

4-1-2013

Wanderer: Spring 2013

Columbia College Chicago

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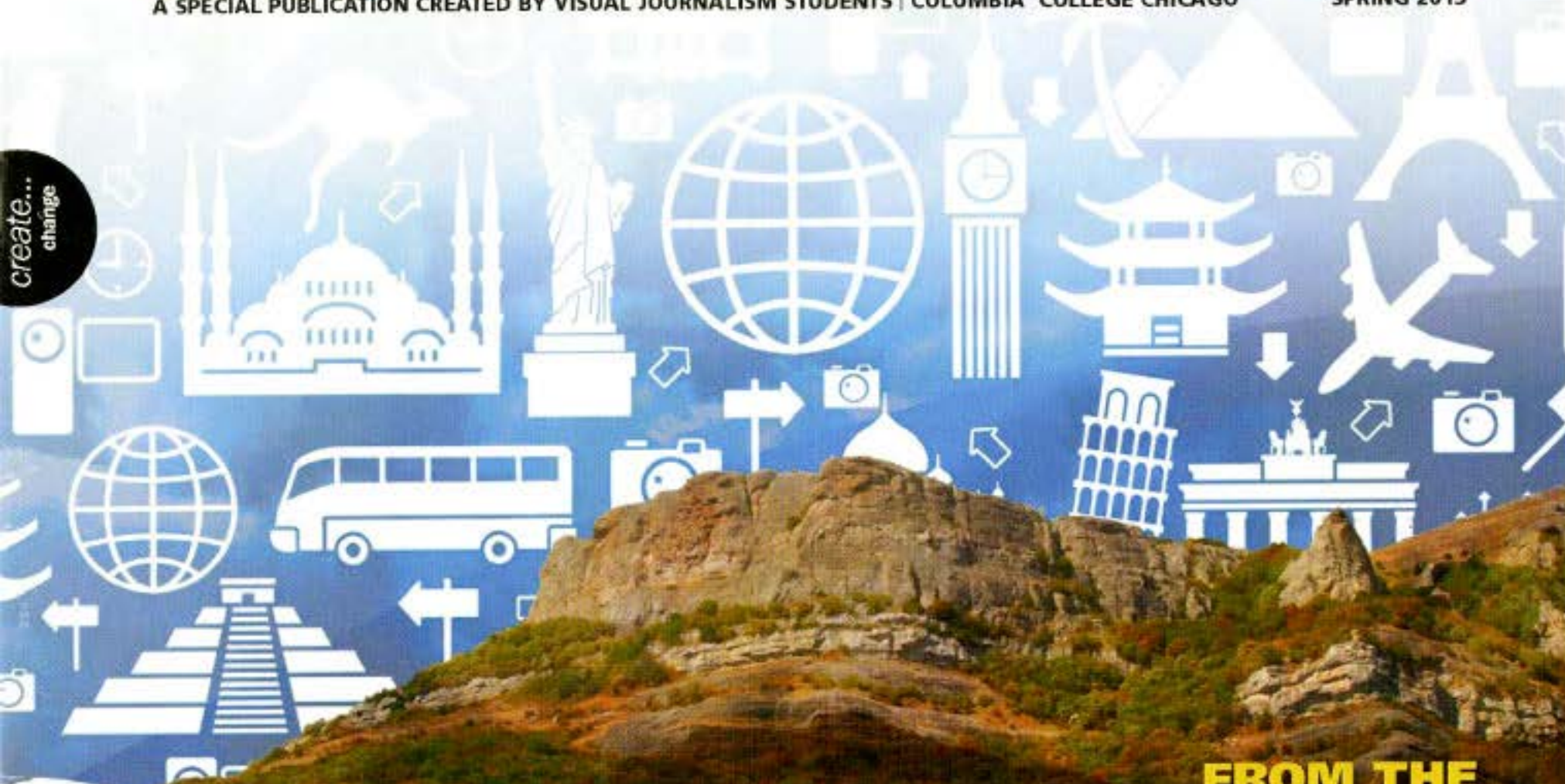
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WANDERER

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION CREATED BY VISUAL JOURNALISM STUDENTS | COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

SPRING 2013

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WORLD TO
THE UNITED
STATES**

25

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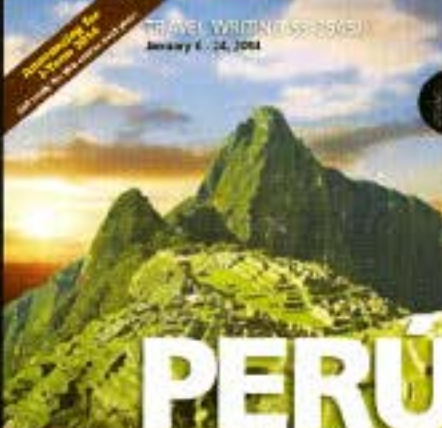
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JOURNALISM
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letter from the editor

SPRING 2013



WE LIVE IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY where customs and values keep shifting because of the constant flow of immigrants. Newcomers continue to shape the country. At the same time, our society has traditions, customs and expectations to which foreigners must adapt.

Columbia College Chicago, with its diverse population, is a microcosm of our society. Students from 55 countries study in our buildings, and international faculty members share their knowledge in classrooms all over the campus.

This issue of **Wanderer International Faculty** was established to showcase the lives and experiences of the diverse faculty members who work in our college and contribute to the student experience.

Because I'm an international instructor myself, I know firsthand how important it is to work with a diverse audience. It can also be challenging. International faculty members need to find a niche within the organization, adapt and be prepared to share their similarities and differences with students as well as other faculty members.

Luckily, Columbia College Chicago welcomes internationalism.

Years ago, when I was in graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a student asked me, "Where are you from?" I responded, "Peru." He replied: "Oh, Beirut!" It was a funny moment that made me smile. Another international student was asked the same question. When he said he was from Brazil, the response was: "Brazil? Africa is nice!" I'm sure you have heard similar stories that made you wonder how much we really know about other countries and cultures.

With that in mind, this issue of *Wanderer* was put together. We want to show the world through the eyes and hearts of our international faculty at Columbia. My students from the Visual Journalism course interviewed 25 faculty members who were born in other countries. To help them conduct their interviews, the students were coached in topics like immigration, citizenship, residency, visas and work permits. For their final project, they designed magazine spreads that included stories, sidebars, photos and graphics.

The Columbia College faculty showcased in this issue have shared their life stories and allowed the students to witness how complex yet interesting the acculturation process can be. For an immigrant, moving to the U.S. is both an exciting and challenging experience. We're excited to live in the land of opportunity, but we also miss the life we left behind, including the families, traditions and values that formed us.

My students and I want to thank all the faculty members who allowed us to look into their lives. Also, our sincere thanks to the Journalism Department and the Office of International Student Affairs of Columbia College Chicago for their support in putting this edition together.

Please enjoy this small window on the world.

Elio Leturia, Associate Professor, Journalism

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This publication has been possible thanks to the sponsorship and support of the Journalism Department and the School of Media Arts of Columbia College Chicago

SPECIAL THANKS

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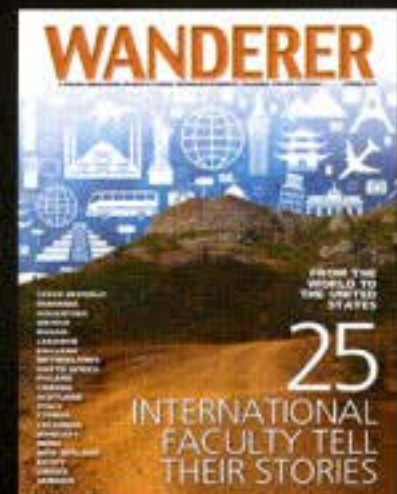
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Wanderer International Faculty magazine is a project produced by the **Visual Journalism** students of the Department of Journalism of Columbia College Chicago. Students wrote, edited, designed and laid out each story as his or her final class project. For this issue, the goal of the publication has been to highlight the lives of foreign-born faculty, share their experiences and show Columbia College commitment in diversity and recruitment.



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In **J-Term 2014**, Associate Professors Elio Leturia and Teresa Puente will be teaching **Travel Writing: Peru**, based in Lima, with trips to Cusco and Macchu Picchu. It is open to all majors, with permission of the instructor. Email eleturia@colum.edu for more information.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS by JOSH SMITH

Robert Buchar's passion for film took him to places he had only seen in the movies

Robert Buchar has been teaching cinematography at Columbia College since 1990. He was born in the Czech Republic and studied photography and film in Prague.

BY ODALIS ADRIAN

When you were born, the Czech Republic was still known as Czechoslovakia under a Communist regime.

What was it like growing up?

Well, it's hard to imagine for you guys. You've never lived in such an environment. I'll make it simple. I was born in a little town in Eastern Bohemia, and my father was a business man. He owned a factory, and after the Communist takeover in 1948 the whole family was pretty much cursed because they had become bourgeois/capitalist. I went through grammar school as an underdog because I was practically cursed. But then the 60s came and things started to change. I was lucky enough to sneak through the cracks and managed to get into a prestigious high school in Prague in 1966.

What made you want to move to Prague and study film?

Yeah, that's a good question. You know, in those days in Europe, you had to decide after 8th or 9th grade what you wanted to do because you couldn't lat-

er change your mind and study something else. I had good grades so I had two options: I could go to study film - but to study film you had to study photography first - or, I could go study nuclear physics. So I chose film. I was doing photography since I was ten years old, so at that time when I was 15, I was already shooting my 8 mm films. During the summers I would work at the local weekly paper taking pictures for the Sunday football games.

Who taught you how to photograph?

Myself, I got my first camera from my father and it sort of snowballed from there.

I can mention one more thing: When I got into school in Prague, this is something I realized many years later, not immediately, I had a clean slate - a fresh start. Nobody knew who I was. So af-

ter one year in Prague when I was like 17, I got an internship as a photographer at the President's office. It was a huge jump from the bottom to the top, meeting completely different type of people and getting into politics. But it was a total accident.

Czech New Wave sprouted from your art school. Were you involved in any way in the scene?

No, I was a generation younger so when I got there it had just ended. It ended with the Soviet invasion.

Were you inspired by any of the films?

Oh of course, it inspired everybody. It was a big thing. It was

leaving the country?

No, it had never crossed my mind.

What led to your move to the United States?

It all started with the Russian invasion in 1968. By 1972 they had pretty much changed and taken over everything. A bunch of professors got fired at the film academy and were replaced by new people that were sympathetic to the new regime. After I graduated there came a big push from the Communist Party where all people working in the media must be Communist Party members. Most of us who weren't in the Communist Party were never actually employed, we were like freelancers. It

THROUGH AN

probably what made me want to make movies. What's interesting about Czech New Wave, compared to Italian cinema or French New Wave, is that everyone was different. There were no two filmmakers doing something remotely similar. So you have some 15 directors and everybody was pursuing their own way of how to make films and how to tell a story. It was really fascinating and inspiring. Different styles, different narratives.

Were the films critical of Communism?

Not necessarily. Some were very stylistic, some were very critical. Communism did something to filmmaking in that time period. Because there was a censorship on dialogue, filmmakers had to find a way to say certain things without actually saying it. That led to more stylized films with more symbolism and parallels. They had to find a way so that the censors didn't see it and people still got it.

When you were in school, did you have any intention of

came to the point where they said if you don't join the party you will have to find another job. So I had to figure out how to get out.

Having never been to the United States prior to your move, did you experience a big culture shock?

Yes. People told us that this is like a different planet—not a different country—a different planet. But I had been to Western Europe when I was working for the President's office, so I knew what it was like outside. But again, it wasn't like America. It's completely different than Western Europe.

What were some of the biggest differences between the two countries?

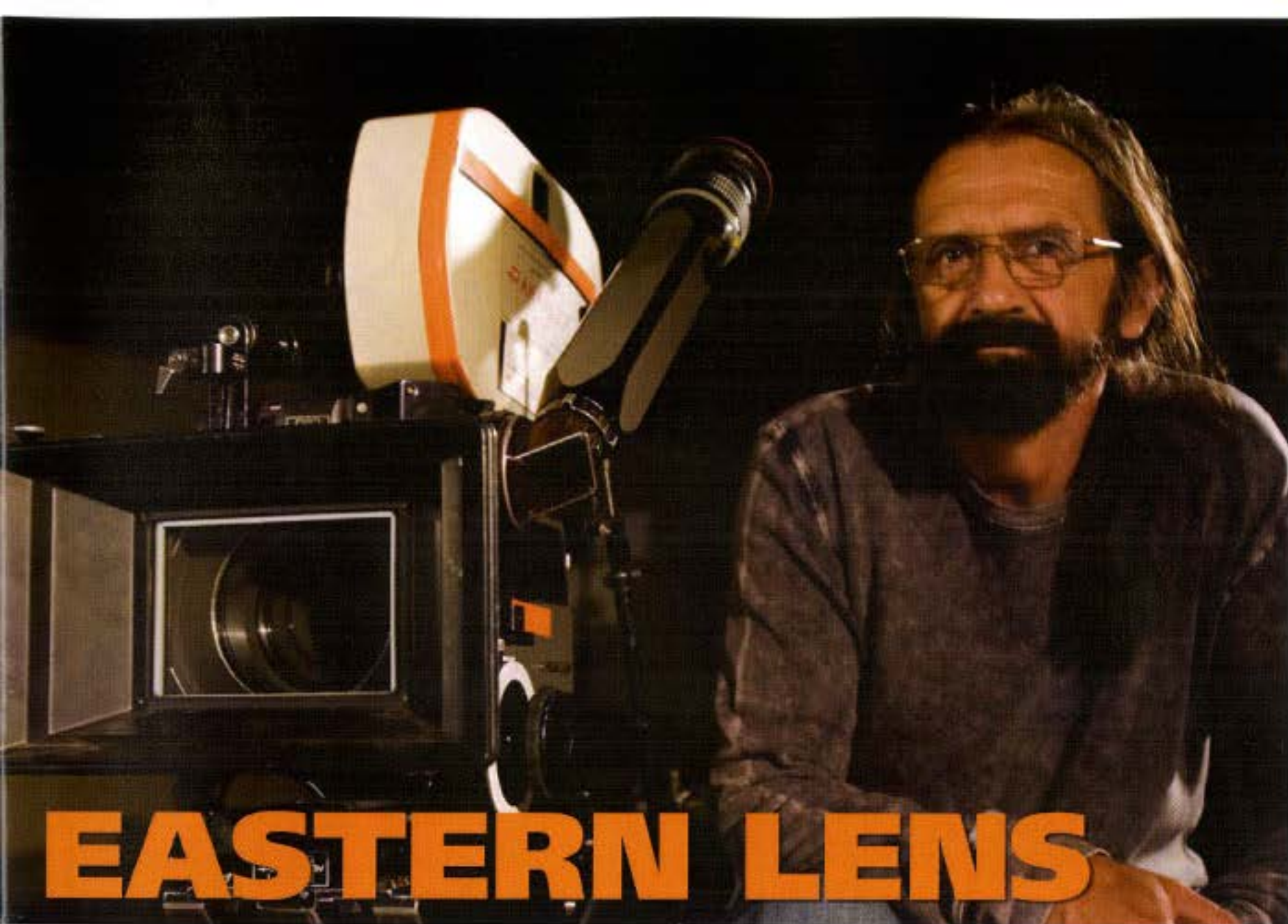
Freedom. Everything functioning, happy, smiling people. Things like that.

Did you face any hardships?

Like any other immigrant, when you come into a new country and you don't speak the language, there are obvious hardships. I couldn't bring any of my work with me, so the first couple of years were tough. I worked a

Buchar attended FAMU—the Film Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. This is also where he later returned to film and directed his first documentary film, *The Velvet Revolution*





Courtesy ROBERT BUCHAR

EASTERN LENS

CZECH NEW WAVE

Czechoslovak New Wave was an artistic movement in cinema that sprouted from the Film and TV School of The Academy of Performing Arts in Prague during the early 1960s. This is a list of some of the most prevalent films in the genre.

1. The Joke
2. Loves of a Blonde
3. The White Dove
4. The Firemen's Ball
5. Closely Observed Trains
6. The Cremator
7. Daisies
8. Hotel For Strangers
9. The Organ
10. Intimate Lighting

Source: WWW.LISTAL.COM

lot of different jobs, construction, custodial, you name it.

You teach cinematography, but you directed the documentary "Velvet Revolution"?

Yeah, I directed it because it was a really low budget type of situation and I couldn't find anybody to direct it—it had to be someone who is Czech, not Ameri-

can. It was my first sabbatical and I had to come up with something, and I thought it was a good idea. I took one of my graduate students as a co-director to give it a more American perspective and we went to Prague and shot it. Interestingly enough it was good timing. It was in 1999 and the country was in a deep depression from the hangover of the collapse of communism and this new regime, and all these people hadn't seen me in 20 years. I didn't set anything up, I just went to see different people and knocked on the door and took out my little camera. Nobody took it as a serious thing, so they were really open. It's how I got all those interviews that nobody else could probably get.

You went back to Prague when it was completely different. How did it make you feel?

The first time I went back was in 1998. It was very different. In fact, it was shocking. I was driving on Sunday morning and I looked out the window and there was a huge billboard in English saying, 'Now Playing, Pinocchio!' It

was funny! So everything was the same; same street, same houses, but the atmosphere was completely different. Because now downtown Prague wasn't Prague anymore. There were no Czechs, there were only tourists. It was like walking into Venice Beach.

How did you end up working at Columbia?

After a while I was so frustrated working for television so I started looking for something else. Most immigrant filmmakers pretty much end up teaching so I said, 'Well that's the only way to go.' I tried a couple of places and I answered an ad in a magazine and was hired here to teach cinematography.

Do you prefer cinematography to directing?

Oh, of course. I consider myself to be a cinematographer. I don't have any directive, producing or screenwriting ambitions. I like the part where you take the text, you read it, and then you visualize it. That's the most exciting time of filmmaking for me because that is when your imagination goes

wild, you fantasize, and then you adapt it to the screen.

Would you ever live in Prague again?

No. Under no circumstances. No way. I like it here and I couldn't stand the atmosphere or even the mentality of people there. It's hard to explain. Even if I go back and I meet with people I knew 30 years ago there would be nothing to discuss. It takes a while to digest the American mentality, but once you get it, it gets stuck in you, and they wouldn't understand it. Besides, regardless what media tell you, former communists are still in charge of everything over there anyway.

Are you working on any new projects?

I just finished my new documentary feature "The Collapse of Communism: The Untold story" which was released this summer on DVD. Now I have a new project: I want to go through all of my photography files and put together a portfolio, a photography exhibit, or even a photography book.

ROMANIA, TRANSYLVANIA AND CLUJ-NAPOCA

Cluj-Napoca, also known as Kolozsvár (Hungarian) and Klausenburg (German), is a major city in northwestern Romania near the Hungarian border. The city is home to historic buildings and monuments as well as

Chicago, Illinois
about 5,012
miles away

universities and has the 4th-largest city in all of Romania. But where in the world is this city, in comparison to other major cities and landmarks? Cluj-Napoca, which means "a closing in the valley," is near...

Dracula's Castle
about 122
miles away

Paris, France
about 994
miles away

Rome, Italy
about 645
miles away

Moscow, Russia
about 865
miles away



Bucharest, Romania
about 203
miles away

Budapest, Hungary
about 220
miles away

New York City, NY
about 4,566
miles away

Berlin, Germany
about 604
miles away

CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

From a village in Romania to the busy streets of Chicago, Beatrix Büdy is home anywhere in the world.

BY KRISTINA BUDGIN

Beatrix Büdy sat in her office, filled with vintage furniture, books, and a colorful pouch that contains chocolates from the candy shop near her

home in Chicago. She tells funny stories about her childhood in Romania and experiences adjusting to American culture.

Though she is proud of her ethnicity, she explained it's not what defines her. Beatrix considers herself a "Weltbewohner," or a citizen of the world.

"I love that word," Büdy

said. "The world is the world... people are people everywhere. At one point, nationality is just an outfit."

Büdy was born in Transylvania in a town known by three names: Cluj-Napoca (Romanian), Kolozsvár (Hungarian), and Klausenburg (German). Though her name is Hungarian, she says she has a "dual ethnic-

ity," though it wasn't accepted in Romania.

"By definition, I call myself Hungarian because it is the minority," Büdy said. "I am Romanian by default. I am both [Hungarian and Romanian], I never felt just one or the other."

Büdy, a full-time science teacher at Columbia College Chicago, cultivated an interest in science at a young age. Because her mother was a chemist and her father was a physics teacher, science games, jokes, and experiments were part of an ordinary day.

"Chemistry and physics were part of my life," Büdy said. "They were just fun."

While still in Romania, Büdy studied at Babes-Bolyai University, in Cluj, where she received a Master's in Science degree in chemical engineering. She decided that she wanted to study chemistry outside of Romania, so she applied to schools in the U.S.

"I wanted to get a chemistry degree outside of the country





Courtesy BEATRIX BÜDY



KRISTINA BUDGIN

TOP In one of Columbia College Chicago's science labs, Büdy separates water and oil. "I always like to learn things," Büdy said. "It's not just chemistry or biochemistry, it's almost everything."

LEFT Büdy, in her home in Chicago. Though most of Büdy's immediate family in Romania has passed away, she returns often to visit other family and friends. For now, she does not intend to return to Cluj-Napoca permanently.

A ROMANIAN SCAVENGER HUNT

A few things you'll probably find in Romania...and a few that you won't.

Found in Romania	Not Found in Romania
Dracula's Castle	vampires
mountains	a legal drinking age
lots of soups	lots of bananas
Democracy	Communism
mud volcanoes	volcanoes

to see how other people do it," Büdy said.

She attended Cleveland State University, where she received her master's in Chemistry and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine/Clinical Chemistry/Biochemistry. While at Cleveland State, Büdy spent time with the Asian

Student Association and started to write novels to improve her English.

Though she initially did not intend to stay in the U.S., Büdy eventually decided that she did not want to return to Romania's "obsolete, restrictive social patterns." She wanted to get out of the "dome" of Romania to grow beyond it.

"I'm growing seedlings now, and you have that dome...the plastic," Büdy said. "And they grow so nice, and when they start to touch it, they rot away because they reach the plastic. I thought...I'm growing out [of] that place; it's too small for me. I wanted to get out of it to grow somewhere else."

After leaving Cleveland State, Büdy came to Chicago to pursue her love of teaching as a professor of science at Columbia. She fell in love with Chicago and adored Columbia's smaller class sizes and creative, artistic environment.

