EXPEDITION TO Antarctica

Featuring the deluxe M.S. Le DIAMANT
With Columbia Study Leader Dr. Richard Cullather

January 12 to 25, 2008
Dear Fellow Columbian,

“Everything wears an aspect of unreality,” Ernest Shackleton wrote. “Icebergs hang upside-down in the sky, the land appears as layers of silvery or golden cloud, cloud banks look like land, and icebergs masquerade as islands.” This is Antarctica, Earth’s last frontier. Amid the fantastically shaped icebergs, penguin rookeries and breaching whales, normal human scales and references disappear. This is nature in its most pristine form.

Few travelers have followed the adventuresome explorers Shackleton, Amundsen, and Scott to the Antarctic. Today, we are proud to share a unique itinerary to this untouched wilderness, hosted by our study leader Dr. Richard Cullather of the Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Dr. Cullather, whose research focuses on the atmosphere of the Antarctic Peninsula, looks forward to returning to Antarctica and sharing his insight and knowledge of the region through formal lectures and informal discussions.

Experience Antarctica now in its unspoiled state. You will sail during the lingering light of the austral summer, when long sunrises paint the icescape in soft shades of pink and gold as whales, seals and penguins flock to glimmering turquoise glaciers and sparkling icebergs. To further enhance your experience, our group will be accompanied by a team of expedition guides that will assist you on excursions ashore. Under their direction, you will board sturdy Zodiac craft for landings on rocky shores and beaches to observe the antics of Antarctica’s bountiful wildlife — penguins and seals especially are unafraid of human visitors — and discover the secrets of the White Continent. We are also privileged to be joined on our program by Georgetown University Professor Christopher C. Joyner, recognized as one of the leading experts on international law and Antarctica.

We are pleased to welcome alumni from our program cosponsors, which include the University of California Berkeley, Northwestern University, Georgetown University and Tulane University. Space is limited and this program is sure to fill quickly, so I urge you to join Dr. Cullather, fellow alumni, family and friends and reserve your space today.

With best wishes from Morningside Heights,

Eric J. Furda ‘94TC
Vice President for Alumni Relations

Columbia University Study Leader:
Dr. Richard Cullather

Dr. Richard Cullather is a Postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Colorado at Boulder and worked at both the Byrd Polar Research Center and the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research prior to joining Columbia University. Dr. Cullather’s research interests include the warming of the near-surface atmosphere over the Antarctic Peninsula, recognized as one of the largest temperature trends on Earth over the last 50 years, and its implications for the Peninsula region, the Antarctic continent as a whole and its relationship to global sea levels. He looks forward to returning to Antarctica and sharing his insight and experience with participants.

SUPERIOR
Our programs are classified in three categories: Value, Superior and Luxury

Cover: Accompanied by a team of expert naturalists, discover Antarctica’s unique ecosystem using the M.S. Le Diamant’s specially equipped Zodiac landing craft.
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The unique international Antarctic Treaty protects Antarctica’s wildlife and its natural habitats, and provides a guide for visitors to this great continent, where no country has sovereignty.

To protect the fragile Antarctic environment, all participants will go ashore in small groups, so as not to overvisit rookeries, disturb nesting sites or disrupt research. All visitors will be asked to take — and leave — nothing ashore.

U.S.
Saturday, January 12
Depart from the U.S.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
Sunday, January 13
Arrive in cosmopolitan, seductive Buenos Aires; check into the deluxe Marriott Plaza Hotel, adjacent to the chic boutique-lined Calle Florida. This evening, attend the welcome reception.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
Monday, January 14
The city tour takes you to Buenos Aires’ diverse barrios (neighborhoods), from the colorful La Boca district and the grand public buildings of the city center to the parks of Palermo, the charming old quarter of San Telmo and the historic Recoleta Cemetery, famous for its ornate vaults, sculpture and as the final resting place of the legendary Evita Perón.

BUENOS AIRES/USHUAIA
Tuesday, January 15
Fly to rustic Ushuaia, gateway to Antarctica and the world’s southernmost city. This afternoon, embark M.S. Le Diamant and depart Ushuaia, cruising through the Beagle Channel, named for the ship that carried Charles Darwin on his South American voyages. Attend the captain’s welcome reception this evening.

CRUISING DRAKE PASSAGE
Wednesday, January 16
En route across the legendary Drake Passage, watch for seabirds feeding on plankton and krill brought to the surface by cold Antarctic surface waters merging with the warmer waters of the South Pacific and Atlantic Oceans at the Antarctic Convergence.

