FACULTY HONORS

Ten Arts and Sciences Faculty Honored

By Record Staff

Ten professors from the University’s Arts and Sciences faculty have won this year’s Distinguished Faculty Awards, an annual honor that recognizes faculty members who demonstrate extraordinary merit across a range of professional activities—particularly in instructing and mentoring their students.

The 2006–2007 honorees, selected by a committee of six senior Columbia faculty led by Nicholas Dirks, vice president of Arts and Sciences, will receive an annual stipend of $25,000 for three years.

This year’s honorees, from fields as various as art history, English, economics, history, physics and psychology, exemplify the commitment of Columbia’s faculty to extraordinary teaching,” said Dirks.

The awards were established in 2003 through a $112 million donation from Columbia trustee Gerry Lenfest (LW’58), one of the University’s most generous benefactors. This fall, he continued his commitment to building Columbia’s faculty with a pledge of up to $48 million to create matching funds for endowed faculty chairs.

- VIRGINIA CORNISH, associate professor of chemistry, is well known in the field for her imaginative use of genetic engineering to create new enzymes. She teaches students from all over the world.

- GERALDINE DONNELLY, professor of psychology, is a department chair who is highly regarded for her groundbreaking research on the psychological aspects of rejection. Her students stress the importance of her “Children at Risk” course.

- ROGER HARRIST, the Jane and Leopold Sengwerdoff professor of Chinese art history and department chair, is renowned for his work on issues of authorship.

- MICHAEL DAMES, 2006–2007 Distinguished Faculty Award winner, from Columbia trustee Gerry Lenfest congratulates winner Wei Shang.

- ROBERT HARRIST, the Jane and Leopold Sengwerdoff professor of Chinese art history and department chair, is renowned for his work in Chinese art history.

- LEOPOLD SWERGOLD, professor of chemistry, is well known in the field for his imaginative use of genetic engineering to create new enzymes. He mentors students from all over the world.

- WINNIE YANG, associate professor of English, is highly regarded for her groundbreaking research on the psychological aspects of rejection. Her students stress the importance of her “Children at Risk” course.

- HUBERT HENRY HARRISON (1883–1927). The libraries are reminiscent of Harry Potter and his world.

- TURKISH NOVELIST AND NOBEL LAUREATE ORHAN PAMUK, now a visiting professor at Columbia, is known for his imaginative use of digital projects, such as putting the University’s rarest objects online at www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/exhibitions/

10 REASONS TO LOVE THE LIBRARIES... AND THE LIBRARIANS

By Carolyn M. Whelan

1) Twenty-five libraries. 174 miles of books and other items. 5 million visitors and 140,000 acquisitions each year. 45,000 items checked out per month; 135 libraries (several are profiled on pp. 4–5).

2) With so many rare items you’d be hard-pressed to find one that excites you—whether it’s a Buddhist sutra dating from the year 1162 C.E., a Rococo engraving, or the papers of Harriet writer and activist Hubert Henry Harrison (1883–1927).

3) The libraries have done us the favor of displaying 250 of their rarest objects online at www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/exhibitions/treasures/.

4) Extraordinary collections attract extraordinary people. Turkish novelist and Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk, now a visiting professor at Columbia, wrote his most dazzling work, The Black Book, in a room in Butler.

5) The libraries reflect global concerns. They are now the largest repository of human rights archives in the world.

6) They have one of the world’s greatest collections on African American history—Harlem in particular.

7) They connect us with the concerns of greater NYC—e.g., through the September 11, 2001 Oral History Narrative and Memory Project tapes.

8) They have cool digital projects, such as putting Harriet’s multimedia assets online.

9) Who else on campus hosts talks with titles like “Book Worms, Red-Rot, and Leather Dressing”?

10) Last but not least, the stacks and wood paneling of Butler Library are reminiscent of Harry Potter and Hogwarts—thoroughly enchanting.

www.columbia.edu/news

RESEARCH

Second Alzheimer’s Gene Uncovered

By Carolyn M. Whelan

I n a breakthrough offering hope to millions of aging Americans, a Columbia-led research team has uncovered a second gene, known as SOB1, implicated in late-onset Alzheimer’s. Late-onset Alzheimer’s is the most common form of the disease, affecting people over 65 with memory loss, dementia and eventual death. Today, there is no cure. Although much work remains to identify gene mutations linked to Alzheimer’s, the discovery, if verified, offers more clues as to what causes the illness and how to treat it. The first gene known to increase the risk of Alzheimer’s, APOE, was discovered in 1993.

