Once upon a time, it was a case of ‘never the twain shall meet’ between an Ivy League university like Columbia and the world of high fashion and Hollywood glamour. Nowadays, however, the two worlds are being bridged with more and more celebrities taking part in CU life and Columbians venturing into the celebrity world.

Female celebrities in particular seem to be drawn to Columbia. Fashion editor Anna Wintour was here recently for a reception with journalism students—a experience she recounted in her letter in the September Vogue. She mentioned that the students had wanted to know how she stayed excited at her job after so many years (answer: the changes they work with the best writers and photographers in the business).

Columbia is now a preferred destination for the growing numbers of young stage and screen actresses seeking degrees. A recent New York Times article cited several prominent examples: Julia Stiles, Amanda Peet and Maggie Gyllenhaal. (Christina Ricci and Katie Holmes were admitted to Columbia but did not attend.)

Hollywood and High Fashion at Columbia!

Once upon a time, it was a case of ‘never the twain shall meet’ between an Ivy League university like Columbia and the world of high fashion and Hollywood glamour. Nowadays, however, the two worlds are being bridged with more and more celebrities taking part in CU life and Columbians venturing into the celebrity world.

Female celebrities in particular seem to be drawn to Columbia. Fashion editor Anna Wintour was here recently for a reception with journalism students—a experience she recounted in her letter in the September Vogue. She mentioned that the students had wanted to know how she stays excited at her job after so many years (answer: the changes they work with the best writers and photographers in the business).

Columbia is now a preferred destination for the growing numbers of young stage and screen actresses seeking degrees. A recent New York Times article cited several prominent examples: Julia Stiles, Amanda Peet and Maggie Gyllenhaal. (Christina Ricci and Katie Holmes were admitted to Columbia but did not attend.)

Columbians for their part are no longer shy about entering the celebrity world. MTV is ‘thinking global’ thanks to the efforts of Earth Institute director Jeffrey Sachs. Sachs was joined by Hollywood actresses and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie for an MTV special on global poverty, which aired on Sept. 14 to coincide with the opening of the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals.

While Sachs was touring Kenya with Jolie, Columbia College graduate Brian Corridon was putting the skills he picked up from his psychology courses to the test as a contestant on Survivor, the popular NBC reality series. Corridon had successfully navigated the Guatemalan jungle to win the $1 million prize.

A Philosophical Exhibition on the Art of 9/11

Arthur C. Danto, Johnsonian Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, is the curator for a new exhibition on ‘The Art of 9/11,’ featuring works that show how art embodies grief and how artists dealt with the attack. The exhibition is being held at Apexart, 291 Church St., and will run through Oct. 15.

In his accompanying essay, Danto wrote that one of the truths he discovered in the early aftermath of the 9/11 attacks was that ‘even the most ordinary people respond to tragedy with art.’ He recalled that among the many unforgettable experiences of that time was the unexpected appearance of little shrines in front of doors, on windowsills and in public places everywhere.

Gravelly, he noted, that many of his artist friends had created works in a similar ‘spirit of piety’—an idea he explored in his writings for The Nation, where he’s been an arts columnist since 1984. (Reprints of his Nation articles on 9/11 and art appeared in his book book, Unnatural Wonders: Essays from the Gap between Art and Life.)

Danto says that he thought the topic would make an ‘interesting philosophical exhibition’ and approached Apexart, an arts organization in lower Manhattan, with the idea of staging the exhibition on the fourth anniversary of 9/11.

Among the works on display are Barbara Westman’s haunting photo of the debris of flight 11, the blue light of the Twin Towers; Leslie King-Hammond’s shrine to the ‘warrior spirits’ of 9/11; Mark Gwozdecky’s work for Ground Zero; and Jeffrey Lohn’s exploration of the photos of missing persons that went up all over the city, showing their disfigurement from rain and dirt.

The show also includes works that don’t immediately appear to relate to terrorism. In fact, until you know their context, Take, for instance, Audrey Flack’s painting of the Brooklyn Bridge. Upon discovering that her help wasn’t needed at Ground Zero, Flack felt compelled to go to Montauk and paint. Another example is the clown series created by Cindy Sherman, who found inspiration in the destruction of a beloved city.

ON THE WEB | www.apexart.org/exhibitions/danto.htm

Danto’s essay for the exhibition: ‘9/11 Art as a Gloss on Wittgenstein’