Columbia Welcomes Local Students as First Class of Thompson-Muñoz Scholars

By Gary Shapiro

Albert Thompson and Carlos Muñoz lived on the same block of West 116th Street and knew each other when they were students at Columbia College. Last fall, the two men met again when they attended a reception for local students chosen to receive scholarships named in their honor.

The new Thompson-Muñoz Scholars Program identifies up to 40 promising undergraduates from Upper Manhattan and the South Bronx every year. These students receive need-based scholarships to Columbia, as well as support and encouragement through various program activities.

Albert Thompson (CC’54), a Columbia shot put record-holder who continued his track-and-field career in the Naval Reserves, graduated from both Columbia College and the College of Dental Medicine, where he is now an assistant clinical professor. Carlos Muñoz (CC’57, MA’61) likewise earned a pair of degrees from the University, graduating from the College before getting a master’s degree in economics. He climbed to executive vice president for credit and risk management at Dime Savings Bank of New York; both were active alumni.

“Columbia is defined by … our commitment to providing educational opportunity to a remarkable diversity of young people, regardless of their family’s income,” Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger said. “We are proud to add the Thompson-Muñoz Scholars to this effort that’s so central to our mission.”

Thompson told the students that while they deserved to be commended for getting into Columbia, they didn’t do it alone. “Your parents deserve credit for providing an environment for you to succeed,” he said. And going forward, he said later, they will have to help each other. “The biggest asset that all of these students have is one another.”

A version of this story originally appeared in the December 2014 edition of The Record.

Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center Helping Local Entrepreneurs Thrive

By Ernest Beck

When Sam Morjaria opened his physical therapy practice in 2007, on the ground floor of a Harlem brownstone, he was pretty much on his own facing a multitude of business start-up issues. “Like many small business owners, you have to figure things out by yourself, and it can be a very lonely place,” Morjaria says. His business, Park North Physical Therapy, has flourished since then with some help from the Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center (CHSBDC), a public-private partnership that provides free workshp, training programs, and intensive one-on-one counseling to small business owners in Upper Manhattan.

Founded in 2009 with the help of Government and Community Affairs staffer Flores Forbes, CHSBDC is funded in part by the United States Small Business Administration and located at the Columbia Business School, a setup that allows business people in the community access to the University’s faculty, students, and alumni. So far, the Center has worked directly with almost 1,500 businesses from river to river above 96th Street, helping them to invest over $8 million and create or save 716 jobs. “Small businesses are more likely to create jobs and employ people at fair wages if they are also growing businesses,” explains Kaaryn Naidor Simmon, the director of CHSBDC, who grew up in Harlem. [continued on page 5]
COLUMBIA PROFESSOR DIOUF HONORED BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT

Mamadou Diouf, Columbia professor and the director of the Institute for African Studies, has been named a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor. Diouf was singled out for his role in engaging students from around the world in the study and history of current affairs. Diouf is the cofounder and leader of the Joint African Studies Program at Columbia, a transatlantic initiative between Columbia, Paris I, and Sciences Po that enables French and American students to earn a dual certificate from both Columbia and Paris I while exploring diverse approaches to African studies. The Order of the Legion of Honor is the highest award bestowed by the French government; it was founded by Napoleon Bonaparte to recognize outstanding achievement in the military as well as in the public and private sectors.

COLUMBIA ANNOUNCES FIRST ANNUAL GLOBAL FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION PRIZE WINNERS

Columbia University’s inaugural Global Freedom of Expression Prizes have been awarded to the Constitutional Court of Turkey, the Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe, and the Media Legal Defence Initiative (MLDI). The awards, established earlier this year by University President Lee C. Bollinger, recognize judicial decisions and legal representation around the world that strengthen freedom of expression by promoting international legal norms.

MLDI garnered the “Excellence in Legal Services” award, which honors lawyers, academics, or NGOs for a legal brief, amicus brief, or academic article that contributes to the defense of freedom of expression. Decisions of the Constitutional Court of Turkey and the Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe were recognized in the “Significant Legal Ruling” category. The awards were made at the conclusion of Columbia’s recent Global Freedom of Expression and Information conference.

