School at Harvard to hear the
had a chance to interview Ami
going again,” Melamed said. “I
some sort of peace process
her head of the Israeli Secret
including Ami Ayalon, the for-
with the program’s developers,
peace initiative. Her efforts have
founded a campus organization
to help students to combat
depression. She has also begun
an independent research project
on the subject of a newly
launched grassroots Middle East
peace initiative. Her efforts have
led to an internship this summer
with the program’s developers,
including Ami Ayalon, the for-
mer head of the Israeli Secret
Service, and Suri Nusseibeh, an
advisor to Yasser Arafat.
“The basic idea is to get a
students movement going
some sort of peace process
again,” Melamed said. “I
had a chance to interview Ami
Ayalon for my research project.
Ayalon and Nusseibeh also
invited me to the Kennedy
School to hear the both of them speak.” Melamed said she then begged them to
come help with the peace initia-
tive. And, after evaluating her
resume, coursework and strong
academic achievement—with a
GPA over 4.0—they offered her
an internship. “I’m going to help
them with whatever I can,” she
said.
Melamed, who was born in
Jerusalem, came to New York
City at age five. She soon dis-
covered a passion for ballet and
began training. At 17, she was
offered a job with the American
Ballet Theater, which she
accepted.
Five years later, she decided to
pursue her other dream, a col-
lege education. She enrolled in
Columbia’s School of General
Studies, created specifically for
students whose educations since
high school have been interrupt-
ed or postponed for at least one
academic year, and who now
wish to complete the B.A. or
B.S. degree.
During her ballet career,
Melamed struggled with and
overcame an eating disorder.
She now volunteers her time to
educate others about the disor-
der by telling about her experi-
ences, appearing in a PBS NOVA documentary “Dying to Be Thin,” and most recently
serving as a panelist in a Colum-
bia program on depression
called “How Do I Look?”—part
of the healthLIVE series of town
hall meetings produced through
Columbia Health Services.
Here at Columbia, she was
one of the founders of Students
Against Silence, a campus orga-
nization to help students combat
depression that was instigated
following several incidents of
suicide on campus during her
freshman year.
“We got together and decided
that we needed to do something and
to start a group that can be a
support, maybe try and build
more of a sense of community
on campus,” said Melamed of
the organization. “Last year we
had a vigil in memory of those
we lost. This year we’re having
a poetry slam, and we’re bring-
ing in poets and singers and uni-
versity bands, just trying to
bring the community together.
We all work together, with Pro-
fessor Dennis Dalton as our
advisor.”
In the coming weeks, ten of
the 20 U.S. and Canadian Global
Leader winners will be chosen to
join 40 other students selected
to internationally attend the
Goldman Sachs Global Leader-
ship Institute in New York City
this July. The Institute will offer
further opportunities for those
selected to examine current glob-
al issues under the guidance of
faculty from Morehouse College
and the Wharton School, Gold-
man Sachs executives, and lead-
ers from nonprofit, business and
government sectors.

The Goldman Sachs Global
Leadership Award Program,
now in its third year, is funded by
the Goldman Sachs Foundation
and administered by the Institute
of International Education—the
same organization that adminis-
ters the Fulbright Programs.
“We’re hoping that this pro-
gram creates the opportunity for
these bright leaders of the next
generation to learn how to break
down cultural barriers by com-
ing together and meeting young
people from other cultures and
other countries and ethnicities,”
said Stephanie Bell-Rose, presi-
dent of the Goldman Sachs
Foundation. “Some of this will
challenge them to have to think
outside of the box of their own
room that intellectual curiosity was
what made life worth living.”
Passin was survived by his
wife, Helen; his brother, Sidney; a son,
Thomas; a stepson, Scott Latham; and
four grandchildren. The
Weatherhead East Asian Institute
reception will be held Tuesday,
May 6 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
in Columbia Law School’s
Prominent Greene Ames Lounge,
next door to the Faculty House.
Please RSVP to Jasmine Polanski
at cpolanski@law.columbia.edu if
you wish to attend.

