Celebratory Commencement Marks CU’s 250th Year

BY PETER KOBEL

A s tens of thousands of students, faculty, and family members gather at Low Library Plaza on May 19, they will be marking a very special occasion—commencement exercises celebrating Columbia’s 250th academic year. President Lee C. Bollinger will give the commencement address. Columbia will also grant nine honorary degrees and will present the University Medal for Excellence. The following profiles are of this year’s honorees.

Performance artist Laurie Anderson, BC’69 and SOA’72, will be musician and performance artist Laurie Anderson, BC’69, SOA’72, who will also receive an honorary Doctor of Music degree. Anderson, whose performance pieces include United States Parts I-IV and Home of the Brave, has reached a wider audience through the release of many albums. Anderson, BC’69 and SOA’72, who will also receive an honorary Doctor of Music degree. Anderson, whose performance pieces include United States Parts I-IV and Home of the Brave, has reached a wider audience through the release of many albums.

In History Talk, Rosenberg Depicts Era of Diversification

BY PETER KOBEL

B arnard history professor Rosalind Rosenberg’s April 20 lecture, “Beyond the Knickerbockers: Inclusive Columbia,” began with a few clarifications. Robert McCaughey, moderator for the Columbia 250 series, pointed out that both he and Rosenberg hold the same Barnard professorship, the Ann Whitney Olin Professor of History.

“Some have thought that maybe the two professorships represent not a chair but a kind of settee, or a two-person couch that we cohabit,” McCaughey explained. Rather, it’s “a kind of scooter that professors check out from the Barnard carpool when they are going off to other places where their reputation may be questioned if they do not carry a name chair with them. Professor Rosenberg has the scooter tonight, and I am just a professor of history.”

Before beginning her lecture, Rosenberg made a further clarification. “I don’t want to disappoint anyone this evening,” she said, “but in addressing the topic ‘Beyond the Knickerbockers,’ I will not be talking about the Boston Celtics or the New Jersey Nets.” As no one left at that point, apparently everyone was in the right place.

What Rosenberg was there to talk about was the other Knickerbockers, the Anglican and Dutch-Reformed elite that dominated New York, and Columbia, for so long. In the series opener, Columbia professor Kenneth T. Jackson, the Ann Whitney Olin Professor of History.

“I have a rich legacy of alumni who have gone on to influence their communities while staying connected to Alma Mater. In honor of this spirit, 10 distinguished alumni will receive awards for their diligent work from the Columbia University Alumni Federation at the 106th Commencement Day Luncheon on May 19 in Low Library. The keynote speaker will be musician and performance artist Laurie Anderson, BC’69, SOA’72, who will also receive an honorary Doctor of Music degree. This year’s medalists, along with their significant accomplishments and contributions, are described below.

Professor Balfus, CC’55, established the Adelle Phyllis Balfus Scholarship at the College of Arts and Sciences in memory of his wife. In honor of this spirit, 10 distinguished alumni will receive awards for their diligent work from the Columbia University Alumni Federation at the 106th Commencement Day Luncheon on May 19 in Low Library. The keynote speaker will be musician and performance artist Laurie Anderson, BC’69, SOA’72, who will also receive an honorary Doctor of Music degree. This year’s medalists, along with their significant accomplishments and contributions, are described below.

Laurence E. Ballfus, CC’55, GSAS’60, has worked with Alumni Affairs and Development as a fundraiser, a class agent, and a member of the CC’s steering committee, now planning for its 50th reunion. His current efforts entail early establishment of alumni-undergraduate connections. Ballfus has been a member of the Nassau Alumni Representative Committee for the past 25 years, serving as chair for the last 15 years. He is a member of the Society of Columbia Graduates and the Columbia University Alumni Club of Nassau County and has served on welcoming committees for Presidents Rupp and Bollinger, A John Jay associate, Ballfus endowed the Adelle Phyllis Ballfus Scholarship at the College and a “Jerusalem Stone” at the Kraft Center for Jewish Campus Life. A retired director of anesthesiology at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Queens, Ballfus, at age 66, earned an M.A. in Jewish Studies in 2000. As a participant in the John Jay Colloquium, he is continuing his Columbia education.

Wayne J. Dawkins, Journalism ’80, cofounded the Black Alumni Network newsletter and has served as editor of the monthly publication since 1980. The newsletter began with a dozen readers and absorbed future alumni classes. Hundreds of alumni, journalism industry professionals, and hundreds of alumni, journalism industry professionals, and the newsletter began with a dozen readers and absorbed future alumni classes. Hundreds of alumni, journalism industry professionals, and the newsletter began with a dozen readers and absorbed future alumni classes. Hundreds of alumni, journalism industry professionals, and the newsletter began with a dozen readers and absorbed future alumni classes. Hundreds of alumni, journalism industry professionals, and received support from such figures as Gov. Pataki.

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Alumni Federation Bestows Medals for Distinguished Service to the University

BY PETER KOBEL

Alumni Federation Bestows Medals for Distinguished Service to the University

Five faculty members are profiled.

“Taming the Climate” symposium draws experts and donors.

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