We are so excited to be underway with the ’14-’15 season! After a long off-season of anticipation and over a month of practicing against ourselves, our players were ready to start playing games! We traveled to San Francisco for opening weekend of the season to play USF and San Jose State. Although we did not come out on top, I was proud of the way our players stayed together and battled back. Our first-years gained valuable experience and confidence from these two hard-fought games. While on the west coast, we were able to spend some time sightseeing and bonding as a team, which was great for our team chemistry as we start the season.

Once we returned to Morningside Heights, we played five games in ten days! This flurry of games helped our team develop a nice rhythm and gain momentum. We won our home opener against a very good Lafayette team. My staff and I were pleased with our balanced scoring, team defense, and big rebounding numbers. After losing a tough battle on the road to Stony Brook, we won the program’s first back-to-back overtime game! Both victories were in front of great home crowds, and we received crucial contributions from each player. My staff and I are so proud of the competitive spirit our team showed over the last couple games. Each time the opponents went on a run, our players fought back with the necessary grit and confidence to pull off the win. We are so happy for our players and look forward to our three upcoming home games this week!!
FOOD FOR THOUGHT ON COLUMBIA’S CAMPUS

Columbia Dining Tradition: Thanksgiving Feast

Columbia Dining Services continued the long-standing tradition of hosting a Thanksgiving feast for students who were on campus for the holiday. In John Jay Dining Hall, a customary family-style Thanksgiving meal was served to 1,000 excited students. Turkeys that the students carved at the table along with stuffing, mashed potatoes, and other traditional favorites were enjoyed. The menu also catered to students with dietary restrictions as vegan, vegetarian, halal, and kosher options were offered. While students enjoyed gathering together to share the holiday meal with fellow members of their “Columbia family”, they were also encouraged to focus on giving back to the community. Each place setting included a card on which students wrote why they are thankful to be a part of the Columbia community. The card also outlined the Columbia Community principles of responsibility, integrity, and acceptance of a diversity of opinion. The University then donated money to two local soup kitchens for every card returned. The John Jay Thanksgiving Feast was not only delicious, but it was also a successful fundraiser for local charities.

Food Network’s Chef Robert Irvine Cooks for Columbia

Celebrity chef, Robert Irvine, paid a visit to Columbia’s Ferris Booth Commons on October 17th. Working together with Columbia Dining, Irvine used locally sourced ingredients to prepare a special menu featuring his tasty recipes. The menu included lobster stuffed tacos with avocado salsa, tomato onion flatbread pizza, shrimp scampi, cowboy strombolis, and rice pudding for dessert. Famous for being a tough critic as the host of Food Network’s Restaurant Impossible, Irvin was extremely complimentary of Columbia Dining and its staff. When asked what he was doing at Columbia, Irvin responded “inspecting an amazing facility that does great food, fresh food, over 4 and a half thousand people a day come through this place. I gotta tell you…it’s great!” Students not only enjoyed the well prepared dishes, but also Irvin’s playful character as he demanded smiles in exchange for plates of food.
SAN FRANCISCO EXCURSIONS

During our trip to the west coast, we provided our players with some time to explore the city of San Francisco. The team spent time walking around the tourist attractions and shopping opportunities in the Fisherman’s Wharf. Our players especially enjoyed the delicious seafood restaurants and the “In-N-Out Burger” near our hotel. Our team took a ferry to Alcatraz Island for an audio tour of the former high-security federal penitentiary. After learning about the crimes that warranted time in Alcatraz, the solitude in which inmates lived, and the intricate escape plots that were attempted, we were able to meet one of the former inmates that spent time in Alcatraz. Although some of the stories were unnerving, it was fascinating to learn about the intricacies of “The Rock.”

Our program has a well-represented alumnae base in the San Francisco area. We were fortunate enough to connect with Renee Jackson, ’99CC, who is currently on the legal team for Zynga, the world’s leading social game developer. On average, 253 million people, spanning 175 countries, use a game developed by Zynga each month. The company developed the well-known games Farmville and Words With Friends.

Renee gave our team a tour of Zynga’s six-floor office building that houses 1,200 offices; a full gym featuring a half-court basketball court; countless amusement games such as foosball, hot-shot, pool, and pinball; and an impressive cafeteria and coffee shop. After the entertaining tour, Renee organized a panel that included herself and two other former women’s basketball players - Michele Gage ’08CC, and Whitney Taylor (Bowling Green, ’09). The panelists shared advice on resumes, networking, and transferring the skills one develops as a student-athlete to the workplace. Our players were very appreciative of the opportunity to learn about how recent graduates are experiencing great success at such a thriving company.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to First-Year forward Camille Zimmerman for being selected as the Ivy League Rookie of the Week for the first two weeks of the 2014-2015 season! She was first awarded this honor on November 17 for her performance during opening weekend. While making her collegiate debut in the Lion’s starting lineup, Camille averaged 15 points, 5.5 rebounds, and 3.5 assists through two games.

Camille was again named the Rookie of the Week on November 24, after she recorded her first double-double in Columbia’s first win of the season. This back-to-back honor marks the first time that a Lion picked up consecutive Rookie of the Week honors since Lauren Dwyer ’11CC did in 2007-08. Camille has scored in double figures in all but one game this season, and ranks sixth in the Ivy League in scoring at 15.9 points per game. She is also contributing 6.9 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game, while making 29 out of 33 free throws on the season.

Thank you for your support!