"Up to this day, it's my dream job," Büdy said. "I feel very much at home here, because Columbia...has the same feel as America; no matter how crazy you are, you can find your kind of crazy."

Due to Büdy's sincere passion for teaching coupled with her love of learning, it should come as no surprise that she won CCC's Excellence in Teaching Award in 2008.

Büdy currently lives in Chicago with her significant other. She enjoys "tinkering" in her workshop in her basement, martial arts and gardening. She plans to take a trip to Romania this summer. Though she looks forward to seeing her family and friends, she has no intention of returning to Romania permanently.

"I return to the place, but I don't return to the time," Büdy said. "I stayed [in the U.S.] because of freedom. Because I can be whomever I am. I can just be."

BY DAN HYLAND

The well-traveled Columbia College associate professor Marcelo Caplan uses his knowledge to give back to the community.

Caplan, a native Argentine, moved to the United States from Haifa, Israel, in August 1998 when Columbia offered him a teaching job in the Science Institute. At the college, he developed his own class called Science and Technology in the Arts. However, his most prominent work is done with Columbia's Science Institute.

Caplan said the Science Institute's mission is to promote Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to Chicago's inner-city students through after-school programs. The kids make many items during the after-school activities like greenhouses, solar karts, compasses and xylophones.

"My priority is to motivate kids who want to learn science and mathematics," said Caplan.

The Science Institute has already held three junior symposiums this school year about cancer biology and alternative energies. The science sessions are meant to teach students about alternative energies and sustainable processes to reduce energy dependence.

"I want people to be scientifically literate so they can make educated decisions," said Caplan.

The Science Institute's teachers use informal science education methods to create new and interesting ways for Chicago Public School students to learn. Experiments are a big part of the program's appeal, said Caplan.

Students go through each step of solar power, just like a scientist. They run tests on the solar cells to find out how they work and then investigate and learn what the results mean. By the end, they are able to design and build their own solar powered items.

Caplan, 49, grew up in Argentina during the time when coups were common. Then he went to Israel during a time of unrest before finally settling in the United



ABOVE Caplan's young after school students learn how to build xylophones. **RIGHT** CPS students create green houses during a Columbia College Chicago Science Institute Day.

THE SOLAR SCIENTIST



Caplan uses brain power to create awareness about solar power.

ARGENTINA GOT BEEF

The second largest South American country has the world's highest consumption rate of beef.



States to continue his career in science.

Caplan left Argentina during the Falklands War in 1982 between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

"People were being killed for being against the military government," said Caplan.

Until Caplan was 18, he lived in the Argentinean capital, Buenos Aires. Throughout this era there were three political coups that overthrew the government and many human rights laws were violated.

"Young people started to support a military dictatorship, it didn't make any sense to me," said Caplan. "At that point I decided that I needed to leave."

He left all his family in Argentina at 18 with nothing. He hasn't been back since 2006.

"There is a problem with distance, time and money," said Caplan. "I miss the friendship of the

community that I left in Argentina when I was 18."

Caplan moved to Haifa, Israel, in 1982 to begin his new life. During his time in Haifa, Caplan was a theater sound and light technician as he went to school at the prestigious Technion, Israel Institute of Technology.

In 1991, Caplan received a B.S. in electrical engineering from Technion and got married. After having two children in Israel, Caplan's wife wanted to move.

Even with all his rewarding work at Columbia, Caplan's greatest accomplishment is his family. "If you want to continue personally growing, the first thing you can do is to make a strong family to contribute your growth," said Caplan.

So they moved for the last time to the United States, but the Caplans were in for a completely different society than they have experienced.

"The American society is very shallow, it's totally individualistic," said Caplan. "Now that I'm a citizen I have the right to say whatever. When you're a temporary resident or permanent resident, you're a guest.

It doesn't matter if you have a green card, you're a guest and you need to respect the country."

"My heart is in anyplace I live," said Caplan, when asked what is his favorite place to live. "Here is the best I have, it's what I have, so I'm happy."

Although Caplan has some issues with this country's lifestyle, he hasn't had a problem adapting to the language. "The majority of people don't learn another language because they don't have the need," said Caplan. "When you have the need to communicate, you will learn the language. Language is a tool, so if you need the tool you'll learn how to use it."

In Caplan's spare time he spends his time outdoors with his family. They go on 60-mile bike rides, camping with "no resources" and ski trips at the local slopes.

FROM ARGENTINA TO ISRAEL



After leaving Argentina, Caplan found a home in Haifa, Israel, as he learned his trade, electrical engineering. The third largest city in Israel, Haifa has more residents than any northern city in the country.

Caplan said he spent nearly 17 years in Haifa, from 1982 to 1998, which is just one year less than he spent in Argentina. In his time there he graduated from college, got married and learned how to become a community leader.

His college alma mater, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology has one of the best electrical engineering faculties, according to US News' "World's Best Colleges and Universities."

For his first couple years in Israel, Caplan became very involved in community affairs

through Jewish community groups in the area.

Caplan found another trade as a student at Technion, when he did the light and sound for local theaters in Haifa. "It's a way to survive,"

said Caplan about his light and sound career. "People are waitresses; that was a gig."

Although Caplan enjoyed his time in Israel, there are a lot of problems in the country. Throughout the first half of his time there, the country went through two violent battles during the First Lebanon War and an uprising that lasted six years. In the early 1990s Israel's relations with surrounding countries worsened until 2006 when a month-long Second Lebanon War broke out. Despite the country's conflicts Caplan still thinks that Israel has tremendous potential because of its youth.

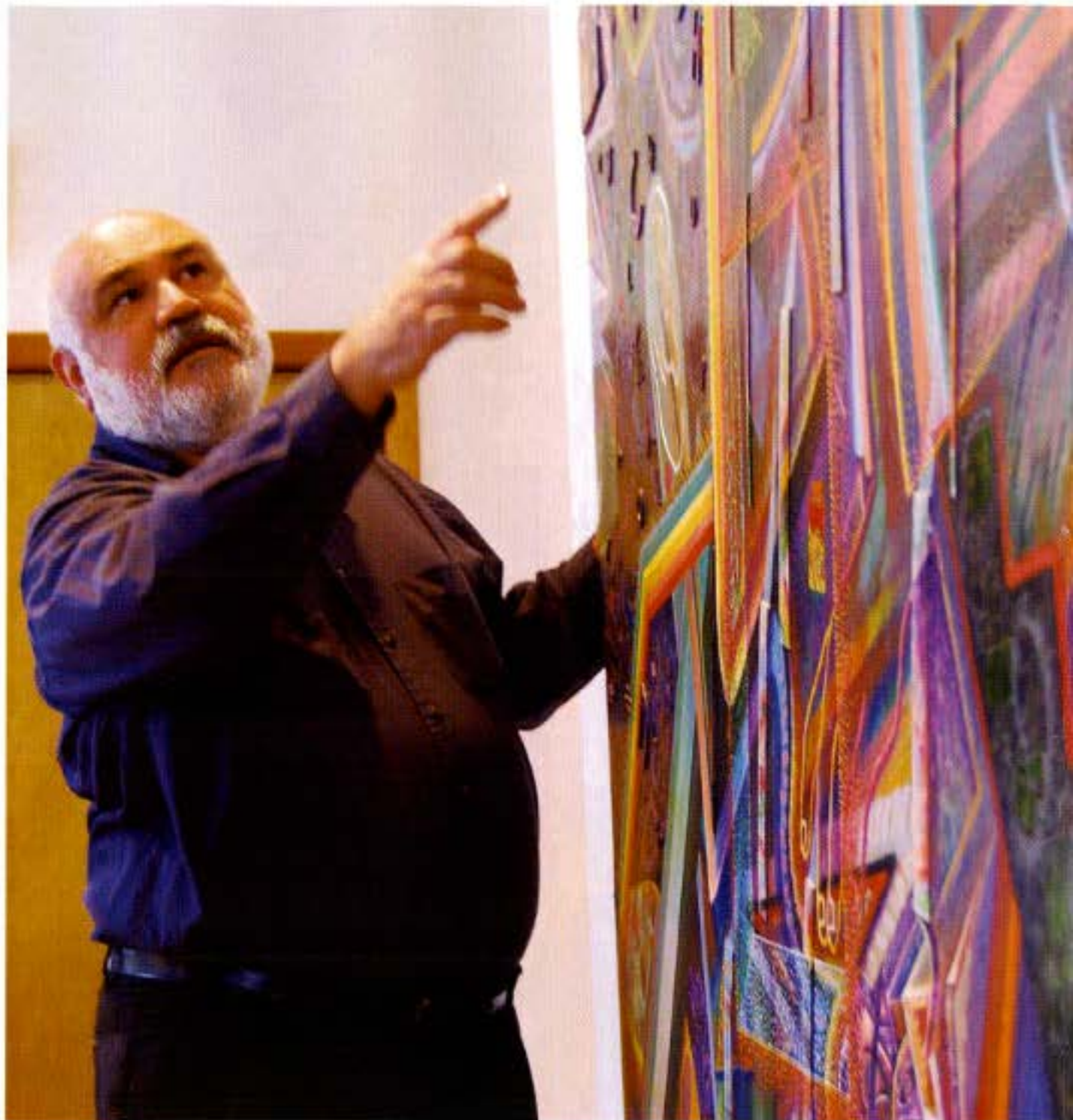
"With all the politics and all the problems they have, Israel is a young country, so you have a lot of possibilities to grow and make your own mark," said Caplan.



"My priority is to motivate kids who want to learn science and mathematics"

MAN IN THE MURAL

Now an associate professor, Columbia College's Mario Castillo speaks on his art, life, and journey from Mexico to Chicago



BY SILVIA CHAVEZ

The term "semen acrylic" might be unfamiliar to those who have not dabbled in the world of art- or more specifically- who have not experienced Mario Castillo's art. It refers to using one's own bodily fluids to represent a "body presence" in the art work itself, one of the many hidden characteristics that can be seen in Castillo's work.

Surrounded by his paintings in the Prospectus Art Gallery located in the Pilsen neighborhood, Castillo spoke about his artwork as well as his journey from Mexico to Chicago and his current role as associate professor in the Art and Design Department at Columbia College.

▼ Early Life

Born in 1945 in the town of Rio Bravo in the Mexican state of Coahuila, Castillo explained his African-American lineage. His great grandmother, Salome Morton who was of African-American descent, came into Mexico in a freedom march from the Louisiana Purchase territory. His connection to his African roots can be seen in his artwork through the lively depictions of the culture and its iconographic images.

Castillo lost his father at an early age due to a fatal electrical accident. His mother Maria, a teacher and artist, taught him perseverance, which would eventually lead him onto a successful path. In 1955 she remarried and they moved into Crystal City, Texas, where at the age of 10 Castillo became a child migrant worker, which moved him throughout

the U.S. He spoke of his moving into the "Tex-Mex" subculture where he went into somewhat of a culture shock. Unfortunately his mother's marriage ended in divorce, which prompted them to move to Chicago.

▼ Education and Work

After graduating and receiving his B.F.A. from the Art Institute of Chicago, he says that his mother later married Harold Allen, the chair of the Photography Department at SAIC and a renowned photographer.

Castillo recalls he first began flirting with the idea of art at the age of five while doodling in his mother's classrooms. "I guess you can say that those times produced my first murals," Castillo said with a chuckle.

After earning his M.F.A. at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, Mario moved to Illinois



Mario Castillo with one of his paintings from his exhibit, *Ancestral Traces*, in the Prospectus Art Gallery.

JOSE CORCOLES

and became a teacher at the University of Illinois where he was supposed to remain for six years but then ended abruptly in his third year. He explained that he organized the "Latino Graphics" exhibition to share his people's culture, but was quickly rejected, in particular by the director of painting, who accused Castillo of being a racist. As the conflicts between Castillo and the school continued he chose to leave the institution and move back to California.

"I thought I could land a job again, but it wasn't that easy... I worked at different places teaching and all that, but for a long time I couldn't do anything," Castillo said. This was a time that moved him into a new direction, singing with a mariachi band in East L.A. in which he spent 10 years of his adult life writing *rancheras*, a traditional genre in Mexican music using folk themes and social issues to generate a ballad or "corrido."

▼ The Art

Despite the offers to expand his singer-songwriter career, "My heart is with this stuff [art]," Castillo said.

As he sat across from me, staring into the series of small

paintings depicting the Tsunami in Japan, (which were eerily completed before the actual event) Mario touched on his personal life. "I had encounters... [He says with a brimming laugh] it was the 70s! But it's a difficult thing... the love would have to be extremely strong... it's very difficult as an artist to have a family and at the same time dedicate yourself to your work," Castillo said. He explains that his social life over the years has remained just that of a free-spirited soul hitchhiking its way throughout the universe he creates and perhaps is the reason he never married or had kids.

▼ Inside the work

When looking at Castillo's work, particularly in his current exhibit, "Ancestral Traces" in the Prospectus gallery, one might classify it under the post-modern genre. In his displayed works, which date back to 1991, Castillo explained that he went through different phases and experimented with various techniques and mediums.

Here is where one can see his influences throughout his work such as Marcel Duchamp, José Orozco, Diego Rivera, David Siqueiros and many others. The inception of many of his compositions is created by using his past works and exercising the method of layering. "Someone once asked me in the 90s what type of computer software I used to create my art and I responded... none," Castillo said. Some of his artworks take years to finish because of this process and the details he implements into each piece.

Castillo has his own theory on energy, which he says is a big factor while producing his work. He spoke of a time where he used to sleep wrapped in his canvases before he painted them so he could transfer his energy onto them. The same concept goes with the 1960s "body art" movement which he says inspired him to use actual mother's milk and employ his semen into the acrylic paint. Castillo's work cannot be classified in a single genre. It

A MAN WHO WEARS MANY HATS

Before Mario Castillo landed at Columbia College he held over 10 different jobs:

1. Migrant worker at the age of ten
2. Newspaper boy
3. Bagging groceries at grocery store
4. Butcher
5. Stock boy at supermarket
6. Commercial artist
7. Portrait artist
8. Fine artist
9. Art teacher for children
10. Arts & crafts teacher for senior citizens
11. Neighborhood improvement field head
12. Mural director
13. Singer with a Mariachi band

is its own being, which depicts various cultural themes as well as the concept of birth, life and death through techniques borrowed from surrealism, perceptualism, abstractism, optical art, cave art and impressionism.

▼ "The Rat Race"


His dedication over the years has brought him national recognition as well as international attributions. From his first mural at Lane Tech High School to the first Latino mural in Chicago protesting the Vietnam war, Castillo has left artistic and socio-political imprints from coast to coast. He currently serves as an associate professor at Columbia College where he is a full-time faculty member and continues to exhibit and create artwork. Although he would like to retire one day in his native Mexico, he is skeptical about going back especially in the midst of the country's current rise in crime and violence escalated by the increasing problem of drug cartels and government corruption. Yet he appears hopeful. "I miss everything really, I miss the warmth, the flavor of life if you can call it that... it's much different here... I want to be able to live a peaceful life without the rat race being on my shoulders."

RIO BRAVO IN THE STATE OF COAHUILA, IS ABOUT 40 MILES FROM THE U.S. BORDER



Source GOOGLE MAPS

SILVIA CHAVEZ



Mark Davidov has written multiple works in both the Russian and English language.

RYAN GUY

THE DREAM IS NOT ONLY AMERICAN

Mark Davidov, a structural linguist and a semiotician, also teaches creative writing and aims to reveal the importance of international faculty to his students.

BY KRYSTAL CAHA

Mark Davidov sits in a classroom showing off his previous written works. A very animated man, he talks a lot with his hands, which complement a contagious smile. He chuckles now and then, a relatively quiet but joyous laugh. He's dressed to impress, from his checkered suit to his paisley tie

and brown dress shoes. He displays a pin on the left side of his jacket lapel from his alma mater, Moscow State University. A man who hails from Moscow, Russia, he was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1946. Davidov lived there for two years while his father was a military engineer after World War II.

From those days, Davidov recalls one phrase he learned in German courtesy of his Frau

(his caretaker): "Ich bin 2 Jahre alt, haben aber nicht eine Frau noch," which means "I am 2 years old, but do not have a wife yet."

After spending two years in Germany, Davidov and his family moved to Moscow, where he lived until 1991. He worked in Moscow from the time he was 14 and after he graduated from Moscow State University, he worked in various science

research institutes. He's also been a member of the Moscow Union of Writers since 1980. He has also worked as a freelance writer for many years.

Coming to America

During a visit to his cousin and best friend in Glencoe (a suburb of Chicago), he decided he would apply for jobs and see what happened. Davidov says, "I think it was 1990, I decided,

'Okay, I'm so great, I'm a genius, I'm a writer, I'm a poet, maybe somebody wants me. Russia was a hot item, you know, so I was very arrogant, ambitious, and naïve.'

After some unsuccessful attempts with résumés and calls for jobs, Davidov finally caught his break with Columbia College's fiction writing department. He met with the chair of that department and after explaining his ideas and his methodology, he received one course to try out. Columbia wasted no time with Davidov: he arrived in America on what he believes was an exchange scholars visa on Feb. 14, 1991 and was teaching his first course by Feb. 15, the next day.

When asked when he decided he wanted to come to America, Davidov replied, "That's an interesting question; I didn't decide, it happened." The process seemed no different when it came to his journey to the United States. Six months after he got his visa and started teaching, his wife and daughter joined him in the U.S. Although he was teaching, he had to pick up a side job for more money. Both he and his wife worked at Nancy's Pizza, his wife running the register while he delivered pizzas. He was jokingly titled "Professor" because of his Columbia teaching affiliation.

Teaching and traveling

Davidov has been teaching at Columbia College for over 20 years, and loves every minute

of it. "I love teaching. If I do not teach, I will kill myself," he says jokingly. He believes that international faculty should be present in all schools. He also loves the concept of studying abroad. He hosts his own program through Columbia's fiction writing department where students can go to Prague over the summer. During that time students can essentially live as ex-patriots and expand their horizons with writing in a different city. Students explore the work of artists and writers who lived there, as well as investigate the historic sites and find inspiration to pursue their stories.

It's clear that the educational process is different in Russia compared to the United States. "The same body of students goes through ten years or eight years of school, they know each other, they are family, with all the problems, with all the

happiness, with all of the whatever." He explains that students are in the same class all through school, so the bond between the students is strong. In Russia, teachers come to a class for each subject, whereas in the United States it's reversed. He hopes to continue teaching at Columbia as long as he's permitted.

Looking to the future

An international faculty member certainly brings a different set of skills to academia and the student body. Regarding this, Davidov says, "I was bringing, I

THE UNITED STATES CAN FIT INTO RUSSIA 2.5 TIMES

Russia is the largest country on Earth in terms of surface area. Its capital, Moscow, houses a population of 10.523 million out of the overall population of 141,930,000.



"I think it was 1990, I decided, 'Okay, I'm so great, I'm a genius, I'm a writer, I'm a poet, maybe somebody wants me.'"

am bringing, I hope to bring it even more, the bigger sense of the times my students are living now. The bigger picture of the not so much geographical but mental and global...it's nice sometimes to remind that there is an American dream, but there is a European dream, a Latin American dream. There is a general dream."

Davidov's works are extensive and continuous. His best work is a short novel in verses entitled "The Decals." The work is only in Russian and can't be translated because it's extremely sophisticated and intricate. This summer he plans on publishing a bilingual version of his book "The Guardian Clouds," which is the most complete collection of his poems. He's done translations for K. Stanislavsky's directions for the stage production of Anton Chekhov's "Cherry Orchard," and memoirs of the former Moscow Mayor Y. Luzh-

kov, "Moscow Does Not Believe In Tears," among many more.

He has a new project regarding the new physical theory of the universe: published in "The Proceedings of the Sixth International Aerospace Congress" (IAC'09), it is titled "On Substantiation and Constructing of Bi-Spatial Non-Temporal Physics."

Why he loves the U.S.

Davidov did mention one thing he finds positive and marvelous about the United States, and that's American students. "They come in class with—before everything else—a genuine respect to a teacher/professor, absolutely unprejudiced and expecting to learn from everything that the teacher would deliver to them. They are the most grateful species when they feel and realize how much a real teacher—a knowledgeable one, a passionate one, a caring one—actually gives them."

A MAN OF MANY LANGUAGES

When he was younger, Mark Davidov served as a translator. Now he can read or speak in six languages. Here's a taste of Davidov's multilingualism.



Russian

English



Ukrainian (basic)

French (basic)



Polish (with a dictionary)

Czech (basic)

A mind is a terrible

BY STEVEN DANIELEWICZ

College is an education, life experience, and investment all in one. Students are thrust out into the workforce with a degree and seemingly insurmountable debt.

But getting through to college students might be equally as hard. Recent data from the College Learning Assessment survey suggests that many leave without really learning anything different from high school. Teachers play a pivotal role, but what do you do when your class is dosing off?

As an assistant professor of psychology at Columbia College Chicago, Dr. Rami Gabriel engages and connects with his students by sharing his passion with them. Additionally, he is part of the growing community of international faculty there, and is of Lebanese and Egyptian descent. With his unique perspective, he has no problems keeping the students awake.

"Newton's a bad ass, right?" he says in class to encourage discussion. Dr. Gabriel makes sure there's participation, calling on each and every student for comments and opinions. More important, he fosters critical thinking and analysis, which is certainly a valuable skill for the fine arts and media students of Columbia.

The college offers a diverse selection of degrees, such as: music, theatre, marketing, journalism, dance and photography. However, students still need to complete required core classes in

QUICK FACTS ON PSYCHOLOGY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

- The common idea of consciousness is being awake or your internal dialogue, but...
- Consciousness includes your perceptions, awareness, interpretations of reality.
- Philosophy brings up the relationship between the mind and the brain, also called metaphysics.
- Identity is also involved in consciousness.
- Freud divided the self (identity) into three parts: id, ego, and super-ego.

the Liberal Arts and Sciences curriculum to graduate.

Each semester, Dr. Gabriel teaches a few classes in the "Psychology of Consciousness" and "Freud and his Legacy in 20th Century Arts."

Dr. Gabriel, 32, already has both his PhD and MA from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He came to the United States at age 16 in 1997. Before that, he was living in Toronto, Canada. His family immigrated to North America from Lebanon when he was 6 years old.

Dr. Gabriel and his family are from Beirut, Lebanon's biggest city and capital. They immigrated in 1987. In 1982, Lebanon was invaded by Israel.

The invasion followed a failed assassination attempt against Shlomo Argov, Israel's ambassador to the United Kingdom.

