We hear often the old cliché, “change is inevitable.” For some, change can be anxiety producing. Yet, for others it can be stimulating, viewed as an opportunity, a challenge. The key is not to fear change, but rather, to predict it, create it, embrace it, and perhaps, most important, manage it. That takes the right combination of courage and talent.

Columbia College will continue to evolve as a model institution due to changes over the years that have brought it to its current, vibrant status. Those of us now employed at or otherwise affiliated with Columbia College have an obligation to continue to change it for the better, to position it to experience a bright future, the hallmark of which is immediately recognizable quality and superior service.

And so it goes. Upon reading this letter, you hold in your hands a changed magazine, affinity. A term that evokes a special relationship. With affinity we strive to engage everyone who has or has had a relationship with the college, whether in the Christian College era, or presently. Our purposes are to engender a greater love for alma mater, to report on important happenings, to seek helpful suggestions and, ultimately, to establish a bond between reader and institution.

In addition to promoting affinity, we are studying ways to re-brand the college. As an institution of higher education, we have changed both in perception and reality. We desire and will work toward nothing less than instant recognition as a leader in higher education. To aid us along the way we have undertaken a program audit that will define our product and suggest changes.

One of the more noteworthy changes to have occurred over the past few years is the resurgence of an active, engaged Columbia College Alumni Association. They developed a strategic plan that will enhance not just the association itself, but the institution as a whole. The college will be made better by their work. It will prove to be an investment in the future of Columbia College.

I hope you enjoy affinity. Let us hear from you! It will serve as a reality check for us. Help us answer the question: “How good are we?” Suggest change.
Columbia College business students get hands-on economic development experience.

Meet Dr. Larry West, professor emeritus of computer and mathematical sciences, main campus; and Layne Wigle, adjunct instructor of math, Columbia College–Lake County.

Our affinity contest winners: Dr. Katrina Harry Cochran ’68, psychologist, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Michele Vaughn ’03, associate dean, Gurnee, Ill.; Richard Whiting ’93, city planner, Cottonwood Heights, Utah; and William Wright ’09, network engineer, Jacksonville, Fla.

Enter a contest, find out about Homecoming 2010 and read about prominent alumni such as filmmaker David Wells ’06 and women’s business guru Susan Wilson Solovic ’80.

The four winners pose with Scooter the Cougar in the Arena of the Southwell Complex, home for Columbia College volleyball and basketball since 1988.

affinity magazine is published three times a year by Public Relations in cooperation with Development and Alumni Relations. The editorial style for grammar, punctuation, abbreviations, etc., follows the guidelines of the Associated Press Stylebook – 2010.
“Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.”
The 31st Annual Paper in Particular invitational exhibition, which ran in spring 2010 in the Larson Gallery on the Columbia College campus, drew about 300 entries of which fewer than 70 were selected for display. Entries can be prints, drawings, photographs, digital images, paintings, sculpture — as long as they are on paper.

Art professor Ben Cameron, who mounts the show with student help each year, says 2010’s show had more color, variety and narrative.

“The strongest thing about the show is the use of the figure and the portrait,” Cameron said. “Last year was so black and white. This year was so colorful.” This included “Unnamed ID,” by Stanley Scott, a skull or flayed head in a sea of red; a framed box with thousands of slips of paper rolled up, resembling a wasp colony (“Nest 1,” Megan Moore); a triptych of three menacing pigs (“Three Little Piggies,” Nancy Brown); and newborn babies, children, men in ties, angels and nudes.

The work of Dennis Olsen, professor of painting at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, will be spotlighted in a solo exhibit in the fall. Olsen’s recent work recalls crumbling walls, shards and parchment as fragments of human history. And a pencil drawing called “Paradigm Shift” by Randy Arnold, Knoxville, Tenn., was purchased for the Art department’s permanent collection.
Research meant more than a grade for students in Faculty Member of the Year Sean Siebert’s MGMT 393 business information systems class. It could affect the people of Cuba, Mo., a quiet town just off I-44 about 80 miles southwest of St. Louis. Cuba suffers from a high unemployment rate, inadequate housing, a vanishing middle class, high rates of obesity and diabetes, and substance abuse.

Enter Siebert and his 27 students. Siebert heard about a Cuba 10-year revival plan and approached its president with a novel proposition: how would you like a free consultation fueled by 27 fresh, eager minds?

Siebert required each student to write a paper on a particular challenge and its solution: 27 students, 27 solutions. Siebert also divided the class into five working groups: health and wellness, education, safety and security, community and the middle class. The final exam was a presentation of the groups’ recommendations to Mardy Leathers, president and founder of the Cuba Development Group, Inc.; Luke Holtschneider, a district project manager for the Missouri Department of Economic Development; and Doug Lasley, president of Peoples Bank.

Among the findings:

**Safety.** Cuba’s crime rate and drug abuse was not substantially different than comparable areas of Missouri. Domestic violence was a growing concern, however.

**Education.** Cuba’s high high-school dropout rate was almost 8 percent vs. nearby Waynesville’s 2 percent or Missouri’s 4 percent. Solutions included developing programs to identify at-risk students and increasing the awareness of online education.

**Health and wellness.** Expanding a fitness center and establishing a farmer’s market would generate jobs, keep local farmers employed, keep dollars in the area and promote wellness.

Leathers said the students’ work was so inspiring that he is seriously considering attending Columbia College to earn an MBA.

Find out more about the Cuba Development Group at www.gocubamo.com.
Columbia College's Campus Life department acknowledged campus leaders who shaped the academic year at its annual banquet: Faculty members and advisors, community consultants, resident assistants, head residents, peer educators, club presidents and vice presidents and club advisors. Here are the award winners:

Faculty member of the year: Dr. Sean Siebert, assistant professor of business administration, who recently partnered his business students with the Cuba (Mo.) Development Group to give his business students real-world consulting experience.

Club or organization of the year: International Club, Trang Nguyen, president, and Britta Wright, director of International Programs and the club’s advisor. The club sponsored or supported numerous campus-wide events and made sure that the campus community was aware of international student issues and that new international students could easily connect with other students.

Advisor of the year: Nollie Moore, instructor of music and director of the Jane Froman Singers, for his work with the theater group Elysium Players.

Rogers Gate Award: Campus Life’s most prestigious award, co-won by Anton Lukyanov, a business administration student in Siebert’s class graduating in December; and Kyle Storm, criminal justice, who graduated in May. Rogers Gate is named after the college’s third president, Joseph Kirtley Rogers, and the gate sits prominently at the front of campus, symbolizing both entry into and exit from Columbia College into society.

The banquet also recognized all graduating Campus Life leaders, who were welcomed into the Columbia College Alumni Association by Susan Davis, senior director of alumni relations, and Martha Eberhard, Class of 2000 and president-elect of the Columbia College Alumni Association.

Disposable cameras sat on each table; see samples on Campus Life’s facebook page http://www.facebook.com/pages/Columbia-College-Campus-Life/334071278587; look for photos on “Campus Life Banquet 2010 Part I” and Part 2.
There is currently a national shortage of qualified nurses. In 2005, Dr. John Keeney, director of the Columbia College lake campus in Osage Beach, was approached by Lake Regional Health System CEO Mike Henze, who presented an idea for easing this problem around the lake. And through their joint nursing program, students have had the opportunity to receive top-notch instruction and hands-on training in a real medical environment. This program has been approved by the Missouri State Board of Nursing.

While a majority of the instruction comes through Columbia College, Lake Regional Hospital, also located in Osage Beach, offers students a chance to engage in hands-on procedures through clinical training and in-class lectures. The health system also provided the school’s practical nursing skills lab, located on campus.

Lake Regional Hospital has hired 74 nursing graduates from Columbia College - Lake Ozark since 2006 and 93 percent of these alumni are still with the hospital.

(Excerpted from a story by Jeremy Hulshof, Eldon Advertiser)
Proof, as if any were required, of Columbia College’s reach and solidity: the Aurora, Colo., Orlando, Fla., Fort Worth, Texas, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and Salt Lake, Utah, campuses celebrate 35 years while the Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, Fla., and Lake of the Ozarks, Mo., campuses celebrate 20 years. All but the Lake of the Ozarks campus were established on military bases or have a military connection.

The Online Campus celebrates 10 years Oct. 27. From just two employees and a handful of courses, the Online Campus now has its own building, offers more than 800 online courses and 20 online degrees. Nearly 21,000 students take at least one online course each year, making it by far the largest campus in the Columbia College system.

Columbia College–Aurora, 35 years, March 3.
Columbia College–Orlando, 35 years, April 15.
Columbia College–Fort Worth, 35 years, Aug. 9.
Columbia College–NAS Jacksonville, 20 years, Aug. 12.
Columbia College–Redstone Arsenal, 35 years, Oct. 19.
Columbia College–Salt Lake, 35 years, Oct. 21.
Columbia College–Lake of the Ozarks, 20 years, Oct. 22.
Columbia College Online Campus, 10 years, Oct. 27.
Columbia College – Lake County instructor given NAACP award

Judge George Bridges, instructor at Columbia College – Lake County, received the Freedom Award from the NAACP of Lake County, Ill., at its 12th annual freedom fund banquet. The award is given to individuals who have consistently served as advocates for justice and culture and have significant public service.

Bridges was the first black circuit judge in Lake County’s nearly 200-year history.

His distinguished legal and criminal justice career includes positions as a patrolman, where he was shot in the line of duty; two separate terms as Waukegan chief of police; assistant state attorney; attorney in private practice; associate judge and circuit judge. Bridges was reappointed associate judge in late 2008, an appointment which will expire in 2011.

Bridges began teaching at Columbia College in 1996 and currently teaches advanced business law and laws of criminal evidence courses.

Columbia College offers at-risk, gifted student summer program

In June, Columbia College partnered with Columbia Public Schools to host 17 high-ability, high-risk junior high students for a week. These youth got a preview of the college world and exposure to careers they might otherwise never have considered.

“We wanted to give them a great week-long experience where they could get a taste of college and see that they have the potential to do this,” Dr. Terry Smith, executive vice president and dean for academic affairs, said. “We gave them exposure to academics and other aspects of college life.”
Columbia College builds!

Columbia College continues to build and expand on the main campus and on its Nationwide campuses:

- Columbia College-Hancock Field will transform an existing building into a state-of-the-art facility scheduled to open in 2011. The renovation, expected to cost $4 million, will almost double the size of the current building to approximately 19,000 square feet with eight modern, internet-ready classrooms; a large student commons; two computer labs and a testing center.

- The purchase and renovation of the Kirkman House, main campus, now housing Music offices, studios and practice labs, across the street from Rogers Gate on South 10th Street.

- Columbia House, also on South 10th Street, home to Student Support Services, which includes a computer lab, lounge, study room, small kitchen, tutoring areas and a large outdoor area.

- The renovation of Launer Auditorium entryway, built in 1903.

- The Southy Fitness Center and locker room nearly doubles the size of Southy. “They started hammering at 7 a.m. on the day after commencement and completed it before students returned,” grinned Bob Burchard, director of athletics and men’s basketball coach.

