FACILITIES’ FIRST FALL GARDEN TOUR

Richard Bussert, director of landscaping and grounds, leads our team on a tour of Columbia's award-winning grounds. Read more on page 8.

NORTHWEST CORNER BUILDING WELCOMES OCCUPANTS

Our newly constructed Northwest Corner Building welcomes occupants from the University's sciences. Read more on page 4.
As we enter the holiday season, we end the calendar year on an eventful note, highlighted by the opening of the new, skillfully designed and constructed Northwest Corner Building. It was three years in the making and now the perimeter of our core Morningside campus is complete, consistent with the original McKim, Mead, and White master plan.

As you read this issue, our science faculty members are moving into their new spaces, a hub of interdisciplinary study (read more on page 4). This is a historic moment for the University as a whole, as well as for our team. The Northwest Corner Building is exemplary of all that we do—creating spaces where students and faculty want to live and work.

Among these spaces are our residential buildings, whose elegance is maintained thanks to the hard work by our Residential Operations team, which is now implementing new green initiatives. From classroom training to energy saving technologies, we continue to reduce the University’s carbon footprint (details on page 6). Our campus grounds remain outstanding and have recently received yet another award for exceptional grounds maintenance by the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) (read more on page 8).

In addition to our work, many of you have gone above and beyond the call of duty in your personal lives. One such example is Public Safety Officer Anthony Tavarez, who generously donated his bone marrow to help save a child’s life (more on page 11). Officer Tavarez’s heroic action is truly in keeping with Facilities spirit of helping others.

These are just a few of the many ways in which you have demonstrated excellence this year, and I invite you to read more about them in this issue of Off the CUF. Thank you for all you do and happy holidays to you and your family!

Joe Ienuso
Dear Facilities

Cathy Ryder is always incredibly helpful with projects. She is really a gem and wonderful to work with.

Vicki Aspenberg
Director
Columbia Greenhouse Nursery School

Thank you for getting our studios for the undergraduate architecture program in Lewisohn Hall up and running for our first days of classes. It was such a relief to have the rooms ready to teach in. I also can’t tell you enough how helpful it was for you to find us temporary lockers as well. Many thanks for that. The space looks great and everyone sincerely appreciates the effort you made to get it ready for us.

Karen Fairbanks
Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Professional Practice and Chair, Architecture Barnard College

I would like to thank you and the residential operations staff for taking care of our apartment so promptly and efficiently. We have now finished unpacking and can enjoy the apartment with its newly finished floor and fresh paint on the walls. The fact that it was done under such strict time constraints is truly impressive.

With all best wishes,

Pierre Force
Professor of French and Romance Philology

I want to thank you for the outstanding level of service that you [Dragos Sisu] have provided for Miklos Haraszti and his wife, Antonia. Your work ethic and your willingness to assist in any way possible sets an excellent example for all university employees and is very much appreciated by our office.

Regards,

Stephen T. Hands
Executive Director, Administration
Office of the President

I have lived on 113th Street between Broadway and Riverside for over 42 years. We have always had vermin on this block. I had the pleasure of speaking with Anthony Nasser a couple of months ago and expressed my concern with this ongoing problem. He took the time to discuss many of his already ongoing initiatives with me. I am pleased to say that for the first time since I moved into the neighborhood, I have not seen one rat in over a month. Thank you and Anthony Nasser for addressing this problem. I sincerely appreciate your commitment to this problem.

Eileen O’Keefe
Corporate Director
Admitting Department,
St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center

I can’t say enough awesome things about Columbia’s Public Safety Department. Tonight was just one of many great encounters with a public safety officer. Billy Miranda kindly returned to my apartment to drop off my cell phone I had left in the Public Safety SUV. It wasn’t just that he did that for me, but he was so courteous about it without showing an ounce of frustration for having to do it. I felt the need to say something because every time I have gotten a ride or every time I have gone to their office in Low this school year, everyone’s been so fun and helpful. I really appreciate that CU’s public safety rocks (Oh, and my parents do, too).

Thanks, guys!

