UNIVERSITY RECEIVES ENERGY NEW YORK LEADERSHIP AWARD

Facilities Executive Vice President Joe Ienuso accepted the Energy New York Award for Leadership on behalf of the University. Read more on page 8.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS HIGHLIGHT FIRST YEAR OF COLUMBIA/ACE STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The ACE Mentor Program is a perfect example of Columbia doing what it does best—helping to educate and create opportunities for young people. Read more on page 5.
Dear Mr. [Anthony] Nasser,
I am a Columbia grad student and a university housing tenant. I recently moved out to other housing. Before moving out, I lived at 523 W 112th street building for four years and I wanted to tell you that the superintendent of the building, Mr. Ivan Celin, has been so nice and helpful to me during those four years. He was there whenever I needed and very kindly helped me. My years at the building were delightful due to his diligent and sincere service. I wanted to express my appreciation for the work and help of Mr. Celin and other CU superintendents.

Tenant
University Apartment Housing

Dear Matthew [Early],
I'm a professor in the business school and my apartment renovations were recently finished. I just wanted to drop you note (also on behalf of my wife) regarding the great job that Hans did in helping us and overseeing the renovations. While the renovations took a fair bit of time to be finished, we are extremely happy with the finished product. I'm sure Hans has a few gray hairs from my wife and me, as he must have met with us a hundred times at the apartment to go over various aspects of the renovations. Hans really worked hard to get everything done well, and also really pushed the contractors. He really went the extra mile.

Anyways, I just wanted to drop a note of gratitude to your office and especially Hans. He is an extremely valuable resource. The apartment was crucial in our decision to stay at Columbia and we couldn't be happier with it.

Professor
Columbia Business School

Dear Michael [Azzopardi],
I would like to thank you on behalf of the Arts & Sciences for the wonderful job you did supervising the move. I did stop in to look at the space and was extremely happy at the way everything was arranged. It is going to make life so much easier for us to show the furniture and get it delivered to our departments.

Employee
Arts & Sciences

Dear Matt [Early],
Thanks so much for taking the time to stop by today. I look forward to working with you and your staff. Kevin, Erich and the guys were great this past winter and spring and truly remained committed to providing an atmosphere that as a coach you hope for. I never needed to worry about anything as they took care of it all. THANK YOU!

Coach
Athletics

Dear Facilities,
Many thanks to the Facilities crew that responded so quickly and ably yesterday in Butler when we had storm flooding in the Preservation Lab and 1st floor East. Your swift action minimized floor damage in these areas. Thanks too for returning to the Lab this morning to disinfect. We are fortunate you are here!

Employee
Butler Library

Dear Facilities,
I should say Ingrid [Reyes] has been superb handling a renovation that had a lot of challenging detail involved because of wheelchair access.

Professor
English

Dear Rita [Nascimento],
I want to extend my gratitude for all of your hard work with the Friday night project. The Master’s Defense Ceremony went really well. The feedback that I received yesterday from the Deans was that the building was “sparkling”. Please thank the workers as well.

Employee,
School of General Studies

Dear Anthony [Nasser],
As time to renew my rental agreement approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how happy I’m with Columbia facilities workers at 542 W. 112th. They are all very nice and helpful, particularly Rich Hall and Rudy, both of which often go way beyond their call of duty. Rudy always responds promptly to problems. My kids love him and he’s kind and not only a good super, but a good neighbor to have around. I sleep better at night knowing he lives here. Rich is a joy to have around, always courteous, cheerful, and helpful. He is always aware of people around him, for example, when you walk behind him, he holds the door open for you. When he comes into our house for repairs or is present with contractors he is always respectful of our space, conscientious about not dirtying our floors, and friendly to our children. Both always greet you with a bright smile and warm demeanor. They sure made our transition to this, not always very friendly town, much easier to stomach.

Student
School of the Arts

Dear CUF Physical Plant,
Please note that your team successfully resolved a major cooling problem in Carman Hall on Saturday May 16th 2009. The entire building was without chilled water due to central and local problems. ECT, HVAC and LRE were able to trouble-shoot the compounded issues and correct building-wide conditions quickly and efficiently. With the parents of the graduating class moving into Carman Hall today (Sunday) I cannot begin to measure the significance of the timeliness and quality put forth into the corrective actions.

It would be irresponsible on my part not to highlight an operational resolved so closely associated with Commencement.

