

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020–21**

**YOUNG
LEADERS
COUNCIL**





A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Young Leaders Council members,

Thank you for your extraordinary dedication to Columbia College. The 2020–21 YLC Annual Report offers a special opportunity to reflect on the leadership of this incredible group and highlight your dedicated efforts in support of our students during an unprecedented year.

In Fiscal Year 2021, **the YLC raised nearly \$800,000 for the Columbia College Fund, comprising 47 percent of total support from the recent alumni community.** Your generosity helps the College continue to offer a transformative undergraduate experience through our need-blind admissions and full-need financial aid policies, Core Curriculum, student life programs, internship and research support, and much more.

I am especially grateful for the leaders of this remarkable group for strengthening the recent alumni community as we navigated this new virtual world. Thank you to **Kevin G. Galligan CC'05, Tom Meister CC'09, and Lauren Accordino CC'09** for your partnership.

Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, the Columbia community rallied together in incredible and meaningful ways this past year. In the spring, Columbia College committed to raising \$500 million for financial aid by 2025 and introduced the **College Walk Society**, a giving society to recognize donors who make leadership gifts in support of financial aid. I am proud to continue the College's long tradition of helping talented students access a world-class education regardless of their personal circumstances, and hope you will participate in this historic effort.

Thank you again for your partnership. Your leadership as recent alumni inspires a bright future for Columbia College.

Roar, Lion(s), Roar,

James J. Valentini
Dean of Columbia College and
Vice President for Undergraduate Education

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS



Dear Young Leaders Council members,

This year taught us lessons of resilience and dedication as recent alumni remained steadfast in a virtual environment. Undaunted by the challenges, the YLC continued to grow our membership and strengthen our community.

We welcomed 28 members to the YLC and nine members on the YLC Board. Although we missed gathering in-person, we continued to connect in creative ways. We increased our programming offerings this year, from six events in Fiscal Year 2020 to eight events in Fiscal Year 2021, and also engaged members from coast to coast for the very first time. Thank you to all our members for your participation and efforts in making our cohort stronger than ever.

With members from the Class of 2001 rolling off of the YLC, we want to acknowledge the foundational success of these individuals. We are indebted to the work that Alisa Amarosa Wood CC'01, BUS'08 and Michael Brown CC'06 did in November 2013 to propel the success of the Young Leaders Council. This leadership group has grown into a unique network of intelligent, personal and professional capital of young Columbia alumni role models.

We are deeply grateful for your commitment to Columbia College and send heartfelt thanks for your generosity. We look forward with great optimism towards the next fiscal year and continuing our work to support the College.

Warm regards,

Lauren Accordino CC'09
Kevin G. Galligan CC'05
Tom Meister CC'09
Co-chairs, Young Leaders Council

2020–21

YLC EVENTS

Throughout the fiscal year, the Young Leaders Council hosted a variety of virtual events. These events created opportunities to network with alumni leaders in their respective fields and built a strong sense of community and mentorship among members.



July 15, 2020

Conversation with Nicholas Z. Hammerschlag CC'08

Moderated by: Lauren Accordino CC'09



September 24, 2020

Private Conversation with John D. Rodin CC'97

Moderated by: Gairy C. Hall Jr. CC'11, BUS'16



October 8, 2020

Intimate Discussion with Bradley J. Hutton CC'92

Moderated by: Carlos A. Cuevas CC'05, SIPA'12, PH'12



December 14, 2020

Screen Time and the Developing Brain: Recommendations During the Pandemic with Rachel E. Neuhut CC'03, VPS'07



December 17, 2020

Toast for Kevin Zhang CC'14



February 3, 2021

Beyond College Walk with Thomas S. Meister CC'09, Allan Kang CC'14, Cecilia C. Wang CC'09, LAW'12, Kevin Zhang CC'14



