On April 6th, the City Council approved the Campbell Sports Center and Boathouse Marsh (pictured) projects at Baker Field. Read more on page 4.

Commencement Week (May 14-21) was a success thanks to the approximately 250 Facilities employees who spent weeks setting up tents, chairs, and bleachers and later restoring the Morningside campus to its original form.
After a rough winter, marked by a record-breaking 56 inches of snow in New York City and a surprisingly brief spring, summer is finally here and the cooling season is in full swing. As our summer renovation and improvement program—enabled by the reduced population on campus—kicks into high gear, it’s important to look back and acknowledge our accomplishments over the past few months.

When winter storms shut down access points throughout the east coast, you worked endless hours to ensure that the campus remained accessible for community members (read more on page 9). Many of our colleagues noted your hard work (page 2), as it was present all around us.

In April, the City Council approved the Campbell Sports Center and Boathouse Marsh projects at Baker Field (read more on page 4). The new sports center, named for the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, will provide our athletics program with much needed space and state-of-the-art facilities, while the Boathouse Marsh will facilitate public access to the waterfront and increase educational and recreational opportunities for the community.

The conversion of 80 of our residential buildings from oil to natural gas, which began in April, will provide cleaner, more efficient energy resources and allow us to significantly reduce our carbon footprint (page 7). Our green building projects have been noted by industry leaders, such as the United States Green Building Council, which recently granted LEED Gold Certification to both Knox Hall and the Alumni Center (more on page 8). These awards reflect our commitment to a greener campus and move us closer to our goals as a challenge partner in Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC 2030, the city’s comprehensive plan to create a more sustainable New York.

In addition to making the campus “greener,” we continue to keep safety a top priority. On April 20th the University’s Emergency Management Operations Team (EMOT), which I chair, joined representatives from the New York City Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management and the New York Police Department’s 26th Precinct for a tabletop exercise to strengthen our coordinated emergency response and evacuation protocols.

We can also take pride in another successful University Commencement in which many of our team members spent weeks setting up and subsequently clearing the campus after a week-long celebration. Among the more than 11,000 graduates were several of our staff members who successfully balanced the demands of a full-time job and graduate school for their intellectual and professional development. Also graduating from innovative Facilities-related programs were 67 “green” superintendents and 25 MWL mentees (read more on page 5). Congratulations graduates!

Enjoy your summer!

Joe Ienuso
Dear Facilities,

I want to thank you [Monica Kuth] profusely for your help in managing my move. The movers were terrific. They were efficient and very helpful. It all went off quite well. You have been critical to making this happen. Thank you again and have a wonderful holiday.

Warm regards.

Peter Awn
Dean, School of General Studies
Professor of Religion, Director Middle East Institute

Ever since my wife and I entered our apartment late December 2010, Ajay [Pathania] and Robert [Kishun] have been tremendously helpful in helping us settle in and fix up the place. They have went to a great extent in order to accommodate our requests and fix our pending issues (and some other great improvements they initiated on their own) and have done so in outstanding timelines and quality. Today, as a pinnacle of their recent activities, they have changed and cleaned our A/C filters in record time, without any hassle or inconvenience to us and have done a stellar job at it. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Ajay and Robert on behalf of both myself and my wife. I honestly don’t know what we would have done without their invaluable assistance, and I immensely appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Rom Bronfman
Student
Graduate School of Business, Class of 2012

On Wednesday, January 26, I found myself stranded in a foot of snow on 120th Street and Broadway. I walked, cane and all, some but was just at the point of exhaustion. A Barnard security officer at 119th Street and Claremont was alerted to my situation and came to my aid. He and Mohammad Ifzaal [the building’s doorman] helped me to my apartment and waited until they were sure that I was warming up. I cannot imagine what would have happened if these two men had not come to my “rescue.” They took complete charge of the situation and were professional and patient.

Sincerely,

Christina Casals-Ariet, M.D., J.D.
Resident

Thank you [Richard Bussert] so much! The flowers in the Hogan entrance planters are so pretty. It is such a nice spring surprise.

