SPRING/SUMMER 2014

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

COLUMBIA LEADERSHIP

Jonathan D. Schiller ‘69CC, ’73LAW has been elected as co-chair of the Board of Trustees alongside William V. Campbell ’62CC, ’64.

Gillian Lester has been appointed dean of Columbia Law School, effective January 1, 2015.

GIVING TO COLUMBIA

The Columbia Campaign, which came to a close on December 31, 2013, raised $6.1 billion, the largest sum ever raised by a single campaign in Ivy League history. Read President Bollinger’s letter to the Columbia community, visit the Illuminate website, and explore the Campaign.

Columbia Thank You Day, a social media effort to share messages of gratitude and illuminate the University’s next chapter, was on April 3. Visit the tagboard and follow the conversation using #ColumbiaIlluminate on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The third Columbia Giving Day is October 29, 2014. Last October, Columbia Giving Day raised a total of $7.8 million, with 9,759 gifts from donors in 50 states and 53 countries.

UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES

The University has established a task force on personalized medicine that will help plan for new scientific advances, especially in the areas of genomics, data science, and the core science and engineering disciplines.

A University-wide forum has been established on the question of “global Columbia.” It aims to address the future direction of scholarship needed for the world ahead, the subjects and experiences we should be teaching and providing for our students, and the ways we must be organized in order to meet our responsibilities and remain consistent with our own values.
CAA

The Columbia Alumni Association continues to expand and has newly established alumni groups in locations such as Guangzhou, China. There are currently over 110 alumni groups around the world.

ALUMNI IN POLITICS

The mayors of the United States’ two largest cities -- Bill de Blasio ’87SIPA in New York and Eric Garcetti ’92CC ’95SIPA in Los Angeles -- are Columbia alumni.

Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer ’97GS and City Council Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito ’91CC, are also Columbia alumni.

MANHATTANVILLE

Construction continues on the Jerome L. Greene Science Center (future home of the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute) and preparatory steel work has begun on the Lenfest Center for the Arts. Both buildings are scheduled for completion by 2016.

ALUMNI AND FACULTY AWARDS

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

May 2014 honorary degree recipients include Renzo Piano, David Remnick, Cicely Tyson, Mortimer B. Zuckerman, and more.

Three Columbia professors have been named members of the National Academy of Sciences, including Laurence Abbott, the William Bloor Professor of Neuroscience, Peter Bearman, Jonathan R. Cole Professor of the Social Sciences, and Peter Keleman, a geologist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

The Vilcek Foundation named Thomas M. Jessell the winner of the 2014 Vilcek Prize in Biomedical Science.

Allison Lewko, assistant professor of computer science, has been named to the annual Forbes 30 Under 30 list in the Science & Healthcare category for her work on designing encryption algorithms and keeping data secure.

Bancroft Prizes were awarded to Columbia's Ira Katznelson ’66CC and Ari Kelman of UC Davis.

Disney's Frozen, written and co-directed by Jennifer Lee ’05SOA, won two Academy Awards -- Best Animated Feature and Best Original Song. Dede Gardner ’91CC co-produced Best Picture winner 12 Years a Slave.

ARTS
Several Columbia alumni were nominated for 2014 Tony Awards, including Tom Kitt ’96CC for If/Then, Darko Tresnjak ’98SOA for A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder, and Barbara Whitman ’05SOA for Hedwig and the Angry Inch.

Working jointly with Columbia’s Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, the MoMA has opened an exhibition of Frank Lloyd Wright archives: Frank Lloyd Wright and the City: Density vs. Dispersal.

The Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History, which is given through Columbia and was established in consultation with Tony Kushner ’78CC, was awarded to Dominique Morisseau for Detroit ’67.

ATHLETICS

In March, the men’s basketball team made their first post-season appearance since 1969, advancing to the quarterfinals of the Collegeinsider.com post-season Tournament (CIT).

Men’s fencing and men’s cross country won the Ivy Championships. Both the women’s and men’s tennis teams won their respective ECAC Championships.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Columbia Startup Lab will launch in June in the WeWork space in SoHo, which will house up to 70 entrepreneurs from participating schools.

PUBLIC HEALTH

With a mission to explore and better understand the aging process and its societal implications, Columbia has established a University-wide, interdisciplinary aging center.

RANKINGS

For the fourth year in a row, Columbia’s undergraduate programs ranked fourth among national universities on the latest listing from US News & World Report.

Columbia was ranked fifth on the Forbes list of America’s Top Colleges.

In the 2014 Princeton Review, Columbia was ranked #1 for best college libraries.