

YOUNG
LEADERS
COUNCIL



2022-23

ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear members of the Young Leaders Council,

As I look back on my first year as dean, I am inspired by the commitment of the alumni community — and our recent alumni in particular. The engagement and generosity of young leaders are instrumental to the success of Columbia College. **Your support of the Columbia College Fund helps us to provide a world-class education to our students.**

I am excited to work with you to further our partnership and prioritize the undergraduate experience we offer our students. Thank you for your investment in our school. I am incredibly grateful for your commitment to the College.

Respect,

Josef Sorett
Dean of Columbia College
Vice President for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Religion & African American and African Diaspora Studies



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

Dear Young Leaders Council members,

It is our pleasure to share the 2022–23 Young Leaders Council Annual Report with you. This report celebrates the achievements and contributions of the YLC. Thank you for your support!

This year, YLC members attended a variety of events hosted virtually and in-person across the country — from a conversation about the Core Curriculum with Larry Jackson at Zero Bond to intimate dinners hosted by Vijay Mohan CC’01 and Richard S. Au CC’94 on the West Coast. In addition to ramping up our programming, we prioritized growing our membership on the West Coast and look forward to building on this momentum.

This year marked the tenth anniversary of the YLC. In that time, we have had a total of 243 YLC members. In 2022–23, **our group grew to 168 members, with 4 new board members and 18 new council members.** We raised \$464,165 for the Columbia College Fund, which represents 41% of the total dollars donated by recent alumni. We are proud of what we have collectively done to support current College students.

We hope you enjoy reading this year’s annual report, and we look forward to seeing you in 2024!

With gratitude,

Lauren Accordino CC’09
Maya Ho CC’18
Co-chairs, Young Leaders Council



2022-23 COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS



NEW UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

In July 2023, **Nemat “Minouche” Shafik** became the 20th president of Columbia University, making her the first female president in the University’s history. President Shafik is a leading economist whose remarkable career has focused on public policy and academia. Her most recent book, *What We Owe Each Other: A New Social Construct*, challenges institutions and individuals to rethink how we can better support each other.



DEAN SORETT’S FIRST YEAR

This year was **Josef Sorett’s** first as dean of Columbia College. Dean Sorett joined the Columbia faculty in 2009 as a professor in the departments of Religion and African American & African Diaspora Studies. He connected with Columbia College alumni at events throughout the country, including Boston, Miami, San Francisco and Los Angeles. His second book, *Black is a Church: Christianity and the Contours of (African) American Life* was published in March 2023.



CORE KNOWLEDGE BOOK SERIES LAUNCHES

Inspired by the Core Curriculum, the **Core Knowledge Book Series** aims to deliver the intellectual energy and creative thinking of the Core’s classes to a wider audience. The series, published by Columbia University Press, acts as a companion to Core courses and is written by faculty from Columbia College and other institutions.

In February, the College hosted more than 100 students, alumni and faculty in Low Library to hear a discussion with professors **Elisabeth Ladenson, Gareth Williams** and **Philip Kitcher**, moderated by **Dean Josef Sorett**.



EXPANSION OF FINANCIAL AID

During the 2022–23 academic year, Columbia College rolled out several **financial aid enhancements**. Families with typical assets and incomes below \$66,000 are no longer expected to contribute to the cost of their student’s education. In addition, students from families with typical assets and incomes up to \$150,000 attend Columbia tuition-free. The College also introduced \$2,000 start-up grants, which are awarded to low-income, first-year students to ease their transition to college.



CLASS OF 2027

Columbia College and The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science selected the incoming **Class of 2027** from the third-largest-ever applicant pool. 2,246 students were accepted from 57,129 applicants, making this year’s overall admission rate 3.9 percent — the second lowest in admissions history. The Class of 2027 hails from all 50 states and 101 countries, highlighting Columbia’s ever-expanding global reputation. Approximately half of admitted students were offered need-based financial aid.



