

# CCT


Fall 2020

## SERVING JUSTICE

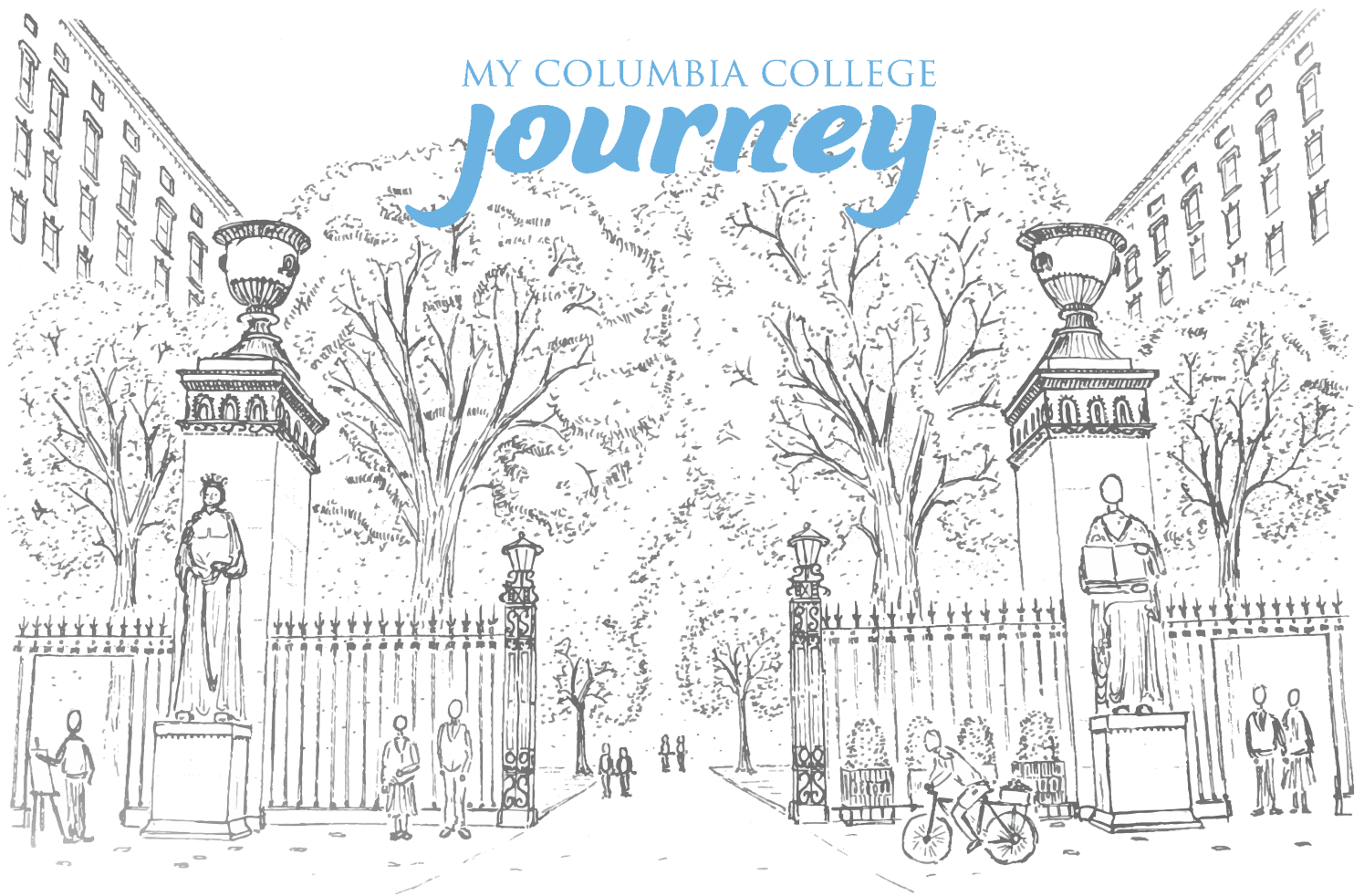
ATTORNEY CATHLEEN PRICE '92  
FIGHTS RACISM IN THE DEEP SOUTH

## THE JAZZ AGE

REMEMBERING A  
HISTORIC ERA AT WKCR

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*By Alexis Boncy SOA'11*

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Now on **CCT Online**



### PRINT EXTRAS

- Thank you to our FY20 CCT donors
- New music video from Anthony "Ace" Patterson '11
- Photo excerpt from *Bricks & Brownstone*



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The cartoon caption contests continue.



ARIEL SCHRAG '03

*"I think Roar-ee's just trying to find his Ni(etzs)che at Columbia!"*

The winner of our fourth and final Core Centennial cartoon caption contest is Charles J. Huang '24! Thank you for all your submissions.



## Message from the Dean

# The Path to Lives of Significance

I write this message from the den of my home in New Jersey, weeks before the start of the academic year, with many uncertainties facing all of us at the College. I have been spending a lot of time in this room, which I never thought would serve as my dean's office, but here I am, and yes, it does. I am fortunate to be healthy, to be together with at least part of my family and to have this place to work from. Many others are not so fortunate. The effects of this pandemic have been devastating. My sympathy goes out to those for whom the cost has been high.

