WELCOME TO COLUMBIA: CUF STYLE

On August 26th and August 27th, employees from various Facilities departments helped welcome nearly 1,300 first-year students during this year’s moved-in period on campus. Read more on page 4.

WORKING AT COLUMBIA: CUF STYLE

Twenty-four local high school students were selected for five-week internships in a Columbia-wide summer internship program coordinated by Facilities. Read more on page 6.
Customer Compliments

Dear Keith [George],
I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the outstanding job that you did as Project Manager for the 8th floor repairs that were done at the CAC over Memorial Day Weekend. Your focus, dedication and attention to detail made a huge difference. Our staff was thrilled to return to work and see the work all completed. It was a pleasure working with you and we appreciate all your work; especially over a holiday weekend.

Employee, Office of Alumni and Development

Dear Mark [Kerman] and Nelson [Falcon],
Having completed our assessment trip, we want to thank you for the exceptional teamwork, support and information that we receive at Columbia University. Throughout your department, everyone that we meet and work with is most supportive, professional and knowledgeable. This is a wonderful experience and helps us to provide the best assessments and reports for your University. I hope that you can pass this message on to your Resident Managers and their staff members.

Employees, Facilities Service Provider

Dear Joe [Ienuso] and Joe [Mannino],
The entrance to our building looks great! Many thanks from all of us here for doing such a beautiful job, and for getting it finished so quickly.

Dean, Columbia Journalism School

Dear Facilities,
Many thanks for your efforts getting fumehoods 511C and D repaired. They are now operational again. Thanks also to Michelle and Louis for their part.

And many thanks for the temp fix for 202 Havemeyer. EHS approved the hood for use by the students. I really appreciate your efforts on this one.

Faculty, Department of Chemistry

Dear Dave [Dewhurst] and Woodley [Vericain]:
Now that the final items on the punch list have been addressed, I wanted to congratulate you on the truly impressive renovations to the Men's Room on the 7th floor of Pupin. This was indeed a ‘challenging’ space to work with, but the design and execution are both very well done. This may seem like an odd thing to get excited about, but each small improvement like this makes day-to-day life in Pupin so much more pleasant.

Professor, Department of Physics
Another fall semester has begun, and the University is in full swing: students are settling into their roles of living and learning, faculty members are continuing their tradition of excellence in teaching and research, and we all get to enjoy the spectacular fall foliage that unfolds around our historic campus.

The activity and energy that marks the beginning of the academic year often reminds me of the extraordinary efforts put forth over the summer to ensure a smooth start to the year, in which, of course, Facilities plays a big part.

This summer, Capital Project Management completed over 60 projects, from lab and office renovations to façade repairs and infrastructure maintenance. Operations primed academic buildings, grounds, residence halls and university apartments for fall occupancy. Finance and Administration prepared our users and systems for integration into Accounting & Reporting at Columbia (ARC), the University’s new web-based financial system. Manhattanville Development completed the installation of a new storm sewer and continued demolition and slurry wall/foundations activities, paving the way for the start of construction of the first buildings at the new campus. Construction Business Services and Communications coordinated a University-wide summer internship program for 24 local community high school students (read more on page 5).

Our summer activities culminated at the end of August with this year’s move-in period, where employees from various Facilities departments helped welcome nearly 1,300 first year students. Campus Operations set up outdoor space, including preparation for the annual convocation ceremony on South Lawn and Public Safety assisted with the security, traffic control and parking on College Walk and the surrounding streets (read more on page 4).

Our efforts continue to be recognized. Just recently, Columbia was named to The Princeton Review’s 2013 Green Honor Roll, a measure of the environmental friendliness of our campus (read more on page 7). And, underscoring our commitment to working with our community, Vice President for Construction Business Services and Communications La-Verna Fountain was presented with the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise Advocate of the Year Award for Upper Manhattan (read more on page 8).

Our job of supporting over 30,000 students and staff and maintaining over 15 million square feet of space will always be challenging. But not a day goes by that I am not proud, appreciative and amazed by how our team comes together to keep the University moving forward. I invite you to read more about how we do that in this issue of Off the CUF. Enjoy!