February 25, 2021

A Conversation with Khadijah F. Sharif-Drinkard CC'93, P: CC'25

Moderated by Tiffany N. Bryant CC'08



May 18, 2021

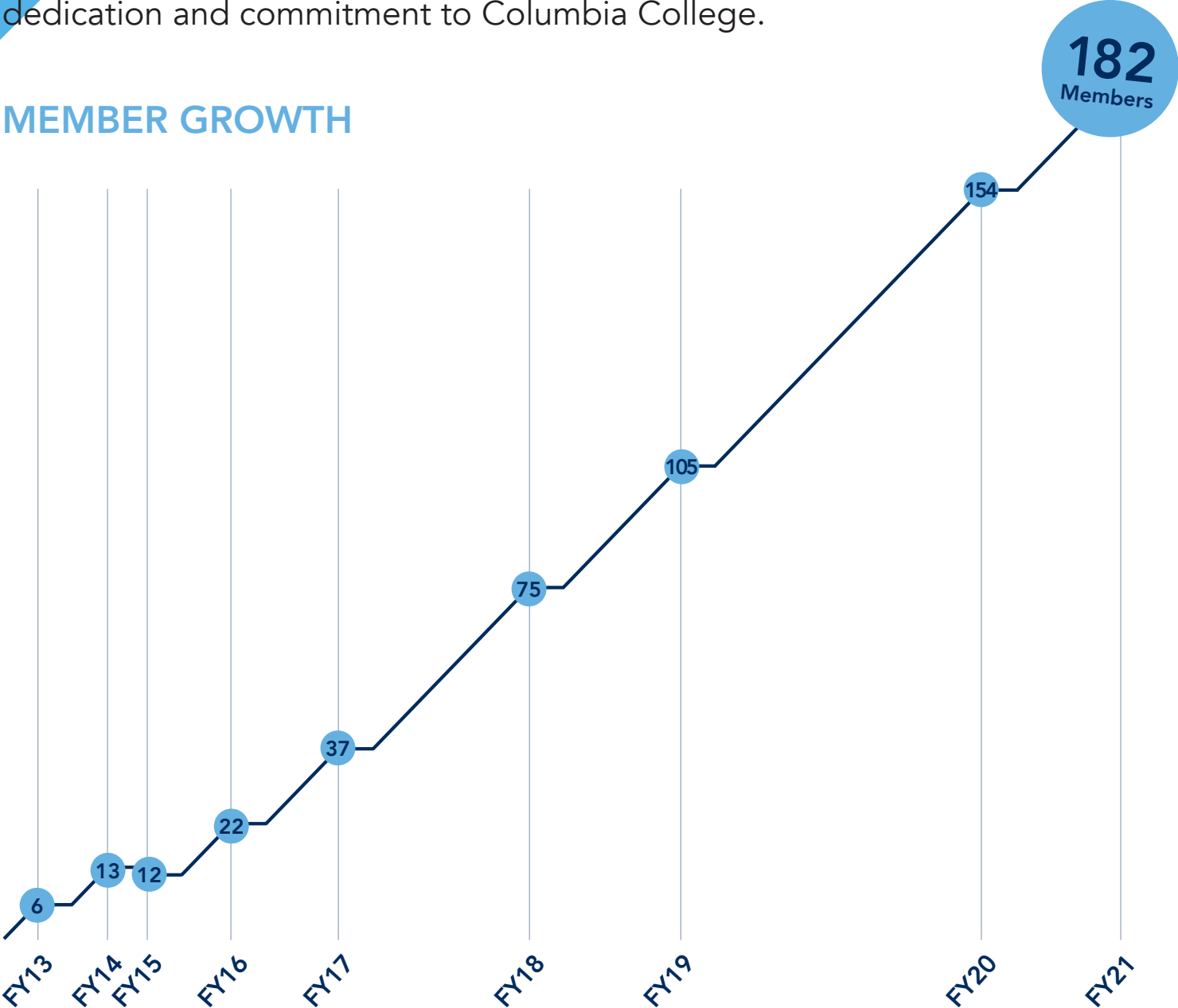
Los Angeles Chapter Launch Event with Courtney Reum CC'01