Thanks,

Hilary Cisneros Dewhurst
Assistant Director Facilities and Operation
The Earth Institute, Columbia University

Just wanted to send along a quick (and somewhat belated) note to express my appreciation for the great work and service that Ed Lauth and Mike Azzopardi provided to Procurement Services with the set up of the Service Center in its new office on the third floor of Studebaker. Ellen Fleming, the Service Center Manager, is usually handling customers, but in this case she was a customer herself and felt she was in great hands with Mike and Ed. They were responsive to her questions, kept her informed, extended themselves and their teams to ensure that any interruptions to Service Center operations were limited. The result is that we have a terrific new location for the Service Center, with beautifully installed furniture and all that goes with it and a seamless move into the space. Both Ellen and I really appreciate the support that Ed and Mike provided.

Regards,

Joe Harney
Vice President
Procurement Services

Thank you [Marilyn Molina, Geraldine Brown-Marche and Laureen Smith] very much for your help getting our tables and tablecloths ordered and set up in 750 Schapiro CEPSR. We greatly appreciate the hard work by you and your staff to make it happen this morning.

Regards,

Scott Kelly
Alumni Programs Coordinator
The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science

I’m a student tenant and as the calendar year draws to a close, I wanted to write to commend Doug Jermyn, my super, for the excellent job he’s done this year. Whenever there’s a problem with the apartment or building, big or small, Doug is responsive, friendly, and arranges to have it handled immediately.

This past summer a roof leak led to the need to replace a wall and part of the ceiling in our apartment. From start to finish, Doug was in frequent contact with us to let us know what to expect and give us updates on the project. If we had a question he didn’t know the answer to, he found the answer for us. Throughout it all, his patience and good humor kept us calm in what could have been a very stressful situation.
I'm sure I'm not the first to sing Doug's praises, but I thought I'd add my voice to the chorus. Doug's an invaluable member of your team, and we're very glad he's our super.

Thank you,

Patrick Maher  
Ph.D. Student, Physics  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

I called you during finals week because I was worried when I couldn't reach my son—after four hours. I assumed he simply overslept but began to wonder if he was ill. Your department [Public Safety] responded very quickly to reach him. Within 10 minutes, I knew he was fine. Thank you so very much for the help.

Sincerely,

Alane McKnight  
Parent

The campus and surrounding area look terrific this morning. The paths are clear and easy to negotiate. We truly appreciate all that you and your team have done to ensure that the University can carry on its business during what is for us—and others—one of the busiest weeks of the year.

Best,

Paul M. McNeil  
Vice Dean  
School of Continuing Education

I am writing to let you know what great caretakers Angel Diaz and Fernando Sanchez are of 150 Claremont Ave. and all of the tenants who live here. My husband, Matthew, and I have lived at 150 for the past 4.5 years while Matthew worked on his PhD. Angel and Fernando are the most responsive, considerate, reliable, and conscientious building staff we've ever experienced [in their 15 years in New York City]. They fix everything immediately, take great care of all of the common areas of the building, communicate proactively, are extremely professional, and are always real pleasures to interact with. We've been truly and consistently impressed by their dedication to their jobs and by their high standards for building maintenance. We feel extremely lucky to have lived in their building during this time; their professionalism, friendliness, and excellent care have really made the building feel like home. They've really been great.

Best,

Laura Schmitt and Matthew Kirkpatrick  
Residents

We only moved into the building in August, but my partner and I have been so appreciative of the help that the doormen and maintenance staff [at 434 W. 120th Street] has given to us on a number of occasions, and would like to make sure that we thank them as the year winds to a close.

K. Ian Shin  
Student  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate the fantastic job that the building staff [at 448 Riverside Drive] and rest of the RSD facilities employees did in dealing with the recent snowstorm. They should be commended!

