
RICKI SPECTOR BOOKER '90

RICKI SPECTOR BOOKER comes to us today in the esteemed company of her husband Stewart Booker and with the good graces of her children Daisy and Charley. Ms. Booker represents a creative and remarkable CC generation of the 1980's and 1990's, combining film production, documentary cinema, project development, and children's books with a thriving family life. She embodies the full potential of a CC liberal arts degree, especially in terms of the arts and business. Ricki Spector Booker graduated from CC in 1990 with a major in anthropology and continued on to the prestigious USC film school, receiving an M.F.A. in film production in 1993. At USC, she was one of two candidates selected to write and narrate a 580 Narrative Film in spring 1993. Ms. Booker's curriculum vitae shows an extremely successful Los Angeles entertainment industry career: 1990, production assistant for 20th Century Fox ("Point Break"); 1990, production assistant for Henry Winkler; 1993-95, executive assistant to MGM/UA's Rebecca Pollack Parker; 1995-98, VP/associate producer for Roth/Arnold Productions/DreamWorks ("Forces of Nature," "Grosse Pointe Blank"); 1998-2000, VP for creative affairs at MGM/UA ("Legally Blonde," "Heartbreakers," "Autumn in New York"), 2000-04, VP for Nickelodeon/Nick Movies ("Rugrats Go Wild," "Jimmy Neutron," "Clock Stoppers," "Rugrats in Paris"). Presently, Ms. Booker is producer of "Pillsbury Bakeoff," a documentary film chronicling the venerable national institution. Also, she is the creator/publisher/writer of "Change Is Strange," personalized books for children. And now, after years on an industry fast track, Ricki Spector Booker has arrived at her happiest moment, one marked by career independence, creative control, and most of all, the continuing priority of a successful family.

— Tom Lindblade, *Professor of Drama*

THOMAS D. SHANKER '78

THOM SHANKER majored in political science at Colorado College (class of 1978, *cum laude*) and has gone on to an outstanding career in journalism. Now Pentagon correspondent for *The New York Times*, Mr. Shanker has covered a broad range of issues involving military operations, national security strategy, and intelligence. He married Lisa Gordinier, a CC art history major, in 1987. They have two sons, Samuel and Daniel.

After graduating from Colorado College, where he honed his skills as a reporter and editor for *The Catalyst*, Mr. Shanker worked at *The Daily Oklahoman* for two years and then went on to receive a master's of arts and diplomacy degree, specializing in strategic nuclear policy and international law, at the Fletcher School of Tufts University. He then joined the *Chicago Tribune*, where he worked for 15 years. He covered the mayoral campaign of Harold Washington and, after a stint covering city hall, was sent to Russia as Moscow bureau chief in 1985. Over the next several years Mr. Shanker covered the Gorbachev revolution, then the most important foreign story in the world, and wrote more than 1,000 articles exploring the lives of refuseniks and chronicling *glasnost* and *perestroika*.

From 1988 to 1990, Mr. Shanker worked as Pentagon correspondent for *The Tribune*. He returned to Moscow in 1990 to cover the death of the USSR and the collapse of the communist empire in Eastern Europe. From 1992 to 1995, he was senior European correspondent at *The Tribune*, based in Berlin, and from that post spent most of his time reporting on the wars in the former Yugoslavia. Mr. Shanker was the first reporter to uncover and write about the Serb campaign of systematic mass rape of Muslim women in Bosnia. He also wrote about European integration, NATO policy, nuclear smuggling, and German unification. In 1995, Mr. Shanker came back to Chicago and spent a year as the foreign and military affairs writer on *The Tribune* editorial board, after which he became the foreign editor.

Mr. Shanker joined *The New York Times* in 1997 and was assistant Washington editor, responsible for managing the newspaper's coverage of foreign policy, national security, and economics from the Washington bureau. He became Pentagon correspondent of the *Times* in May 2001 and has spent substantial time covering combat and reconstruction missions with American forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. During those assignments, he has embedded with Army Special Forces and the Green Berets — as well as troops of the First Armored Division, the First Infantry Division, and the headquarters of the Multinational Corps-Iraq. He has also written extensively about Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's efforts to transform the Pentagon.

Mr. Shanker has written on foreign policy, military affairs, and the intelligence community for *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Republic*, *The American Journalism Review*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. He is a contributor to "Crimes of War: What the Public Should Know," an anthology published by Norton. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

— David Henrickson, *Professor of Political Science*

ERIC STOVER '74

EVERY DAY we have the privilege and pleasure of encountering a wonderfully challenging and creative student. This year will be no different than it was over 30 years ago when Eric Stover concluded four years of liberal education at Colorado College. He left richly armed by his years at CC, yet by his own admission he wasn't sure of his path. Childhood memories of a newsreel on the Holocaust, and reflections on Camus's theory of absurdity, Dante's descent into hell and Don Quixote's windmills, for example, converged to trigger an interest and focus in the human rights movement. Over the past 20 years he has contributed substantially to our awareness and understanding of genocide, mass violence, and the medical and social consequences of war by blending graphic literary descriptions with sound scientific evidence.

Joining the Office of Science and Human Rights with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 1980, Eric Stover is credited with jump-starting AAAS activism in human rights, first pursuing what constitutes forensic evidence in seeking to solve the disappearance of scientists (as well as children and their parents) in Argentina and to pursue legal actions against the military junta of the 70s and 80s. In the early 90s he served as executive director of Physicians for Human Rights. Also during this decade, he conducted a survey of mass graves in Rwanda for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, he was the 'Expert on Mission' to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, during the wars in Croatia and Bosnia, and with British de-miner Rae McGrath he researched the social and medical consequences of land mines in Cambodia and other developing countries. Since 1996 he has served as director of the Human Rights Center at the University of California, Berkeley. His current work takes him to back to Iraq where he investigated mass murders of Kurds in the early 1990s.

His numerous publications vividly document past acts of inhumanity, alert us to potential humanitarian crises and warn us of the subtle isolation and deprivation of human rights. These include "Breaking of Bodies and Minds: Torture, Psychiatric Abuse and the Health Professions," "Landmines: a Deadly Legacy, Witness from the Grave," "The Stories Bones Tell," and "A Village Destroyed, May 14, 1999: War Crimes in Kosovo." In the face of despair, and at a time when current United States policy isolates us from international collaboration for human rights, Eric Stover gives us hope that we can take action individually and that we must act collectively, casting ourselves as mutual stewards and caregivers.

— Paul Kuerbis, *Director of the Colorado College Learning Commons*