The orders to assassinate came from Abu Nadal, leader of his own Palestinian military



group, which is a splinter faction of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

"Israel invaded Lebanon so that they could have a war with the PLO that was also based in Beirut," says Dr. Gabriel. In turn, Beirut was the center of the

conflict and was attacked heavily with the PLO as the main target.

This was the dangerous environment the Gabriel family faced, so they decided to leave. Despite the adverse circumstances, the family eventually made it to the United States.

Dr. Gabriel nonchalantly says he had "no problems" adjusting to the culture and society in

"We are talking about quantum mechanics and consciousness here. How are you not excited?"



STEVEN DANIELEWICZ

the U.S. Clearly a scientist, he approached his new life here as such. Poised and particularly concise, he states, "Another culture," taking a thoughtful pause before saying, "interesting culture."

Naturally, he showed an interest in psychology, which began in high school. He attributes an early fascination with Sig-

thing to waste

A LEBANESE PROFESSOR'S JOURNEY TO THE U.S. AND HIS QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE

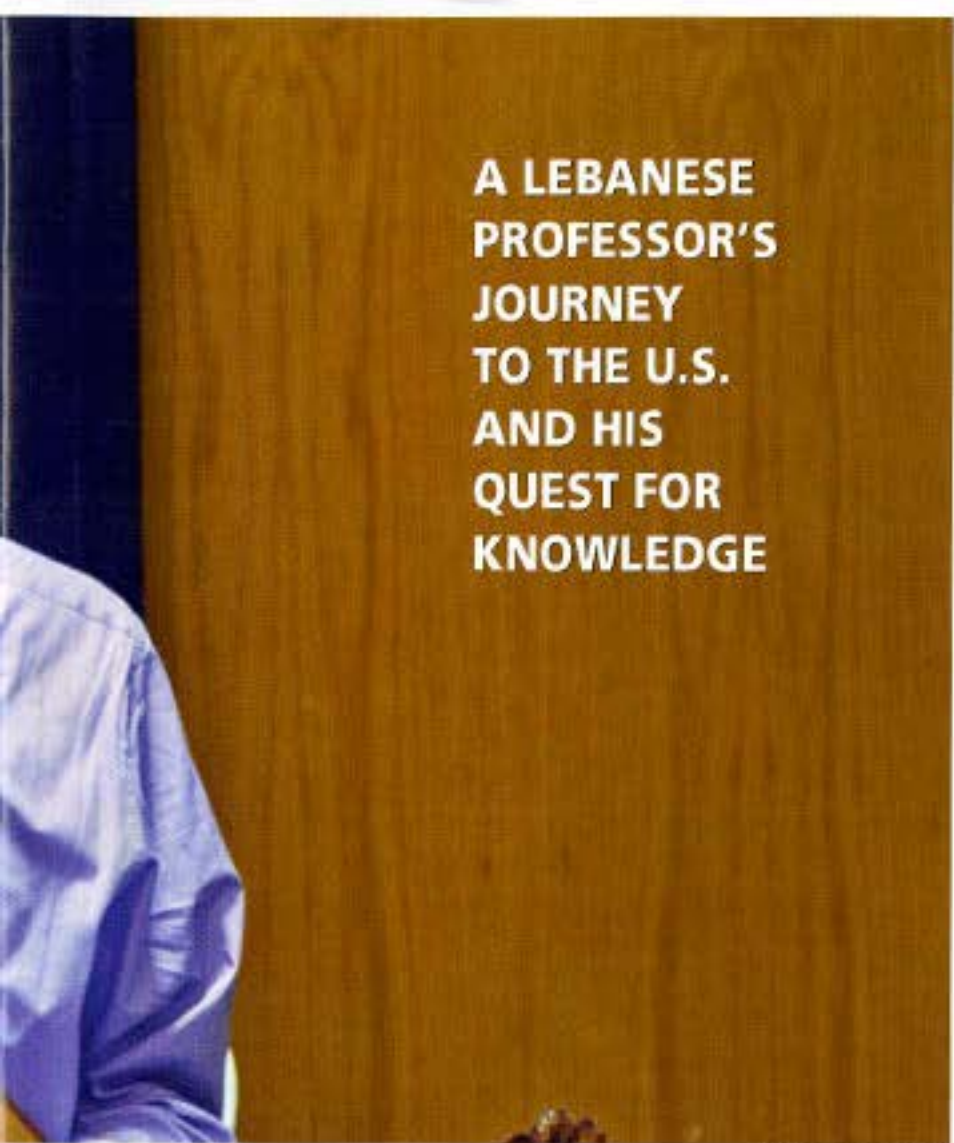


Photo by JOSH SMITH

mund Freud's work as the reason for going into the field. That initial spark is still present today in Dr. Gabriel's work and interests.

In fact, his degrees are from the Cognitive and Perceptual Sciences Psychology program, which is derived from Freudian psychology and psychoanalysis.

Today, Dr. Gabriel is a member of Columbia College's Research Group in Mind, Science and Culture. The group is inter-disciplinary. It draws from fields such as psychology, philosophy, biology, history, humanities and evolutionary science.

The group's purpose is to provide a space for "research, discussion, and exploration of the mind, from its biological foundations to its cultural fruits," ac-

ording to their online mission statement.

Appropriately, Dr. Gabriel keeps in touch with his own cultural roots. He plays the oud, (pictured left) a gourd-shaped

Middle Eastern string instrument resembling a medieval lute. He performs with the Il-Bulbul Ensemble and occasionally with University of Chicago's Middle Eastern Ensemble.

Upon reflection he says, "It was hard to live in Lebanon."

His family left there in 1987, but the war lasted well into the 90s and there is still unrest today. With uncertainty and a sense of mystery, he said, "The conflict continues."

Fittingly, a recent meeting of his Psychology of Consciousness class was discussing something even more mysterious and uncertain: quantum mechanics.

Most people, not just students, shudder at the thought of trying to wrap their head around such an abstract, yet measurable, concept.

Dr. Gabriel explains things clearly and makes certain the concept in question is understood before moving on.

Jokingly he says, "We are talking about quantum mechanics and consciousness. How are you not excited?"

Not everyone can get excited; regardless, his passion and enthusiasm is contagious.

In today's vast collegiate education system, it's good to see someone expanding students' intellectual thought on a personal level, because a mind is a terrible thing to waste.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

LEBANON AT A GLANCE

Lebanon is surrounded by Syria on the north and west and Israel on the south. The capital, Beirut, is on the west coast of the Mediterranean Sea.



FACTS ON LEBANON

- Turkey is farther north
- Iraq is farther east
- Lebanon's population is 4.26 million people
- 414 people per square kilometer
- Language most spoken is Arabic with 95%
- Ethnically is 95% Arab, 4% Armenian, 1% Other
- Religions are Islam at 59% and Christianity at 36%
- Beirut is the capital and largest city with 2 million people
- Lebanon's GDP is \$28.5 million per year
- GDP per capita is \$6,800 per person per year
- 8.1% Unemployment rate
- Highest point is Qurnat As Sawda at 10,131 feet

Source WOLFRAM ALPHA ENGINE

STEVEN DANIELEWICZ

FASHION BORN IN HEAVEN

Assistant Professor Virginia Heaven tells us about her fashion dreams, her American life and what she will never get used to



Virginia Heaven was born on Oct. 4, 1956 as an only child of an English family. She grew up in Stoke Newington to become what one would call a world traveler. But let's start at the beginning.

Stoke Newington is a neighborhood of London, but really has more of a small town feeling. "We knew all our neighbors," Heaven remembers as she talks about the daily shopping tours "around the block" as well as her play time in Clissold Park, where her dad used to take her with her bike.

Heaven's fondest childhood memory is her first ride on that exact bike, followed by many wild rides up and down the streets on her red and blue scooters. She wasn't actually allowed to go out on the streets by herself to play, but Heaven would use little tricks such as putting a doormat between the door to hold it open so that she could "scoot madly up and down the streets" until her mother would catch her. "I was always discovered," she remembers laughing. "My mother would always shout 'Virginia, come back immediately!'"

Heaven discovered her interest in fashion at a very young age when her aunt, Hilda Smith, who worked at a garment factory, took her to the factory to visit. "I would sit on her lap, and she would put her hands over my hands and guide my fingers through the machine." She recalls the time she was first taught how to use a sewing machine, at the young age of four. "And so the first thing I ever made was a

Heaven in her Columbia College office where she spends time reading more about the history of fashion.

bag — a tiny, tiny, little bag and I kept precious things in it — secret things that I had found on the streets...a bead, a coin or something out of a Christmas cracker..."

Besides teaching Heaven how to sew, Smith taught her a lot about the process of making a garment, as well as make her fancy clothes. That was when Heaven discovered that she wanted to go to college to study fashion design.

So when it was time to go to college, Heaven applied and got accepted to the Hornsey College of Art (which no longer exists), which was part of the Middlesex University where she studied for 4 years. The college was politically very engaged,

and the professors took the time to inject the politics into the curriculum, which Heaven really liked.

Just before she turned 17 she met her former husband, and in 1980 she moved to America with him. They came on a visa, but when they moved to Chicago they both got a green card, because Heaven's former husband, who she refers to as "kind of a Wunderkind" (Wunderkind is like a prodigy, someone who masters several skills at a very young age), was one of the only people in the world who had the skills he had (he worked as a Physical Chemist and specializes in Laser Spectroscopy).

"We had several options of places to go and I wasn't all that thrilled about any of them, but when I came here I liked the city and I thought that it was a good atmosphere," she remembers coming to Chicago. "It had a genuine, authentic side to it that seemed... it felt more like a place that I could call home."

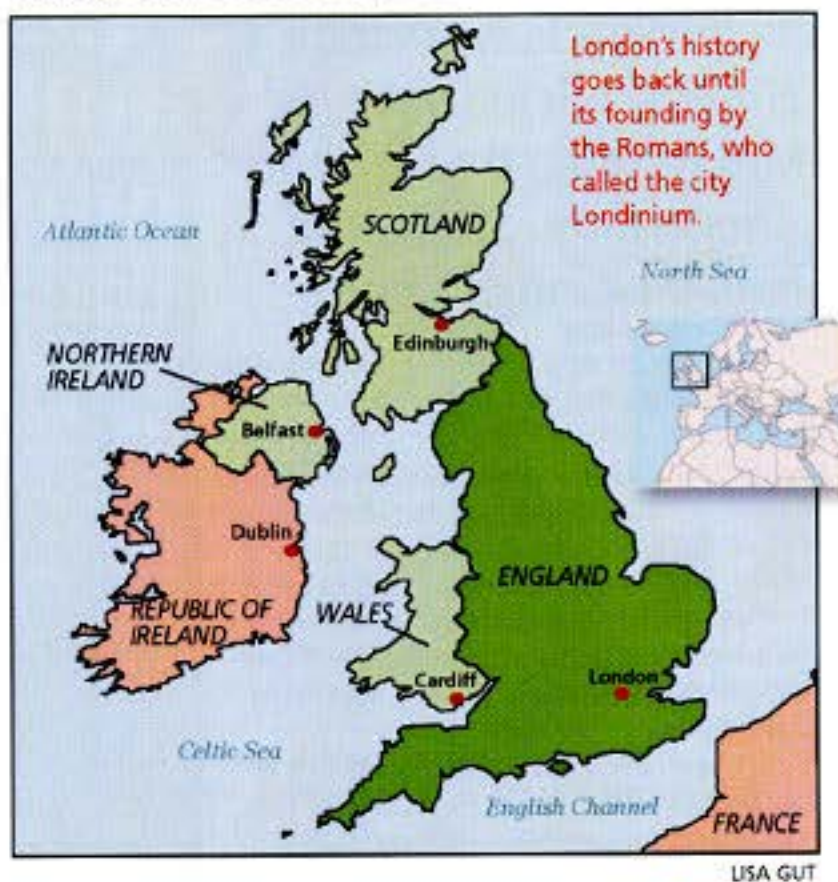
The first two years she was in the U.S. before getting the green card she didn't work and did a lot of reading on fashion history. "I was basically at that point a housewife, which drove me almost to insanity... it was awful."

Coming to Chicago, Heaven decided to start doing again what she loved. She volunteered at the Chicago History Museum in their Costume Collection and then, just as she got her green card, someone else was fired and she was offered the job.

During the time she worked at the museum, she learned a lot about museum studies and finally decided that she wanted to design exhibitions. She worked in a freelance capacity on an exhibition for the Saudi government and was then offered the job to be a curator for Saudi artifacts. Eventually she became the director for the project. "It was a wonderful experience, it lasted longer than I thought it would...It ended up being an overall 16-year association."

In 2000 the Saudi government decided to put all the collected artifacts in storage, and that's when Heaven first began teach-

HEAVEN'S HOMETOWN, LONDON, IS THE LARGEST CITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



ing. "I wasn't really sure if I liked it," she remembers about her first teaching experiences. "Then in 2002 I tried it again and I realized I actually didn't like it... I loved it!"

She became a part-time faculty member at Columbia College Chicago, while going to graduate school at DePaul to study adult education. In 2007 she got a full-time faculty position, and she has loved it ever since. "To help anybody realize something creative about themselves... that's an amazing thing," she says about teaching. "I go home happy; exhausted sometimes, but very happy most of the time... it's a very, very rewarding thing to do!"

In 2010 Heaven remarried and is now living with her husband and her five rescue cats (all of whom are characters, according to her) in Chicago, continuing to follow her dream.

Heaven has spent more than half her life in the United States, but she still gets homesick frequently, because there are some things she will never get used to. "The first time I went to a supermarket in the U.S. I cried, because I just thought it was ridiculous. I was in the cereal aisle and I tried to decide between, I don't know, maybe 50 different cereals, which one to choose for breakfast. It was a horrible experience, and people think 'well how can choice be horrible?', but you know you don't need choice on that level... you need choice on what political party to choose, but not on what cereal to eat!"

A pianist from the Netherlands, Sebastian Huydts' talents have led him to study and live in Amsterdam, Spain and now the United States.

BY LISA GUILLÉN

Going to a new country to study is something that crosses almost every college student's mind. Taking the leap to do so is another thing. "It was not at all what I expected. American culture is very different than European culture," says Sebastian Huydts.

It's been a few years since Huydts first experienced life in the U.S. Huydts, 46, is now the Director of Keyboard and Piano studies in the Music Department at Columbia College Chicago. He grew up in Amsterdam, the largest city in the Netherlands, surrounded by a family of musicians, composers and his mother who was involved in theater. Naturally, Huydts knew he wanted to be a musician at an early age. "In the beginning I didn't even think about it, but when I became an adolescent it was the only thing I wanted to do," he says.

Huydts began his professional piano studies in Amsterdam at age 14 under the direction of Edith Lateiner-Grosz. His talents also led him to study in Spain for several years. Huydts' first experience of the United States was prompted by Lateiner-Grosz. "She

"[On Sundays] you go to church, have family dinners and that's it, there's no shopping for mattresses"

taught every year at a festival in North Carolina and that's where I went to perform and take part in a workshop," he says. After that experience he met many people who encouraged him to continue his studies here in the U.S. Eventually that's what made him decide to come here.

In 1991 Huydts enrolled in the University of Chicago on a four-year stipend awarded to him by the school to study Composition. He has been living in Chicago since that time. However, coming to the United States at the age of 25 was a bit of a cultural adjustment

for Huydts. "There's just a difference in the way people live their lives," he says. "Some of the differences are very good, and some of the differences are not so good." One cultural difference he enjoys is that people in the U.S. seem to be much more open and inviting than his experiences in the Netherlands or in Spain. He also noted that it's much more widely accepted here for people to have multiple talents and jobs, which he likes. "In most European countries people tend to be very specialized and tend to not venture into different professions or other vocations in life,"



Sebastian Huydts in his office at the Columbia College Music Center

A Dutch with a touch of Spanish spirit

he says. When Huydts first came to the U.S. he really missed the strong social interactions that he experienced in Spain. "You hardly ever eat alone there," says Huydts. Although he says he's not very religious, one thing he still misses about Europe is the sanctity and observation of Sunday there. "The shops are closed at ten at night on Saturday to 9 a.m. on Monday; there is nothing open. That's changing now, but when I grew up that was very strict," he says. "You go to church, have family dinners and that's it, there's no shopping for mattresses," Huydts jokes.



Huydts grew up bilingual, speaking Dutch and French, and it wasn't until he was around 10 years old that he began learning English in school. He can also speak Spanish, Catalan and German. The only difficulty Huydts had with adjusting to the language in America was the fact that he knew British English, which is slightly different

"In America as long as you have the money you can come study. In both Spain and the Netherlands it's very tightly controlled by the government"

than the way Americans speak. "In the beginning I had a hard time understanding people, not because I didn't understand the words but because I didn't understand the context," he says.

Before becoming the director of Keyboard and Piano Studies, Huydts held teaching positions at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, among others. He currently has tenure in his position at Columbia, so he plans to stay put here for a while. In the music department Huydts teaches Basic Keyboard classes, Keyboard Ensemble, Keyboard Harmony as well as private piano lessons.

Huydts believes it's extremely important for Columbia College to have international faculty because he feels people from other parts of the world not only bring different cultural experiences but bring with them different experiences on how education works. "In America as long as you have the money you can come study. In both Spain and the Netherlands it's very tightly controlled by the government. They set quotas for how many students can study biology and that's always a big stressful thing before they can even enter a university or a liberal arts college education." Huydts also pointed out that there are numerous tests and processes before you can go to a university and there is also very often a lottery as well. "I'm not going to say the educational system I came from is superior; it's just different," he says.

Huydts said that the key to America's educational appeal is that it's a melting pot. "I think we have a great advantage here by being so open to foreign professors that you bring the best of all educational systems together," he says.

THE NETHERLANDS, HALF THE SIZE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

A Parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy, The Netherlands has an extension of 16,485 sq. miles. A quarter of its territory is below sea level. Amsterdam, the capital (pop. 767,457) has 1,281 bridges.



WORLD ATLAS

LISA GUILLEN



Bicycles locked up on bike racks in Amsterdam

TWO WHEELS ARE BETTER THAN FOUR

On a recent trip to Amsterdam the first thing I noticed about the Dutch capital

was how many people were riding bicycles. Older people, younger people, men in business suits, women in heels, mothers riding with 1 or 2 children on one bike. It seemed as though everyone there biked. So why is that? "Historically it has a background," says Huydts.

In 1955 seventy-five percent of trips made in Amsterdam were made by bicycle. This was because the Netherlands is generally flat, making it easy for people to get around and cycling was a much cheaper option for the nation where automobiles were not yet a reasonably priced or easily accessible item.

"Around this time most European governments decided to put heavy taxes on gasoline for personal use to subsidize not just the roads but public transportation," says Huydts, who is an avid biker. Around the 1970s cars became very popular in the Netherlands but the huge network of cyclists and support for bikes made them a priority for the government to focus on than cars. "Every town is connected by bike lanes, basically a bicycle highway system," says Huydts.

In 2006 it was estimated that 40% of all trips made in Amsterdam are done by bicycling, a number much lower than in 1955 but still very impressive in this age. This also proves the emphasis that the Netherlands government put on bicycling has really paid off. There are many bicycle parking structures and extensive bike lanes all paid for through public funding in Amsterdam.

Now it is not only faster but also cheaper to ride your bike in Amsterdam versus driving a car. Parking space is minimal in the compact city and open lots can charge anywhere between \$15-\$50 an hour to park downtown. In addition, a drive that could take you 45 minutes in a car will usually take you 25 minutes to bike thanks to Amsterdam's detailed bike paths. The city has made it far more attractive to bike rather than drive a car, which in turn makes the city a healthier and safer place to live.

—Lisa Guillén

For Sandra Kumorowski, hard work equals success. From spending her first days in America sleeping on the sand at beaches to cleaning the dirty hotel rooms of Little Palm Island, Sandra did her best in everything.

In return, she now has a successful life getting paid to do what she loves.

Sandra was born during the censorship-heavy Communist era in the Czech Republic. She was fortunate enough to have a quiet childhood, and the freedom America promised grabbed her eye. She was dead set on moving, which happened after her first year at the University of Economics, where she studied International Relations and languages.

Her move was the spontaneous decision of a youthful mind. Despite their reluctance, her parents allowed her to run off to America. She was grateful they accepted her leaving even though it was the start of an uphill battle.

Sandra and her friends spent a month sheltered only by the beach night sky of Key West. After making some connections, they

acquired jobs working as hotel cleaners. The pay was just enough to afford living with 11 people in a two-room, \$1,000-a-month apartment.

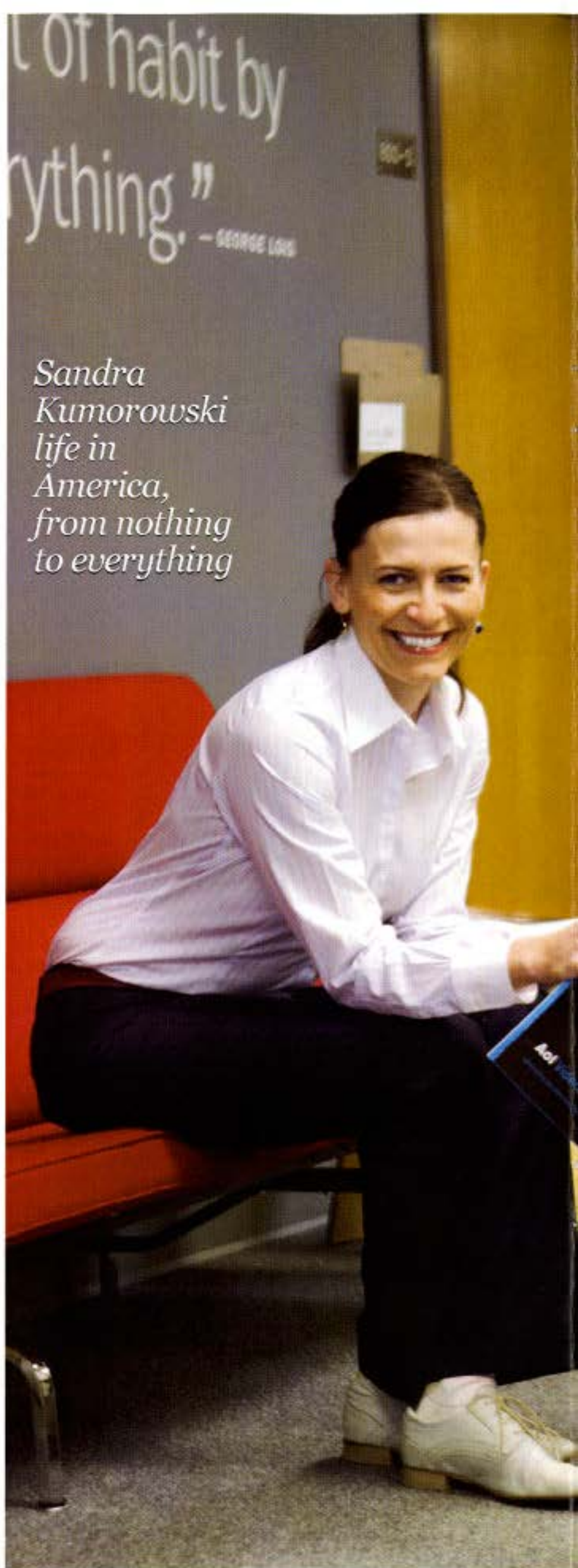
She got a better paying job when she was hired by the hotel company Little Palm Island in Florida—a luxurious retreat for celebrities. Here, Sandra was forced to step up her game or get fired on the spot. She didn't falter, and worked with diligence. Making sure each room she cleaned was of the highest quality, she paid attention to the little details and was cordial when she spoke to the guests. After working a few more stressful jobs, she earned enough money for a car. She paid too much for the 1987 Blue Chevy Corsica, but it was necessary.