Former Columbia Administrator Appointed to Lead New NYC Sustainability Office

Mayor Bill de Blasio has appointed Nilda Mesa as the director of New York City’s new Office of Sustainability, which spearheads the administration’s environmental and sustainability initiatives, including aspects of ParkNYC. Before joining the de Blasio administration last year, Mesa was known to many in the University community for her work as Columbia’s first AVP for environment stewardship. In that role, she coordinated programs designed to shrink the campus’s environmental footprint, many of which continue to this day, and helped cement the University’s reputation as a national leader in environmental sustainability.

In her new role, Mesa will coordinate the city’s sustainability initiatives and green investments, including its commitment to making an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and One City: Built to Last, the mayor’s sweeping green buildings plan.

“Climate change poses nothing short of an existential threat to New Yorkers and our planet,” Mayor de Blasio said. “I am thrilled to have Nilda on board to make a vital role in our cities.”

COLUMBIA SCIENTISTS TAKE ON EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA

As Ebola dominated the news, Jeffrey Shaman, an associate professor of environmental health sciences at Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health, led a team of researchers on a mission to create a computer model that would track and forecast the growth of cases in West Africa, the epicenter of the disease. The tools they developed provide status updates on the virus’s strength in West Africa and forecast cumulative infections and deaths six weeks in advance. Even at panic about Ebola has subsided in the United States, Shamu’s group, along with other researchers from Mailman and the Columbia University Medical Center, continues its efforts to provide local and global authorities with a scientific basis for their policies and response strategies.

SUZANNE GOLDBERG NAMED TO HEAD NEW UNIVERSITY LIFE OFFICE

Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger has appointed Professor of Law Suzanne B. Goldberg to the new position of Executive Vice President for University Life.

Goldberg, who joined the faculty in 2006, is also a founder and director of Columbia Law School’s Center for Gender and Sexuality Law. Since July 2014, she has been serving as President Bollinger’s special advisor on sexual assault prevention and response.

“She possesses the demonstrated ability to thoughtfully and sensitively engage virtually every member of the University in service of improving our ability to respond to complex issues,” Bollinger said. The mission of the new Office of the Executive Vice President for University Life will be to further the academic and community experience of students, faculty, and staff at Columbia.

Musa is the highest award bestowed by the French government; it was founded by Napoleon Bonaparte to recognize outstanding achievement in the military as well as in the public and private sectors.

COLUMBIA SCIENTISTS TAKE ON EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA

As Ebola dominated the news, Jeffrey Shaman, an associate professor of environmental health sciences at Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health, led a team of researchers on a mission to create a computer model that would track and forecast the growth of cases in West Africa, the epicenter of the disease. The tools they developed provide status updates on the virus’s strength in West Africa and forecast cumulative infections and deaths six weeks in advance. Even at panic about Ebola has subsided in the United States, Shamu’s group, along with other researchers from Mailman and the Columbia University Medical Center, continues its efforts to provide local and global authorities with a scientific basis for their policies and response strategies.

SUZANNE GOLDBERG NAMED TO HEAD NEW UNIVERSITY LIFE OFFICE

Columbia University’s inaugural Global Freedom of Expression Prizes have been awarded to the Constitutional Court of Turkey, the Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe, and the Media Legal Defence Initiative (MLDI). The awards, established earlier this year by University President Lee C. Bollinger, recognize judicial decisions and legal representation around the world that strengthen freedom of expression by promoting international legal norms.

MLDI garnered the “Excellence in Legal Services” award, which honors lawyers, academics, or NGOs for a legal brief, amicus brief, or academic article that contributes to the defense of freedom of expression. Decisions of the Constitutional Court of Turkey and the Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe were recognized in the “Significant Legal Ruling” category. The awards were made at the conclusion of Columbia’s recent Global Freedom of Expression and Information conference.

Mayor Bill de Blasio has appointed Nilda Mesa as the director of New York City’s new Office of Sustainability, which spearheads the administration’s environmental and sustainability initiatives, including aspects of ParkNYC. Before joining the de Blasio administration last year, Mesa was known to many in the University community for her work as Columbia’s first AVP for environment stewardship. In that role, she coordinated programs designed to shrink the campus’s environmental footprint, many of which continue to this day, and helped cement the University’s reputation as a national leader in environmental sustainability.

In her new role, Mesa will coordinate the city’s sustainability initiatives and green investments, including its commitment to making an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and One City: Built to Last, the mayor’s sweeping green buildings plan.

