"The great strength of oral history is its ability to record memories in a way that honors the dignity and integrity of ordinary people."

—Mary Marshall Clark, Director, Columbia Center for Oral History
Ten years ago, in June 2001, I was named director of the Oral History Research Office. Having worked for some years at Columbia, I knew my way around and looked forward to some time to plan the future. A little more than two months later, after the events of September 11, 2001, I faced an immediate challenge. How would oral history work in a world so strikingly impacted by globalization and war, and in which oral historians might be called upon to document the extraordinary events of our times? Through a partnership with Peter Bearman, director of the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), the Center undertook a longitudinal project documenting the multiple impacts of the catastrophe on a diverse group of New Yorkers. With related projects, we gathered more than 600 hours of testimony that is now open to the public. These projects changed our way of working, as we relied on sociologists, public health experts, trauma psychologists, and others to work with us to understand what people and communities were facing. The task of transforming these stories into digital form, cataloging them so that they can be accessed by a wide variety of scholars and the public at large, would not have been possible without the core support of the Columbia Libraries.

To develop our capacity to understand the role that oral history might play as a multidisciplinary form of fieldwork and scholarship, ISERP and the Columbia Center for Oral History (CCOH) partnered to set up the Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA), now in its fourth year, with an outstanding array of faculty across the disciplines; and we know a lot more about how to use oral history in the context of other fields of study to connect the academy to the world just beyond its borders. Along the way, the Center undertook projects on the Apollo Theater, the Atlantic Philanthropies, women working in the visual arts, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Oral history has a promising future in the academy as an interdisciplinary academic field and methodology. It also has a large and growing role to play in public life, education, and advocacy. Our archive is constructed on stories from people of great achievement about how the cultural and philanthropic institutions, laws, and values of our democracy were created and sustained. Now we are positioned, based on more than 63 years of accumulating such knowledge, to expand our vision to include the stories of ordinary people whose daily lives mirror the success or failure of our ideals. We are fortunate that there is a vital network of oral historians around the world ready to take up this challenge with us, as well as our globally minded partners at home.

While we will always continue to tread as far back as we can in living memory, in documenting the most recent past we are doing the work that Herodotus thought essential. Person by person, we gather individual memories in order to watch how the patterns of historical memory, and forgetting, develop over time. Eventually these stories will be written into historic accounts, performed in living theaters, and published as biographies. At the heart of all that we do is the work of continuing to build our archives in ways that strengthen knowledge, build public memory, and enliven the imagination. The infrastructure provided by the Columbia Libraries makes this growth possible.

Through the current support of the Atlantic Philanthropies, we are expanding our core staff to meet these challenges of staying true to our historic mission as we also take on projects that acknowledge the complexities of living in a rapidly changing world. I invite you to come with us as we take this journey, urging us and supporting us as we look to the future.

Mary Marshall Clark
CCOH Mission and History

The mission of the Columbia Center for Oral History is to record unique life histories, document the central historical events and memories of our times, and teach and do research across the disciplines.

CCOH (formerly the Oral History Research Office) was founded in 1948 by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Allan Nevins as a repository for political history and memory. It is the oldest oral history program of its kind in the world. With the creation of the office, Nevins introduced biographical interviewing as a key method of historical research. Early interviews focused on distinguished leaders in politics and government. Over time, the collection grew to include interviews in such areas as philanthropy, media, business, the arts, social movements, and more. Our archive has been unique in the nation in that it has never been confined in its scope to one region or area of historical experience. The Center has been instrumental in the national and international movement for oral history. For many years our office was the headquarters for the Oral History Association, and all of our directors have served as presidents of that association; we served as the editorial office for the *International Journal of Oral History*. In partnership with Peter Bearman, professor of social sciences and director of the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Center for the Social Sciences and the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, we created the nation's first (and only) master's degree in oral history.

The Center continues to conduct innovative oral history research projects that we add to the collections in the Columbia University Libraries and use as the basis for educational programs. The support of the Columbia University Libraries, our home within the University, has made it possible to honor our historic mission to develop and archive historical knowledge and serve students, faculty, and the public at large. This report presents our work in these areas over the last 10 years.

**Research.** We conduct original oral history research projects on topics of contemporary, historical, and cultural significance, adding approximately 300 to 500 hours of new interviews to our collections annually.

**Archive.** At the center of our work is our “living archive” of more than 8,000 interviews that explore diverse topics in United States and global history. With the support of the Columbia University Libraries digitization and preservation departments, we make our archive accessible to the public at our offices and, increasingly, online.

**Education.** The Center is dedicated to building the field of oral history and making our archive and expertise of use to the public. We do this through educational initiatives, including the Oral History Master of Arts degree program, the Annual Summer Institute, public workshops and lectures, consultations, publications, online exhibitions, and more.
Research

The Columbia Center for Oral History has conducted research on a wide variety of themes and topics during the last 62 years, producing primary sources that are valued by biographers and historians worldwide. Our historical work and research falls into two categories: project-based interviews that focus on specific topics, themes, or historical periods, and broader biographical memoirs. Both types of interviews illuminate social, political, and cultural history through the telling of a life story. Our interviews are processed, preserved, and submitted to our archive in transcript and audio formats, and are made available to the public immediately, pending consent from the interviewee.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

The September 11, 2001, Oral History Project consists of five projects and programs focusing on different areas of inquiry related to the aftermath of the destruction of the World Trade Center. As of the 10th anniversary, the project as a whole amounts to nearly 1,000 hours of oral testimony (23 hours on video) with 556 individuals and more than 22,000 pages of transcript. To date, 687 hours with 351 individuals are now available to the public through our archive.