Known as the “Wanderer” the majestic Albatross boasts a wingspan of up to 11 feet, enabling it to fly for hundreds of miles at a time in search of food.

Both elegant and entertaining, penguins are often the first to greet visitors on Antarctica’s shores.
Begin your exploration of the Antarctic Circle with a morning arrival on one of the rarely visited Aitcho Islands, whose high cliff tops offer panoramic views of austere beauty. Penguins, elephant seals and skua birds populate these shores.

One of the smallest, but most beautiful of the South Shetland Islands, Half Moon Island is a crescent-shaped isle known for its craggy volcanic rock formations and tranquil lagoons. It is also the site of Camara Station, a base staffed by Argentine biologists monitoring regional wildlife. On your visit, observe the antics of the island’s colony of chinstrap penguins and enjoy the lingering twilight of the Antarctic summer.

Deception Island is actually the rim of a massive volcano that encircles an enclosed crater lake known as Port Foster. The ship dramatically enters Port Foster through Neptune’s Bellows, a sublime harbor ringed by snow-capped peaks and sheer cliffs. In Pendulum Cove, you may, conditions permitting, have an opportunity to swim in its steaming, geothermally heated pools. While on Baily Head, see a colony of a quarter of a million chinstrap penguins before taking a stroll along the black sand beaches of Telefon Bay and hiking to nearby craters, which offer fascinating insights into the volcanic activity that created the island and played such a pivotal role in the natural history of the region.

In Paradise Bay, awesome cliffs of ice descend from the surrounding mountains into the floating iceberg-laden waters along the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. Named by 19th-century whalers who sought shelter in its coves, Paradise Bay is an ideal sanctuary for marine wildlife including humpback whales, crab eater seals and Cape petrels. Listen for the low rumbling of Rudolf Glacier as it calves chunks of ice into Neko Harbor, one of the most dramatic and spectacular sights in Antarctica. Named for an early 20th-century floating whaling factory, the harbor is surrounded by towering glaciers and snow-covered mountains. Here you will also make your first “continental landing” in Antarctica.

In contrast to Adélie penguins that congregate in large colonies, the leopard seal cherishes his solitude and independence.
A visit to Antarctica offers an unparalleled opportunity to see chinstrap penguins up close in their natural habitat.

Cruise through breathtaking, glacier-lined Neumayer Channel to Port Lockroy. Originally constructed in 1944 by an eight-man team as an intelligence post for British espionage during World War II, Port Lockroy was converted into a whaling station and scientific base in the 1950s. It is nestled among glistening mountain peaks as high as 6,000 feet, while blue-eyed shags and gentoo penguins populate the surrounding grounds. Gain insight into the life of past explorers at the British Antarctic Survey Museum and send a postcard with an Antarctica postmark from the official British Post Office.

Jougla Point on Wiencke Island, just off of Port Lockroy, offers a rare opportunity to view the nearly intact skeleton of a large whale, in addition to large numbers of gentoo penguins and birdlife, particularly blue-eyed shags and kelp gulls.

Lemaire Channel, flanked by towering cliffs of glaciers that fall straight into the sea between the Antarctic Peninsula and Booth Island, offers seven majestic miles of mountains and wildlife combined with fascinating patterns of ice floes. Call at Petermann Island, the southernmost point of your journey, and view its thriving rookeries of Adélie and gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags.

Enter the Weddell Sea and spot the enormous tabular icebergs that have broken off from the Larsen Ice Shelf. See Brown Bluff’s 750-foot-high, rust-colored cliffs jutting into the Antarctic Sound, and land on the shelving beach at the base of the bluff, where members of the area’s flourishing colony of Adëlie penguins, or perhaps an inquisitive snow petrel, may greet you.

CRUISING DRAKE PASSAGE
Tuesday, January 22
Relax and reflect onboard today as the ship turns north and crosses the Drake Passage.

DRAKE PASSAGE/Cape Horn
Wednesday, January 23
Enjoy a lively, informative discussion with the ship’s naturalists. Watch for seabirds and breaching fin, humpback and minke whales as you cruise across the Antarctic Convergence and past the infamous Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America. Attend the captain’s farewell reception this evening.

USHUAIA
Thursday, January 24
Disembark and fly to Buenos Aires. Your return flight to the U.S. departs this evening.

U.S.
Friday, January 25
Arrive early this morning in the U.S.