“The challenge before us may seem daunting, but we know there’s no choice but bold action,” Mesa said. “As New Yorkers, we’re all in this together: we breathe the same air, drink from the same water supply, and suffer the same impacts of climate change. Let’s leave a legacy for our kids that will make them proud.”

Mesa began her tenure in the de Blasio administration as head of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Environmental Coordination, one of two city offices that were merged to form the one she now leads. Previously, Mesa served in the Clinton Administration as the associate director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. She also served as counsel to the NAFTA Taskforce at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she led negotiations with Canada and Mexico related to trade and the environment.

She has a J.D. from Harvard University and a B.A. from Northwestern University.

“Climate change poses nothing short of an existential threat to New Yorkers and our planet,” Mayor de Blasio said. “I am thrilled to have Nilda on board to make our ambitious, vital policies a reality.”

The Columbia Newsletter

Former Columbia Administrator Appointed to Lead New NYC Sustainability Office

M

Mayor Bill de Blasio has appointed Nilda Mesa as the director of New York City’s new Office of Sustainability, which spearheads the administration’s environmental and sustainability initiatives, including aspects of ParkNYC. Before joining the de Blasio administration last year, Mesa was known to many in the University community for her work as Columbia’s first AVP for environment stewardship. In that role, she coordinated programs designed to shrink the campus’s environmental footprint, many of which continue to this day, and helped cement the University’s reputation as a national leader in environmental sustainability.

In her new role, Mesa will coordinate the city’s sustainability initiatives and green investments, including its commitment to making an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and One City: Built to Last, the mayor’s sweeping green buildings plan.

“The challenge before us may seem daunting, but we know there’s no choice but bold action,” Mesa said. “As New Yorkers, we’re all in this together: we breathe the same air, drink from the same water supply, and suffer the same impacts of climate change. Let’s leave a legacy for our kids that will make them proud.”

Mesa began her tenure in the de Blasio administration as head of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Environmental Coordination, one of two city offices that were merged to form the one she now leads. Previously, Mesa served in the Clinton Administration as the associate director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. She also served as counsel to the NAFTA Taskforce at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she led negotiations with Canada and Mexico related to trade and the environment.

She has a J.D. from Harvard University and a B.A. from Northwestern University.

“Climate change poses nothing short of an existential threat to New Yorkers and our planet,” Mayor de Blasio said. “I am thrilled to have Nilda on board to make our ambitious, vital policies a reality.”
Joseph Bacani likes to be alone on Veterans Day, to reflect on his time in Iraq and the friends who died there. “It’s still raw, even though it has been more than seven years,” he says.

Now a student at Columbia’s School of General Studies, Bacani was a 21-year-old Army private in March 2007 when he was shot through the pelvis by a sniper while on foot patrol in Baghdad searching for improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Unable to walk because of neurological damage, and suffering from post-traumatic stress, Bacani returned to the United States for treatment. Grueling rehabilitation for two years lay ahead. Still in a wheelchair, he was awarded a Purple Heart in a ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in April 2007.

A photo taken at that ceremony of Bacani in his wheelchair was included in the memorial, said Peter Awn, dean of the School of General Studies. “Like so many of his veteran colleagues, Joseph has overcome extraordinary physical and personal challenges, becoming in the process an even more reflective human being and committed Columbia student.”

Bacani went through “an extremely dark period” after he was discharged from the army in 2009, but resolved to persevere. He still has pain and his right leg is unresponsive to touch. He also has recurrent nightmares and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Bacani says he is always thinking of them, especially his best friend, Darrell Shippy, who was 25 when he was killed by an IED in January 2007. “They never got to experience the life I have,” Bacani says. “My drive is to live for them.”

“We are immensely proud” that Bacani was chosen to be included in the memorial, said Peter Awn, dean of the School of General Studies. “Like so many of his veteran colleagues, Joseph has overcome extraordinary physical and personal challenges, becoming in the process an even more reflective human being and committed Columbia student.”

At Columbia, Bacani is studying psychology, learning about the industry at an early age. His father and grandfather owned gas and auto service stations in Brooklyn when he was growing up. His mother emigrated from the Middle East to the United States with her family as a teenager.