- Renovation of St. Clair, notably of Development and Alumni Relations offices and of the main entry and breezeway. Construction crews have noted that the 1900 building’s limestone block foundations are still, well, rock solid.

- “Aside from expanding the physical footprint of Columbia College, these new or renovated buildings will be the foundation for more growth,” says President Gerald Brouder. “We are already well-known in Columbia and the more than 30 communities we serve, and I’m confident these buildings will better serve our students and the community.”
Letter from the Board President

To All Alumni:

‘A’ stands for All Alumni, Association, and most especially, Affinity. In other words, All of us together with love create **AFFINITY** for Columbia College! As we introduce our new magazine, **affinity**, my words to you in each issue will be a report of accomplishments, events and challenges that we as an alumni association are experiencing.

We want you to continue to learn about each other, about the happenings on 34 Nationwide Campuses and about the students we serve. And most important, we want to engage you in the future of our common bond, Columbia College.

Together we will build affinity connecting our personal experiences with Columbia College. Please share those feelings with us and engage in establishing Columbia College traditions at each campus. Communicate with YOUR board of directors. Through our website and through e-mail, technology gives us easy ways to connect. We need YOU!

Enjoy the magazine and communicate with us and each other.

Most sincerely,

Dale Coe Simons ’65
President, CCAA
helendalecoe@gmail.com

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**Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors**

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<td>William “Bill” Wright ‘09</td>
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**Representatives:**

- Athletics - Ryan McDannold
- Faculty - Tonia Compton ‘99
- Student Government -
  - Courtney Lauer-Myers, Kim Craig
Alumni Relations adds new, promotes current employees

Alumni Relations is pleased to announce that Kimberly Pfeiffer has been hired as alumni relations coordinator for the main campus and Sam Fleury as community and alumni relations coordinator for the Lake Ozark campus. Patricia Houston, former coordinator, has been promoted to assistant director.

“I’m delighted to add Kim and Sam to the team,” said Susan Davis, senior director of Alumni Relations. “Their solid credentials will deliver even greater value to members of the Columbia College Alumni Association. Patricia has done a superb job as coordinator, and our alumni are the beneficiaries of her hard work.

As alumni relations coordinator, Kim will assist with alumni/student initiatives and Affinity groups as well as event planning and programming. She has six years of experience in higher education, most recently as assistant director of alumni relations at A.T. Still University, Kirksville, Mo. She earned a bachelor’s degree in public relations and an MBA from Northwest Missouri State University.

As community and alumni relations coordinator for Lake Ozark, Sam is responsible for developing and building relationships with community organizations and area alumni, and working with local media to increase awareness of the college and its programs. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Kearney in 2000 with a bachelor’s degree in sports communication; he previously worked as assistant media relations director for the University of Missouri athletics department and for JumpTV/NeuLion, a video, ticketing and online media solutions for athletic organizations.

In her new position, Patricia will directly assist Susan in implementing the Alumni Association’s strategic plan.
In August, Susan Wilson Solovic ’80 wowed faculty at the fall faculty conference, nearly 40 alumnae and staff at a Women in Business Luncheon and then 154 new students and their families at the Columbia College pinning ceremony with her business acumen. She received a standing ovation from the faculty. Solovic is a small business expert, award-winning entrepreneur, small business journalist, best-selling author, media personality, attorney – and Miss Missouri 1979. In 2002, she was recognized at Reunion Weekend and received a Columbia College Professional Achievement Award.

As the CEO and co-founder of sbtv.com — Small Business Television — the first and only video news and information site for small businesses, Solovic is a popular keynote speaker. At the luncheon, she discussed her most recent book, “The Girls’ Guide to Building a Million Dollar Business,” then held a Q & A and book signing.

Solovic, a history and political science major, said she wished she could trade places with the students and be an incoming freshman again.

GO TEAM!

On August 13 and 14, the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) board gathered at the Renaissance Hotel in St. Louis for its annual board retreat.

Items on the agenda were orientation of new board members, committee reports, a visit to the St. Louis campus, team building and implementation of the strategic plan.

CCAA also welcomed six new board members:

- Penny Pitman ’65
- William Leeper ’04
- Lana Le Mons ’09
- Johnette Van Dien ’09
- William Wright ’09
- Jonathan Dudley ’10

Special guests included Deb Snellen of Business Class, a management development and training firm; Jennifer Zaslow of higher education research and consulting firm Eduventures; and Rod Mitchell, assistant director of Columbia College-St. Louis.

The board also went to Flamingo Bowl Friday evening and Mama Campisi’s for dinner Saturday. Now that’s team building.
On Sept. 27, Cougars invaded a nest of Cardinals in St. Louis – not to eat them but to cheer them on in a night game against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Busch Stadium.

The college offered double play (ticket and a T-shirt) or triple play packages (ticket, T-shirt and bus transportation) for staff, students, friends and family for a modest fee. There was even a barbecue at the main campus prior to the busses’ departure.

Noted fastballs Dr. Gerald Brouder threw out the first pitch to a flurry of applause. In the seventh inning, the Jane Froman Singers under the direction of Columbia College’s most able pinch hitter, Nollie Moore, led the crowd in “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.”

Everyone went home hoarse and happy. Look for more such events in the future.

Laura Elliott ’06
Account Executive, Season Services, St. Louis Cardinals
Saturday, May 8, was sunny but brisk as seniors walked through historic Rogers Gate to form a circle on Bass Commons in the 109th annual Ivy Chain ceremony. Then 525 Columbia College Day, Online, Evening and Nationwide students participated in two ceremonies in Southwell Gymnasium.

The speakers were U.S. Sen. Christopher S. (“Kit”) Bond at the first ceremony and retired Air Force Col. Mike Randerson, vice president for Adult Higher Education (AHE), at the second. Bond has been in public service for nearly 40 years, first as Missouri’s youngest governor then as a four-term senator. Randerson served 25 years in the Air Force, including as director of student affairs at the Air Force’s Air War College, and has headed AHE for 15 years.

Bond promised he’d make his speech short, joking, “All that’s standing between you and your diploma is this speech.” On a more serious note, Bond emphasized the dramatic acceleration of technology, saying, “Times are changing fast, and if you don’t like change you’ll like irrelevance even less … what’s common now wasn’t even in the back of physics textbooks when I was in college.”

Bond added, “Politics is too important to leave to the professionals… Take it from someone who’s survived eight elections. Your opinions really do matter. Your country needs you!”

Randerson struck a more personal note, saying he’d always charged hard through life but that a brush with cancer in 2002 changed his world. He urged graduates to live life to the fullest and never take it for granted.

Randerson also said he knew what it was like to return to school as a working parent, because he’d done it. “I know firsthand what it takes to earn a degree while balancing real life,” he said.
Every May, graduating seniors walk through historic Rogers Gate to form a circle on Bass Commons in the Ivy Chain ceremony. The ceremony, one of the oldest collegiate ceremonies in the nation, dates from 1900.

Among the ivy cutters in May 2010 were Danny Small ’10, bachelor’s degree in business administration, Christian County campus and Gail Veri ’10, bachelor’s degree in human resource management, who flew in from the Salt Lake campus.

Here are their comments:

"The whole experience was one I will treasure for the rest of my life."
— Gail Veri

"It was an experience I will never forget. I am hopeful that the whole experience helped to further motivate my children to go to college themselves. My seven year old wore my cap immediately following the ceremony and told me I can wear his after he graduates from college!"
— Danny Small
Reunion Weekend was held on the Columbia College campus April 23, 24 and 25. Hundreds of alumni and friends from across the nation came home to see the films of the inaugural Alumni Emerging Artist, filmmaker David Wells ’06; hear the 2010 alumni award recipients share their life's experience; take a 10th Street campus crawl to see the new Kirkman House, Online Education Center and Columbia House; attend the dedication of the Kittie Williams Robertson ’65 Memorial Box Office in Launer Auditorium, a barbershop chorus, remembrance ceremony, a golden anniversary brunch for the class of 1960 and much, much more.

Nominate a Columbia College leader for an alumni award!

Go to: www.ColumbiaCollegeAlumni.org and then click on the Events & Recognition section to fill out the online nomination form.
Distinguished Alumni Award
H. Jane Blackman, M.D. ’64 (Christian College), nationally acclaimed ophthalmologist

Professional Achievement Award
Ronald A. Potts ’05, ’09 (Online Campus), federal air marshal with nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience
Lieutenant Bill Leeper ’04 (NAS Jacksonville campus), Florida state trooper veteran who won the nation’s highest traffic safety award

Community Service Award
Larry McDaniel ’03 (Evening Campus), co-founder of Coyote Hill, a home for abused and neglected children
Ron Stallworth ’05, ’07 (Salt Lake campus), nationally recognized gang expert and co-chair of the Salt Lake City Gang Reduction Steering Committee

Columbia College Service Award
Joe Reardon ’93 (Evening Campus), certified financial planner and CCAA past president

Honorary Alumnus Award
Stephen Bay, director of Campus Food Services and loyal Columbia College contributor
Dr. Larry West, recently converted from professor and chair of the computer and mathematical sciences department to professor emeritus, is packing up the second floor St. Clair office he’s occupied for 14 years. The entire college will miss him: Beside firmly establishing the department and seeing students go to work for the best technical firms in the land, West was instrumental in the creation of the Online Campus and an overhaul of the general education curriculum.

In 1998, his recommendation that Columbia College begin teaching online met with strong support and the Online Campus was created two years later. “I just thought it was a great opportunity and that the school should investigate it,” he says, downplaying his role. “An online environment levels the playing field. With online, Duke University [renowned for its strong computer science department] and Columbia College can compete.”

In 1998, West chaired a task force to examine a baccalaureate general education curriculum that had become “dated, hodge-podge, with no direction,” he says. West and his group recommended that the college mandate such basics as computer systems, algebra, science, Western civilization, art and ethics for bachelor’s degree candidates.

“Our major teaches them how to make a living,” West says. “The purpose of the Gen Ed requirement is to produce a whole human being.”

Will he miss teaching? “Oh yes,” he says. “No matter what is going on in my life or in the world, it all melts away for 50 minutes... I find computer science wonderfully engaging. You have to think your way through problems. The language changes and you have to keep up with it, but the core doesn’t change. You still have to map a problem, analyze efficiencies and algorithms. It’s a challenge!”

Of the dramatic power increase and cost decrease in computers since 1952, when the first commercial computer was introduced, West spins an automotive analogy: If there had been similar advances in automotive science, a car would now cost around 5 cents and boast a top speed and mileage both, in the 2-3 million range.
It’s no secret that U.S. students consistently place low in international math testing.

Layne Wigle, adjunct instructor of mathematics at Columbia College-Lake County, says uninspired math teaching may be to blame, transforming what he calls the elegant language of math into a sullen chore.

“I see it in their eyes,” Wigle (pronounced Wy-gul), an energetic 10-year Columbia College veteran who also teaches at Northeastern Illinois University and volunteers for a Chicago public schools gifted program, says. He holds a bachelor’s degree from California State University and a master’s degree from California State Polytechnic University, both in math.

