Continuing its long-standing commitment to working with minority, women and local (MWL) firms, Columbia University hosted its third annual MWL Networking Reception on Thursday, July 31st. At the event, over 100 qualified MWL businesses had the chance to discuss potential work opportunities with key decision makers at the University. Read more on page 5.

BEING GREEN IN MANHATTANVILLE

Led by Ramesh Raman, Columbia is implementing a state-of-the-art construction impact mitigation program and creating an on-site dedicated field compliance team for the Manhattanville development. Air monitoring stations, (pictured above) a first step in the process, are already in place. In addition, all construction equipment use air pollution control devices and Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) fuel. Read more about Ramesh and the environmental efforts in Manhattanville on pages 6/7.
Dear Anthony [Nasser],

I have been a tenant at 501 West 121st Street for almost two years now, and I just wanted to inform you that Eddie Maldonado has been a great Superintendent. Now that I have graduated, I will miss him when I depart at the end of this month! Eddie was always more than happy to give the tenants a smile and a friendly greeting upon seeing them around the building. He also tended to problems within our apartments quickly and efficiently. I simply felt that it was necessary for me to send you an e-mail to let you know that Eddie has been doing a great job and he will be missed.

Rebecca Larr

Dear [Mark] Kerman,

A few weeks ago I lost my wallet on the street. It was picked up and brought to 560. Jose recognized my picture and went through the trouble of going to my building and leaving a note on my mailbox alerting me he had the wallet. I appreciate his making this extra effort on my behalf.

Martha Tobias
Senior Research Scientist
Department of Biological Sciences

Dear Anna [Fu],

Thank you Anna for the excellent service. Your understanding our needs, integrative thinking and commitment to coordination of service delivery was much appreciated.

Marah is already a part of the Earl Hall family; we will look forward to her work with us.

Stay well and in touch,
Chaplain Davis

Dear [Cathy] Ryder,

I just wanted to take a moment to write you a brief note about Dragos Sisu, who has been the building super at 423 West 118th Street for the past three years. I’ve been living in the building for five years, and ever since Dragos arrived, the building has run like clockwork.

Dragos is by far the best super I’ve come into contact with: he is extremely conscientious, hard-working, intelligent, and talented at his job. He is respectful of the tenants and responsive to their needs, and goes far beyond the call of duty with regard to the upkeep of the building—he’s often been known to respond to problems even when he’s not on duty. In the past, maintenance requests routinely took several days to be responded to, but Dragos always responds immediately—within hours, sometimes even minutes. Moreover, he often takes preventative measures to keep problems from arising in the first place, and always remembers to follow up on his work, checking with tenants on a regular basis to make sure everything is running smoothly in their apartments.

Dragos is also very personable, and apart from the excellent work he has done in the building, he always tries to make it a more friendly, comfortable atmosphere for the tenants. He knows all of the tenants by name, and is never too busy to stop and ask you how your day was, or how your own work is going. This friendliness and concern for others is infectious, and I’ve noticed that since Dragos came to the building, tenants are much more likely to chat with one another in the lobby or the elevator. Having Dragos around has made a huge difference in so many ways.

Karen Emmerich
423 West 118th, Apt. 6F

Dear [Matthew] Early

Just wanted to let you know that the last of the glitches have found their fix and that I really have air conditioning now in my office.

I have seen pretty much everybody from both HVAC and the carpenter’s shop in the past two weeks and have met along this route some amazing, caring people. Each person who came into my office to work had such a terrific attitude and super professional manner it was a very positive experience going from my 90 degree office to my current 82 degree office.

And while I know that the University’s Facilities personnel have much bigger jobs to do on any given day, I really felt like my problem mattered.

I wanted you to know that.

Anne Born
Academic Dept. Administrator
Department of Sociology

Dear Clem [Olivo],

Kudos to your team. While the dryer installation is not yet complete (as of this email), it should be done after lunch, I would like to commend the professionalism and friendliness of your team including Neil (electrician), Ashton, Domingo and Marilyn!!! There was another worker who moved the dryer downstairs, but I did not get his name.