September 11, 2001, Oral History Narrative and Memory Project

Within days of the event, the Oral History Narrative and Memory Project became a longitudinal project with the dual objectives of gathering as many different perspectives on the impact of September 11 as possible and allowing individuals to speak about their experiences outside of official media and government accounts. The interviews were conducted over a broad spectrum of ethnic and professional categories, including those who faced discrimination in the aftermath and those who lost work or who were unable to work. The project also documents large clusters of people directly affected at or near the site of the towers, as well as Afghan Americans, Muslims and Sikhs, Latinos, immigrants, and community and performance artists.

The project was generously supported by the National Science Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the New York Times Company Foundation, the ChevronTexaco Foundation, and Columbia University, as well as by friends of CCOH and volunteer interviewers and consultants. The project was developed in partnership with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP) at Columbia University.
September 11, 2001, Response and Recovery Oral History Project
In 2002, CCOH began a project to document the experiences of professionals who responded to the urban crises generated by the events of September 11. Between 2002 and 2005, CCOH conducted 112 hours of interview with 68 leading governmental and nongovernmental responders in the fields of philanthropy, trauma services, unemployment relief, law and civil rights, and education. To better understand the New Yorkers targeted by these outreach programs, the Center conducted an additional dozen interviews with individuals deeply traumatized by the events of September 11. The project also supported the writing of a fieldwork guide for interviewers, journalists, and human rights workers using oral history to document the effects of catastrophe.

The project was generously supported by the New York Times Company Foundation 9/11 Neediest Fund.

September 11, 2001, Public Health Oral History Project
The September 11, 2001, Public Health Oral History Project collected 30 hours of interview with 34 individuals from various governmental and not-for-profit organizations who were involved with the public health response to September 11 and the subsequent anthrax attacks. The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene employed the majority of the interviewees in various capacities. The interviews were conducted between January and November 2002 by Drs. David Rosner and Nancy Van Devanter of Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health and by others working under their direction.

The project was generously supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health.

Telling Lives Oral History Programs
The Telling Lives Oral History Program, CCOH’s first public history program, began with a grant from the New York Times 9/11 Neediest Fund in 2002. The grant funded two projects: interviews of Local 40 Ironworkers about building the World Trade Center and two after-school pilot programs that allowed youth to explore the meaning of September 11 through dialogue. The after-school programs were implemented at the School for International Studies in Brooklyn, where students produced a booklet, “Brooklyn Stories,” and at Dr. Sun Yat Sen Middle School 131 in Manhattan’s Chinatown, where students created a multimedia museum exhibit, Living through History, at the Museum of Chinese in America.

The pilot program was expanded into a formal semester-long schools program through a grant from the ChevronTexaco Foundation in 2003 (partnering with the NYU Child Study Center and Museum of Chinese in America). The Chinatown Telling Lives Project reached 240 youths in eight middle-school classrooms. Each class worked to create either a full-color book or video documentary based on their interviews, culminating in a series of public exhibitions. Based on this work, CCOH developed Telling Lives through Oral History: A Guide for Educators, a curriculum that can be incorporated into English and social studies lesson plans. Telling Lives is now a permanent CCOH initiative that uses oral history for community outreach, education, and advocacy, especially in settings that are under resourced.
Chinatown Documentation Project
The Chinatown Documentation Project was a joint effort by several major universities engaged in documenting the events of September 11, 2001. Through recorded oral histories and related public programming, the project sought to interpret the effect of the events on Chinatown. The 25 searchable, videotaped oral history interviews have been made available online so that they might serve as a resource for the community. The interviews are also archived at the Museum of Chinese in America and at the Library of Congress. A DVD of excerpts from the interviews and an accompanying curriculum guide are available to educators and the public at http://911da.org/chinatown/. The Rockefeller Foundation supported this collaboration between the CCOH and the Museum of Chinese in America, the City University of New York 9/11 Digital Archives, and New York University’s Asian/Pacific/American Studies Program.

Apollo Theater Oral History Project
The Apollo Theater Oral History Project began as a collaboration between CCOH and the Apollo Theater Foundation. Reflecting on the significance of the Apollo stage as it neared its 75th birthday, the Apollo Theater Foundation partnered with CCOH to record audio and video interviews about the storied past of the Apollo Theater and its role in performance history, African American history, and the history of New York City from the late 1930s through the present time. From 2008 to 2010, 67 hours of interview were conducted with 27 musicians, vocalists, dancers, and comedians, as well as business managers and owners, talent scouts, and Harlem residents. Twenty-two hours of these interviews were recorded on video. A curated compilation of the video oral histories was created for use in the Smithsonian Institution’s “Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing: How the Apollo Theater Shaped American Entertainment” exhibition, which was presented from April 23 through August 29, 2010. The exhibition traveled to Detroit’s Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.
GUANTÁNAMO BAY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT VIDEO INTERVIEWS IN LONDON, ENGLAND

In May 2011, CCOH Coordinator Elizabeth Grefrath led interviewers Ronald J. Grele and Kanishk Tharoor and a video crew to London, England, to conduct video interviews for the Guantánamo Bay Oral History Project. Working in partnership with Cageprisoners, a British human rights organization that raises awareness of the plight of the prisoners at Guantánamo Bay and of other detainees held as part of the War on Terror, the team collected 12 hours of video testimony from seven people.