Not on his watch. “I try to make math an adventure. Math is not numbers, it is its own language.”

The self-described Air Force brat who grew up on bases all over Europe and the U.S. didn’t mean to be a math messiah, however. High school math was just another boring subject.

Until calculus. “Suddenly, everything changed,” he says. “It gripped my imagination. I was absolutely entranced. Calculus was the finest thing I had ever seen.”

Strong words for a man who made a living playing saxophone for a jazz-funk band for two years and who began teaching to pass the time.

That was 16 years ago, and he never looked back.

Wigle enjoys teaching the more mature students at the college’s Lake County campus. “The students at Columbia College are very serious... they understand the value of education and are determined to achieve it.”

But doesn’t he miss being on tour and blowing his horn?

“I just don't have time for it anymore – and honestly, I had no real genius for it... It is quite common for mathematicians to be musicians, though.”

Really? “The link would be the cycle of fifths, the use of proportions to balance notes, the time signature, the number of beats per measure. Music is very mathematical.”

And vice-versa, for his students.
Four? But didn’t the contest entry form say we’d pick three winners?

Yes, it did. But trying to pick just three winning essays was a formidable task. We received more than 100 entries, some succinct, some entire life stories, from every corner of the country and from the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where Columbia College has a campus — so many and of such quality, in fact, that we conducted four selection rounds. And we still couldn’t pick just three alumni winners!

Our four winners, chosen solely on the merit of their essays, are:

Dr. Katrina Harry Cochran ’68, a psychologist from Oklahoma City, Okla.

Michele Vaughn ’03, an associate dean at College of Lake County in Grayslake, Ill., living in Gurnee, Ill.

Richard Whiting ’93, a planner for the city of Holladay, Utah, living in Cottonwood Heights, Utah.

William Wright ’09, a network engineer from Jacksonville, Fla.

These four alumni represent Columbia College’s extraordinary geographic and professional diversity and its past — but, more importantly, the enduring pride and affinity they feel for Columbia College.

Excerpts from their essays and biographical details are on the next four pages. For their complete essays, and those of the other entrants, go to www.ColumbiaCollegeAlumni.org
I arrived on campus full of enthusiasm and anxiety. I was greeted with affection, treated with respect and completed a degree, but realized that Christian College actually completed me!

Why did you choose Christian College?
I met the Christian College recruiter at my high school. Most of my friends were attending large public universities, and I didn’t want college to be an extension of high school. I wanted to be a big fish in a little pond!

How has Christian College influenced your life?
I arrived at Christian College hoping to meet people who would become lifetime friends and mentors and I did! I discovered that I was respected for my unique characteristics. I was encouraged to experience new things. I was trusted with leadership opportunities. I was affirmed for my talents. I was confronted on my bad behaviors and allowed to soften the rough edges of my personality. I was stretched to complete academic classes I never thought I could master, and I was amazed at the personal interest shown to me by faculty and staff. These experiences helped me become a more compassionate, competent, humble and interesting person.

Tell us about your family.
I am married to Norman, a professional musician who plays bass guitar and tuba. I have a daughter, Keelee, who is a singer and performer in the Oklahoma City area. Her day job is with a local university as the student events coordinator. I also have a daughter, Elanna, who is a professional educator, married and the mother of three.

Quick Fact:
Katrina provided crisis recovery following the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City and still counsels those affected by 9/11 in New York.
I was a new single mother with the challenge of raising two young boys alone, working a part-time job at a fitness center earning $7.50 an hour, totaling $500 a month… I realized I had to pull myself up by my bootstraps.

**Why did you choose Columbia College?**
As a single mother with limited resources, it was a challenge to obtain my education and make a better life for my two boys. Columbia College was a complete dream come true for me!

**How has Columbia College influenced your life?**
It began when I walked through the doors to inquire about enrollment, and the receptionist was friendly, open and warm. It was the open door of the campus dean, the late night classroom debates and the support of my fellow classmates that provided the fuel I needed to keep going.

I remember when I felt like dropping out, the campus dean encouraged me to finish the race.

**Tell us about your family.**
Both of my parents have Southern backgrounds and traditions. They had four children, and I am the baby girl of the four. My family is very supportive and close. We have small family gatherings where we reflect and laugh about past times. My mother is my best friend; she supports all of my endeavors. My father is supportive as well and has the unique ability to fix anything.

Last but not least are my two boys, Darius (13) and Jaylen (10). Both of my boys are awesome and very supportive of their mommy!

**Quick Fact:**
Michele is passionate about working with underserved populations and is an advocate for teen mothers and adult education behind prison bars.
Richard Whiting ’93

Attended: Salt Lake campus
Current home: Cottonwood Heights, Utah
Current occupation: Planner, City of Holladay, Utah; application in process for doctoral studies in sustainability, Prescott College or Arizona State University.

I was a late bloomer academically and entered Columbia College’s undergraduate degree program at the age of 41. Nevertheless, I flourished in a learning environment characterized by small classes and led by professional, committed and often passionate instructors… long live Columbia College!

Why did you choose Columbia College?
I began my baccalaureate work at a large state-run university. It was impersonal and seemed overwhelming. After taking some time off, I returned to Columbia College because I liked the intimate atmosphere and the reasonable tuition.

How has Columbia College influenced your life?
Prior to completing my bachelor’s degree, I was timid about my academic accomplishments. Columbia College helped me realize that I had a great capacity to learn and to excel. I enjoyed the challenging curriculum, nurturing guidance and I gained confidence and poise in my interpersonal and professional relationships.

Tell us about your family
After caring for an elderly parent for several years, my wife, Susan, and I built a Victorian home in Salt Lake City, Utah. We have four children. Our eldest daughter is married to an attorney, and they have three children. Our eldest son lives in Rome, Italy, with his wife and two sons, and is completing his master’s degree in fine art. Our two youngest children are each married with one son, have bachelor’s degrees in photography and management, respectively, and also live in Salt Lake City.

Whiting performed a study of monster houses (homes built disproportionate in size and mass to those around them) and the city he then served went on to adopt his recommendations in whole. That ordinance, today, stands as a model for other communities in the region.

Quick Fact:
Trying to describe my affinity for Columbia College is like any other relationship. It’s like going on a blind date, only to discover that the two of you were meant to be together!

Never give up. Never give in. Never quit.

Why did you choose Columbia College?
The flexibility of the traditional classroom combined with online classes allowed me to complete my bachelor’s degree while working full time and maintaining my responsibilities as a husband and father. I know all my coursework will apply towards a master’s program without question. The quality of instruction and the cost per credit hour makes Columbia College one of the most affordable, best-value degree programs available anywhere. Columbia College turns your dream into an achievable goal and makes that goal a reality for anyone who has the desire to claim it.

How has Columbia College influenced your life?
For me, it was the personal satisfaction of completing a journey begun in 1980. The best part of earning my degree was being able to walk the talk for my family and be a living example of sacrifice, dedication and determination.

Tell us about your family.
Julie and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. Our oldest son, Kameron, is currently finishing his first year as a plebe at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Our youngest son, Kevan, is a freshman at Bartram Trail High School, Switzerland, Fla.

What are some of your interests?
I have been coaching and working with youth for the past 30 years. I enjoy all sports, but especially basketball and skiing. I serve on our nominating committee at church and am active with our youth group. During my free time, I enjoy reading, smoking a good cigar and having a fine meal in the company of close friends.

Quick Fact:
Growing up the youngest of six kids in a Irish-Italian family meant that you had to be fast or you didn’t eat, you had to be loud or you didn’t get heard, and you had to develop a sense of humor or you’d go crazy.
Columbia College holds third annual Military Recognition Day
Columbia College held its third annual Military Recognition Day the Thursday before Memorial Day on the main campus in Columbia, Mo. The event recognized students, faculty and staff who serve or who have served in the military. About one-third of the college’s 28,000 students are military, and 18 of Columbia College’s Nationwide Campuses are on military bases.

The Fort Leonard Wood campus also celebrated the day with music and videos. Last year, the campus honored the fort’s Wounded Warriors and one outstanding military student; this year, a male and female outstanding military student and a local VFW commander were honored.

To start the day off at the main campus, the Screaming Eagles, the 101st Airborne Division’s parachute demonstration team, wowed the crowd with a precision jump. The Screaming Eagles also delivered a U.S. and Columbia College flag that flew at Fort Drum, N.Y.; a color guard then raised the flags.

The day concluded with the announcement of the first recipient of the Col. Charles E. McGee Scholarship for veterans.

To experience Columbia College’s third annual Military Recognition Day visit www.ccis.edu/military/military-day.asp
Col. Charles E. McGee scholarship helps veteran student achieve his education goals

Air Force Cadet Patrick Hatcher of Columbia, Mo., accepted the inaugural Columbia College Col. Charles E. McGee Scholarship from Col. Charles McGee ’78 USAF (retired) in late May at the college’s Military Recognition Day.

The two men — one with gray hair in a blazer, the other in a crisp dark blue Air Force uniform — saluted each other on the stage, set up on the R. Marvin Owens soccer field. The day also featured the Screaming Eagles, the 101st Airborne Division’s parachute demonstration team, landing on the field to deliver a U.S. and Columbia College flag that had flown at the campus in Fort Drum, N.Y.

The $1,000 award for the 2010-11 academic year was established in 2010 to honor McGee, a Tuskegee Airman, the first group of African American pilots to serve in combat. The Airmen are best known for escorting bombers over Europe in their P-51 Mustang “Redtails.” McGee also served as president of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. from 1983-85 and again from 1998-2002, focusing on education, aviation and space careers for minorities.

McGee completed his degree after a long and distinguished Air Force career that included combat and reconnaissance flights in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Taiwan Strait Crisis; command of a fighter squadron in the Philippines; and of a reconnaissance squadron at now-defunct Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base just south of Kansas City.

At his retirement, McGee held the Air Force fighter combat record of 409 missions and 1151 combat hours.

In 2007, President Bush awarded McGee the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest civilian award. The annual scholarship is available to any qualified cadet.

To learn more about Col. McGee’s amazing journey, visit http://www.ccis.edu/newsroom/colmcgee.asp
Military Recognition Day also featured the opening of the Ousley Family Veterans Service Center, which provides a support network to facilitate the transition of veterans, military servicemembers and dependents to Columbia College and to understand and address their unique student support needs.

George H. Ousley Jr. ’78, one of mid-Missouri’s most successful businessmen, served in the Navy at the height of the Vietnam War.

His son, George H. (“Jay”) Ousley III, joined the Navy in 1985 but his life was cut tragically short by a car accident. Gregory S. (“Greg”) Ousley ’97 began his Navy service in Orlando, Fla., and was ultimately assigned to the Moffett Field, Calif., Fighting Marlins. Greg is the fourth generation of Navy men in the family.
Women’s basketball

The 2009-10 Lady Cougars trounced Williams Baptist (Ark.) College 95-63 to win the American Midwest (AMC) Conference title game, then advanced to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Women’s Basketball National Tournament in Jackson, Tenn. This marked the Lady Cougars seventh tournament appearance. They then narrowly lost 61-56 to Bethel (Tenn.) University, ending the season 28-6. Many talented players contributed: graduating senior Rachel Oswald, finishing her career ranked first in career rebounds (860) and named the league’s most valuable player; Whitney Widaman, who set a new college steals record of 318; and Veronica Smith, Newcomer of the Year.

