

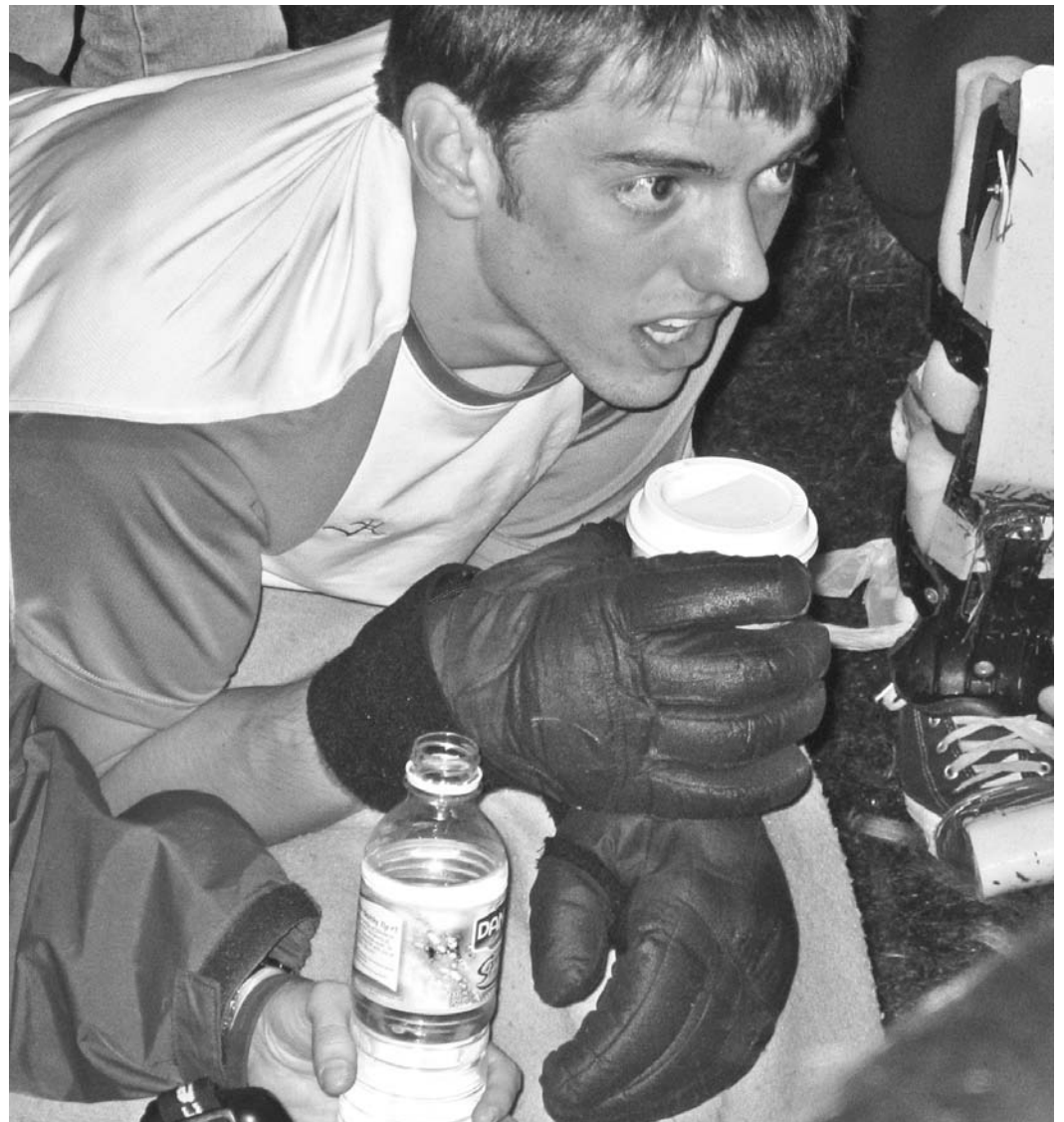
Columbians Taking Initiative

Barnard Freshman Delivers Books for Freedom

Shelby Boyle doesn't know the meaning of traveling light. Ever since she was 14 years old, she has been carrying books to children in rural areas of El Salvador, Nicaragua, and other Central American countries. During the past five summers, Boyle has spent at least a month, sometimes two, volunteering for Books for a Better World, a nonprofit dedicated to raising child literacy rates in Latin America. In an average trip, Shelby visits more than 20 schools and libraries and delivers up to 70 books per stop. "The first time I went, I was floored by the poverty I saw and how people are trying to clean up in the wake of civil war," says Boyle. "Being with children in a read-

ing corner, school or library, you see how excited they are and how literacy is the key to a better life."