Joe Ienuso
Welcome to Columbia, CUF Style

On August 26th and August 27th, employees from various Facilities departments helped welcome nearly 1,300 first-year students during this year’s moved-in period on campus. Campus Operations set up outdoor space, including preparation for the annual convocation ceremony on South Lawn; Residential Operations worked throughout the summer to prepare dorms for fall occupancy, revamp the interior of Wallach Hall and renovate the lounges in Carman, John Jay, and Furnald; and Public Safety assisted with the security, traffic control and parking on College Walk and the surrounding streets.

100 and Counting

Residents of 423 West 120th Street gathered for a “423@100” party to celebrate the building’s 100th anniversary. Many of Columbia’s residential buildings, which were built in Morningside Heights in the early 1900s, have been celebrating their centennial in recent years.

New Off-Campus Housing Registry Delights Users

Manager of the Off-Campus Housing Assistance Office Susan Saar shows off the newly redesigned online housing registry. The registry allows Columbia affiliates to search for rooms and apartments in non-Columbia-managed buildings and list and find available sublets in UAH-managed buildings. Students will also be able to post their own profiles as prospective roommates and find potential roommates. The new housing registry is user friendly and offers a variety of filters for enhanced searches, photos, detailed apartment descriptions, and a map feature indicating proximity to campus. Visit the new registry at www.columbia.edu/ocha.
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.

Public Safety Security Awareness Day Encourages Biking at Columbia

On Wednesday September 5th, 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; 135 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.

Columbia Receives Highest Score in Princeton Review Green Ratings

Columbia is among 21 colleges and universities from around the United States to earn a spot on The Princeton Review’s 2013 Green Honor Roll, reserved for institutions that score the highest-possible score of 99. The publisher and education services provider revealed the 2013 list Monday, Aug. 20.

The Princeton Review describes its fifth annual “Green Ratings” of colleges as “a measure of how environmentally friendly the institutions are on a scale of 60 to 99. The company tallied the rating for 806 institutions based on its institutional surveys of colleges in 2011-12 concerning their environmentally related practices, policies and academic offerings.” Twenty-one institutions made the Green Honor Roll.

The Green Honor roll’s synopsis states “Columbia University’s campus is evolving into one of New York City’s green landmarks” and that “the challenges of developing sustainable infrastructure in a bustling urban environment are significant, which makes Columbia’s recent LEED Platinum recognition for its 17-acre Manhattanville campus plan in West Harlem even more impressive.”

“This is another accomplishment our faculty, staff, and students can be extremely proud of,” said Executive Vice President of Columbia University Facilities Joe Ienuso.
Christian McArthur, a junior at Columbia Secondary School, often envisions his future at the University.

So when he learned about a paid summer internship program offered through Facilities and Human Resources, he knew it was an opportunity that could not be missed.

McArthur was one of 24 local high school students selected for five-week internships in schools and departments across the campus including the Business School, Miller Theatre, Facilities, Public Safety, Student Services and the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, to name just a few.

“I’ve been able to establish connections in a real office environment,” McArthur says. “It made me feel professional at a young age.”

University officials received more than 300 applications, and those who were accepted underwent a rigorous interview process.

From writing news articles to developing computer programs, the interns’ responsibilities were as varied as the places they worked. One student, for example, was asked to build a PowerPoint presentation to be shown to the New York City mayor’s office.

La-Verna Fountain, vice president for Construction Business Services and Communications in Facilities, said one of the goals of the 3-year-old program was to teach students that there isn’t just one path to a career. “These internships,” Fountain said, “are literally a ticket to envision the world.”

The internship program is one example of numerous activities the University coordinates to introduce young people to educational, cultural, health and civic programs that weave the university into the local community.

Columbia Secondary School principal Miriam Nightengale says some of the students come from families with no tradition of higher education. “This is a positive first experience that encourages courage and ambition,” she says.

Facilities’ program coordinator Radhy Miranda, who coordinated the internship program, was impressed by the way the teenagers handled the real-world experience. “Each of these interns has shown a maturity and desire to learn in any situation,” he said.

According to Willie Bentley, employment operations manager in Human Resources, such internship opportunities are rare for local teenagers.

“We are able to reach out to these kids when they are young, ambitious and are actually able to help cultivate their young minds,” Bentley said.