Steve Siegelbaum  
Chair, Department of Neuroscience  
Professor of Neuroscience and Pharmacology Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

I did want to take the time to tell you how appreciative I am of your staff. Perhaps the highlight of many days has been interacting with Monica [Kuth] on critical student issues and she magically makes things happen—really—she's the greatest! Also the front line staff whom I've found most helpful, Alice [Gamret], who can quote policy chapter and verse is amazing and so very supportive. You have some incredible colleagues who have saved me, assisted me, denied me (ever so wonderfully—joke) and moved heaven and earth in support of a student emergency, incident or valid request. I didn't want the year to end without expressing my gratitude.

Cassandra A. Simmons, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean, Office of Student Affairs  
School of International and Public Affairs

thank you!
Renovations at Nash Support ERP Project Team’s Goals while Focusing on Client Experience

If you visit the second floor of the Nash Building at 3280 Broadway, you’ll notice a marked change in its appearance. The once aging area was recently renovated for members of the Financials Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project team by our Facilities Capital Project Management (CPM) team to include energy-efficient fluorescent lighting, new flooring and HVAC systems, and flexible workstations equipped with larger conference rooms and storage spaces. The goal was to create a collaborative work environment for the recently expanded ERP project team.

The ERP project team is tasked with replacing most of the University’s administrative technology systems and to develop a new, integrated environment to manage human resources, finance, facilities, student services, and information technology. As a part of this major initiative, a new ERP Financials System will be implemented in July 2012 that will improve administrative efficiency and effectiveness, enhance quality, timeliness and access to financial information, reduce security and compliance risks, and implement a platform for future strategic initiatives.

“We are very pleased with our new project space at Nash. The design and layout of the space support the collaboration required on a systems implementation project,” says Paul Reedy, ERP’s executive project director.

In addition to having a skilled team, Facilities’ was able to deliver quality work by keeping ERP’s needs in the forefront throughout the six-month renovation process. From design development through construction, CPM made sure that ERP was kept involved in the decision-making process.

“We asked Paul Reedy and his team a lot of questions, carefully listened, and incorporated their ideas into the basic scope of work,” says CPM Project Director Anthony Botti. “Doing so helps the client to envision what their project will look like.”

In addition to these design specifications, the project incorporated sustainable measures wherever applicable, such as in the use of low-emitting paints, adhesives, and sealants. Surplus furniture was also donated to companies for recycling and reuse through our partnership with the Environmental Stewardship office.

“As a LEED AP, I am personally an advocate for green construction,” says Project Manager Keith George, who oversaw the renovations at 3280 Broadway. “The project stands as a model of how areas within the University can be transformed into aesthetically pleasing spaces that maximize efficiency and functionality.”

In addition to Botti and George, project team members include Associate Project Director Mike Iorii and Project Architect Chris Ruehl. CPM also teamed with Facilities Operations, Public Safety, and CUIT. Legacy Builders served as the contractor.

For more information on the ERP project visit: www.finance.columbia.edu/fin_erp/index.html

Baker Field Projects Move Forward

After a year and a half and 19 meetings with the local community and elected officials, on April 6, 2011, City Council voted in favor of the University’s application to create new public access and new amenities on the waterfront at Baker Field. These projects include the Boathouse Marsh, which will increase public access to 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. It also includes the construction of the new Campbell Sports Center (named for the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who will be profiled in an upcoming issue) at Baker Athletics Complex, the primary athletics facility for Columbia outdoor sports programs. For more information, visit facilities.columbia.edu.
While the grander scale celebration of University Commencement usually garners most of the attention, a number of innovative Facilities programs held graduations of their own in May, with Facilities staff and mentees among the recipients.

On May 23, approximately 25 professionals from 19 firms earned certificates from the joint Columbia University-New York City Small Business Services mentorship program for minority, women and local (MWL) entrepreneurs. The mentees, who were joined by Facilities staff and family members, completed the nine-month program’s curriculum, which is based on the School of Continuing Education’s highly successful Master of Science in Construction Administration. This is the third cohort of mentees to complete the program’s academic portion.