TRANSFORMATION OF URIS HALL

As part of the ever-improving Morningside campus, **Uris Hall** will transform into a central meeting place with flexible classrooms and gathering spaces. This exciting intellectual hub will draw together students and faculty — promoting innovation and community, and amplifying the public impact of teaching, learning and research.

2022-23 YLC EVENTS

Featured events continued to be held on both coasts, bringing together new and old members of the Young Leaders Council. From New York to San Francisco, the events below highlight the unique connections among YLC members. They were wide-ranging and offered culture and conversation, as well as opportunities to connect with Dean Sorett during his first year as dean of Columbia College.

October 1, 2022

Discussion with Dean Josef Sorett at Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend

Organizer: Columbia Alumni Association

Alfred J. Lerner Hall, Columbia University

October 13, 2022

Virtual Conversation: Ethics and Values in Sports with Sunil Gulati

Organizer: Fund Development Council West
Moderators: Ben Cosgrove CC'90, P: CC'22, CC'27 and Evan A. Malter CC'96, P: CC'26

November 7, 2022

YLC Bay Area Social

Host: Avidan A. Ross CC'02
Root Ventures, San Francisco

December 10, 2022

CCYA Private Museum Tour at Neue Galerie

Host: Columbia College Young Alumni
Neue Galerie, New York City

February 21, 2023

Columbia College Fund Volunteer Winter Celebration

Organizer: Columbia College Fund
Tara Rose, New York City

OCTOBER

October 3, 2022

A Conversation with Larry Jackson on the Core Curriculum

Host: Efreem J. Kamen CC'01
Moderator: Gairy C. Hall Jr. CC'11, BUS'16

Zero Bond, New York City

October 27, 2022

Dinner with Wanda M. Holland Green CC'89, TC'91, TC'21

Organizer: Fund Development Council West
Hamlin School, San Francisco

NOVEMBER

November 16, 2022

YLC Los Angeles Dinner

Host: Richard S. Au CC'94
Manhattan Beach Club, Los Angeles

DECEMBER

FEBRUARY

February 6, 2023

Columbia Endowment Virtual Event

Moderators: Jonathan Lavine CC'88, P: CC'16, CC'18, chair of the Columbia Board of Trustees; Kim Lew, president and CEO of the Investment Management Company at Columbia; and Anne Sullivan, EVP for finance and information technology at Columbia



(L to R): YLC LA Career Coaching Event; Exclusive LACMA Tour.