Employee
Columbia University Facilities

Send your compliments to Dan Held at dh2297@columbia.edu.
Summer seems to have finally arrived, ushering in warmer weather and hopefully less rain. Physical changes to our campus environment have taken shape, as the campus lawns boast greener grass and walkways enjoy their break from winter’s burdens. These are welcome changes and a good time to reflect on how we are doing as an organization.

That’s exactly what the Executive Team did during our two-day offsite meeting in late July. Much of our time together was spent discussing how to strengthen our processes and best connect with colleagues both internally and externally (more on that to come). Most importantly, as always, we recognized how hard you have worked over the past year—even in the midst of a global economic crisis—to support our great University.

Together, over the last few months, we were able to breathe new life into Faculty House, equipping a campus landmark with modern amenities and technology. Renovations for Lerner Hall’s sixth floor and Knox Hall near completion. We were also able to advance the University’s development of the Northwest Corner Building and Manhattanville campus, which received its final public approval in May (page 4).

Facilities has also been involved in the University’s efforts to capture opportunities available from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus package. In fact, Facilities recently received nearly $2 million in funding from the Environmental Protection Agency to retrofit up to 78 pieces of construction equipment used on the Manhattanville campus expansion with diesel particulate filters to reduce emissions.

As we applied our best efforts to maintain and expand our campus, our commitment to creating opportunities for members in our community was equally as strong. In May, students from the Manhattanville ACE Mentor Program pilot team celebrated the completion of their first year, allowing area high school students to become better prepared for careers in the fields of design and construction. And in April, Facilities raised over $1,800, a record amount, for Columbia Community Service (page 5).

We’re also working greener. For example, fourteen Columbia superintendents are helping to make their buildings more sustainable by participating in a pilot program in which they will receive classroom instruction and hands-on training to become more energy-efficient (page 6).

These personal and professional achievements have not gone unnoticed. Our efforts on the Gary C. Comer Geochemistry Building have garnered numerous awards, including most recently the Boston Society of Architects’ 2009 Sustainable Design Award (page 8). We also accepted the Energy New York (ENYA) Award for Leadership on behalf of the University. Nonetheless, our most innovative recognition comes in the form of a heartfelt thank you video from Columbia University’s Class of 2012 (page 9). The students expressed their gratefulness to our team for keeping our campus beautiful, safe and functional, and I deeply share in this sentiment and appreciation for our many achievements and those yet to come.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.

Joe Ienuso
Columbia University Facilities manages a wide array of renovation and improvement projects both on and off campus year round as part of our mission to maintain a safe, beautiful and functional campus environment. A significant portion of our construction program takes place during the summer months, when the reduced campus population makes it possible to complete work. Highlights of this summer’s construction activity include:

**North Campus**

Northwest Corner Building
Continuation of construction on the new 188,000 square feet Northwest Corner Building at 120th and Broadway. The building will house new laboratory research space, new library, café and lecture hall and will help fulfill Columbia’s great need for science instruction and academic research space.

**East Campus**

Faculty House
Completion of the renovation of Faculty House at 116th Street and Morningside Drive into a premier event space and modern gathering place for social and intellectual interaction.

**South Campus**

Alfred Lerner Hall
Renovation of the sixth floor of Lerner to house the Dean of Student Affairs’ suite, the Office of Financial Aid and Educational Financing, and the Office of Judicial Affairs and Community Standards. These renovations will support the expansion of the current Center for Student Advising which will create a central physical space for student advising and provide students with streamlined, accessible resources.

**Off Campus**

Knox Hall
Completion of the conversion of Knox Hall at Union Theological Seminary into 50,000 square feet of new academic space for the Sociology and MEALAC departments, Middle East, Southern Asian and African Studies institutes as well as for Registrar classrooms which will provide new spaces for interdisciplinary thinking.

**Manhattanville**

The University’s Manhattanville campus plan received its final public approval in May when New York State’s Public Authorities Control Board approved the General Project Plan for the 17-acre expansion. The unanimous vote, by the five-member PACB representing the governor, State Senate and Assembly, is the last step in the public review process for the University’s long-term expansion plan. It affirms the decision late last year by New York State’s economic development agency, the Empire State Development Corp. to support Columbia’s proposal to transform the former industrial blocks primarily between Broadway and 12th Avenue into a mixed-use academic campus that would include public open space and extensive street-level commercial, civic and cultural activity.

