Columbia Facts: Sports

Lou Gehrig, 1925 Baseball
After playing both football and baseball at Columbia, the leg-
endary Iron Horse played for the
great New York Yankee teams of the era. In addition to
starting 2,130 consecutive games from 1921 to 1939, a
major-leaguebaseball record
that stood for 56 years, Gehrig
died, 340, hit 493 home
runs and had 1,995 RBI. He
was elected to the Baseball
Hall of Fame in 1939. Gehrig
still holds the Lions’ single
season strikeout record
with 17. He is top-10 for single
season K’s all-time at
Columbia with 77 during the
1923 season.

Jim McMillan, 1970 Basketball
Amassing more than 1,700 points in his college career, McMillan led the Ivy League in scoring in 1969-70. A three-
time All-Ivy League and All-League selection, he led the
Lions to their only Ivy League
championship in 1967-68
(bad with Princeton). He still holds the Columbia record
for made field goals in a season and career with 253 and 7,177,
respectively. He played nine
seasons in the NBA, winning a
championship with the
1972 Los Angeles Lakers.

Christine Teascheus, 2000 Swimming
A 1998 Olympic gold-medal winner as a member of the
women’s 200-meter relay team and the 2000 Olympic bronze-
medal winner in the 200-meter individual medley, Teascheus
was also the 1998 NCAA
champion in the 500-yard
freesah and 400-yard individ-
ual medley, and the 2000
NCAA champion in the 400-
meter freestyle and 400-meter individual medley.

During her collegiate career, she
never lost a race. She
assisted 32 individual
for titles and was named the
conference
Swimmer of the Year
unprecedented four straight
times.

Faculty Perspectives
One Year Later: Iraq’s Cultural Heritage Under Occupation, by Zainab Bahranri

Editor’s note: This is the first in a series of faculty perspectives addressing the key issues of our time, discussing new developments in the academic arena or exploring the implications of new research findings or directions.

Working as an art historian and archaeologist in Iraq today is a matter of dealing with daily emergency situations in which one is forced to choose between spending the day saving an Ottoman building from being demolished for the 'reconstruction effort' or arguing with a group of military officers about the need for removing a helicopter landing pad from Babylon.

The situation is even worse now than when I arrived at the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad in 2001, one year before it was looted and damaged. There were pottery sherds and ancient manuscripts, figurines and modern catalog cards strewn all over the storage rooms. In the galleries, smashed marble sculptures lay on the floors surrounded by the remains of the protective mats that had been put there by the curators to protect against the bombing campaign of March and April 2003.

Ironically, the bombing had not damaged any cultural institutions or archaeological sites. It was only in the years during the occupa-
tion, that the greatest amount of destruction took place. Going back to Iraq this summer, one year later, I found a situation that has wors-
ened daily not only in terms of security and the needs of the peo-
ople of Iraq, but for the cultural her-
itage of the country as well. I would now classify the ancient her-
itage of Iraq as being seriously endangered.

In the looting and destruc-
tion of Iraq’s museums, libraries and archives was first announced to the world, the most important and unique cultural institutions across the world, and pledges were made to assist the museums and libraries of Iraq in restoring and renovating their collections. Plans to protect archae-
ological sites were discussed by
numerous cultural NGOs in Europe and the United States (one year on, however, the situation has not improved. Few of the international pledges made in 2003 came through, and international experts, conservators, archaeologists and cultural NGOs have not been will-
ing to go to Iraq because of the dangers to which they might be exposed.

The worst part of this cultural disaster is that the archaeological sites of ancient Iraq is Arabesque, the so-called ‘cradle of civilization’. It has more than ten thousand listed an-
cient archaeological sites as well as hundreds of medieval and Ottoman mosques, Christian and Jewish mon-
uments. The archaeological sites are being looted to an extent that was previously unimaginable. The looting supplies the appetites of a large international illicit trade in antiquities, and many objects end up in places such as Geneva, London, Tokyo and New York.

Added to the destruction of ancient sites by looting, coalition military forces now occupy a num-
ber of important ancient Mesopo-
tamian capitals, such as Ur and Babylon. The military occupation of archaeological sites is destroying some of the most important ancient heritage sites of Iraq. The structures built by the Army into the archaeological levels, the heavy equipment they use tram-
plines ancient remains, while heli-
copter flights rattle the walls of Babylon to the point that at least two temple walls of the sixth cen-
tury B.C. have collapsed.