March 12, 2023

**Metropolitan Opera with
George L. Van Amson CC'74,
P: CC'13, CC'15, CC'17**

Host: Maya Ho CC'18
Moderator: Tiffany N. Bryant
CC'08

Lincoln Center, New York City

March 16, 2023

**West Coast Honors:
Los Angeles**

Organizer: Columbia College
Alumni Association

Spring Place, Beverly Hills

March 28, 2023

Dean's Scholarship Reception

Speaker: Sue Yang CC'10

Low Library, Columbia University

May 13, 2023

**Exclusive Tour of the Los
Angeles County Museum of
Art (LACMA)**

Curator: Leah R. Lehmbeck
CC'97

LACMA, Los Angeles

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

March 15, 2023

**West Coast Honors:
San Francisco**

Organizer: Columbia College
Alumni Association

Cavaña, San Francisco

March 16, 2023

**Men's Tennis Watch Party:
UCLA vs. Columbia**

Organizer: YLC and
Columbia Athletics

Los Angeles Tennis Center

April 16, 2023

**YLC Los Angeles Event:
Alums, Fun, Sun and Career
Coaching**

Host: Kelsey Kats CC'13

Los Angeles

June 15, 2023

YLC Bay Area Dinner

Host: Vijay Mohan CC'01

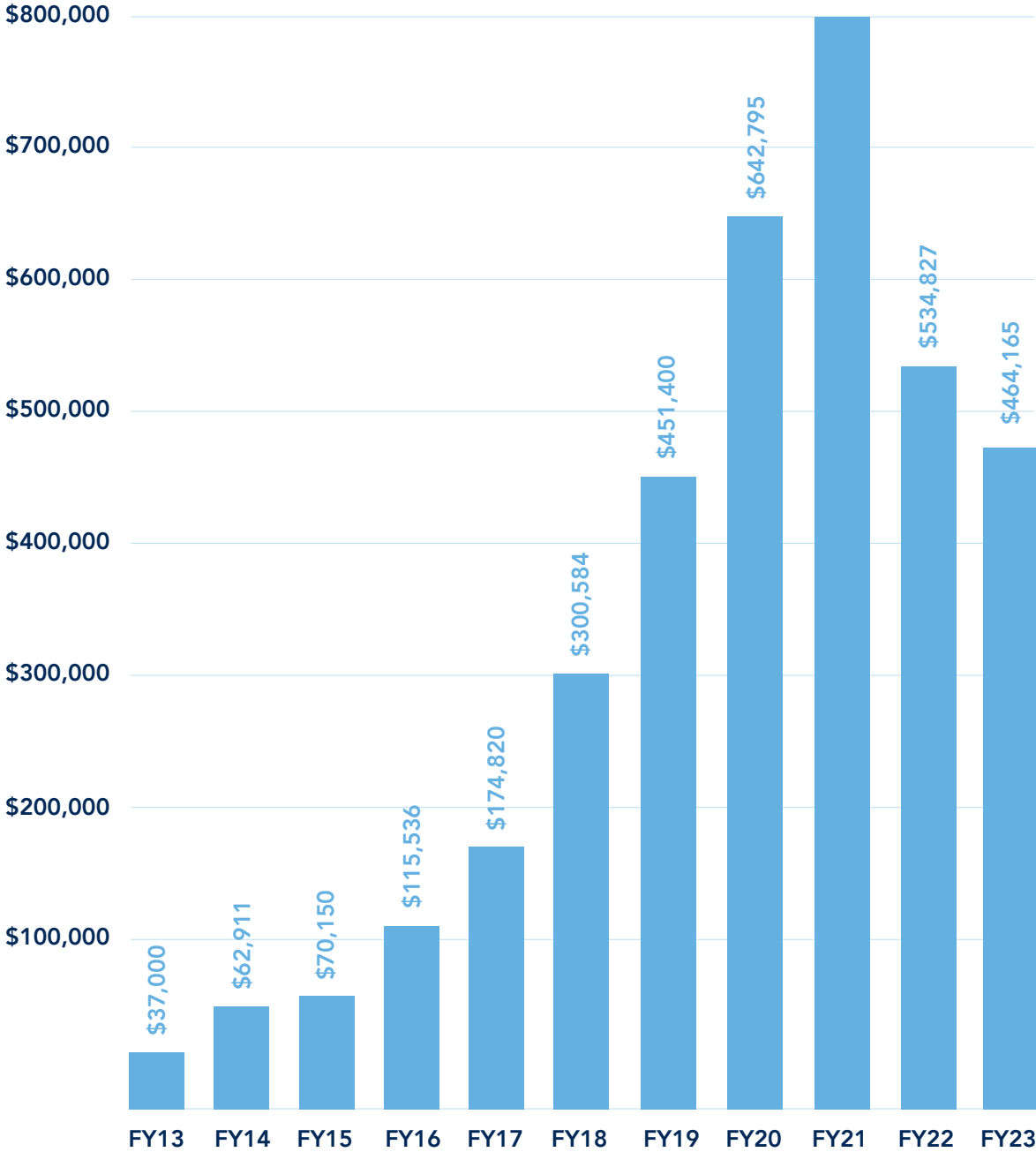
