

Alumnus tries to master 'The Amazing Race'

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Dr. Thomas P. Rock '92, director of Admissions at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, will be appearing this fall on the 10th season of "The Amazing Race," to be aired Sunday nights at 8 p.m. on CBS. (Filming is already completed.) Tom and his partner, Terry Cosentino, a special events director, make up one of 12 teams who embarked on a four continent, 13-country adventure that took them more than 40,000 miles in less than 30 days. Traveling westward for the first time, the teams visited numerous exotic locations, including Kuwait, Mongolia, Madagascar, and the communist country capitals of Beijing, China, and Hanoi, Vietnam. As always, the first team to finish the race will win a \$1 million cash prize. Rather than easing the teams into the competition with a trip to Europe or South America, this season's contestants were sent straight from Seattle to China, said "Race" host Phil Keoghan. In addition to the numerous language barriers, dealing with several locations' extreme temperatures (including Kuwait's 129-degree heat) and traveling in restrictive communist nationals took a toll on the cast, he added. Admissions director at Teachers College for three years, Tom is also an adjunct professor in the higher education program on campus. He earned a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Dayton (Ohio), a master's degree in education from AU, and a doctor of education in higher education administration from Teachers College. His research interests are in access and equity in the college admission process. Tom was recently elected president of the National Association of Graduate and Admission Professionals. Originally from the Finger Lakes (NY) area, Tom is a three-time New York City Marathon finisher and can be seen weekend training in Central Park.