The mentorship program is already paying off for Sharon Sinaswee, who owns Armada Building Services in Harlem, and spoke during the graduation ceremony. Armada just completed a large painting job at 415 Riverside Drive, one of the University’s residential buildings. “For a Harlem business, being recognized by Columbia is a very big thing,” Sinaswee says.

Since the program’s inception in January 2008, professionals from nearly 50 firms have graduated and garnered more than $32 million in construction trades work, including jobs with the city and Columbia. “From the beginning, our vision was to create a program that would benefit minority, women and local firms in the construction trades industry and at the same time help identify firms that might be able to work with Columbia or other large institutional firms,” says Facilities Executive Vice President Joe Ienuso. “We have been successful in both regards.”

With the success of the mentorship program, New York City’s Small Business Services is expanding it as part of its Corporate Alliance Program (CAP). The goal is to connect program participants to contracting opportunities in the private sector. “The CAP program will help us by identifying those construction trade firms that are a good match for the University and it will help firms that come through the program by introducing them to potential clients,” says La-Verna Fountain, Associate Vice President, Construction Business Services and Communications.

Also on May 23, 67 Columbia University superintendents were among the more than 1,000 New York City superintendents to complete the Building Service 32BJ Thomas Shortman Training Fund’s 1,000 Green Superintendents program. The “green” training program provides environmental stewardship training to at least 1,000 superintendents citywide. With Columbia superintendents’ completion of the program, both the University, as well as the City, can have a professional building service workforce capable of reducing energy use, conserving water, saving money, and cleaning our environment. The Honorable Steven Chu, U.S. Secretary of Energy, served as the event’s keynote speaker. The program is funded by a $2.8 million dollar American Reinvestment and Recovery Act grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. More
information on the Thomas Shortman Training Fund's 1,000 Green Superintendents program, including graduation video and photos, can be found by visiting www.1000supers.com.

During University Commencement on May 18, Facilities staff across our many divisions received master's degrees in their respective fields of study. Graduates include Director Cathleen Ryder (Residential Operations) who received a M.S. in Construction Administration, Environmental Specialist Geraldine Tan (Environmental Health & Safety) who received an M.P.A. with a concentration in finance and management, Financial Analyst Eugene Profanato (Finance) who received a M.S. in Landscape Design, Director Katiana Anglade (Manhattanville) who received a M.S. in Construction Administration, Project Analyst Yury Vela (Office of the Executive Vice President) who received a M.A. in Human Rights, and Associate Director Naomi Furusawa Stratton (Public Safety) who received a M.P.A. with a concentration in international economic policy and management. All now enter membership into a group highlighted by many distinguished scholars and leaders.

Congratulations graduates!
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.

Living Greener in Columbia Housing

80 Columbia Buildings to Obtain Cleaner, More Efficient Natural Gas Heating

Winter 2012 will bring cleaner, more efficient living spaces for some tenants in Columbia University Apartment Housing thanks to the University’s conversion of many of its residential buildings from oil to natural gas through Con Edison. Twenty-two buildings are anticipated to update their systems this year, culminating in 80 newly heated residential buildings over the next three years. It is estimated that the University will save a total of $2.4 million and reduce its carbon footprint by 7,236 metric tons.*

“This project is dually beneficial for us. It supports our commitment to sustainability and will also reduce the cost of heating these buildings,” says Frank Martino, vice president of operations for Columbia University Facilities.

According to the PlaNYC 2010 Inventory of New York City Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the city’s emissions are dominated by two sectors: energy consumed in transportation and energy consumed in buildings. By using natural gas heat, the University will reduce its carbon footprint, both through the change in fuel type and the elimination of oil delivery trucks. In addition, gas heat, is cheaper to maintain, does not pose a risk of spilling, and utilizes more efficient systems.

This project supports the University’s goals as a challenge partner in Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC 2030, the city’s comprehensive plan to create a more sustainable New York. For information on additional sustainability projects and initiatives, please visit the Facilities Web site at facilities.columbia.edu.

