As we enter the holiday season, we end the calendar year on an eventful note, highlighted by the ceremonial rising – or “topping-out” – of the last beam of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center (page 7). This is an important milestone in the construction of the building and a tangible symbol of Columbia's long-term development in Manhattanville. The ceremony was an especially nice moment for the ironworkers who erected the building's steel, as it not only completed the structural steel framework of the building, but also marked the first project in New York City that used an innovative safety netting to further protect workers from injury. I am proud of the investments we have made to provide the safest possible environment for our construction workers. You can read more about our comprehensive construction safety program on page 7.

As we build the new campus, projects such as the Institute for Data Sciences and Engineering, the Brown Institute for Media Innovation at the Journalism School, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)/Graduate Student Center and the Physics Theory and Data Analysis Center continue our efforts to revitalize the Morningside Campus and create the types of spaces where our students, faculty and staff can thrive. I’m thrilled that some of our recent projects have garnered several awards for industry excellence (page 8), including the Municipal Art Society's Best New Building and LEED Gold Rating awarded to the Campbell Sports Center and an Excellence in Design award given to the Muscota Marsh by the New York City Public Design Commission. And thanks to the continued outstanding efforts of our team, the University once again received a perfect score in Princeton Review's 2014 Green Ratings, which looks at the sustainability-related practices of colleges.

I also was delighted to see so many colleagues and their families at the Men's Basketball Facilities Appreciation Night. It’s always special when we are able to pause from our daily work and spend time together, all while supporting our partners in Columbia Athletics. Let’s continue to take pride in our individual and collective contributions to this great University and support each other in our daily tasks.

As we celebrate the holidays and welcome the new year, I wish you and your families health and happiness in 2014. Thank you for all you do.

Joe Ienuso
Dear [Facilities],

I am writing this email to document Mr. Doug Jermyn’s excellent service as the building superintendent for the property located at 558 W 113th Street.

As a PhD student at Columbia University, I transferred to apartment 4F of the aforementioned property during the spring semester of 2008 and left at the end of May 2013 upon graduating from the program. During my stay I had the pleasure of interacting with Mr. Jermyn on a frequent basis and was always impressed by his professionalism and willingness to assist the tenants.

Mr. Jermyn has assisted me on countless occasions on matters ranging from apartment maintenance work to the occasional trouble with another building tenant. He was always available by phone or email, and his response time was virtually zero. All maintenance work was performed quickly and efficiently, and everything was communicated clearly and executed to perfection.

I was also impressed by Mr. Jermyn’s friendly demeanor towards the tenants and staff members. He never once failed to greet me on the street with a smile, and was always engaging and easy to talk to about matters often unrelated to work. I can only imagine how demanding Mr. Jermyn’s job is on a daily basis, but that never prevented him from being pleasant to talk to and taking an interest on the well-being of the tenants.

I have now lived in six different countries and have rented apartments from both individual owners and property management companies. Not once had I encountered a more dedicated, efficient and capable building superintendent than Mr. Jermyn and I would like to take this opportunity to once again commend him for his excellent service during my stay at Columbia.

Tenant, University Apartment Housing

Hello all [Christopher Ruehl, Ruth Shragowitz, Gene Villalobos]

I just wanted to pass on my thanks for everything you all are doing. I can’t say that I hope to go through this often, but if I HAVE to- this is the group [CPM] I want to work with. You all know what the concerns from our side are, and I could tell that you have made them your own. I am very excited to get this project completed and have faith that it will happen.

Thanks again,

Employee, School of the Arts Theatre Program

Dear Mark [Kerman] and Ed [Lauth],

Nancy Lu has been managing facilities for Gift Systems in the Office of Alumni and Development since 2009. My group is located in 2875 Broadway.

For the entire four years, Nancy has been consistently helpful, attentive, knowledgeable, and quick to respond. If a problem should be handled by the building instead of Columbia, she still makes sure we receive the required services.

Nancy is a joy to work with as she is always professional and pleasant. She comes in early or stays late if jobs have to be completed before or after working hours. She always keeps us informed of progress or reasons for delays. She explains things to us like why the heat does not come up during the ‘shoulder season’. But then she makes sure the heat is adjusted so we can work comfortably.

Recently, a toilet in the men’s bathroom was loose and shaking. The plumbers came the same day to fix it.

