begun by the late Professor Mario Salvadori, the Salvadori Center, which was, of course, begun teaching math at a Bronx public high school before student unrest. I worked in the quantitative approach to that subject through the development of a new method for analyzing linear electrical networks, Professor Bashkow’s A matrix. He also became involved with digital computers. He joined the faculty of the Columbia Electrical Engineering Department in 1958 and helped start the Electrical Engineering Department into the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. When, in 1975, this department was divided into the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science departments, Bashkow became one of the founding faculty members of Computer Science. He taught courses in digital logic, computer organization, and computer programming. He did research on parallel processing. In collaboration with Herbert Sullivan, he pioneered a new approach to that subject through the development of CHAMPS, Columbia Homogeneous Multiprocessor. A large-scale, homogeneous, fully distributed parallel machine. A number of Columbia graduate students and a junior faculty member, David Klappholz, were also involved at various stages. In 1980, the Computer Science Department instituted an annual award in his honor, the Theodore R. Bashkow Award. Among his many affiliations, Professor Bashkow was an active member of IEEE, ACM, and Sigma Xi organizations.

**Theodore R. Bashkow**

Dr. Theodore R. Bashkow, professor emeritus of electrical engineering and computer science, died Dec. 23, 2009, as his home in Katonah, N.Y. He was born in St. Louis, Mo., and attended Washington University, where he received his BS degree in mechanical engineering. He went on to receive his master’s and doctorate degrees at Stanford University. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a first lieutenant during World War II from 1943 to 1945.

While in the Air Force, he served as maintenance officer and helped to stage the Enola Gay. In the 1950s, while at Bell Labs, Professor Bashkow became well known for his development of a new method for analyzing linear electrical networks, Professor Bashkow’s A matrix. He also became involved with digital computers. He joined the faculty of the Columbia Electrical Engineering Department in 1958 and helped start the Electrical Engineering Department into the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. When, in 1975, this department was divided into the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science departments, Bashkow became one of the founding faculty members of Computer Science. He taught courses in digital logic, computer organization, and computer programming. He did research on parallel processing. In collaboration with Herbert Sullivan, he pioneered a new approach to that subject through the development of CHAMPS, Columbia Homogeneous Multiprocessor. A large-scale, homogeneous, fully distributed parallel machine. A number of Columbia graduate students and a junior faculty member, David Klappholz, were also involved at various stages. In 1980, the Computer Science Department instituted an annual award in his honor, the Theodore R. Bashkow Award. Among his many affiliations, Professor Bashkow was an active member of IEEE, ACM, and Sigma Xi organizations.

**Praveen Chaudhuri**

Praveen Chaudhuri, a member of the National Academy of Engineering and winner of the National Medal for Technology and an adjunct professor in mechanical engineering. He went on to receive his master’s and doctorate degrees at Stanford University. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a first lieutenant during World War II from 1943 to 1945.

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Jerome W. Heller passed away Nov. 27, 2009, in Corona del Mar, Calif. He received his BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering operations research from Columbia Engineering. Heller served as a naval officer in WWII and Korea.

William F. Schreiber, professor emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died suddenly at home on Sept. 21, 2009, at the age of 84. Dr. Schreiber attended New York City public schools and Columbia Engineering, where he received BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering. In 1953, he received the Ph.D. in applied physics at Harvard, where he was a Gordon McKay and Charles Coffin Fellow. Dr. Schreiber worked at Sylvania and at Technicolor Corporation in Hollywood, Calif., primarily in HDTV, where he joined the faculty at Massachusetts Institute of Technology as professor of electrical engineering. He was director of the Advanced Television Research Program from 1983 until his retirement in 1999. Dr. Schreiber’s major professional interest was image processing systems, including printing, facsimile, and television. This work included theory and extensive practical applications, including the development of a number of successful commercial products that incorporated innovative image-processing technology developed under his direction. He worked in graphic arts, including color correction, color printing, and scanner and recorder design, in facsimile, and in television. He worked in digital television and high-definition television. He was a department chairman of the Honors Award of the Television Association for the Graphics Arts, the David Sarnoff Gold Medal from the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, the Gold Medal of the International Society for Optial Engineering, and was a four-time recipient of the Journal Award of SMPTE. He was a member of the National Academy of Engineering. In 1960, he became senior partner and forged strong working relationships with many leading manufacturers. After more than 40 years, he retired in 1990. Morton remained a partner in Olde Post Mall Associates in Fishkill, N.Y. He also served as president of Beacon Housing Associates, a townhouse development where he and his wife, Beverly, resided for 20 years. An aficionado of all the arts, he was an accomplished sepiaphot, delighted in traveling the world, and always remained a student of different cultures and architecture. As the active partnerness of an esteemed family, he was in 2007 honored for his generosity of spirit, time, love, and humor.

Richard F. Gommer of Yonkers, N.Y., died on Sept. 22, 2009. A native of Brooklyn, he attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and joined the Navy, where he trained as a pilot. He graduated from Columbia Engineering in 1948, where he was on the rowing and wrestling teams. He worked as an accountant for IBM for over 35 years and was a long-time resident of Tarzanne, N.Y., with his family, and an active parishioner and trustee of Transfiguration Church.

Louis Forte, 85, died Jan. 14, 2010, in Virginia Beach, Va., after a short illness. He was drafted and served in the U.S. Army as an MP during World War II. After the war, he attended Columbia Engineering, graduating with a BS in 1951. He worked as an engineer at Norcross in the Manhattan Transitional Authority until his retirement in 1987. He had been involved in several community and professional organizations, including Toastmasters. American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Sons of Italy, and The Round Table at Stone by Rock County. He is survived by his daughter, Lonie, and his husband Alfred Broderick Jr. of Virginia Beach, Va., their children, Deidon and Eden; son Jeffrey Forte of Frederon, N.Y., his brother, Jerry Sr., and his wife, Janet Forte, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; her sons, Roxanne, and her husband, Ed Penning, of Wading River, N.Y.