*Carbon calculations based on the September 2010 report from PlaNYC. Savings based on current market condition.
The Columbia Alumni Center, a social center for almost 300,000 alumni and home to the University’s Office of Alumni and Development and Columbia College Alumni Affairs and Development, was recognized for its “green” construction elements, including innovation in design, access to alternative transportation, and implementation of an indoor air quality management plan during construction and before occupancy. As part of the project, the building, which was built in 1908 and previously housed the University’s School of Social Work, was historically preserved through a top-to-bottom rehabilitation of its facade.

Two Columbia University buildings—Knox Hall and the Columbia Alumni Center—recently received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certifications 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.

Knox Hall and the Alumni Center join a growing list of LEED certified University buildings, which includes Faculty House (LEED Gold) and the Gary C. Comer Geochemistry Building at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LEED Silver).

“Whether it’s the renovation of older buildings or new construction, Columbia is committed to sustainable design and green construction,” Columbia University Facilities Executive Vice President Joe Ienuso said. “The LEED Gold certifications are examples of our sustainable efforts, and we are proud of this achievement.”

Knox Hall—a century-old building of landmark quality that caps the north end of Union Theological Seminary’s quadrangle—reopened in fall 2009 as a Columbia University academic facility after a 16-month-long renovation. The 50,000-sf, seven-story structure was gutted, then reconstructed for classroom and offices, and entirely updated to the best standards of sustainable design. Key to Knox’s renovation was the addition of four 1,800-ft-deep geothermal wells that descend under Manhattan’s grounds and draw water that is being used for heating and cooling the building’s mechanical system. By using the wells, a first for Columbia, energy costs are expected to be reduced by 22% and water consumption is expected to be reduced by 47%, as opposed to using a conventional system.
Awards and Accomplishments (continued)

Snow Everywhere, Facilities Keeps Campus Clear During Record-Setting Snowfall

From December through February 2011, a record-setting 56 inches of snow—a giant leap from the 22-inch seasonal average—swept across New York City and at many times transformed Columbia’s Morningside campus into a winter wonderland. Still, the campus remained accessible thanks to the hard work of University Facilities.

“It’s a coordinated effort that requires a lot of equipment, considerable human resources, and lots of teamwork,” says Don Schlosser, Facilities’ assistant vice president of campus operations.

Typically, Facilities’ operations and residential directors begin preparations for potential winter storms in the late summer, well before the first drop of snow hits the campus grounds. Inventories of the previous winter’s snow removal equipment is used to estimate how many plow trucks, snow blowers, Bobcat skid-steer loaders, ice breakers, and shovels will need to be tested and delivered to each of the University residential buildings in which they are stored for the upcoming season. De-icing materials are also kept at the ready, and contingency plans are made in the event of equipment failure or if extra snow removal is needed.

When winter storms hit, Facilities staff kick into high gear. Building and grounds staff along with custodial and trade shop volunteers work together in shifts to remove snow from the campus perimeter, staircases, and most frequented walkways, such as College Walk. Likewise, residential buildings’ walkways and entrances are cleared of any accumulated snow to ensure that all residents can enter and leave their buildings as needed. While this occurs, Vice President for Public Safety Jim McShane sends weather alerts and notifications to keep the campus community consistently informed.

Even with all of the preparations, there are always challenges. During one of the recent snowstorms, Residential Operations Supervisor Peter Baptiste was among the many who braved crippling weather conditions to support the cleanup effort. At 2:00 a.m. on a Sunday, Baptiste ventured into the storm, despite the lack of public transportation, and walked for over an hour to get to a train station en route to campus.

During that storm, Facilities’ staff worked from Sunday, December 26 through Wednesday, December 29 to clear the campus of snow and ice. Together, they utilized 24 ice choppers, 24 shovels, 4 plow trucks, 2 Bobcat skid-steer loaders, 8 tons of de-icing materials, and many hours to clear the nearly two feet of snow that fell upon the grounds.