BY RYAN COLLINS

**ENERGY
GOES IN,
POSITIVE
RESULTS
COME OUT.**

of habit by
anything.” —GEORGE LOUIS

*Sandra
Kumorowski
life in
America,
from nothing
to everything*





During her second year in America, Sandra moved to Chicago. After finding stability in life and having a job, car, and later husband Albert, Sandra went back to college to finish her GED at Wright College. She transferred to Loyola University of Chicago to finish her BBA in International Business and MBA in Marketing and Operations Management.

Sandra got her first taste of management when she organized an exhibition for a friend. More experience came her way when she worked as a clinical and business coordinator to a periodontist. There, she learned how business functions on a small scale, which could be applied later to a larger business. Her enjoyment of dentistry almost steered her into the field, but she declined since it would mean more years at college.

So she continued with her primary love, business, at a marketing research firm. There, she helped Apple, Nintendo, Tropicana and other gigantic corporations with branding strategies. It was one of her toughest jobs, as Sandra was pressured to come up with the most original ideas and present those to company supervisors.

The job was very intense and constantly pushed Sandra and the rest of the employees to work above mediocrity. If any part of a project displayed signs of average work, they were required to redo the entire thing.

Despite the stress, she was grateful for a priceless experience. It drove her to become more creative. There were hundreds of people waiting in line for a spot in the marketing world, and the only way of holding on to her job was to grip it tight with continuous hard work.

More options opened up to Sandra later when a Loyola professor offered her a job teaching Integrated Marketing Communications at a graduate level. She

Photo by JOSIA SMITH

SANDRA IN A NUTSHELL

Education Has a BBA (Economics & International Business) and MBA (Marketing & Operations Management) from Loyola University Chicago. Completed 12-year education at Academy of Music, Czech Republic and two Project Management Certifications (Northwestern University, International Institute for Learning).

Languages Fluent Czech & Polish, and can communicate on a basic level in German, French, and Spanish.

Other skills Can make a mean cup of hibiscus tea.



Photo by LYNNDEL NORIEGA

Sandra Kumorowski at her home in Chicago.

could teach the class any way she wanted and had full freedom in managing her students.

She had a new-found love of teaching, which led her to another job teaching marketing at Columbia. The more Sandra teaches, the more she loves it. But her love for business hasn't perished.

Outside of the classroom, she works as a consultant for oth-

er businesses, like Microsoft and AXA Insurance, assisting them in brainstorming new ideas and unlocking new thinking. Through all of the trials of her life, she has tirelessly worked her hardest and it has paid off for her. She feels that without those stressful days, she wouldn't be the person she is. Energy goes in, positive results come out.

Check out the Czech Republic



RYAN COLLINS Source: IMEDIA20

Kumorowski was born in Kromeriz, located in the Zlin Region of the Czech Republic. The town was created in 1260 by a bishop of Olomouc. It was rebuilt after the Thirty Years War and Black Death swept through town. It contains Pleasure Park, which is one of the World Heritage Sites.

Previously joined with Slovakia, the Czech Republic itself split and became its own country in November 1989.

EDUCATION IS THE MAIN DIFFERENCE



Photos Courtesy LUNGELLO KUZWAYO

Landmark election in South Africa changes lives

Lungelo Kuzwayo, adjunct faculty member at Columbia College Chicago, says the 1994 election in South Africa changed his life.

The Government of National Unity took over in South Africa in 1994, replacing the white Afrikaaner government, which had imposed apartheid: public bathrooms, restaurants, good education and decent health care were all off limits to people of color. For many South Africans, it was the first time they had ever cast a ballot in an election.

Kuzwayo was born in Pietermaritzburg and grew up in Pretoria. Under apartheid, he attended segregated schools, or what was then called Bantu education. "I would study the night before, and I would get straight As if not a B here or there," Kuzwayo said. "I always thought I was a genius because other than these two particular girls, I was always in the top three in my class."

In 1992, Kuzwayo's parents had saved enough to send him to a private Irish Catholic school. The school accepted students of any race.

"My first year I went from an A or B student to a D and barely passing student" Kuzwayo said. "I failed one or two subjects."

That's when he realized how

inferior his education had been under apartheid. Black education schools were not challenging enough when it came to materials and subject matter, he said.

He graduated from the Catholic high school in 1996 and went to college the next year. Then he received a full scholarship to North Park University in Chicago.

"Since then, my grades have always been good," he said.

On Aug. 15, 1997, Kuzwayo arrived at O'Hare Airport and quickly started college. Because he had grown up in a large city

like Chicago, he made an easy transition from one world to the next.

"I grew up in an urban environment in a city and I went to a multiracial school, so I'm used to being around people of different cultures," Kuzwayo said. "And South Africa has 11 official languages. I only speak four of those 11, but I'm used to being around different people."

He recalled that one South African student who had received a scholarship one year before he did left after a few months in Chicago.

SOUTHAFRICA, A MULTILINGUAL COUNTRY

The country's democratic Constitution, which came into effect on February 4, 1997, recognizes 11 official languages, to which it guarantees equal status. These are: Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho sa Leboa, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga.



Source: WORLD ATLAS, SOUTHAFRICA.INFO

TOP TO BOTTOM Kuzwayo as a kid; the house he grew up in; his current family's home; with his siblings. Inset, when he was in high school.



STORY BY
PETER MANDAS
PHOTO BY
JOSH SMITH

"When I came to Chicago, there were two other South Africans here.

"The one who came the year before me was from a small town, and after a few months of being at the school, he called from the airport saying that he couldn't take it anymore, and he was going home," Kuzwayo said. "So when I got here, there were a dozen people making sure I was OK."

Kuzwayo studied communications and theater at North Park University; however, he was still

"I grew up in an urban environment in a city and I went to a multiracial school, so I'm used to being around people of different cultures."

looking for another course of study.

"I've always wanted to do film," Kuzwayo said. After completing his B.A., he received a master's degree in communications, which led him to his position at Columbia College, where he teaches public speaking and film studies in the

**Adjunct
faculty
Lungelo
Kuzwayo
has been
in Chicago
since 1997.**

Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department.

"After I started teaching at Columbia I learned that I could take classes, so I just recently

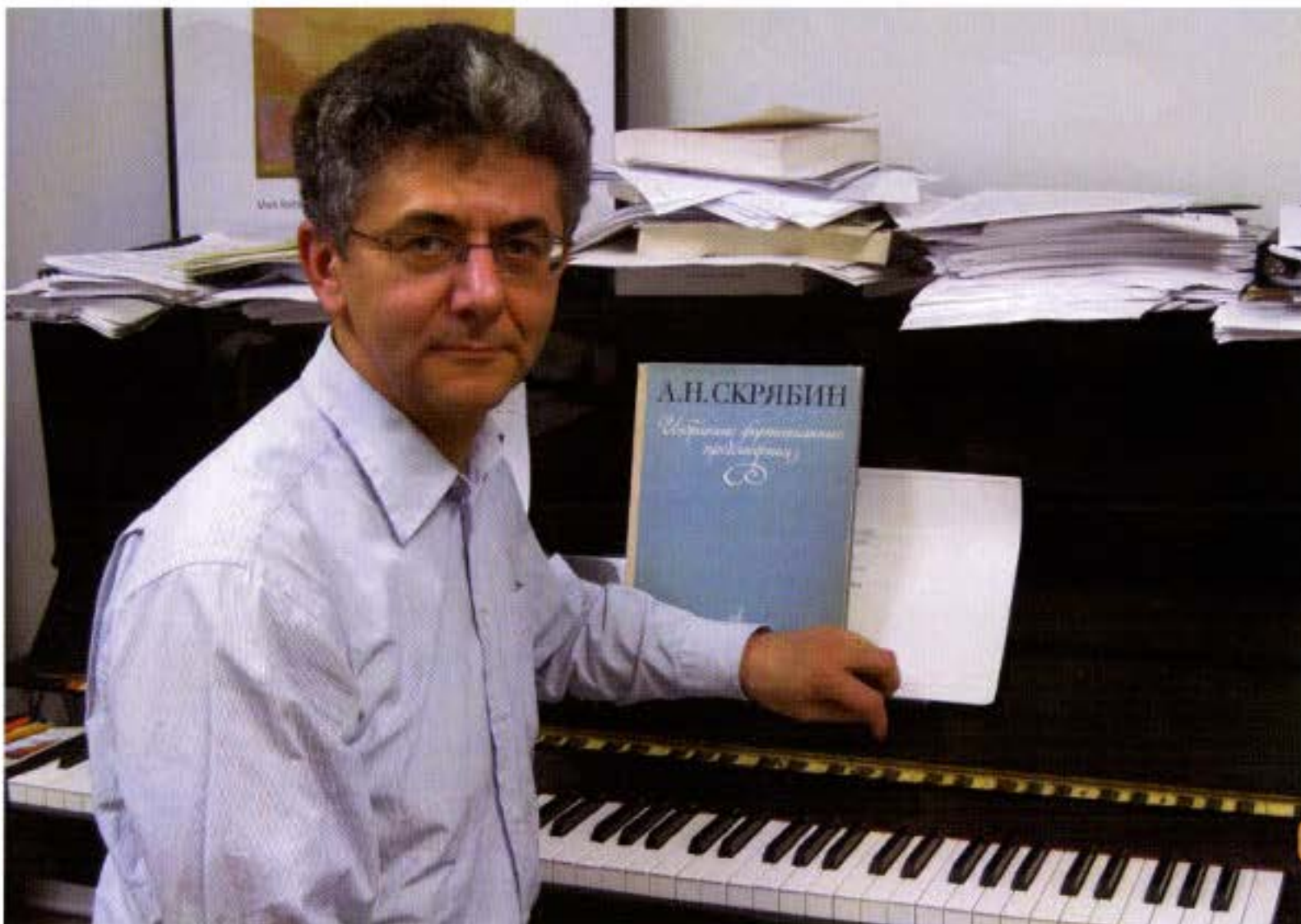
finished my second B.A. in TV production and directing," Kuzwayo said. "I just finished my degree in what I wanted to study, and I have aspirations of completing a master's degree in fine arts, but we'll see how it goes."

Kuzwayo also teaches theater as a freelance teaching artist, and he has been an instructor since he first earned his bachelor's degree from North Park.

"I liked what I studied, but I always wanted to be a filmmaker and maybe a film teacher. I always wanted to be involved in film more than theater, to be honest," Kuzwayo said. "I do like theater as well, but I'm much more a film person."

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE... FOR MUSIC

Music faculty Ilya Levinson shares his story of immigrating as a political refugee and furthering his music career in America



CHRISTY LYONS

Levinson grew up playing the piano, a skill that is vital to continuing music degrees in Russia.

BY CHRISTY LYONS

Most students and faculty know Ilya Levinson as a great professor and composer. Some even know that he was born in Russia. However, what many people don't know is Levinson's full story about leaving the Soviet Union's harsh government behind and starting fresh in America.

Levinson was born in 1958 into a Jewish family in Mos-

cow, which was then known as the capital of the Soviet Union. He grew up playing piano and eventually decided to study music composition at the Moscow Conservatory. During this time, many Jewish citizens from Soviet Russia were immigrating to Israel and the United States because of the strict government control. They were political refugees, escaping from an oppressive government to live a better life. After his cousin and aunt left, Levinson, along with

his mother and grandmother, decided it was time for them to follow in their family's footsteps and move to the United States.

"The decision to leave the country comes slowly," Levinson said. He was studying at one of the premiere musical colleges in Europe, but it wasn't enough. "I was having success in many different fields, but you start to feel like you can only go so far."

Once the decision had been

made, Levinson and his family had to get visas and pay a hefty processing fee, costing a single person almost a year's salary. Many people sold everything they had just for the visa process. At this time, there were few direct flights from the Soviet Union to the United States, so immigrants went through Vienna before they traveled anywhere else, which meant getting an Austrian visa as well. As soon as it was declared that a person was leaving the Soviet Union, his citizenship was immediately revoked and he was seen as an outlaw to the government.

Levinson arrived in Chicago in August 1988 with his mother and grandmother and immediately started taking the necessary steps to continue his education. He went to the University of Chicago, showed his work from Moscow and was granted a scholarship to attend the college, beginning in January 1989. After five years, he

LEAVING MOSCOW TO GO TO CHICAGO, WITH A STOP IN VIENNA

A direct flight from Moscow to Chicago was not a option for Levinson during the Soviet Union era, so he had to stop in Vienna.



was allowed to gain citizenship in the United States.

Although Levinson knew English fluently before he arrived in the United States, there were still some adjustments. He recalls hearing everyone pronounce the letter "a" as "ah" and thinking it was somewhat strange. "I remember I first asked the lady at the CIA 'Which way to Washington?' and she said 'Ah Washington!'"

The music was also a little bit different to him. In Moscow, everyone learned the piano and had a musical background going into school. In Chicago, people went into music schools singing or playing guitar, some

having little musical background, if any. The composers were different as well. In Moscow, many of the older composers wrote very conservative pieces. In Chicago, the music coming from people young and old was anything but conservative. However, music in Russia told a story. "Music was about fighting the oppressor," Levinson recalls, referring to the government as the oppressor. "Music was on the tragedy of the human spirit."

Levinson has been teaching music at Columbia since 1996, when he first took on some private lessons. In 2003, he became a full-time instructor and did some part-time teaching at the

University of Chicago. In 2009, he started his tenure-track appointment at Columbia and is now solely teaching there. His classes include Orchestration, Composition, Counterpoint and various private lessons. He also composes many musical pieces for chamber groups and orchestras and has also composed operas, musicals and music for film, although nothing widely known yet.

When Levinson is not focusing on music, he spends time with his wife, who was also an immigrant, but from France. Levinson met Martine Benmann in Moscow, where she was studying cello. They both came to Chicago and married. Benmann is now an instructor at the Sherwood Community Music School. The couple has two sons: Gregory, 16, who plays violin and guitar and Alexander, 13, who plays cello and piano.

Ilya Levinson definitely has an interesting past and just listening to his music can portray his story too. Any students who have a passion for music should talk to Levinson and sign up for his class.

LISTENING TO ILYA LEVINSON

Ilya Levinson is a composer for many different types of music. Most known is his work with the New Budapest Orpheum Society doing Jewish Cabaret music. Levinson also wrote a piece called "Klezmer Rhapsody" that was performed by the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band and gained notoriety.

To purchase his music, go to Amazon.com



Jewish Cabaret in Exile



Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano



Old Roots New World

Photos AMAZON.COM



Graphic by CHRISTY LYONS
Source RUSSIAMAP.ORG

Polish educator Wojciech Lorenc has achieved many of his childhood goals through hard work and dedication to his career

DREAMS CAN BECOME A REALITY

BY ANTHONY RECCHIA

Wojciech Lorenc's journey to the United States began in Opoczno, Poland. Lorenc, who was born and raised in Poland, had never before seen the United States.

But in 1997, at age 18, that all changed. Lorenc became a high school exchange student and started his American journey in Gladstone, Oregon. After a year of studying, Lorenc knew he wanted to return and work in the U.S.

He has accomplished that goal and so much more. Lorenc is now a full-time assistant professor in the Television Department

at Columbia College Chicago. He has received his bachelor's degree from Columbia in Film and Video and worked as a producer, shooter and editor.

"I am really enjoying life here," Lorenc said. "I was always interested in coming back to the U.S. because I think that is where the best television industry is."

But Lorenc did not have much trouble adapting to life in America and the English language. In middle school, he studied English and picked it up quickly when he came to live here. The only thing that he had to get used to was the media and pop culture of this country. Since he came from Poland, he was not familiar with



the T.V. shows, movies or media in America.

Picking up the American way

But in the last 14 years, he has expanded his horizons. When he first arrived, he was used to talking about certain directors or actors of a particular film. Today, after 14 years in America, he has

become a fluent speaker when it comes to pop culture. He has learned to include these pop culture references in his everyday life.

"The biggest obstacle for me was to learn about the media and pop culture in America," Lorenc said. "We spend so much of our day-to-day conversations just talking about things that are trivial and big in pop culture. I think that this is something that international students still deal with today."

Lorenc has taken these conversations and turned them into quite an impressive career. He has won awards both in the U.S. and internationally. Over his career, he has collected five awards and has screened his films at over 80 film festivals, and his various projects have reached over 20 million viewers worldwide.

Teaching at Columbia

At Columbia, he shares his knowledge both in and out of the classroom. In class, he focuses on directing and producing while educating the students on inter-

LORENC WINS TWO HUGO AWARDS IN CHICAGO



In April 2011, Wojciech Lorenc added two more impressive feats to his career achievements.

At the Chicago International Film Festival, he won two Hugo Awards; one for a television-online series and the other for a special achievement. Hugo Awards have been presented since 1953 and are given to outstanding works and achievements of science fiction and fantasies.

He was thrilled to take home the prestigious awards.

"It's definitely exciting for

me," Lorenc said. "I think everybody who wants to tell stories needs to tell them to other people. It all starts with the process of creating something unique and then it forms into a television series or other film."

Since coming to the United States 14 years ago, Lorenc has not only expanded his award collection, but also his education.

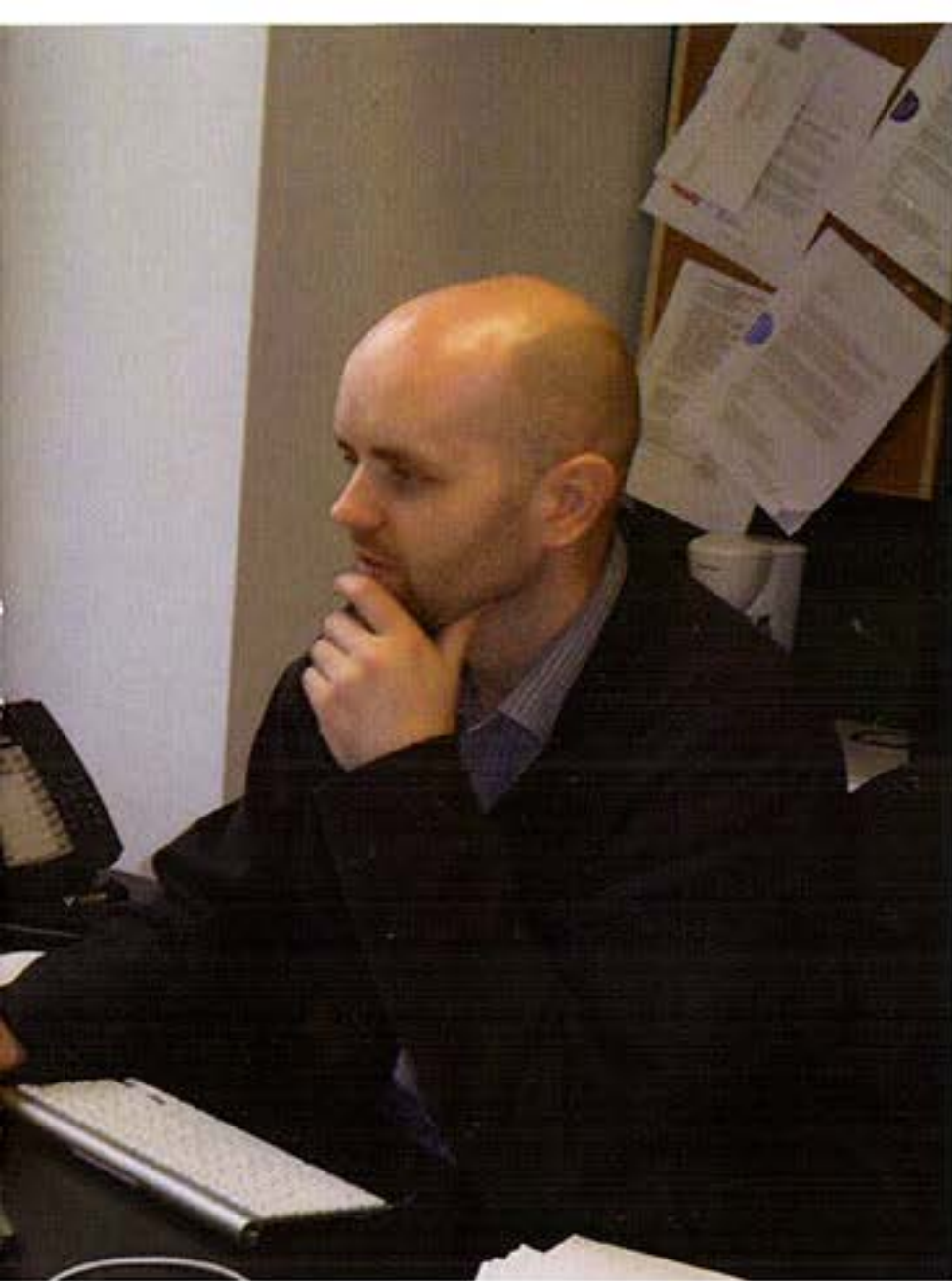
The Polish-born Lorenc came over as an exchange student when he was 18 years old and has grown to embrace the American education system.

He already has his B.A. in Film and Video from Columbia

College Chicago and is currently taking classes at DePaul University for an M.F.A. in Digital Cinema.

Lorenc has won awards here in the United States and across the world. Over 20 million viewers worldwide have seen his work. But, for Lorenc, it is not about the awards; it's for all the people that view his work.

