The first major exhibition of treasures from the Special Collections Libraries at Columbia in more than 50 years will give the public a glimpse of the unique resources gathered by the University since its founding in 1754. Jewels in Her Crown: Treasures from the Special Collections Libraries of Columbia’s Libraries, which commemorates the 250th anniversary of Columbia, celebrates the contribution of original rare books, manuscripts, individual and corporate archives, architectural drawings, ephemera, musical scores, works of art and artifacts, embodying over 5,000 years of human history. The exhibition opened to the public on Oct. 8, in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Jean Ashton, director of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, notes that this is the first time the public will have a chance to see Columbia’s treasures in one place. “Many people, even members of the University community who have spent decades on campus, have no idea of the depth and scope of our special collections,” she said. “Jewels in Her Crown” will draw together an unprecedented array of 250 rare and unique items from eleven Special Collections—including a Buddhist sutra dating from the year 1162 C.E., a set model for the Ziegfeld Follies of 1931, a fragment of the fluid on papyrus and a 1906 photograph of Gutzon Nollis II with his family. The objects in this exhibition bring attention to the larger collections of which they are a part. Many of them, buried within research collections largely known only to scholars, are on display for the first time. The treasures encompass items that are traditionally considered rare books, like the Phenomen Book of Hours and the Shooshgayre Folio and contemporary sources that promise to enrich future scholarship, namely the transcripts of oral histories documenting the events of 9/11. The exhibition also acknowledges the generosity of the donors whose gifts have made possible the work of students and scholars for decades. Other items include: manuscripts of Sigmund Freud’s Totem und Taboo (1913-1915) (Augustus C. Loew Health Sciences Library) and the Autobiography of John Stuart Mill, 1869-1870 (Rare Book and Manuscript Library), a 19th century Tibetan printing block, (C. V. Starr East Asian Library), a sketch of the Harlem-Richmond plans for the United Nations building, 1947 (Avery Library), John James Audubon’s “Elephant” folio edition of The Birds of America (acquired by Columbia by subscription in 1855) (the First Folio of Shakespeare’s Works, 1625 (Rare Book and Manuscript Library). The exhibition is on the sixth floor of Butler Library and will be open until Jan. 28. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m.–4:45 p.m. and Monday, 12–7:45 p.m. For additional information call 212-854-5155.

Columbia Celebrates First Graduates of Strategic Communications Master’s Program

By Caroline Lai

The first class of Columbia’s Strategic Communications program now holds its first degree candidates. They will accept diplomas on Oct. 25 with a master of science degree. They will have gained valuable experience working as communications consultants to a variety of New York City nonprofit organizations and will have gained valuable experience working as communications consultants to a variety of New York City nonprofit organizations. The program was developed after extensive consultation with chief executive officers and other high-level professionals at public relations and advertising agencies, corporations and nonprofit groups. What grew out of these discussions was the program’s strong basis in teaching the critical and analytical thinking necessary to solve complex communications problems for real-world organizations. The more than 100 groups involved in the program so far include NYC & Co., Partnership for a Drug Free America, Gatorade, Timberland, Polo Ralph Lauren Foundation, the New York Philharmonic, the Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton Society, and God’s Love We Deliver.

“Our applied curriculum and faculty are deeply rooted in the communications sector of New York City,” said Frank Wolf, dean of the School of Continuing Education, which offers the program, “with the added value of a setting that demands both intellectual rigor and on-the-job expertise.”

When Kate walked into our office and started talking about her unique experience, it was just the opposite. With her expertise and experience in the field, she has been working for five years. Her successful campaign and other work for the organization paid off personally as well. Just a few years ago, she had promoted to vice president, corporate communications and marketing for Niermann Weeks, a high-end home furnishings company where she has been working for five years.

While the promotion reflected the work I have done over the past five years, the company president made a point of telling me that it was also based on the knowledge I gained through my studies at Columbia, she said.

Jane Praeger is an instructor of the program and has owned her own media consulting and coaching business, Media Mentors, since 1992. “Our graduates know how to help organizations get from where they are to where they want to be,” said Praeger. “They are pushed to be rigorous in their research and creative in their thinking, so that they don’t settle for the most obvious and predictable solutions.”

In some courses, students do individual projects in which they are encouraged to seek out and adopt relationships with organizations. In others, instructors bring communications professionals to the classroom. That’s the beauty of having practicing professionals for our faculty,” said Program Director Truda Baldwin. “These are individuals who have access to and relationships with New York City organizations because of their level of expertise and experience in the field. Communications is an increasingly important role in organizations, according to Baldwin. “The ability of an organization to effectively communicate with its constituents to influence. “Many of this year’s graduates came in as mid-career professionals,” said Praeger. “Because of the intellectual and practical experience they’ve got in the program, many of them are ready to move into the upper echelons of communications I think some of them will be real stars. For information, please visit www.ce.columbia.edu/stratcomm.