Ashton in particular wanted to see the job get completed and went above and beyond to work with EH&S for the uninstall, removal and install of a new dryer. This in view of limited EH&S staffing today due to bereavement leave, vacation and our team out in the field providing new student trainings this time of year.

Well done and THANK YOU!!!

Kathleen Crowley, RPA-C, MPH
Associate Vice President
Environmental Health & Safety

Dear Matt [Early],

I wanted to send you my compliments on your staff. As you know we had a carpet that was damaged from an HVAC leak in room 719. From the very beginning your team was incredibly responsive and considerate. Today the carpet was removed by the labor shop and they did a fabulous job. Now I have the custodian here clearing the carpet for the faculty member coming in tomorrow. This was all very rushed and everyone made it work and I am grateful. Special thanks to Rita and Wanda from the call center.

Stacey Quartaro
Academic Department Administrator
Philosophy Department
With the start of the academic year, the campus is once again alive with faculty, students, and staff. We enter the season having experienced growth and improvements across our many divisions.

During the summer months, we completed over $26 million in construction projects. The corner of Broadway and 120th Street, home of our new Interdisciplinary Science Building, witnessed the structural steel erection and placement of metal and concrete decks. Faculty House received interior demolition work, new windows and doors, façade restoration work, roof replacement work, and elevator bulkhead construction. Drilling also began on Knox Hall’s four geothermal energy wells (a creative approach and clear demonstration of our commitment to sustainable design). While the Journalism Student Center is preparing for its closeout phase — the placement of a glass enclosed 800-sq. ft. café overlooking the plaza between Journalism Hall and Furnald Hall — Manhattanville in West Harlem has entered its initial phase of work — the relocation and reconstruction of street utility and drainage improvements (for more information, go to page 4).

As we continue to work on these projects, the Services Center remains an integral support system for our CUF activities. Since its official launch in January 2006, the Center has centralized its location and added advanced technologies (for more information go to page 8). Over the last year, the Center has successfully processed more than 50,000 service requests and answered more than 72,600 customer calls on its 4-2222 line, which fully supports our departmental, as well as the University-wide, efforts to improve client service.

Like the Services Center, Public Safety has benefited from the use of advanced technology. Its PC PhoneHome and Mac PhoneHome continues to help students who’ve had their lap tops stolen or lost. Utilizing both tools and working with law enforcement agencies, Public Safety has helped students to reclaim their belongings from across the globe. More information about this can be found on page 9 of this issue as well as in Public Safety’s first ever annual report. Currently available for viewing on Public Safety’s Web site, the annual report will be used to communicate mandatory information, such as crime statistics, and give insight into the many ways in which we strive to keep our community safe.

In addition to our improved services, we will continue to advance our initiatives for minority, women and locally-owned (MWL) business enterprises and environmental sustainability. To assist in these areas, I am delighted to welcome La-Verna Fountain and Ramesh Raman to our team.

La-Verna Fountain joined our team in July as the new associate vice president for construction business services and communications. La-Verna will lead the University’s outreach and communications efforts regarding construction-related employment opportunities and oversee the MWL business enterprise initiative (more information can be found on page 11). Since La-Verna’s arrival, seven of our mentees from the MWL Mentorship Program have been awarded contracts with the University (details on page 5).

Ramesh Raman is the executive director of environmental field compliance for Manhattanville development. He will help oversee the environmental performance during our development. As explained on pages 6-7, Ramesh’s goal is to make Columbia’s new mixed-use campus in Manhattanville a model for “green” urban development. To do so, he will lead our team using the Environmental Performance Commitments Plan (EPC Plan) — a proactive, formal approach to construction mitigation. In accordance to the plan, air monitoring stations have been placed along Broadway and all construction equipment are outfitted with air pollution control devices and use Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) fuel.

This year it is my hope that we will continue to celebrate achievements both through our initiatives and from all of our operations. Thank you for facilitating our growth and I look forward to the year ahead!

Joe Ienuso
Capital Project Management News

As part of our mission to maintain a safe, beautiful and functional campus environment, Columbia University Facilities manages a wide array of renovation and improvement projects both on and off campus.