In Baghdad, the National Library and State Archives building is now a burned-out shell in which the employees work in the most hor-
rendous conditions. The Ottoman
archive of documents that records the major part of the public his-
tory of the country is now in the greatest danger. Having been
soaked by flooding last spring, the archive began to mildew Upon the advice of paper conservators, the entire archive was removed to
freeriers in order to stop the fur-
ther growth of the mold. In Iraq, where it is not unusual for tempera-
tures to soar to 140 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer, keeping the archives from the small feet. When I left this past August, the power in Baghdad was only avail-
able about nine hours a day if the archives should thaw, they will be destroyed.

Without the intervention and assistance from the international cultural community, the history of Iraq, its ancient sites, its medieval and Ottoman collections of manu-
scripts, its standing monuments, will continue to be destroyed. Such assistance can take different forms.

World media must make coverage of this ongoing cultural catastrophe a priority, and individuals can lobby their governments to pressure coalition forces to use greater cau-
tion around archaeological sites.

Bahranri is the Edith Perlado Associate Professor in Columbia’s Department of Art History and Archaeology.

Hood, Shahabuddin honored for exemplary teaching

By Peter Rolheid

What makes a teacher
great? It’s certainly more than the depth of scholarship, breadth of
knowledge and a long list of publications. It’s perhaps the teach-
er’s accomplishments. It is a certain inestimable ability to make
that knowledge accessible and exciting to
students, to provoke original thought, to challenge them with
new ideas and fresh insights.

It is for these qualities and more that Donald C. Hood, a
William F. Bender Professor of Psychology in the
Psychology Department at Columbia College, and Peruza Shahabuddin, professor of Indus-

trial Engineering and Operations Research at the Fu

Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, have been honored with the annual Great Teacher Awards, presented by the Society of
Columbia Graduates.

The awards will be presented to Hood and Shahabuddin at a gala
dinner to be held in Low Library Rotunda on November 29. Paul deBono, president of the Society of Columbia Graduates, announced

Hood and Shahabuddin join a distinguished array of professors, including such illustrious teachers as
Mark Van Doren, Morton Friedman, Kenneth Jackson, Hilary Balson and Alan Brinkley. Each recipient of the award has his or her name inscribed on the plaque under the Teaching Lion in Butler Library.

Both professors expressed their gratitude and excitement on receiving the awards.

"I was thrilled," said Hood. "We attract inquisitive, intellectually
aggressive students to Columbia—
that's a great honor to them."

"I had absolutely not expected this," Shahabuddin said. "More than just honored, I am very moved by this."

Hood joined the Columbia fac-
cy in 1969 after receiving his B.S.
and Ph.D. in psychology from Brown University. Hood has
served as the chair of his department several times and as vice president of Arts & Sciences (1982-1987). In recognition of his excellent teaching, he received the 1993 Mark Van Doren Award for Outstanding Teaching, which is the most prestigious teaching award

conferred by an undergraduate stu-
dent committee.

"The Great Teacher Award and the Mark Van Doren Award come from the people who mean the most to me—the people I've taught," Hood said. "I'm doing this for the recognition of my peers. I'm doing this for the stu-
dents."

For those interested in seeing Hood's teaching style live, he will be presented with a series of three classes on the brain and behavior at Milliken Theater under the rubric "Theatre of Ideas". The first lecture is set for Sept. 15.

Shahabuddin has taught at Columbia's Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science since 1995. A member of the facul-
ty in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Re-
search, he was promoted to profes-
sor in January. Prior to coming to the University, he was a researcher at IBM's T. J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., where he specialized in systems analysis. A graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology, he received his Ph.D. from Cambridge in 1990.

Shahabuddin has received numerous professional awards and honors, including the National Science Foundation CAREER Award and the IBM Faculty Development Award. In 1998, he was elected an Eminent Engineer by Tau Beta Pi for "distinctiveness in eminent atta-
ments in engineering."

"Two years ago I had second thoughts about joining academics, because of my stuttering," Shaha-

buddin said. "But I really loved being with students and interacting with them. So I took the leap. The award attests to the tremen-
dous respect for diversity without prejudice that is inherent in Columbia culture."

In addition to the Great Teacher Awards, a special service award will be given by the Society of Columbia Graduates to Jacob W. Smut. Queen Wilhelmina Professor of History, for his commitment to undergraduate teaching and his contributions as a teacher of all four courses in the core Principal Core Curriculum courses.

For more information contact
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