April 2015

NEWS FROM THE LION'S DEN
WITH HEAD COACH STEPHANIE GLANCE

The 2014-2015 season ended three and a half weeks ago, after we hosted Penn and Princeton. My staff and I are very proud of the effort that our players showed on our final weekend, battling 13th-ranked Princeton to a 19-point game. The fight that our players showed throughout this game is very encouraging for the future of this program.

The Ivy League coaches voted Tori Oliver to the All-Ivy League Second Team. Although team success is more important than individual accolades, we are very proud of Tori and what she has accomplished this season.

We will certainly miss our four seniors – Campbell Mobely, Amara Mbionwu, Miwa Tachibana, and Crystal Owusu. These four young women have outstanding character, and there is no doubt they all have very bright futures ahead of them. We appreciate the examples they have set by having a team-first attitude, handling adversity with grace, and having an exceptional work ethic. These core values will continue to be our foundation for building a championship program here at Columbia.

“Censorship anywhere is censorship everywhere.” - President Lee C. Bollinger

In 2014, President Lee Bollinger created the Global Freedom of Expression & Information @ Columbia project. The purpose of this initiative is to advance the understanding of and promote international norms and institutions that protect the free flow of information and expression. We live in an inter-connected global community facing major challenges – such as the environment, climate change, global governance, financial regulation, and infectious diseases. President Bollinger insists that openness and the ability to talk freely about these issues are absolutely imperative. Especially at Columbia University, which has a great international tradition and is located in a diverse global city, it is important that we make free speech a top priority.

This past month, Columbia hosted a two-day conference in which free speech activists, scholars, and lawyers from more than 20 countries came together to discuss the role of the courts and the justice system in upholding the right to freedom of expression. The network of experts surveyed jurisprudential in 30 countries, critically reviewed exemplary cases, engaged in comparative analysis, and identified national, regional, and global trends.

At the conference, President Bollinger awarded the first Global Freedom of Expression Prizes to courts in Turkey and Zimbabwe and to a U.K.-based legal service organization for their contributions to free speech and free press. The Constitutional Court of Turkey was recognized for three judgments in 2014, that lifted bans on Twitter and YouTube, invalidated a law that restricted access to the internet, and limited the authority under which the government could restrict access to social media. The Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe and the Media Legal Defense Initiative were both recognized for ceasing laws that made defamation a crime punishable by imprisonment. These victories and the efforts by President Bollinger’s global initiative will continue to help the world become a place where freedom of speech and expression is ubiquitous.
THANK YOU SENIORS!

**Amara Mbionwu**

My experience at Columbia has been unforgettable. I have learned so many things here and have gone through so much in this city. This university has set me up for a lot of opportunities in the future. It was indeed a battle, but it is one that I have successfully overcome. Heading into the real world will most definitely be a challenge, but it will be one that I can handle.

My fondest memories are those spent in the dining halls with my friends and teammates. We laughed and talked for countless hours, even though we all knew we had a ton of work to get done. It was all worth it though, because of the little time we have here, any amount of social interaction makes or breaks you here. I don't think I would have gotten through a lot of tough times if it wasn't for my friends.

I plan on taking a year or two off to work in the medical field, and then head on to medical school. The ultimate goal is to become a pediatric heart surgeon. I enjoy kids, as well as helping people. My dream is to be the best I can at my job, and enjoy doing what I do.

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**Miwa Tachibana**

These four years have been filled with growth and novelty. From learning how to adapt to the workload of college academics, to the intensity of DI basketball, to the brutal winters of the east coast, and to the pace and culture of NYC - my time at Columbia definitely started with a lot of unfamiliarity! And like most new experiences, it was a difficult and daunting at first but there isn't an ounce of doubt in my decision to be a student-athlete at Columbia. It is one of my proudest distinctions, being a lion, and what it's given me and how it's shaped me couldn't be more invaluable.

It's such a cliché, but my favorite memories have definitely been the little moments that you don't realize when you're in them - bus rides to the games, nights in the hotel, locker room talk, pre-game meals, all the little things that brought the team closer and made my four years here that much more enjoyable.

I plan to go into HR in the near future and from there, move into I/O psychology.
Crystal Owusu

My time at Columbia has been unique yet incredible. From the day I first stepped on campus to the waning final days until graduation, I have been so grateful for the time I have spent here. I have gotten to know so many incredible people and have made the best of friends during my 4 years, and I know that these friendships will go well beyond the gates of Columbia University.

My fondest memories would be of the times I spent with my basketball team in the locker room before and after practices. We would catch up with each other during these times, and it was a great time to bond even more with my teammates.

After graduation, I wish to stay in the sports industry, working either on the marketing side or on the Human Resources side. I also hope to have a family, and tell my kids all about my time at Columbia and how it has shaped me into the woman I am today.

Campbell Mobley

My first year at Barnard was eye-opening. I had come from the South to the Big Apple. It was quite a change going from lazy days to the fast-paced city. And yet, New York, Barnard, and Columbia became the places where I identified with the most. I went from Southern Belle to City Girl in an instant. I had never been surrounded by such intelligent, diverse, challenging, and incredible people. It has inspired me to become the person that I am today.

Some of my fondest memories from my time at Columbia were in the locker room with the women's basketball team. These girls have encouraged me to become the best I can be and I can't help but imagine myself in the locker room when I hear certain songs. I can imagine Jill now saying "Oh, that's my jam."

Next year, I will be living in the city working for Sotheby's, an art auction house. At the moment, it is hard to look far into the future since I feel like I can't graduate quick enough! I am so blessed to have a job at Sotheby's, and I hope to be a lifer there. Maybe, I will be transferred to their Paris offices and I can really use my French!