Boyle describes her journeys as "adventures." She usually stays with local families, often sleeping on their floors and forgoing amenities like running water. This summer, she had to cut her trip short after contracting dengue fever. Her spirits, however, remain undiminished, and she is looking forward to beginning her studies in neuroscience and behavior and Latin American Studies at Barnard this fall—where she hopes to make new friends who will be interested in joining next summer's excursion.



Student Crawls into Guinness Book to Help Pediatric AIDS

On June 9-11, Sean Duffy, CC'06, pictured above, and his friend Leo Chau, a senior at the University of Colorado at Boulder, crawled 32.26 miles and straight into the *Guinness Book of World Records*, raising nearly \$20,000 for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation in the process. The crawl, which took just over 44 hours through hail, lightning, rain and freezing temperatures, exceeded the previous world record of 31.44 miles set by two Scotsmen in 1992. The grueling ordeal pushed the pair to their physical and mental limits. Both were treated at a local hospital at the crawl's conclusion, Duffy suffering from hallucinations and motion sickness and Chau, from severe dehydration.

The event took place on the football field of Duffy and Chau's high school alma mater in Colorado Springs, where hundreds of onlookers braved the elements to cheer for the pair as they completed 155 laps of the field.

How did the friends come up with such an unusual idea for a fundraiser? Duffy explains: "We were looking at the Guinness Web site and thought it would be fun to break a record for charity. We saw crawling as a metaphor—we were crawling so that kids could crawl."

Interns Raise Money for London Bombing Victims



Wesley Griffin, GS'06, and Andrew Liebowitz, CC'06, were interning in London for the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) when the July 7 bombings occurred. Though neither was injured, they felt angry and in shock. When a fellow intern approached them with an idea of organizing a charity football match among interns to raise money for victims, they were moved to pitch in and help. Held on July 20, the event raised a total of £2,120 (US\$3,817) including matching funds from the RBS Community Investment Team. RBS Human Resources had also lent a hand by sponsoring official football shirts and prizes. Said Liebowitz, "Terrorism knows no geographic boundaries and neither should those who seek to help others in need. The support of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group and our education at Columbia were key drivers in bringing our dream to fruition."

Awards & Honors

RICHARD AXEL, University Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics and Pathology and recipient of a 2004 Nobel Prize for his pioneering studies on the human olfactory system, has been awarded a \$5 million grant from the Grand Challenges in Global Health Initiative to develop safe, effective, and low-cost mosquito repellents, which could aid in reducing malaria transmission. Axel's proposed research builds on state-of-the-art knowledge of the sense of smell in insects. The Grand Challenges Initiative was launched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in partnership with the National Institutes of Health to support scientific breakthroughs against diseases that afflict the world's poorest countries.

Columbia's dean of career education, **CHRISTOPHER PRATT**, has received the 2005 Donald MacLaren Award for Professional Achievement in Work-Integrated Learning. Pratt has more than 35 years of experience in learning programs in which students have the opportunity to combine periods of

professional work experience with classroom study. The award recognizes Pratt for spearheading important career education initiatives on an international level, such as Encouraging Dynamic Global Entrepreneurs, or EDGE. The EDGE program connects students at Columbia with their counterparts at the University of Glasgow to work on aiding Scottish businesses.

JAMES L. LEIGHTON, professor of chemistry, recently received a Johnson & Johnson "Focused Giving Award," aimed at supporting basic biomedical research. Leighton will use the grant—\$67,000 over three years—to employ two extra graduate students to assist with his laboratory research. "We can extend our science into areas that interest us, but would not have the resources to do so without the award," said Leighton, adding that he is grateful to Johnson & Johnson for their "generous commitment to organic chemistry." Leighton joins fellow chemistry professor Dalibor Sames, who has enjoyed the support of this award for the past three years.

Comings & Goings

Columbia has a new vice president for Information Technology: **CANDACE FLEMING**, who previously directed IT customer relations for Cadbury Schweppes... **KATHLEEN CROWLEY** has been appointed to the newly created position of associate vice president of environmental health and radiation safety for the entire university, in addition to her current responsibilities at the Medical School... **BRUCE FERGUSON**, dean of the School of Arts, will be on sabbatical during 2005-2006. **DAN KLEINMAN** will fill in as acting dean... **JOE IENUSO** has been appointed to the newly created position of vice president for Academic and Residential Facilities. He will lead the formation of a new organization with responsibility for public safety, graduate student housing, faculty housing, as well as academic, administrative and athletic facilities on the Morningside Campus... In mid-July, **MAXINE GRIFFITH** was appointed vice president for Government and Community Affairs. Griffith, who will take charge of collaborations with government officials as well as partnerships with local organizations and community leaders, previously served on the New York City Planning Commission and worked on the design of the West Harlem Waterfront... **BARRY NEUBERGER** was recently named Columbia's first-ever associate athletics director for sports marketing. His background includes nearly thirty years in college sports marketing, with significant experience in athletics administration at NCAA institutions.

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