Among the interviewees were Feroz Abbasi, a survivor of detention and torture at the prison camps of Afghanistan and Guantánamo Bay who was released without charge or trial in 2005 and is now a caseworker at Cageprisoners; Asim Qureshi, the executive director of Cageprisoners; Cerie Bullivant, a Cageprisoners intern and filmmaker who was subjected to a British control order for two years; and Gareth Peirce, a civil rights attorney who represents individuals who have been the subject of rendition, torture, or control orders.

These seven interviews were conducted to document the personal experience of former detainees and the larger struggle to heal and protest policies that enable further abuses. Interviewees discussed such topics as British street culture, the historical connections between the treatment of Muslims in contemporary United Kingdom and the abuses suffered by Irish Republicans in the 1970s and 1980s, the 2011 revolutions in the Middle East, and the institutional history of Cageprisoners.

Oral history helps interviewees make meaning of their experiences and so helps us all understand the consequences of war and globalization. The Guantánamo Bay Oral History Project video interviews crossed national and cultural lines in order to reckon with the past and build a more just future. The London interviews will be made available through the CCOH website.

ATLANTIC PHILANTHROPIES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Atlantic Philanthropies Oral History Project provides a lasting and comprehensive record of the origins and evolution of the business and charitable endeavors of Charles F. Feeney, the founder of the Atlantic Philanthropies. Over the course of the three-year project, interviewers traveled to Ireland, Bermuda, Australia, Vietnam, the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, and many corners of the United States to conduct 560 hours of interview with 138 individuals. Interviewees included current and former members of the institution’s board, financial, philanthropic, and legal advisers; most of the principals of Duty Free Shoppers and the General Atlantic Group Limited (GAGL) family of business endeavors; and grantees from fields ranging from Irish and American higher education to biomedical research.

The project was generously provided by the Atlantic Philanthropies. The interviews will remain closed to the public until Atlantic ceases to exist as a legal entity.
COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
From 2006 to 2007, CCOH conducted interviews to document the deeply textured history of the Council on Foreign Relations, focusing on the organization’s origins, growth, and evolution over nearly eight decades of changes in foreign affairs and global relations. CCOH conducted 85 hours of interview (52 on digital video format) with 22 current and former leaders of the Council on Foreign Relations. The interviews focus on three main periods of the Council: the time beginning roughly at the end of World War II and the emergence of American preponderance; the 1960s and 1970s, capturing domestic political changes in the United States, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War; and, finally, the 1980s and beyond, documenting changes in international affairs.

The collection is available at CCOH as well as at the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Archives in Princeton, New Jersey. The project was developed in partnership with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy. To date, 76 hours of interview are available to the public.

ELIZABETH MURRAY ORAL HISTORY OF WOMEN IN THE VISUAL ARTS
In 2008, CCOH began a project to conduct life and career histories of women artists, collectors, critics, and curators whose contributions have had an influence on the art world in the 20th and 21st centuries. The project was named in honor of Elizabeth Murray, artist, lecturer, and the photographer of Monet’s gardens. CCOH conducted 52 hours of audio-recorded interview and more than 20 hours of video with 13 interviewees. The project culminated in a video reel that serves as a finding aid to the collection and as a stand-alone documentary.

The project was generously funded by the Agnes Gund Foundation.

GUANTÁNAMO BAY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
The Guantánamo Bay Oral History Project began in July 2010. Primarily focusing on Guantánamo Bay as the most visible symbol of the political and social consequences of the post-9/11 global War on Terror, the project addresses the urgent need to collect historical information from a diverse range of people who witnessed, experienced, and challenged the expansion of a global network of detention.

In the first year of our work, we have conducted almost 100 hours of interview with a wide range of individuals, including civilian and military defense attorneys; former military personnel; U.S. government officials from the Departments of State, Defense, and Justice; human rights advocates and investigators; grassroots activists; psychologists; and former British prisoners who have been detained at Guantánamo, Bagram, and Belmarsh. In our second year, we will work with a global network of individuals who are organizing to protest policies of torture and terror, including former prisoners and their families and friends.

The project is generously funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies.
RULE OF LAW ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Rule of Law Oral History Project began in September 2008 as a small oral history project to investigate the state of human and civil rights in the post-9/11 United States. CCOH conducted seven interviews with the lead counsel of the Supreme Court cases challenging the legal framework around the Guantánamo Bay Detention Center. CCOH also conducted five interviews with defense lawyers and advocates against the death penalty. A selection of the 60 hours of recorded testimony is available at http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/ccoh/new_projects/rule_of_law.html.

The project was generously supported by the Atlantic Philanthropies.

UNITED NATIONS INTELLECTUAL HISTORY PROJECT

The United Nations Intellectual History Project was donated to CCOH in 2009 by the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. The interviews were conducted from 1999 to 2003, and the project represents about 350 hours of interview with 79 individuals. These interviews document the origins, development, and evolution of ideas surrounding concepts such as development, international economics, human security, sustainability, peace keeping, and gender that shaped the United Nations global social and economic agenda. These interviews also highlight the effect of World War II, the Cold War, the 1970s economic crisis, and the collapse of Communism on those ideas.