GS Student Eleena Melamed Recognized by Goldman Sachs as a ‘Global Leader’

BY CAROLINE LAHRMAN

A special memorial reception will be held May 6 for renowned Japanese scholar, anthropologist and sociologist Herbert Passin. Passin, a mem-
ber of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and the Depart-
ment of Sociology at Columbia, died Feb. 26 of heart failure at the age of 86. Passin was recognized as one of the lead-
ing world experts in post-War II
Japan and a powerful force
in fostering political, eco-
nomic and cultural ties between
the United States and the
country. He served as chair-
men of the European
Asian Cultural Institute and the
Weatherhead East Asian
Research Division of the
United Nations during the
Allied Occupation of Japan under
General Douglas MacArthur.
With responsibilities in land and
economy reform, Passin played a
senior role in helping to reshape
post-war Japan. During his career,
he consulted for two Japanese
prime ministers, Yosuke
Nakasone and Noboru Takeshi-
ta, as well as many American and
Japanese corporations and foun-
dations on broad aspects of U.S.-
Japanese relations.
“His teaching and writing
Herb Passin taught us the virtues of
approaching Japanese society
with both sympathetic under-
standing and cool analytic rea-
sion,” said Gluck, Columbia
George Sansom professor of his-
tory. “Outside the University he
showed Japanese and Americans
alike the way to cross divides of
difference with bridges of com-
passion—and always with a grin.”
Passin was born in Chicago on
Dec. 16, 1916. He studied gener-
icities at the University of Illinois
and went on to earn a bachelor’s
and a master’s degree in anthro-
poLOGY from the University of
Chicago, where he later taught.
Passin’s passion for Japanese cul-
ture was first evident when he
enrolled in an army language
school to learn Japanese in
preparation for a post-surrender
occupation.
Passin was the Far Eastern rep-
resentative for the international
magazine Encounter, based in
Tokyo from 1954 to 1957, and
held positions at the University
of California, the Social Science
Research Council in Japan, Ohio
State University and University
of Washington before coming to
Columbia in 1962. On Morning-
side Heights, he taught classes at
the East Asian Institute as a pro-
fessor of sociology and served as
the chairman of the Department
of Sociology from 1973 until 1977.
Passin continued to work as a
liaison between Japan and the
United States, helping to found
the Shimoda Conference in 1967 and
playing a key role in establishing
the first parliamentary exchange
program between Washington and
Tokyo.
Passin served as the editor in
chief of the first Japanese edition
of the Encyclopedia Britannica
from 1969 to 1970. He wrote and
edited many books about Japan in
both English and Japanese includ-
ing, The United States and Japan
(Prentice-Hall, 1966); Japanese and
the Japanese: Japanese Cul-
ture Seen Through the Japanese
Language (Kodansha, 1980); and,
Encounter with Japan, (Kodansha
International, 1982.).
“Herb was truly a man for all
seasons and cultures,” said Robert
Immerman, senior research scholar
at the Weatherhead East Asian
Institute and three-decade old
friend and associate. “Although he
specialized in Japan, his insights
into Western Europe and Latin
America were equally penetrating.
He made it clear to me and to those
he taught in and out of the class-
courses at Columbia’s School of General

Sociologist Herbert Passin

Canadian Doctorate for Kandel—University Professor Eric Kandel was recently
awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Montreal during a ceremony in the
Faculty Rooms of Low Library. Pictured with Kandel, center, from the University of
Montreal, are, from left: Michel Lescop, secretary general; Vincent Castellucci, vice-dean, Faculty of Medicine; Louis Maheu, dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, and Robert Lacours, University Rector.

President Lee C. Bollinger opened the ceremony with welcoming remarks. After receiving the
honorary doctorate, Kandel gave a lecture on “how the brain forms long-term memories.”

May 6 Memorial Scheduled for Herbert Passin, Renowned Japan Scholar and Professor

By KATIE MOORE

April 25, 2003
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY RECORD