Softball

In April, the Cougars softball squad notched their 21st win for the program’s 1,000th victory. Outstanding pitching and hitting, sometimes by the same person, propelled the Cougars: Junior Valerie Teter hit over .400 most of the season and had an ERA well under 2.0, leading all Cougars hitters and pitchers. For the second time in her career, Teter was named NAIA National Pitcher of the Week in March for striking out 35 hitters and batting .420. Senior second baseman Samantha Stringer and shortstop Tori Long were chosen as AMC Players of the Week in March and April, respectively. In early May, the Cougars swept McKendree (Ill.) University to win the AMC crown and made their 15th trip to the national tournament, but a heartbreaking 2-1 loss to Belhaven (Miss.) University effectively ended their season. Teter, however, ended the season with an incredible 413 strikeouts.
The 2009 team had a perfect 16-0 conference record to finish first in the AMC and for the 16th consecutive season headed to the NAIA National Tournament. The season ended early for the talented and fearless squad, however, as the Cougars failed to advance out of pool play. Head coach Melinda Wrye-Washington, finishing her 10th season at the helm, was named Midwest Region Coach of the Year and many players contributed, including graduating senior Maria Omondi, from Nairobi, Kenya (Midwest Region Player of the Year, First Team All-America); Cate Eckhardt, Ottawa, Canada (Newcomer of the Year); Paula Ferreira, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (AMC Setter and Freshman of the Year); and Tally Mattos, also Brazil (First Team All-Region).

Soccer

An outstanding soccer team (13-4-1, regular season) advanced to the AMC championship in November after shutting out Hannibal-LaGrange (Mo.) College 1-0. The Cougars then secured their sixth AMC championship with a thrilling 2-1 overtime win against Park (Mo.) University. Columbia College hosted the opening round of the NAIA championship, and beat the Midland Lutheran (Neb.) College Warriors 3-0. The Cougars then traveled to Fresno, Calif., for the second round of the tournament, taking on the University of Rio Grande (Ohio) Red Storm — but lost, 2-0. With 16 wins, head coach John Klein has won more games than any other CC soccer coach, at 123.
Where did Scooter come from?

By 1988, Columbia College was considering changing its Centaur mascot. Miles Johnson, an art student, drew a cartoon cougar in Life Lines and the Columbian. Students then chose his as the mascot’s image and dubbed him “Scooter.”

Scooter made his first public appearance in 1990 by leaping out of a box at a basketball game.

The first Scooter was probably a limber student named Danny who performed back flips and round offs. He once had his head fly off in mid-round off but caught it on his way back down to complete the maneuver. There have been many since, notably Rene Massey, associate dean for Adult Higher Education.

Scooter originally appeared “in the fur” only. He acquired his jersey from Columbia College basketball player Ken Wood (’89–’91).

Where’s Scooter?

Answer: At the Cougar Club & Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament, Columbia (Mo.) Country Club, June 2010.
The summer of ’69 was special.

Woodstock burst upon an unsuspecting nation, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon and the woeful Mets advanced to the World Series. It was also the time when 10 Christian College girls spent a summer studying in Grenoble, France, under French native and instructor Madame Hortense Davison. The group toured France and met Air Force servicemen based in Hahn Air Force Base in then-West Germany. Grenoble is in the far mountainous south of France. Hahn is in mid-Germany, 800-some kilometers away, but the young women and Air Force men saw each other and the sights of France and West Germany all that historic summer, forging bonds still like iron today.

In the spring of 2010, nine of the 10 girls, now women, and some of the Air Force men, among the first men to attend Columbia College, came together for a joyous 41-year reunion on the main campus:

Lucy Church ’69
Susan Fessey Harvin ’69
Marilyn Hughes Hoecker ’70
Mary Hutchison ’70
Cheryl Riddle Kennedy ’70
Pamela “Mela” Threlkeld Linn ’70
Andrea Sobotka Logan ’69
Nancy Hodina Sherman ’69
Tom Thomason ’72
William R. (“Tgood”) Thorowgood ’72
Pat Boyer Wiggins ’69

“Meeting these boys made a typical summer memorable,” says Church. “It was serendipity,” echoes Thomason.
Show your “Affinity” by visiting the new website for alumni@www.ColumbiaCollegeAlumni.org.

Five questions are posted on our website. Find the answers and receive a free gift! (while supplies last)
The Alumni Relations office is pleased to launch a brand new alumni website. It’s another way to build your affinity with Columbia College!

Alumni Relations’ new website incorporates exciting content about the lives and experiences of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends as well as delivering up-to-date information on news and events going on around the college. The information you need is now easier to find, enhanced and demonstrates Columbia College’s commitment to deliver information to you.

The concept for the new site was derived from feedback we received from alumni over the past year. Alumni and other constituents wanted a website that was informative, regularly updated and interactive. Alumni Relations aims to deliver this and MORE!

The initial launch incorporates new content and design in the site’s top-level pages, while the rest of the site will be transitioned over the next year. So why not visit the site today and check it out for yourself!

Once you have, make sure you provide feedback to the Alumni Relations team and be sure to check back regularly for opportunities to contribute stories and photos, enter online contests and to keep informed on what is new at Columbia College!

This month we are featuring stories on David Wells ’06 (inaugural Alumni Emerging Artist), Scooter the Cougar, Susan Wilson Solovic ’80, Class of ’67 Reunion, Family Day & Homecoming 2010 and details on our Website Launch Contest!
Jamie Branch Wright ’45 of Memphis, Tenn., writes that the Hughes Hall Round Robin group met May 20-24 in Sedalia, Mo., with side trips to Kansas City, Mo., and St. Joseph, Mo. There were originally 10 members but only six now, and the group meets every year in different locations across the country. Recent trips have taken the group to Destin, Fla., Ponte Vedra, Fla., Deep Creek, Md., Chatham, N.J., Memphis, Tenn., and several trips to St. Louis, Mo. The group includes Doris Clarkson Dodd ’45, Mary Frances Johnson Evans ’45, Anna Lee Glenn Grone ’45, Patricia Wharton McClow ’45 and Mary Frances Allton Sneed ’45.

Anna Ernberg DeGrande ’47 is living in Tucson, Ariz., and after retiring a number of times from hospitals and medical offices, she continues to work from home as a PRN for radiology physicians and still enjoys it!

Nancy Jo Ellis Grobmyer ’47 writes from Carrollton, Ky.

She is a private vocal and piano instructor, has been an organist and vocalist at St. John Catholic Church for 53 years and has served on the Carrollton City Council since 1974. Nancy has four children, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and is enjoying family and friends at her home on the Ohio River.

Dr. Verna “Vme” Smith ’49 of Chesapeake, Va., has always combined sociology with photojournalism. As one of the directors of the Edom Foundation for Social Justice through Photojournalism, Vme is involved in the foundation’s work to partner with the National Press Photographers Association to document the lives of returning veterans. She also directed a workshop titled, “Truth with a Camera,” for 14 years, which is continuing under the direction of photographers Christopher Tyree and Stephen Katz. They recently completed their second workshop, one in Mexico and one in Ecuador, working with local and U.S. students and nonprofit organizations to document social problems and solutions.
Dr. Rosemary Horner ‘50 of Lincoln, Neb., was selected 2008 Business Woman of the Year by Women’s Council of the Year. She has worked 30 years for Woods Bros. Realty in Lincoln.

Louise Sowers Sitton ‘55 retired from a 31-year career with the Pike County R-3 School District. She spent 20 years as an elementary school secretary and 11 years as a Title I teacher assistant. She lives in Eolia, Mo.

Cecelia White Lindsey ‘56 and her husband, Richard, closed out their Coldwell Banker Lindsey Real Estate office and merged with Equity Brokers, Inc. They are looking forward to retirement, and this move will make the transition easier. The Lindsey’s reside in Casper, Wyo.

Vicki Mayhew Medley ‘59 and her husband, Paul, live in Fulton, Mo., but spend eight months of the year in Mission, Texas.

Dixie Briscoe Shemwell ‘59 writes from Hatfield, Ark. She enjoys hosting exchange students from other countries including two from Germany, one from Sweden and is currently hosting a student from Poland. “They are so interesting, intelligent and fun to be around!”

Elizabeth “Diane” Haffner Oilar ‘61 writes from Crawfordsville, Ind. Diane and her husband, John, are co-coordinators at the Professional Fine Arts Gallery at the Indiana State Fair.

Dr. Joann Spencer Brown ‘62 of Lincoln, Neb., is an active artist and has been painting and exhibiting for years in a variety of locations and has paintings included in permanent art collections. For the past 20 years, she has loved her job teaching art and music in the elementary education program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Through the years, she has earned a variety of degrees including associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees in art and education, and she holds a doctorate in education. Most recently, she has been working on a master’s degree in counseling. Even with all the degrees she says her sons, John and Jim, are the most meaningful thing in her life.

Lois Benner ‘65 writes from the dry Mojave Desert in California. After more than 40 years, she is returning to Columbia College to finish her degree. She earned an associate degree in 1965 when history came alive as her professor guided her class through the death of John F. Kennedy. She wants to pursue a master’s degree. She has three children and two grandchildren with another one on the way.
Dr. Katrina Harry Cochran ’68 does consulting work with the Salvation Army and spends time each month in the greater New York area teaching Army officers about conflict management and leadership development, although her psychology practice is located in Oklahoma City, Okla. Katrina and her husband, Norman, recently remodeled the home next door to her childhood home and moved back to her old neighborhood. They reside in Oklahoma City.

Linda Sublett Hutton ’69 continues to work as a civic educator for the Missouri Bar and the Center for Civic Education. She traveled to Morocco in February to further civic and democratic citizenship education. She also serves on the Central Missouri Humane Society Board. Linda and her husband, Bob, executive director for administrative services for Columbia College, live in Columbia, Mo. They have a daughter, Laura Hutton ’03, and one grandchild.

Mary Lee Daniels Martin ’69 and her husband, Bill, drive to Kerrville, Texas, often and stay at the Buckhorn Lake RV Resort. The Martin’s reside in Sugar Land, Texas.

Vicki Neeley McDaniel ’69 and her husband have been married for 36 years and live in Durango, Colo. They have four children, one grandchild and two more grandchildren on the way. Her husband is a water and real estate lawyer who works from home with her help. There are active with Youth with a Mission (YWAM) and have gone on several mission trips. “We are empty nesters and loving every minute of it!”

Susan Dallmeyer Phillips ’69 of Mission Hills, Kan., writes that her daughter, Elizabeth, will marry Dr. Mark Ryan on Oct. 2. Ryan is a fourth-year surgery resident. The couple will reside in Miami Beach, Fla., while he completes his residency. Her son, Tommy, is a doctor doing a year of biomechanical research at the University of California, San Francisco and subsequently will begin his residency. Her husband, Tom, is an orthopedic surgeon and she continues her volunteer work in Kansas City.