Elizabeth Mayer
Student
School of International and Public Affairs

The building looked superb. I want to thank Facilities for the exceptional way they dealt with last minute requests (painting included) to make this building look so beautiful for the opening of school. I want to express my appreciation to each of you for the work that was accomplished, the flexibility, and the care for this school.

Annette Raphel
Director
The School at Columbia University

I just wanted to let you know how pleased I was with the A/C maintenance done in our apartment (542 West 112th) last week by Ajay [Pathania] and Robert [Kishun]. Our apartment was just barely cool enough before their work. Now it gets downright cold, which is quite pleasing. So kudos on having such fantastic and nice employees. Ajay in particular is a real gem; he’s extremely knowledgeable and been of great help to us several times already.

Best regards,

Josh Reich
Student
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

I am just writing to let you know how much I appreciated the newsletter [The Morningside Resident] you sent for fall/winter 2010. It was a lovely publication! Very informative and attractive!

Thank you so much,

Monique Rinere
Dean of Advising
Division of Student Affairs
Columbia College & Columbia Engineering

The hallway on the 14th floor, including the elevator area, is very clean and freshly waxed. Thank you [Scott Hudgins] very much for your effective supervision. I am grateful to have you as a super at 560.

Yoshiko Scholz
Resident
560 Riverside Drive
After much planning, design, and construction, the Northwest Corner Building welcomed the University’s science faculty members on November 29. The 188,000 square foot building provides much needed academic research space for the Arts and Sciences department as well as the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science and fosters interdisciplinary research, study, and interaction among the sciences.

Nestled in the Morningside campus’ northwest corner at 120th Street and Broadway, the 14-story science building provides seven research lab floors, 21 new labs, an integrated science library, a café, and direct connections between Pupin and Chandler Halls, among its many features.

The Northwest Corner was a collaborative effort among all Facilities departments, with construction managed by Capital Project Management. Renowned architect José Rafael Moneo designed the building’s unique aluminum and glass façade in partnership with Davis Brody Bond. Turner Construction is the construction manager. For more information on the Northwest Corner Building’s construction, visit http://facilities.columbia.edu/
Community Comes Out to Clean & Go Green

On August 3-5, 2010, the Morningside campus became a hub of recycling and reuse, as faculty and staff readied themselves for the start of the 2010-2011 academic year by participating in Columbia University’s annual “Clean + Go Green” event. Approximately 3,640 lbs of cardboard, 9,960 lbs of bulk waste, 9,800 lbs of metal, and nearly 250 toner cartridges were donated at collection points across campus. In addition, 37 boxes (totaling 37,000 lbs) of printers, monitors, laptops, and additional computer parts were shipped by Veolia Environmental Services to recycling facilities. A Code Shred truck was also present on College Walk to facilitate the shredding of paper items. This year’s event proved to be a win-win for book lovers, who donated and collected an equal number of used books, leaving no surplus items remaining.

Have any junk lying about? Come out and participate in our next “Clean + Go Green” on December 15 and 16.

22 New Firms Enter the MWL Certificate/Mentorship Program

Columbia University, in partnership with the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS), welcomed 22 new minority-, women-, and locally-owned (MWL) businesses to its 2010-2011 Construction Trades Management Certificate/Mentorship Program, during a kick-off orientation and networking reception on September 9, 2010. These firms comprise the third cohort of the two-year certificate/mentorship program, designed to help MWL-certified businesses in the construction field build capacity and access opportunities. The program is led by Construction Business Services and Communications’ (CBSC) Associate Vice President La-Verna Fountain and Assistant Program Manager Sheena Jones. If you’re interested in learning more about our MWL certificate/mentorship program and our newest group of mentees, visit http://facilities.columbia.edu/mentorshipprogram.

