Society, Industry, Government, and Academia

YOU, OUR ALUMNI AND STUDENTS
BS, MS, EngScD, PhD, ANY YEAR, ANY DEPARTMENT

All of you, our Columbia Engineering alumni and students, are leaders in your own field and have made a mark, and are continuing to make a mark, on the society in which we are living. This issue of Columbia Engineering has been focused on our leaders of today—our alumni—and our leaders of tomorrow—our students. We have been limited by space in telling the story of all our great alumni and students, such as yourself and your classmates or program mates. Future issues will highlight other alumni leaders in different fields, but we are counting on you to help us fill out our history with your most recent successes.

Columbia Engineering continues to be a school whose mission is to educate socially responsible engineering and applied science leaders whose work results in the betterment of the human condition, locally, nationally, and globally.

We trace the academic lineage of educating engineering and applied science leaders back to the original charter of King’s College in 1754, when the nascent sciences and engineering were described as areas worthy of academic endeavor. Following the American Revolution and early development of the United States, engineering and applied science disciplines became more important and scientific methods and research gained greater academic importance. The impact of these disciplines on academia was recognized by the Trustees of Columbia, when they agreed, in 1864, to a proposal by Thomas A. Egleston to establish the Columbia College School of Mines.

There were very few engineering schools in the country at that time, and our School became the first in the nation to bear the sole designation as a School of Mines. Four years from now, in 2014, Columbia Engineering will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding. We expect that this fact, and other facts about our School’s history, will become more widely known during the special celebration of our sesquicentennial year.

This historic benchmark of our founding is one that we already are eagerly anticipating. To help us learn more about all of you, we are establishing a page on our Web site where you can tell your stories or bring to our attention the most recent contributions of some of your fellow alumni or students.

Become a proactive Columbia Engineering leader in this effort to record our history. Go to www.engineering.columbia.edu/leaders and let us know your story or that of someone you know.