Robyn Hatfield Dalby ’70 resigned from teaching elementary art to be the daycare provider for her three-year-old granddaughter. She is also a sugar artist designing wedding and party cakes and cookies. Robyn and her husband, Brian, live in Lee’s Summit, Mo. Their son, Jason, is a Navy fighter pilot and was featured in the 2009 Columbia air show sponsored by Columbia College. He lives in Lemoore, Calif., with his wife, Kristi. Son, Jonathan, is a social studies teacher and cross country and track and field coach in Denver, Colo. Daughter, Kelly, is an employee at Global Medical in Kansas City. She lives in Pleasant Hill, Mo., with her husband, Chad and daughter. Son, Taylor, finished his last year at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo., graduating with a degree in business.
Sandra Mohn Lambrecht ’70 is retired and living with her husband, David, in Medina, Wash. They have two children, Marc and Sonya, and one granddaughter. Sandra would like to know what happened to her big sister, Jan Carlson, and her little sisters.

Susan Troost Rhodes ’70, is recently retired and enjoying life in Surprise, Ariz., with her husband, Roger.

Sally Smith Malone ’71 lives in Little Rock, Ark., where she operates her family’s business. She is active in church and music activities. She serves on the Arkansas Audubon Board and volunteers for them and the Arkansas Museum of Discovery. Her daughter, Rachel, is married and living in Mississippi, where she publishes a magazine, Invitation Oxford.

Susan Anderson Raven ’71, writes from Mayfield, Mich. For the past 30 years, she has been involved with early childhood education. She is currently a Parents as Teachers parent educator, teaching parents about the development of their young children. In 2009, she earned her master’s degree in early childhood education. Early in 2010, Susan joined other military mothers in northwest Michigan in organizing the Western Waters Chapter of the national organization of the Blue Star Mothers of America. Group members all have sons serving in Afghanistan.

Gayle Price Gibb ’73 and her husband, Tom, are enjoying life in Willow Springs, Mo. They have five children, who are all in college or graduating, and three grandchildren. Their eldest son, Josiah, got married in October 2009. “Life is good,” writes Gayle.

Leslie Bentley ’74 is living in Holt, Mich. He is a retired master sergeant for the U.S. Army Reserves.

Andrea Dahl ’74 of Abilene, Texas, has been teaching math for 25 years for the Abilene Independent School District. She also loves her part-time job with the Bernina Sewing Company. She has three grandsons. “I have always remembered the wonderful time I had at Columbia College.”

Donald McGiffin III ’74 lives in Kansas City, Mo., and is retired from the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

Michael Sawyer ’74 writes from Lake Charles, La., where he is the library director for Calcasieu Parish Public Library (CPPL). CPPL recently won the Highsmith Award for its 2009 Summer Reading Program Yard Sign project. The award recognizes a public library’s innovative and creative service program to the community. Michael has won four national awards for four different library systems.

William Luebbert ’75 is managing the southern division of distribution for Hy-Vee/Florist Distributing Inc., which includes Columbia and Independence, Mo. William and his wife, Suzzanne, live in Lake Winnebago, Mo.

Barbara Webbs Carter ’76 and her husband, Nathaniel, are both retired and looking forward to growing old together in their brand new home in St. Louis, Mo. They go to dinner, movies, the zoo and attend church regularly. Barbara previously served 15 years as a legal advisor in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Dr. Ronald Ewards ’76 is retired from the U.S. Army and is a chaplain at the Dallas Detention Center. Ronald and his wife, Hazel, live in Garland, Texas.
Stephen Nowell ’76 is retired from Prudential Insurance after 22 years, eight of those spent in Germany. Since 2007, he has operated his own insurance brokerage and loves self-employment. Stephen lives in Boulder, Colo., and enjoys mountain activities such as hiking, skiing and snowshoeing.

Melanie Thomas ’76 received her master’s degree in business administration in December 2009 from the University of Texas at El Paso. She was in the top 10 percent of her class and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Honor Society. Melanie and her husband, Kevin, celebrated 22 years of marriage in 2010. They reside in El Paso, Texas.

Robert “Bob” Bryant ’77 serves the needs of his constituents as a Georgia state representative in House District 160. He sits on committees for Defense and Veterans Affairs, Economic Development and Tourism, State Institutions and Property, Transportation and Ways and Means. Bob is from Garden City, Ga.

Carol Siegel Turner ’72, ’77 from El Dorado, Kan., is teaching early childhood at the EduCare Center at Butler Community College. Her students range in age from 3 to 5-years-old. Carol and her husband, Wayne, live a very content life with a dog named Deuce and a cat named Peachnik. “I look forward to going to the reunion weekends every year and re-meeting so many people.”

Pablo Cabrera ’78 formed an insurance business named, Cabrera’s Insurance Solutions, Inc. You can reach him at www.cabrerasinsuranceolutions.org. Pablo is retired from the U.S. Army and lives in Orlando, Fla.

Donald Carey ’78, ’87 is retired from the U.S. Army but serves on the U.S. Army Retiree Council out of Fort Stewart, Ga., covering the central Florida area. He also works with the VFW and other veterans’ groups and is a member of the Community Relation Board of the Coleman Federal Correctional Institution. Donald and his wife, Carol, live in Ocala, Fla.

Lonnie Dotson Sr. ’78 has been employed with Boeing for 20 years as a commercial fabrication division change manager. He has two master’s degrees and is retired from the U.S. Army. Lonnie and his wife, Allie, live in Covington, Wash., and have five children and 12 grandchildren.

Bradlin Ellis ’78 from Olathe, Kan., retired from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Glenda Hofsess ’78 works part-time for Weight Watchers after retiring from State Farm Insurance in 2008. Glenda and her husband, John, live in Columbia, Mo.

Rob O’Neill ’78 lives in France and has a personal website at www.living-the-dream.us. “Our website tells our story with quarterly updates.”

Anthony Skokna ’78 lives in Brookfield, Ill., and works for Chicago Public Schools.

Tom Simpson ’78 volunteered in Lusaka, Zambia, at Matero Boys’ School, a Marianist Catholic school. He spent 18 months traveling in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Sinai, Italy, Bulgaria, Greece and Kenya. He returned to St. Louis, Mo., in May.
Heidi McKeever Denman ’79 writes from Lakewood, Ohio, and is currently enrolled in a master’s degree program at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio. She was an early childhood educator for 18 years. Her husband, Rich, owns a sign-making franchise, Sign-A-Rama. In February 2009, their first grandchild was born to son, Derek, and wife, Zuleida. Daughter, Blythe and husband, Stephen, are expecting a child in August. Daughter, Megan, is completing a master’s degree in piano performance at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio.

Julie Sponaugle Herrera ’79 from Jacksonville, Fla., writes, “Thanks to Facebook, I’ve been able to catch up with some of you [other alumni].” Julie and her husband, Carlos, lived in his hometown in Texas for 18 months but returned to Florida in 2007. They celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in March.

Nancy Smith Spencer ’70 currently lives in Sun Valley, Calif., but will be moving to Los Angeles to be closer to a sister and a brother who both live near Burbank.

Richard “Rick” Garcia ’80 was selected by President Barack Obama to serve as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regional director for six states in the Rocky Mountain region which includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Utah. Rick will serve as HUD’s liaison to mayors, city managers, elected representatives, state and local officials, congressional delegations, stakeholders and customers. He will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of HUD programs and services to communities, as well as evaluating their efficiency and effectiveness. Rick lives in Denver.

Van Johnston ’80 retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Van and his wife, Judith, live in Springfield, Mo.

Dr. Sandra Bruce Nichols ’80 has been named chief medical officer, West Region, for United-Healthcare, a UnitedHealth Group company. Sandra lives in North Potomac, Md., and currently serves as a Columbia College trustee.

Kenneth Tohill ’80 of St. Charles, Mo., retired from McDonnell Douglas/Boeing in February 1999 as the director of quality.

David Gaw ’81 lives in Laguna Beach, Calif.

Ray Jones Jr. ’81 retired from the U.S. Army in 1994 and then joined the Georgia Department of Labor as a veterans’ representative. He also served under Sen. Max Cleland as his constituent veterans’ representative and later, served under Congresswoman Denise Majette as her field representative for active military members and veterans. Ray is currently serving as chairman of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Board of Dekalb County, Ga., and on other executive committees of veterans’ service organizations. He lives in Rex, Ga.
Patricia Bertie-Bixby Shillinger ’82 earned her master’s degree in adult education and training from the University of Phoenix in Phoenix, Ariz. She plans to begin her doctorate in education in 2010 and hopes to teach college classes in Phoenix, where she lives.

Renee Cooper Novak ’84 works for Acropolis Investment Management and lives in Lake Saint Louis, Mo., with her husband, Peter, chief engineer for Boeing. They have three children, Tyler, Signe’ and Lance.

Barry Whiteside ’84 and his wife, Janice Cordray Whiteside ’86, are enjoying life in Irmo, S.C. Barry retired from the U.S. Army in 2008.

Avery Babineaux Jr. ’85 retired from the U.S. Army. He lives in San Antonio, Texas.

David Phillips ’86 and his wife, Jami Phillips ’89, moved to Rolla, Mo. David accepted a position with My Father’s World, a homeschool curriculum publisher, doing convention sales and marketing.

Bernhard Bröker ’87 is retired from the U.S. Army and lives in North Las Vegas, Nev. He is a member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, the International Blue Knights (law enforcement personnel motorcycle club), the International Police Association and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Diane Adkins Welch ’87 and husband, Randy Welch ’90, live in Leander, Texas, and both work for State Farm Insurance. Diane is an underwriter and Randy accepted a new position as assistant manager of planning and finance in July 2009.

Bernard Morosco ’88 writes from New Hartford, N.Y. He received his master’s degree in business administration from Ashford University in December 2009. Bernard is retired from the U.S. Navy.

LeRoy Gardner ’89 and his wife, Georgetta, moved from Riverview, Fla., to Bluffton, S.C. LeRoy is retired from the U.S. Army and was ordained to the priesthood in 2008 with the Anglican Province of America. He accepted a call to Anglican Church of the Redeemer in Hilton Head Island, S.C., as assistant vicar. Georgetta substitutes as a teacher’s aid with the Beaufort County School District.

Joseph Giustiniano ’89 is serving in the U.S. Navy and lives in San Diego, Calif. He has three children, Caitlin, Nicholas and Anthony.

Susan Albin-Connor ’91 works for Dynamic Fitness Management in the St. Louis area. She oversees all of the personal fitness trainers who work within Club Fitness clubs in St. Louis and Illinois. Susan and her husband, Michael, live in Dardenne Prairie, Mo.

Michael T. David ’91 and Dana King ’10, both in the Warrior Transition Battalion in Fort Stewart, Ga., are working together to reach fellow graduates in the area.
Anna Gotangco Osborn ’91, achieved National Board teaching certification in 2009. Anna teaches for Columbia Public Schools and lives in Columbia, Mo., with her husband, Don.