While construction activity is a year round process, a significant portion of our capital construction program takes place during the summer months, when the reduced campus population makes it logistically possible to complete more work. This summer we completed over $26 million in construction projects. Highlights included:

**New Interdisciplinary Science Building**

It was a busy summer at the corner of Broadway and 120th Street, where construction continues on the new Interdisciplinary Science Building, which will help fulfill Columbia's great need for science instruction and academic research space. Scheduled to open in the fall of 2010, the 14-story building will house faculty offices, classrooms, a science library, a café and interdisciplinary research facilities for the departments of chemistry, biology, engineering and physics. Summer construction activities included structural steel erection and placement of metal and concrete decks, Chandler fume hood exhaust installation and campus utility connection work. Construction continues this year with steel erection and placement of metal and concrete decks. Topping out – when the last beam is placed at the top of the building – is scheduled for January 2009.

**Renovation of Faculty House**

This summer saw the temporary closing of Faculty House, which is undergoing a complete rehabilitation. Since 1923, this red brick and limestone building – designed by McKim, Mead & White in the original campus plan – has served as a gathering place for social and intellectual interaction among University faculty, administrators, alumni, graduate students and members of the community. The project includes new systems upgrades, internal modernization and a new addition to the building’s fourth floor. A new entryway system will replace the current gateway entrance adjacent to Faculty House on Morningside Drive. This project is expected to be completed by the fall of 2009. Summer construction activities included interior demolition work, replacement of windows and doors, façade restoration work, roof replacement work, and elevator bulkhead construction. Ongoing interior construction and full fit out continues through the year until completion in fall 2009.

**Knox Hall Conversion**

Demolition work was completed this summer at Knox Hall at Union Theological Seminary, which will be converted into 50,000 square feet of new academic space for the Sociology and MEALAC departments, Middle East, Southern Asian and African Studies institutes and registrar classrooms to provide new spaces for interdisciplinary thinking. Construction has begun on the interior spaces. Digging has begun on four geothermal energy wells, which uses the heat of the earth to heat and cool the building. Construction will be completed in summer 2009.

**Journalism Student Center**

The Stable Student Center comprises several comfortable new spaces where students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni can relax and interact. The design clusters services related to student life around a main-floor social hub. The final phase of the project – a glass enclosed 800-sq. ft. café overlooking the plaza between Journalism Hall and Furnald Hall – is scheduled to open at the end of September. The café’s main façade will be a huge double-hung window that can be opened in pleasant weather.

**Manhattanville in West Harlem**

This summer Manhattanville Development, in accordance with Department of Environmental Protection standards, began undertaking a street utility relocation, reconstruction and drainage improvement project to replace outdated 19th-century sewage and water main systems in the Manhattanville area of West Harlem. It is anticipated this project will last about 16 months, and when completed, will improve service to the University as well as to the surrounding community. Work will be conducted in phases, beginning on Broadway between 130th Street south to 129th Street and then west along 129th and 125th Streets to an existing sewage regulator on 12th Avenue. Columbia recently awarded the contract for this utility relocation work to Felix Associates, a minority-owned firm based in the Bronx.
University and Vendors Come Together at Third Annual MWL Reception

Recent Contract Recipients from the MWL Mentorship Program Are Also in Attendance

“My plan is to have a long-lasting relationship with Columbia and step my business up to another level,” says Chris Chernak, president, Chernak Contracting.

Chernak is among the seven minority, women-owned and locally-based (MWL) business enterprises that have been recently awarded contracts with the University and were in attendance at the third annual MWL Reception held on July 31. The networking event brought together more than 100 vendors into the Kellogg Center in the International Affairs Building, where they were able to discuss work opportunities with key decision makers at the University.

While taking in aerial views of the campus, the vendors listened to speakers Joe Ienuso, Executive Vice President, Facilities; Warren Whitlock, Director, Construction Business Mentoring Services; and La-Verna Fountain, Associate Vice President, Construction Business Services and Communications discuss the University’s commitment to working with MWLs.

“it is important for Columbia, and for the economic vitality of our local community, to form relationships with qualified MWL firms that can grow with us,” said Joe, explaining the value the University receives in working with MWL vendors. He also noted that this effort is being advanced by the University’s MWL Mentorship Pilot Project.