IGUAZÚ FALLS POST-PROGRAM OPTION
Thursday, January 24, to Monday, January 28
Extend your journey to experience Iguazu Falls, 275 spectacular waterfalls cascading through the heart of the jungle, forming one of Earth’s most exquisite natural wonders along the Argentina–Brazil frontier. Explore this magical setting on the exclusive three-night Post-Program, which includes round trip airfare from Buenos Aires and accommodations overlooking the falls in the deluxe Sheraton Internaciona Iguazu Resort. Complete details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
M.S. Le Diamant

The M.S. Le Diamant is a rare find—an oceangoing vessel providing deluxe accommodations and an intimate, casual ambiance. The M.S Le Diamant was attractively refurbished in 2004 and features the deluxe amenities and superior standards offered aboard a larger ship with the charm and enhanced navigability provided by a yacht.

All 113 spacious, outside staterooms or suites (ranging in size from 183 sq. ft. to 398 sq. ft.) are tastefully appointed and feature two lower twin beds that convert to one queen-size bed upon request, a private bathroom with shower (some staterooms have bathtubs and showers), telephone, television/DVD, minibar, double full-length closets, two nightstands, desk, hairdryer, duvets and plush terrycloth robes. Room service is available.

Continental breakfast, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner are served daily in a single unassigned seating. The Restaurant Iles de France offers innovative Continental fare in a relaxed, inviting setting. Guests may reserve a table at L’Escapade restaurant for more intimate evening dining. Complimentary house wine, beer, soft drinks, mineral water, coffee and tea are served at lunch and dinner.

The ship has three lounges. Nightly entertainment includes a cabaret and live music. Also on board the ship are a hair salon, boutique, library, masseuse and fitness center. A certified physician is on board. Two elevators serve all passenger decks. The M.S. Le Diamant is specially outfitted for cruising the polar regions, oceans and seas, and complies with the highest international environmental and safety standards. It has been equipped with a fleet of sturdy Zodiac landing craft for shore excursions in Antarctica.
YOUR EXPEDITION LEADER

Ignacio Rojas, who will lead the onboard expert expedition team, studied biology at the University of São Paulo in Brazil, and did postgraduate work at INPA, the Brazilian National Institute for Amazonian Research. Since 1992, he has worked on expedition cruises to the Amazon, the Caribbean, Central America and Antarctica. He is a certified dive master and Zodiac driver and extremely knowledgeable on a broad range of topics including mammals, birds, tropical fish, whales, and tropical ecology. Ignacio embraces traveling as a full time activity, enjoying the opportunity to share knowledge on travels to remote areas and to enhance awareness of the last wild places of the world.

AMERICA AND ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION

The intrepid deeds of such famed European explorers of Antarctica as Roald Amundsen, Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton have long been related in gripping personal accounts and in history books. Few people realize, however, that Americans played a significant role in the exploration of Antarctica. Foremost among them was Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd. Scion of a distinguished Virginia family, he led the 1928-30 U.S. Antarctic expedition, and in 1929 he made the first overflight of the South Pole. Byrd later led three additional expeditions to Antarctica and named a large portion of the continent Marie Byrd Land after his wife.

Another American prominent in the exploration of the South Polar region was Lincoln Ellsworth. This Chicago native made the first flight across Antarctica in 1935. In the course of his journey he discovered the continent’s loftiest mountain range, later named in his honor.

INCLUDED FEATURES IN BUENOS AIRES

- Two nights in the deluxe Marriott Plaza Hotel.
- Breakfast each morning.
- Welcome reception.
- City tour featuring the popular neighborhoods of cosmopolitan Buenos Aires and historical Recoleta Cemetery.
- Air transportation from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia with return to Buenos Aires.

ON BOARD THE DELUXE M.S. LE DIAMANT

- Spacious and elegant outside accommodations with private bathroom facilities.
- Captain’s welcome and farewell receptions.
- All meals—Continental breakfast, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner—throughout the cruise, featuring fine Continental cuisine, served daily in a single unassigned seating.
- Complimentary house wine, beer, soft drinks, mineral water, coffee and tea included with lunch and dinner.
- Exploration by Zodiac landing craft, accompanied by the expedition team of expert naturalists.
- Landings with focus on Antarctica’s diverse wildlife habitats, including major penguin rookeries.
- Complimentary souvenir red parka.
- A series of lectures by the naturalists on the expedition team, covering local wildlife and landscapes.