Richard Rodriguez, Facilities heavy cleaner, has spent 31 years tending to the University’s campus. He says, “This winter was the worst one yet, mainly because the storms were back to back, and we were facing 50 mph winds and lots of snow movement. Still, our usual strategy always works—we work together and divide into groups to clear each area on campus.”

Richard Bussert, Facilities’ director of landscaping and grounds, says, “I am fortunate to have a strong and committed team. They have faced many trying conditions but remain resilient in their support of the University community.”
Awards

They go above the call of duty and are vital supporters of campus safety. They are outstanding Columbia University community members and the honorees of Public Safety’s 2011 Promotion, Awards & Recognition Ceremony, which was held in Low Library on February 23, 2011.

“Each person shows a deep commitment to Public Safety’s principles of pride, professionalism, and service, and these awards are a testament to their hard work,” says Jim McShane, vice president for Public Safety.

Promotions

**Senior Sergeant**
- Anthony Mendez
- Lucas Pena
- John Corbett

**Administrative Coordinator**
- Franklin Espinal

**Senior Technical Specialist**
- Oscar Farina

**Lieutenant**
- Daniel Ayala

**Perfect Attendance Awards**

1 Year
- Daniel Condon, Lieutenant
- Mary Dooley, Senior Administrative Coordinator
- Joseph Feyjoo, Sergeant
- Kenneth Finnegan, Director
- Linval Forrest, Security Officer
- Sarfaraz Hussain, Security Officer
- Ricardo Morales, Manager
- Lewis Murray, Security Officer
- Bryan Violetto, Fire Safety Officer
- Cameron Walker-Miller, Project Coordinator

2 Years
- Blanche Dawson, Sergeant
- Oscar Farina, Technical Specialist

3 Years
- Laurie Edwards, Security Officer
- Delano Steele, Captain

4 Years
- Patrick Oakley, Sergeant

5 Years
- John Murolo, Director

7 Years
- Jaime Rodriguez, Security Officer

10 Years
- Michael Layne, Security Officer

Recognition Awards

**Exceptional Service Awards**
- Inez Ruiz, Supervisor, HR Operations, CUMC
- Christine DeAbreu-Henriquez, Director, HR Operations, CUMC
- Roger Stewart, Security Officer, Summit Security Services
- Daniel Held, Director of Communications, CUF
- Erich Ely, Director of Facilities Operations, Intercollegiate Athletics

**Ricardo Morales Crime Prevention Award**
- Robert Jackson, Fire Safety Officer

Bike to Campus Day

Despite the cold and rainy weather, Columbians came out and registered their bikes (31 total!) during the 2011 Bike to Campus Day on Tuesday, April 19th. Participating cyclists received a free bike tune-up courtesy of Public Safety and the Safe Haven Innovation Bike Shop. If you did not participate in Bike to Campus Day but would like to still register your bike, call (212) 854-8513 to set up an appointment.

REMINDER: Please avoid using cable type locks to secure your bike. They can easily be cut, making your bike easily susceptible to theft. Use a U-lock to secure your bike’s frame and tire and secure it to a bolted down bike rack. Discount bike locks can still be purchased at Columbia University Public Safety.

Many thanks to Columbia University departments of Environmental Stewardship and Work Life & Transportation Alternatives for teaming up with us!
New Faces at Facilities

Anthony F. DeGale  
Sergeant  
Public Safety

Nicholas Copanas  
Helpdesk Support Associate  
Finance & Administration

Valerie Hawkins  
Sergeant  
Public Safety

Sam Memedovski  
Handyperson C  
Operations

Matthew Shafeek  
Administrative Coordinator  
Manhattanville

Sonnia Andrade  
Accounts Payable Specialist  
Finance & Administration

Joe Robert Cruz  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Mervyn Hendy Sr.  
Technical Specialist B  
Public Safety