In recent months, the University began preliminary work to relocate utility lines, such as sewer pipes and water mains underneath Broadway -- an essential step in the pre-construction process now fully underway with the final state approvals. This summer, in addition to the continuation of work related to the utility lines, the University will also begin mobilizing for the demolition/abatement of certain University properties. Please visit http://campusplan.columbia.edu for up-to-date information on the project.

**Other Construction Activity**

Building façade repairs will be taking place on and off campus in accordance with New York City Local Law 11, which requires the inspection and repair of building façade materials including brick, windows and roofs. In order to accomplish this work, Facilities will be erecting scaffolding and sidewalk bridging at the perimeter of various buildings both on and off campus.

This map depicts the buildings undergoing construction and areas that may experience congestion due to construction activity this summer. Please visit http://facilities.columbia.edu for more detailed information on this summer’s construction activity.
Scholarships and Awards Highlight First Year of Columbia/ACE Student Mentorship Program

On May 7, 2009, students from the Columbia University’s Manhattanville ACE Mentor Program pilot team joined their fellow New York City chapter teams at the Chase Metrotech Center in Brooklyn to present their final project. The project, in which the team members picked a site in the Manhattanville project area and created a mock design from the ground up, incorporated the team building, communication, and design and construction skills learned throughout the program cycle.

The ACE Mentor Program, a not-for-profit organization, helps prepare high school students for careers in the fields of design and construction. This year’s Manhattanville team met regularly from October 2008 through May 2009 to plan and design innovative projects mirroring “real-world” conditions, while mentors helped them develop solutions using basic problem-solving techniques and state-of-the-art design tools. Mentees also benefited from the unique emphasis on clean construction practices, a growing field for future employment opportunities and a hallmark of Columbia’s long-term plan in Manhattanville.

Vice President of Manhattanville Development received the Private Sector Award for his work during the past two years as an ACE board member.

“I profoundly believe in ACE’s mission,” said Velez. “I couldn’t have been both more proud of our team and impressed with the overall quality of the final presentations.”

Velez is responsible for project management and construction of Columbia’s new 6.8 million square foot campus in West Harlem and has been with the University since 1995. In addition to his work with ACE, Velez serves as Vice Chair of the Greater New York Construction User Council.

“I’m a native New Yorker and a Puerto Rican whose parents worked very hard and dedicated their lives to provide opportunities for me and my siblings,” said Velez. “I understand first-hand the immense influence that mentors and role models can have on many young people today. Programs like ACE can open up a new world of career opportunities that may not have otherwise been possible.”

Facilities’ Fundraiser Collects Record Amount for CCS’s Local Organizations

Facilities team members and community organizations gathered on April 23 in Wien Hall to enjoy food, fun, and an opportunity to raise funds for Columbia Community Service (CCS). Organized by Columbia University Facilities’ Residential Operations unit, the annual event gave attendees the opportunity to purchase admission tickets for the chance to take home a Sony camcorder, iPod Touch, or American Express Gift Card, among other prizes donated by members of Facilities. Over $1,800 was raised, a record amount for the Facilities event. The proceeds were donated to CCS for distribution to local organizations, including soup kitchens and after-school programs.

“The ACE Mentor Program is a perfect example of Columbia doing what it does best-helping to educate and create opportunities for young people,” said Columbia’s Vice President of Manhattanville Development Philip Pitruzzello. “Seeing the students so engaged while working with Manhattanville team members was a proud moment. It really demonstrated what a significant impact this program can have on young people’s lives.”

Following the presentation of final projects, the ACE Mentor Program of Greater New York held its annual scholarship luncheon on May 28, 2009 at The Union League Club to celebrate the completion of its program. During the closing ceremony, approximately $185,000 in scholarships were awarded, including an award to Jennifer Henriquez, a Manhattanville ACE team member who received a $5,000 scholarship - one of the highest scholarships awarded. In addition, Marcelo Velez, Columbia’s Associate
Columbia Helps Green New York’s Buildings One Superintendent at a Time

Superintendents from Columbia University’s residential housing portfolio are helping to make the caulk gun the humble symbol of the new green economy.