More than a dozen genes are thought to play a role in this disease. “We’re approaching crisis levels in the number of individuals developing this disease,” said Richard Mayeux, the Gertrude H. Sergievsky professor of neuropsychiatry and epidemiology at Columbia University Medical Center and the

Study has roots in Washington Heights & Inwood aging project

study’s lead researcher. “Identifying genes helps. But we still must pinpoint pathways and potential targets that lead to the disease, to come up with a treatment.”

Key study findings, published in Nature Genetics, span over five years of research among four universities, several continents and 6,000 volunteers from four different ethnic groups.

But if the research is international in nature, its roots lie in work Mayeux began in 1989 known as the Washington Heights & Inwood Community Aging Project. After collecting data on elderly African Americans, Caribbean Hispanics and whites who reside in these northern Manhattan neighborhoods, Mayeux and his team found that Dominicans were afflicted with late-onset Alzheimer’s at a rate nearly three times that of their non-Hispanic peers—a discovery that spurred Alzheimer’s experts to come together to find the common gene among suffers of all ethnicities.

Peter St. George-Hyslop of the University of Toronto contributed genetic data from Europeans

continued on page 8

The Record

FEBRUARY 5, 2007

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NEWS AND IDEAS FOR THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

www.columbia.edu/news
Is your Blue Java looking a little green nowadays? Carmen Alegria (above), who works at Blue Java in Butler Library, knows why. Alegria explained that

"the difference Columbia University is making by buying this coffee is tremendous to farmers: a 30 to 40 percent premium over the commodity market price, which means revenue for education and medicine in these developing countries."

**The Record welcomes your input for news items, calendar entries and staff profiles.** You can submit your suggestions at: www.columbia.edu/cu/news/newcontent.html
Sundance Kudos

When this year’s Sundance Film Festival wrapped in icy Park City, Utah, Colorado University danced away with a sunny smile on its face. The Grand Jury Prize for Best Dramatic Film went to Padre Nuestro, written and directed by Christopher Zalla (SoA’04) and produced by Ben Odeil (SoA’04), Grace Is Gone, written and directed by James C. Strouse, M.F.A candidate in fiction writing, and co-produced by Jessica Levin (SoA’02), won the Audience Award for favorite dramatic film; Strouse also won the Waldo Salt Award for Best Screenplay. Last but not least, the Audience Award for the Audience Award went to a documentary film, Hear and Now, directed by Irene Taylor Brodsky, a 1999 journalism school graduate.

No Place Like Home

Charles Daniel would be proud. After five years of faculty and student being spread out in temporary labs across campus, the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology (E3B) has made its move to the 113th Street Residence Hall.

Construction on the new space—which created offices, conference rooms, two labs and an equipment room—cost close to $3 million and took nearly a year to complete, according to project managers.

The new space will house approximately 50 people in 130 offices. The building features a new entrance, new lighting, upgraded HVAC systems, and new computer and communication systems. The new space will also provide the department with a new lab space for the laboratory strains of the bacteria.

The history of Columbia is intrinsically linked to Stern, too. The acclaimed architect, who was a professor at Columbia from 1970 to 1998, helped found the University’s Temple House Ball Center for the Study of American Architecture and designed the University’s Broadway Residence Hall on 115th St., which includes a New York Public Library branch. Many of Stern’s co-authors in the New York series are Columbia alumni.

Discussing Stern’s last work, which at 3,300 pages is the heftiest of the lot, the panels said it was objective and insightful on topics such as the rise and fall of the city’s real estate market, the impact of the designation of historic districts, and the emergence of new commercial and residential centers.

Wolfe, by contrast, railed against those who would like to see New York become a full-fledged theme park.

“I propose that the city create a green space for artists to live for free,” he said, adding that it should also “go into neighborhoods and develop them into something that people from all backgrounds can enjoy and afford.”

City Officials Review Immigration Challenges

Immigrants remain the “lifeblood” of New York City, said Mayor Michael Bloomberg at Columbia University’s Jan. 18 World Leaders Forum, going on to note the efforts his administration has made to improve immigrants’ access to health and education services.