Our campus appears to me most often now as the virtual background during a Zoom call. My morning and evening transits along College Walk — to and from Hamilton Hall, with frequent stops to chat with students or faculty — have been replaced by 12 steps on a staircase and nine paces through the living room, stopping to pet our aging, adorable dog.

These are strange and sobering times. The scale of today's crises, the way they have permeated every aspect of our lives, the continuing uncertainties and the unresolved problems weigh on everyone.

The pandemic has rewritten the rules of college life, not just at Columbia College but also at almost every school in the country. It has certainly been difficult to plan for a year in which the majority of our students cannot be on campus, and a year during which the traditional activities that join us as a community must yield to the imperatives of public health. What we once took for granted now feels precious — seeing students lounging on Low Steps or throwing frisbees on South Lawn; sharing the beauty of tree-lined College Walk with students, faculty and visitors; taking in the elegance of the windows of Butler Library illuminated at night.

But as daunting as this year may be, we can embrace it as an opportunity to display our ability to respond to any challenge while remaining focused on our objectives. We are always looking for new ways of doing things, ways that we never would have thought to look for were it not for the disruption of the normal. It is most certainly a time when the discipline of Beginner's Mind will show its value.

As some of you know, the centennial celebration of the Core Curriculum was cut short due to the sudden dissolution of our campus lives in March. I'm pleased to share that we'll continue our focus on the Centennial into its 101st year, as Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization, in particular, employ the works of the Core to investigate social justice and individual rights and responsibilities. The incoming class has just finished reading the first six books of Homer's *Iliad*, in tandem with Claudia Rankine's 2014 lyrical poem *Citizen: An American Lyric*, a newer text that focuses on race, visibility and violence in modern America. These first-years and all others taking a Core class this year will continue the project of critically considering how society functions and reflects the values of its citizens, a deliberate and reflective experience needed now as much as ever.



Our Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights will expand its programming to increase opportunities for our entire community to learn, listen and participate in the repair of flawed systems, the reassertion of individual responsibilities and the recognition of opportunities to take action. The new Global Columbia Collaboratory will move forward from its summer pilot phase to engage even more students in the projects of societal renewal made imperative by the pandemic, creating opportunities for our undergraduates to connect with global experts — virtually but no less effectively — while tackling issues of worldwide resonance and importance. I feel encouraged that the Columbia College experience will continue to offer our students a path to lives of significance, despite the constraints within which we must operate.

There will be few chances to bring alumni together for a while, but our commitment to staying in touch with you remains undiminished. Your engagement, support and affection for the College will be crucial to bolstering our efforts to navigate this historic year. Current students, managing through an academic experience marked by engagement at a distance, can be uplifted by a strong alumni presence in their lives. New graduates, still gaining their footing, will benefit from the mentorship and guidance of those who have passed through that transition already. And of course, your classmates and friends will be comforted to hear from and connect with you through Class Notes, emails or programs you can all join. A conscious effort to engage one another and maintain our College community matters more now than we will see each other less.

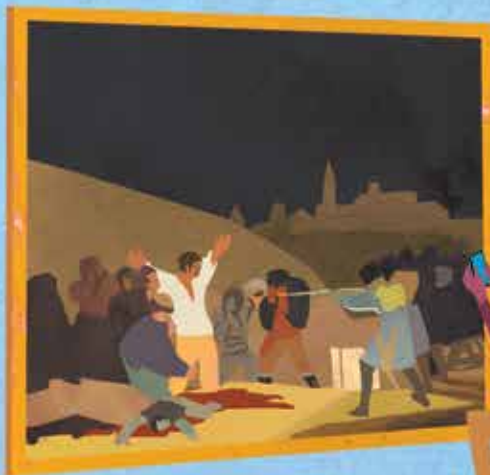
Stay safe, and be well.

James J. Valentini  
Dean

## LEARNING TO SEE

GIVING THANKS TO  
ART HUMANITIES FOR OPENING OUR  
EYES, HEARTS AND MINDS

ILLUSTRATION BY NICK LU







DAVID DINI SIPA14

## Columbia Goes Remote for Fall 2020

All undergraduate courses will be taught virtually for the fall 2020 semester, according to updates from President Lee C. Bollinger and Dean James J. Valentini on August 14. Approximately 40 percent of all graduate courses will be taught partially online or in person.

The advancement of the COVID-19 virus in more than 33 states and territories resulted in the decision to drastically scale back the number of students living on campus; residential-style accommodations are now limited to only Columbia College and SEAS undergraduates who must be present on campus due to personal or academic circumstances.

New York State protocols would require all students from high-risk states and communities to quarantine for 14 days once they arrive on campus. “While I am supportive of the measures New York State has imposed,” Bollinger wrote, “and while I have no doubt that we could ensure a safe quarantine period from a public health standpoint, two weeks is a long time to endure isolation, especially for students who will be leaving home for the first time.”

Valentini underscored the point in his message: “The isolation of the 14-day quarantine and severe restrictions on campus life create conditions that we feel would be difficult for most students to thrive in.”