Support our Staff and Community at Upcoming Basketball Tournament

In January 2011, Columbia Community Service, led by Mark Kerman, Assistant Vice President, Facilities Residential Operations and the organization’s current president, will hold its second annual basketball tournament in Dodge Fitness Center’s Levien Gymnasium. You are invited to participate in or attend this fun-filled event. There will be a total of eight teams. This includes returning teams from Facilities, Campus Services, and Studebaker, as well as new teams from Barnard and The School at Columbia. An initial round for all eight teams will be played on Tuesday, January 4th, followed by the finals on Thursday, January 6th.

All proceeds will go to CCS, and a trophy will be given to the team that raises the most money. Last year’s event rose close to $1,500 for CCS’s annual appeal, which supports local food pantries, after-school programs, and community-based nonprofits. Let’s see if we can top that this year! For more information, contact Joyce Jackson, Executive Director, Housing and Accommodation Services at jackson@columbia.edu.
Making Columbia Green

Residential Operations’ Green Living Initiatives

The next time a Facilities superintendent installs a light bulb, fixes a leaky faucet, and weather strips the doors, he/she will be using energy efficient products and systems thanks in part to our participation in the Local 32B/J Thomas Shortman Training Fund’s “1,000 Green Supers” program. Columbia’s partnership in the development and citywide promotion of this program for “green supers” is among the many new sustainability initiatives that our Facilities Residential Operations team is implementing.

Initially Columbia, led by the Facilities Residential and Commercial Operations management team, supported the early development of Local 32B/J’s “green” training program for New York City superintendents by providing a classroom space as well as a group of University program participants. This was part of the formal establishment of the “1,000 Green Supers” program, which is providing environmental stewardship training to at least 1,000 superintendents citywide. Nearly all of Columbia’s superintendents have now successfully completed the program, furthering the program’s goal—to help provide New York City with a professional building service workforce capable of reducing energy use, conserving water, saving money, improving our health, and cleaning our environment.

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.

Making Columbia Green

Specialized seminars that cover specific elements of each super's building are included in the program's curriculum. At the conclusion of the courses, all superintendents that take and pass a comprehensive written and field test are awarded green building certifications by the Building Performance Institute and the United States Green Buildings Council. The union will also provide coaches for one-on-one training to help supers implement what they have learned.

"Columbia is thrilled to be a pilot partner of this innovative program," said Columbia University Facilities Executive Vice President Joe Ienuso. "When we support green buildings, we reduce greenhouse gas emissions, clean our environment, help our neighborhoods prosper, and save money."

Loretta Zuk, superintendent at 547 Riverside Drive for the past 15 years, explained how the training will help her become more environmentally-friendly. "The first day of class, we learned about building science and how to make buildings environmentally safe, inside and out, when it comes to things such as water, heat, and ventilation," said Zuk. "It's great to be able to take a class right here at Columbia, where I work, and in a classroom reserved for us to learn."

In addition to providing tenants with “green supers,” Columbia is furthering sustainable initiatives by pilot testing the use of microturbines—mini electric generators that use natural gas to generate electricity onsite (within residential buildings) and decrease power consumption and demand from local utilities. Also the steam that the turbines produce is used to make hot water and to assist in producing heat, thus decreasing the University's dependence on boilers and reducing its oil consumption. Sophisticated computer systems control the microturbines and, at 15-minute intervals, record all data on the amount of energy produced by the microturbine and used by a building. This information is also used to fine-tune the microcomputer's operation as well as to provide year-to-year energy consumption comparisons.

“As far as I know, this is the first such installation for any institution of higher learning in New York City," said Mark Kerman, Assistant Vice President, Residential Operations. The estimated annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from each microturbine will be equal to taking at least 45 cars off the road each year, Kerman says.
Summer 2010 was certainly challenging for Richard Bussert, whose responsibilities include keeping the Morningside campus’ grass green, shrubs leafy, and flowers blooming— despite what went down in record books as New York City’s hottest summer ever. Bussert, director of landscape and grounds for the Morningside campus and Baker Field, is quick to recall the July 4, 5 and 6 temperatures of 96, 99 and 103, respectively. But he’s equally quick to talk about the “coincidence” of having a new, upgraded irrigation system—Rain Bird—that has kept the grounds lush during this past torrid summer. Even with greater water use because of the heat, Rain Bird is adding yet another operational area to Columbia’s sustainability efforts.