At the end of the program, the interns heard from Robert Kasdin, senior executive vice president, and Kofi Boateng, executive director of the West Harlem Development Corporation, who urged the young people to make the most of their experience.

Nathan Mace of Millennium High School—who one day hopes to work in architecture and design—seemed to take the message to heart.

“I will look back on this experience and be glad that instead of going to the beach, I got to work at Columbia,” he said.
Facilities and Construction Partners Host Job Fair for MWL Union Job Seekers

Anthony Rosa, a member of Laborers International Union Local 731 is looking for a job. So when he learned about a Columbia-sponsored job fair for minority, women and local union construction workers at Riverbank State Park on August 21, 2012, he knew it was an opportunity that could not be missed.

“This event gave me hope that I can get a job,” said Rosa. “I handed-in a dozen applications and was interviewed in less than two hours. I spoke to several contractors in one place. This would normally take me about 3-5 days and much traveling.”

The event, sponsored by Columbia University, SKANSKA USA and Empire State Development, provided more than 250 job seekers with opportunities to meet contractors working on four Columbia University construction projects: Boathouse Marsh, Core Research Computing Facility, 3595 Broadway, and 619-623 West 113th Street Project. Job seekers met with the sponsors and representatives from Columbia University Facilities Human Resources, Hunter Roberts, Caldwell & Walsh Building Construction, Inc., New York City Housing Authority, Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW), STRIVE, Workforce1, McKissack, as well as local unions to learn more about both construction and non-construction related employment, certification and training program opportunities.

The event, designed to provide multiple layers of support for job seekers, demonstrated the contractors’ commitment to achieve Columbia’s MWL goals that at least 35 percent of all construction dollars be spent with MWL firms and at least 40 percent of the construction labor force made up of MWL employees.

“This event shows that Columbia wants MWL involvement in their construction projects and the University is serious about growing together with the community,” said Farrad Muhammad, a member of Union Local 20 (labor).

New York Women’s Chamber of Commerce Honors Tanya Pope as a Woman of Excellence

Tanya Pope, Facilities Executive Director of Construction Business Services, was recognized as a 2012 Woman of Excellence on September 20th at the New Work Women’s Chamber of Commerce (NYWCC) Annual Awards at Bridgewaters in lower Manhattan. Tanya’s efforts to provide “capacity building and strategic support to minority, women and locally-owned contractors and manage the University’s Construction Mentorship Program” were cited among her many accomplishments.

Prior to joining Columbia earlier this year, Tanya served as Executive Director of Education and Corporate Programs at the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS), one of Columbia’s MWL Construction Trades Certificate Mentorship Program business partners. At SBS, she managed several educational programs for minority and women-owned businesses, including helping to grow the Columbia program into a national model for providing education and opportunities to MWL construction businesses.

Prior to SBS, Tanya founded and operated a consulting firm which developed business process strategies and corporate travel programs for media companies and small businesses. She was also Vice President of Travel Technology and Operations for MTV Networks/Viacom.

Tanya joins Facilities Vice President of Construction Business Services and Communications La-Verna Fountain, who was honored by the NYWCC last year as a 2011 Woman of Excellence.
On Friday, September 21st, over a dozen Columbia University Facilities volunteers participated in Lend Lease’s Community Service Day project at the Grant Houses garden on West 125th Street just west of Amsterdam Avenue. Volunteers cleaned, raked leaves, planted flowers, painted fences, repaired benches, and framed a gravel walkway leading into the garden; in addition, they used wood to repair benches, build a stage, planter boxes and community banner holders. This site was selected by Columbia and Lend Lease in cooperation with the West Harlem Local Development Cooperation, New York City Housing Authority and the Grant Houses Tenants Association.

“This service project was full of positive energy because so many people came together for the common purpose of beautifying the community,” said Sarah Martin, President of General Grant Houses Residents Association. “Residents have already expressed their gratitude for the project and have volunteered to help maintain the garden. “It was wonderful to see the project develop throughout the day. I felt like I was watching a flower bloom before my eyes.”

The revitalized Community Senior Reading Garden will serve as an open-area that encourages seniors and children to gather at the garden, read, play, and utilize the stage to recite poetry, conduct puppet shows, and small performances.