In a panel moderated by Columbia professor Emeritus Fuchs, Joel J. Klein (CC’57), chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, continued this theme, listing the specialized services his department offers to immigrants, such as programs to encourage them to learn English. Another panelist, Jeanne Mullgrav, commissioner of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, pointed out that young people in immigrant communities face special challenges. For instance, many must assume the adult role as the “family navigator,” she said.

In a second panel focusing on health care and social services, Yerra Eggleston, commissioner of New York’s Human Resources Administration, pointed out that her department has adopted a multilingual, multicultural approach to sensitive issues such as domestic violence and AIDS awareness. “Understanding culture is the most complicated thing we do;” Eggleston explained, noting that members of her staff speak more than 50 languages.

Thomas R. Frieden, commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, said it is crucial to devise a targeted response to a community’s health needs and to ensure that information about services is available. For example, an advertising campaign about the city’s tuberculosis program was printed in nine languages. Because two-thirds of all TB cases are among immigrant groups in the city, Frieden explained.

To watch the Webcast of the forum, go to: www.worldleaders.columbia.edu.
IN CONVERSATION WITH...

JAMES NEAL

Interviewed by Fred A. Bernstein

E ntering Butler Library—with its wall murals, ornate ceilings, paneled rooms and walk of books—you may feel as if you have passed into another, more antiquated era. Does an august space like this belong to the 21st century?

Venturing up to the 5th floor of Butler, however, will dispel this impression. Here you can meet James Neal, University Librarian and Vice President for Information Services, and, come June, chair of the National Information Standards Organization and a member of the board of the Association of Research Libraries.

Though he occupies a space that looks like Hogwarts in Harry Potter, Neal is no Albus Dumbledore. He spends his day overseeing a network of 25 libraries as well as the academic computing services, more than 600 employees, and an annual budget of more than $50 million. His alchemy is to convert print materials into electronic resources.

Perhaps more remarkably, Neal has accomplished a transformation within Butler itself. He points out that back in the day, when he attended Columbia (he earned two degrees and a certificate here between 1969 and 1976), “Butler was a rundown facility which deteriorated further into the mid-1990s.” Now, after a $100 million investment, it’s a showcase, he claims, “the intellectual center of the Morningside campus.”

How has Butler changed?

It’s become a classy place. Students have voted with their feet. Since 1995, we’ve had almost a 100 percent increase in the number of people entering Butler.

What other changes have you made to Columbia’s library system?

We opened a Social Work library, renovated sections of the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, launched major improvements in the Lehman Social Sciences Library, obtained the Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, and moved nearly 2.5 million volumes to an offline shelving facility near Princeton. We deliver books and electronic photoscopes from storage, allowing collections to grow at Morningside and user space to be maintained.

What are some of your tasks as Vice President for Information Services?

I am responsible for the academic computing services of the University. This includes the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL), the Electronic Publishing Initiative at Columbia (EPIC), a new Copyright Advisory Office, a forthcoming Center for Digital Scholarship, the Electronic Text Service, and the Electronic Data Service.

Who benefits from CCNMTL’s work?

Part of what we do is to provide students with dependable access to course materials anywhere, anytime—on computers, cellphones and other hand-held devices—and give faculty expert support. We are also creating powerful additions to the learning experience. It’s one thing to talk about poverty in Africa but another to illustrate it with videos.

Does the University still buy print journals?

When a journal is available electronically, the use of the print version often stops. We are moving to e-only for many of our journals, particularly when a dependable archiving strategy exists. Some publishers are phasing out print versions, and new journals are often available only in electronic form.

Are you buying fewer books?

Unlike other research and academic libraries, we have maintained a very aggressive book acquisitions program at Columbia. During 2004–2005, Columbia ranked number one among the 125 North American research libraries in funds spent on electronic content, while at the same time we added 220,000 print volumes to the collections. We are committed to distinctive collections of great depth and breadth. We just hired a full-time Tibetan studies librarian, and are populating the world’s most important human rights collection. Unique special collections are a priority focus.

What’s in your crystal ball?

The libraries of the future will be a kind of trompe l’oeil. They may still be grand buildings with stately reading rooms and helpful staff, but the collections, services and study environments inside the library and over the network will be dramatically different. So libraries aren’t on the way out?