The interviews of the United Nations Intellectual History Project are available to the public through CCOH’s archive. The complete interviews and indices are also available in CD-ROM format. For additional information, go to: http://www.unhistory.org.

BIOGRAPHICAL INTERVIEWS

Over the past 10 years, CCOH has completed more than 20 individual biographical interviews, adding thousands of pages of transcripts and hundreds of hours of audio and video to our archives.

John W. Kluge (1914–2010)

From 2005 to 2006, Mary Marshall Clark conducted a 21-hour oral history interview with John W. Kluge, entrepreneur and philanthropist, about his life, education, career history, and philanthropy. He was born on September 21, 1914, in Chemnitz, Germany. At the age of eight, he immigrated to the United States. Accepted by Columbia College in 1932 with a $500 scholarship, he earned a BA in economics and graduated in 1937. Following his Navy service during World War II, Kluge made his fortune in the telecommunications industry. Recurring topics in Mr. Kluge’s interview include his emphasis on ethics, humility, and risk as elements of business leadership; his desires for more global entrepreneurship; the need for a strong moral imperative in business; and the responsibility of providing social and economic opportunity to the rest of the world. He was one of Columbia’s largest donors and is perhaps best known for creating need-based scholarships for Columbia undergraduates.

The Kluge Project also includes interviews with Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger, former Dean of Columbia College Austin Quigley, as well as staff and students.
from the Columbia University Scholars Program, funded by Mr. Kluge. John’s wife, Maria Tussi Kluge, was also interviewed for the project. Columbia University generously provided the support for the Kluge Oral History Project, along with the John W. Kluge Foundation.


From 2001 to 2009, Mary Marshall Clark conducted a 15-hour oral history interview with William T. Golden, science adviser to President Harry S. Truman and an architect of American science policy in the 20th century, as well as a philanthropist and businessman. Golden was born on October 25, 1909, in Manhattan and grew up in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City. After completing studies in English and biology at the University of Pennsylvania and starting work at Harvard Business School, Golden pursued a successful career as an investment banker. Recurring topics in Golden’s interview include his efforts to establish the position of scientific adviser to the president; his relationship with the military; his views on atomic weapons and nuclear energy; his role guiding the formation of the National Science Foundation; and the importance of science advice to public affairs. Earning a master’s in biological sciences from Columbia University at the age of 70, Golden is best known for acting as a nexus between science and society. The Bay and Paul Foundations generously provided the support for the William T. Golden Oral History Project.

**Robert P. DeVecchi**

From 2005 to 2006, CCOH interviewer Sharon Zane conducted an 18-hour oral history interview with Robert P. DeVecchi. His rich life narrative ranges from his early childhood exposure to artistic, diplomatic, and expatriate circles to his decade-long State Department career as a foreign service officer during the height of the Cold War. His involvement with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) began with the Indochinese Refugee Resettlement Program in 1975, and he continued to rise in prominence at the IRC until his 1997 retirement as president. Mr. DeVecchi offers reflections on his and the IRC’s role in crisis situations in Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Iraq. Mr. DeVecchi’s interview offers deeply personal reflections on the origins and evolution of his devotion to humanitarian values and public service. The International Rescue Committee generously supported the project.

**Additional interviews completed include:**

- Ellsworth Bunker, American diplomat and former United States ambassador
- Archibald Cox Jr., U.S. solicitor general, American lawyer and law professor
- Kenneth Frampton, British architect, critic, and historian
- Brendan Gill, author, writer, and critic
- Louis Henkin, Columbia Law School professor emeritus
- Rhoda Karpatkin, former president of the Consumer’s Union
- Judith Malina, writer, director, actor, founder of the Living Theatre
- Rhonda Metraux, cultural anthropologist, author, and editor
- John B. Oakes, editorial writer and columnist for the *New York Times*
- David Popper, American diplomat and former United States ambassador
Kenneth and Mamie Clark were groundbreaking child development scholars and civil rights activists. Their oral histories are preserved in our collection and are featured as part of our “Notable New Yorkers” digital exhibition.
Archive

Ten years ago, much of our audio collection was in danger of irreversible loss due to age and poor storage conditions. Under the leadership of James Neal, Vice President for Information Systems and University Librarian, and the Libraries’ Preservation and Reformatting Division, the Columbia University Libraries have taken up the cause of preserving, giving access to, and disseminating our collections. While we still have work ahead of us in order to preserve our collections for the future, the CCOH has now secured some of our most important audio. Additionally, we have made great strides in making our archival collections accessible to a global audience on the Internet; we have a new online search portal, a new website, several digital exhibitions, and plans to further open the collection.

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS PORTAL
The Oral History Collections Portal was released to the public as a beta version in November 2010. The portal allows researchers to search across CCOH’s collection, leveraging information from the Columbia University Libraries’ online public access catalog. Users can now view all interviews conducted under one project and search across projects and subjects. The Oral History Collections Portal can be accessed at http://oralhistoryportal.cul.columbia.edu/.

