WINTER 2015

This digest includes items from Columbia News, Columbia Magazine, and other sources around the University. If you have questions or comments, please contact Becky Nordensten at rn2283@columbia.edu.

COLUMBIA LEADERSHIP

President Lee C. Bollinger has accepted the Board’s request that he extend his term as University president until 2018.

Amelia J. Alverson was appointed executive vice president for University development and alumni relations. Previously, she was senior vice president for development at Columbia University Medical Center.

Two new deans have been appointed to lead Columbia schools: Gillian Lester at the School of Law and Amale Andraos at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

GIVING TO COLUMBIA

Columbia Giving Day 2014 raised a record-breaking $11,064,924 for the University and its schools and programs with 10,452 gifts from 50 states and 53 countries.

CAA

Newly launched CAA Arts Access connects two of New York’s greatest assets – Columbia’s intellectual community and the city’s vibrant culture – in one alumni benefit. Members have recently had a greenroom talk with Brian Dennehy ’66CC and Love Letters director Gregory Mosher and taken advantage of discounts to New York City cultural institutions.

Over 50 Columbia filmmakers had films in the Sundance and Slamdance film festivals in January. The CAA’s Columbians in Film initiative will roll out the blue carpet for Columbians of the silver screen at film festivals, premieres, and screenings at theaters worldwide.

Meet Columbia’s 2014 Alumni Medalists – recognized for making significant contributions to the school and alumni community for over 10 years.

HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Dr. Tom Maniatis, the Isidore S. Edelman Professor of Biochemistry and Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, was appointed director of the University-wide precision medicine initiative.

Serge E. Przedborski has been appointed the inaugural director of the Columbia Translational Neuroscience Initiative.

Dr. David Goldstein has joined Columbia as director of the University’s Institute for Genomic Medicine and professor of genetics and development in the College of Physicians and Surgeons.
Columbia has established an **interdisciplinary NeuroTechnology Center** with a mission to develop advanced optical, electrical, and computational technologies for the study of complex neurobiological systems.

CUMC and Biogen Idec have formed a $30 million strategic alliance to **conduct genetics discovery research** on the underlying causes of disease and identify new treatment approaches.

Construction of the new **CUMC Medical and Graduate Education Building** is moving forward. A **topping off ceremony** was held in October to mark the completion of the building's superstructure.

Groundbreaking for the **new Columbia University School of Nursing building** on 168th Street and Audubon Avenue took place on October 22.

**GLOBAL COLUMBIA**

Thirteen new global projects **received seed grants** from the President’s Global Innovation Fund.

The **Columbia Global website**, which complements the University’s myriad centers, institutes, programs, and initiatives that are global in scope, has launched in beta.

**The World Writers’ Festival: Writers of India** was held September 17-21 in Paris and co-hosted by Columbia Global Centers | Europe and la Bibliothèque nationale de France.

**MANHATTANVILLE**

In October, construction workers put in place the final steel beam of the Lenfest Center for the Arts during a **topping off ceremony** that marked the completion of vertical construction for the facility.

Construction continues on the Jerome L. Greene Science Center (future home of the **Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute**). Watch the **Manhattanville video**.

**ARTS AND MEDIA**

A traveling **Smithsonian** exhibition, **Romare Bearden: A Black Odyssey**, made its final stop at Columbia’s **Wallach Gallery**. The exhibition is the focal point of a unique, **yearlong University-wide exploration** of Bearden’s iconic work.

Columbia law professor Tim Wu will **head Columbia’s new Poliak Center** for the Study of First Amendment Issues.

**ENGINEERING**

Columbia Engineering **celebrated its 150th anniversary** with a **yearlong roster of activities** including a November 2014 gala at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. **Watch a video** featuring highlights of the school’s history.

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

The **Columbia Startup Lab** has **launched in SoHo**. The 45 teams of entrepreneurs initially occupying the lab are embarking on a **wide range of high-tech and more traditional startups**, from fashion and food to technology, neuroscience, and e-commerce.
ATHLETICS

Columbia field hockey midfielder Christina Freibott was chosen as All-Ivy League Offensive Player of the Year and head coach Marybeth Freeman was named Coach of the Year.

Columbia men’s squash is ranked #6 in the nation and, as of January, remained undefeated.

GENDER-BASED MISCONDUCT

The University has been working aggressively on many fronts to prevent and better respond to sexual assault and other types of gender misconduct. In recent months, the following steps have been taken:

- A new Gender-Based Misconduct Policy for Students was announced.
- An additional Sexual Violence Response and Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center was opened.
- Mandatory training for incoming undergraduates on consent and the importance of bystander intervention was implemented.
- A new campaign, “Step Up,” was launched to help prevent gender-based misconduct from happening in the first place.

Suzanne Goldberg, the Herbert and Doris Wechsler Clinical Professor of Law, was named special advisor to the President on sexual assault prevention and response. Further information about this issue can be found online at sexualrespect.columbia.edu.

AWARDS

President Obama ’83CC bestowed the National Humanities Medal on Professor Wm. Theodore de Bary ’41CC, ’53GSAS, the John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus and Provost Emeritus, for his lifetime’s work.

The 2014 Pulitzer Prize winners included David N. Philipps ’02JRN for National Reporting and Vijay R. Seshadri ’88SOA for Poetry.

Darko Tresnjak ’98SOA won the 2014 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical. His show, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder won four Tonys in all, including Best Musical. Barbara Whitman ’05SOA is on the producing team for Tony-winner Hedwig and the Angry Inch, which took home four awards, including Best Revival of a Musical and Best Actor in a Leading Role for star Neil Patrick Harris.

RANKINGS

Columbia’s undergraduate programs rank fourth among national universities on the latest listing from US News & World Report.