The Rain Bird irrigation system was installed about a year ago on the University’s lower campus, College Walk, and Low Plaza green spaces, totaling about four acres. In many respects, the rotating sprinkler and mist heads look like most other domestic and commercial watering applications. The primary difference with Columbia’s system, however, is that the irrigation grid, with its 5,004 rotor heads, is controlled and monitored by a cluster control computer located in the Grounds Operations office on the lower floor of Uris Hall.

The customized system is enhancing campus environmental efforts by conserving water and power. An added economic advantage is the reduction in labor previously required for lawn maintenance. Bussert says that the system’s inaugural summer is helping him create a statistical baseline and that electric and water savings are projected at about 20 percent. “We’ll have better information a year from now,” he says.

Each morning Frank Molina, Campus Operations supervisor, checks the computer log for data gathered through Rain Bird’s Maxicom software and reviews what’s happened with the irrigation system in the previous 24 hours. “I’m looking for reports of excessive flow, zones where water isn’t running, projected water run times versus actual run times, and rain amounts,” Molina says.

If water flow exceeds programmed amounts in a given area, the computer shuts off the water in that area and redirects it, he explains.

There are many areas within the Morningside campus that are benefitting from this new system, including the fountains in front of Low Plaza, whose electronic mechanisms are in pits below the Plaza and once required crawling into in order to turn off and on. Likewise, the campus lawns, filled with perennial ryegrasses, creeping bentgrass, annual bluegrass and creeping red fescue—mostly cool season turf, are also being monitored by Rain Bird. The grasses are now watered by rotating spray or mist heads, whose spray distance reaches just to the edge of the various turf areas, thus preventing water from being wasted on concrete.
In addition to spray distances, precision programming for the timing and amount of irrigation is key. “We’re trying to replace just the water used by a plant for its botanical activity and what evaporates from its soil surface,” says Scott King, field services engineer for Rain Bird. “Overwatering leaches nutrients, while under watering stresses the plant, which then becomes drought intolerant.”

Four variables contribute to the amount of water and length of irrigation time controlled by Rain Bird: solar radiation, humidity, temperature, and rainfall. A device outside Carman Hall, described by Bussert as looking like “a coffee can with a grate on top,” measures rainfall in 1/100-inch increments and pulses the information back to the cluster control computer system. Other information comes from assorted sources, including local weather services. In addition, the current system relies upon information to and from satellite areas in the field that exchange radio-transmitted data with the cluster control unit.

“We used to have to send a person to make changes manually,” King says. “Now one guy at the computer for one and a half minutes and a touch of the mouse makes all the adjustments.”

—courtesy of Columbia University Environmental Stewardship

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**PGMS Once Again Salutes Columbia for Grounds Management Excellence**

Columbia University recently received a star—a green star to be exact—by the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) with an Honor Award in the Society’s 2010 Green Star Awards competition. The award, the third PGMS award for Columbia, was given in the Urban University Grounds category for exceptional grounds maintenance. The ceremony was held on October 29 during the Society’s annual expo in Louisville, KY. Congratulations to Facilities’ Campus Operations team for their exceptional work!

**Facilities’ First Fall Garden Tour**

On October 13, approximately 20 Facilities team members literally stopped to smell the roses, as they joined Richard Bussert, Director of Landscaping and Waste Management, on a tour of the University’s award-winning grounds. The Morningside campus’ majestic gardens were spotlighted during this pilot event, and attendees—plant experts and novices alike—were introduced to the wide variety of plants and trees, including perennials and red maple trees. Stay tuned for future garden tours.
“Bike to Campus Day” Draws Cyclists to Low Plaza and the Medical Campus

On August 4, Columbia University held its first ever, “Bike to Campus Day” at the Morningside campus to encourage community members to participate in a “green” and healthy commute. The event, held in collaboration with the University’s annual “Clean + Go Green” (story on page 5), drew cyclists to Low Plaza for free bike registration, tune-ups, safety tips and cycling maps, as well as discounts on bike locks and helmets. Recycle-A-Bicycle, a New York City-based environmental education initiative, provided two mechanics who worked non-stop to give free tune-ups to visitors.