"Having so many people see my projects is the most rewarding thing to me," Lorenc said. "Seeing how people enjoy my work and their reactions is what I strive for as a visual storyteller."



Wojciech Lorenc at his Michigan Avenue 14th floor office in the Alexandroff building

"I remember being on a plane flying over here for the very first time while I watched an American movie with no dubbing and I realized that I didn't understand half of it. That was pretty terrifying."

net and mobile media. He is an advocate of using new, emerging technologies in visual storytelling.

Lorenc has also worked as the Digital Media Technologist for The Center for Instructional Technology at Columbia.

Currently, he works in the Television Department where he has taught DVD Design and Authoring, Video for Interactive Multimedia and Aesthetics of Television. He is active in Chicago's filmmaking community.

Lorenc has produced and directed independent films, co-founded Independent Film and Video Chicago organization and initiated Screen-2-Stream, which is a monthly screening of independent films.

Outside of the classroom, he is living his dream in the Unit-

ed States each and every day of his life.

Lorenc said that although he has accomplished many of his goals in America, there is still a long way to go.

He said that he will not slow down, and he hopes that he will always set new goals for himself so his life and his career can reach new heights that he has not yet experienced.

With his positive attitude and a great amount of talent in his field, the sky is the limit for Lorenc in America, where anything is possible in the Land of the Free.

"My biggest dream was to be able to tell stories visually," Lorenc said. "But I needed to be in the right position and environment to do it in. I can say that I did achieve it as a teacher at Columbia College."

ANTHONY RECCHIA

A CLOSER LOOK AT POLAND

Although Poland and the United States have many things in common, Poland still manages to keep its unique culture and identity as a European country.



GOOGLE MAPS



Poland is not a big country. In fact, it is actually about the size of New Mexico. But its population is much, much higher.

The population, according to the latest census, is just over 38 million people. Of those people, a staggering 94 percent are Roman Catholic.

In addition, 98 percent of Polish people are literate. That is one of the highest rates in the world.

The work force of Poland consists of roughly 17 million people and the Gross Domestic Product was \$476 billion. The GDP rose by 3.8 percent in 2010.

Poland has a Republic government, which consists of a Prime Minister (Donald Tusk) and a President (Bronislaw Komorowski).

Lorenc's hometown of Opoczno has a population of just over 23,000 people.

The town connects Western and Eastern Poland because of its important railway and road 12.

The official name of the country is the "Republic of Poland."

—Anthony Recchia



Howard Stern *meets* BBC

Columbia College Chicago faculty member talks about his move from Calgary to Chicago and the ideals of Canada's collectivity vs. America's heroism and individuality

BY IESHA POMPEY

As a child, Duncan Mackenzie was an indoors kid who loved to read and play Dungeons and Dragons. He was also into punk rock, mohawks and skateboarding. In his late teens, he had to decide to either study at a university and still live with his parents or move out on his own. Naturally he chose to study art at a university because he'd always been told how well he drew and considered it a more lenient choice as opposed to mathematics.

Now 36, Mackenzie was raised by fairly conservative parents in Calgary, Alberta. His parents, who now live in Phoenix, Ariz., are also from Canada.

Mackenzie says growing up Canadian provides a different mythology of what it means to be a member of society. "In America, you grow up with this notion of the

heroic American that achieves, in spite of all odds, whereas in Canada you grow up with an ethos that says 'we all give up a little bit of our own freedom so that we can share in the bounty of civilization rather than distribute unequally.'"

In 2000 MacKenzie won the Trustee's Scholarship for Merit at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and was welcomed into America on an F1 student visa. He

is now an assistant professor in the Art and Design department at Columbia College Chicago.

He and Christian Kuras, whom he befriended as an undergraduate in 1994, got a chance to work together when they were curated in a three-part show in 2003, in Montreal—the city Mackenzie describes as "Disney for adults." The two finished the exhibit and started working on other ideas that would allow them to network between Chicago and London—where Kuras currently lives.

Their exhibit *The Institution* is the product of their long-distance collaboration. They began with the idea of making a narrative picture through an architectural

model to portray a story of wanting to escape institutionalization. But as the process went on, they developed a new appreciation for institutions. Instead, they focused on institutions' reasons of being, and

the end result is completely different from the original idea. *The Institution* is currently showing at the Midway Fair. In August, it will be showing at The Poor Farm in Wisconsin.

He describes his podcast *Bad at Sports* as "Howard Stern meets the BBC." He and another friend, Richard Holland, started the podcast over seven years ago with the idea of making light fun of fellow artists with hopes

CANADA: SECOND LARGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD



Summer vacations for the Mackenzies began after their 12-hour drive to Vancouver, the second nearest major city to Calgary.

GET YOUR DOSE OF GENITALS AND PHILOSOPHY

Bad At Sports, a podcast co-produced by Duncan Mackenzie, is a weekly podcast on contemporary art. Artist like Ieva Maurite, Tania Bruguera and Emily Roysdon have been featured on the show. To listen, go to badatsports.com

that maybe 100 people would listen. "We thought we would go out Friday night, see a bunch of art shows, have a few too many drinks, say horrible things about the artwork and move on," he said. The show now has 390 episodes and over one million downloads from listeners.

Mackenzie says before iTunes podcasting there were only a handful of people with microphones who realized they could distribute a radio show via the Internet and use the F word. "That was magic!" he said. There are still times when Mackenzie doesn't understand an artwork; but he also says that's what keeps it interesting.

One of his favorite artists, whom he initially thought of as making the worst art in art his-

tory, is Chris Wool who makes art pieces that "take away everything you would want from them and leave you with a very cold experience," says Mackenzie.

Before he learned to appreciate Wool's work for what it is, he admits that he was asking the artwork to deliver something that it's set up not to deliver. This made him question his own desires about the artwork and eventually realized that he was learning about himself through Wool.

Mackenzie almost never works independently. He and his friends working together ties into his Canadian background. "I don't always have the best idea. It's better to talk to other smart people, ideally smarter people, and that is the case in my entire life. My wife is smarter than me. Kristian's smarter than me. Everybody who works at *Bad at Sports* is smarter than me. Awesome!" Mackenzie said.

Mackenzie and his wife, Joanna Mackenzie, usually visit their family in Canada once a year but he says now that they have a son, Baxter Archer Mackenzie, they will be visiting more often. The three currently reside in Albany Park.

Animating the world

"I saw ET and Annie and I was like, 'I love America!'"

Photos by VALERIE WOJS

BY VALERIE WOJS

Sitting in her Columbia College Film and Animation Department office, KJ Mathieson recalls what first triggered her love for animation while growing up in her home country of Scotland.

"Well, as a kid I always loved art and storytelling. I loved any kind of fairytale book, like Grimm's Fairytales. And I loved comic books," she said. Every weekend, KJ would make a trip through the farmland and Campsies of suburban Glasgow to buy a comic book for the equivalent of 10 cents.

"That was my big Saturday treat. And on Sundays I would just cut out the comics when they came in the paper."

Today, KJ's office somewhat resembles the depiction of her childhood love for comics in Scotland. The bulletin board behind her desk showcases autographed posters from films created by her students over the past two years while teaching animation production studio at Columbia College Chicago.

At the age of 12, KJ emigrated with her family from Scotland to live near her grandparents in Miami, Fla. Soon after, she saw her first big-screen movie.

"We didn't see a whole lot of film when I was a young because it was expensive to go to the theater," she recalled. "I don't remember what order it was, but I saw 'ET' and 'Annie' and I was like 'I love America!'" After being introduced to film and theater, KJ was fascinated. "It was the art that I



From Glasgow to Chicago through the eyes of KJ Mathieson

loved combined with the storytelling, and it was so amazing for me to see the film on a giant screen."

The movie screen wasn't the only thing that seemed bigger in America as a child. KJ specifically remembers how many types of cereal there were at the grocery store and the amount of food served at restaurants. The change in climate, food and currency was a difficult adjustment, but KJ says she adapted well to "the

one nation at a time

American way."

"I think Americans are just more outgoing and open-minded. Kind of, whatever you want, you can make it happen here."

Although KJ moved from

Scotland at a young age, she still occasionally slips back into a slight Scottish brogue while speaking. "I can just turn it on and off," she said. While living in America, she has also noticed Americans' tendency to

lump all UK accents into the same category. "Well it's frustrating when you watch a movie and they have somebody playing someone from Scotland, and it sounds Irish, or most of the time it sounds English. The accents are not good in movies."

"My family still has the strong accent, but I just turn it on or off when I talk to them," she said in her native brogue. "Otherwise, they don't know what I'm saying."

While in Miami, KJ and her family were active in the Scottish-American Society. Members would often organize events involving traditional Scottish dancing, music, food and clothing. "They'll have a ceilidh, which is a highland dance, and people know where you're from based on your kilt. So I'll wear my kilt and people would say, 'Oh, you're from Glasgow, I see!'"

In 2002, KJ went through the long process of naturalization to become a U.S. citizen. She remembers reading

LAND OF HISTORY

Scotland shares its southern coast with England.



Source: FREEWEBS.COM VALERIE WOJIS

through preparation materials for the mandatory test she would be taking and brushing up on her American history. When she arrived at the Immigration and Naturalization Building in downtown Miami, she was told she would also be

taking an English test. "I was kind of worried, then the lady said, 'You write this down. 'She wears the white shoe.' And I said, 'That's the English test??' So I passed with flying colors," she laughed.

Since receiving her M.F.A. in computer arts and animation from the Florida Center for Electronic Communication, KJ has lived in Miami (where her house was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew), Tallahassee, upstate New York and Orlando, where she worked for Electronic Arts as a video game animator. She made the move to Chicago three years ago and found a teaching job with Columbia College "in a round-about way," she says.

"It's a great school. I like being here. I see all of these events, and there aren't enough hours in the day to do everything I want to do...I wish it was a little warmer in Chicago. It's a lot colder here than in Scotland."

KJ currently teaches Animation Production Studio—a dual semester class in which graduating film students create their own movie. "Suds" and "Off the Wall" are the products of two years of teaching the class.

"They did an amazing job. They worked really hard on it," she said.

As for KJ's future plans? There are still many places she would like to see.

"I'll most likely be going to London this summer. I've already seen Scotland," she said. "But it's great...it's absolutely gorgeous."

SIGNIFICANT LIFE MOMENTS



KJ and her brother Kenneth hold hands in front of their family car in Scotland.



Photos courtesy KJ MATHIESON

Kilts are often worn at formal events and festivities. KJ dancing the ceilidh, a traditional Scottish dance, with her sister Tegan.



"Suds" was accepted into the Los Angeles International Children's Film Festival.



Mathieson's animation production studio class reviews student films for critique.

SCOTTISH GLOSSARY

The language of Scotland may sound like English, but don't expect to hear the same American terms while abroad.

Ceilidh

Traditional highland dance performed at events and ceremonies

Scunnered To be fed up with something
Haste ye back! Come back and visit soon!

Tartan

Known as plaid in America (Tartan kilt)
Messages slang term for groceries

Boot Slang term for trunk of a car. Example: "Can you get the messages out of the boot?"

Haggis Dish containing sheep parts (lung, heart, liver) stuffed inside the lining of a sheep's stomach

Campsies

Large grassy hills in the Scottish countryside

RoseAnna Mueller was just 6 years old when she moved to America. But meeting with her today, she still has a lot to say about the place she was born in Sicily. Once known as the “breadbasket of Europe,” due to the plentiful resources it had, Sicily still has its own distinct characteristics that set it apart from Italy itself. From the dialect, to the food, to the way people even work, Sicily is its own slice of heaven.



Courtesy ROSEANNA MUELLER

NOT YOUR TYPICAL IMMIGRATION STORY

BY GIANNI MARMO

SICILY, THE “BREAD BASKET OF EUROPE”

The residents consider Sicily a little country of its own. It is plentiful in agricultural resources and prominent for fishing.

GIANNI MARMO

Source: LONELYPLANET.COM

Photo by GIANNI MARMO





Photo by ANGELO ROMANO

MUELLER WAS BORN IN A LITTLE HILLTOP TOWN called Bisacquino on December 24, 1949, but she was raised in the fishing port town of Mazara del Vallo, 48 miles away. She said the only reason she was not born there was because every Christmas all the women in her family gathered together at her grandmother's house in Bisacquino to bake cookies.

Before Mueller and her family immigrated to the States, her father was a diesel mechanic in charge of running the ice factory and refrigeration for the ships that brought fish back and forth from the port. Her mother's father had earlier decided to retire in Brooklyn, going between Sicily and New York time after time. While Mueller was still a child, her mother had planned a trip to Brooklyn to visit her father for a while, but ended up staying. Shortly after, Mueller and her father followed.

Hers is a different story

Mueller said that her family's story was not a typical immigration story. She said they wound up having a worse life than they would have had if they had stayed in Sicily. Her father's credentials did not transfer, and he could not get a job doing what he used to. Despite the difficulties they experienced when first moving to America, they ended up staying in Long Island, N.Y., where Mueller was raised. By the time she was 8, her brother was born.

In her father's eyes, "Where we lived was a little Sicily," she said. She was not allowed to speak English to her brother and was required to speak Sicilian when at home. She perfected Italian while she was in high school.

Cultural differences

According to Mueller, one of the cultural differences between America and Sicily is the close-knit families. It always has been traditional and expected for Sicilian families to get together every major holiday and on Sundays for celebration and meals. Mueller said those Sunday afternoons made her an avid reader because she described them as "too long," as she laughed.

Her family also never expected her to go to college. Traditional Italian and Sicilian families always expected their daughters to meet someone between the ages of 16-18, get married, and have children. Mueller has majored in Spanish and has a PhD. in Comparative Literature.

The idea that women don't go to college is not the only tradition she sees that is changing. She also finds that since the coming of the euro, anywhere in Europe is expensive. Mueller said people used to be able to go to Europe for an affordable vacation, but the differences have become extreme. Food, cloth-

ing and housing have become very expensive, although Italians do not seem to be affected by these changes due to the way they perceive life.

"I know that they [Italians] work hard, but they think we're [as Americans] killing ourselves. They don't understand how most people here have a two-week vacation because most of them have four to six weeks," she said. "I think they know how to live life a little bit better. Not as driven by 'things' as we are."

Dealing with religion

Sicily has battled with a big political movement as far back as Mueller can remember. Since WWII, there have been multiple political parties that she says are in constant disagreement. The one party that is stable and has always been in power is the Catholic Church, which still has "tons of money."

Mueller says she was not raised a strict Catholic but more of what she calls a "cultural Catholic." She said it is still expected, even without closely following the religion, to give a child a saint's name, baptize the baby, celebrate first communion and confirmation, and have a church-based wedding.

She describes a cultural Catholic as, "You go along with tradition. It's more of a tradition than a belief. The church can't be separated from how you celebrate, the things that you celebrate in your life."

Life at Columbia

Mueller joined Columbia College in 1991 and is now an associate professor in the Humanities, History, and Social Science department. She does not work anywhere else but does volunteer for Friends of the New Buffalo Library in Michigan and does community service for the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City. This fall, she is teaching a humanities course called Italian Art, Literature

and Music. Because she has taught a course similar to this in Florence three times, she wants to revamp the class to teach it in Chicago.

She also received a Fulbright Scholarship in 2002-2003 to go to Venezuela to teach Latin American Women's Literature. While she was there, she fell in love with a Venezuelan author named Teresa de la Parra. Over the years she has been writing articles about her work. Two years ago she took a sabbatical to write a book that "showcases all of her work."

The book was written in English for an English speaking audience and published in June 2012, but she is translating works of de la Parra's, which have not been previously translated to get the exact feel that Mueller feels she has portrayed.

"I want the world to know about her. I want more people to know about her."

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAZARA DEL VALLO

Mazara del Vallo is known to be one of the most important fishing centers of Italy. It is also especially important to North African countries. The town is one of the most important Sicilian places for the height fishing, and its contribution to the national production in this field is of 20%. Mazara del Vallo was an ancient Phoenician port and it has been an important port since those times.

Source SICILIA.INDETTAGLIO.IT

RoseAnna Mueller in her office. TOP LEFT Mueller as a girl and her mother on her grandfather's farm during "harvest time." TOP RIGHT Fishing boats along the Mazara river in Mazara del Vallo, Sicily



Born and raised in the gang war area of Mexico City, Luis Nasser never related to his neighborhood. With interests in music, math and science he and the people he grew up with never saw eye-to-eye.



BY JASMINE LAFLORA

Leaning back in his office chair, Associate Professor Luis Nasser finished up some work behind his computer desk. He offered me a chair in his office. He described his hometown, Mexico City, as being very mellow and stress-free, which also describes his office. The place was very relaxed and untraditional. On the walls were posters of his favorite bands and the ones he admired. On the dry erase board was the Arabic language he is trying to learn, in order to familiarize himself with his Arab heritage. The only thing that resembled a traditional professor's office was the completely filled bookshelf.

When and why did you come to the United States?

I came in 1995 to get my Ph.D. in Physics. I went to the University of Maryland.

How do you like life in the United States?

I like it enough that I became a citizen and had a daughter here; I like it a lot.

Is your daughter familiar with your birth town?

My daughter is a Mexican citizen as well as being an American. I definitely want her to be familiar with her family and her culture, so she visits more than I do; she loves it down there.

When did you learn to speak English?

I learned it when I was very young because it is a very important language to know. I learned it at a British school when I was young.

How did you get accustomed to the city of Chicago?

MEXICO OR MARS?

Nasser's hometown, Mexico City, is the capital of Mexico. With landmarks such as the Historic Center and the "floating gardens" of Xochimilco, the city has beautiful views. The city has large rural suburban areas, as well as a beautiful night skyline.



I'm an insomniac. When my family was asleep I would get on the train and ride everywhere and just walk. I explored the South Side and the crazy parts of the North. I just walked and talked to people and got to know the city.

What do you miss most about Mexico?

I miss three things: the weather because in Mexico City it's never too hot and it's never

too cold. I miss certain aspects of daily life because in Mexico the culture revolves a lot around eating and drinking, and it's much more relaxed. There isn't a huge rush to do things; people are not so stressed out. And I miss being in a place where there is actually more than either extreme right or center.

What was the hardest thing you had to adjust to in the United States?

Political correctness. I was used to the idea that when you have a problem, you don't sweep it under the rug; we talk. And the idea that there was racism was difficult to adjust to. In Mexico there are people who are every ethnicity, and it's not an issue. In my mind there we were all Mexican, there was no 'I am Mexican with an adjective', 'You are just a Mexican.' That was very strange to me. I'm not really used to it after all this time either, I think it's kind of silly that we can't all just talk and communicate honestly.

Have you been back to Mexico City since you left?

Yes, I have family there; all of my family is there. I go back about once every two years. I guess I should go back more often, but it feels strange when I go back because of where I come from. I grew up in gangland Mexico City and it's very bad.

How did you escape your neighborhood?

What helped me to get out was the fact that I was good at math and that my mother allowed me the chance to go to a school that was not the public school in that

Photo: JASMINE LAFLORA

AN ALIEN IN

HIS OWN LAND

"I do all of these things that have nothing to do with fighting and robbing. It's just so stupid and I have trouble with that when I go back. Even though it's my home, I'm an alien when I go back."

neighborhood. That meant daily or at least weekly beatings and lots of problems, which was almost schizophrenic. My daily reality was something that had nothing to do with school. A lot of the guys that I saw on the streets or had all these problems with ended up either dead or in jail. That's just the way it goes.

How do you feel when you go back to Mexico City?

My mother still lives in that exact same neighborhood so when I go back it's a reminder that these things are still in you, they never really go away. It's a little bit awkward for me to go back, not because I'm ashamed but because I feel like I can't really do anything to help these guys. We can't even really communicate; I'm a physicist and a professional musician. I do all of these things that have nothing to do with fighting and robbing. It's just so stupid, and I have trouble with that when I go back. Even though it's my home, I'm an alien when I go back.

What are the differences in American family values and Mexican family values?

Unlike here, there is a sense of community that is much different. It is much more common in a neighborhood there for a mother or father to take in all the kids. Everyone looks out for everyone else.

What is the difference between the educational systems here and there?

It's huge. In elementary school, on paper and in practice the two are very similar. If you go to an elementary school in

a poor area there, it's the same as going to a poor public school here. The teachers you get are not going to be that good. The difference is you are less likely to have gun-related violence. You might get stabbed, but you won't get shot. Metal detectors don't even exist there. As for college, in Mexico it is a constitutional right to get an education all the way, including universities. I paid for my undergraduate degree. My total bill for a whole year there was less than a U.S. quarter, and that was just for paperwork. It's lit-

erally free. The enormous difference between Mexico and here is they don't treat it like a privilege; it's your right. If you don't have the money, but you have the will and the might, you can do it. Another major difference is we don't have the major and minor system in Mexico. You obtain your general knowledge in high school. At the university you focus on one thing.

How would you compare the drug wars in Mexico to the gun-violence in Chicago?

I think they are very different. In the States, poverty brings violence; they go hand in hand. What's happening in Northern Mexico has to do with the government. In a way the crime is institutionalized. They have declared war and as a result thousands of people have lost their lives. You can be minding your business and you can be sprayed with bullets.

ONCE YOU ARE IN MEXICO

Mexico is a popular travel destination for many reasons. No matter what activities you decide to participate in during your visit, everyone knows there are two things you must do: eat the food and buy the drinks!

From tamales and tlayudas to mole and salsa verde, Mexican cuisine is a vital part of the experience of visiting Mexico.

It is also important to visit the archaeological sites while in Mexico. It's a good way to learn about the culture.

If you are interested in things such as art and museums, Mexico City is the perfect place for you to visit: The Fine Arts Palace, the Chapultepec Castle and the National Museum of Anthropology

are just a few of these important attractions.

Mexico has nearly 6,000 miles of coastline and some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, both Caribbean and the Pacific. Whether you chose to swim, participate in water sports, or relax on the side of the waves you will enjoy the scenery.

Remember when visiting Mexico, much like any foreign place, you stay aware. If staying in a resort, it is best that you remain in that resort area and avoid straying.

Mexico is a gorgeous place to visit, but it is vital that as a tourist you remain conscious at all times for your safety.

Source: MEXICOCITY-GUIDE.COM

Here, if I never go to the South Side I will never be affected by the violence. Here the crime is very localized; it's a totally different thing.

What are the differences American college students and Mexican college students?

You don't have people who die from binge drinking when they turn 21. It's not a big deal because it's not a taboo. The maturity you need to have takes longer to set in here. People get to college and want to drink and have sex and do all these things here, but they take over and don't focus on the careers.

How did you choose your profession?