Launched in January of this year in conjunction with the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS), the MWL Mentorship Pilot Project was established to help MWL businesses build capacity and earn contracting opportunities at the University. Twenty-one certified MWL businesses are currently taking part in the mentorship project and are participating in a series of courses in which they will learn about managing the full project life cycle and receive exclusive opportunities to bid on specific Columbia projects, leveling the field and increasing chances of being awarded contracts.

Seven MWL mentees have already received University contracts:

1. Spectra & Dean Construction Inc. (general contracting)
2. Jaysan Contracting Corporation (interiors)
3. Chernak Contracting LLC (carpentry)
4. KND Licensed Electrical Contracting (electrical)
5. Nobel Electrical (electrical)
6. ARK Systems Electric (electrical)
7. Eagle Two Contracting (general contracting)

Sandra Shillingford-Burton, Jaysan Contracting’ president, says, “Columbia’s program is something different — it’s a real mentorship program. Being taught as you go along, is a great experience. My goal is to get the most knowledge in construction as possible because it helps so much in every day life and work. Because of these classes, I have changed some of my business practices, and it has turned out to be most beneficial.”

Columbia encourages the fulfillment of additional opportunities for MWLs with its aggregate 25 percent minority, women-owned and locally-based (MWL) businesses participation goal for total construction, maintenance, and repair spend. The University will continue its strong record of seeking construction firms based in New York City, so that together the University and its vendors can grow and forge a long-standing relationship.

MWL vendors celebrate their recent University contracts at the third annual MWL Reception. From left are Chris Chernak from Chernak Contracting, Gideon Gabbidon from Spectra and Dean, Kristine DiNapoli from KND Electrical, and Arsen Duverger from Jaysan Contracting.
Being Green in Manhattanville
Ramesh Raman Oversees the Environmental Performance of Manhattanville Development

You could try to ask Ramesh Raman, Executive Director of Environmental Field Compliance for Manhattanville Development about his background, but you won’t get much. To be sure, Raman has an impressive record when it comes to the environmental performance of the construction projects he has worked on, which include major New York City projects such as the new South Ferry Terminal Station for the #1 Subway line, the new Fulton Street Transit Center, and the Second Avenue Subway project. But Raman doesn’t like to talk about the past. Instead, he changes the subject to the next great project he is working on: his plan to make Columbia’s new mixed-use campus in Manhattanville a model for “green” urban development.

The plan, known as the Environmental Performance Commitments Plan (EPC Plan), is a proactive, formal approach to construction mitigation – a sharp contrast to the management of complaints which tends to be the standard model in construction. It involves translating the stringent environmental compliance requirements set forth and agreed to by the University and distilling them into a set of engineering specifications that get incorporated into construction plans.

“Making sure we have clear specifications that are reviewed and agreed upon by Columbia, our environmental consultants and our contractors means that we have buy-in from all parties,” explains Raman.

These specifications reflect a proactive plan of construction mitigation for the Manhattanville development that optimizes the competing concerns of the impacts of construction on the daily workings of the surrounding community. The strategy includes early planning, regular monitoring and reporting, communications, problem solving and enforcement management. The two cornerstones of the plan are comprehensive construction mitigation and a dedicated on-site mitigation team.

The comprehensive construction mitigation addresses a wide array of environmental issues, including air quality, noise and vibration, traffic control, business disruptions, and complaint management. The plan implements additional mitigation measures including a Construction Protection Plan to help avoid impacts to buildings within 90 feet of the construction site; a Construction Health and Safety Plan to ensure no significant adverse impacts on public health or the environment; a Noise Control Plan to minimize intrusive noise and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to limit potential off-site transport of sediment.

The dedicated on-site mitigation team serves as the primary point of contact to respond to community concerns about construction activities. The Facilities Services Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week so community members can voice concerns easily. A Web site and newsletter were designed specifically for the project to provide frequent updates to the community. Members of the mitigation team are available to meet and work with the community to resolve any concerns or problems that arise during the construction process. And, as appropriate, presentations about the project are made to neighbors, community groups and the local community board to keep them informed about the progress of construction.