James Robert “Rob” Schaefer ’91 has been appointed president of St. Louis Bridal Professionals. Rob is vice president of catering and design for Steven Becker Fine Dining in St. Louis and is a nationally recognized event planner. He is the featured columnist for Missouri Meetings & Events magazine and has worked on events for celebrities Harrison Ford, Joan Rivers, Anne Margaret, Randy Travis, Valerie Harper, Paul Reiser, Viscount David Linley — nephew of Queen Elizabeth II and jazz artist Chris Bode.

Ed Talton ’91 enjoyed lunch with President Barack Obama during his stop at a local diner in Monroe City, Mo., in May. Ed, who works for UMB Bank, was just leaving for his lunch break when he was approached by a Secret Service agent and asked if he would like to join the president of the United States for lunch. Ed and several others ate lunch and discussed topics such as health care, insurance, agriculture issues and recent factory closings, while the president listened and asked questions.

“You can live in a small town and great things can still happen” Ed was a member of Columbia College’s first men’s basketball NAIA national tournament team.

Dr. Melvin M. McPhearson ’92 is retired from the U.S. Army and lives in Clayton, N.C.

Shiela Clover Reed ’92 writes from Maryville, Ill. She graduated with her second master’s degree in social work and is a social work supervisor for the state of Illinois. She also works in the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Emergency Room.

Richard Blackerby ’93 and his wife, Denise, live in Virginia Beach, Va. Richard is retired from the U. S. Navy and works for Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.

Dr. Michael Innis-Jimenez ’93 is an assistant professor in the department of American Studies at the University of Alabama. Michael lives in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Jose Juarez ’93 retired from federal civil service in December 2009. Jose and his wife, Ann, live in Huntsville, Ala.


Frank Fortunato ’95 of Liverpool, N.Y., retired from the Chrysler Corporation in 2004 and currently works for the Liverpool Central School District. “Columbia College was a great experience,” he writes.

Joey Lahman ’95, a deputy with the Boone County Sheriff’s Department in Columbia, Mo., was awarded the department’s Life Saving Award for rescuing three people submerged in freezing water in March 2010.

Kevin Sherrill ’95, ’04 of Selma, Texas, earned a master’s degree in organizational development in May 2009. Kevin is retired from the U.S. Army.

Sandra Allison ’96 works for Washington County IDA (Industrial Development Authority) and lives in Rolla, Mo.
Emilie Ackley Burgess ‘96 moved back to Texas after managing the organ transplant program in Seattle, Wash. She now works for a specialty pharmacy. She remarried and has twin step-daughters in addition to her own daughter. Emilie and her husband, Fred, live in Fairview, Texas.

C.R. Corbitt ‘96 is the division commander of emergency services for the Greenwood Village Police. C.R. resides in Denver, Colo.

Robin Sternberg Shetley ‘96, ‘10 writes from Marengo, Ill. Robin completed her master’s degree in business administration through Columbia College’s Online Campus in May 2010. Robin and her husband, Gordon, were married in 2009.

Morris Trujillo ‘96 from Pensacola, Fla., is retired from the U.S. Navy and is a part-time musician at local casinos in Mississippi.

Malinda Crane ‘97 works for Developmental Disabilities Services of Jackson County-EITAS as their intake and information specialist. She also got engaged to her fiancé, Rick Barnett, in November 2009. Malinda lives in Lee’s Summit, Mo.

Rachel Boyer Alvarez ‘98 from Lompoc, Calif., is earning a master’s degree in leadership and management at the University of La Verne, Calif., and working in aerospace. She has the greatest job of all, “being a mom,” she writes.

Teresa Carroll ‘98 of Chula Vista, Calif., returned from a tour in Djibouti in 2007 and then did a deployment on the USS Abraham Lincoln. This fall, Teresa is transferring to shore duty. She expects to graduate with her EMBA (Executive MBA) from San Diego State University in June 2011.

Dan Davis ‘98 works for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois and took over his company’s computer help desks. Dan lives in Lake Zurich, Ill.

Paul Parker ‘98 has accepted a new position with Capgemini as a manager in their financial services advisory group. Paul is retired from the U.S. Navy and resides in Tampa, Fla., with his wife, Robin.

Larry Penn ‘98 from Stuart, Va., is a senior student at Liberty University with plans to complete a bachelor’s degree in religion, with a biblical counseling specialization. Larry is a volunteer chaplain associate at a local hospital and also a licensed minister at a local church. He is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC).

Nora “Becky” Craig ‘99 of Mexico, Mo., won first prize in the Presser Performing Arts Center community poetry contest in 2008. She received $100, and her poem was published in the Mexico Ledger and on the Presser website. The poem was titled “Flower Children.”
Wendell Harris ’99 is retired from the U.S. Coast Guard and lives in Denton, Texas.

Gregory Miller ’99 works for Safeway and lives in Anthem, Ariz.

Ken Mitchell ’99 celebrated his 60th birthday in 2009 and is looking forward to retirement at age 66. He has worked 41 years for Boeing Company. Ken and his wife, Cheryl, are developing a farm (M&W Farms) near Bowling Green, Mo., where they live.

Jill Perrigo ’99 completed her online master’s degree in human services with Capella University in 2008. Jill and her husband, Monty, live in Hartsburg, Mo.

Diane Warren Perry ’99 writes from St. Louis, Mo., where she is very active volunteering at her daughter’s school, playing tennis, working out and taking classes in tennis, accounting, computers and Spanish through St. Louis Community College.

Nicole Pitts Spagnuolo ’99 from Surprise, Ariz., joined her husband, Marc, in leading a fundraising campaign for the American Cancer Society in honor of a friend who has pancreatic cancer. They were able to raise more than $8,000 in one month and documented the entire experience and encouraged others to donate through the website http://woodworkersfightingcancer.com. The final video showcasing everyone that was involved is available at http://thewoodwhisperer.com/guild-build-results-woodworkers-fighting-cancer/. “If it wasn’t for the education and experience I received while working in the fundraising office while attending Columbia College, something like this might not have been possible for a small little website like ours! Thank you CC!”

Jeffrey Wagner ’99 works for Texas Capital Bank and lives in Leawood, Kan., with his wife, Kelly, and two children, Chelsea and Ryan.

Christine Mason Poynter ’00 is working on her master’s degree in business administration through Columbia College–Kansas City. She recently became a member of Sigma Beta Delta honor society. Christine, her husband, Kevin, and two children live in Blue Springs, Mo.

Sherwin Strickland Pullen ’00 is beginning graduate school at Webster University with a double major in healthcare management and business management. Sherwin is in the U.S. Army and her husband, Norris, is in the U.S. Air Force. They reside in Converse, Texas, with their five children.
Brook Sims ‘00 of Ocoee, Fla., has been working for the Orlando Police Department for more than 27 years. While attending Columbia College, Brook developed an idea for a new rank of sergeant. He put together a committee and pioneered a master sergeant program, the first of its kind in central Florida. The rank of master sergeant requires credits in professional achievement, community service, training and seniority with additional credits hours required to maintain it. Brook was the first sergeant promoted to the rank of master sergeant. “Thank you Columbia College for giving me the education and tools to make a difference in Orlando and the ranks of the Orlando Police Department.”

Sharon Buford ‘01 is a national account sales manager for Fry-Wagner Moving & Storage based in Kansas City, Mo.

Paul Cerio ‘02 is working as a project analyst for AMEC, an international company headquartered in London, providing consultancy, engineering and project management services to leading companies in the natural resources, nuclear, clean energy, water and environmental sectors. Prior to joining AMEC, he spent four years at a local public accounting firm. Paul and his wife, Allison, live in Liverpool, N.Y., with their two children.

Ste’la Song James ‘02 lives in Cordova, Tenn.

Crystal Johnson ‘02 works for the Army Safety Office within the office of the chief of staff in the Department of the Army. She bought a new home in Woodbridge, Va., in 2008 and has three children.

Sheila Migdal’02 of Liverpool, N.Y., authored two books, First Encounter and More, and New Adventure, available online through her publisher, Publish-America, at publishamerica.net. She just finished writing a third, Dating the Fraud Within. “I never thought this was possible and if it wasn’t for the education I received from Columbia College, I would have never had the confidence in myself to try this. Thank you to the staff for their support and guidance.”

Wayne Nero ’02 is the new chief of police for Georgetown, Texas. He was previously the assistant police chief in DeSoto, Texas, and as a U.S. Marine, led the presidential security team at Camp David in Maryland.

Robert Ronkoski ‘02 of Cottleville, Mo., was elected president of the Missouri Association of College Law Enforcement Administrators for 2010. Robert is the director of public safety and chief of police at St. Charles Community College.

Joshua Thornington ‘02 lives in St. Louis, Mo., and works for Missouri Restaurant Solutions.
Michael Wilson ’02 lives in Columbia, Mo., and has three children.

Pamela Kelly ’03 of Columbia, Mo., received her master’s degree in business administration from William Woods University in 2006 and graduated from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 2010 with a master’s degree in jurisprudence in health law.

Joe Konrad ’03 earned a graduate certificate in fundraising management from North Park University in 2009. Joe lives in Kalamazoo, Mich., and works as a church business administrator.

Phyllis Troupe ’03 lives in St. Louis, Mo., and works for Boeing.

Crystal Wells Wessing ’03 works for the state of Missouri and lives in California, Mo., with her husband, John, and daughter.

William “Bill” Leeper ’04, a lieutenant in Troop G for the Florida Highway Patrol in Jacksonville, made his first trip to Missouri for reunion weekend. “I had a blast and really enjoyed visiting the main campus and learning about the rich tradition and history of the school.”

Charlotte Midkiff ’04 writes from Orlando, Fla., where she is in her third year of managing the Downtown Orlando Information Center. She plans to retire in November and change careers after finishing an internship for her master’s degree in counseling/psychology. Charlotte and her husband, Stephen, are anticipating the birth of their first grandchild this summer.

Laura Nauser ’04 was recognized by the National League of Cities (NLC) for achieving bronze level in its certificate program. NLC is focused on strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of elected officials. Laura is the fifth ward councilwoman for Columbia, Mo.

Jeffrey Schade ’04 retired from the U.S. Navy and worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as an IT specialist for two years and is now working for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Jeffrey and his wife, Trace, live in Benicia, Calif.

Ellen Audelo ’05 of Melbourne, Fla., works for the U.S. Air Force, 45th contracting squadron. She started as the squadron secretary, then became a procurement clerk and then a purchasing agent. Next, she became a contract specialist and was promoted at the age of 60, when she received her degree from Columbia College. She also volunteers at the state hospital in Florida and serves as a local vice president for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Ellen has a son who is mentally disabled.
Kim Cousins ‘05 has been accepted into the Defense Comptrollership Program, a cooperative endeavor between Syracuse University in New York and the Department of Defense. When she completes the program in August 2011, she will receive a master’s degree in business administration and a master’s degree in executive public administration. Kim and her husband, Monty, live in Douglasville, Ga., and have three children.