That was actually kind of an accident. When I was in high school I had to choose certain subjects and my former teacher told me to take physics. And a part of me never wanted to disappoint my dad. He always wanted to be a mathematician. In the back of my mind I always felt like that could be my tribute to him. Then I discovered I actually liked it, and was good at it.

What are your other fields of expertise?

I am a musician. I have always loved music first. I play guitar and bass guitar. I also play piano but not very well. I write and like to work with singers because it's exciting.

Do you embrace the Arab culture at all?

In Arab culture, family honor is a really big thing. My mother was my father's girlfriend, not wife, so his family looked at me as a sin. I was not to be seen; I was disgraceful. I only met my father's brother once, and after my father died he told me he could no longer see me. I honestly don't know much about the culture, so I have decided I should learn it because part of me it is. Only recently have I decided to learn the language.

BY PAUL DAY

When Pangratios Papacosta was a very young child, his grandfather planted a seed. Over the next weeks, Papacosta watched the seed sprout through the ground and eventually his family ate the fava beans from the plant. He was inspired. After a few weeks, he returned to his grandfather, upset. His other seeds, in the form of coins and candy, had not grown.

"I went complaining to my grandfather that it doesn't work anymore. He laughed

and laughed...I then asked a question that went to the heart of the matter: How does a bean know to become a bean?" says Papacosta.

That question led to many others, and Papacosta's passion for those answers, through science, gave him his life's work. Now Columbia College's physics coordinator, Papacosta oversees 15 different science courses — and teaches a few when he can fit them in. His passion has led him to great success, having won both an Excellence in Teaching award at Columbia in 1994 and the Socratic Award in 1999 from the University of Florida for his work creating

the Center of Greek Studies.

Born "many, many years ago" in Cyprus, Papacosta grew up in the village of Kalavassos. He grew up in a religious family, as both his father and his grandfather were priests. Although he considered becoming one as well, he decided that his "curiosity was stronger than that interest."

His desire to know more about the universe led him to a Ph.D. in Physics at the University of London. The choice of school was simple for him, especially because Cyprus had no universities at the time.

After his Ph.D., he made the unusual choice to go right back and get his master's in

the history and philosophy of science. He credits that as one of his best decisions, as it "rounded him off" by giving him a full understanding and appreciation of the symbiotic relationship between the arts, humanities and sciences.

"This is what I bring to Columbia. I have both the interest and experience in linking science, particularly physics, with its history, with the people who gave us the physics that we have today, and with the impact of those discoveries," says Papacosta.

After tiring of the rigid and narrow path for physics studies in Britain, he went to the University of Florida, then

An olive tree and field of mustard plants on one of Papacosta's properties in Cyprus.



Papacosta in his village in Cyprus.

Positive ReCypriotcity

Columbia College Physics Coordinator and Cypriot Pangratios Papacosta shares his passion for science everyday

Cyprus

The island, in the west of the Mediterranean Sea, is a little over half the size of Connecticut.



OLD CIVILIZATION, YOUNG REPUBLIC(S)

Kalavassos, the village Pan Papacosta grew up in has been a constant place of habitation since 7,000 BC.

"It was rich with history. Farmers would smash through pots all the time while tilling," said Papacosta.

Cyprus has been inhabited for almost eight millennia, and ruled over by many, from England to Byzantium. Although there were many influences, the majority has always been of Greek ethnicity.

The Republic of Cyprus was born in 1960, freed from the British crown after it was annexed by the United Kingdom in 1914. The constitutional republic had difficulties from the start, as disagreements

between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots broke into violence. In 1963, the Turkish Cypriots refused to participate in the government.

An attempted coup by extremist Greek Cypriots in 1974 led to Turkey launching an offensive that took control of 38 percent of the island, now recognized only by Turkey as the Republic of Northern Cyprus. The UN peacekeeping forces maintains a buffer zone.

The Kalavassos of Papacosta's youth had both cultures living peacefully together.

"The majority of Cypriots want to join together. There has been progress," said Papacosta.

—Paul Day

Source: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, MAPSOF.NET

"We must find the way we can best help our world."

Stetson University and finally was hired as the first professor in Columbia's fledgling physics program. At the time, the physics program had "only a box full of a few items."

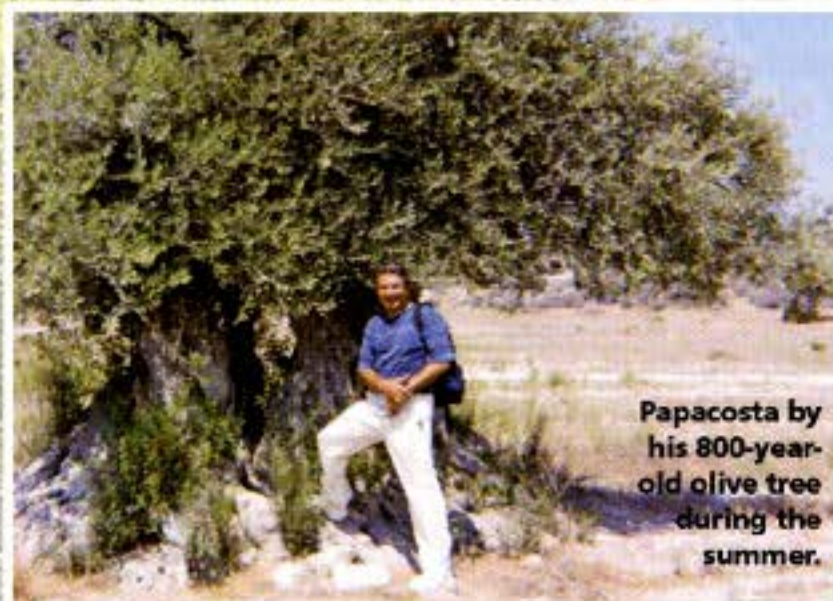
The program now has extensive labs filled with cutting-edge equipment and three other full-time physicists, which he said he is especially proud of. He is also proud of helping raised funds from different grants for the department. A quality core liberal arts curriculum is essential to Columbia's goals, and his goal, of creating not just better students, but better citizens, he says.

"We believe that our students will actually author our culture one day," says Papa-

costa. He says he tries to instill in his students a passion for science that will stay with them as they move forward in many different careers. Through collaboration with other departments, he has created several multidisciplinary courses to show the "richness" of science and its relation-

ship with so many aspects of life. One is the Physics and Art of Space and Time, which he put together with professors of film, dance and music at Columbia.

"It is one of the most fun courses that brings together these great and unusual flavors of science," says Papacosta.



Papacosta by his 800-year-old olive tree during the summer.

Photos courtesy PAN PAPACOSTA

The relationship between science and the arts has been strong with Papacosta since his youth, when he would stare up and wonder at the stars, which were plentiful with so little light pollution.

"If you ever go to an island like Cyprus...the sky was a spectacle. If you turn up, you become a romantic philosopher by looking at that picture," says Papacosta.

He still visits Cyprus once or twice a year, where he now owns the land of his grandparents. His transition between cultures has the added ease of a common language, as the majority of Cypriots speak English. But the cultures do have some striking differences, says Papacosta.

"There is a relaxed way of life in Cyprus. That doesn't mean inefficient, but people know how to enjoy the few holidays they have, the free hours they have with their families," says Papacosta.

The family unit is more important there as well, with more meals together, more respect for elders and less divorces, he says. His village was inhabited by Turkish Cypriots as well. He says the two cultures lived in peace with ease, which makes the current state of the split nation saddening for him. With renewed talks between the two sides, he says he is "optimistic. Always have been, about everything." Papacosta expresses his optimism through the way he follows his life philosophy, which focuses on the potential for a better world, but only through a balance of good work and living well.

"We must find the way we can best help our world. I'm here to use my best talents to service society in the best way possible. I recognize that my greatest talents are in communicating science to people who aren't scientists...in a way that will make people not just understand science but be inspired by it," says Papacosta.

BY JENNICE DOMÍNGUEZ

Carolina Posse has brought the Colombian touch to Columbia College. Not only has Posse brought her teachings in film, but she has brought her culture as well.

She was born in Barcelona, Spain, but she grew up in Bogotá, Colombia, her parents' native land. Compared to other South American countries, Colombia is the one country that has had a democracy since its independence. She grew up in the 80s when terror on a daily basis was a regular occurrence. It was a literal "battlefield" in the drug wars because Colombia was the top cocaine provider in the world (See sidebar.) Colombia has the 29th largest population in the world and second largest in South America. It also has the fourth largest economy.

When Posse visits her country, she prefers doing it by car or bus because the geography is "beautiful" and you're able to see that nature has its beauties. Her favorite memories are the summers she spent in Cartagena, an old coastal city on the Colombian Caribbean Sea. Three months out of the year she would spend in Cartagena with her grandmother, great-grandmother and friends enjoying a relaxed summer.

What she remembers the most about Cartagena are the smells. She vividly remembers waking up at the screaming lady with a "Palenque" on her head selling fresh fruit; sitting on the beach eating her slices of pineapple, she can still remember



Carolina Posse walking along the shore of lake Michigan in Chicago.

Photos courtesy CAROLINA POSSE

Sitting on the beach eating slices of pineapple, she can still remember the mix taste of pineapple and sand.

the mixed taste of pineapple and sand. Her favorite Colombian food is "arroz con coco" or rice with coconut that her mother prepared for her when she was a kid.

Posse says she had a beautiful childhood but doesn't know

where she found her love for film.

She was exposed to art everyday, but her parents don't have an art background.

Her father is a chemist and her mother is a housewife. She remembers going to the movies on Sundays with her grandmother, and the movie theaters she attended could hold up to 3,000 people. She adored going to watch films and it became a form of art that she decided she wanted to pursue.

She doesn't have a favorite genre of films, but she believes

DRUG WARS

In Colombia, the drug wars have been happening since the 70s. Drug traffickers began bringing cocaine into the U.S. in suitcases. As time went by, the trafficking operations became a multi-million dollar business. Drug trafficking gave Colombia a reputation and the world forgot there was more to the country than drugs. In recent years Colombia has become a safer country and is appreciated for its food and beautiful geography, besides its coffee.

A COLOMBIAN in COLUMBIA

Colombian Carolina Posse never knew that her love in film would introduce her to the love in teaching



Posse wandering around in a street market in Bogotá, Colombia.

FROM THE CITY TO THE SEA



Source: WORLD ATLAS

that all genres are important because they contribute to the film and art as a whole.

There wasn't a school that had film as a specialization in Colombia. She explored some programs in Venezuela and Argentina, so coming to the United States came as an option. She thought that if the United States has such a big film industry why not take advantage of it? When she heard about Columbia College Chicago, she liked that Columbia was a smaller environment and that it

"I always had a passion for film, I was in love with the art."

was a college that was flexible with foreign students despite having the largest film department in the United States. Posse came to Columbia College in 1994 to spend the next three and a half years as a foreign student and "loved it."

Posse enjoyed Columbia's faculty and environment so much that she decided she wanted to teach. Teaching became one of the loves of her life.

This young Colombian filmmaker has exhibited her work in New York City, Manchester, Chicago and Gaborone, Botswana. Some of her biggest credits are "Hot Chili," "The Quiet," and "Path of Least Resistance." In 2007 she marked her seventh year with the Chicago Film Festival. Posse teaches creative producing and marketing for film at Columbia College.

"I was always in love with the art. I don't know why or how."

BORN IN SPAIN, RAISED IN COLOMBIA



Flags: Spain and Colombia



Colombia obtained its independence from Spain in 1810.



Its first president was Simón Bolívar (left) who was a key player in the independence movement in Latin America. Posse was born in Spain but considers herself Colombian like her parents.

ARROZ CON COCO, HER FAVORITE DISH



cocinarecetas.net

Arroz con coco (Rice with coconut) is a very popular side dish in the Eastern part of Colombia. The dish is prepared with raisins, coconut milk, a pinch of salt and water.

THE BEST of BOTH WORLDS

Petra Probstner respects the education system in the United States despite growing up with the very strict schooling system in Hungary

BY BRANDY JACKSON

You have to be targeted and purposeful," said Petra Probstner, an assistant professor at Columbia College Chicago in the Art & Design department, when talking about the schools in her hometown of Kecskemét, a city in the central part of Hungary.

Probstner is the daughter of Jonas Probstner, founder of the International Ceramic Studio of Central Europe, which is an art colony that specializes in ceramic arts. Developing her love for art at a very young age, she knew that she wanted a career in interior architecture. "In Hungary you have to decide your career at an early age," said Probstner.

The school system in Hungary is very different from the United States. A student needs to take a test to get into primary school, high school and the university. The university test is seven days long and focuses on different areas such as geometry, life drawing, art history, general knowledge and verbal communication skills.

Twenty out of 400 students are then selected into the university. If students achieve academic success they are then awarded financial compensation from the state, which could mean (as in Petra's case) that for two years—out of five—



"I can give [the students] a view of how I see the world, and I could offer that as an option, but I want to be careful to not bring so much of that. I don't want them to turn into me, but I want them to find options for themselves."

those students are paid minimum wage to attend school.

"It is very different, but you have to do it. It's not all easiness and fun," said Probstner. "It makes you work really hard, but prepares you for the five years you will spend at the university. There's no hand holding, it's kind of like a military training school. It's more like your job, and you have to do it as well as you can."

During her time teaching, Probstner has received calls from some of her old professors who are curious about how much training her students have here [in the U.S.] at the schools. "They're surprised when I say that they have about one or two classes, and there is no entrance

exam. They don't understand how that could be possible," she said.

Probstner has learned a lot by traveling and studying at different schools in different locations. She's studied at the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland, worked as an architect and designer in Glasgow, Kecskemét and London, and has also been a visiting lecturer and critic at many universities such as Royal College of Art in London, Metropolitan University of London, Parsons School of Design and Pratt University in New York.

Because of her experience in Europe and in the United States, Probstner feels that she can bring a lot to the table when it comes to teaching her students.

"I have the best of both worlds. I see the beauty and the value of a very vigorous education, but then again I see the value of something very imaginative, playful, and interesting way of educating people," she said.

"I can give them a view of how I see the world, and I could offer that as an option, but I want to be careful to not bring so much of that. I don't want them to turn into me, but I want them to find options for themselves," she continued.

Probstner said that she now sees education differently. She's realized that a lot of her students can do brilliantly without all the academic basic training that Hungarians seem to firmly believe in. "Imagination isn't very valued in the system where I come from," she said.

"I thought there was a right and wrong in everything, until I came here [the Unit-



Interior Architecture Assistant Professor Petra Probstner looking at a Hungarian cookbook at her office in Columbia College Chicago.

BRANDY JACKSON

KECSKEMÉT, AN ARTISTIC CITY



Kecskemét is famous for the colorful Art Nouveau buildings decorated with ceramics and the Kodály method of musical education. Students from all over the world come to the summer training courses at the Zoltán Kodály Musical Education Institute, to study the musical education methodology of the Hungarian composer, in his native city.

There are many unique museums in this central Hungarian city, including: The Hungarian People's Applied Arts Museum, The Museum of Hungarian Native Artist, The 'Szórákaténusz' Toy Museum and Workshop, the only photography museum in the country, and the Leskowsky Collection of Musical Instruments.

Source: WORLD ATLAS, BUDAPEST-HUNGARY.HU

ed States] and people asked for my personal opinion. I was like, "What?! I get to have an opinion of my own!?" said Probstner.

Probstner respects the fact that here in the States going to a university translates into a lot of money. It is common in the United States for students to work a job and go to school at the same time, which Hungarian students aren't quite used to.

Students in Hungary see schooling as their job.

Despite the fact that the education system here is drastically different from the education system in Hungary, Probstner also brought up something that she is very nostalgic about, and that is time.

"We view time very differently. My husband told me that 'Americans leave without saying goodbye, and say goodbye without leaving.'"

"People here are always on the go, and eating snacks and stuff, and especially while driving. I ask myself, 'How do they do that? Oh, of course it's an automatic car, when in Europe it's stick shift. I was like wow, and one more thing starts to make sense.'"

Born in New Delhi, India, Anuradha Rana, 35, made her way to Chicago at the age of 25 to acquire an MFA in film at Columbia College. Along with working on her own documentaries, she has been an adjunct faculty member of the Film & Video department. Rana's transition from India to America was a fairly easy one, but she still holds her native country very close to her heart. "There are some parts of me that belong to India. That is never going to change. When I go back every year, I still say 'I'm going home,' even though Chicago is home."



Rana on a camel safari in Rajasthan, India

Photos courtesy ANURADHA RANA

AMERICAN HOME, INDIAN HEART

BY LILY MACHMOUCHI

What are the major differences you saw growing up in India, and then coming to America?

Families are very, very close-knit in India. When I moved here it seemed to me that families weren't as close-knit, but I have been here long enough to realize that that's not true either. It just depends on your family. Not that many differences really. I think culturally part of that is because I lived in Delhi, which is a huge city and Chicago is a really big cosmopolitan city as well. I mean, communities here are segregated in terms of race, and in Delhi I felt they were segregated, to an extent, in terms of culture.

What's your favorite thing about your country?

Oh my God, so many things! I love the food, so when I go home I always eat and eat and eat, and I always lose weight and I come back [to the U.S.] and I'm like, why do I always gain weight here and I'm not even eating. So there's that.

Indian documentary filmmaker **Anuradha Rana** is living her own path in America but still holds her Indian heritage on her shoulders everywhere she goes

What's your favorite food?

Mm, my favorite Indian food is anything my mom makes. It's more nostalgic.

Yeah, mom makes the best meals (laughs).

I try everything she makes, and it's never as good.

I know. I've tried to, and I like cooking now. I never cooked when I was in India, but when I came here I just missed the food so much, I started cooking, but no, it's never the same (laughs). I also love traveling when I go back to India too. Rajasthan is one of my favorite states. It borders Pakistan and it's all desert; most of it is desert. A couple of years ago we went and

did a camel safari. It was a lot of fun.

What, if anything, is something you are never going to get used to in America?

There are a few things. I think, to an extent, the food. I mean, it's like my fridge will always be full but somehow whenever I go eat something I can never find just the perfect thing that I want to eat at the moment (pauses).

You know, I guess just the space, even. In India there's a lot of people, it's a huge population. You can go out at any time of the day and night and there are always a lot of people around and Chicago, yes, but I have traveled to

the middle of the States and you can be in a place where there are towns of 100 people. That, I can never get used to.

So starting off as a mathematics major, how did you transition over to documentary filmmaking?

So my undergrad was in math. As an undergrad in math I realized it wasn't really one of my favorite topics ... I'm not quite sure why I decided (laughs) I wanted to be a mathematician. So I ended up being a journalist, and I worked for *The Pioneer*, a national newspaper in India. And once I started doing that, I realized that I'd rather go that route, and I ended up applying for a masters in Mass Communications. I was a feature writer and I would get a lot of time to research my stories, and it's not

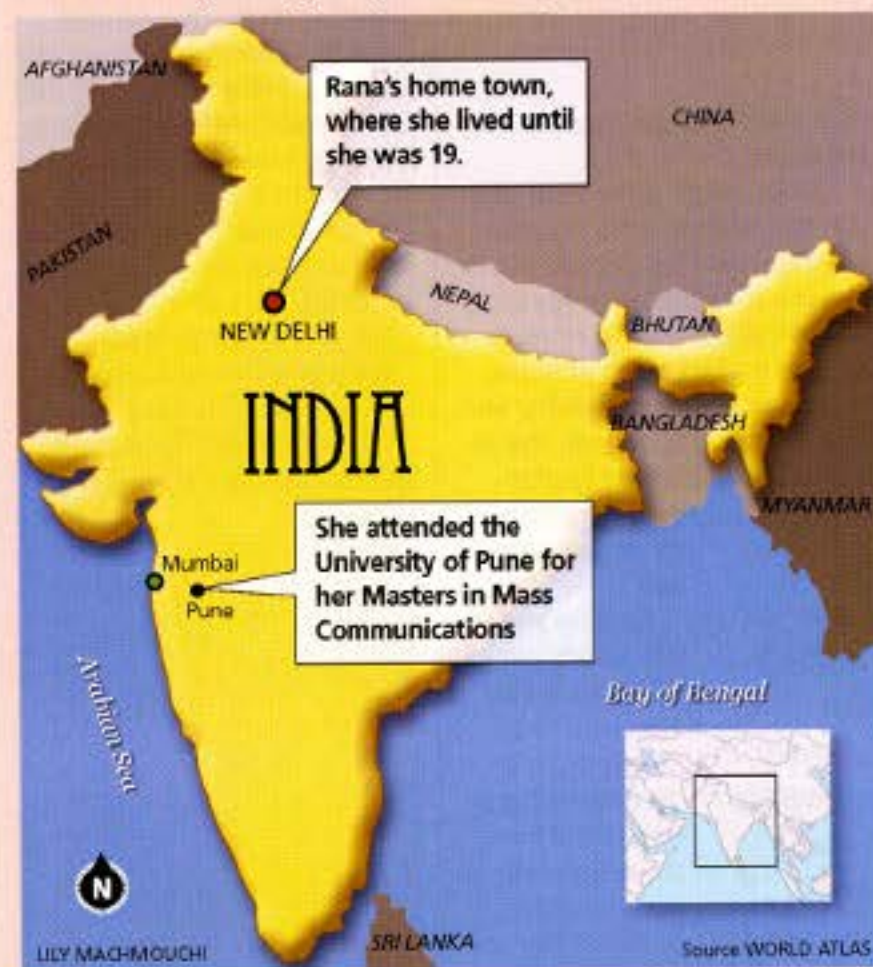
When I go back every year [to India] I still say 'I'm going home,' even though Chicago is home"



Rana focused in her comfort zone, holding a camera and filming.

A GLIMPSE OF INDIA

Metropolitan Delhi is the second most populated city in India (over 16 million,) after Mumbai. It's located in a humid subtropical area where temperatures reach almost 40 F degrees in the summer. Pune, southwest of Delhi is the eighth largest city in this country.



your favorite documentaries?

I actually just watched one in class, and it was called "John Smith." It was in the second season of *This American Life*, [A TV show airing journalistic and true stories of everyday people] and I have to say that, that is one of my recent most, most favorite documentaries. It's just a story about people. And I love those. You get to know characters, meet them, and spend time with them.

What do you think of the portrayal of Indian characters in American movies?

Well, there are not that many. And I frankly can't even remember the last film that I saw that had an Indian character. I haven't seen "Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle" (laughs). The ones that I have seen that are sort of Hollywood are actually made by Indian filmmakers, so Mira Nair is an Indian filmmaker who made "The Namesake," which I think is the most recent one that I saw. I just would love to see more. Like one of my favorite characters is Mindy Kaling's character on "The Office." She's just completely nuts, and it's great to see a character that's not a doctor (laughs) or not like an I.T. guy. It's just this girl in an office that's crazy.