A second “Bike to Campus Day” was held on September 23 at Columbia University Medical Center campus, hosted by Columbia University Public Safety, the Office of Environmental Stewardship, Citibank and NYPgreen, part of New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

The two events drew nearly 100 bikers to Columbia, which over the last few years has increased the number of bike racks on campus to create a more bike-friendly environment. Stay tuned for the scheduling of future “Bike to Campus Days” at both University campuses.

Another Student Reunites with Laptop Thanks to “Operation ID”

School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) Student John Burnett is a happy man after receiving word that his laptop was recovered six months after its loss during the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Burnett had left his laptop, along with his personal belongings, at his hotel that morning.

Fortunately, Burnett had registered his laptop with Columbia University Public Safety’s Operation ID /New York Police Department Blue Light program prior to the incident. Through the program, unique Police ID numbers are engraved onto properties, making them traceable to their owner, as was Burnett’s case. Six months after his loss, Burnett was notified that Public Safety had recovered his laptop. He credits the NYPD / Public Safety Operation ID program for aiding in this recovery, joining the increasing number of students with similar successes.

Did you know that Columbia employees can register their properties for FREE? If you’d like to participate in Operation ID, please call Public Safety at (212) 854-8513.

Artfully Donate

You can own a hand drawn, 30” x 15” image of the Morningside campus for just $10. The artwork comes matted and ready for framing—a perfect holiday gift. Best of all, proceeds go to Columbia Community Service. For more information, contact Ricardo Morales, Manager, Crime Prevention Programs, at rm29@columbia.edu
### NEW FACES AT FACILITIES

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<td>Manager, Capital Projects</td>
<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Tazjuan Starr</td>
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<td>NEW ROLES</td>
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<td>Security Officer</td>
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<td>Share Your News!</td>
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### SILVER SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

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

- **Leilani Reynolds**
  Residential Housing Specialist
  Operations

- **Nilda Liz**
  Project Coordinator
  Finance & Administration

- **Ricardo Williams**
  Door Attendant C
  Operations

- **Ricardo Morales**
  Manager, Crime Prevention Programs
  Public Safety

- **Jeffrey Harris**
  Head Cleaner
  Operations

- **Lloyd Jackson**
  Security Officer
  Public Safety

- **Audley Roy Powell**
  Utility Mechanic, Plant Engineering
  Operations

### NEW ROLES

- **Share Your News!**

If you have questions or comments about this issue and/or would like to submit information (announcements, story ideas, questions, etc.) for the next issue of *Off the CUF*, please send your submissions to rw2154@columbia.edu.
Organizational Update

Frank Martino has been officially appointed Facilities’ Vice President for Operations. Since becoming Interim Vice President for Operations in May, Frank has proven to be an exceptional leader in advancing Facilities’ initiatives to restore and renew campus infrastructure while continuing to provide exceptional services to Columbia’s students, faculty, and staff. This appointment comes on the heels of Frank’s strong record of achievement as Assistant Vice President for Plant Engineering and Utilities, a position he held for four years. Martino is a mechanical engineer with more than 18 years of experience in his field. He says, “I’m very appreciative to have this opportunity and excited to assume this role in leading Operations. I am fortunate to have a talented and dedicated team and look forward to our many achievements for Facilities.”

Public Safety Officer’s Bone Marrow Donation May Help Save a Child’s Life

Last May, Columbia public safety officer Jardiel Anthony Tavarez began getting frantic calls and letters from the New York Blood Center and National Marrow Donor Program. Tavarez had participated in a bone marrow registration drive in 2003 when he was an undergraduate at John Jay College but hadn’t thought about it since. The blood center and donor program were seeking a possible match for a 3-year-old boy with leukemia and contacted Tavarez. According to the blood center, each day about 3,000 patients worldwide with leukemia or other blood diseases are searching for a life-saving bone marrow match. “He had an extremely small chance of finding a match,” said Tavarez. “I knew I had to do it.”