Far from it. In the 1990s we were not confident in our future relevance and impact. But now, thanks to the extraordinary complexity of the information environment and the availability of powerful new tools, libraries and librarians are more necessary than ever. We have entered the golden age of the research library.
ALYSSA JORDAN
SOCIAL WOES LIBRARY

Begun in 1949 as a resource for what is now the Columbia School of Social Work, the library today offers one of the world’s premier collections in social work and social services, with particular strengths in child welfare, gerontology, health care, social policy and related areas. About 1,500 items are added each year, and the library hosts around 5,000 visitors each month.

LATEST ACQUISITION: “I just bought a copy of Spike Lee’s When the Levees Broke for our film collection, which gets heavy use in social work courses. Many social work students and faculty have been very involved in post-Katrina relief efforts.”

MOST VALUABLE: “Our 35,000-volume Agency Collection—one of the few to document the history of the social welfare profession and of social reform movements in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Dozens of historians and social scientists travel from around the world to use the collection each year.”

NYC-RELATED: Papers from New York City agencies (e.g., Children’s Aid Society and Community Service Society), as well as the city’s settlement houses.

PERSONAL FAVORITES: “Our film collection contains many interesting documentaries. My personal favorites are An American Love Story, Southern Comfort and Looking For Langley.”

GERALD BEASLY
AVERY ARCHITECTURAL & FINE ARTS LIBRARY

Established in 1899 as a memorial to Henry Ogden Avery, a promising New York architect who died at age 36. Avery is today regarded as the world’s premier architectural library, with over five centuries of printed books. Avery contains more than 400,000 volumes and receives approximately 1,900 periodicals. Its Drawings and Architectural Collection holds some 1,000,000 original documents, the vast majority documenting the work of American architects. An estimated 10,000 people visit Avery each month.

LATEST ACQUISITION: Three oil paintings: a portrait of Henry Ogden Avery as a young boy, a twin portrait of his sister Emma, and a portrait of his mother, Mary Ogden Avery, the co-founder of Avery Library.

OLDIES: “De re aedificatoria (1485), by Leone Battista Alberti.

NYC-RELATED: Archives of the Woodruff Cemetery, finally resting place in the Branch Street village in New York City.

NOW ONLINE: The Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals, produced by Avery staff since 1933 and today considered the single most important bibliographical resource in the field of architectural history.

ELIZABETH DAVIS
GABE M. WIENER MUSIC & ARTS LIBRARY

Established in 1934 and named for Gabo M. Wiener (CC’92) in 1997, the library has more than 60,000 printed items and some 20,000 sound and video recordings. Strengths include early printed works on music theory and vocal scores of 18th- and 19th-century operas. Also collected are scores and recordings by more than 350 contemporary composers.

LATEST ACQUISITION: A recording of “Time After Time” by Fred Leerdahl (Columbia’s Fritz Reiner professor of musical composition), performed by the ColumbiaSinfinetet and conducted by music professor Jeffrey Miksyk.

NYC-RELATED: Music composed and recorded with the support of Columbia’s Alice M. Ditson Fund. “Many of the composers had strong ties to New York: Samuel Barber, Douglas Moore, Virgil Thomson. The music was also performed in the city.”

DIGITAL PROJECT: “With a gift from the GRAMMY Foundation, we are preserving the Ditson Fund music by reformatting it onto CDs.”

PERSONAL FAVORITES: “An engraved score of Haydn’s Ten Commandments Composed as a Canon” and the archival copy of John Kander’s M.A. thesis.

SUSAN HAMSON
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The Columbia University Archives (formerly known as University Archives–Columbia Library) preserve institutional memory of Columbia University from its founding in 1754 to the present. In 2005-2006, CU Archives served more than 1,300 patrons, referenced more than 130 collections, served more than 2,000 times, and netted over $10,000 in reproduction fees.

LATEST ACQUISITION: Administrative records from the Office of the Provost. “Such routine records are at the core of what we do here.”

OLDIES (AND MOST VALUABLE): King’s College Chapel, 1754.

NYC-RELATED: Records from 1947 to 1993 for the Morningside Area Alliance, a group of 15 religious, educational and medical institutions in Morningside Heights that seek to engage government officials on issues of property development.

PERSONAL FAVORITES: “I have a soft spot for the book to us. It’s a practical guide to Wall Street’s bear markets.”

NOW ONLINE: A Web site dedicated to the Chinese women’s magazine Ling. “Ling Starr Library owns one of the longest runs of the magazine, and it was so heavily requested, and so brittle, we created an online version.”