Besides friends and family is there anything else you miss about India?

I think it's just the sense of the place. Like whenever I go back I always visit certain places in Delhi that maybe I used to hang out with my friends. And I love old Delhi, which is one part of Delhi that's just like really skinny streets and shops on every side, and it's so crowded, oh my God, and you know it just has this different feel to it that I can't get here. And the way people interact with you, with me especially, it's never going to be the way it is in India. It won't be like that here, ever. It's a matter of being or feeling like you belong to a place, and in India I feel like I belong.

very different from being a documentary filmmaker, but now instead of just writing out my stories, I film them.

Are you currently working on anything now?

Yeah, well, I finished shooting a film last year in Oregon. I was the cinematographer for that film. It was about a group of high school students who are on the football team, except the high school students are exchange students from all over the world.

Oh, how did that go?

It was ... we went twice and it was a lot of fun. I don't think I have ever seen so many scrawny guys trying to play football. (laughs). I do not think they realized what they were getting into. But the exchange students were from China, Taiwan, Germany, Vietnam, and Kyrgyzstan. They were seriously like, what is going on? (laughs).

So as a documentary filmmaker, what are some of

A GLIMPSE AT RAMA'S BODY OF WORK

Ring Laila



Ring Laila is about the spirit that prompts a person to fight against the environment they live in – the tradition and convention, the illiteracy and poverty, the culture and religion – to be free to live their own life. Razia Shabnam, India's first Muslim woman to take up boxing, lives this struggle and is a remarkable inspiration.

Canvas, Wheels & Keys



A documentary following three artists as they paint, dance and play beautiful music in a world that is not always accessible or understanding of their disabilities. A story about people fighting for their dignity in a city fragmented by the misinformation and ideas of shame inflicted by the predominant culture.

Soiled



A film about a small country's attempt to move beyond its dependence on oil. It is also a film about environmental and cultural destruction. And perhaps most importantly, it is a film about people trying to actually redefine how we as humans relate to and value nature.

Sandhu at her spacious office in the Fashion Studies Department at Columbia College. FAR RIGHT As a girl with her parents.



LYNNESSA CLARETT



Courtesy ARTI SANDHU

Fashion Studies faculty Arti Sandhu moves from India to New Zealand, then to the United States

BY LYNNESSA CLARETT

Coming from India to the United States via New Zealand at age 21.... Confusing? Not really. It is the journey one of Columbia College's professors set out on a few years ago, not knowing what her future held.

Arti Sandhu was born in 1979 in New Delhi, India. Her father was in the army, so her family got the chance to move all around India. She is an only child. Although she did live there for a few years, she didn't actually grow up in New Delhi but in several parts of India until she turned 21 years old. Then she went to study overseas in the United Kingdom. She has been in the United States for almost six years with her husband, Simon Holland.

Sandhu explained that the transition from India to the United States as not being "as clear as that." Sandhu received her BA in Fashion Design from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (N.I.F.T.), in New Delhi. Then she went to the UK, where she studied to get her masters in fashion and textiles at Nottingham Trent University in Notting-

ham. Then she moved to New Zealand where she stayed for about five and a half years. After that she moved to the U.S.

The fact that now she has two countries to call home was the only problematic thing about moving to the United States. She considers India to be home for her because it is where she grew up, where her parents still are, and where her childhood memories remain. But she thinks of New Zealand as home because it is where she met her husband and where many of her adult memories are.

"So coming here was me leaving two homes," she said. She also stressed that some things took longer than others to get used to. Things like what people call "things," the way there's sugar on a lot of things, and being on the "wrong side of the road"

took a while to get used to, she explained.

While Hindi is the most popular language in India, Sandhu grew up speaking English, which also is a common language spoken in India, as well as Hindi. Her parents spoke English at home, so she became more familiar and fluent with it than Hindi. She attended schools where English

was the primary language spoken.

Sandhu and her family are Sikh. This is a religion practiced mainly by people who live in or come from Punjab, a region in northern India.

However, her parents rarely followed the religion closely, so religion has not played a major part in her life.

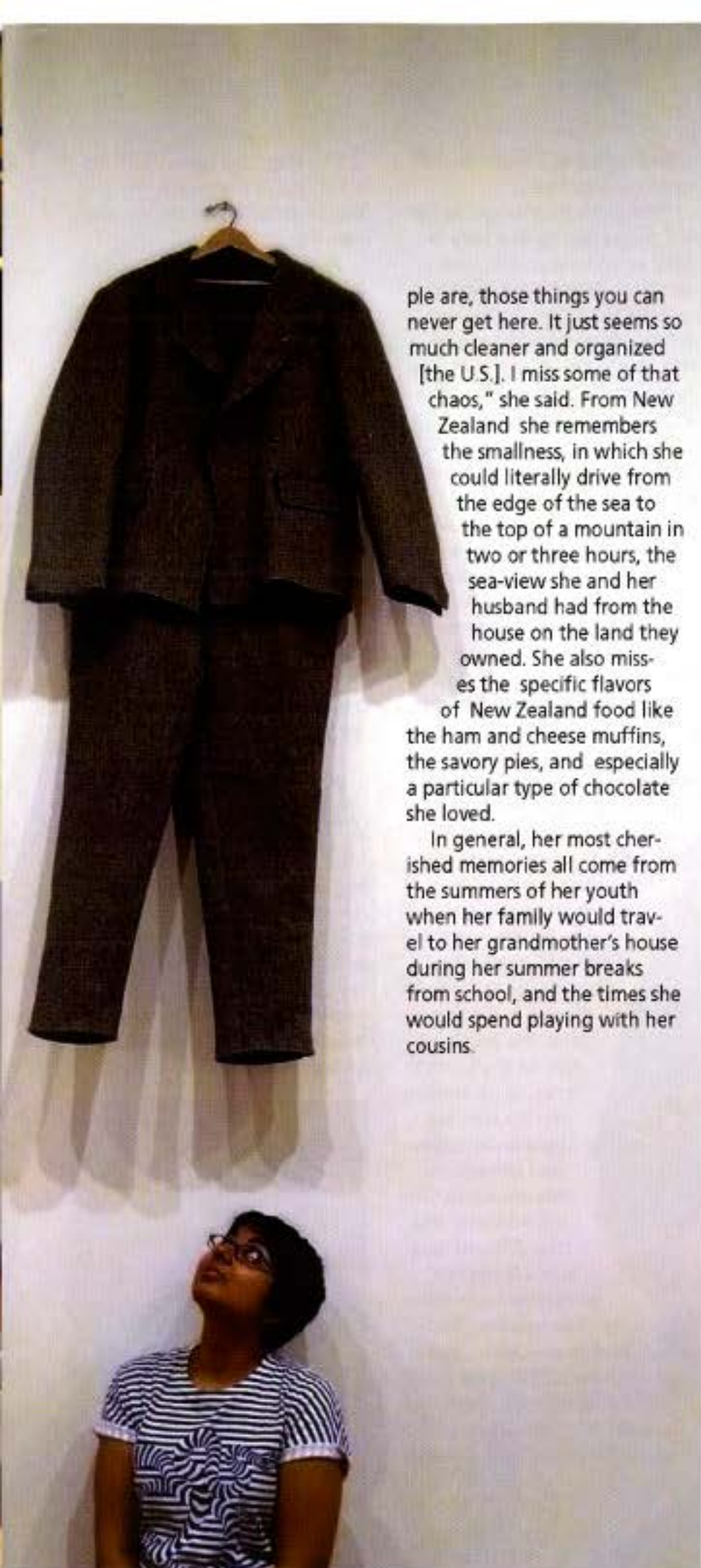
There weren't many festivals that she and her family celebrated. Among the very few they celebrated were *Diwali*: The Hin-

du Festival of Light, *Holi*: The Hindu Festival of Color, and sometimes Christmas. On the day of *Diwali*, every year Sandhu and her family would light firecrackers, place candles all around their house, go out and meet friends. On the day of *Holi*, people would get together and throw paint on one another. She explained that this festival could get a bit rough and wasn't as enjoyable for her as she got older. The few times they celebrated Christmas, they would put up a tree and her mother would buy her gifts but that was only because as a child, she would watch TV and see what Christmas was "supposed to be like," and wanted that same thing.

Sandhu said what she misses most about India are her parents, her mother's cooking, and the simpler life that she was able to see when she was a child. "There's just something about life there: the color, the texture, the way peo-

"There's just something about life there [India]: the color, the texture, the way people are, those things you can never get here..."

LEAVING TWO



ple are, those things you can never get here. It just seems so much cleaner and organized [the U.S.]. I miss some of that chaos," she said. From New Zealand she remembers the smallness, in which she could literally drive from the edge of the sea to the top of a mountain in two or three hours, the sea-view she and her husband had from the house on the land they owned. She also misses the specific flavors of New Zealand food like the ham and cheese muffins, the savory pies, and especially a particular type of chocolate she loved.

In general, her most cherished memories all come from the summers of her youth when her family would travel to her grandmother's house during her summer breaks from school, and the times she would spend playing with her cousins.

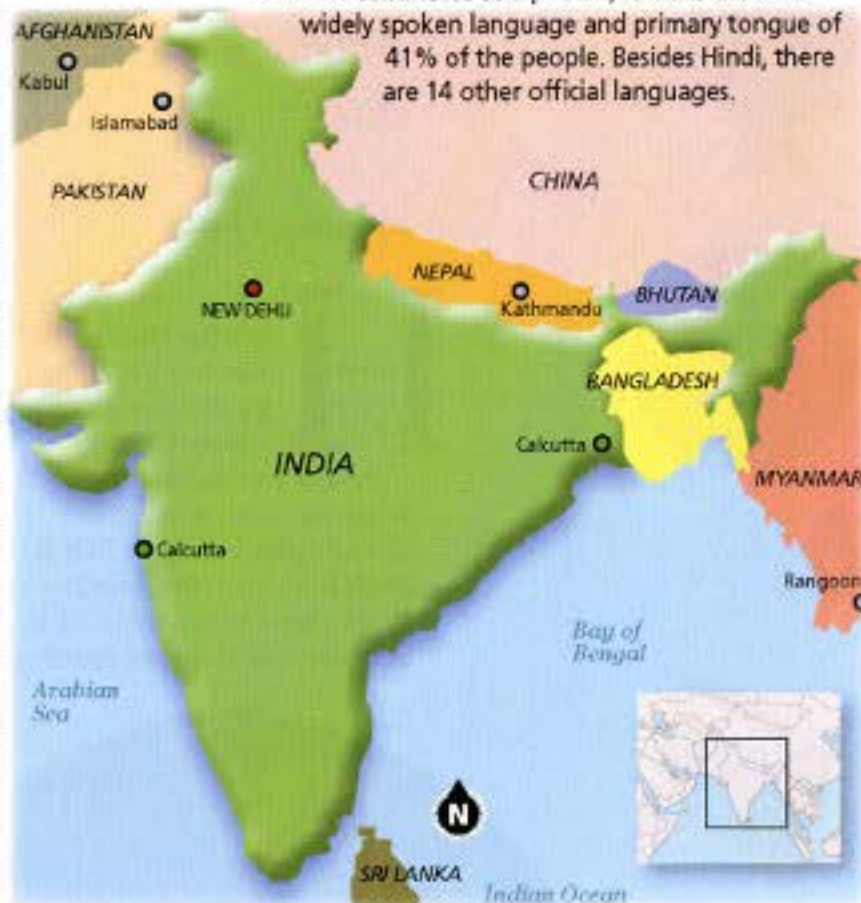
Courtesy SIMON HOLLAND

HOMES

SEVENTH LARGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

Slightly bigger than one-third of the United States, India is the seventh largest country in the world and the second most populated, after China. It got its independence from British rule in 1947. Even though English is mostly used for commerce and politics, Hindi is the most

widely spoken language and primary tongue of 41% of the people. Besides Hindi, there are 14 other official languages.



Source WORLD ATLAS, CIA.GOV

LYNNESSA CLARETT

It seems quite ironic how Sandhu began teaching, considering she never had the intention of becoming a professor. She thought she would be a fashion designer since that is where most of her training is. She had been working as a fashion designer for eight or nine months before she applied for a teaching job in New Zealand, thinking it would be a good change. She got the job with a plan to try it out for a few years to see "how it would go." It wasn't long before she realized that a person can be just as creative teaching as she can designing.

Sandhu affirmed that the difference between education systems in the United States and those in India is that in the U.S. students have more freedom to "express themselves." She also described the education system in India as being more competitive.

Sandhu tries to go back and visit India at least once or twice every year, and New Zealand ev-

ery one and a half or two years. It is not unlikely for her to go to India alone, without her husband, due to the fact that she has more time off work and her visits usually last three weeks to a month. She explained that it is cheaper to go back to India than it is to go back to New Zealand. Unfortunately, she hasn't been to either country in the past year because she is busy working on a book.

Whether she wants to go back and live in either India or New Zealand, Sandhu has not decided yet. "I've learned very early that it's no point in making plans because I never thought I would live in New Zealand, and I never thought I would live in the U.S. either," she said. However, she considers New Zealand to be a really good place to "grow old in." When asked what she thinks about India as a place to go to after retiring she said, "The India that I know now, is not necessarily the India that I miss."



NOELLIA PEÑA

From teaching to film and writing his own music, Bruce Sheridan does it all.

BY NOELLIA PEÑA

He is a lot more than just the Chair of the Film and Video Department at Columbia College Chicago.

After a worldwide search, Bruce Sheridan moved to the United States in August 2001 directly from his native New Zealand to work at Columbia. He is now the second longest standing

chair the Film and Video department has ever had.

Sheridan is no stranger to the U.S. He started coming here in 1983 when he was making music videos during the early days of MTV. Since then, he has visited over 40 states of the nation traveling for work and confesses he has never been anywhere he didn't like. Chicago became the first city in the U.S. he, his wife Toni and two sons, Arlo, 18 and Leroy, 13, have lived in.

Chicago was not too big of a culture shock, Sheridan says. Even though he is from a very small town in New Zealand called Stratford, he had travelled internationally a lot before moving to Chicago, so dealing with different cultures was something he was used to. Chicago has "always felt like home," he says with a smile, adding that his favorite is Chicago's diverse neighborhoods. "If I want to experience a certain culture; a Ukraine market or a Spanish market I know where to go," he says.

He doesn't even mind the cold. In New Zealand he spent a lot of time up in the mountains, the Southern Alps on the South Islands, so it's nothing new for him. But he acknowledges that Chicago winters are worse. The United States and New Zealand have opposite seasons since they are in different hemispheres. Sheridan says weather "just happens." He made music videos with the Australian band "Crowded House," including one called "Four Seasons

in One Day," and agrees with another one of their songs that you should always "take the weather with you."

At the beginning, he says that adapting to American English was a little hard to adjust to but it got much easier after having worked with Americans for a while. He was surprised to find that his last name, Sheridan, which is Irish, was common here in the United States where in New Zealand it was quite the opposite. He finds American English more logical than British English. Not many people can usually recognize the New Zealand accent but those who have been there can often tell, he says. Sheridan adds that he usually gets mistaken for Australian or British, and sometimes for South African.

Along with being the chair of the Film and Video Department here at Columbia, his duties also include teaching, but he only teaches six credit hours a year because of his position. With such a busy schedule as the chair of the largest Columbia College department, Sheridan prefers to teach one big six-credit course in the fall and uses the spring for more traveling relat-



NOELLIA PEÑA

Television award for best drama Bruce Sheridan earned in New Zealand for a show he worked on called *Lawless*.

NO ORDINARY COLUM



FOR A SMALL COUNTRY NEW ZEALAND HAS EVERY TERRAIN IMAGINABLE

With a population of over 4,143,279 inhabitants, the entire country of New Zealand is only 104,454 square miles. But it is home to a vast variety of landscapes. From beautiful glaciers like the Tasman Glacier near Christchurch to the rolling mountains like the Southern Alps with the highest point reaching 12,316 feet above sea level. There is also plenty of hillsides, plains, even

subtropical forests on the North Islands.

New Zealand is also home to multiple volcanoes on both of the main islands, and of course, miles and miles of coast line and sandy beaches. It is not surprising that New Zealand is the new hot spot for Hollywood movies like the successful trilogy *The Lord of the Rings* and a tourist destination for travelers around the world.

Map Source: WORLD TRAVELS.COM
Designed by NOELLIA PEÑA

ed to his work. He can teach pretty much anything, from producing and screen writing to directing and documentary since he has working experience in all these areas. Sheridan says once he started teaching, "It felt like coming home." After teaching at the university level here and in New Zealand, he can't say one system is better than the other, only that they are different. In New Zealand, an undergraduate degree is typically completed in three years instead of four in the United States.

Sheridan said that for such a complex art as filmmaking twenty years old is very young to be done with education. While many aspiring filmmakers in the U.S. go on to grad school, that is not the case in New Zealand. There is a big difference in attitude between the film students in the two countries. American college students are used to the fact that they will have to compete with a lot of other people in the job market and they rarely take their education for granted. Education is less expen-

sive in New Zealand so a smaller proportion of students there are engaged in learning the full complexity of filmmaking. At a school like Columbia College, people who want to be an actor or a journalist need to have a lot of passion. Sheridan says those passionate ones are his favorite people to teach because they want to be taught.

He also believes it is very important to have international faculty at Columbia because we live in a global world market, creatively and financially. He adds that times are changing; selling in one's own market was good enough a few years ago, but not anymore. Young Americans, especially here in the Midwest, need to stay connected to the rest of the world, he said. He feels "the world is better when it's diverse," especially when one lives in a diverse community with different accents and experiences.

Sheridan didn't set out to be a filmmaker but after college he was working in a camera rental company. His dream was to be a luthier, or guitar builder,

which is the instrument he plays. In fact, he builds and repairs his own guitars when he gets the time.

He met a photographer who wanted to make music videos. At the time, Sheridan was in a band that had a record deal called "Everything That Flies." With all the equipment he needed at his fingertips, he decided to change gears and go on to make music videos. Once he started, people told him he was good, and he has been doing films ever since.

He has worked on a few projects with his students, such as the documentary "Perfectly Frank," a film he directed. It is about the famous New Zealand writer Frank Sargeson. Another project he mentions is the "Hibiscus Song," a music video Sheridan and some of his New Zealand students did for songwriter Greg Johnson. He said he had to be careful how he did it; it cannot be an easy way to do a project when you have to set out a plan in order to make it educational and fun.

Besides family and friends in New Zealand, Sheridan also misses the ocean. No matter where



AUGMENTPLANE.COM

Marmite is a yeast extract made of salt, vegetable extract, niacin, thiamin, spice extracts, riboflavin, folic acid, celery extract, and vitamin B.

one is in New Zealand the farthest one can be from the ocean is fifty miles, he says. He does not need to be close to the Pacific Ocean, any ocean will do, and it's the smell that he misses. As for New Zealand food it was not until he moved out of New Zealand that he started to miss Marmite, a spread used very commonly in New Zealand and Australia. After living such a busy and exciting life Sheridan says that it does not matter where one lives. "What's important is what you are doing and who you are doing it with."

BIA COLLEGE CHAIR

Accounting? No!

BY JOYCE SPARKS

Nancy Tonsy took a round-about route to her present job: adjunct instructor of dance therapy at Columbia College Chicago. Born in Cairo, Tonsy studied accounting, psychology, French, dance and special education before settling on her career as a dance therapist.

She also owned her own dance studio in Cairo before moving to the United States and has performed for various nationally recognized dance organizations. She said she became interested in using dance as therapy when she studied as a member of an educational exchange program in North Carolina in 2001. At the time, she was studying to earn her master's degree in special education in Egypt. She had already studied psychology, which she dropped at the urging of her father, then turned to accounting and earned a bachelor's degree in that field.

She later came to Pennsylvania for research in dance. "I was studying the effects of using dance with kids with special needs. That was my primary passion," she said. "As I did the research and I learned a lot about companies that use this method, I was very inspired by this idea of dance

therapy."

After she returned to Egypt, she owned and managed her own dance studio. "When I made enough money to come here, I moved," Tonsy explained.

Tonsy explained that people in Egypt are very focused on their families and communities.

"I have a child and I am raising him in the way that I was raised," said Tonsy. Although she attended a French all-girls day school where she was taught by French nuns, her native language is Arabic. "In Egypt we have schools that you go to from 3 years old to 18 years old. We stay in the same school from elementary to secondary," Tonsy said.

Asked to describe a typical day in her childhood, Tonsy said, "Going to school and coming home. Then lunch, homework and dance. I've been dancing since I was 4 so dance classes also. So dance has always been a part of what I did. My mom has always wanted to be a professional dancer, so that's why she put me in a dance school," she explained.

Tonsy now works as a clinical supervisor using dance therapy as a healing method for people. "I am a dance therapist, so when I do clinical work I always work with the body and see how it reacts

Egyptian-born instructor talks about her childhood and teaching dance as a way of healing

to different interventions. And how the body is responding, the stories being told — just using the body movement as a way of intercepting and intervening," said Tonsy.

Tonsy stays in touch with her family back in Egypt. She said she tries to travel there every one to two years. When she first moved to America, she was asked many questions about where she was raised. Some Americans sug-



Photo courtesy NANCY TONSY

DANCER ATTRIBUTES

1 STRENGTH

2 FLEXIBILITY

Dance Therapy!



Tonsy during her last performance in Egypt in 2002.