Raman already has the plan up and running. Air monitoring stations have been placed along Broadway to monitor the air quality both prior to and during construction of the Manhattanville in West Harlem campus. These stations will help confirm the effectiveness of the University’s air quality control strategies and to take corrective measures, if warranted. Perimeter air monitoring will consist of continuous, real time ambient air monitoring for particulates.

Raman also ensures that all construction equipment is outfitted with air pollution control devices and use Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) fuel. ULSD offers a significant reduction in particulates as well as in sulfur and other pollutants. If all this sounds like a lot to handle, that’s
because it is. But Raman — even though he is modest about it — has the extensive background and experience needed for this challenge.

Prior to joining Columbia, Raman was responsible for environmental performance for Metropolitan Transit Authority Capital Construction, where he conducted plan reviews, developed contract specifications and implemented construction mitigation plans for large MTA construction projects.

Several of these projects, such as the South Ferry Subway Terminal Station and the Fulton Street Transit Center, were located in Lower Manhattan as part of the transportation recovery program funded by the federal government after 9/11. The many projects under construction in the tight quarters of Lower Manhattan necessitated the MTA, Port Authority, New York State Department of Transportation, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and the Federal Transit Administration to develop and sign a joint agreement to mitigate the environmental impacts of these projects.

“This was the first time in the United States that an analysis was done to evaluate the cumulative effects of projects in close proximity,” said Raman. “The plethora of tourists, workers, and buildings in Lower Manhattan required a coordinated environmental performance effort.”

As a result, the United States Environmental Protection Agency is using Raman’s clean diesel emissions program as a model of success for other projects throughout the country and recognized his program with an award. Previously, Raman’s work on the “greening” of the New York City Transit’s Corona Maintenance Facility — the first LEED-certified MTA property — received honorable mention in the 2004 New York City Green Building Design competition.

“Construction mitigation measures, like everything else in business, comes down to a question of how much we care about what we do, how committed we are,” said Raman. “There is nothing mystical or abstract and it is no more and no less than what all of us put into our daily jobs. Our success depends on how well we communicate and team together to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.”

Columbia University Facilities is spearheading efforts to make Columbia a model environmental citizen. Below are some recent efforts to reduce energy consumption, limit our greenhouse gas emissions and incorporate environmental and energy enhancements in new construction projects.

And meeting those challenges is just what he’s done throughout his career. He just won’t tell you about it.

Green

An air monitoring station on Broadway monitors the air quality both prior to and during construction.

Raman conducted plan reviews, developed contract specifications and implemented construction mitigation plans for large MTA construction projects.
Two Years After Launch, Facilities Services Center Keeps on Growing

Service Coordinators and Technological Advances Contribute to Success

Since its official launch in January 2006, the Facilities Services Center has been integral in its support of Facilities’ many operations. Similar to New York City’s 311 phone line, the Services Center manages an array of requests for services from Campus and Residential Operations and information on construction activities. Over the last year, the Center has successfully processed more than 50,000 service requests and answered more than 72,600 customer calls on its 4-2222 line.

At the forefront of the Center’s impressive performance is the replacement of a formerly area-focused structure — in which client contact with Facilities was segmented both physically and operationally into four campus locales — with a unified establishment that consolidated all groups as a single point of contact. The team now resides in B-230 East Campus, which permits an easy collaboration with Facilities’ central shops, and custodial and capital project management teams.

The Services Center’s transition to its new service model came about naturally, mainly due to the enhanced flow of communication among team members. Fred Small, who leads the Services Center, explains, “Our main goal is to support the University-wide effort to improve client service. Since we’ve consolidated, our operations have been more efficient. We now have consistent standards for service delivery. We’re more productive because we’re working closely together.”

Juliette Hutchinson, a services coordinator who has worked with the University for 12 years, believes that the Center’s core function has remained the same. “We still get every type of call — windows that can’t open, rooms that are too hot or cold, and toilets that need repairs. Having everyone under one roof makes it easier. We can dispatch the workload on a timely basis and communicate with each other about the calls we get, without duplicating efforts.”