2020–21

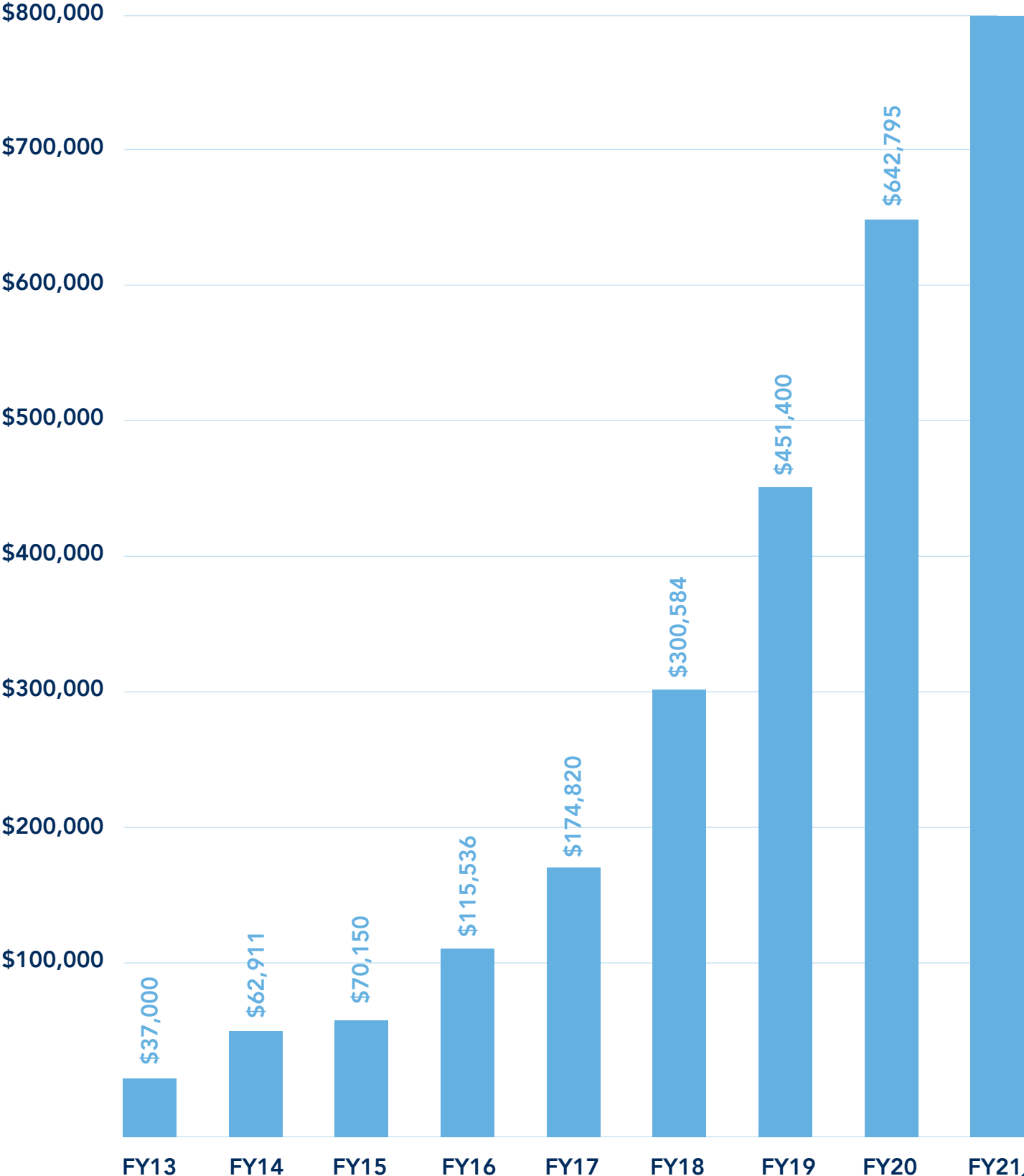
MEMBERSHIP

As the Young Leaders Council membership continues to expand, the impact on the Columbia College Fund grows. With 37 new members in Fiscal Year 2021, the YLC provides an opportunity to recognize leadership in the young alumni community. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment to Columbia College.

MEMBER GROWTH



FUNDS RAISED



CLASS OF 2020 SPOTLIGHT

Meet some of the newest members of the Young Leaders Council! Four members of the Class of 2020 joined the YLC during Fiscal Year 2020–21.

Gillian Ho CC'20 is a senior analyst at Kobre & Kim and hopes to apply for law school this year. She studied classics and political science but loved Literature Humanities and Art Humanities. In her free time, Gillian enjoys doing tidbits of Latin translations to keep her classics knowledge fresh and hiking with her dogs.