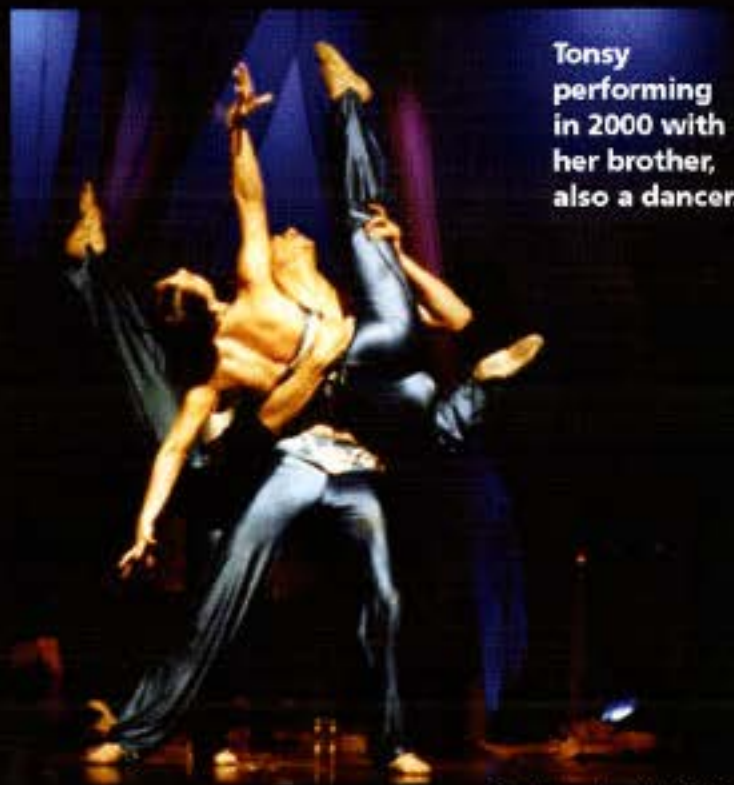
gested that Egyptians have no TV, she said, even though many people call Egypt "the Hollywood of the Middle East."

She added, "If you want to be famous you go to Egypt."

She also explained that many Americans believe all women in Egypt are veiled. "That's not true. They have a choice to be veiled or not," she said.

Others asked her if she had lived in tents and ridden on camels. "So it was like we did not have buildings and infrastructure," Tonsy said. "For me questions are better than assumptions, so it didn't bother me; it was good to ask rather than assume."

Tonsy explained that she takes pride in her native culture. "We are a very ancient culture, and that's where I come from, a culture grounded in value and traditions and family. And I believe in the power and support of a community and that one individual doesn't stand alone. That's what grounds me."



Tonsy performing in 2000 with her brother, also a dancer.

Photo courtesy NANCY TONSY

CAIRO, EGYPT, THE BIRTH PLACE OF TONSY

In February 2011, after weeks of protest, President Hosni Mubarak stepped down from his position. Everyone in Egypt rejoiced. In 2012 a new president, Mohamed Morsi, was elected.



JOYCE SPARKS

Source WORLD ATLAS

→ 3 JOINT FLEXIBILITY

→ 4 CARDIOVASCULAR STRENGTH

→ 5 COORDINATION

Athens-born musician Pantelis Vassilakis traveled the world and found Chicago, his home away from home

BY REGAN CRISP

I love Chicago," says Pantelis Vassilakis, 49, from his office in Columbia College's Audio Arts & Acoustics Department. "If I could choose, Chicago would be the best city in the world." He flashes a sly smile, and adds: "But only for those two-and-a-half months when it's warm here."

A man who grew up on the Mediterranean Sea can afford to be picky. Considering Vassilakis' world travels (he's been everywhere from Austria to the Seychelles) Chicago is probably lucky to have him.

Vassilakis is an associate professor and chair of the Audio Arts & Acoustics Department at Columbia College. He was born in Athens, Greece, and his silver hair and naturally tan skin reflect this. His hands move constantly as he weaves the story of his strange journey to Chicago, which may or may not have begun when he gave up his professional volleyball career. His ideas, like his hands, go a mile a minute, his accent thick but his vocabulary rich. Though we've just met, we've already covered religion, family and capitalism.

He has strong opinions on all

three, which he conveys with the bright smile of a much younger man — a Greek man. It's quickly apparent why Chicago magazine chose this professor for its 2011 list of the 50 Most Beautiful Chicagoans. Not only is he gorgeous, he's clearly brilliant.

Vassilakis teaches psychoacoustics and film sound perception to Columbia's hopeful sound engineers and acousticians. If this sounds complicated, it's because it is. But Vassilakis has proven his sound expertise several times over.

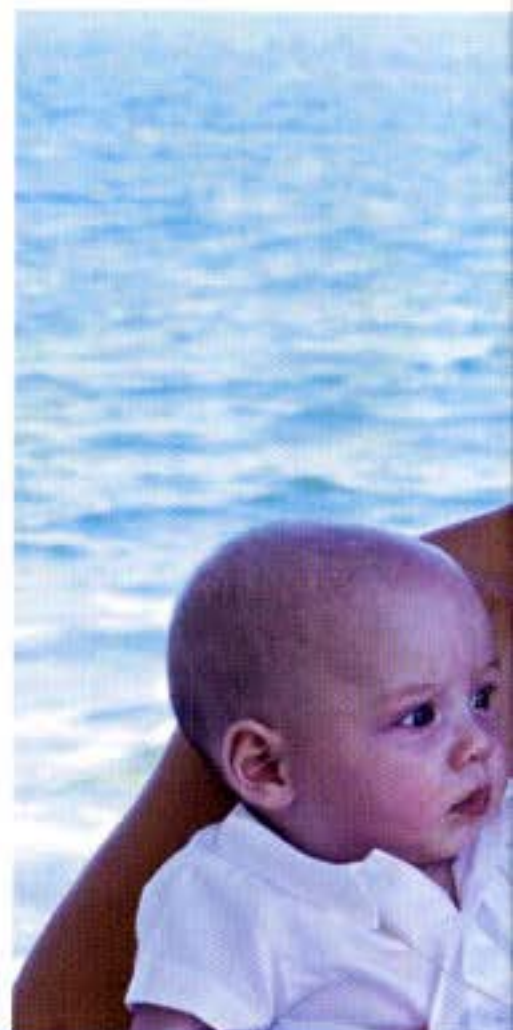
His graduate studies were at UCLA's Ethnomusicology Department, his post-doctoral work in Auditory Science. He's worked as a composer, a conductor, a sound designer and was the lead singer of a Greek New Wave band in the 80s. He still receives royalties for the latter.

He comes to Columbia College from DePaul University after being disappointed by the limited relevant possibilities for him there, and says he couldn't have designed a better environment for his passions to converge than our college's Audio Arts & Acoustics Department. Though his career has included modeling, playing volleyball

for Greece's national team, and taking photographs for Playboy, Vassilakis says he is first and foremost a musician, forever fascinated with sound.

His office is appropriately located at the far end of the 6th floor department where he has at last found his niche. It's simple but large, with a striking view of the South Loop. It's here that he tells me animatedly what he misses most about Greece ("the light") and why he loves living in Chicago ("the Lake").

Vassilakis seems like he could be happy anywhere, but maybe that's just because he's been everywhere. He originally left Athens, where he was studying electrical engineering, for a modeling job that took



SOUND

him all over Europe. Later, while studying music in London, he wrote for the English National Ballet, and was given an award for his composition by Princess Diana. He married his wife Maria on the beach in Malibu, Calif. in 2002, and in January 2011 became the proud father to Chicago-born twins, Emmanuel and Angeliki.

His role as a father is a good example of Vassilakis' feelings about living in America. He speaks to his children only in Greek, but assures me that his wife speaks to them only in English, and their nanny only in Tagalog (his wife is an American-born Filipino.) He has already taken his children to Greece where his parents and siblings live.

Vassilakis speaks fondly of

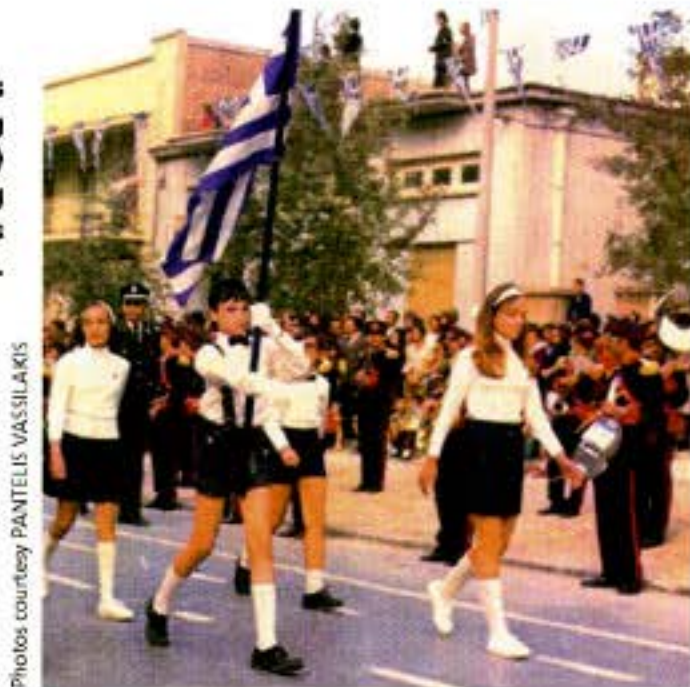
his homeland, but maintains that it is always better to understand other countries in addition to one's own. He wants his children to be open and accepting of all cultures, and hopes being trilingual and living in the United States will give them that.

"I miss the people," he says about Greece. "But the nationalist isolation is much bigger than here. Every American is from somewhere else."

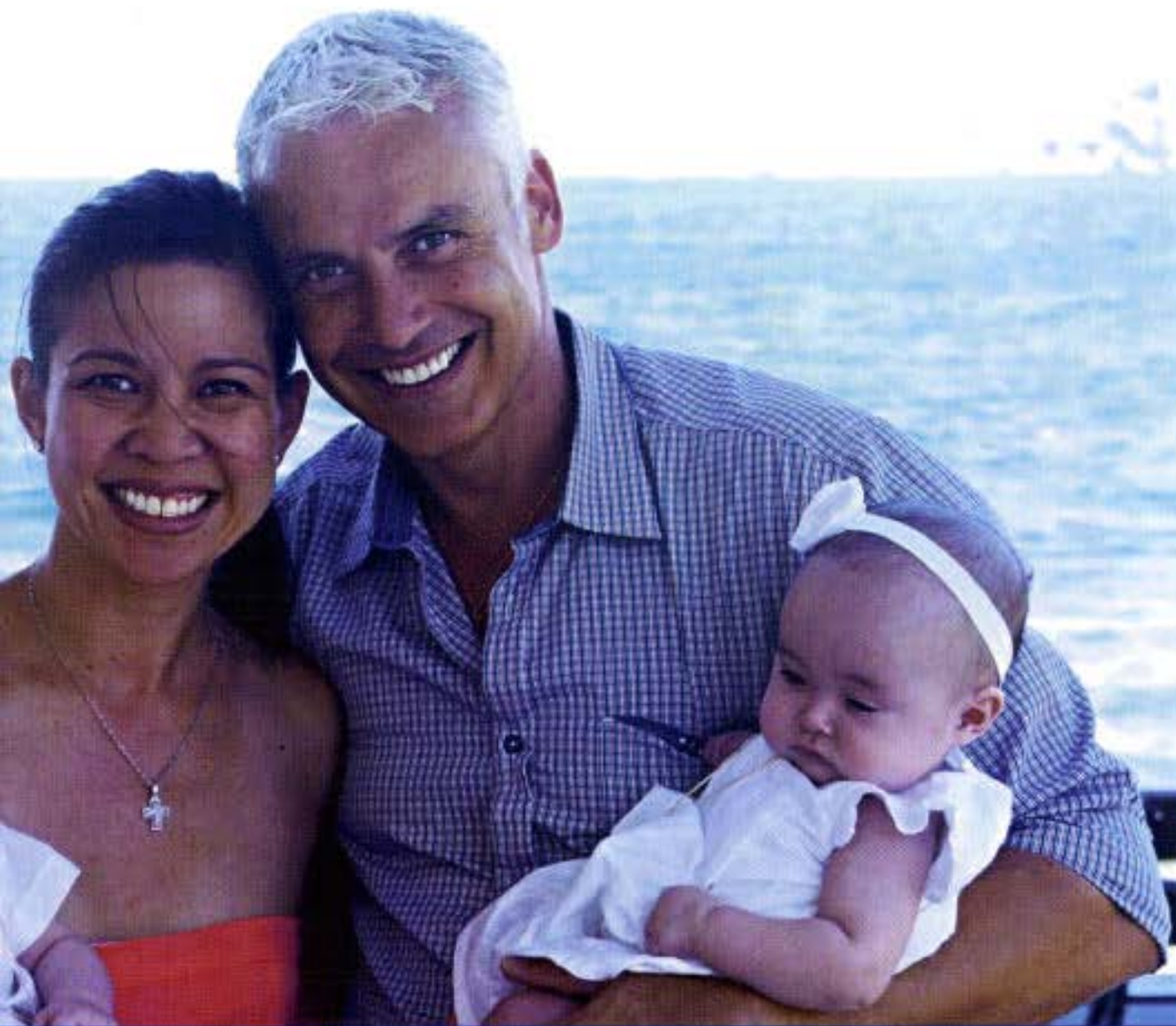
On the other hand, Vassilakis says what shocked him most when he moved to the U.S. was the "uniformity." No matter where he went he would see a McDonalds, a strip mall at a main street.

"The first time I walked into Costco..." he says nostalgically, "I'll never forget it. It was the first time in my life I'd seen a gallon of

Vassilakis (holding flag) marching in Athens as a boy.



Photos courtesy PANTELIS VASSILAKIS



Vassilakis, his wife Maria and their twins Emmanuel and Angeliki in a recent trip to Greece.

EXPERTISE

"This department is a macrocosm of what I've done my whole life. What separates a sound expert from the average listener is the ability to focus, beyond what a sound represents, on sound itself"

milk. In Greece, a quart was big." He adds enthusiastically, "Or, freshly squeezed orange juice! For me to eat oranges I had to wait until it was season."

These things amazed Vassilakis about the U.S., and now, he says, he is spoiled when he

returns to his home country, where the hotel rooms are half as large and twice as expensive. The two realities are very different, but Vassilakis, a chameleon by now, handles the divide with ease. Though he does wish that Chicago had weather more similar to the Mediterranean, he is in love with the city and its people.

Vassilakis says he chose his South Loop condo almost entirely based on its proximity to Lake Michigan. Like a true Chicagoan, he states proudly that the Lakefront is what makes the city, and it's the water that keeps him here. Columbia is the other reason he stays.

"This department is a macrocosm of what I've done my whole life," Vassilakis says, and he sounds truly appreciative.



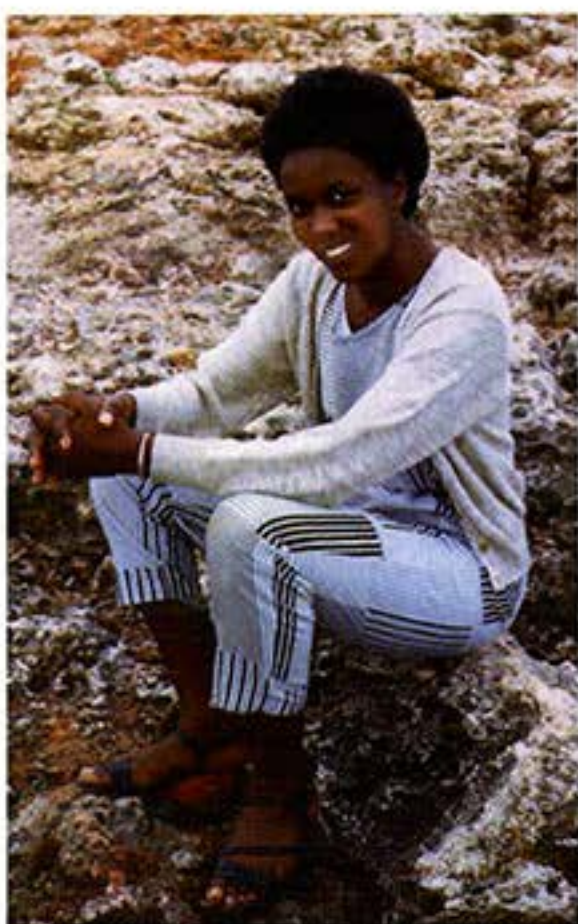
Source US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REGAN CRISP

"What separates a sound expert from the average listener is the ability to focus, beyond what a sound represents, on sound itself," he says of his field. "Most listeners do not approach music in these terms. It's a difference in focus. I love sound in all of its aspects, whether representational or purely sonic."

Columbia's Audio Arts & Acoustics Department is highly specialized and unique and it's here that Vassilakis is able to delve into the complexities of sound perception, a field often overlooked in music or audio studies. Vassilakis has been devoted to music and sound since the age of 16, and at Columbia he's at last found a community involved in all aspects of that devotion.

"After having this ADD career," says Vassilakis, laughing, "I've come to a place where there are courses in all of those areas. For me, that's Disneyland."



Courtesy CADENCE WYNTER

Cadence Wynter on the island of Majorca in 1987.

BY JACKSON A. THOMAS

Cadence Wynter was born in Jamaica but raised in England and had a very typical story growing up. She says the history of the Caribbean is one of migration. Wynter's grandparents migrated from Jamaica to Cuba to find work. Her mother and some of her siblings were born there. They then returned to Jamaica, where Wynter was born.

She arrived in England when she was 4 years old and spent her life in Europe until she came to Chicago to do research. She was offered a scholarship to return. That's how she got here.

The 1960s are seen as a time of mass-migration from the Caribbean colonies or those parts of the British Empire. People were actively recruited. Wynter's parents were caught up in that, and she and her sisters were caught up in that because her parents migrated first and then sent for them.

During those times, there were housing shortages, Wynter recalls. There was a lot of damage, bombs had been dropped and so on.

What tended to happen was that the white working-class pop-



Manchester University is where Wynter attended college.

REMEMBERING THE PAST FOR A BETTER FUTURE

African-Caribbean faculty shares her experiences growing up in England

ulation moved out of these war-damaged areas into more suburban areas being built, and the migrants, or as they were called at the time, the colored immigrants, coming into Britain, had limited housing options.

Wynter says she has quite bitter memories of that time in her life.

In England, she and her family were called working class, or even lower-working class, based upon where they lived. Wynter and her sisters went to the local school, and given that Britain is still constrained by a class system, class determined their place in society.

Racism was a very real part of her experience

growing up in England. Part of the problem was the children who attended these working-class schools were seen, at the time, as simply being prepared to go to work in the factories. Wynter lived in Manchester, an industrial part of the country, which is the northwest part of England.

"For me, history is not about dates. It's about being able to tell a story ... living in the present but understanding the past in order to live in the present. That's why I think it's essential that we all should study history."

Her parents did not see them as part of the working class. The focus was on education because it was the way out of the box the society decided they should be in. Wynter says she appreciates the push from her parents because there were three girls, and the majority of the white working-class girls she went to school with

had goals to leave school as early as they could to get married and have children. Teachers were trying to steer them toward factory work, and they were telling them about going to university. It caused problems because they did not fit the mold. It set up tension between the school and her



Courtesy CADENCE WYNTER



Courtesy CADENCE WYNTER

TOP Wynter with two students who enjoyed her classes even though they thought her teaching techniques were challenging. **LEFT** Dr. Professor Leo Schelbert with Wynter at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2001.

parents. Everything was a battle. **Can you tell me about your book "To Get Ahead: African Caribbean Girls and Women in England's Education System," and what was your inspiration for it?**

After I went to the University of London, I did teacher training. I had to complete a very strict three-year teacher-training program. I looked at children in the situation I was in when I was growing up in England. We were not making any progress. Some of the things I confronted as a child growing up under that British education system, children were still facing that. But the difference was, whereas I was born outside Britain, these were children born in the UK, and yet they were still having the same difficulties I was having. This was in the mid-'70s. When you have just

a few people who are not part of the majority that converge in particular areas, the label problem is slapped on. People start to talk about problem areas, problem schools and, worse, problem children. That's what drew me into education. That's why I started this book.

How did you become interested in social sciences and educational studies?

Some people place history in Humanities. Some place it in social sciences, but I don't like boxes. I tend not to refer to myself as a historian because I feel that's too limiting. But I am interested in the African experience and the African Diaspora. This ongoing resistance and struggle is part of the history, and I think it really has affected the people in the Caribbean.

What was it like working as a

college education counselor in England?

I was working in north Manchester, and the first school I worked in was an all-girls school. There were growing numbers of Muslim girls attending the school. I saw problems and difficulties I had growing up in England 20 years later. They were still there. I was the only teacher of African descent on the faculty at that time of about 75 teachers. Any student who was not white was sent to me. All the Muslim children were seen as my responsibility. I got caught up with some incredibly bright, inquisitive girls going through school, and then suddenly they're taken out and sent to Bangladesh, Pakistan or home to be married at 14 and 15 years of age. Once that happens, that's the end of schooling. It wasn't a clash of cultures at all,

but it was certainly an expectation given to these girls, and it's like tempting somebody with something and suddenly removing it. That was frustrating for them, devastating for some of them. I found myself going to many homes trying to advocate for some of these young girls and just coming up against a brick wall, usually only being able to meet with the father of the family, sometimes the mother, rarely the mother and father.

How did you end up in Chicago and at Columbia, and how did you become a professor?

I reached the point where I felt really burnt out, which is why I moved into education counseling. But I started to do a Ph.D. at Manchester University while I was working full time. I made an appointment with a professor, and when I arrived for the appointment, no one was there. When I called, his secretary had said he didn't think he could help me, and it was complete disrespect. I have typical Caribbean family here in the U.S. I came to visit a family member who was here for the summer in Chicago and just went around by myself while I was here. I came across University of Chicago and University of Illinois at Chicago and met a man in the graduate program at UIC. We became friends, and I went back to England, and he was encouraging me to move to the U.S. Then we decided we would get married. There was no point in him leaving the U.S. to England because there was nothing there for him. I made the move. That's why I came here.

What are some of the future goals you have for yourself and hopes for the education system in England?

I still refer to Jamaica as home, and I teach history, but I find it chilling that even today people have this view that history is based on dates. For me, history is not about dates. It's about being able to tell a story. History is about living in the present but understanding the past in order to live in the present. That's why I think it's essential that we all should study history.

JAMAICA AT A GLANCE & FUN FACTS

Kingston, Jamaica's capital, is also the birthplace to celebrities like Bob Marley, Sean Kingston, Sandy "Pepa" Denton and Shaggy.



- The national language is Jamaican Patois.
- Jamaica has the most churches per square mile of any country in the world. There are more than 1,600 churches all around Jamaica, and that number is growing.
- Jamaica was the first Caribbean country to gain independence.
- Jamaica stands strong in third place on the list of countries to win the most Miss World titles.
- Apart from the United States, Jamaica has won the most world and Olympic medals.

Source JAMAICANSMUSIC.COM

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Digital Journalism major. Fellowship with International Radio and Television Society Foundation - MTV Networks.

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PAIGE KLONE

Television major. Midwest EMMY, College Student Production Awards: "Long Format (Fiction and Non-Fiction)" for TV Dept./Freq Out.

TONY MEREVICK

Journalism major. Internship through American Society of Magazine Editors - *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

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