In addition to new technology, extensive training has helped to improve the Services Center. Before any new staff member can take phone requests, they must be trained for the duration of at least a month. “You have to be fast and there can be tough clients. There’s also a lot of information to retain,” Wanda says. “That’s why I know that we have extraordinary individuals, some of whom have been with the University for years. They care deeply about making Columbia work, and because they now all sit in the same room, we can all easily work together to best assist with everyone’s needs.”

These needs not only consist of expediting services via phone, but also managing requests that come from faxes and the Facilities’ Web site. In addition, the team handles the dispatch of urgent calls, extensive data entry, and billing inquiries. Recently, the Center added an additional function — fielding construction-related questions. Services Coordinators are briefed on Facilities’ major construction activities and perform as accessible gateways for construction questions and concerns.

With additional responsibilities, including the increase in the Center’s hours to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, departmental staffing for the weekends and nights has increased. The team now works in three shifts — an increase from two — and is comprised of 11 hourly services coordinators. A second assistant supervisor will soon be brought onto the team to support the coordinators on the off-hours.

As the Services Center continues in its success, Fred marvels at his team’s performance and growth. “We have an extremely busy and hardworking group. In my own opinion, they are the hardest working university contact center with the heaviest responsibility. Each person must exercise good judgment and is able to handle multiple responsibilities. I’m proud of our group and know that we will continue to do well.”

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PC PhoneHome Strikes Again!
Losing your laptop is not only costly, but also very frustrating since all of your hard work is lost along with the computer. But thanks to a Public Safety crime prevention initiative, Columbia students, faculty and staff don’t have to fret should it happen.

Columbia has purchased a site license for PC PhoneHome and Mac PhoneHome, which members of the University community can download to their computers for free. Should a laptop be stolen, it will send a stealth message to a pre-determined e-mail address containing its exact location. Once this information is received, Public Safety works with PC PhoneHome as well as law enforcement agencies to recover the computer.

That’s just what happened to a Columbia student when his laptop was stolen on a bus from Buffalo to New York. Fortunately, the student was smart enough to have downloaded the Mac PhoneHome software, which pinpointed the computer’s location. A few short days later, the student was reunited with his computer.

According to CNEET, 97 percent of stolen laptops are never recovered. Be part of the 3 percent and take a few minutes to download the free PhoneHome software. It may be the smartest investment you ever make.

To download PC or Mac PhoneHome, please visit www.columbia.edu/acis/software/pcphonehome.

Public Safety Publishes First Ever Annual Security Report
In September, Public Safety released its first ever Annual Security Report to disseminate important safety information to the University community. In prior years, most of the information in the Security Report was presented in Columbia University FACETS, which is no longer published.

“With this publication, it is our intent to communicate not only mandatory information such as crime statistics, but also to give insight into the many ways in which we strive to keep this community safe,” said Jim McShane, Associate Vice President for Public Safety.

You can get a copy of the report at the Public Safety Operations Center in 111 Low Library, or view it online at www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety.
NEW FACES AT FACILITIES

Kwesi Alleyne
Coordinator Residential Operations

Earl Axon
Porter A Residential Operations

Raymond Barry
Security Officer Public Safety Morningside

Gonzalo Bresciani
Door Attendant A Residential Operations

Sheila Cadet
Assistant Project Manager Capital Project Manager

Dzemai Capani
Supervisor Campus Operations

Richard Castro
Security Officer Public Safety CUMC

Angel Colon
Porter C Residential Operations

Oumar Coulibaly
Porter A Residential Operations

Wilmouth Elmes
Associate Vice President, MEP Technical Services Manhattanville

La-Verna Fountain
Associate Vice President Construction Business Services and Communications