I just wanted you both to know that we are very grateful to have such a conscientious person serving us. People like Nancy are a treasured resource. We feel very lucky she was assigned to this building.

Tenant, Office of Alumni & Development
In Fiscal Year 2013 alone, Facilities’ Capital Project Management (CPM) department completed approximately $100 million in construction and renovation projects spanning more than 80 projects across all of the Morningside, Baker Field and Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory campuses, including $9 million in exterior and historic preservation projects on campus and in the community. The Planning department was also responsible for 57 new space planning efforts. Vice President of Planning & CPM Joe Mannino and his team have recently taken steps to ensure that the adequate resources and processes are in place to support our growing University.

As the department looked at ways of improving services to its clients, it became clear that early planning and enhanced collaboration are essential ingredients to successful capital project outcomes. So in September 2012, Facilities integrated two separate units—Planning and Capital Project Management—into one department. This integration has enabled Facilities to offer clients improved value and quality through a more holistic approach to the project life cycle by introducing better data and decision making, streamlining the project management process from inception through completion.

“Being part of the same team has helped us look at the building process with a more holistic approach instead of a linear one. We now have in-house architects, space planners and CPM staff, literally, working side-by-side throughout the conceptual and feasibility stages of a project, and all three groups (Planning, Design & Compliance and Project Management) continue the interaction through the design and construction phases of the project,” said Mannino. “In addition, we can deliver an enhanced and expedited product at the earliest stages of the process.”

In August 2013, Alfonso Pistone joined the team as Assistant Vice President of Project Management to help galvanize project management process and improve the overall client experience. Al has over 25 years of experience in capital planning, real estate portfolio management, audit and large-scale project/program management and most recently worked at the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation.

“This is an exciting time at Planning and CPM as we continue to improve to meet the needs of the University efficiently and approach the building process in its totality,” said Mannino. “These additions in personnel and changes to processes will allow us to plan, design, build, and operate more strategically and effectively than ever before.”

Adding to the 15 year tenure and expertise of the Director of Space Planning, Gene Villalobos, Mannino brought in two other senior leaders to complement an already seasoned staff. In 2012, Janet Grapengeter joined the team as Director of Design and Compliance to help centralize in-house architects, compliance, ADA, design guidelines and regulatory compliance. An architect by profession, Janet most recently worked at Jones Lang LaSalle and has over 20 years of real estate portfolio management, strategic management of interdepartmental collaborations, streamlining project processes, and compliance.

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Making Columbia Green

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.

Columbia Receives Perfect score in Princeton Review’s 2014 Green Ratings

For the second year in a row the University is one of 22 schools to receive a perfect score for environmental friendliness in the Princeton Review’s 2014 Green Ratings. The Review looked at the sustainability-related practices of 832 colleges. Here is an excerpt from the Princeton Review’s rating.

"Located within walking distance of grassy Central Park, Columbia University’s campus is evolving into one of New York City’s green landmarks in its own right. Surrounded by one of the biggest and densest collections of buildings in the world, the university has put its location to good use—recently launching the NYC Urban Technology Innovation Center in order to promote green building technologies in New York City. The Urban Design Lab has committed to local environmental design and sustainable economic development, combining the vast intellectual and financial resources of the architecture and engineering schools. The challenges of developing sustainable infrastructure in a bustling urban environment are real, which makes Columbia’s recent LEED Platinum certification for its 17-acre Manhattanville campus plan in West Harlem even more impressive. Leave it to one of the oldest and most historically rooted universities in the world to stake claim to both the first Platinum certification of its kind in New York City and the first for a university plan nationally! This estimable bit of green construction will only add to Columbia’s significant collection of LEED-certified buildings, which welcomed seven LEED Gold or LEED Silver endeavors in the last several years. Of course, construction is just one of many fortunate opportunities to advance sustainability in Manhattan—Columbia has devoted considerable effort to healthy local food, green markets, vegetative roofs and more efficient water treatment. Always a beacon in academia and leadership, its students are offered a choice of 24 degrees in environmental study to complement 33 environmental research centers, while organizations such as the Earth Institute and Columbia EcoReps contribute to the active presence of the sustainability movement in everyday campus life.”

