A message from the President

Well – at least our name, EPIC, appears to be an appropriate descriptor for this week’s events. No one, from whatever position on the political spectrum, could argue that point. I would like to suggest that getting together with retired colleagues and visiting Columbia’s Professorial Past at the Butler Library can perhaps help us gain some perspective as we think about where we’ve been and where we may be going in our Nation. University Archivist Jocelyn Wilk has created a specially curated tour for us. Thanks to Prof. Fran Pritchett for making the arrangements. It will be an opportunity to learn about a unique collection and to take advantage of good fellowship. Consider coming to the pre-tour informal gathering at the Butler Library café for a complimentary cup of coffee. We’ll be having our usual EPIC reduced rate luncheon buffet at Faculty House after the visit. (Details on this special Tuesday Talk provided below.) I know I am very much looking forward to visiting the Rare Books Library and to sharing the afternoon with colleagues.

Have a good day!

Jeanne Mager Stellman, President, EPIC
Professor Emerita & Special Lecturer
Mailman School of Public Health

Tuesday, November 15
Columbia’s Professorial Past

Come and explore how earlier professors at Columbia did their work, and what records they’ve left behind them. We’ll get to see a special selection of materials chosen and presented by the University Archivist, Jocelyn Wilk.

The Rare Books Library also will be have on display exhibitions about the history of the Pulitzer Prize, and a celebration of the 75th anniversary of Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine.

Meet for conversation and coffee (if you wish) on the ground floor cafe at 11:15 a.m.

At noon we will meet in the Donor’s Room of the Rare Book Library, located on the sixth floor of Butler Library.

The EPIC table will be reserved in the Faculty House Dining Room at 1:30 p.m.

Housing Mobility Program:
Round Three Applications Due November 18

The application deadline for Round Three of the Housing Mobility Program (HMP) is coming up on November 18, 2016. This pilot program offers tenants in Columbia housing financial support for moving out of Columbia housing or to a smaller apartment that may better fit their needs.

The program description, available here, outlines the Program’s parameters, describes eligibility requirements, and includes copies of the application. It also includes characteristics of typical “downsized” apartments and information about professional organizers who help people move to a new residence.

The Office of the Provost expects to conduct a fourth and final round of the pilot in spring 2017, at which point...
Schoff Memorial Lectures

Robert G. O’Meally, Zora Neal Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature, and Director of Columbia’s Center for Jazz Studies, will present the twenty-fourth series of the Leonard Hastings Schoff Memorial Lectures.

All lectures are held in Faculty House, 64 Morningside Drive. Reception immediately following each lecture. Lectures are free and open to the public. Please click here for further detail.

“FANCY STICKS”
The Action-Art of Toni Morrison, Romare Bearden, and Jazz

Monday, November 14, 2016, 8 PM

I. “If the White Man Is Laughing at Me, at Least He’s Not Shooting at Me”: Ralph Ellison and Jean-Michel Basquiat on Louis Armstrong’s Intercontinental Comedy

Monday, November 21, 2016, 8 PM

II. The Open Corner—Space Is the Place: Romare Bearden, Toni Morrison, Duke Ellington

Monday, November 28, 2016, 8 PM

III. Questions of Translation: Paris Blue—from Novel and Movie to Collage

These three lectures take to heart Toni Morrison’s assertion that the spaces between the art forms “are not porous, they are liquid.” If so, what terms define the modern in the liquid spaces of American art? In African American art? These talks wonder about fiction, collage, and jazz music as forms that flow into one another and as bright prisms through which to read our lives as they ask: How does any art make a difference in a world of division enforced by violence? What can these fancy sticks—writing pens, painter’s brushes, or drumsticks—what can art do to draw us together?

On EPIC’s Horizon

First Thursdays in the Fall Semester
Ward H. Dennis Room, 602 Lewishohn Hall
12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

December 1: "Every Sperm is Sacred: How Stress and Obesity May Reduce Semen Quality," Dr Linda Kahn, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Neuroscience, Faculty of Medicine

Alternate Tuesdays in the Fall Semester
Faculty House
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

December 6: Caitlin Hawke, “Community Matters: The BAiP Model”

Bloomingdale Aging in Place is a vibrant community of older adults residing in Manhattan’s west side in an area bounded by 96th and 110th Streets. Over 1200 members strong, it is a grassroots, all-volunteer nonprofit organization that relies heavily on peer-to-peer exchange to achieve its mission to keep retirees connected. In great part, it does this through over 1000 activities each year, which range from ongoing reading and exercise groups to social opportunities to informational panels. Caitlin Hawke (Senior Science and Strategy Officer at the Columbia Aging Center) co-leads the BAiP activities committee and serves on its board in her community work. She will discuss what has worked (and what has not) as the organization has grown and sought to become sustainable. Incorporated in 2009, BAiP recently received the 2016 Joan H. Tisch Prize from Hunter College “for outstanding accomplishment in the field of urban public health” and may be one of the best kept secrets outside its UWS catchment.

December 20 (with Holiday Lunch): Professor of Historical Musicology Susan Boynton and Brad Garton, Director of the Computer Music Center, will demonstrate and discuss the project for which they received a Provost Hybrid Learning Course Redesign and Delivery grant, “Using Music Visualization to Enrich Student Learning in Music Humanities.”
Professor Boynton teaches a course in the history of western music, middle ages to baroque. While at the Columbia Global Center in Paris she participated in teaching music and art humanities as parallel and contemporary courses and she drew on her extensive knowledge of the visual arts to make connections between works of music and what students were seeing in Paris.