CCOH’S NEW WEBSITE
In July 2011, the Center launched our newly redesigned website, which features the three main areas of our work: Research, Archive, and Education. The site delivers up-to-date information about CCOH’s academic and public work, including past and present archival projects, in-process oral history projects, and upcoming educational outreach and programming. CCOH’s new website was made possible by the new Web publishing platform released in spring 2011 by the Columbia University Libraries. The website can be accessed at http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/ccoh.html.
"With the support of the Columbia University Libraries preservation and digitization division, we have made our archive increasingly accessible to the public online. In this effort we are proud to have launched several online exhibitions featuring hundreds of hours of digitized audio, video, and transcripts of interviews from our collection.”
—MARY MARSHALL CLARK

**DIGITAL EXHIBITIONS**

CCOH intends to make available online as much of our vast archive as possible. We are proud to have launched several “digital initiatives,” or online exhibitions, of selected projects that are a fine example of work yet to come.

**Archibald Cox Oral History Project**

Archibald Cox stands out in American legal history as a leader of tremendous courage, expertise, and integrity. CCOH’s nine-hour oral-history interview with Cox focuses on his tenure as solicitor general of the United States from 1961 to 1965, when he argued many landmark civil rights cases before the Supreme Court. With support from the Supreme Court Historical Society and permission from the Cox family, the Web project was produced with support from the Digital Libraries Program Division of the Columbia University Libraries and may be accessed at [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/oral_hist/cox/index.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/oral_hist/cox/index.html).

**Carnegie Corporation Oral History Project (Part II)**

In 2006, the Center launched a specially curated online exhibition utilizing newly digitized audio and video interviews taken for the Carnegie Corporation Oral History Project in order to create more public knowledge and understanding of Carnegie’s role in American and international philanthropy. The website includes both audio and transcripts and focuses on the impact of Carnegie philanthropy in South Africa for nearly a century. The project was produced with support from the Digital Libraries Program Division of the Columbia University Libraries and may be accessed at [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/oral_hist/carnegie/video-interviews/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/oral_hist/carnegie/video-interviews/).

**Notable New Yorkers**

In 2006, the Center launched a specially curated online exhibition called *Notable New Yorkers*, featuring audio and transcript of 10 lengthy biographical interviews with a diverse range of New Yorkers. Among the 10 are Frances Perkins, first woman cabinet secretary; former Mayor Edward I. Koch; labor activist Moe Foner; media executive Frank Stanton; and psychologists and educators Kenneth and Mamie Clark. The project was produced with support from the Digital Libraries Program Division of the Columbia University Libraries and may be accessed at [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/nny/index.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/digital/collections/nny/index.html).

**The Rule of Law Oral History Project**

Thanks to funding from the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Center partnered with the Libraries Digital Preservation Division to develop a new Web-publishing platform that allows Center staff to quickly create and publish specialized project sites featuring our oral history collections. The first materials to be delivered through this system are six oral history transcripts that form part of the Rule of Law Oral History Project; they may be accessed at [http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/ccoh/new_projects/rule_of_law.html](http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/ccoh/new_projects/rule_of_law.html).
PRESERVATION

Our most important asset, for current and future generations, is the actual voices of those we have interviewed, beginning in 1948 with memories of the Civil War draft riots in New York City. Through the support of the Columbia University Libraries, we preserve our collections with state-of-the-art technology and follow recognized standards and best practices for the management and long-term preservation of our materials, so that they may serve the greatest educational value possible. Our preservation and digitization initiatives over the past 10 years include:

Andrew W. Mellon Audio Digital Preservation Project
Through the initiative of the Libraries Preservation and Reformating Division, and with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, our Audio Digital Preservation Project began in June 2008 with the goal of digitizing items in the collection deemed the most important and most threatened by imminent deterioration due to the inherent fragility of the media. Eight hundred twenty recordings containing almost 1,200 hours of sound were selected for the project.

September 11, 2001, Oral History Digitization Project
The Columbia Libraries Digital Program Division digitized a large portion of our September 11, 2001, Oral History Project. Two hundred nine interviews comprised of 446 minidiscs and cassettes were selected for digitization. A large portion of this media is now available to patrons.

Top 135 Oral History Digitization Project
A legacy project, the Top 135 Oral History Digitization, was revitalized in 2009–2010 to provide access to audio and transcripts of the 135 most frequently consulted oral histories in our collection. When this work is completed, transcripts with legal clearance will be made available online to patrons via the Web.
Education

The Center is dedicated to building the field of oral history and making our archives and expertise of use to the public. We do this through educational initiatives such as the following:

- The Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) degree program at Columbia University, founded in 2008 as a partnership between CCOH and the Institute for the Study of Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University, and still the only program of its kind in the nation;
- The Annual Summer Institute, launched in 1994, which brings together a diverse group of fellows from around the world for advanced training in oral history;
- A workshop series throughout the academic year, as well as regular conferences, lectures, and other public events on oral history theory and practice;
- Individual and group consultation and training sessions with educators, community organizations, human rights activists, and others;
- Resource guides and curricula, developed for our public history “Telling Lives” program, for school and community educators;
- Books, including *After the Fall: New Yorkers Remember September 2001 and the Years That Followed*; and
- Online exhibitions, audio and video programs, and other resources.