Matthew David Meneely  
Sergeant  
Public Safety

Phillip Simmons  
Porter  
Operations

Michael Arroyo  
Assistant Project Manager  
Manhattanville

Jonathan Delarosa  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Salieu Jobe  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Gary Moultrie  
Door Attendant C  
Chilled Water Operations

Ghansham Singh  
Operations Manager  
Chilled Water Operations

Emmanuel Asante  
Security Officer  
Public Safety

Sergio A. Deynes  
Security Officer  
Public Safety

Andria A. Johnson  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Huy Nguyen  
Sergeant  
Public Safety

Lauren Staake  
Manager  
Public Safety

Jose Ayabarreno  
Security Officer  
Public Safety

Michael Duc Ho  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Edwin Justiniano  
Groundskeeper B  
Operations

Tung Nguyen  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Joe Toribio  
Security Officer  
Public Safety

Samba Bousso  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Vertell Dunham  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Stephen J. Klika  
Sergeant  
Public Safety

Dwight Palmer  
Security Officer  
Public Safety

Daniel Velez  
Manager of Steam Operations  
Operations

Shanda M. Brown  
Security Officer  
Public Safety

Ryan Gill-Nurse  
Porter C  
Operations

Charles Lancaster  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Gjorgije Pecovic  
Assistant Vice President  
Operations

Vericain Woodley  
Architect  
Capital Project Management

Michael Cabanlit  
Director, Physical Plant Operations

Thomas Gorgline  
Mechanic A  
Operations

Rafael A. Luyando  
Security Officer  
Public Safety

Hermogenes Reynoso  
Supervisor  
Operations

Adam Zentner  
Analyst  
Finance & Administration

John Casalino  
Handy Person C  
Operations

Joshua Green  
Mechanic-Plumber  
Operations

Shuaib Malik  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Dale Robertson  
Mechanic-Carpenter  
Operations

Christopher Cirillo  
Mechanic  
Operations

Zhen Ji Guan  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Jose Antonio Medina  
Security Officer  
Public Safety

Rufino Romero  
Heavy Cleaner  
Operations

Future Faces at Facilities

Congratulations to our facilities families and their new bundles of joy

Pauline M. Gibney, director, Real Estate, and her husband, Brian, welcomed their daughter, Kristyn Mary Gibney, on January 2, 2011. At birth, Kristyn weighed 8 lbs, 7.5 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Rafeena Razak-Ali, capital projects administrator, Residential Operations, welcomed her new baby boy, Zaydan Ali, on January 18, 2011 at 10:27 a.m. Zaydan weighed 6 lbs, 9 oz. and was 18 inches.
Silver Service Anniversaries

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

Luis E. Betances
Heavy Cleaner
Operations

Jolyon Richmond
Mechanic A
Operations

Yiling Tang
Director
Public Safety

James Rivera Jr.
Porter A
Operations

New Roles

Barbara Miller
Assistant Director
Operations

Ray D’Aguilar
Mechanic
Operations

Priscilla Torres
Assistant Mechanic
Operations

Francisco Mejia
Door Attendant C
Operations

Arcel Martinez
Mechanic
Operations

James Fountain III
Licensed Refrigeration Engineer
Operations

Rhaming Crawford
Estimator
Operations

John Hogan
Executive Director
Finance and Administration

William Hoffman
Interim Assistant Director
Operations

In Memoriam

Facilities colleague and dear friend Cyril F. Young, assistant director of plant engineering and utilities, passed away on February 22, 2011. Cyril was extremely well liked and respected by those who knew him within our organization and throughout the University. His strong commitment to the University community was evident in his work ethic, and his dedication and friendship will be missed by many.
Employee News (continued)

Spotlight: Richard Fontenelle
— by Melanie A. Farmer, The Record

WHO HE IS: Superintendent, Residential Operations

YEARS AT COLUMBIA: 22

WHAT HE DOES: Fontenelle is the superintendent for three Columbia-owned apartment buildings at West 122nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue. A mix of undergraduates and faculty members occupy the 103 units in the buildings. Fontenelle is in charge of maintaining the buildings, with the help of a porter and handyman. “There's a lot of troubleshooting involved,” he says. “Before I call a contractor, I make sure it is not something I can fix myself.”