In his work life, the 28-year-old Tavarez handles many different duties in the Department of Public Safety including securing the entry to Butler Library and patrolling the University’s upper campus. Tavarez is also getting a post-baccalaureate certificate in business through the School of Continuing Education and performs in theater productions on and off campus. This month he will appear in the King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe’s production of Macbeth in the role of Siward and two other small parts.

Tavarez dropped everything when, three weeks after taking the blood test, he received confirmation that he was a perfect match. He quickly began preparing for major surgery, which calls for the extraction of marrow from the bone at the base of his spine. The recipient likewise had to prepare to receive Tavarez’s marrow by undergoing chemotherapy to completely destroy his own bone marrow. “I was informed that during this time, the patient has no immune system. If anything happened to me, or I decided not to do it, he would die relatively soon unless another match could be found,” Tavarez said. “It was a heavy responsibility.”

The surgery, which was a first for Tavarez, was performed on July 22. Immediately after the operation, the bone marrow was sent via private courier to the patient. “They literally run out and jump on a plane and carry the box of marrow on them the whole way,” he said. “The recipient received the marrow within 24 hours.”

Tavarez describes his recovery as “hard on the body, good for the soul.” He spent about a month overcoming insomnia, extreme fatigue and slight anemia before returning to work in August. He thanks Columbia, the blood center and Mount Sinai Hospital for the support and assistance he has received throughout the process.

James F. McShane, vice president for public safety, is among the many who support Tavarez’s decision. “I was very impressed when I learned of Officer Tavarez’s courageous act,” he said. “His generous donation truly embodies public safety’s commitment to service, and I am proud of what he has done.”

Tavarez says the experience has given him a new outlook on life. “While I was recovering, I had a lot of time to think and reevaluate my life and myself,” he said. “I look at life on a grander scale. It’s a blessing to be in good health, and I want to stay connected with this child.”

Donor rules prohibit Tavarez from meeting the recipient of his bone marrow until a year following the surgery, although he can get updates on his progress and knows the child is responding well so far.

Tavarez urges the Columbia community to take part in the University’s many blood drives and to register for bone marrow donation. “It’s worth the risk,” he said. “You don’t always get a chance to save someone’s life. It’s such a blessing to have had this opportunity.”
New Home, Same Dinosaur & Great Eats for the Holidays
Popular West Harlem Restaurant Moves to West 125th Street

If beef brisket topped with award-winning sauces and barbecue chicken wings are a must for your holiday, visit the new Dinosaur Bar-B-Que. The popular West Harlem restaurant and former meatpacking plant moved just steps away from its current location to its new home at 125th Street and 12th Avenue. It’s neatly positioned across the street from Dinosaur’s original space and is adjacent to West Harlem Piers Park.

The new Dinosaur Bar-B-Que mirrors the rustic, roadhouse vibe that typifies its previous location, with the addition of a larger bar and accompanying stage for live performances. Still, familiar items remain, such as the mini decorative bikes which once hung along the old walls and now top the new dining booths.

Columbia worked with architects, engineers, and contractors to coordinate the construction of the new Dinosaur Bar-B-Que. Its relocation is part of the University’s extensive effort to help organizations and businesses in Manhattanville find alternative or improved space within the local community, as development continues on the 17 acres that will become Columbia’s new, environmentally sustainable campus. To read the full story on Dinosaur Bar-B-Que’s relocation, visit http://facilities.columbia.edu/

‘Tis the Season for Giving

Columbia Community Service, in conjunction with Facilities Residential Operations, is hosting its annual food drive to help our neighbors in need. Each year, residents in our buildings donate non-perishable food items which are collected by building staff and mechanics on the Residential Operations team. You can lend your support by donating non-perishable food items as well. Collection boxes are located in most residential buildings, including Butler Hall and 90 Morningside Drive. Contributions will be accepted until December 22. All items will be donated to local food pantries, soup kitchens, nonprofits, and other charities. Happy holidays!