Fourteen Columbia superintendents are participating in a pilot program run by the Thomas Shortman Training Fund, a joint labor-management partnership which provides classroom and hands-on training to Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 32BJ. The Fund will train 1,000 green superintendents in one year to help foster a greener New York City and highlight how simple technologies and good maintenance can help buildings become more energy-efficient.

The rigorous 35-hour course covers all aspects of green building operations and maintenance, and the benefits can be enormous. When a trained green superintendent installs efficient light bulbs, fixes leaky toilets, weather-strips doors, uses non-toxic cleaning products, or ensures efficient ventilation systems, we reduce energy use, conserve water, save money, improve our health and clean our environment.

Loretta Zuk, superintendent of a Columbia residential building at 547 Riverside Drive for the past 15 years, explained how the training will help her make changes to 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, in a classroom reserved for us to learn.”

After completion of the core course superintendents attend specialized seminars that cover the specific element of their building. At the conclusion of the course, all superintendents that take and pass comprehensive written and field tests are awarded green building certifications by the Building Performance Institute and the United States Green Buildings Council.

“Columbia is thrilled to partner with Local 32BJ as pilot participants of this innovative program,” said Columbia University Facilities Executive Vice President Joe Ienuso. “When we support green buildings we save money, clean our environment and help our neighborhoods prosper.”

In addition to superintendent training, Columbia’s residential portfolio has spearheaded efforts to further the University’s long-standing commitment to responsible environmental stewardship and improve the quality of life on campus and in the surrounding community. A program to install green roofs has already delivered benefits in the form of cleaner air and energy conservation. By converting all University Apartment Housing laundry rooms to energy efficient, coin-less laundry machines, the University saved nearly 8.5 million gallons of water. Additionally, the “Cool Columbia” program, which helps people living in University housing conserve energy, was created as a result of a partnership with the Sierra Club. Cool Columbia households get professional advice on everything from assessing current energy consumption levels to becoming more energy-efficient.

New Columbia Alumni Center Sets a Gold Standard

Walk down the south side of 113th St., between Broadway and Riverside Drive. Mid-block you’ll see a building whose external grandeur testifies to its hundred-year history and whose internal renovation and dedicated space are history-making in their own right.

The building is now home to Columbia’s first Alumni Center. The Center’s renovation, accomplished over the past two years and now nearing full completion, has been a thoroughly green endeavor.

“From the beginning of the gut renovation of 622 W. 113th St. for the housing of the new Alumni Center, our shared vision for the green building has included both its design and structural elements as well as day-to-day staff consciousness and effort toward sustainability. I’m delighted to say that everyone involved in the construction project and everyone who works in the building has signed on to this vision and continues to find new ways of furthering it, “ says Susan Feagin, Executive Vice President for University Development and Alumni Relations.
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.

Braden says that “two other things also stand out:” a water filtration system in each of the building’s four pantries that has eliminated the use of bottled water, and dual-flush, water-conserving toilets in each restroom.

Yet the building’s infrastructure is just one part of its greening. Dan Baker describes one of his roles at the Center as “sort of working on internal habits to match the LEED efforts, trying to create the sustainable work habits to complement the LEED building.”

Nearly a year before the move, Baker inaugurated the Task Force for a Green Alumni Center, comprising 12 staffers who volunteered for membership. Subcommittees dealt with recycling, “green” staff habits, and paper.

Eight recommendations were presented to Task Force members’ colleagues: double-sided printing will be the norm; ceramic cups will replace cardboard ones; discussion material at meetings will increasingly take electronic form; every floor will contain a full complement of recycling containers; filtered drinking water will be available; all paper will have a high degree of post-consumer recycled content; all cleaning fluids will be environmentally friendly; individual coffee/tea pods will be 100 percent biodegradable and many coffee/tea options will be fair-trade and organic.

All of the recommendations have been adopted and are standard practice in the new offices.

Braden says the plan is to continue the Task Force in order to maintain the high level of environmental awareness with the staff.

A project Braden says administrators have “been talking about for years” was how to deal with the Office of Alumni and Development’s tremendous amount of paper in their central files - close to a million pieces. “We realized,” she says, “that with this move we really need to scan this information into our database.”

In partnership with IKON Office Solutions, Inc., the files are now in the central database, Braden says, and we have significantly reduced our paperwork.

Every person in the building - including senior executives - works in an open cubicle with environmentally friendly furnishings. So Helen Bielak, Manager, Surplus Reuse Program, Department of Environmental Stewardship, helped find new homes for the impractical wood free-standing desks, primarily working with the School of Arts and Sciences.

