

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXVIII, Number 35, 21 March 1994 — SPECTATOR NEWS Alumni receive John Jay Awards
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SPECTATOR NEWS

Alumni receive John Jay Awards

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Contributing Writer

Pulitzer prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner, CC '78, White House counsel Bernard Nussbaum, CC '58, and former college football star Eugene Rossides, CC '49, were among the six Columbia College alumni who were recognized at the 15th annual John Jay Awards dinner in Low Library Rotunda on Mar. 10.

The other award recipients were Donald J. Bainton, CC '52, chairman and chief executive officer of Continental Can Co., and Eric A. Rose, CC '71, a cardiothoracic surgeon.

For the first time, the award was given posthumously, to former Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst. Shortly before his death in February at the age of 56, Holst helped foster peace talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

His widow, Marianne Heiberg, accepted the award in his place.

In Holst's memory, a quarter of the proceeds from this year's dinner

will go towards establishing a scholarship in his name for Norwegian students at Columbia College.

Dean of College Relations James McMenamin said based on the attendance of approximately 350 people, this year's John Jay Award dinner was one of the most successful in its 15-year history.

"For me, it's a very warm evening where Columbia College is the center of an event and is celebrated by its prominent and loyal alumni," Columbia College Associate Dean Kathryn Yatrakis said.

Kushner is the author of the Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning play "Angels in America," a two-part epic play about AIDS and politics in 1980s.

Nussbaum most recently served as counsel to U.S. President Bill Clinton. He announced two weeks ago that he would resign from this position on Apr. 5.

Rossides worked as a legal expert at the Washington Law firm of Rogers & Wells, as well as serving in the office of the New York State Attorney General and as Assistant Treasury Secretary.

Rossides was Columbia's quarterback and led the football team to a legendary 21-20 victory over previously undefeated Army on Oct. 25, 1947.

Bainton, former president of Continental Can's Continental Packaging division and chief operating officer of the Continental group, helped to expand Viatch, a small United States engineering firm, into the international market.

Rose is the director of cardio-

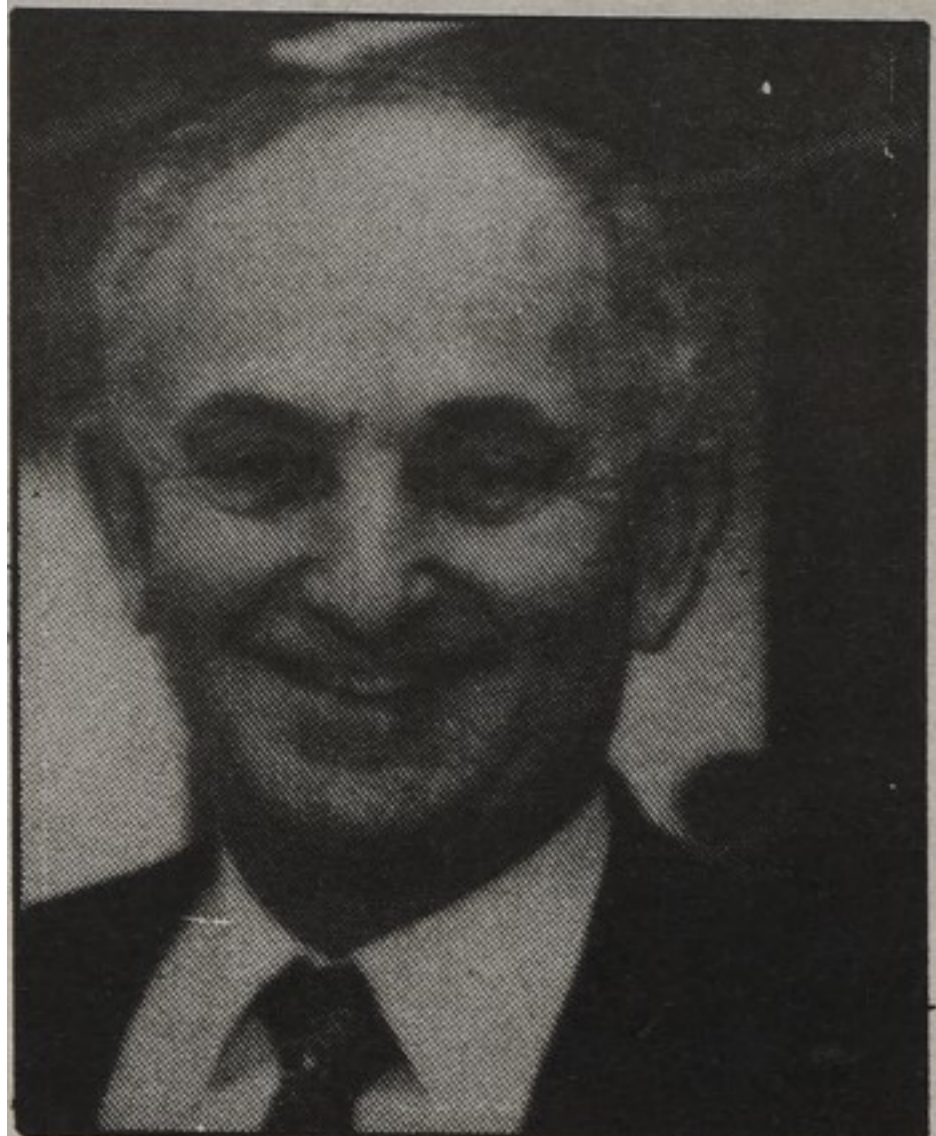
thoracic surgery and cardiac transplantation at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

The John Jay awards are named for John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, who graduated from Columbia College's predecessor, King's College, in 1764. The dinner benefits the John Jay National Scholarship Program, which provides financial aid grants for academically excellent first-year students to attend Columbia College.



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Tony Kushner



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Bernard Nussbaum