“I kind of joke that one side of my family is from where the energy was produced and the other side delivered it to drivers,” says Bordoff.

After four years in the Obama administration, most recently as special assistant to the president and senior director for energy and climate change at the National Security Council, Bordoff joined Columbia in January 2013 as founding director of the Center on Global Energy Policy and professor of professional practice at the School of International and Public Affairs.

“There is nothing like working in the White House. It was an extraordinary experience and a privilege,” he says. “I was starting to think about doing something else and was incredibly excited about what Columbia was looking to build in the area of energy policy research.”

In less than two years, the Center has become a leading global venue for high-level discussions and research about energy. Speakers have included senior policy makers and CEOs of multinational energy companies such as Shell and Conoco. In addition to publishing research papers about the intersection of energy, economics, geopolitics, and the environment, the Center has also launched a Women in Energy program to support women interested in entering the field. The program invites women executives in the energy sector to speak and offers opportunities for students to network with them informally.

Bordoff also teaches a course in U.S. energy policy at SIPA and is supervising several capstone projects, in which a team of students does a research paper and presents it to a real-world client seeking to solve a particular problem. Former senior government officials and policy experts who have joined the Center as fellows also teach and do research.

“Energy is a pressing global policy issue—it must be engaged from economic, geopolitical, and environmental perspectives—and we are proud to have Jason adding to SIPA’s leadership in the field,” said Merit Janow, dean of the School of International and Public Affairs. Bordoff, who is a regular commentator in the media, put that thought leadership on display when he appeared on one of the final episodes of The Colbert Report to explain the impact of falling oil prices.

During his years in the White House, Bordoff never imagined the advantages of building a policy center of this type outside of D.C. “Columbia had SIPA and the Earth Institute and the Global Centers,” he said. “There are very few institutions that put all these things together the way we have the opportunity to do here.”

A version of this story originally appeared in the Winter 2015 edition of The Record.
Columbia Hosts Alumna Gale Brewer’s First State of the Borough Address
Yvonne Winters

On a recent Sunday afternoon, Manhattan residents gathered in Columbia’s Roone Arledge Auditorium to hear Gale A. Brewer deliver her first State of the Borough address. An alumna of Columbia’s School of General Studies, Brewer completed her first year as Manhattan’s 27th borough president in January. Columbia’s own Maxine Griffeth introduced Brewer and praised her many years of service to the city.

In attendance was New York congressman Chuck Schumer, who applauded Brewer’s past year’s work. “She understands the problems facing our borough,” he said. “[Manhattan] has been a lot better this year now that she has been in office.” He went on to address Brewer’s efforts to keep the American dream alive by supporting the working class, providing affordable housing, and assisting immigrants.

Brewer chose to forego the traditional speech format in favor of an interactive community conversation. She invited Manhattan leaders on stage to engage with her in meaningful dialogue on issues ranging from education and technology to neighborhood development and affordable housing. Two screens displaying tweets of audience-generated feedback bookended the stage and encouraged participation from the public.

Brewer’s panel consisted of four speakers who represented Manhattan’s diverse community interests. Ruth Messinger, Manhattan borough president from 1990 to 1997, and current chairman of the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees; Jaime Estades, president of the Latino Leadership Institute; and Gigi Li, chair of Community Board 3, the advisory board for the district encompassing Chinatown and the Lower East Side. In keeping with the university setting, the discussion focused on education and youth. McCall spoke about the virtues of the SUNY system’s affordability but noted its limited success in solving the city’s most pervasive education challenges. Ironically, SUNY supplies 40 percent of teach- ers,” he said, noting that only 20 percent of New York high school graduates are prepared for college. He acknowledged that SUNY’s and CUNY’s strategies for cultivating leaders should be modeled “to end the cycle of miseducation and remediation.”

The conversation continued to technology’s role in education and the modern classroom. The panel agreed that tech- nology is a useful tool, especially for STEM learning, but that lower income students are at a disadvantage due to a lack of access to technology in their homes. Estades advocate- ed for the eventual implementation of a public Wi-Fi infra- structure, while Li suggested that such resources already exist on a smaller scale through the public library system.

Ruth, however, noted that there are problems inherent in Manhattan’s vast wealth disparity.

Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer leads her first State of the Borough discussion at Columbia University’s Lerner Hall (from left to right, Jaime Estades, Gigi Li, Brewer, Ruth Messinger, and Carl McCall).

The panel agreed that the income gap is an issue with broader social implications, especially for the role of afford- able housing in the current climate of widespread gentrifica- tion. Neighborhood development is reaching a fever pitch, but 70 percent of affordable housing recipients still make under $30,000. Estades suggested that government should incentivize education to stimulate economic growth for the working class. McCall added that by learning to small busi- nesses and the working class, banks could help contribute to job creation. Although there is no perfect solution, Estades recognized that “the blueprint is there” to diminish poverty in the city.

Brewer finished the address by thanking her fellow panelists and encouraging involvement from all Manhattan residents, noting that it is through caring for the individuals in our community that we can create a shared culture.

New Arts and Sciences Deans Plunge Ahead with New Projects
By Gary Shapiro and Georgette Jasen

Two new deans have ramped up their respective divisions at Columbia University’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences, where they supervise academic departments and research centers. They oversee faculty searches and hires. They help guide budget priorities and research funding. But Alondra Nelson and Sharon Marcus, Columbia’s newest divisional deans in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, are also plunging ahead with exciting new intellectual contributions to their respective fields.

Nelson, who is a professor of sociology and the former director of Columbia’s Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, describes herself as an interdis- ciplinary social scientist whose academic interests include science and technology, medicine, and health, and social movements. In her forthcoming book, The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation after the Genome, Nelson traces her interest in the political uses of genetic- ic analysis to a 2002 class-action lawsuit. The plaintiffs in the case sought reparations from several corporations that they claimed profited from slavery. When the suit was dismissed for lack of standing in 2004, the plaintiffs turned to genetic ancestry testing to prove that they were descended from slaves.

“Genetic information is changing how we think about belonging, about the past and the present,” Nelson says. “It tells us things about ourselves that are very individual but also confirm that we are all part of an overlapping, interwoven human family.”

She notes that genetic analysis has been used in Argentina to help relatives identify the remains of those who disappeared during the military dictatorship of 1976–83, in South Africa to identify victims of apartheid, and in New York after the discovery of an African burial ground in lower Manhattan.

Nelson herself underwent genetic ancestry testing and discovered she is related to the Bamileke people of Cameroon. “That ethnic specificity was never a burning question for me,” she says. “But people I encountered while carrying out my research kept asking about this. It became a credibility issue.”

Marcus is a scholar of 19th century French and English literature whose current research focuses on theatrical celebrity. She is exploring the concept of theatrical fame in the 19th century, a period when mass media came to the fore. “The invention of photography brought images of performers, monarchs, politicians, and military leaders into the reach of millions of avid fans,” Marcus said. “People with unprecedented amounts of leisure time flocked to see performers who, for the first time, could travel the world by steamship and rail.”

Marcus is intrigued by celebrity because it engenders so much controversy and debate. The public loves celebrities, hates them, and argues about whether they deserve their fame. “Some celebrities are paragons of good behavior, others shamelessly defy convention,” she says. Her interest can be traced to her childhood, in the 1970s, when her father would take her to see classic films with stars such as Katharine Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart. She spent as much time watching movies and reading film history as reading novels. “I memorized an entire book about the Academy Awards when I was 7,” says Marcus, who can still tell you who won Oscars in the 1940s.

Nowadays, film is one of many subjects that Marcus covers in a lively online review she co-founded called Public Books, written by scholars, artists, and intellectuals and aimed at a wide audience. It was recently chosen by the website Flavorwire as one of the top five new literary publications to watch.

Marcus’s role as dean, chair, and editor leave her limited time to complete her book on celebrity. “I’ve always advised my graduate students to make sure to write one page a day, five days a week, if they want to finish their dissertations,” she says, adding, “Now, I’m trying to take my own advice.”

A version of this story originally appeared in the December 2014 edition of The Record.
In the Mix

Clockwise, from top left: President Obama with winners of the 2nd annual White House Student Film Festival. Pictured: Jared Colazo, Chazz Johnson, Janaya Nicholson, David Maxwell, and Ojani Johnson, students from the Digital Media Training Program in Harlem, which is run by award-winning Columbia Journalism adjunct professor Melvin McCray (Courtesy of the White House).