### ORAL HISTORY MASTER OF ARTS

The Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) program is an interdisciplinary Master of Arts degree program that focuses on interviewing methodologies and interpretative methods. Founded in 2008 as a collaboration between CCOH and the Institute for the Study of Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP) at Columbia University, it was and still is the only degree program of its kind in the United States. OHMA links social sciences and humanities research across six disciplines: history, sociology, literature, anthropology, psychology, and public health. OHMA also has practical applications in historic preservation, radio production, writing, and legal and human rights work. OHMA trains students to conduct research through creating and analyzing interviews, and developing fieldwork projects to address historical and contemporary issues that require interdisciplinary investigation. To date, more than 45 individuals have enrolled in the program and 21 have graduated and are pursuing advanced degrees and oral history–related work in a variety of fields. For more information, please visit [http://iserp.columbia.edu/education-programs/ohma](http://iserp.columbia.edu/education-programs/ohma).

### SUMMER INSTITUTE

An annual event begun in 1994 to provide advanced training in oral history method and theory, the Summer Institute provides two weeklong international seminars for fellows and faculty from around the world. Over the years, we have had fellows from Brazil,
Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Rhodesia, Romania, Russia, South Africa, and many other countries, as well as from around the United States. In the future, the Institute will expand its global reach through partnerships with other university centers and sites of oral history work, generating new ideas and new leaders for the field. The most recent institutes have included the following:


- **2010** Oral History from the Ground Up: Space, Place, Memory examined the meaning that space, place, and memory hold in producing individual, social, cultural, and political narratives.

- **2009** Narrating the Body: Oral History, Narrative, and Embodied Practice explored issues, stories, and performances, tracing the history of the body as well as oral history as an embodied practice.

- **2008** Oral History, Advocacy, and the Law explored the parallel uses of oral history and legal testimony in the classical definition of advocacy as “finding and giving” voice and looked at human rights commissions, tribunals, and oral history documentation.

- **2007** Telling the World: Oral History, Struggles for Justice, and Human Rights Dialogues explored how oral history theory and method contribute to an understanding of the political, historical, and personal dimensions of human rights dialogues. Joining us in the creation of that year’s program was the International Center for Transitional Justice.

- **2006** Women’s Narratives, Women’s Lives: Intersections of Gender and Memory featured presentations on such topics as gender and memory in illness, and activist narratives.

- **2005** Living to Tell: Narrating Catastrophe through Oral History focused on the challenges of using oral history to document catastrophe in its immediate aftermath and beyond.

- **2004** Constructions of Race and Ethnicity from Past to Present: Negotiating Collective Memories through Oral History focused on the role of oral history in creating and critiquing representations of race and ethnicity in collective memory, popular culture, and individual life narratives.

- **2003** Telling Lives: Memory,Orality, and Testimony in Oral History explored the use of testimonies in discourses on marginalized communities and how such testimonies subvert and correct public myth and memory.

- **2002** Oral History in Contemporary Contexts: Documenting Narratives of War, Conflict, and Displacement in the Era of Globalization focused on the challenges of using oral history to document war, conflict, and displacement in situations of both immediate and remembered trauma.

- **2001** Documenting Memories of Struggle and Resistance: Social Change and Social Memories focused on the complexities of documenting memories of social and political change through individuals’ remembrances.

”This has been an invaluable experience that I will certainly recommend to anyone considering oral history as a methodological toolkit. I have learned significantly about oral history as an epistemology and will ... include it among my research methods in my future projects.” —SUMMER INSTITUTE PARTICIPANT, 2010
WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Ever since the launch of the Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) program in 2008, CCOH has collaborated with that program to present a series of workshops throughout the academic year on oral history theory and method. These workshops have covered a diverse array of topics and applications of oral history and have explored some of the central preoccupations of our times through oral history. In addition, we have produced other public events and public workshops. Audiences included Columbia students as well as activists, scholars, and many others we recruited through social media. A selection of our workshops over the past three years follows:

- February 5, 2009, “Researching and Writing the Oral History of New York City B-Girls in the 1990s,” with MiRi Park (a.k.a. Seoulsonyk), program coordinator for the Oral History MA program at Columbia University, who dances professionally as a b-girl and modern dancer and is the 2004 World and U.S. Air Guitar Champion
- September 24, 2009, “Individual and Collective Identities in Post-War Kosovo: The Archives of Memory,” with Professor Silvia Salvatici of the Universita di Teramo, who specializes in modern history, with particular emphases on individual and collective memories in postwar societies, women refugees in the 20th century, gender and human rights, and European displaced persons in the aftermath of World War II
• November 5, 2009, “Interpreting Conflict through Oral History: The Israeli-Palestinian Crisis,” with Seth East Anziska, alumnus of Columbia University, whose thesis, “Crystallization of a Conflict: The United States, Israel, and the Palestinians, 1976–1980,” was awarded Columbia’s Chanler Historical Prize and Alan J. Willen Memorial Prize and who is currently at Columbia pursuing his PhD in international and global history

• March 11, 2010, “In the Absence of the Archive: Oral History in Post-Conflict Societies,” with Mujib Mashal, native of Kabul, Afghanistan, and graduate of Columbia University, who carried out his own project, recording life histories of Afghan educators with technical assistance from CCOH

• October 14, 2010, “The Organizational Response to 9/11: A Quantitative Approach,” with Peter Bearman of Columbia University and University of Chicago student Bart McAllister, who, drawing from CCOH’s archive, shared early results from an analysis of organization behavior in the wake of the events and aftermath of September 11, 2001, in New York City


• February 1, 2011, “‘I’ve Lost My Whole Life’: Narrative Crisis and Oral History among People Living with Mental Illness,” with Clare Oh, an OHMA graduate who shared her interviews with people living with bipolar disease in New York City

