



Current Issue

June 2009

Alumni in the News

The World Is Her Canvas

Traveling with her camera and documenting the daily lives of tribal women around the world has been a passion for the last two decades for painter and photographer Jamie Columbus (MBA '89). In celebration of International Women's Day, an exhibition of her photos and oil pastels from some of the 42 countries she has visited (usually as a backpacker staying in villagers' homes) was on display in March at the Rochester Contemporary Art Center in upstate New York. Rather than depicting women's struggle or repression, Columbus's collection exudes "an aura of quiet fulfillment," the Rochester *Chronicle and Democrat* reported (March 1, 2009). "It's more about the inner beauty of their lives," Columbus explained.



COLUMBUS: With photos and paintings, celebrating the daily lives of women around the globe.

Photo Courtesy Jamie Columbus

Can't Forget the Motor City

In a flurry of activity in Detroit in March, the acronym "HBS" was almost as much in evidence as "GM." It wasn't just the departure of GM chief Rick Wagoner (MBA '77) and the accession of his replacement, Fritz Henderson (MBA '84). Also on the scene were Diana Farrell (MBA '91) and Ron Bloom (MBA '85), key players on the presidential task force that's deciding what to do about the U.S. auto industry.

As a longtime special assistant to the president of the United Steelworkers union, Bloom previously used skills he honed at Lazard Frères to help restructure the U.S. steel industry. Among his many admirers is distressed-assets financier Wilbur Ross (MBA '61), who got to know Bloom from across the bargaining table when Ross was trying to buy up steel companies that Bloom represented. Observed Ross, "He's very, very pragmatic, not overly ideological, and a very, very good negotiator" (*Wall Street Journal*, February 17, 2009).

Sounds Like a Plan