McKean sums up the project this way: “‘“We’ve got a very efficient building. We did all the right things to get an incredibly low carbon footprint. We’ve taken a hundred-year-old building and given it a whole new life.”

**Green**

The building’s glass entryway, etched with the names of each of Columbia’s schools and its founding date, leads to the first-floor Alumni Welcome Center. Columbia University’s Office of Alumni and Development and Columbia College Alumni Affairs and Development intermix in the remainder of the nine-floor building.

Approximately 235 employees moved into the building on Jan. 5 from leased space in the Interchurch Center at 475 Riverside Drive. Prior to its current use and pre-renovation, the building - then known as McVickar Hall - housed the School of Social Work.

From the beginning of the project, the Alumni Center was registered with the United States Green Building Council, seeking LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - certification. The USGBC describes the LEED system as “the nationally accepted benchmark for design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.”

“The special thing about this project is that we’re solidly in the gold category,” says Facilities Capital Project Management Director Doug McKean. McKean expects the official LEED rating by fall.

The design and materials were chosen for compatibility with LEED certification, says Elizabeth Braden, Deputy Vice President for Operations, who has had a major role in the project.

Braden notes the zoned heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems that constantly pipe in outside air, lighting that’s designed to save 35 percent in energy consumption by using occupancy sensors that monitor motion and body temperature, and daylight harvesting that adjusts interior lights according to the amount of natural light coming through the building’s large windows.
Awards

Geochemistry Building Wins More Awards

Columbia’s Gary C. Comer Geochemistry Building—the University’s first LEED building—on the Lamont Campus in Palisades, N.Y., has won more awards for its design.

In May, the building received a Merit Award for Excellence in Architecture for a New Building (one of only two projects recognized in this category) by the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) and the American Institute of Architects Committee on Architecture for Education (AIA-CAE). SCUP and the AIA-CAE also cited the project in the 2009 Excellence in Planning and Excellence in Architecture Awards program.

The building also garnered an Award for Design in the 2009 Sustainable Design Awards, sponsored by the Boston Society of Architects Committee on the Environment and the American Institute of Architects. The biennial award is co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Committee on the Environment of the AIA New York Chapter. Its purpose is to recognize projects that systematically integrate several aspects of sustainability and, as a result, make a substantial impact on the environment. Jurors reviewed more than 50 portfolios of projects from around the world. They cited the Comer Building’s success in meeting the technical challenges of a complex research program, and also how “the solution settles into the landscape beautifully.”

“Honoring the challenge posed directly by the late Gary Comer, founder of the Lands’ End Company and a committed supporter of Lamont’s climate change research, the building’s architects set out to make this a truly sustainable laboratory in spite of its demanding environmental requirements,” said Joe Ienuso, executive vice president of Columbia University Facilities. “Payette sought to achieve this in a holistic way, recognizing that sustainability is more than using green materials or green power. Starting with its placement on the campus, sustainability was at the root of the design concept.”

The design awards add to the buildings growing portfolio of recognition. In February, the building was named Lab of the Year by Research & Development Magazine and in June it was given an Outstanding Research Project Award by the Greater New York Construction User Council as one of the industry’s top construction projects. Congratulations to all the members of the project team!

University Receives Energy New York Leadership Award

While taking in immaculate views of the Hudson River, building managers and representatives from energy organizations and large institutions gathered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 for the presentation of this year’s Energy New York Awards (ENYA). Executive Vice President of Facilities Joseph A. Ienuso accepted the Leadership Award on behalf of the University.

After receiving the award, Joe thanked the New York Energy Consumers Council (NYECC) and his supportive team at Columbia. He says, “It’s a pleasure to receive this award and to be able to work with people who embrace energy reliability and conservation. As leaders, we must often turn to our team for additional leadership and support, and I credit my team for helping us to become efficient energy users.”

Columbia has engaged in several initiatives to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2007, the University joined Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC Challenge to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 30% by 2017. Other sustainable initiatives include green building and clean construction efforts, establishment of green roofs, use of hybrid vehicles, and the utilization of geothermal energy.

