

The Alumni Medal Recipients for 2008



Mark Lemle Amsterdam '66CC, '69LAW, a senior partner in a New York City law firm, is the current president of the Columbia University Club of New York and chair of the Columbia College Fund. He has previously served both the College and Law School as a director of the alumni associations and a reunion co-chair. His daughter Lauren '08CC graduated in February with a concentration in African American Studies; his son Matthew '10CC majors in American Studies. Mark Amsterdam's father, Leonard M. Amsterdam '35GS, '37Law, received the Alumni Medal at Commencement in 1981, making this one of the very few instances of the medal being awarded to a child of a prior recipient.



MaryEllen Jeffries Bigham '95SW served as president of the CUSSW Alumni Association; she is the only president to serve two terms for a total of six years. Her time in office encompassed two significant events - the selection of a new dean and the construction of a new building for the School of Social Work, its first new home in a century - in which her leadership was instrumental. Ms. Bigham first became an active member of the association through the Student Activities Committee, taking advantage of many opportunities to increase her involvement as time progressed.



Louis D. Boccardi '59JRN retired in 2003 as president and CEO of the Associated Press, a nonprofit news cooperative that provides news and information in all its forms to media and online outlets around the world from a network of 243 bureaus. He led the organization for fully half of his 36-year career there and before becoming president served 10 years as executive editor for AP news operations worldwide. A member of the Board of Visitors since 1989, Mr. Boccardi has loyally served the Journalism School since his graduation — sitting on the search committee for a new dean, the Alumni Association Task Force, and the Alumni Association Transition Team. He was also a member of the Pulitzer Prize board for nine years, serving as chair in 2001. A *Columbia Journalism Review* article characterized his stewardship of the AP: “He does it with a patriarchal presence, a mainframe memory and an obsessive attention to detail.”

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Ron Cohen, M.D. '81P&S, is president, CEO, and founder of Acorda Therapeutics, Inc., a public biotechnology company developing therapies for spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, and other disorders of the central nervous system. Dr. Cohen received his B.A. degree with honors in Psychology from Princeton University and completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Virginia Medical Center. Dr. Cohen has been co-chair of the P&S Class of '81 since graduating and serves as a member of the Columbia-Presbyterian Health Sciences Advisory Council. He is a recipient of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the New York metropolitan region.



Evelyn Langlieb Greer '70BARNARD, '73LAW, is the Vice Chair of the Law School Board of Visitors, where she focuses on increasing public interest scholarships and internships. She was a Trustee of Barnard College for many years. She was elected in 2004 to the Miami-Dade County Public School Board, the 4th largest school system in the United States. She was mayor of a city and a founder of Our Kids, Inc., the Florida foster care privatization effort, among many other activities. She was awarded the Lawrence A. Wien Prize for Social Responsibility by the Law School in 2005. Ms. Greer is a lawyer and investor in Miami, Florida. She is married to Bruce Greer, L'73, and mother of Matthew CC'00, Arch'03, Rachel B'03, L'06 and Laura, Yale 07.

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Christophe Alain Mathieu Knox '95CC, lives and works in Paris as a writer and director for film and television. A member of the Alumni Recruitment Committee, he has interviewed dozens of applicants to Columbia College and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science since 1999. Co-founder of the Columbia Club of France in 2002, he served as vice president until 2004 and then president until January 2008. During his tenures, the Club helped organize CU250 celebrations in Paris at the Musée d'Orsay as well as CAA Paris 2007, the European launch of Columbia's new alumni association. He now serves on the board of both the Columbia Club of France and CAA.

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Chester Lee '70SEAS, '74BUS, is a Senior Business Analyst with AIG Commercial Insurance. He is very active in alumni/ae affairs, serving as the current president of the Columbia Engineering School Alumni Association and as a board member of the Society of Columbia Graduates. Mr. Lee was a founding member of the Asian Columbia Alumni Association in 1995, and received the 2004 Alumni Mentor of the Year Award from the Columbia College Alumni of Color Program (ACOP). He also served on the university-wide steering committee which formulated the first constitution of the Columbia Alumni Association. His son followed in his footsteps to SEAS, Douglas Lee '06 majored in industrial engineering and operations research.



Cheryl Glicker Milstein '82BARNARD, a Barnard College trustee since 1999, is a recipient of the Frederick A. P. Barnard Award, one of the College's highest honors. The Cheryl and Philip Milstein Scholarship Fund was established by them in 1992. Ms. Milstein is Co-Chair for the Committee on Development and Corporate Giving and several other campus committees, including the Leadership Committee for *The Columbia Campaign for Athletics: Achieving Excellence*. She is an Honorary Chair for the Silver Anniversary of the Columbia-Barnard Athletic Consortium. Ms. Milstein, a lawyer, graduated *magna cum laude* from Barnard College and the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1985. She enjoys tennis and is supportive of the Barnard Bears. She and her husband, Philip, vice-chair of the Columbia Trustees, have four children: Meredith '09CC; Josh '10CC; Toby, and Larry.



Donald C. Waite III '66BUS, a Harriman Scholar, joined the international management-consulting firm McKinsey & Company upon graduating. When he retired from McKinsey 36 years later, he was one of three senior partners responsible for management of the firm. Upon retirement, Mr. Waite became director of Columbia's Executives in Residence Program, through which senior executives from a range of industries donate their time to teach, guest lecture, and counsel students. He is also an adjunct professor and in 2007 was recognized as one of two outstanding professors in the Social Enterprise program. At the University level Mr. Waite continues to provide counsel to the Board of Trustees. In 2008 he endowed a professorship in Social Enterprise at the Business School, where he has been a member of the Board of Overseers since 1992.