San Francisco, CA



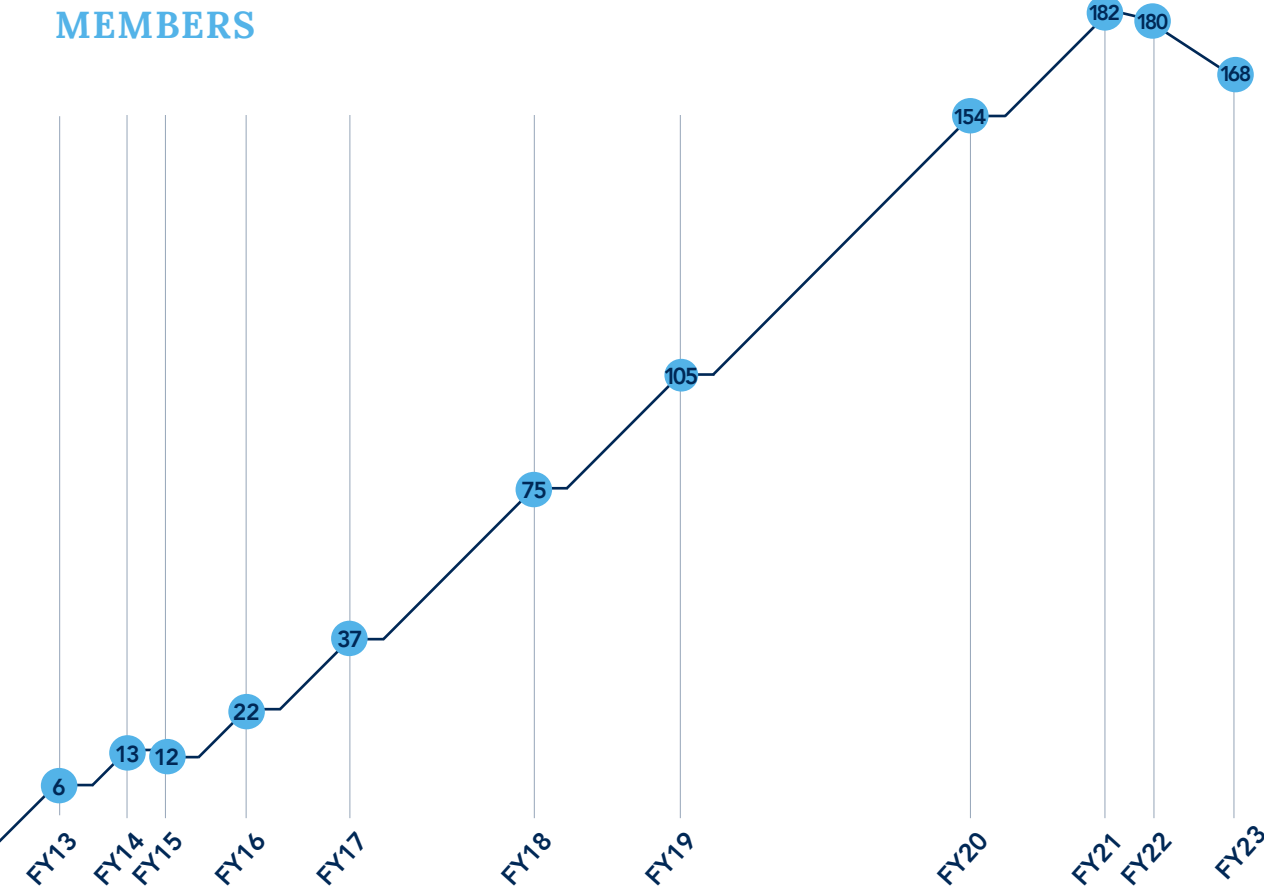
2022-23 MEMBERSHIP AND GROWTH

The Young Leaders Council stands as a pillar of the recent alumni community, ushering in the next generation of donors. This year, there were **168** YLC members, with **4** new board members and **18** new council members.

FUNDS RAISED



MEMBERS



**In 2020–21, founding members began rolling off of the YLC. This has impacted both membership and fundraising totals. For more information, please contact Kavya Kumar, senior associate director of recent alumni for the Columbia College Fund.*

The YLC represents 14 states and 5 countries! Across the country and around the world, this network of recent alumni demonstrates a commitment to engagement and philanthropy.



2022-23 SUPPORTING THE CCF

The Young Leaders Council gave an extraordinary **\$464,000** to the Columbia College Fund this year. Gifts to the College Fund are current-use, meaning they are immediately available to meet the priorities of Columbia College — including the Core Curriculum, financial aid, internships and student life.