• March 24, 2011, “Consensus and Conflict: Oral Histories of Christiana,” with Amy Starecheski, CCOH interviewer, doctoral student in cultural anthropology at the City University of New York Graduate Center, and former squatter, presented on her research in Christiana, a squatted neighborhood of one thousand people in Copenhagen, Denmark


• April 5, 2011, “Memories and Narrations of Death, Near Death, and Mourning,” with Ghislaine Boulanger, psychoanalyst, and Oral History Master of Arts Professors Mary Marshall Clark and Luisa Passerini, presented on themes of mourning and death as it impacts memory research

• June 28, 2011, “AIDS in Oral History: Doctors and Activists Look Back on 30 Years of the Epidemic,” featuring speakers from the ACT UP Oral History Project and the authors of the book AIDS Doctors; organized in collaboration with the New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Branch, and the HIV Story Project
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
Recent conference presentations of staff and students include the following:

- CCOH was a co-sponsor of the April 2011 “Remembering Guantánamo” conference at Columbia, which brought together historians, advocates, museum professionals, and others to explore the history and possible future of Guantánamo Bay. CCOH’s director, Mary Marshall Clark, chaired a session on “Public Memories of Guantánamo: Narratives and Performance.” Other conference sponsors included the Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights; the University Seminar on History, Redress, and Reconciliation; and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.


- Elizabeth Grefrath, CCOH coordinator, presented on her interviews and research for the Guantánamo Bay Oral History Project at “Testimony, Oral History, and Human Rights Documentation,” a conference workshop at the University of Connecticut.

- The 2011 Scholar and Feminist Conference at Barnard College, “Movements: Politics, Performance, and Disability,” featured Mary Marshall Clark, CCOH director, and interviewer Ynestra King, presenting a new project on Barnard and Columbia alumnae who identify as disabled. Their session featured interview clips with women with disabilities and explored feminist oral history approaches to social difference.


CONSULTATIONS
CCOH staff members are available to conduct workshops and consultations for organizations seeking to initiate projects, train interviewers, or learn about oral history methods. Such services take the form of on-site meetings up to intensive multiday workshops. CCOH advises Columbia students as well as educators, activists, nonprofits, and others throughout New York, the nation, and abroad. In the past 10 years, we have consulted with upward of 1,000 people, projects, and organizations. A sampling of advisees from the past year alone gives a flavor of the variety of organizations we serve:
ORAL HISTORY TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS AND ACTIVISTS

During the winter of 2011, the CCOH team conducted its first oral history workshop in a series for community organizations. We extended an invitation to a diverse group of New York–based leaders, educators, and change agents seeking to learn more about oral history as a methodology and a tool to actively facilitate social change. This seasoned group of 23 advocates spanned organizations from UN Women to Picture the Homeless to Make the Road New York. Their shared experiences contributed to a dynamic and exciting workshop hosted on Columbia University’s campus. Participants shared ideas about documenting the intellectual history of their organizations for the benefit of future community leaders as well as using oral history interviews to bring important social issues to the national stage. The conversation opened new pathways to understanding how oral history can be deployed at the community level. All 23 participants not only committed to implementing oral history within their organizational outreach strategies, but also agreed to continue their training by attending future workshop sessions.

ONLINE OUTREACH

Our educational work continues online as we redesign our website, keep our blog active, and utilize social media to build new relationships and help patrons stay connected to our work. On our blog, we publicize events, highlight parts of our collection, and post about the practice and theory of oral history. Our blog can be accessed at https://blogs.cul.columbia.edu/ohro/.

Another online highlight is our project HIV@30: Revisiting AIDS Doctors: Voices from the Epidemic, a collaboration with The HIV Story Project. CCOH holds a collection of interviews, conducted in 1995, with leading AIDS doctors. For our online project, we presented audio of four of those interviews, conducted live follow-up interviews with those doctors via Internet radio, and posted the new interviews alongside the old ones. This project can be accessed at http://www.thehivstoryproject.org/media-projects/hiv30-re-visiting-aids-doctors-voices-from-the-epidemic/.
The Center’s archive serves as important source material for authors of articles and books on diverse topics, which in turn educate readers. We are proud to enrich these popular and scholarly works. These are a few examples of the hundreds of publications that have drawn substantially on our collections during the last 10 years.

**Publications**

- *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster*, by Rebecca Solnit; Viking Press, 2003
- *Morgan: American Financier*, by Jean Strouse; Palgrave Macmillan, 2010
Staff, Supporters, and Advisory Board

STAFF AND INTERVIEWERS

Over the past 10 years, the Center has been fortunate to have a staff and interviewer corps that has defined our new mission and increased our capacity to do excellent work.

- Mary Marshall Clark, Director (2001–present). In addition to being the director of CCOH, Mary Marshall Clark is codirector of Columbia’s Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) degree program, founded in 2008. Formerly, she was an oral historian and filmmaker at the New York Times and was president of the Oral History Association in 2001–2002. She is the founder, with Peter Bearman, of the September 11, 2001, Oral History Narrative and Memory Project and directed related projects on the aftermath of September 11 in New York City. Clark writes on issues of memory, the mass media, trauma, and ethics in oral history. She is coeditor, with Peter Bearman, Stephen Drury Smith, and Catherine Ellis, of After the Fall: New Yorkers Remember September 2001 and the Years That Followed (The New Press, 2011).