Facilities Volunteers Give Riverside Valley Community Garden a Helping Hand

On Thursday, October 3, 2013, over forty Columbia University volunteers participated in Lend Lease’s annual Community Service Day project at the Riverside Valley Community Garden located at 138th Street and 12th Avenue—just north of Columbia’s Manhattanville development. Volunteers worked in shifts to help beautify the garden by raking leaves, replacing damaged planter boxes, adding erosion-control solutions, changing mulch, and patching up the asphalt jogging path.

“Community Service Day is very important to our company. This year, we worked with Columbia to provide construction knowledge and manpower to help improve the Riverside Valley Community Garden,” said Ralph Esposito, executive vice president at Lend Lease. “This is a great example of Lend Lease’s and Columbia’s commitment to give back to the community we work in.”

Riverside Valley Community Garden is responsible for maintaining a 15-block stretch of Riverside Park from 135th Street to 150th Street. The Community Garden was founded by long-time local resident Jenny Benítez and a group of neighbors 27 years ago. “At that time, this area was a shanty town for homeless drug addicts and dealers, as well as a garbage dump for used hypodermic needles, broken glass and abandoned cars,” Benítez said. She and local residents set aside a plot of land at 138th Street and Riverside Drive to plant a wide variety of vegetables and fruit-bearing trees and distribute their harvest each year to people who pass through its gates. With their help, along with major support from the Riverside Park Fund, Riverside Park has been transformed into a series of lovely floral gardens throughout the park.

Currently, Jenny Benítez, 80, and her husband, Victor, 83 spend six hours a day, seven days a week maintaining the garden. “We have raised our four children in this West Harlem community and have worked within Community Board 9 for more than 50 years. Children and families in this community depend on this garden, and Columbia and Lend Lease have helped keep it alive,” she said. “With their help, the garden can continue to flourish and provide free fruits and vegetables to the community—we are eternally appreciative.
Local High School Interns Gain Experience At Columbia

On Friday, August 9th, nearly 30 Columbia University employees joined 15 interns at the closing celebration of the 2013 Columbia University Manhattanville High School Summer Internship Program. The teenagers gave presentations highlighting key skills learned from their summer experience. More than 150 youth applied for the five-week paid summer internship. The successful applicants from the local community worked throughout the University in positions supporting a range of programs from communications and research to planning and engineering. The interns also visited Columbia University Medical Center’s Cardiac Center and Diabetes Center, attended a résumé workshop, and attended several panel discussions to learn about the construction of the Columbia University Manhattanville campus, Operations and Capital Projects management at the University.

Columbia Hosts Job Fair for MWL Union Job Seekers

More than 250 people attended Columbia University’s job fair for minority, women and local union construction workers on September 10, 2013. Crescent Consulting helped coordinate the event and was joined by Lend Lease, Structure Tone and Sciame Construction. The event provided job seekers with opportunities to meet subcontractors hiring for four different construction projects including projects at the Columbia University Medical Center and the new Manhattanville campus development. Attendees were also able to participate in work-readiness workshops and speak with representatives from local unions, Columbia Human Resources, and other local organizations to learn more about employment, certification and job training programs.

Facilities Donates over 100 Turkeys to Local Food Pantry

This Thanksgiving, Residential Operations contributed over 100 turkeys to the Thousand Turkey Challenge Interfaith Coalition’s “2013 West Side Campaign Against Hunger Turkey Challenge.” The turkeys were distributed to low-income families at the food pantry of the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew on West 86th Street. Thank you all for your generosity towards our neighbors in need!
Public Safety has released the publication of *Emergency Response Protocols for Faculty and Staff*. This booklet is published in two versions, one for the Morningside/Manhattanville area and one for the Medical Center. The protocols are accessible on the Public Safety website and are designed to provide members of the Columbia Community with important information on what to do in case of a broad range of emergencies that may occur on campus, from Fire to Active Shooters to Severe Weather and more.

We encourage you to take the time to review the information by accessing the protocols through the following link: www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/emergencyresponseprotocols.html

Public Safety recently published the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report for 2013. The Report can be viewed online at: www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/SecurityReport.pdf. Printed copies are available at the Public Safety offices on both the Morningside and Medical Center campuses. The report will also be distributed to departments across the University.

In accordance with the Campus Security Act, the report also contains campus crime statistics, as well as residence hall fire data, for the last three calendar years.