The 4th annual ceremony, organized by the New York Energy Consumers Council, was held in Battery Park City, NY at the Visionaire, an eco-friendly condominium whose construction utilizes a central heating and cooling system powered by natural gas, pesticide-free rooftop gardens that harvest rainwater for irrigation, and photovoltaic panels that harvest sunlight and generate electricity for the building. David F. Bomke, executive director of the NYECC, served as the event’s master of ceremonies and announced the nominees and winners for each of the three categories—Innovation, Leadership, and Vision.

Each year the NYECC honors organizations and/or individuals who demonstrate exceptional qualities of vision, innovation, and leadership in strengthening the energy reliability and economic competitiveness of New York by presenting them with Energy New York Awards (ENYA).
Facilities Superintendent Assists in Apprehending Robbery Suspect

On Saturday, March 28, 2009 Facilities Resident Manager Dave Sisu surprised onlookers, and himself, by bravely assisting in the apprehension of a robbery suspect. Dave had been supervising the buildings’ shutdowns on Claremont Avenue in celebration of Earth Hour and was headed home when he spotted a man running towards him with Barnard’s security guards steadily chasing him. Unbeknownst to Dave, the man had just stolen money from the subway station newsstand at West 116 Street and Broadway.

After recognizing what was taking place in the normally quiet neighborhood, Dave stepped into the suspect’s path and blocked him. The man, who was carrying a razor blade out of sight, threatened Dave with bodily harm. Dave cleverly utilized his martial arts skills to bring the man down to the ground, where he was held until Public Safety arrived.

Although he received minor cuts during the alteration, Dave is proud of his contribution. As father to a 17-year-old daughter and 20-year-old son, Dave knows the importance of protecting his neighborhood and family. He advises others to assist in public safety whenever possible. He says, “If you can help, it’s important that you do because you never know if the same situation will happen to you or someone you know. The more we get involved, the better our chances of protecting each other. The easiest way to get involved is if you see something, say something.”

“Dave acted bravely, in spite of the threat to his personal safety, to protect others in the University community and to assist Public Safety and the NYPD to make an important arrest,” says Nelson Falcon, director of residential portfolio at Columbia University Facilities.

Students Send Facilities an (E-) Thank You Card

Students from Columbia University’s Class of 2012 collaborated to create thank you videos for Facilities’ Public Safety and Operations staff.

“This video is just a little bit of the gratefulness we feel for all of the work the staff did for us every day during the year, and we wanted to show them our appreciation,” said Nida Vidutis, head of the community service committee for the Class of 2012 Student Council.

Some other sentiments from students included:
“It’s nice to see a friendly face at the end of the day.”
“You really do help keep us safe and protected.”
“We all really appreciate your work even if we don’t show it all the time.”
“You are an essential part of our community here at Columbia.”
Congratulations to everyone at Facilities for all the great work you do!
Welcome & Congratulations! (March 2009–June 2009)

NEW FACES AT FACILITIES

Daniel Gonzalez
Porter C
Residential Operations

Frederick Murphy
Locksmith B
Operations

Sam Xerri
Manager, HVAC/ECT
Plant Engineering & Utilities

Stephen Kerch
Senior Engineer
Plant Engineering & Utilities

Peter Phalon
Project Manager
Physical Security Systems
Public Safety

Joseph Laucius
Assistant Director, HVAC
Plant Engineering & Utilities

Anthony Roberts
Manager, HVAC Maintenance
Plant Engineering & Utilities

Christian Morraz
Technical Specialist B
Public Safety CUMC

Jennifer Shin
Analyst
Finance & Administration

NEW ROLES

Timnit Abraha
Associate Property Manager
Real Estate

Gilberto Rivera
Sergeant
Public Safety Morningside

Elvin Christian
Assistant Manager
Public Safety CUMC

Raymond Schultz
Administrative Coordinator
Public Safety Morningside

Cherlyn Douglas
Sergeant
Public Safety CUMC

Craig Tilghman
Assistant Watch Engineer
Plant Engineering & Utilities

Elvis Hamilton
Handyperson C
Residential Operations

SILVER SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following on their 25th anniversary at Columbia

Adriano Cocco
Heavy Cleaner
Campus Operations

Freddy Cocco
Heavy Cleaner
Campus Operations

David Dewhurst
Director
Campus Operations

William Hoffman
Mechanical Quality
Control Manager
Capital Project Management

Judith Molina
Accounts Payable Specialist
Finance & Administration

Juan Pinero
Heavy Cleaner
Campus Operations

Michael Ryan
Door Attendant C
Residential Operations

Margaret Stanton
Secretary II
Residential Operations

FUTURE FACES OF FACILITIES


Send your good news to Dan Held at dh2297@columbia.edu.
Employee Profile

**Melvin Bolar**

**WHO HE IS:** Heavy Cleaner for Custodial Services  
**YEARS AT COLUMBIA:** 43  
**WHAT HE DOES:** As a custodian in Low Library, Bolar works to maintain cleanliness in the building. Each day, he undertakes a variety of tasks ranging from cleaning entire offices to emptying garbage cans and recycle bins.