For the last four years, Lend Lease has worked with Columbia to help sustain community gardens. “From Jenny’s Garden at Riverside Park to the garden located on West 152nd Street next to the Wilson Major Morris Community Center and across the street from the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Lend Lease and Columbia have been working with the community to beautify and restore community gardens as part of the Lend Lease Community Service Day,” LaVerna Fountain, Vice President for Construction Business Services said. “This newest project continues that tradition and builds on all of the other ways Columbia works with the local community.”

“We like to give back to the communities and the places where we work,” said Ralph Esposito, executive vice president at Lend Lease. “People get to know us and see the good things that we do outside of building buildings and this is really important to us as a company,” he added.

Columbia’s faculty, students and staff have long engaged in partnerships and programs that provide services to individuals, families, schools and businesses in Upper Manhattan. “For those of us at Columbia working and building every day in the neighborhood, we appreciate the opportunity to give back with our labor and a passion for community improvement,” said Philip Pitruzzello, Vice President of Manhattanville Development Group at Columbia University.
NYC Deputy Mayor Awards
La-Verna Fountain Minority Enterprise Award

Deputy Mayor Robert K. Steel and Small Business Services Commissioner Robert Walsh presented La-Verna Fountain, Columbia University Facilities vice president for Construction Business Services and Communications, with the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise Advocate of the Year Award for Upper Manhattan. It was presented at the 2012 New York City Neighborhood Achievement Awards, held at Gracie Mansion on July 10th.

Established in 2002, the awards honor organizations, businesses and individuals that have demonstrated excellence in enhancing New York City neighborhoods by fostering economic opportunity. Fountain helps to lead the MWL Construction Trades Certificate Mentorship Program which 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 53 firms that have received more than $60 million in contracts with New York City and Columbia University.

“My goal is to connect people who run the best businesses with the right opportunities within Columbia University,” said Fountain. “My job is to help foster that same leadership to minority, women and local business owners,” she said.

Fountain came to Columbia in 2006 as an associate vice president for the University’s Office of Communications and Public Affairs. A native of Mt. Union, Penn., she is a former military police officer who worked her way through Penn State-Harrisburg and was serving on the staff of Pennsylvania’s Commerce Department when she was recruited to work in the governor’s office nearly 25 years ago by then-deputy chief of staff David Stone, now the Columbia’s executive vice president for communications.

She worked in a variety of state positions including the Pennsylvania State Police before rejoining Stone on the staff of former U.S. Senator Harris Wofford, managing constituent services as director of the senator’s state offices. After her time in federal government she became the senior advisor and director of Save the Children’s U.S. programs developing new programs for low-income families and overseeing programs in seven Southeastern states.

An activist and leader in the field of youth service, she returned to state government as an official in Governor Rendell’s Office of Citizen Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Education before joining Columbia, where she has since earned a master’s degree in negotiation and conflict resolution and is now an adjunct instructor in that program at the School of Continuing Education. Fountain is currently co-hosting a radio program with Tony Rogers on WHCR that focuses on minority and women-owned business enterprises and was just appointed head of the Mayor’s Commission on Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises. At Columbia, she leads the university’s outreach and communications efforts regarding construction business opportunities and activities and manages the university’s overall effort for these groups.

“La-Verna does a tremendous amount of work by opening doors and has been doing a remarkable job for a number of years,” said NYC Small Business Services Commissioner Robert W. Walsh.

Facilities Releases Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2012

In October, Facilities released its first ever Annual Report to provide CUF employees and other interested parties throughout the University community information about our activities and financials. The report, which can be accessed on the Facilities Web site, highlights our accomplishments, people and the many ways in which we kept the University moving forward in Fiscal Year 2012.
Welcome & Congratulations  (June 2012-September 2012)

NEW FACES AT FACILITIES
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
Giampolo Rivera
Application Support Specialist