BEST PART OF THE JOB: Getting to know the residents, who are from many different countries and cultures. “Just being here in the lobby, doing my work, I get to see and talk to so many different people. It's important to keep talking … because we're all unique and can learn from each other.”

ROAD TO COLUMBIA: Fontenelle, who is the youngest of 10 siblings, was featured in a 1968 Life magazine photo essay by the renowned photographer Gordon Parks. The photos, which showed the poverty-stricken conditions of the family's tiny two-bedroom apartment in Harlem, brought donations from Parks, Life and some of its readers, enabling the family to buy a house in Queens. Just months after moving in, the house caught on fire, killing Fontenelle's father and a brother. Eventually, the family moved back to Harlem. Following high school, Fontenelle worked as a stock clerk for a supermarket in Harlem. Fontenelle is a people person who can easily strike up conversations with strangers. When he worked at a different grocery store on Broadway and West 115th Street, he befriended a Columbia superintendent, who helped him get his first job at the University as a porter. He worked at 601 W. 115th St. for 12 years and was promoted to handyman before accepting his current job as superintendent in 2002.

LIFE AFTER LIFE: In 2004, Fontenelle was the subject of a short documentary written and directed by the School of Arts alumna Patricia Riggen. The film, Family Portrait, tells the story of the Fontenelle family some 30-plus years after the Life magazine photo essay, and it included interviews with Parks, Fontenelle and his sister, Diana Nash. Of the 10 Fontenelle children, only three are living. Fontenelle watched his siblings fall victim to drug abuse, prostitution and crime—yet he remains upbeat and positive. His mother died in 1989, the same day he got the job at Columbia. “I watched all my brothers and sisters get into drugs and get into a life I did not want,” he says. “I just didn't want to be the one to hurt my mother anymore.”

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT: The friendships he has made with tenants. “One woman still sticks in my mind … She had a daughter who did not treat her very well, and she reminded me how important family is. You can have all the money in the world, but you will always need people in your lives.”

IN HIS SPARE TIME: Fontenelle, 46, plays the piano and drums and composes music, producing songs with his brother-in-law or friends at his home-based recording studio. Fontenelle lives with his wife of 21 years, Michelle. He has four children and two grandchildren.

Share Your News!

If you have questions or comments about this issue and/or would like to submit information (announcements, story ideas, questions, etc.) for the next issue of Off the CUF, please send your submissions to rw2154@columbia.edu.
Coworkers and families cheered on as Facilities team members demonstrated their athletic prowess during Columbia Community Service (CCS)’s second annual basketball tournament held in Dodge Fitness Center’s Levien Gymnasium on January 4 & 6, 2011. The “Facilities Tigers,” coached by Director of Custodial Services Boubacar Maiga and Campus Operations Manager Pete Macaluso, as well as the “Public Safety Enforcers,” coached by Security Officer Johnny Pugh and Administrative Assistant Frank Espinal, and team “Powerhouse,” coached by Facilities Mechanic Ron Brown, were among the eight teams that competed in the two-day fundraiser. The “Tigers” won a thrilling semi-final round against The School at Columbia with a score of 47-34, before turning over victory to the University’s Athletics team. The event raised close to $2,660—surpassing last year’s donation by over $1,000 dollars.

Similarly, on May 2, our Facilities Residential Operations group held a fun-filled fundraiser in Wien Hall, in which employees had an opportunity to win prizes while supporting CCS. Nick Bentley, interim executive director at Opus 118 Harlem School of Music and a Columbia alum, was the event guest speaker. Bentley spoke of how his organization provides in-school, after-school, and community music programs for students of all ages in Harlem and throughout the city. He also thanked Facilities for supporting his organization through the event, which raised more than $2,000 for CCS’s annual appeal!