TOP AREAS OF SUPPORT



Columbia College Fund
\$213k

Unrestricted, to meet the needs of the College



Core Curriculum
\$114k

Keeps class sizes small and provides funding for off-campus trips



Financial Aid
\$101k

Supporting need-based financial aid for students

COLUMBIA COLLEGE FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Columbia College Fund Scholarships provide vital resources to Columbia College students. Members of the Young Leaders Council were able to provide targeted support to students by directing their support to the CCF Scholarships.

The YLC gave **over \$29,000** towards the CCF Scholarships during Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Black Alumni Council Scholarship	\$9,300 from 6 donors
Columbia College Women Scholarship	\$8,200 from 8 donors
Columbia College Pride Scholarship	\$2,390 from 3 donors
LAACU Scholarship	\$1,770 from 3 donors
Young Alumni Scholarship	\$7,500 from 10 donors

“Growing up, my dad always promoted generosity and constantly models generous behaviors in nearly every aspect of his life. His actions have certainly instilled a spirit of generosity within me, motivating me to seek out areas of my own life experience to support. Personally, it’s hard to find an institution that has had as much of an impact on my life as Columbia, specifically Columbia College. As a recipient of several scholarships that paved the way for me to both attend and graduate from Columbia College debt-free, **I feel a personal responsibility to try to help current and future students do the same, which is why financial aid has and will continue to be a key area for my giving.**”

— Christopher D. Perkins CC’14



2022-23 MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Members of the Young Leaders Council are dedicated supporters of the Columbia College Fund. Because of their generosity, students are able to access transformative opportunities and reach new academic heights. Meet some of the alumni who make up the YLC!

“Throughout my time at Columbia College, I found myself moved by the community Columbia cultivated and inspired by my peers, former professors, and fellow alumni in ways beyond my imagination. As a result, I immersed myself heavily in campus activities as a student, taking on leadership positions to support Columbia’s efforts in cultivating a rigorous, yet welcoming and supportive environment where any student, regardless of their background, can see Columbia as an additional home — a community where they can engage with the world both intellectually and personally.



After graduating and moving back to California to begin a career in venture capital, I felt disconnected from the Columbia community I had grown to love, and my gratitude for the time I spent at Columbia felt constricted to liking Columbia’s LinkedIn posts and reading email updates. **I joined the YLC to directly contribute to the mission of Columbia College and join a group of like-minded individuals and fellow Lions in cultivating an engaged and prosperous global alumni community,** such that the ‘doubled magic’ we’ve all found at Columbia can continue to transcend the rectilinear bounds of the campus and perpetuate in our lives post-commencement.”