Columbia University Libraries and Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith presented the 2015 Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History to Suzan-Lori Parks for Father Comes Home from the Wars, Parts 1, 2, & 3. Parks and Steven Bargonetti (CC’78), the show’s musical director, performed songs from the play at Columbia University’s Italian Academy (Diane Bondareff).

David N. Dinkins, Columbia professor and former mayor of New York City, makes his stage debut in Mandela, at the National Black Theatre (Courtesy of David N. Dinkins).

Hundreds of people held aloft glowing lanterns honoring African-American artist Romare Bearden during the third annual Morningside Lights procession (The Record).

Helping Local Entrepreneurs Thrive (continued from page 1)

Programs are designed for existing businesses and for entrepreneurs interested in getting a new business off the ground. They are mostly start-ups, the majority in retail trade—including online retail—as well as professional consulting services. Increasingly, food manufacturing and food service businesses are also seeking help with business planning, legal referrals, marketing, and funding.

For the most part, Nailor Simmons says, these business owners know about their particular industry, but they often lack formal business training. Through the Center, they have access to resources at Columbia, including business and law school faculty. There are skills training courses and sessions with experts in finance, marketing, social media, and other topics.

In addition, 20 business owners are selected each year to enroll in the Center’s Columbia Community Business Program, a two-year executive education program. Morjaria is now in his second year in the program. “There are not a lot of places a small business owner can go to get these resources and to find someone to help you,” he says. Another benefit is the interaction between other owners. “We are all in the same boat, trying to be the best we can at what we do and learning from each other,” he adds.

Patrick Ellerbe, who is also currently in the program, says it allows him the space to step back from the daily grind of running his business, Pat’s Moving and Storage, to try to understand what it needs. “I am so hands on, and always working, I can only see what’s right in front of me, so this is a great asset,” he explains. His goal is to buy a building and open his own storage facility, which would allow an expansion of the business.

Nailor Simmons says the Center also helps neighborhood small business owners connect with Columbia to compete for contracts and become preferred vendors to the University. For example, the Center holds tastings for local food companies to connect them with Columbia staff that hire for food events. “We want to utilize the resources of Columbia beyond the classroom and faculty to develop the community,” she says. “Part of our job is to connect local enterprises to new business opportunities at Columbia and with government buyers and large corporations.”
Community Services

Outreach to Disconnected Youth

Columbia University has initiated outreach to identify and engage disconnected youth ages 16-24 in the local community who have not completed high school or obtained a GED in order to enroll them at no cost in New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) high school programs or GED programs. Upon completion of a high school diploma or GED, participants will be referred for skills training, internships and work-based learning opportunities through community based organizations. Columbia will make a good faith effort to place participants in positions with Columbia University. For more information about how to access the program, please contact 212-854-1116.

Columbia Employment Information Center

The Columbia Employment Information Center (CEIC) (the “Center”) serves as the central community-based resource for local residents to apply for open positions at Columbia University.

You are welcome to call our 24-hour hotline at 212-851-1551; it provides general information about the Center, Columbia University job opportunities, information on construction activities and information on construction-related job opportunities.

Summer Sports Camp Scholarships for Children

Columbia University offers 25 need-based scholarships for children ages 6–12 from the Manhattanville area to attend Columbia’s Rise-n-Run Cubs Summer Camp. One scholarship is equal to one week of camp. All scholarship applications must come to Columbia University through the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC). For more information, please contact the WHDC at 646-476-3394.

Dental Health Screenings for Senior Citizens

Columbia University offers free dental health screenings for senior citizens throughout Northern Manhattan via the ElderSmile Program. As part of Columbia University’s College of Dental Medicine Community DentCare Network, the ElderSmile Program offers free dental screenings and referrals for further dental treatment at senior centers throughout Washington Heights/Inwood and Harlem, including New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents in Manhattanville Houses and General Grant Houses.

Columbia Community Scholars Program

Columbia University offers independent, community-based scholarships from Northern Manhattan access to a range of University services and resources not usually afforded to non-affiliated residents. Services and resources shall be provided at no cost to participants and shall include access to all of University libraries — including online access, course auditing privileges, dialogue with scholars in their field of study, and the ability to participate in seminars and social events developed specifically for the group.