ENHANCED TRAVEL SERVICES

- All transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants who have purchased their air tickets through Thomas P. Gohagan & Company and whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- All excursions and visits, as outlined in the itinerary, with experienced local guides and expedition team.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship.
- A Travel Director to accompany you throughout the program.
- Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance for each participant ticketed on flights by Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
**Expedition to Antarctica Reservation Form**

**Send to:**
Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program
245 Mill Street, 2nd Floor
Greenwich, CT 06830
E-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu
http://alumni.columbia.edu/attend

Name(s) (as it appears on passport):

First Initial Last School/Degree/Year

First Initial Last School/Degree/Year

Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City State ZIP Code

Telephone (Home) (Business)

Email Address Fax

Preferred name(s) on badge(s) Tour No. 028-12/08-021

Enclosed is a check for $________, as deposit ($800 per person, plus $200 per person Iguazu Falls Post-Program). Make check payable to 2008 Expedition to Antarctica.

Deposits can also be made by credit card; however, all FINAL payments are required to be made in cash, by check or wire transfer by October 9, 2007.

I/we authorize you to charge my/our deposit to: □ Visa □ MasterCard

Card No. ___________ Exp. Date ___________

Signature as it appears on credit card

By forwarding the deposit for this travel program, I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and accept the Terms & Conditions in this brochure.

Please make my/our reservations in cabin category:
1st Choice _______ 2nd Choice _______

□ Double occupancy (one double bed)

□ Double occupancy (two twin beds)

□ Single accommodations.

□ I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

**IGUAZÚ FALLS POST-PROGRAM RESERVATIONS**

Occupancy:

□ Double at $1395 per person.

□ Single at $1995 per person.

□ I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Program Air:

□ Flights New York/Buenos Aires with return Buenos Aires/New York. Approximate economy airfare is $1180 per person, including taxes.†

□ Flights from ______ (fill in departure city) to Buenos Aires, Argentina, with return from Buenos Aires, Argentina, at an additional cost to be advised.†

Class: □ Economy □ Business □ First

An Air Coordinator will contact you no later than four months prior to departure regarding your selections. Please contact your travel agent or air carrier directly for any deviations to the above.

†Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability, and is nonrefundable.

□ I/we will make my/our own air arrangements.

For more information call toll free 1-866-325-8664 or fax 203-724-0844.

Please contact your travel agent or air carrier directly for any deviations to the above.

‡Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability, and is nonrefundable.

By forwarding the deposit for this travel program, I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and accept the Terms & Conditions in this brochure.
CONTRACT: TERMS & CONDITIONS
NOT INCLUDED: Taxes; passport fees; visas and fees for obtaining visas; personal expenses such as laundry and telephone calls; acclimatization, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to ship personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; excess baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air taxes—e.g. Buenos Aires airport departure tax; airfare and associated local taxes, airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the "Included Features" section; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel/ship on day(s) of arrival and/or departure 1) if you have not purchased your air arrangements through Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, or 2) if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); meals and alcoholic beverages not listed in the "Included Features" section; and all other services not specifically mentioned in the "Included Features" section.

AIRFARE: Approximate airfare is based on rates as of March 2007, and is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline (not Thomas P. Gohagan & Company), even if purchased through Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.

LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. Please contact your airline's luggage policy.

HEALTH: No sophisticated medical facilities are available in the Antarctic. The vessel carries a qualified physician and a limited infirmary with basic medications and equipment, and its medical facilities are not equipped to care for serious illnesses such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes events, etc. Evacuation is difficult, time consuming and expensive. Consequently, you should consult with your physician before booking this trip. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation.

DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by August 20, 2007. In the event a "discounted" reservation must be cancelled, no "replacement" reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is, in effect, a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Change and/or cancellation fees apply as outlined in this "Contract: Terms and Conditions" for the "replacement" reservation and the cancelled reservation.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellations are subject to a $200 per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $800 per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariff; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, a no-show or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariff. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees and administrative fees will be assessed.

POST-PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS: Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellations are subject to a $50 per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $200 per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariff; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, a no-show or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariff. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees and administrative fees will be assessed.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure.

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666. OT#: TA 0905.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or the other participants and accepts the terms and conditions of this contract.

We strongly recommend for your protection that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. Further information on insurance options will be sent upon receipt of your reservation. RESPONSIBILITY: Columbia University, its agents, TSS LLC, and operator, Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or their successors, agents, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which it is to do provides or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airfare, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity of any third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurgents or rioters, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist