flr.  
New York, NY 10033  
Phone: 917-521-2616  
Fax: 917-521-1293  
yrodriquez@council.nyc.gov  
http://council.nyc.gov/d10

## COMMUNITY BOARDS



**Community Board 7**  
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 59th Street to 110th Street; general meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 7 office.

250 W. 87th Street  
New York, NY 10024  
Phone: 212-362-4008  
Fax: 212-595-9317  
office@cb7.org  
Board Chair: Mel Wymore  
District Manager: Penny Ryan  
www.nyc.gov/html/mancb7

**Community Board 9**  
Represents the community between the Hudson River and Morningside/Edgecombe Avenues from 110th Street to 155th Street; general meetings are held the third Thursday evening of the month at the CB 9 office.

16-18 Old Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-864-6200  
Fax: 212-662-7396  
nyc-cb9m@juno.com  
Board Chair: Larry English  
District Manager: Eutha Prince  
www.cb9m.org

**Community Board 10**  
Represents the community between Fifth Avenue and Morningside/Edgecombe Avenues from 110th Street to 159th Street; general meetings are held the first Wednesday evening of the month at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Harlem State Office Building, 163 W. 125th St., 2nd Flr.

215 W. 125th St., 4th Flr.  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-749-3105  
Fax: 212-662-4215  
plodhi@cb.nyc.gov  
Board Chair: Franc Perry  
District Manager: Paimaan Lodhi  
www.nyc.gov/mcb10

**Community Board 12**  
Represents the community between the Hudson River and the Harlem River from 155th Street to 215th Street; general meetings are held the fourth Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 12 office.

711 W. 168th St.  
New York, NY 10032  
Phone: 212-568-8500  
Fax: 212-740-8197  
ebsmith@cb.nyc.gov  
Board Chair: Pamela Palanque-North  
District Manager: Ebenezer Smith  
www.nyc.gov/mcb12.org

## HE REPRESENTS YOU...

### New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Andrew M. Cuomo was elected the 56th Governor of New York State on November 2, 2010.

Prior to his election, Cuomo served as New York's Attorney General for four years. In that capacity, he brought national reform to the student loan industry, uncovered large-scale health insurance fraud and protected investors from abuses on Wall Street. His groundbreaking investigations into the state pension system led to public pension reforms across the country.

In 1997, Cuomo was appointed secretary of housing and urban development by President Bill Clinton. While there he instituted reforms that saved taxpayers millions of dollars while creating unprecedented economic and homeownership opportunities. He also made fighting racial discrimination a key focus and brought 2,000 antidiscrimination cases nation-wide.

Cuomo graduated from Fordham University in 1979 and Albany Law School in 1982; he first practiced law as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan. In 1986, he founded what would become the nation's largest private provider of transitional housing for the homeless, an achievement that led to his appointment by New York City Mayor David Dinkins to lead the New York City Commission on the Homeless in 1991.

He is the father of three girls, twins Mariah and Cara, who are 16 years old, and Michaela, who is 13.

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