- Elizabeth Pope, Assistant Director (2011–present). Prior to joining the Center, Pope served as an archivist for the National Archives and Records Administration. She has worked with the archives of the American Library Association, the Ad Council, and the University of Illinois. Her background also includes not-for-profit development and academic administration. Pope holds a BA in American history from Columbia University and an MS in library science with a certificate in special collections from the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign.

- Terrell Frazier, Education and Outreach Officer (2011–present). With a range of research and communications experience in the nonprofit sector, Frazier has served such organizations as Freedom to Marry, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), and the Pew Research Center. Frazier earned a Master of Arts in sociology at the New School for Social Research, where he focused on using emergent media to spur social change. Frazier graduated from Michigan State University with a BA in social policy and journalism.

- Gabriel Solis, Guantánamo Bay Oral History Project Coordinator (2011–present). Solis received a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin in 2008. He then served as associate director of the Texas After Violence Project, a human rights organization in Austin that conducts oral history interviews with people directly affected by state violence. In 2011, Solis graduated with a Master of Arts in Mexican American studies from the University of Texas at Austin.

- Charis Shafer, Office Assistant (2008–present). Shafer holds a BA in art history from New York University and received an MA in film and literature from the University of Essex, England. She is also currently pursuing an MA in the oral history master’s program at Columbia. She is focusing her studies and professional interests on visual oral history and film, especially as it relates to women, human rights, and justice, with a specific focus on Southeast Asia.

- Amy Starecheski, CCOH Interviewer and Summer Institute Codirector. Prior to beginning a doctoral program in anthropology at CUNY Graduate Center, Starecheski, was the chief interviewer and director of research for the Atlantic

- Grace Glueck, CCOH Interviewer. Glueck was the lead interviewer for the Elizabeth Murray Women in Visual Arts Oral History Project from 2008 to 2010. A former art writer, reviewer, and cultural news editor, she was with the *New York Times* for more than 40 years.

- Ronald J. Grele, former Director and CCOH Interviewer. Grele is the former director of the Oral History Research Office. He writes and lectures widely on oral history and the nature of historical consciousness, and conducts interviews on behalf of CCOH.

- Myron A. Farber, CCOH Interviewer. Farber, a freelance writer based in New York, is a former investigative reporter for the *New York Times*. In recent years he conducted interviews for the September 11, 2001, Oral History Narrative and Memory Project, the Atlantic Philanthropies Oral History Project, and the Guantánamo Bay Oral History Project.

- Gerry Albarelli, CCOH Interviewer. Alberelli has a master’s degree in creative writing from Brown University. He is an oral historian who has done extensive work with CCOH as part of the September 11, 2001, Oral History Narrative and Memory Project and the Guantánamo Bay Oral History Project. He is coauthor of the *Telling Lives Oral History Curriculum Guide*.

- George Gavrilis, CCOH Interviewer. Gavrilis was director of research and principal interviewer for the Council on Foreign Relations Oral History Project. His areas of expertise include domestic and international institutions, conflict, borders, security, and state failure. He has conducted extensive field research in the Middle East, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and the Balkans.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Current members of the Columbia Center for Oral History Advisory Committee include:

- Peter Bearman  
  Jonathan R. Cole Professor of Sociology and Director of ISERP

- Elizabeth Blackmar  
  Professor of 19th- and 20th-Century History

- Rita Charon  
  Director of the Program in Narrative Medicine and Professor of Clinical Medicine

- Brent Hayes Edwards  
  Professor of English and Comparative Literature

- Eric Foner (Chair)  
  DeWitt Clinton Professor of History
• Marianne Hirsch  
  William Peterfield Trent Professor of English

• Kenneth Jackson  
  Jacques Barzun Professor of History and the Social Sciences

• Samuel K. Roberts  
  Associate Professor of History

• Barbara Rockenbach (ex officio)  
  Director of History and Humanities, the Columbia University Libraries

• Michael Ryan (ex officio)  
  Director of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library

• Leo Spitzer  
  Visiting Professor, Oral History

SUPPORTERS

CCOH is grateful for the support of our donors and friends, whose support has enabled us to preserve our existing collections, pursue new research on topics of historical import, and educate the public about our holdings and about oral history.

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The Center is located within the Rare Book & Manuscript Library (RBML), Columbia’s principal repository for primary source collections. The range of collections in RBML spans more than four thousand years and comprises rare printed works, cylinder seals, cuneiform tablets, papyri, and Coptic ostraca; medieval and Renaissance manuscripts; as well as art and realia. Some 500,000 printed books and 14 miles of manuscripts, personal papers, and records form the core of the RBML holdings. The RBML and CCOH operate within the Columbia University Libraries/Information Services, one of the top five academic research library systems in North America. The collections include more than 11 million volumes, more than 150,000 journals and serials, as well as extensive electronic resources, manuscripts, rare books, microforms, maps, and graphic and audiovisual materials. The website of the Libraries is the gateway to its services and resources: library.columbia.edu.
CONTACT US

We invite you to be a part of CCOH’s work. Whether you are a student or a scholar looking to enrich your research, an educator who wants guidance on incorporation of oral history into your teaching, or a community member who wants to learn more about oral history or the contents of our archive, please contact us.

Your support is essential in helping us develop new interviewing, preservation, and digital access projects and in strengthening public outreach. Contact the Center to become a friend.

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