On Wednesday September 4th, CU Public Safety hosted Security Awareness Day for the Morningside Campus at Low Plaza. The event provided members of the University community the opportunity to speak with crime prevention professionals from Public Safety and the NYPD, join effective crime prevention programs for bikes and electronics, and purchase discounted locks for bikes and computer security; 129 electronic devices and 41 bikes were engraved and registered CU Public Safety and the NYPD; participants also received free bike tune ups and accessories as well as free computer recovery software.
Manhattanville Development: A Model of Construction Safety

Columbia University’s Manhattanville campus development has been widely recognized for its best practices in environmentally sustainable construction and design. Lesser known, but perhaps even more important, is the site’s comprehensive and innovative construction safety program.

Columbia and its construction partners have a strong commitment to maintaining the safety of the job site and of the surrounding area. This includes not only the corporate safety programs of the construction manager and subcontractors, but also supplemental measures taken by the University that make the Manhattanville construction site a model for construction safety.

“From day one, we said safety was the priority on this project,” said Columbia Vice President for Manhattanville Development Philip Pitruzzello. “We are committed to providing the safest possible environment for our construction workers and the surrounding neighborhood and making the site the standard for construction safety leadership.”

Full-time, on-site safety personnel from the construction manager Lend Lease and its subcontractors perform regular reviews of the construction work plan and on-site safety procedures which include pre-qualifying all contractors, required site orientation and safety certifications for all workers and regular Safety Lead Team meetings and health and safety assessments. The Columbia University Facilities project team reviews safety plans and reports and conducts site visits on a regular basis.

In addition, Columbia brought on two 3rd party construction safety consultants to complement the existing safety program with daily and monthly safety reports and analysis, safety plan and best practice reviews, training, audits and other safety management services. Columbia also adopted an integrity compliance program that consists of extensive screening of all potential bidders for safety and integrity performance, and has contracted with a preeminent corporate intelligence, investigative and integrity monitoring firm.

The safety measures don’t stop there. Working closely with its construction partners, Columbia has implemented a number of unique and innovative procedures and systems to make the site as safe as possible. A mandatory daily (weekly is typical on construction projects) morning “safety huddle” helps workers better understand upcoming construction activities and plan accordingly. Stringent fall protection procedures require workers to secure themselves if they are six feet or higher above ground.

“Super stairs” jump through the center of the building to reduce ladder use and provide safer access and egress for all workers on the project. A safety incentive program acts an additional encouragement.

Most notably, the team installed a safety netting system – the first project in New York City to do so – that serves as passive fall protection for the workers on the site. Columbia, Lend Lease and other construction partners worked together for a number of years to create the system, which uses polyester material and a spider web design to protect workers from fall hazards during the steel erection process.

“We all know that construction workers are sometimes exposed to risks,” said Alagie Sanyang, Lend Lease’s environment health and safety director for the development. “This additional passive protection prevents injuries, plain and simple.”

It can also save lives. On one particularly hot day, an iron worker fainted before he “tied off”, and fell from the building. He was caught by the net, shaken, but completely unharmed.

“We are extremely grateful that Columbia has taken the time, effort and money to invest in a system that improves safety and saves lives,” said Corey Armando, vice president at J.F. Stearn, the steel erector. “When our workers set foot on this job site, they appreciate knowing that the owners of this project care about them and their safety. At the end of the day, we all just want to get home to our families safely.”

Other owners and contractors are taking note, says Sanyang, and will implement many of these types of safety innovations on their construction sites. “We are helping to create a culture of safety across the industry,” he said.

Topping out for Manhattanville Campus First New Building

On Friday, October 4th Columbia University representatives joined Lend Lease and the construction workforce for the Topping-Out Ceremony of the steel structure and the ceremonial rising of the highest beam of the future Jerome L. Greene Science Center.

“This important milestone for Columbia and the history of the new Manhattanville campus, was made possible by extraordinary teamwork” said Philip Pitruzzello, Vice President of Manhattanville Development at Columbia University.
Awards & Accomplishments

Campbell Sports Center receives “Best New Building” MASterworks Award

Campbell Sports Center received the MASterworks Award, administered by the Municipal Arts Society (MAS), for Best New Building on Wednesday, November 6, 2013. The MASterworks Awards recognize projects completed in the preceding year that both exemplify excellence in architecture and urban design and that make a significant contribution to New York’s built environment. Prior winners include the Hypar Pavilion, and New York by Gehry, and the The New York Times Building.