AMY HEINRICH
C. Y. TIBBETT EAST ASIAN LIBRARY

Begun more than a century ago, the library is one of the foremost East Asian collections in North America, with some 805,000 volumes of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, Mongol, Manchu and Western-language materials. It was named in honor of an endowment from the Starr Foundation in 1963.

LATEST ACQUISITION: The Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center’s Core Text collection, a major electronic resource for hard-to-obtain Tibetan texts.

OLDIES: “Oracle bone dates from about 1300 to 1050 B.C.E.”

MOST VALUABLE: Two volumes of the earliest printed book using hangeul (the Korean syllabary); and four fragments of a Buddhist sutra from Japan’s Hiein period (794–1180).

PERSONAL FAVORITE: A collection of poetry by 20th-century Japanese novelist Jun’ichiro Tanizaki. “Professor emeritus Donald Keene donated the book in 1993, and I am currently translating it.”

NOW ONLINE: A Web site dedicated to the Chinese women’s magazine Ling. “Ling Starr Library owns one of the longest runs of the magazine, and it was so heavily requested, and so brittle, we created an online version.”

A LESLIE JORDAN
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JILL PARCROCH
THOMAS J. WATSON LIBRARY OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Began in the early 20th century, the library is one of the largest collections in the United States for the study of management, finance, economics, industry and related fields. Each year, the library adds approximately 5,000 print volumes, serves on average 2,000 people, and 38,000 items are checked out.


MOST VALUABLE: “The 70 databases to which we subscribe. They provide decades of granular financial data that can be analyzed in all kinds of ways. They are invaluable to students and faculty.”

NYC-RELATED: The Marvyn Scudder Financial Travel Collection. “Scudder was once known as the country’s most ‘famous stock detective.’ His collection includes the historical records of many NYC-based companies, banks and financial firms.”

ONLINE SERVICE: “Our reference librarians, Geoffrey A. Meek and Kathleen Dreyer, have collaborated to build a database of answers to questions on hundreds of business and economics topics. We call the service ‘24/7’ and it can be accessed from our Web page.”

MARTIN RYAN
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

The library houses treasures spanning more than 4,000 years, beginning with a collection of cuneiform tablets from the 2nd and 3rd millennia B.C.E. Every year, RBML adds around 2,500 linear feet of archives and manuscripts to its collections and welcomes about 3,000 visitors.

LATEST ACQUISITIONS: 1) the papers of Samuel Roth, the writer publisher whose career began in the 1920s when he published a selection from Kafka’s ‘Ulysses’ that got him thrown in jail because of the obscene material. “His specialty was erotica, a pursuit that frequently landed him in prison.” 2) A group of 25 letters from Rockwell Kent to fellow artist Dale Nichols. “Columbia holds a large cache of Kent materials, and this substantial batch of letters carries more promise, philosophical side of the artist.”

MOST VALUABLE: Audubon’s Birds of America. “Columbia was one of the few to acquire this major project, and our set is quite a nice one.”

NYC-RELATED: The diaries of William Barclay Parsons, the Columbia engineer whose career began in the 1850s. “A wonderful collection.”

PERSONAL FAVORITE: the cuneiform tablet known as Plimpton 322. “It pre-dates Pythagoras yet solves his maths.”

NOW ONLINE: The set designed by Joseph Urban. “Check it out!”
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 5–16

MONDAY February 5

Linguistics Colloquium
Noon: Charniak discusses “The Mysteries of How Deeply Hidden?”
4:00 p.m. Casa Italiana, 212-854-2300.

TUESDAY February 6

Book Talk with Karl Pilkington
8:00 p.m. at the Riverside Church.

WEDNESDAY February 7

Book Talk
4:00 p.m. The New Yorker.

THURSDAY February 8

Epidemiology Seminar
Dana Hallman presents her dissertation proposal “Mediation: The Clinical Determinants of Epidemiology” at this day-long event.
Heyman Center Common Room, 212-854-8441.

FRIDAY February 9

Women’s Swimming & Diving vs. Princeton
6:00 p.m. Uris Swim Center.

SATURDAY February 10

Heyman Center Conference
Library scholars and psychologists—including George Knol, Maria D’Antuono, John Doris and Ruth Yeazell—explore the “concept of choice” at this day-long event.
Heyman Center Common Room, 212-854-8441.