— Maya Matthews CC’20



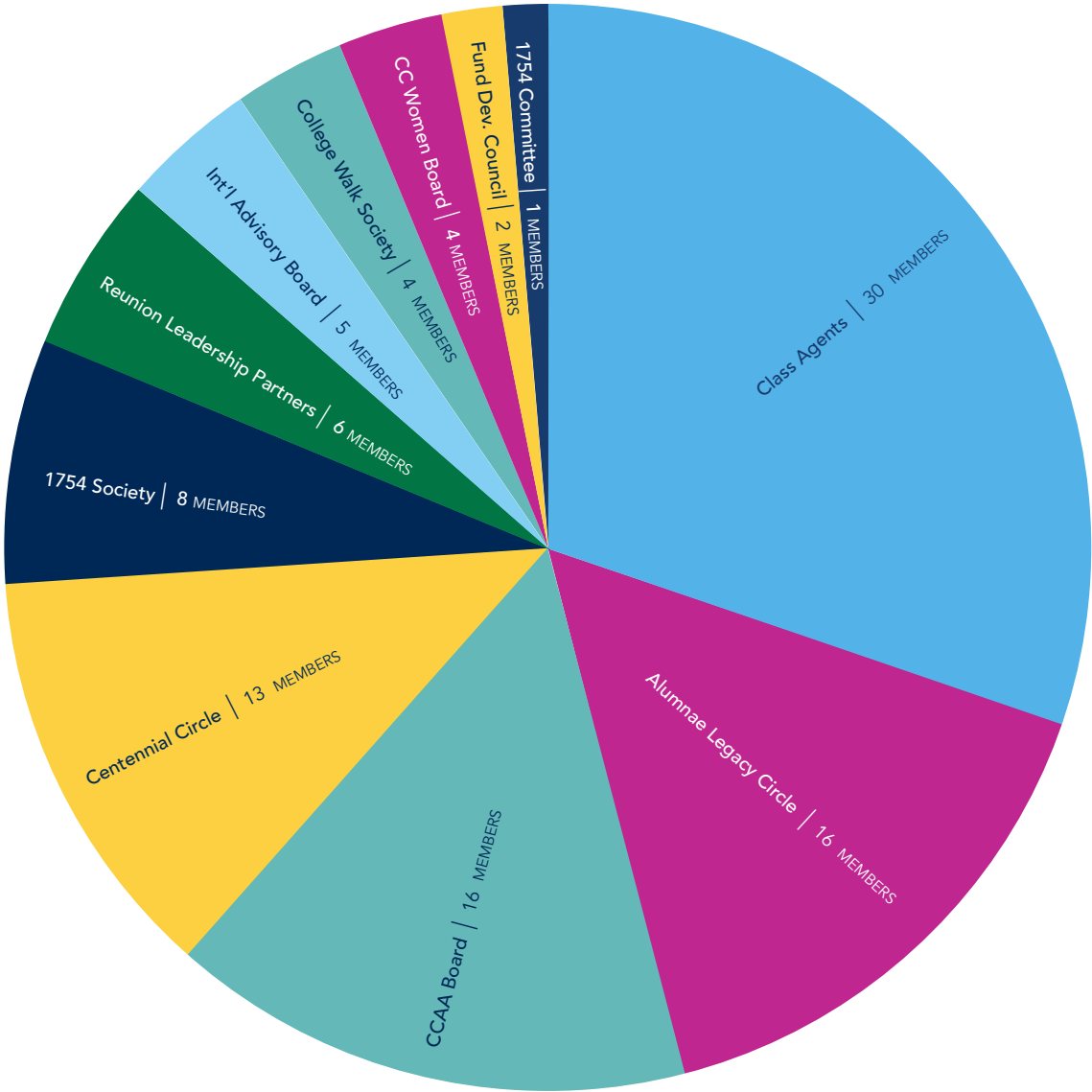
“A defining characteristic of being a Columbia graduate is knowing that wherever you might be — Morningside Heights and beyond — you will always find a supportive community of fellow alumni. **I am thankful to be a part of an organization so focused on the development of the University and its continued progress.**”
— Sidarth Singh CC’18

“I enjoy being a part of the YLC because it gives me an opportunity to connect with alumni leaders who care deeply about the Columbia community. **The alumni community plays an important role in my life and career because I have met numerous lifelong friends and mentors from this community over the years.** I wish to give back to this community by staying active for many years to come.”
— Brian Chung CC’16



2022-23 YLC LEADERS AT COLUMBIA

The members of the Young Leaders Council inspire our community with their generosity and dedication to Columbia. They are committed to strengthening the College through their leadership.



2022-23 YOUNG LEADERS COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Young Leaders Council is an important part of the Columbia College alumni community. Their generosity ensures the College’s ability to invest in students and their successes.

CO-CHAIRS

Lauren Accordino CC’09
Maya Ho CC’18

BOARD MEMBERS

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Alex Topkins CC’08
Cecilia C. Wang CC’09, LAW’12
Alex C. Zhang CC’20
Mitchell C. Zhang CC’17

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Megan Carley CC’12
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Sue Yang CC'10
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Jessica W. Zen CC'07
Kevin Zhang CC'14
Feifei Zheng CC'09
Kaijie Zhu CC'17
Anonymous CC'12



COLUMBIA COLLEGE
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