**A GOOD DAY ON THE JOB:** “I don’t like when it’s too slow—it drags, and I get bored ... I’ll be trying to find something to do. I guess I like it when it’s busy, when it’s jumpin’ like a 10-cent movie.”

**BEFORE COLUMBIA:** Originally a cotton farmer from Alabama, Bolar came to New York City in 1961. “There was no work in the South at that time,” he remembers. “Things were changing, and people were leaving the farms, going to big cities and factories.” Bolar had two jobs before he came to Columbia in 1966; at his last job as a packer and deliverer for a garment company, one of the other packers notified him that Columbia was hiring and suggested that he apply for a job. “I came up here and I got the job right away ... and I started on March 14, 1966,” Bolar recalls. He worked on the night shift in Uris Hall for 21 years and then moved to his current position in Low Library.

**MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT:** Bolar was once witness to an incident of streaking—running around naked—which had been a fad among Columbia’s students for several years. “I was coming to work one night, and this girl had taken off all of her clothes and was standing right on Low Library’s steps.” Two young men, also without clothing, flanked her, and according to Bolar there were five or six hundred more people on the steps behind the instigating trio. “I forget the year,” Bolar admits, “but it was happening all over campus.”

**BEST PART OF THE JOB:** The imminent end of a hectic workday. Those times “when I’m getting ready to go home, and I’m rushing and maybe have another office to do” brings closure to his busy days. Bolar has also enjoyed the health and the support he has received from Columbia, saying they contributed to his ability to recover from various ailments and medical emergencies. “I’ve had a lot of operations,” he notes, “I had a lot of health difficulties, but I overcame all of them. I’m hangin’ tough.”

**IN HIS SPARE TIME:** Bolar enjoys nights on the town, taking in movies or Broadway shows and dining and dancing at Swing 46, the New York Supper Club and B.B. King Blues Club and Grill. He is also a sports fan and is elated when he gets the chance to attend Yankees and Knicks games.

**Employee Profile**

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**A GOOD DAY ON THE JOB:** “I don’t like when it’s too slow—it drags, and I get bored ... I’ll be trying to find something to do. I guess I like it when it’s busy, when it’s jumpin’ like a 10-cent movie.”

**BEFORE COLUMBIA:** Originally a cotton farmer from Alabama, Bolar came to New York City in 1961. “There was no work in the South at that time,” he remembers. “Things were changing, and people were leaving the farms, going to big cities and factories.” Bolar had two jobs before he came to Columbia in 1966; at his last job as a packer and deliverer for a garment company, one of the other packers notified him that Columbia was hiring and suggested that he apply for a job. “I came up here and I got the job right away ... and I started on March 14, 1966,” Bolar recalls. He worked on the night shift in Uris Hall for 21 years and then moved to his current position in Low Library.

**MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT:** Bolar was once witness to an incident of streaking—running around naked—which had been a fad among Columbia’s students for several years. “I was coming to work one night, and this girl had taken off all of her clothes and was standing right on Low Library’s steps.” Two young men, also without clothing, flanked her, and according to Bolar there were five or six hundred more people on the steps behind the instigating trio. “I forget the year,” Bolar admits, “but it was happening all over campus.”

**BEST PART OF THE JOB:** The imminent end of a hectic workday. Those times “when I’m getting ready to go home, and I’m rushing and maybe have another office to do” brings closure to his busy days. Bolar has also enjoyed the health and the support he has received from Columbia, saying they contributed to his ability to recover from various ailments and medical emergencies. “I’ve had a lot of operations,” he notes, “I had a lot of health difficulties, but I overcame all of them. I’m hangin’ tough.”