Campbell Sports Center Awarded LEED Gold

In December 2013, Campbell Sports Center received a Leed Gold Certification by the United States Green Building Council, the nation’s foremost coalition of leaders in sustainable building design and construction and developers of the LEED building rating system.

Columbia is Recognized by New York City for Leadership in MWL Community

On Monday, November 4, 2013 Joe Ienuso, executive vice president of Columbia University Facilities (CUF), La-Verna Fountain, vice president of Construction Business Services and Communications at CUF, Tanya Pope, Executive Director of Construction Business Services at CUF, and D. Sean Johnson, Director of Vendor Management and Relations at Columbia were recognized by the City of New York for “supporting the capacity-building and economic growth of small businesses and our NYC-certified minority- and women-owned business enterprises, as founding members of our Corporate Alliance Program.”

The awards were signed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and noted their “leadership has been essential to keeping our economy and neighborhoods strong. On behalf of a grateful city, thank you for your commitment to building a better future for all New Yorkers.”

The MWL Construction Trades Certicate Mentorship Program, formed in 2008, was designed to help construction-trade business owners on finding business opportunities and how to bid on projects for minority, women and locally-owned businesses. The program, which has been adopted as a citywide model, has already graduated 86 firms that have received more than $98 million in contracts with New York City and Columbia University.

La-Verna Fountain is Recognized by NYSAMC for Commitment to MWL Businesses

On November 1, 2013, La-Verna Fountain (middle), vice president of Construction Business Services and Communications at Columbia University Facilities, was recognized by the New York State Chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors (NYSAMC) for her “leadership skills and commitment to the creation and innovative partnerships and programs that have resulted in opportunities and millions of dollars in contracts for small, minority, and women business enterprises.” NYSAMC advances and promotes the mutual interests of minority and women contracting firms based in New York State. Congratulations La-Verna!

Facilities Releases Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2013

In December, Facilities released its Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report to provide the University community information about our activities and financials. The report, which can be accessed on the Facilities website, highlights our accomplishments, people and the many ways in which we kept the University moving forward in Fiscal Year 2013.
Columbia University Wetland Restoration is Living Laboratory for Local Students

On Thursday, June 20, 2013, 6th grade students from P.S. 52 in Inwood participated in a service learning project at the new Muscota Marsh on West 218th Street and Indian Road. The students were involved in an interactive lesson on the history of the marshes in the Inwood neighborhood, the structure of tidal and non-tidal marshes, and the benefits of having these marshes in the community.

The project was lead by Matthew I. Palmer, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies at Columbia University’s Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology. “This marsh can function as an outdoor laboratory for lessons in biology, earth science, chemistry, and many other subjects,” said Palmer. “It will provide environmental benefits to the community including cooling, storm water management, and habitat for wildlife. It is a recreational and scenic benefit—another green space for the community to enjoy.”

The Muscota Marsh will create new public access and new amenities on the waterfront, restore and extend the area’s native marshland adjacent to Inwood Hill Park, and create an opportunity for increased educational and recreational activities for the community.

“This project was fun and educational. We were able to learn what an actual marsh is and its importance to the ecology in our neighborhood,” said 12-year-old David Linares. “My favorite part of this project was checking the temperature of the soil. I did not know that was possible and important to know.”

“I visit Inwood Park regularly but did not know the marsh was there—or what a marsh was. Now, I am excited to have access to it soon,” said 12-year-old Fernanda Brito.

“It is extremely important for kids in this neighborhood to have these opportunities to apply class concepts within their own communities. This project opened students’ minds to embrace their inner-city neighborhood as a living environment and ecosystem—not just buildings and roads,” Said Adaliz Gonzalez, Principal of P.S. 52. “This project provided a meaningful experience for these students who were eager to participate, learn and apply critical thinking.”

Muscota Marsh Wins Award for Excellence in Design

The Muscota Marsh, a project to create new public access and new amenities on the waterfront near Columbia University’s Baker Athletics Complex in Inwood and restore and extend the area’s native marshland, received a 2012 Design Award from the Public Design Commission of the City of New York. The award is one of only ten projects selected overall for 2012 and one of three projects that received special recognition for “Green Infrastructure”.