MANHATTANVILLE
Sergio Neissen
Director, Construction Quality Assurance

Joseph Pepe
Project Director

OPERATIONS
Ludwig Alonso
Heavy Cleaner

Ferdinand Asencio
Groundskeeper A

Massao Ballo
Heavy Cleaner

Jeffrey Bryson
Assistant Director, Residential Operations

Sonia Butler
Heavy Cleaner

Jose Garcia, Jr.
Heavy Cleaner

Beaudlaire Jeancharles
Porter C

Philip Kretzmer
Assistant VP, Manhattanville

Angel Lagares
Porter C

Miguel Martinez
Porter C

Bekim Meshaj
Mechanic-Electrician

Edwardo Mule
Supervisor, Trade Services

Wendy Ortiz
Leasing Assistant

Mark Ramlall
Heavy Cleaner

Jennifer Rodriguez
Porter A

Michael Skrapits
Estimator, Locksmith Shop

Michael Skrapits
Estimator, Locksmith Shop

Christopher Smith
Heavy Cleaner

Domingo Ventura
Groundskeeper A

Nancy Walker
Heavy Cleaner

NEW ROLES
OPERATIONS
Kwesi Alleyne
Leasing Services Specialist

Earl Axon
Handyperson A

Neris Baez
Head Cleaner

Miguel Felix
Assistant Mechanic

Gumersindo Figueroa
Residential Manager

Darnell Hicks
Leasing Services Specialist

Pablo Molina
Specialty Mechanic (Plumbing Shop)

George Perdomo
Working Superintendent

Frederick Perez
Assistant Mechanic

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

OPERATIONS
James Rivera Jr.
Porter A

Mcphail Simon
Mechanic A

Elroy Skelton
Mechanic A

Wilfred Small
Manager, Services Center

Anthony Trabucco, assistant manager at Public Safety finished the New Jersey Marathon in 3 hours 24 minutes. His time automatically qualifies him to run the Boston Marathon. Way to go Anthony!

Send your good news to Dan Held at dh2297@columbia.edu.
Osvaldir Santana

Who He Is:
Porter, Residential Operations

Years at Columbia: 25

What He Does:
Santana is part of a team that maintains the lobby, hallways, and overall cleanliness of 445 Riverside Drive, a century-old residential building that is part of the University Apartment Housing portfolio. He has lived in the community for 23 years.

Best Part of Job:
Being able to take pride in his work. “People know I am a hard worker and they respect me for it,” he says. “I am happy with what I do and I enjoy going home knowing I did a good job. This is rewarding to me.” Santana also appreciates the great friendships and memories he has created during his tenure at Columbia.

Before Columbia:
In 1983, Santana left his mother and six siblings in Brazil and arrived in New York City to pursue the “American Dream”. He lived with his two aunts and worked at their candy store in midtown Manhattan until 1984 when got married and saved enough money to move out. Santana had his first son in 1985 and left his position at the candy store and worked at a supermarket in Morningside Heights, where he met a building manager who eventually helped him obtain a temporary porter position at Facilities.

Most Memorable Moment:
“My most memorable moment, believe it or not, was 25 years ago—the day I was hired full-time at Facilities! From then on, I knew this was the place where I wanted to work until I retired,” he says. Working at Columbia has allowed him to support his family, both in the United States and Brazil. Although only seven years away from the legal age of retirement, Santana feels like he can work many more years at Facilities.

On His Spare Time:
Santana enjoys playing soccer at Riverside Park with his 17-year old son. “I grew up without my father. I want my both of my sons to know I am here for them,” he says. His youngest son will graduate high school next year and Santana hopes to see him attend college. “I want him to take advantage of the educational opportunities I did not have in Brazil as child.”

Other Thoughts:
In October 2008, Santana’s mother passed away in Brazil and he took some time off of work to attend the funeral. In January, 2009, he returned to Brazil to spend some time with his family. Three days after returning to New York City, he was struck by a car. Santana suffered severe injuries and multiple fractures which forced him to miss work for nine months. “During that tough period, I felt so much love and support from those close to me and the Columbia community. It meant a lot to me.”
Question of the Month

What is your favorite place on campus?

Mary Waldorf
Director of Work Management and Scheduling, Campus Operations

"The main entrance to Low Library at the top of the steps - especially after the lighting ceremony on campus. It makes me feel like the queen of a castle in a winter wonderland!"

Manuel Peguero
Handy Person, Residential Operations

"The Dodge Fitness Center. I like the way it is constructed, its amenities, and the wonderful swimming pool."

Betty Holland
Finance Coordinator, Finance and Administration

"My desk at B-230. This is the place I am most familiar with and where I spend most of my time. That makes it my favorite!"