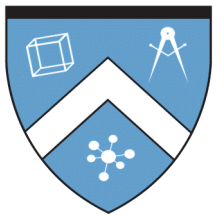


# Columbia Secondary School Newsletter

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M362 - CSS  
Columbia Secondary School  
for Math, Science & Engineering

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Lenice Nelson, *Assistant Principal*  
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## Congratulations to the class of 2015!

Under the guidance of counselors Kristin Harris and Karlette Fuchs and with the help of Tom Harvey and Ann Paul from the college office, 100% of CSS' second graduating class applied to college and all were accepted to a 2- or 4-year college/university.

Here is a partial list of institutions where students were accepted:

Alleghany College  
Bates College  
Bard College  
Barnard College  
Clark University  
Columbia University  
Cooper Union  
CUNY (City University of New York)  
    Baruch  
    Brooklyn  
    City (Macaulay Honors)  
    Hunter  
Fordham University

Johns Hopkins University  
Lafayette College  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
NYC College of Technology  
New York University  
Oberlin College  
Polytechnic Institute of NYU  
Pratt Institute  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rutgers University  
Sarah Lawrence College  
Smith College  
SUNY (State University of New York)  
    Binghamton  
    New Paltz  
    Stonybrook  
Syracuse University  
University of Connecticut  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
University of Wisconsin  
Wesleyan University

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

## Coming up...

### PTA meeting

Tuesday, May 12  
8 a.m. in room 506.  
Learn about the CSS curriculum featuring its unique engineering and philosophy programs.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> annual CSS International Week

May 18 - May 22  
Attend a lecture during the week (consult May calendar) and celebrate CSS' diversity with international snacks and a show featuring CSS and outside talent on Thursday, May 21, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

### Free family field NY Aquarium

Coney Island  
Monday, May 25  
Memorial Day (no school)  
Courtesy of Urban Advantage. Meet at CSS at 10 am for the bus. Entrance & transportation included. Registration required.  
Contact Andi Velasquez [andivelasquez@columbiasecondary.org](mailto:andivelasquez@columbiasecondary.org); (212) 666-1237, ext. 637. Please don't leave a phone message.

## Number of Columbia University Courses open to CSS students expands greatly

Over 50 CSS students have been admitted for summer and fall 2015 classes at Columbia University (CU). Three of the courses, Calculus 1, Intro. to Psychology and Intro. to Statistics, have been taken by CSSers in the past. Students will take several CU classes for the first time: different levels of Bengali, German and Spanish; East African History; and Computer Science classes for Engineering. The rising CSS sophomores, juniors and seniors who submitted applications were able to choose from over 100 courses now available to CSS students as opposed to the 20 - 30 that have historically been options. Certain aspects of the CU

experience remain the same: classes are free, students must meet academic criteria and course pre-requisites, and CU classes must not interfere with the CSS schedule.

The increase in CU opportunities results from a new agreement between CSS and the University whereby qualified students are able to take any 100-level (introductory) class offered through the School of Continuing Education that aligns with one of these major areas of study at CSS: Math, ELA, Science, History, Philosophy, Engineering, Language and/or Art.

*continued on the other side*

## CSS teachers shine across disciplines

### Engineering

In addition to shepherding this year's First Robotics team to the regional competition, Prof. Nate Finney helped develop the summer research outreach program at the CU Engineering School. He also worked to develop a materials-testing device that is much cheaper for schools to use to test material strength in science classes. His prototype is being refined for use in other schools in the district.

### Language

Department Chair Marisol Weiner was chosen by the Academy of Teachers to attend a Masters Class in recognition for her excellence in teaching a foreign language.

### Philosophy

Philosophy teacher and *Contrariwise* adviser Diana Senechal published an article about CSS' philosophy curriculum in the prestigious national education journal *American Educator*. You can see her article here: <http://www.aft.org/our-news/periodicals/american-educator>

### Science

The Science department had a strong presence at the National Science Teacher Association Conference in Chicago in March with three teachers attending, presenting workshops and Prof. John Russell receiving the Edward C. Roy Award for Excellence in K-8 Earth Science Teaching from the American Geosciences Institute.

Science Department Chair Diana Lennon presented two AP Environmental Science workshops: "*Pigeon Watches to Deer Cams: Environmental Science in the City and Country*," on field-based projects that follow the credo "No Child Left Inside" and "*Portfolio Assessment for AP Environmental Science*."

Catherine Burke, 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher, co-presented on integrating rigorous engineering design projects while utilizing Next Generation Science Standards, "Engineering Design

Experiments for Middle School Classrooms."

Thanks to a new partnership between CSS and the Pace University Chemistry Department, each of 20 CSS sophomores was assigned a different Pace Undergraduate Science Major to shadow on "Experience Chemistry Day" on March 26. They attended lectures, labs, seminars, and even spent time in the student activity center. The event was made possible by the efforts of CSS Chemistry Prof. Pravin Jammula (Prof. Jay), PU Prof. JaimeLee Rizzo and the American Chemical Society.



**10<sup>th</sup> grade CSS students visit the Pace University Chemistry Department**

Prof. Russell was also named a 2015 fellow by Fund for Teachers, which enables him to travel to Iceland this summer to study the confluence of North American and Eurasian Plates.

The practices of CSS science teachers were featured in an article in DNAinfo.com.

### Students take MUN honors

At the Educational Simulation/Model UN conference at CU in April, two CSS team members won honors. Senior Ayesha Schmitt, founding member of the CSSMUN elective, got the highest award of *Outstanding Delegate* for her role as an Iraqi delegate in the UNESCO committee. Junior Leone Baldonello received a verbal commendation for his role as Juan Hernandez Valle in the 1948 committee on the Partido Nacional Puertorriqueño. *Way to go!!!*

### Join the 4th Annual CSS AIDS Walk Team!

Have fun with fellow CSSers on Sunday, May 17, raising funds for a great cause and earning community service credit. There are two ways to help: 1. join the team and have people sponsor your walk; 2. make a financial contribution. Visit:

<https://ny.aidswalk.net/Team/View/7651/Columbia-Secondary-School-3916>

Or search "NY AIDS WALK" and enter our team number: 3916

## CU classes, cont'd

Unlike at other universities where the Continuing Education offerings are different than ones matriculated students take, at Columbia, students enrolled through CE and regular Columbia students sit side by side in class. Classes offered through CE are also offered to regular CU students; the designation means the class is open to visitors. Registration will now be completely online.

### Eligibility Requirements

Each grade has eligibility requirements to be considered for enrollment in a CU class (see below) For all students, attendance is considered, a strong performance in the content area is required (e.g. in math if applying for Statistics), and students with any failing grades are not considered.

### Grade-Specific Requirements

-9<sup>th</sup> Graders (for a Fall Class Sophomore year): 95% or higher overall average

-10<sup>th</sup> Graders: 90% + overall average.

-11<sup>th</sup> Graders: 85% + overall average; 90% or better in content area

-12<sup>th</sup> Graders (for a Spring Class): 80% + overall average; 85% + in content area.