Gillian Ho CC'20
Hong Kong

Alex Zhang CC'20 is pursuing his J.D. at Harvard Law School this fall. He double majored in economics and creative writing and was involved in several clubs at Columbia, including the Multicultural Business Association and the Queer Business Society. Alex loves to write and has been working on a novel, and he spends time cooking, hiking and learning how to play the ukulele.



Alex C. Zhang CC'20
Boston

Michelle Yan CC'20 is a marketing and sales business analyst at McKinsey & Company. She majored in history and Hispanic studies, and Literature Humanities was her favorite Core class. She was part of the Global Scholars Program as a student and traveled to Buenos Aires, São Paulo, Río de Janeiro, Montevideo and Havana. Michelle enjoys playing golf and loves attending tea ceremonies and wine tastings.



Michelle Yan CC'20
New York City



Begumhan Kurdoglu CC'20
Istanbul

Begumhan Kurdoglu CC'20 works for TAB Food Investments doing digital performance marketing and for Milgo, a brand she and her sister created in the raw milk industry. She was an economics major and did her concentration in visual arts. A proud College alumna, Begumhan had the best four years at Columbia thanks to her esteemed professors and classmates. During her free time Begumhan is an avid sports player, and also enjoys expressing herself through art.

YLC LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

In May 2021, the YLC launched its Los Angeles Chapter, which consists of 12 members who live in the Los Angeles area. It was celebrated with a special kick off event with Courtney Reum CC'01, founder of M13. Lauren Accordino CC'09 spearheaded this important endeavor to expand the YLC's footprint in southern California. The Los Angeles Chapter welcomed four new members during the Fiscal Year 2020–21.

“My time at Columbia was filled with amazing memories with my tennis team, exploring New York City with classmates, and meeting my husband, Michael Accordino CC'07, who was a fellow varsity tennis player. **I was thrilled to lead this expansion, and I look forward to seeing YLC grow even more.**”

– Lauren Accordino CC'09
Co-chair, Young Leaders Council



LOS ANGELES CHAPTER MEMBERS

Michael A. Accordino CC'07

Lauren Accordino CC'09

Tala T. Akhavan CC'13

Thomas E. Flynn CC'15

Erin O. Gun CC'15

Halle G. Hammond CC'06

David H. Kang CC'15

Sabrina I. Korman CC'14

Andrew W. Wood CC'14

Zuzanna Z. Fuchs CC'13

Kevin Chu CC'19

Courtney L. Wilkins CC'07

2020–21

COLLEGE FUND SUPPORT

The Young Leaders Council gave a remarkable **\$800,000 to the Columbia College Fund during Fiscal Year 2020–21**. 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



\$945,000

To meet the immediate needs of students



\$265,000

To strengthen and enhance Core offerings



\$176,000

To provide full-need financial aid

RECOGNIZING MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENTS

Multi-year commitments are leadership pledges of support to Columbia College that are paid over three to five years. They provide the College with a promise of future support. More than 12 members of the Young Leaders Council made multi-year commitments during Fiscal Year 2020–21. We are grateful for the continued and valued support of these members of our community.

2020–21

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Young Leaders Council members provide essential support to the Columbia College Fund, investing in the most important needs of students and enhancing the student experience. Learn about what inspires YLC members to support the College Fund.

Attending Columbia was nothing short of a life-changing experience for me.

The education was second to none and spending such formative years in New York City was invaluable. But the life-long friends I made and the opportunities I have been able to pursue are unique to the College. I have happily supported Columbia, both financially and with my time as a volunteer, to give back and strengthen the College community in hopes that my experience and journey may be shared by many others from future Columbia generations.