Building on the site’s latent ecology, the project’s wetland restoration reintroduces salt marsh and freshwater wetland zones with a diverse palette of native plants. This environment attracts ribbed mussels, leopard frogs, herons, and egrets, which together contribute to a healthy, self-sustaining ecosystem. A domestic wood boardwalk wraps the edge of the wetland, so visitors can experience the sights and sounds of the naturalized river bank.

The winning projects are selected by the Design Commission members from the hundreds of submissions reviewed each year.
NEW FACES AT FACILITIES

Operations
Alvin Alba
Heavy Cleaner
Michael Asare
Heavy Cleaner
Rodolfo Basurto
Heavy Cleaner
Francisco Bido
Heavy Cleaner
Jorge J. Borges Jr.
Handy Person A
Guillermo A. Caceres
Heavy Cleaner
David Canner
Supervisor
Anping Chung
Heavy Cleaner
Jeremiah Craighead
Truck Driver Helper
Diondeodat Deodat
Groundskeeper B
William Dick
Mechanic
Jason Eastman
Energy Management System Mechanic
Tak Eng
Senior Engineer
Norman Howell
Supervisor
Stacey Hunter
Porter C
Rohan Kalapnauth
Working Superintendent
Ana Liberata
Heavy Cleaner
Liam McMahon
Senior Engineer
Nathalie E. Neptune
Residential Housing Specialist
Isabel M. Pereira
Heavy Cleaner
Luis Ramos
Groundskeeper A
Rayman Rasheed
Director, Electrical Systems
Jonathan Sierra
Porter A
Janiel Troncoso
Heavy Cleaner
Marcos Zarzuela
Heavy Cleaner
Manhattanville Development
Daniel Cole
Director, Field Compliance
John DeCesare
Project Manager
David Faren
Sr. Project Manager
Karen Ann Shafer
Assistant Manager
Capital Project Management
Alfonso Pistone
AVP, Project Management
Finance and Administration
Inji Choi
Financial Coordinator
Real Estate
Rabindranath D. Bedassie
Property Manager
Public Safety
Kayode Enunewku
Security Officer
Christopher Gomez
Security Officer
James Thomas O’Brien
Security Officer
Andy G. Sanchez-Sarit
Security Officer
Eric William Steyert
Security Officer
Jasmine K. Wright
Security Officer

NEW ROLES
Operations
Oscar Cedre
Handyperson A
Korab Ndregioni
Building Superintendent
Victoria A. Quinonez
Door Attendant C
Leilani Reynolds
Assistant Manager
Winston Thompson
Handy Person C
Real Estate
Shari L. Colburn
Vice President
Office of the Executive Vice President
Christine Salto
Project Coordinator
Public Safety
John Biggs
Manager, Technology Projects
Deidre Fuchs
Director of Investigations
Ricardo Morales,
Assistant Director, Crime Prevention Programs
Public Safety
Patrick J. Oakley
Senior Sergeant

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

Operations
Henry L. Bonney
Heavy Cleaner
Mark Cabaroy
Senior Facilities Services Coordinator
Francia M. Diaz
Porter C

Jose O. Dottel
Heavy Cleaner
Sheldon C. Guy
Heavy Cleaner
Cornelius R. Hollanceid
Mechanic A
Edwin E. Linton
Mechanic HVAC
Angela P. Morris
Administrative Assistant
Carlos A. Polanco
Head Cleaner (Revised)
Pio E. Portilla
Porter C
John Rivera
Door Attendant C
Willard A. Wilkins
Mechanic A
Allan P. Williams
Head Cleaner (Revised)
Lorenzo Wilson
Welder
Finance Admin
Susana Toribio
Manager
Capital Project Management
Blanca Lopez-Maymi
Administrative Coordinator
Public Safety
Wayne Coakley
Security Officer
Public Safety
David K. Yee
Security Officer, S. P.
Mary Waldorf

Who She Is: Director of Work Management and Scheduling, Columbia University Facilities

Years at Columbia: 5

What She Does:
Waldorf provides support for the planning and production of roughly 6,000 campus events each year, from setup to cleanup.

“We are not event planners,” she explained. “We support the event planners.” Her office within the Facilities Department gathers information from organizers of events ranging from World Leaders Forums to student orientation and communicates their needs to the teams of carpenters, electricians and others who make it happen. She also works closely with the Department of Public Safety. “A lot of our work is behind the scenes,” she said.