For more information, please direct inquiries to the Community Scholars Program at 212-854-4289 or communityscholars@columbia.edu.

Athletics Clinics

Columbia University’s varsity sports programs and coaches of football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, swimming, track and field, and tennis sponsor and participate in seasonal sports clinics for local community children between the ages of 5 and 13 in University facilities and throughout Harlem and Washington Heights.

Course Auditing

Columbia University funds up to 50 courses per year through Columbia’s Continuing Education Auditing Program for residents (25 residents from NYCHA Manhattanville Houses and Grant Houses and 25 residents from the local community). The Auditing Program provides adults not currently enrolled in college with the opportunity to attend selected lectures drawn from Columbia University’s offerings in the Arts and Sciences during the academic year.

Housing Legal Assistance

For the period from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2014, Columbia University provided funding for two attorneys at a legal assistance provider acceptable to NYCHPD serving the Manhattanville area, to provide anti-eviction/anti-harassment legal assistance for residents of the Manhattanville area. Funding will not exceed $4 million through December 31, 2030.

Mobile Dental Center for Preschool Children

Columbia University offers free dental care for preschool-age children from the Manhattanville in West Harlem area through the Mobile Dental Center. The Mobile Dental Center is a program of Columbia University’s College of Dental Medicine Community DentCare Network, which aims to reduce dental decay and improve the oral health of Northern Manhattan’s underserved children, through comprehensive dental treatment and oral health education.

Scholarships for Lifelong Learners

Columbia University provides scholarships for 50 residents of Manhattanville Houses, Grant Houses, and the local community who are 65 years of age and older to audit up to two courses per year. Administered through Columbia’s School of Continuing Education, the Lifelong Learners Program is designed for individuals committed to the principles of lifelong education.

For more information about the program, please call 212-854-0419.

Shuttle Bus Service for the Elderly and Disabled

Columbia University provides a shuttle bus service free of charge to members of the local community who are disabled or who are senior citizens (including their attendants) via the ADA-accessible Inter-campus Shuttle. The shuttle bus service complies with ADA specifications to connect the Project Site to subway stations at:

• 96th Street and Broadway
• 116th Street and Broadway (Morningside campus)
• 125th Street and Broadway
• Harlem Hospital Center (135th Street and Lenox Avenue)
• Columbia University Medical Center (168th Street and Broadway)

The shuttle bus service runs on a regular schedule throughout the day on every weekday, except on state and federal public holidays.

Space Provisions for Non-Columbia-Affiliated Local Artists and Cultural Organizations

Columbia University, consistent with current practice, makes good faith efforts to accommodate requests by local artists and cultural organizations not affiliated with Columbia for use of its indoor or outdoor spaces for programming that may include, but is not limited to, information sessions, performances, special events or presentations. Payment for such space will be in accordance with then current University protocols. Columbia University space is generally awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to Columbia and student activities, followed by local community activities.

Undergraduate Scholarships for Aid-Eligible Students From the Local Community

In an effort to encourage local students to attend Columbia College and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, Columbia University undertakes a targeted recruitment effort for qualified students from the local community. Columbia University has established a scholarship fund to serve up to 40 aid-eligible undergraduate students per year who are admitted to Columbia College and/or the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, with funding made available to meet their fully demonstrated financial need.
Our Elected Officials and Community Boards

FEDERAL Elected OFFICIALS

Sen. Charles E. Schumer
757 Third Ave., Ste. 17-02
New York, NY 10017
Phone: 212-466-4140
TDD: 212-486-7803
Fax: 212-486-7693
www.schumer.senate.gov

Sen. Kirsten G. Gillibrand
780 Third Ave., Ste. 9001
New York, New York 10017
Phone: 212-688-6252
Fax: 212-688-7444
http://gillibrand.senate.gov/

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (District 8)
201 Varick St., Ste. 601
New York, NY 10014
Phone: 212-367-7530
Fax: 212-367-7595
www.house.gov/nadler

Rep. Charles B. Rangel (District 5)
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building
163 W. 125th St., 5th Flr.
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-669-3900
Fax: 212-669-4277
www.house.gov/rangel

State Elected OFFICIALS

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
Phone: 518-474-8590
Fax: 518-474-3513
www.governor.ny.gov
contact@transition.ny.gov