Michael Falter ‘05 of Jefferson City, Mo., recruited for the U.S. Census Bureau. He is enrolled at Columbia College–Jefferson City taking prerequisites for a master’s degree.

James Fuchs ‘05 started a new job with Radiometer America as a field service engineer. James is retired from the U.S. Army and lives in Middleburg, Fla., with his wife, Dana.

Sharon Gaskin ‘05 of Orlando, Fla., has been working for Everest University, South Orlando campus since 2008. She is a certified pharmacy technician, registered to work in the state of Florida.

Holly Johnson Gomez ‘05 is a retired Illinois police officer/firefighter now attending Midwestern University’s clinical psychology doctoral program in Downer’s Grove, Ill. She is specializing in forensic psychology and is scheduled to graduate in 2011. Holly lives in St. Charles, Ill., with her husband, Gonzalo.

Erice Kency ‘05 lives in Grovetown, Ga., and is in the U.S. Army.

Lloyd Lepard ‘05 is continuing his education with a goal of completing his bachelor’s degree. Lloyd is retired from the U.S. Army and lives in Cheyenne, Wyo., with his wife, Wanda.

Sarah McCort ‘05 graduated from the University of Kansas in 2006 with a master’s degree in accounting information systems with an emphasis in auditing. She works for BKD, one of the 10 largest CPA firms in the U.S., mainly auditing nonprofit organizations.

Robert Adams ‘06 is nearing retirement with the U.S. Army and will soon complete a master’s degree in disaster and emergency management from American Military University. Robert, and his wife, Andrea, live in Gatesville, Texas.

Robbin Burnett ‘06 from Waukegan, Ill., earned a master’s degree in mental health counseling from Webster University.

Rene Cano ‘06 of Katy, Texas, is still active in the U.S. Navy, but plans to retire in 2013 after 30 years of service.

Clayton Holloway ‘06 writes from Rincon, Ga., where he just completed a master’s degree in historic preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Clayton is in the U.S. Air Force.

Jeanne McKee ‘06 is in her third year as a teaching assistant with the North Syracuse Central School District. She is working in blended
kindergarten in the same elementary school that she attended. Jeanne lives in Cicero, N.Y., with her husband, Bruce.

Jeremy Reuschling ’06 of Boonville, Mo., is branch manager for three locations of Citizens Bank & Trust.

Marcus Bradford ’07 is playing for the American Basketball Association’s Seattle Mountaineers in Seattle, Wash.

Amanda Hall ’07 writes from Norman, Okla. From April through October 2010, she will be in Cuernavaca, Mexico to volunteer with Girl Scouts at “Our Cabana” one of the four World Centres of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

Stephanie Huderson ’07 of Jacksonville, Fla., received her master’s degree in psychology from Walden University in 2009.

Sherry Meyer ’07 lives in Moberly, Mo., and works for Best Broadcast Group. She has a son and is “just looking to find my place in this big world!”

Fred Twitty ’07 graduated from Auburn University of Montgomery in 2008 with a master’s degree in justice and public safety. He is currently enrolled at Villanova University. He has completed strategic organizational leadership for non-financial managers and is taking finance, accounting and essentials for government contracting for non-financial managers. In 2010, he hopes to begin his doctorate of philosophy in business administration in homeland security: leadership and policy. Fred is retired from the U.S. Army and lives in Hazel Green, Ala.

Laura Rademan Bowen ’08 has been working for Hy-Vee for 10 years. After receiving her master’s degree in business administration, she was promoted to human resources manager, working with about 400 employees on all aspects of hiring, termination, insurance, retirement and scheduling. Laura and her husband, Robby, were married in 2007, live in Columbia, Mo., and “enjoy everything that it has to offer us.”

Eunorous Dixon ’08 lives in Pooler, Ga., works for Matson Global Distribution Services and is retired from the U.S. Army.

Courtney Fischer ’08 lives in Crown Point, Ind. for half the year and Denver, Colo. the other half. Courtney and her fiancé Jason Boeckman ’07 are planning an October 2010 wedding.

Lauren Turner Little ’08 was awarded the “2010 Woman in Business Franchisee of the Year” award. She works for Edible Arrangements. Lauren and her husband, James Little ’05, live in Jacksonville, Fla.

Juan Perez Castro ’08 lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Yolanda Spinks ’08 of Belleville, Ill., is enrolled at Lindenwood University, Belleville campus, pursuing a master’s degree in professional counseling.

Carly Santa Wobbe ’08 lives in Ashland, Mo., with her husband, Justin, and their daughter. Carly works for Merck & Company.

Sonja Callahan ’09 of Columbia, Mo., has decided to pursue her master’s degree in business administration with Columbia College in 2010.

Josephine Claudio ’09 writes from Orlando, Fla., that she has a new granddaughter and has found and reunited with her eldest daughter after 28 years. She has also started working toward her master’s degree in addiction counseling.

James Eckett ’09 is teaching English in Thailand. “This job has been an excellent experience. The other teachers and I have great contact with one another.”

Dana Hayes ’09 retired from the U.S. Army and is now working for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in Huntsville, Ala. He lives in Hazel Green, Ala., with his wife, Barbara, and has four children.

Gale Johnson ’09 lives in St. Louis, Mo.

Mitchell Jones ’09 started a new job with IndySoft Corporation the day after he separated from the U.S. Navy. He is currently working on his master’s degree in business administration. Mitchell and his wife, Dana, live in Simpsonville, S.C., and are expecting a baby in the summer.

Jennifer Nates Kirby ’09, administrative assistant for Columbia College–Fort Worth, ran in several races this year including: Fort Worth Cowtown Run, Fort Worth St. Patrick’s Day Run, Fort Worth Stockyards Run, Fort Worth Zoon Run and the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base “Victims of Violence” Run. Jennifer served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps before working for the college.

Logan Muehlman ’09 reports from sunny Los Angeles, Calif., that he has been accepted into the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Ariz. He will enter the master’s degree program in global management in the fall of 2010.

Sylvester Oluoch ’09 is training to be a financial advisor with Wadell & Reed. Sylvester lives in Columbia, Mo.

Keith Pilgrim ’09 lives in Fort Worth, Texas and works for Lockheed Martin.

Jose Ruiz-Colon ’09 serves in the U.S. Army and lives in Albertville, Ala.
Victoria Schultz ’09 of Pineville, N.C., accepted a position as senior change analyst for Initiative Management & Governance within Bank of America’s mortgage servicing division.

Adrian Tarasoff ’09 is retired from the U.S. Navy and seeking to volunteer at the 4-H extension office or with the local Republican Party office. His oldest son, Anthony, married in 2009. Son, Adrian Jr., goes to Bellingham Technical College for auto collision repair. His daughter, Grace, is president of Future Business Leaders of America. Adrian and his wife, Laura, live in Coupeville, Wash.

Tia Casady ’10 is general manager of Wilson’s Fitness in Columbia, Mo. Tia has been teaching group exercise classes and working one-on-one with clients for more than a decade and holds a number of fitness certifications. She recently moved back to Columbia after living on Hilton Head Island in South Carolina where she managed a health club and sold real estate.

Michelle Porter ’00 to Brett Dicus, March 20, 2010, in Boonville, Mo. Michelle received a bachelor’s degree in business administration and is a small systems consultant for Shelter Insurance in Columbia, Mo. Brett is self-employed in construction in Boonville.

Silas Koonse ’08 to Rebecca Muenks ’08, April 10, 2010, in Loose Creek, Mo. Silas received a degree in marketing and management and works as a claims adjuster for State Farm Insurance in Columbia, Mo. Rebecca earned a degree in marketing and management and is a public relations specialist for Boone County National Bank in Columbia.


In Memoriam

Helen Clifford Van Stone ’29
Dec. 18, 2009

Wilma McMaster Williams ’29
March 7, 2010

Monta Henrichs Crane ’31
Aug. 8, 2009

Carolyn Collier Cockrell ’34
Dec. 24, 2009

Dorothy Holtzendorff Miller ’36 Jan. 17, 2010

Jane Cave Wilson ’36
March 17, 2010

Billie Lou Benson Brinkerhoff ’39 Feb. 11, 2010

Norma Sutherland Smith ’39 Jan. 7, 2010

Urith “Ann” Copeland Mize ’40 March 8, 2010

Sara Carmack Murphy ’40 Jan. 30, 2009

Jane Boswell Veech Parsons ’40
Sept. 19, 2009, age 90, in Louisville, Ky. Jane was a graduate of the Science Hill School in Shelbyville, Ky., and Christian College. She was a member of the Broadway Baptist Church, Smith Circle Women on Missions, PEO Chapter A, the Crescent Hill Women’s Club and the Louisville Women’s Club. She was preceded in death by her husband, Willis Rudd Parsons Sr. Jane is survived by her brother, Alexander Boswell Veech Jr. (Ray), of Deland, Fla.; her son, Willis Rudd Parsons Jr. (Barbara); her daughter, Jennye Lou Parsons Sanders (Ron), of Indianapolis, Ind.; and five grandchildren.

Eleanor Burkett Wilson ’40
Nov. 11, 2009

Shirley Rambo Francis ’42
March 11, 2010

Atha Deffenbaugh Hatch ’43
March 3, 2006

Kathleen Kelly Fiquet ’45
Dec. 28, 2009

Mary Alice Leavenworth Wallach ’46 March 25, 2009

Betty Porter Gaia ’48
Dec. 28, 2009

Jeraldine Askew Walden ’49
March 5, 2010

Earlene Fulkerson Wolfers ’49
July 30, 2009

Shirley Penninger Cooper ’54
Dec. 19, 2009

Marlene Seeley Wilson ’54
Oct. 27, 2009

Marilyn Scharlach French ’56
Nov. 1, 2009, at age 73. She gave her children a lifelong appreciation for music, culture and other creative interests. She enjoyed playing the piano, loved her pets and was a devoted Christian. Marilyn is survived by her sister, Anne Buck, of Sacramento, Calif.; children, David and Angela French, Susan and Patrick Koran and Tyler and Cheryl French, of Edmond, Okla., and Melissa and Jared Emery of Boulder, Colo.; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Nancy McClain duPlessis ’59
Aug. 30, 2009, at age 69. She was born Nov. 10, 1939, in Oklahoma City, Okla. She graduated from N.W. Classen High School in 1957 and attended Christian College for one year. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Central State University in 1977, and just three years ago, started substitute teaching. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Dr. John duPlessis; a daughter, Debora Marks; three grandchildren; and two brothers, Dr. Mack McClain and Dean McClain.