Erika Gaynor (Welcome Back!)
Project Coordinator Residential Operations

Tache Gill
Heavy Cleaner Custodial Services

Luis Ginorio
Door Attendant A Residential Operations

Michael Griecce
Supervisor Campus Operations

Elliot Grullon
Porter C Residential Operations

Jose Guzman
Heavy Cleaner Custodial Services

Darnell Hicks
Coordinator Residential Operations

Kelley Hauser
Heavy Cleaner Custodial Services

Shahzad Hussain
Heavy Cleaner Custodial Services

Diane Jeanie
Security Officer Public Safety CUMC

NEW ROLES

Corrado Centrone
Head ECT Mechanic Campus Operations

Dominick Chirico
Director of Engineering Campus Operations

Deidre Chong
Client Service Supervisor Campus Operations

Marco Giraldo
Building Superintendent Residential Operations

Margaret Jordan
Manager Residential Operations

Patrick Oakley
Sergeant Public Safety CUMC

Troy Parker Jr
Resident Manager Residential Operations

Christopher Prat
Heavy Cleaner Custodial Services

Dragos Sisu
Building Superintendent Residential Operations

Monica Kuth
Director of Residential Leasing Residential Operations

SILVER SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following on their 25th anniversary at Columbia!

Pete Macaluso
Client Service Supervisor Campus Operations

Kelvin Mcallister
Mechanic Campus Operations

Mike Loughran
Head Mechanic Campus Operations

Wilfred Small
Director, Services Center Operations
La-Verna Fountain Joins Team as Associate Vice President, Construction Business Services and Communications

As we continue to accomplish remarkable things as stewards of Columbia’s physical assets, we have recognized that exceptional client service and outreach to our colleagues and neighbors in the University community is especially important. To help us build upon the solid foundation we have already created in these areas, La-Verna Fountain has joined the Facilities’ team as our new associate vice president, construction business services and communications.

La-Verna will help lead the University’s outreach and communications efforts regarding construction-related employment opportunities and oversee its minority-, women-, and locally-owned (MWL) business enterprise initiative. She will help to ensure that the local community is well informed of construction activities, as the University continues to maintain its existing campus properties and develop the long-term campus plan in the Manhattanville area of West Harlem.

“Because construction can be a short-term inconvenience to people, it is important that we work closely with the surrounding community to help keep them fully apprised of the activities that are taking place and our efforts to mitigate the impact,” La-Verna said. “At the same time, construction also represents an expanded opportunity for local businesses and for local people to have good jobs.”

To increase awareness of these construction activities and business opportunities, La-Verna will oversee the newly formed Construction Business Services and Communications (CBSC) team. Members include Warren Whitlock, Director of Construction Business Mentoring Services; Dan Held, Director of Communications; Renée Walker, Assistant Director of Communications; and Sheena Jones, Project Coordinator.

CBSC has been tasked with the development of case files and action plans for Columbia qualified MWLBE firms. CBSC will mentor qualified firms, enhance communications about job opportunities, and implement a service model that tracks and monitors mentee participation. In addition to its work with MWL businesses, CBSC will enhance Facilities’ internal and external communications, with a focus on providing transparency about our organization and an understanding of what we do and the value we offer. Likewise, CBSC will increase Facilities’ community outreach and communications as it relates to construction activity on campus and at Manhattanville.

Although she is new to Facilities, La-Verna has a history with the University. She previously held the position as the University’s Associate Vice President for Public Affairs. In this capacity she served as Chief Operating Officer for the Office of Communications and Public Affairs and continues to support the University’s strategic communications agenda and is an outstanding partner as the primary public affairs liaison on the Manhattanville in West Harlem expansion. To some extent, La-Verna’s move to Facilities represents the natural progression in the development process of the Manhattanville campus plan as we shift more communications and outreach efforts toward the long-term construction process.

“I am delighted that La-Verna has officially joined our team,” said Joe Ienuso, executive vice president of Columbia University Facilities. “Her work at Columbia over the past two years in the Office of Communications and Public Affairs has already advanced the University’s efforts to communicate with our neighbors. With her help, we can continue to enhance these outreach efforts and fulfill our commitment to local and minority- and women-led businesses.”

La-Verna brings more than 25 years of experience in communications and public service. Prior to joining Columbia, La-Verna served as the Director of Communications and Press Office for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, as Senior Program Officer for PennSERVE: The Governor’s Office of Citizens Service and as Senior Advisor to Save the Children for its U.S. programs. At Save the Children, she helped develop U.S. programs that benefited children living in both urban and rural areas. She also served as a national consultant and trainer to groups seeking ways to overcome conflict and develop shared goals.