**IN HIS SPARE TIME:** Bolar enjoys nights on the town, taking in movies or Broadway shows and dining and dancing at Swing 46, the New York Supper Club and B.B. King Blues Club and Grill. He is also a sports fan and is elated when he gets the chance to attend Yankees and Knicks games.

**Omar Coulibaly**


*Apology* is a poetry collection that is a “rainbow garden of love, peace, terror, history, and global life experiences where anyone can find himself through that sweet and terse mood. The author has discovered his freedom in poetry, expressing with magic his vision of a world in peril.” With over a hundred poems, this anthology offers readers a spectacular style garnished with mysterious and poignant verses.

Oumar was born in the Ivory Coast in 1978 and came to the United States in 2001. He loves math and physics, and politics is his favorite pastime. His first English poetry “A Tulip,” written in 2003 for his sick teacher at the MMALC #5 (where he was an ESL student), was appreciated by all his classmates. In 2004, he studied Environmental Control Technology at New York City College of Technology. He is a father of four who, with his wife Rachel Diallo (a French citizen), has built a wonderful family (his source of inspiration). He is now busy writing his second poetry book. You can find out more about Oumar at [http://oumarcoulibaly.com](http://oumarcoulibaly.com). Congratulations Oumar!
Haakon’s Hall Opens
A Taste of Home in the Heart of the City

The lights dimly illuminate from up above, while comfy couches run across a wall. With each visit, your selection varies from your pick of Norwegian specialties, like goat cheese or lingonberries, to just a simple cup of coffee. What may sound like a dream is actually the makings of Haakon’s Hall, the new restaurant (and one of Columbia’s commercial spaces) conveniently located just off of Morningside Campus on Amsterdam Avenue near 119th Street.

“It’s a fancier coffee shop,” says James Lenzi, restaurant chef and proprietor, who takes pride in the restaurant’s eclectic mix of coffee shop and restaurant. Haakon’s offers home-style meals such as whole rotisserie chicken, beef stewed, and pot pies accentuated with a Norwegian flair. Visitors can enjoy “TV dinner plates,” in which meals are served on ceramic plates literally shaped like the TV dinner plates, or purchase Norwegian food products. Visitors can also relax while sampling amongst the restaurant’s impressive wine list and weekly artistic events like pottery making.

The nostalgic home-like setting, comfort foods, and events are all ingredients strategically used by Lenzi to set Haakon’s tone. “It’s a place to relax and have fun,” Lenzi explains. Having spent 35 years as an innovative chef, world-traveler, and food writer, Lenzi was more than ready to branch out on his own. He had always had a love of food, having studied at the Culinary Institute of America, and knew the neighborhood spot was the perfect location for his new business. “I was a chef at the Terrace on 119th Street, and I live right around the corner, so this was a perfect area,” Lenzi explains.

Lenzi’s 35-year old dream stems back to his family and a long ago trip to Norway. He and his wife, who is Norwegian, spent their honeymoon visiting Haakon’s Hall, the oldest castle in Norway. It would later become the namesake of their son, Haakon, and their new establishment. Haakon, who is a trained ceramicist, is lending his artistry to the family restaurant, where demonstrations of his works will be viewable and items available for purchase. Lenzi, together with his partner Tamar Tolchin, his brother Joe and his son Haakon are helping the business to thrive.

Since its grand opening, fittingly held on Sunday, May 17—Norwegian Constitution Day—Haakon has been in full swing of operation.

Now that the restaurant is up and running, Lenzi – who walks to work – wants Haakon’s Hall to find its niche in the community. He says, “I’m looking forward to us getting in the groove and getting our regular crowd—college kids, families, everyone. I want it to be the place everyone thinks of first, like home for us and anyone who comes in. It will be a place to go when you crave good ol’ fashioned American food … with a twist.”

If you crave “a taste of home in the heart of the city,” visit Haakon’s Hall located at 1187 Amsterdam Avenue between 118th and 119th Street. For more information go to www.haakonshallny.com.

Jose Martinez
“I love to play my bongo drums and travel with my friends. In my spare time I play with my friends and sing for my family.”

Porter C
Residential Operations

Terrence Munian
“Go on vacations to the Caribbean.”
Head Cleaner
Campus Operations

April Billups
“I like to take drives with my family in the Pocono Mountains. The greenery and the mountains are beautiful and relaxing.”
Assistant Director
Planning & Space Management

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