State Sen. Bill Perkins (District 38)
165 West 125th St., Suite 912
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-222-7315
perkins@wamn.state.ny.us

State Sen. Adriano Espaillet (District 31)
5010 Broadway
New York, NY 10034
United States
Phone: 212-544-6173
Fax: 212-544-0256
espaillet@nysenate.gov
www.nysenate.gov/waun/adianoi-espaillet

Assemblymember Daniel J. O’Donnell (District 69)
245 W. 104th St.
New York, NY 10025
Phone: 212-866-5970
odonneld@assembly.state.ny.us

Assemblymember Keith L.T. Wright (District 78)
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building
163 W 125th St., Ste. 911
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-866-5909
wrightk@assembly.state.ny.us

Assemblymember Herman D. Farrell Jr. (District 71)
New York, NY 10031
Phone: 212-234-1450
farrellh@assembly.state.ny.us

LOCAL Elected OFFICIALS

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10002
Phone: 212-788-3000
Fax: 212-788-2460
www.nyc.gov/mayor

Public Advocate Letitia James
1 Centre St., 13th Flr.
New York, NY 10065
Phone: 212-669-7270 (General)
Fax: 212-669-4701
obma@publicadvocate.nyc.gov
www.publicadvocate.nyc.gov

Manhattan Borough President
Gale A. Brewer
1 Centre St., 19th Flr.
New York, NY 10022
Phone: 212-533-5109
Fax: 212-531-1610

Comptroller Scott Stringer
1 Centre St.
New York, NY 10002
Phone: (212) 669-3916
Fax: 646-582-1408
info@cb9m.org

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (District 8)
105 E 116th Street
New York, NY 10029
Phone: 212-669-4350
TTY: 212-669-2707
www.comptroller.nyc.gov
action@comptroller.nyc.gov

City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal (District 6)
565 Columbus Ave.
New York, NY 10024
Phone: 212-873-6282
Fax: 212-873-6279
hrosenthal@council.nyc.gov
http://council.nyc.gov/d6

City Councilmember Mark Levine (District 7)
506 W. 141st St.
New York, NY 10031
Phone: 212-928-6814
Fax: 646-582-1408
district7@council.nyc.gov

City Councilmember Inez E. Dickens (District 9)
Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building
163 W. 125th St.
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-478-6935
Fax: 212-864-4379
dickensm@council.nyc.gov
www.council.nyc.gov/d9

City Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez (District 10)
618 W. 37th St., Ground Flr.
New York, NY 10018
Phone: 917-321-2616
Fax: 917-521-1295
yrodriquez@council.nyc.gov
http://council.nyc.gov/d10

She represents you...

New York City Public Advocate Letitia James

She represents you...
New York City Public Advocate Letitia James

James graduated from CUNY’s Lehman College with a degree in psychology and
improved recycling in public spaces.

State Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand went on to earn a J.D. from Howard University Law School. She currently resides in Brooklyn, where she was born and raised.

James began her career in public service as a public defender for the Legal Aid Society and later served as an assistant attorney general for New York State. As a

In her first months in office, James successfully pushed

represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 57th Street to 110th Street. General meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 7 office.

Represents the community between Fifth Avenue and Morningside/Edgecombe avenues from 100th Street to 155th Street; general meetings are held the first Wednesday evening of the month at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Harlem State Office Building, 163 W 125th St., 2nd Flr.

Represented the community between Fifth Avenue and Morningside/Edgecombe avenues from 100th Street to 155th Street; general meetings are held the first Wednesday evening of the month at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Harlem State Office Building, 163 W 125th St., 2nd Flr.

Represented the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 57th Street to 110th Street. General meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 7 office.

Represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 57th Street to 110th Street. General meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 7 office.

Represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 57th Street to 110th Street. General meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 7 office.

Reps

Represents the community between Fifth Avenue and Morningside/Edgecombe avenues from 100th Street to 155th Street; general meetings are held the first Wednesday evening of the month at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Harlem State Office Building, 163 W 125th St., 2nd Flr.

Represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 57th Street to 110th Street. General meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 7 office.

Represents the community between the Hudson River and Central Park West from 57th Street to 110th Street. General meetings are held the first Tuesday evening of the month at the CB 7 office.