– Gairy C. Hall Jr. CC'11, BUS'16
YLC member since 2020



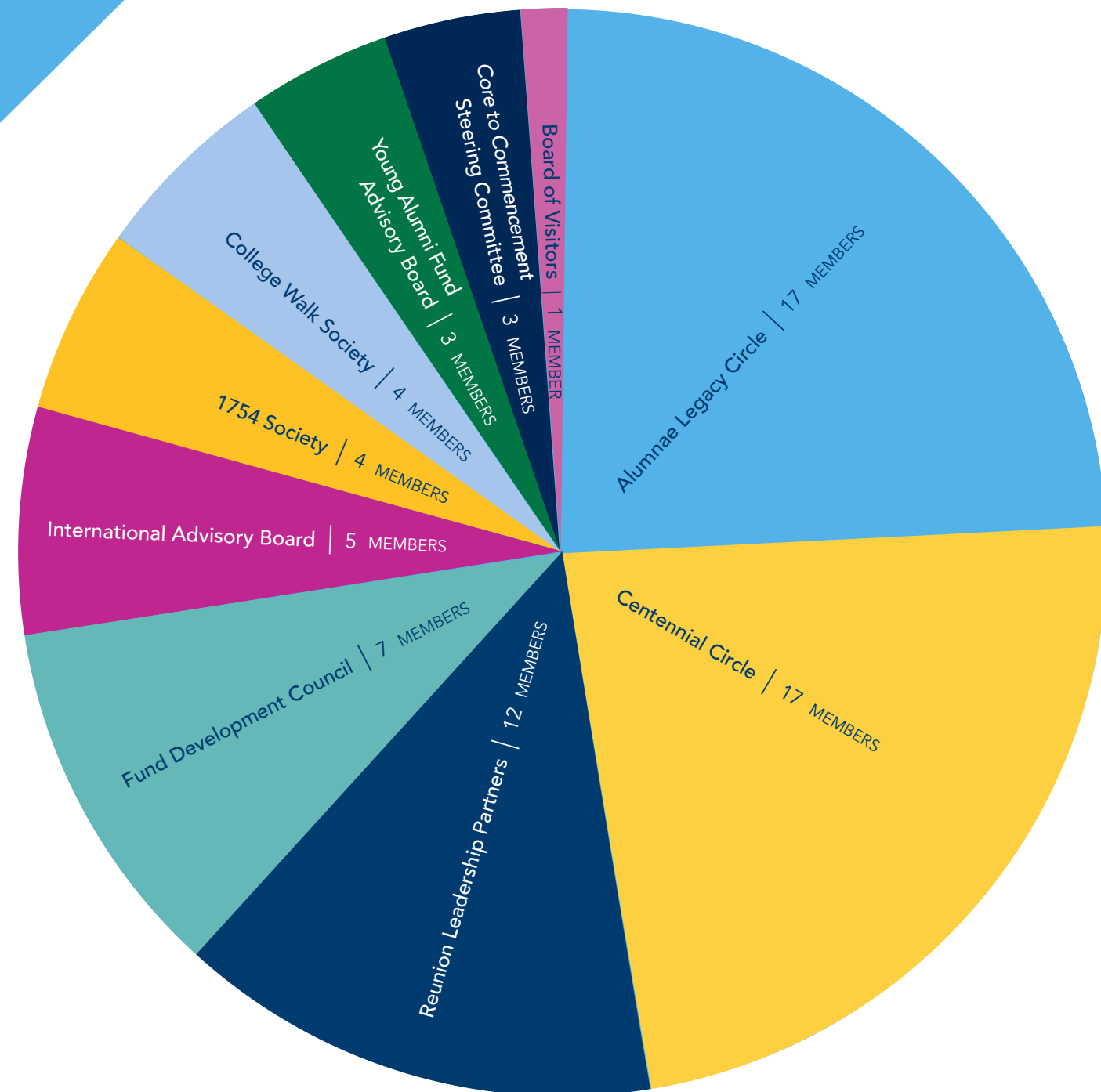
I am passionate about the YLC as it allows recent alumni to contribute not just to broader University goals, but to the immediate priorities of Columbia College students — it's the most tangible way to make a difference for the newest additions to the College community. I contribute to student life as I believe **the college experience is so much more than what happens inside the classroom** and hope the College Fund will support the student experience as they return to campus.

– Stephanie J. Davis CC'09
YLC member since 2017



LEADERS AT COLUMBIA

The members of the Young Leaders Council continue to strengthen Columbia College through their leadership. Their ongoing support and dedication is an inspiration to our community.



VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Named after Columbia College Alumni Association president emeritus Gerald Sherwin CC'55 and established in 2013, the **Gerald Sherwin Young Alumni Service Award** honors an individual or group of individuals who demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the College through acts of service within the young alumni community. The honoree is a graduate of the past 10 years who has exemplified a dedication to engaging and supporting College young alumni. **YLC member Kevin Zhang CC'14 was the 2020 recipient.**

I'm motivated by gratitude for the opportunities I've had — I became who I am while a student in Morningside Heights. I met my wife, a fellow alumna, in Uris Hall, and built relationships that have led to the jobs I've had since Columbia. I would love to make sure the next generation has equal and better access to people, programs and resources during their years on campus and beyond.

– Kevin Zhang CC'14



2020–21

YOUNG LEADERS COUNCIL

Columbia College deeply values the contributions of all John Jay Associates. Your dedication ensures that our longstanding tradition of excellence continues and inspires us to strengthen our undergraduate experience every day.

BOARD

Lauren Accordino CC'09
Eric M. Allbin CC'01
Alisa Amarosa Wood CC'01, BUS'08
Randy W. Berkowitz CC'04
Ganesh H. Betanabhatla CC'06
Francesca Bodini CC'06, BUS'09
Tyler R. Boyd CC'06, BUS'16
Michael Brown CC'06
Christian X. Capasso CC'07,
BUS'14
Cynthia Chen CC'04, GSAS'14
Carlos A. Cuevas CC'05, SIPA'12,
PH'12
Zecki A. Dossal CC'02, BUS'13
Avram J. Drori CC'04, BUS'09
Beatrice M. Edmonds CC'19
Kevin G. Galligan CC'05
Andrew Heinrich CC'13
Maya Ho CC'18
Christopher L. Jones CC'07
Allan Kang CC'14
Venkat K. Kausik CC'13
Scott H. Koonin CC'02
Sabrina I. Korman CC'14
Begumhan Kurdoglu CC'20
Emily H. Lavine CC'18
Megan M. Lundy CC'08
Thomas S. Meister CC'09
Heather M. Meyerdirk CC'06

Vijay Mohan CC'01
Caitlin Prendergast Brodie CC'06
Sumana Rao CC'08
Michelle Tan CC'16
Cecilia C. Wang CC'09, LAW'12
Geoffrey M. Williams CC'03
Alastair Wood CC'01
Iain Wood CC'03
Alex C. Zhang CC'20
Mitchell C. Zhang CC'17

MEMBERS

Michael A. Accordino CC'07
Zila R. Acosta-Grimes CC'11,
LAW'15
Ram Ahluwalia CC'01
Tala T. Akhavan CC'13
Zachary W. Ali CC'11
Jeremy E. Banon CC'13
Jennifer M. Baskin CC'03
Iyobosa O. Bello-Asemota CC'19
Diana Benton Schechter CC'05
Katherine D. Benvenuto CC'03,
BUS'12
Sulman A. Bhatti CC'06, LAW'10
Tiffany N. Bryant CC'08
Theodore R. Buchsbaum CC'14
Alexandra L. Carieri CC'15
Stephanie H. Chin CC'06
Christopher S. Chu CC'17

Kevin Chu CC'19
Katherine E. Chung CC'13
Jordan R. Cline CC'19
Sarah R. Coleman CC'15, BUS'22
Andrew D. Colvin CC'10, BUS'16,
LAW'16
Leigh E. Colvin CC'14, TC'18, TC'19
Eleanor L. Coufos CC'03, BUS'11
Marcello E. Cricco-Lizza CC'11,
GSAS'16
Evan H. Daar CC'09
Stephanie J. Davis CC'09
Adrian P. Demko CC'07
Ravi R. Desai CC'05
Erica D. Dorfman CC'11
Mariele K. Dunn CC'11
Kathryn V. Ebner CC'05
Thomas J. Enright III CC'03
Michael A. Exter CC'14
Christina Fang CC'07
Samantha Feingold-Criss CC'07
Thomas E. Flynn CC'15
Ari S. Freisinger CC'08
Zuzanna Z. Fuchs CC'13
Adriana C. Garcia Ceja CC'13
Sarah S. Gitlin CC'13
Austin T. Glover CC'14
Aryeh M. Goldstein CC'15, BUS'20
Jesse W. Golomb CC'02
Thomas E. Gorman CC'04