Morton Herbert Eligier died Dec. 1, 2009. After serving in the Army during World War II, Eligier received a BS in civil engineering and joined the consulting engineering firm of Weiskopf & Pickworth in 1948. During the 1950s he helped build the firm through collaboration with prominent architects, bringing it to the forefront of modernism in the United States.

Robert J. Spinrad, a pioneer in computer design, died Sept. 2, 2009, in Palo Alto, Calif. Spinrad carried out his work in scientific automation first at Brookhaven National Laboratory and later at Xerox. He was director of the Palo Alto Research Center as the person who conceived computing technology invented there in the 1970s was commercialized. While a student at Columbia Engineering, he built his own computer from discarded telephone switching equipment. After arriving at Brookhaven, Spinrad spent a summer at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he learned about scientific computer design by studying an early machine known as Maniac, designed by John W. Mauchly and John Presper Ecker. His group at Brookhaven developed techniques for using computers to run experiments and to analyze and display data as well as to control experiments actively in response to earlier measurements.

He has been hailed as the father of modern laboratory automation. In 1978, Brookhaven Spinrad joined Scientific Data Systems in Los Angeles as a computer designer and manager. When the company was bought by the Xerox Corporation in an effort to compete with IBM, he participated in Xerox’s decision to purchase a computer to create a campus of Stanford. Xerox’s Palo Alto Research Center pioneered the technology that led directly to the modern personal computer and other digital communication devices. Taking over as director of the laboratory in 1987, Spinrad overcame a period when the laboratory’s technology was commercialized, including the first modern personal computer, the ethernet local area network, and the laser printer.

He received his BS in electrical engineering from Columbia and a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In addition to his wife, Yvonne, he is survived by his children, Paul, of San Francisco, and Susan Spinrad Fetherly, of Palo Alto, and three grandchildren.

Malcolm F. Plus, a resident of Green Valley, Ariz., died on Oct. 7, 2009. He was a 1954 graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1959, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and several other battle honors. He was awarded a BS in industrial engineering from Columbia. After graduating, he worked first at IBM, helping to develop the new technology of computer manufactured, and later with RCA.


Steven Zeff ’90CC of Harington Park, N.J., died on Oct. 6, 2009. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he grew up in Valley Stream, N.Y., and moved to Long Beach, Calif., in 1972. Zeff served as administrator. Zeff is survived by his wife, Marisol; son, Jeremy; and his wife, Aliza.

Charles (Chuck) Newton of West Knoxville, Tenn., died on Oct. 20, 2009. He was a long-time and faithful member of Church Street United Methodist Church and the Sunday Builders Sunday School Class. Born in Point Marion, Pa., he attended Columbia through a music scholarship, receiving a BS and MS in chemical engineering. His college nickname, “Tuha Charli,” followed him throughout his lifetime. While employed at E. I. Du Pont in Charleston, W. Va., he married Dorothy Craumer on June 17, 1944. A veteran of the U.S. Army during WWII, he was transferred to Oak Ridge, Tenn., in 1944 to work on the Manhattan Project. Following the war, he joined United Carborundum as a nuclear engineer specializing in national health safety until his retirement in 1971.

During his career, several of his inventions were patented, and he developed a mathematic formula still used today for measuring theous mountains that lie between India and China.

Garland English, a civil engineering major who was an Army platoon leader, died Jan. 10, 2010, in a rock climbing accident in Hawaii, where he was stationed. He had recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

According to newspaper reports, Garland and a friend Sunday had returned to a rocky cliff near Mount Majestic near Honolulu to try to retrieve a tent some of dropped days earlier while hiking. He apparently fell over the edge.

In a story in the Albany Times Union, one friend said that he had “certain deep beliefs about social justice, conservation and kindness that influenced much of his practice.” In 2007, he enlisted in the Army and completed Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and subsequently was deployed to Iraq in November 2008. He was promoted to 1st lieutenant before returning to Hawaii last fall. While in Iraq, he was awarded the Bronze Star. His intensity for life and diversity of interests was legendary. He studied Spanish in Costa Rica, bungee jumped in South Africa, ran with the bulls in Spain, crossed North America by motorcycle, went deep sea diving in Malaysia, taught English in Japan, and journeyed from Mexico City to Peru. Read other remembrances of Garland in the Alumni Notes section, page 48.

We also have learned of the passing of the following alumni and friends:

Harold C. Sperry ’39
"Clack" L. Fellers ’40, ’41CC
Charles H. Kuhbach ’39CC
James W. Cronenberg ’42, ’41CC
Boris J. Stek ’42, ’41CC
Gerard M. Krysiak ’43
Raymond W. Beemer ’44CC
Norman Rosenberg ’46
Kenneth J. Sadosky ’46, ’41CC
Dr. Robert L. Thompson ’46
Dr. Peter L. Yee Jr. ’47, ’45
Dr. Sherman Weissbraun ’47, ’48, ’53
Walter Morekewicz ’48
Dr. Carl Gans ’50
George E. Cassian ’51
Dr. Robert L. Zeff ’54CC
Sheldon Bildger ’55
Anthony J. Delano ’55
Philip G. Lebkish ’56
Dr. Hugh D. McNiern ’58
Bijaya C. Malakhaptra ’72
"Turr" ’72CC
Linda R. Huffman (Friend)
Dr. Anthony Kuntz (Friend)
Connor S. Mamanty ’43CC (Friend)