SUNDAY February 11

Photography Exhibition
A display of photos by Jailed student John Wendle showing his own favorite student work. Sponsored by the Harvard Institute for International Affairs Bldg., Room 1209.
12:00 noon–5:00 p.m.

Go online! Complete event listings: www.calendar.columbia.edu

Editor’s Pick
LAUGHING IS GOOD FOR YOU

The taste for Japanese food has spread to the West. Can a love of Japanese traditional art forms be far behind? See for yourself by sampling a performance of Japanese comic storytelling, known as nailo, on Feb 8 at Columbia’s Donald Kessor Center. The teller is Katsura Koharudanji, who has been touring the West with his comic renditions of classical tales such as “boys meets girls meets cow.” Subtitles for his jokes are projected on a giant screen. Enjoy!

I’m a retired police officer so I can use the ranges at the police academy but for my own gun range I would suggest Alpione Gun Range in Brooklyn. I’m a retired police officer so I can use the ranges at the police academy but for my own gun range I would suggest Alpione Gun Range in Brooklyn.

— Rocco Osso, Public Safety Manager, Morningside

My favorite indoor range for practicing archery is Pro Line Archery Lanes in Orange Park, Queens. For outdoors, it’s Brookdale Park in Bloomfield, NJ.

— Derek M. Davis, Head Coach, Women’s Varsity Archery Team

I play darts at 2012, a bar at Amsterdam and 110th St. You’re welcome to join—but be careful. The dartboard is right by the entrance.

— Kevin Creally, Assistant Strength Coach, Athletics

I am the permission to quote me. Quote me.

Sara Goshorn, CC’10, the leading scorer for the 2006–2007 Columbia archery team, lines up her shot at Barnard’s newly renovated LeFrak Gymnasium.
COMMUNITY

COLUMBIA AND HARLEM RESET THE JAZZ STANDARD

By Adam Piore

When she's not singing, San Francisco-based vocalist Paula West performs as an actress, artist, or architect. That's what she told a packed house at Miller Theatre on Jan. 26, in her most recent concert—a performance that marked the debut of a two-year concert series jointly sponsored by Columbia's Center for Jazz Studies and a number of Harlem-based arts organizations.

The evening began with an onstage interview with West conducted by Columbia literature professor Farah Jasmine Griffin. During the conversation, West was self-effacing about her achievements: "the most recent being the 2007 Nightlife Award for outstanding female jazz vocalist." Instead she talked to Griffin about trawling through record stores for hidden treasures with sassy titles and recalled her years as a waitress before she found singing in college. "I didn't know what to do with my life," West said. "I thought it would be fun to sing once or twice a year and invite friends and family. It turned into something else."

The Miller Theatre audience—which included many walkers of the Columbia and Harlem arts communities—seemed grateful for that, as did program organizer Robert O'Meally, director of the Center for Jazz Studies and Zora Neale Hurston professor of English and comparative literature. O'Meally had chosen West to kick off the center's new jazz project.

"Our series is about flying over boundaries between Morningside Heights and Harlem," O'Meally said, "and here's a singer beyond categories. She's a cabaret singer who wins jazz awards. She sings show tunes, standards, and late-night jazz. She's my favorite performer."

At Miller, West's repertoire ranged from a deep, soulful rendition of Oscar Brown Jr.'s "The Snake"—a far favorite—to an airy and ebullient interpretation of Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone." In between those two extremes she threw in a little Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart—even a song written for a musical produced by the legendary gangster Frank Sinatra. "Our series is about flying over boundaries between our cultures," West said.

The second sign is that you feel caught up in a sudden tornado of energy and enthusiasm for Columbia's art scene emanating from Room 305. It's hard to tell you on the turf of Moss Cooper, whose job is to promote the brand of "Columbia" as an arts community. The word "arts" has always been a thorny issue for Columbia's art scene emerging from the Civil Rights era. The third sign is that you feel caught up in the rhythm of Columbia's music and art scene.

We were in Tanzania a few weeks ago filming with President Bollinger. He left for Tanzania, primarily Dar es Salaam, with Lord David Sainsbury and Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute. With the recent appointment of Mamadou Diouf to head the Institute of African Affairs, Columbia is developing greater expertise on the region. The visit was to look at what is being done by a number of agencies to raise agricultural productivity 5 to 4 percent, and in doing so make a huge stride to alleviate poverty. This is a highly complex set of issues, on which both Jeff Sachs and Lord Sainsbury's Gatsby Charitable Foundation bring much to bear.