Brian Grimes Jr. CC'11
Emily A. Gruber CC'19
Erin O. Gun CC'15
Gairy C. Hall Jr. CC'11, BUS'16
Halle G. Hammond CC'06
Eric S. Han CC'13
Ken M. Harada CC'05
Stephanie Hart CC'12, GS'15
Laura M. Heller CC'01
Keith Hernandez CC'07
Sonia Hirdaramani CC'02
Gillian Ho CC'20
Adria C. Hou CC'02
Katherine G. Howitt CC'13
Oleg A. Ilichev CC'04
Janice Ince CC'01
Ian A. Jay CC'05, LAW'11
Mallory A. Jensen CC'05, LAW'12
Maggie Johnson CC'11, SPS'14
Arvind S. Kadaba CC'07
Justin A. Kahn CC'13
Daniel O. Kanak CC'10
David H. Kang CC'15
Arjun Kapoor CC'09
Jonathan T. Keehner CC'00
John B. Kenney CC'13, LAW'16
Michelle A. Klein CC'02
Rishi Kodali CC'12
Kristin E. Kramer CC'09
Kara M. Kupferberg CC'18, SIPA'19
James A. Lake CC'13
Kevin M. Lawi CC'00
Richard J. Lee CC'16
Stephanie Y. Lung CC'04
Franco Maddalena CC'18
David A. Matteini CC'01, BUS'08
Pablo F. Mendoza CC'16
Alexander D. Meshel CC'18

Robert L. Meyerhoff CC'06
Jacob Miller CC'11
Meredith Milstein Polivy CC'09,
BUS'17
David N. Morgan CC'12
Daniel S. Moss CC'03
Jose O. Negrette CC'05
Nathania E. Nisonson CC'03
Brendan F. O'Hearn CC'13
Michael E. Paranac CC'10, BUS'19
Ishaan Patel CC'11
Adam Pencz CC'13
Susan Phan CC'12
Preston M. Pohl CC'09
Azhar Quader CC'02, BUS'12
Amy Y. Reisenberg CC'01
Brett A. Robbins CC'09
Michael B. Roberts CC'09, BUS'20
Elisse J. Roche CC'14
Nathan D. Rosin CC'18
Adam A. Rozenwajg CC'06
Sara R. Sakowitz CC'18, PH'21
Olivia C. Santoro CC'13, BUS'20
Laura T. Schnaidt CC'06
Lisa H. Scolnik CC'06, BUS'12
David A. Seidman CC'06
Lauren S. Seidman CC'08
Ali N. Shafei CC'10
Daniel J. Shapiro CC'07
Dara M. Shapiro CC'14
Eric J. Shapiro CC'13
David L. Simons CC'06
Ravi J. Sinha CC'17

Terrance L. Smith CC'08, BUS'13
Jason Sun CC'12
Max W. Taffel CC'08
Tao Tan CC'07, BUS'11
Brandon C. Thompson CC'12
Genevieve M. Thornton CC'02,
BUS'09
Paul H. Tietz Jr. CC'08
Maxwell C. Tobin CC'09, BUS'18,
LAW'18
David Toledano CC'05
Michael I. Topol CC'10, LAW'21
Jonathan P. Truppmann CC'07
Miklos C. Vasarhelyi CC'04, BUS'12
Niketh V. Velamoor CC'01
Amanda G. Veraldi CC'09
Paul R. Wang CC'12
Scott Shu Wang CC'10
Courtney L. Wilkins CC'07
Charlotte Will CC'03
Gregory S. Winchell CC'06
Andrew W. Wood CC'14
Eric B. Xu CC'18
Lauren S. Yagoda CC'20
Michelle Yan CC'20
Sharon Yang CC'07
Sue Yang CC'10
Sandra Yin CC'18
John A. Zaro CC'05
Jessica W. Zen CC'07
Kevin Zhang CC'14
Anonymous (2)



YOUNG
LEADERS
COUNCIL



COLUMBIA COLLEGE
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