Best Part of the Job:
Working with people at all levels at Columbia, from students to senior administrators.

“I especially enjoy the biggest show of the year—Commencement,” an event that involves months of teamwork and planning. “We’re really creating a memory for those who attend,” she said. Another she enjoys is Holi, the Hindu spring festival of colors, in which festivalgoers throw colored powder on each other, usually on Ancel Plaza. Waldorf says it generally takes four groundskeepers two 16-hour days to clean it up. “If the plaza is a mess, that means the students had a great turnout and a successful event,” Waldorf said.

Road to Columbia:
“I suppose I’m the classic smalltown-girl-moves-to-the-big-city,” said the Binghamton, N.Y. native. Waldorf majored in psychology at Wilkes University and earned a master’s degree in counseling at the University of Scranton, returning to Wilkes for five years to help advise student groups and work in event planning. She then joined New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts in its event planning department, where she planned orientation programs, parent-family welcome weeks and the school’s graduation at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. In 2008 she became an assistant dean of students at Columbia’s School of General Studies, where her role included academic advising. Then she was assistant director for student events at University Event Management before taking her present position.

Most Memorable Moment:
Preparing for President Barack Obama’s Barnard Commencement speech in 2012. Facilities had approximately one month to prepare for the president’s arrival, including providing power for metal-detecting magnetometers that all attendees had to walk through and erecting special tents on campus so Obama could remain hidden until he walked onstage.

“I have a newly found appreciation for when the president is visiting somewhere,” she said. “What goes into that planning is insane.”

In Her Spare Time:
On a recent trip to Costa Rica, Waldorf tried waterfall rappelling and zip lining, and hiked up an inactive volcano. In 2009 she broke her arm snowboarding in Killington, Vt. Undeterred, she returned to the slopes the next season. “I spent about one hour on the snowboard to prove I could do it and not break a limb, but then I immediately went back to skis and bid farewell to snowboarding forever.”

She also likes to fool around with her hot pink electric guitar—but only in the privacy of her home. “It’s really better for everyone that way!” However, a friend gave her a custom guitar pick that says, “You’ve just been rocked by Mary Waldorf.”

Waldorf’s office is decorated with an eclectic mix of memorabilia and toys including a giant pencil from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and a miniature football from last fall’s Campbell Sports Center dedication. “I noticed that whether there are students or staffers in my office, these things tend to make people smile.”

Waldorf jogs in the morning and is preparing for the NYC half-marathon in March. She is running for charity with Team American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Anyone wishing to support her efforts can make a donation at www.teamaspca.org/participant/marywaldorf.

—Courtesy of Gary Shapiro, The Record

Best Wishes
After 2 years at Facilities, Tanya Pope has announced that she will be stepping down from her position as Executive Director of Construction Business Services to relocate to Washington D.C and be with her family. Tanya spearheaded many of the University’s initiatives pertaining to the Minority-Women- and Local (MWL) community and helped Columbia receive national recognition for its commitment to MWL. We thank Tanya for her contributions to the University and wish her the best in her future endeavors.
Question of the Month

What is your favorite part of working at Columbia?

Working with this great group of coworkers at Facilities Client Services. They make it enjoyable to come to work every morning.
-Rafael Then
Supervisor, Client Services, Operations

Working throughout the World Leader’s Forum every year. I get to help provide security for such dignitaries—that’s an exciting time at the University.
Linval Forrest
Security Officer, Public Safety

The fact that the Morningside Campus is so historic and distinguished. I also feel lucky that my job as an architect at Exteriors & Historic Preservation, in part, is to make sure the character and integrity of the exterior of these buildings is at an optimum. I tell my kids that I’m a building doctor.”
Edward Pang, Registered Architect, LEED Capital Project Management

Facilities Appreciation Night

On Monday, December 9, 2013, over 100 Facilities employees gathered at Levien Gym to support the Columbia Men’s Basketball Team and honorary coach Joe Ienuso during Facilities Appreciation Night. Attendees received free food and tickets for family and friends and several employees were selected at random to win raffles which included court-side seats to the game and gift baskets.

At halftime, attendees cheered the Facilities Operations Tigers and the Public Safety Enforcers in their halftime exhibition game. Thank you all who participated!

Upcoming University Holidays

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