Barbara Akioka Gaines ’61
Jan. 23, 2010
In Memoriam

Judith Johnston Davis ’62
March 22, 2010

Janice Barnhart Copeland ’65
Feb. 3, 2010

Amy Lou Ewing Hastings ’68
Jan. 4, 2009

Maj. David Ray Jackson ’75
May 21, 2009, age 63, at the VA hospital in Tucson, Ariz.
David was born March 17, 1946, in Sikeston, Mo. He graduated from Belleville High School, Belleville, Ill. He received his associate degree from Florissant Valley Community College and his bachelor’s degree from Columbia College. In 1968, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the infantry during the Vietnam War. He continued to serve in the Idaho and Arizona National Guard until his retirement. In his civilian career he worked in sales, marketing, management counseling and traveled throughout the world. He owned a successful insurance business in Phoenix, Ariz. David is survived by his wife, Dorothy; sisters, Shirley and Dorothy; brother, Travis; and step-children Curtis Tice, Cynthia Campbell, Rhonda Stenersen and Michael Brown.

Gary E. Cox ’79
Jan. 13, 2010

Terry L. Buol ’80
March 5, 2010

Donald R. Purkapile ’80
March 8, 2009

Robert C. “Bob” Crooks ’82
Jan. 22, 2010, age 52, in Jefferson City, Mo. Bob was born Sept. 11, 1957, in St. Louis, Mo. He graduated from Jefferson City High School in 1975 and earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Columbia College in 1980. After college, he relocated to Denver, Colo., where he was employed as a marketing representative for Welch’s Beverages. Later, he relocated to Huntsville, Ala., and Atlanta, Ga., and worked in the direct mail business. Bob is survived by his parents, General Frank and Jean Crooks of Jefferson City, Mo., and two sisters, Cathie Stein of Greenwich, Conn., and Barbara Crooks of Boca Raton, Fla.

William David Jones ’82
May 25, 2009

Scott Wilson Patterson ’88
March 19, 2010, age 45, in Columbia, Mo. Scott was born Aug. 10, 1964, in Chicago, Ill. He was a 1982 graduate of Hickman High School in Columbia. He earned a degree from Columbia College in 1988. In 1986, he entered the U.S. Army and served for eight years, attaining the rank of sergeant for the 10th Mountain Division. His tour of duty took him to Germany, South Korea, Newport News, Va., and Fort Drum, N.Y. He returned to civilian life in 1994 in Columbia, taking a position in food service with the Missouri Department of Corrections. He later moved to upstate New York to work as a head cook for the Willard Treatment Center with the New York Department of Corrections. Scott is survived by his wife, Sabine Patterson of Lodi, N.Y., and four siblings, Katherine Patterson Munoz (Lee) of Denver, Colo., William Vance Patterson (Jane) of Fort Worth, Texas, Michael Wayne Patterson of Columbia and Heather Patterson Jones (Randy) of Columbia. He was preceded in death by his mother, Sharon Wilson Patterson of Columbia and his father, Robert Wayne Patterson of Fort Worth.

Charlie LaCaze ’95
July 27, 2009

Montie Sanders ’98
April 5, 2010

Carol E. Lashley ’06
Sept. 2, 2009

Alaina M. Reed ’07
July 10, 2009
Sue Gerard, who taught physical education and recreation at Christian College and Columbia College from 1935-48 and 1952-72, died on July 18, 2010, just two weeks shy of her 96th birthday. The Gerard Pool, which stood on the site of what is now the Atkins-Holman Student Commons, was named for her.

Sue was also the inaugural inductee into the Columbia College sports hall of fame for her unstinting dedication and service.

“Columbia College has lost an irreplaceable asset,” said President Gerald Brouder. “Sue was a bright star not only for the college for most of her adult life, but for the community as well. We will miss her.”

A memorial service was held on Sunday, Aug. 15, at Olivet Christian Church. Donations are suggested to the Pinnacles Youth Foundation or Olivet Christian Church. She donated her body to science.

Born on a farm in 1914 near what is now Old Highway 63 and Walnut Street, Sue earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1936 and a master’s degree in education in 1941, both from the University of Missouri. She started teaching at Christian College before graduation from the university as a fill-in swimming instructor.

She only took four years off to raise her children in the late 40s and early 50s. One of the two, Nancy Russell Gerard, attended Christian (now Columbia) College and graduated in 1969.

Sue was also on the dais to present granddaughter Jennifer Graham with a diploma for a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from CC in 2002 - a proud moment for both.

In her 33 years at Christian College, Sue taught physical education and recreation with an emphasis in swimming and life saving. She also created and taught a bicycling program, led several summer tours of the British Isles and Europe, allowing students to earn college credit for the trip.

By one estimate, she taught and certified more than 2,000 American Red Cross senior life savers and hundreds of water safety instructors. She also coached several intramural sports and sponsored the Dolphins, a synchronized swimming group who presented an annual water show for students and the public into the 1960s.

A lifelong resident of mid-Missouri, Sue began writing stories for such magazines as The Farm Journal, Better Homes and Gardens, Ebony and Reader’s Digest, after graduating from the University of Missouri. In a winter 2002 Columbia College alumni magazine article, Sue said she considered a 1952 Ebony article, “Why I’m Glad My Daughter’s Teacher Is a Negro,” her most influential piece.

She also compiled diary entries, stories, published articles and poetry for her grandchildren and called them “Granny’s Notes.” Some of these ruminations became a weekly column of the same name in the Columbia Daily Tribune in 1994. She also penned two books, My First 84 Years and Just Leave the Dishes – the latter reflecting her philosophy that there are more vital things to do in life than dishes.
Pam McClure 1961–2010

Dr. Pamela Ardith McClure, born January 14, 1961, died at home July 27, 2010, after a valiant struggle with pancreatic cancer. She was only 49.

“Pam was a passionate English professor, a free spirit, a bold thinker and a mentor to many students,” said Dr. Terry Smith, executive vice president and dean for academic affairs.

“Pam and I worked together on a number of programs,” said Kim Coke, director of student development. “She didn’t always like to be confined to the traditional classroom environment… She asked the questions that always seemed too big for answers. She was willing to be a warrior in the face of prejudice and in the presence of ignorance, and so often opened minds to a new understanding of the world around them.”

In November 2009, a benefit auction was held at Orr Street Studios in Columbia to help Pam with her medical expenses. In a measure of the esteem in which the college community held her, the auction reaped over $10,000.

A self-described military brat born in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Pam grew up all over the country. She earned a bachelor’s degree in religious studies in 1987, a master’s degree in English in 1991 and a doctorate in English in 1997, all from the University of Missouri. She taught at the university and at Stephens College before accepting a full-time position at Columbia College as assistant professor of English in 2002.

Of her teaching style, two students said, “I love Dr. McClure! She was my first experience into the world of college and she did not disappoint! She was exactly what you see in the movies. She is the best!” and “Any class with this woman is worth taking. She is hilarious… She makes English fun!”

Pam was also a prolific poet, short story writer, and lecturer who read on campuses across the country, published in such literary magazines as Montserrat Review, Shenandoah, Prairie Schooner, Passages North, Poetry Daily and Colorado Review. Her books include Rock Dove from Red Dragonfly Press and illustrated by Mike Sleadd, and three fine Sutton Hoo Press chapbooks, Sweet Geometry, Blood Lily and Holding the Air.

Pam was awarded an Academy of American Poets prize and was poet in residence at the Poet’s House in Donegal, Ireland, in 2001, among other honors, awards and prizes.

In addition to her academic work and writing, she also taught horseback riding, worked as a paramedic, accompanied herself on the guitar, drew and painted and kept a menagerie of pets including numerous dogs, horses and miniature Sicilian donkeys.

She is survived by her partner, Tracy Toler, sister Donna McClure Begley, and five nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Pam’s name to animal sanctuary Columbia Second Chance.

Here are some of her poems:
http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article_af0be6d5-6141-53af-816b-a6feaa8901e78.html?print=1
http://www.reddragonflypress.org/music/1371
What’s New?

Columbia College and your classmates want to know about the latest milestones in your life. Complete the form below, and we’ll share your personal and professional accomplishments with your former classmates. Alumni Information Update now online at www.ColumbiaCollegeAlumni.org

Submission deadline for the Winter 2010 issue is November 30, 2010.

Name __________________________________ Year graduated ____________________________

(Please include maiden name if applicable.)

Columbia College campus attended _____________________________________________________

Job title ________________________________ Employer __________________________________

Business address ________________________ __________________________________________

Business phone __________________________ __________________________________________

New position  □ Yes  □ No ______________ Effective __________________________________

Home address ______________________________________________________________________

City ____________________________________ State ____________________ ZIP ____________

Telephone ______________________________ E-mail ____________________________________

Name of spouse ____________________________________________________________________

Spouse’s job title ________________________ Employer __________________________________

Business address __________________________________________________________________

Business phone______________________________________________________________________

New position  □ Yes  □ No

Would you like to volunteer for alumni events in your area?  □ Yes  □ No

Would you like to become an alumni mentor?  □ Yes  □ No

News and comments (Please attach additional information if necessary. Thank you.)

_________________________________________________________________________________

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Columbia College Alumni Relations Office • 1001 Rogers St. • Columbia, MO 65216
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## The CC Alumni Collection

**Shop online at [www.ColumbiaCollegeAlumni.org](http://www.ColumbiaCollegeAlumni.org)**

All clothing items are available with Columbia College or Christian College logos.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. T-shirt with imprinted logo</td>
<td>Navy, pink, serene green, indigo blue, white and sport gray</td>
<td>M-XL $12, XXL $14</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Sweatshirt with imprinted logo</td>
<td>Navy, sport gray and pink</td>
<td>M-XL $25, XXL $28</td>
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<td>3. Hooded pullover sweatshirt with imprinted logo</td>
<td>Navy, sport gray and pink</td>
<td>M-XL $28, XXL $33</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. IZOD® polo shirt with embroidered logo</td>
<td>Navy and white</td>
<td>M-XL $27, XXL $30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Sweatshirt with embroidered logo</td>
<td>Navy, sport gray and pink</td>
<td>M-XL $30, XXL $35</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Long sleeve T-shirt with imprinted logo</td>
<td>White, sport gray and navy</td>
<td>M-XL $15, XXL $17</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Denim shirt with embroidered logo</td>
<td>$35, XXL $37</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Color travel mugs</td>
<td>16 oz. tumbler $15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Wave travel mug</td>
<td>16 oz. stainless/acrylic tumbler $18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Stainless travel mug</td>
<td>16 oz. stainless tumbler $16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Ceramic coffee mug</td>
<td>Colors: Mint, charcoal, robin’s egg blue and brown $6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Cotton alumni hat</td>
<td>Colors: Pink, navy and khaki $14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Transparent sports bottle</td>
<td>Colors: blue and black $7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Travel Mug with Handle</td>
<td>16 oz. stainless steel $10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Shipping charges:**
- U.S. Postal Service: $8 and $1 for each additional item
- FedEx Two Day: $13 and $2 for each additional item
- FedEx Priority - Next Day: $20 and $5 for each additional item

Make Check payable to Columbi College Alumni Association or charge to:

- Mastercard
- VISA
- Discover

Account Number: _________________________ Expiration Date: _____/______

Mail order to:
**Columbia College, Alumni Relations • 1001 Rogers St • Columbia, MO 65216**

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. U.S. postage paid only.
affinity

“...our purpose is to engender a greater love for alma mater.”

– Dr. Gerald T. Brouder
President