Moss Cooper and the Kara Walker wall in the School of the Arts dean's office, 305 Dodge Hall.
FEBRUARY 5, 2007

Honoring Dr. King

11: President Bollinger celebrated the 78th birthday of America’s “trumpet of conscience” by addressing the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York and Woody at the Congregational Baptist Church in Harlem. Referring to Martin Luther King Jr.’s historic accomplishments in ending legal segregation, Bollinger said: “Having taken such long strides toward the freedom Dr. King could only imagine from his Birmingham jail cell, we find ourselves struggling merely to keep from sliding back from the diversity that makes our universities, our businesses, our military and our society so much stronger.”

How did you spend winter break?

For some of us, winter break means putting up our feet and catching up on sleep, while for others there is no letup in productivity. Whether traveling overseas or working on projects closer to home, a number of Colombians (in some cases, even their parents) were out and about in late December and early January, carrying the torch for the University.

Volunteering Overseas

1–3: Samantha Kelly, CC’09, volunteered with a panelist at the Mumbai event. Adi Godrej (far right), parent to a Columbia student, was a panelist at the Mumbai event. 4: Earth Institute director Jeffrey Sachs went to Tanzania. Here, he plants a eucalyptus tree. 5: Vice President of Arts and Sciences Nick Dirks kicked off a new India event series in the Middle East. His lectures draw overflow crowds. 6: Ali Godrej (far right), parent to a Columbia student, was a panelist at the Mumbai event.

For more on this year’s Distinguished Faculty awardees, go to: www.columbia.edu/cu/news/index.html.

New Alzheimer’s Gene

afflicted with the disease in 2000, Lindsay Farrer, the genomics program chief at Boston University, offered findings from research on African Americans and Arab-Israelis in 2002. Closing the circle was Steven Younkin of the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, who in 2006 came up with corresponding data for the white population.

The findings of the various teams suggested a SORL1 link with Alzheimer’s, Mayeux said. The gene is thought to play a role in re-routing a protein called Amyloid Precursor Protein (APP), which, in turn, triggers higher production of toxic amyloid beta peptides, a substance believed from earlier studies to form dense plaques within the brain of Alzheimer’s-afflicted patients.

Researchers will next seek to narrow down the percentage of late-stage Alzheimer’s cases linked to the SORL1 gene by continuing to test among other populations.

Mayeux, who has been awarded this year’s Potamkin Prize from the American Academy of Neurology for his research breakthroughs on Alzheimer’s, stressed that such advances would be impossible without the kind of multidisciplinary collaboration found at Columbia’s Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and the Aging Brain, where he is co-director. Another critical player is Columbia’s Genome Center, which is now sequencing the SORL1 gene to locate a genetic defect.

“For studies like these, being at Columbia really pays off,” Mayeux said. “It’s wonderful to have all these outstanding scientists in the same place.”

SCRAPBOOK

Faculty Awards

continued from page 1

- RASHID KHALILI, the Edward Said professor of modern Arab studies and literature and director of the Middle East Institute, is an influential historian of the modern Middle East. His lectures draw overflow crowds.
- PHILIP KIM, associate professor of physics, is a leader in the field of nanoscience and an inspiring teacher.
- SAMUEL MOYN, associate professor of history, is an expert in the field of human rights.
- ROBERT O’MALLEY, the Edward Said professor of modern Arab studies and literature and director of the Middle East Institute, is an influential historian of the modern Middle East. His lectures draw overflow crowds.
- ELIZABETH POVINELLI, professor of anthropology, is a specialist in the aboriginal cultures of northwestern Australia. She directs undergraduate studies at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender.
- KAREN SACA-MARTIN, professor of economics, is renowned for his research on the economics of social security and the effects of globalization. He has twice won Columbia’s graduate teaching award.
- WEI SHANG, associate professor of East Asian languages and cultures, is an expert on the fiction of imperial China. He is a mainstay of the Major Cultures component of the Core Curriculum.
- XAVIER SALA-I-MARTIN, professor of economics, is renowned for his research on the economics of social security and the effects of globalization. He has twice won Columbia’s graduate teaching award.

What are you looking at?

HINT: Lord Voldemort would not find divine inspiration in this. Can you guess what it is? Send answers to curecord@columbia.edu. First to e-mail us the right answer receives a RECORD mug.