La-Verna has served in a number of state and federal government positions in both the executive and legislative branches. She has also worked closely with David Stone, executive vice president for communications at Columbia’s Office of Public Affairs, as the State Office Director for former U.S. Senator Harris Wofford and as Deputy Communications Director for the late Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey. Her long-standing working relationship with David will benefit us enormously as we work to expand our outreach to our colleagues and neighbors in the University community.

La-Verna is also a former specialist in the U.S. Army and Military Police. Her many awards and honors include the Community Leader of the Year Award (NOBLE) in 1995 and the National L’eggs Woman of the Year Award in 2001. Her diverse background and experience, along with her tremendous credibility inside and outside of the University, will help us as she leads our construction business services and communications efforts.

“I look forward to helping Columbia achieve its goal of working with our own home community and sharing information regarding the business and job opportunities that will be available in the coming years,” La-Verna said. “Columbia’s commitment to community partnerships and community engagement is large and growing. We believe that the years ahead will offer an important opportunity to ensure that the University further enhances its role as a place that not only provides thousands of New Yorkers with good jobs, but also uses its remarkable educational leadership to benefit even more of our longtime neighbors.”
Neighborhood Spotlight: Campo, An All-Around Good Eat

by Josh Weiss, Communications Intern, Columbia College 2010

Walking into a restaurant of the culinary refinement of Campo, I was surprised at the relaxed vibe I felt. The décor is quite nice, the food served in a way that I would consider fancy, but those attributes do not sacrifice the welcoming tone established by co-owner Michael Wetherbee. “We serve great food but it’s inclusive in a way that many culinary restaurants are not,” Wetherbee says. “You can come in and out with a full dinner for fifteen dollars. We don’t want to turn people away with a pretentious restaurant, but we still offer culinary excellence.”

Culinary excellence indeed. Campo chefs present both classic Italian dishes done right and creative variations utilizing seasonal ingredients. I started with Arancini, a delicious starter of fried crusted ricotta cheese and mixed vegetables covered in a perfectly light tomato sauce. The restaurant style oven baked pizza is also a staple at Campo.

The crust is thin and crispy and the toppings are fresh and delicious. In terms of entrées there’s a range of pasta and protein based dishes, with a good variety of vegetarian options for an Italian restaurant. Aside from the fancier steaks and raviolis, Wetherbee says that one of his favorite entrées is the spaghetti and meatballs. “It’s back to the basics from when I was a kid, but done really well,” he says about the dish. The Zeppoli — fried sweet dough balls — and the fruit crisp, if you want something lighter, are both delectable desserts to top off a great meal.

Beyond the food, Campo is also a great place to get some drinks and just hang out at the bar, especially during the nightly two-for-one happy hours (Every night from 3-7 p.m. and from 11 p.m.- 2 a.m.). “We take a culinary approach to cocktails,” Wetherbee says, “using fresh and seasonal ingredients and paying close attention to complex flavors.” The cocktails, like the food, range from classics (post-prohibition) like the “Corpse Reviver,” to some original mixes like the berry flavored “The Barnard” and the Cucumber Mojito, which tastes like a classic mojito with an intriguing hint of refreshing cucumber. “We want this to be a fun place, which is why we’re open until 4 a.m. on weekends,” Wetherbee says.

Wetherbee and Jeremy Wladis, Wetherbee’s partner and veteran restaurant owner, strive to establish an ambiance that is simply fun while satisfying the most delicate palates with the cuisine and cocktails. Campo seems to pull off a scene that will satisfy everything from the simple jeans and a t-shirt client sipping cocktails at the bar, to a couple looking for a pleasant and somewhat sophisticated evening. The place also hosts private parties of up to a hundred in the upstairs section of the restaurant.

Wetherbee, a long-time Harlem resident, says that he loves the restaurant and cocktail culture of New York, but that in the past he would go farther downtown for true culinary cuisine. For a long time he has wanted to bring a high quality restaurant to the Morningside community, and now after five years of trying to buy it, he has finally procured the former Pertutti restaurant. He feels that Campo can be a great addition to a growing selection of good culinary restaurants in Morningside Heights.

The varied offerings of Campo, which opened on April 17, are sure to help this restaurant become a staple establishment for the diverse population of Morningside Heights.