While Bollinger said he is optimistic, he acknowledged that the Columbia community will be living with uncertainty for some time. “We should think of the fall term as part of a phased return. We need to establish a sense of confidence among us, turn to our experts in public health for guidance, calibrate our sense of risk based on best evidence, think in terms of the common good, and talk — again and again. ... As many of our rhythms of intellectual life are disrupted, we must make sure we are experimenting and learning from the vast array of teaching opportunities we will be exploring.”

Undergraduate housing options for the spring term will continue to be evaluated.

## Rankine’s *Citizen* Added to Lit Hum

First-year Literature Humanities students had a new reading assignment this summer: Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen: An American Lyric*.

The 2014 work, a finalist for the National Book Award, is a meditation about race in America. It was selected for the Lit Hum syllabus in response to recent protests and conversations around racism and police violence, providing a framework for a year where questions of racial injustice will be front and center in the classroom.

“It is a vital work for our time, and a vital work for Lit Hum, as it explores through the medium of lyric poetry questions of citizenship and community in a polarized world,” said Joanna Stalaker, the Paul Brooke Program Chair for Literature Humanities.

*Citizen* includes the use of visual art, slogans, commentary, quotations from artists and critics, film scripts and more. “I started working on *Citizen* as a way of talking about invisible racism — moments

that you experience and that happen really fast,” Rankine told *The New Yorker*. “They go by at lightning speed, and you begin to distrust that they even happened, and yet you know that you feel bad somehow.”

## Landmark Gift for Columbia Chemistry

Columbia announced a \$21.5 million gift from Ge Li GSAS’94 and Ning Zhao GSAS’95 to advance research and teaching in chemistry at Columbia College and other University schools.

The gift will provide an endowed scholarship for College students concentrating in chemistry and will also support two endowed professorships, including funding for a laboratory startup and an endowed fellowship for graduate students.

“We are deeply grateful to our graduates Dr. Ge Li and Dr. Ning Zhao, who know firsthand the importance of investing in fundamental scientific discovery,” President Lee C. Bollinger said. “Their generosity will allow us to expand our

efforts to address challenges in areas like cancer and climate, while supporting the gifted faculty and students who make that work possible.”

“I have known Ge and Ning ever since they came to Columbia chemistry as graduate students,” Dean James J. Valentini said. “They have always expressed to me a deep bond with Columbia and its great chemistry department. I am so pleased to have worked with them in developing this remarkable gift to Columbia.” He added, “That gift will support our faculty, graduate students and undergraduates, enabling the success of so many future Columbians.”

Li and Zhao both earned their doctorates in organic chemistry at Columbia. In 2000, Li founded WuXi AppTec, a provider of research, development and manufacturing services that enables companies in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries worldwide, where Li is chair and CEO. Zhao is a member of the board, senior VP and global head of human resources at WuXi AppTec, and president of the Ge Li & Ning Zhao Family Foundation.



LIMARYS CARABALLO

# Ruben Gonzalez

By Jill C. Shomer

Professor of Chemistry Ruben Gonzalez was developing his lectures for his first semester teaching *Frontiers of Science* when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. His original plans for a unit called “Molecules and Life” were shelved; his debut Core experience this fall will now focus on the coronavirus. “I’m teaching the molecular basis of how the virus infects cells, how the disease progresses and how one develops a vaccine or a drug — all from the chemist’s point of view,” he says. “I think everyone is really excited.”

The enthusiasm is not surprising coming from Gonzalez, who says that chemistry is his “heart and brain.” He teaches general and honors-level chemistry to first-years, but his primary focus is biophysical chemistry and the study of biomolecular structure and function; as the founder and principal investigator of The Gonzalez Laboratory, he works with undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral research scientists from different disciplines — chemists, biologists, physicists and computer scientists — conducting biomedical research into the molecular mechanisms of gene expression, antibiotic activity and resistance, and cancer. They

are currently developing projects related to coronavirus and COVID-19.

“The lab has a life of its own,” Gonzalez says. “In pre-pandemic times, there was a social component to our lab work — researchers would analyze data or work on manuscripts together, or sometimes just hang out discussing the latest results over coffee. That’s gone. Now we work in shifts, and you can only be there if you’re actively working on an experiment. Masks, gloves and eye protection the whole time. We have to be really efficient and safe.”

Gonzalez fell in love with science as a teenager in Miami, after a particularly great high school teacher introduced him to chemistry. “She taught chemistry through the eyes of a biologist,” Gonzalez says. “It was really impactful. It’s informed all the science I’ve done since then.” He caught the research bug at Florida International University, and put off his graduation so he could spend another year working in a lab. His mentor there encouraged him to go to graduate school, and he got his Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from UC Berkeley in 2000.

While doing his post-doc at Stanford, Gonzalez got involved in a new area of study that used advanced microscopes to

look at single molecules. “I had access to these wonderful instruments that at the time existed in only five or six labs in the world,” he says. Gonzalez became one of a small number of people who could build and use these microscopes; that ability is what brought him to Columbia. “My future colleagues appreciated that I was doing this cutting-edge, molecular-level biochemistry that belonged in a chemistry department,” Gonzalez says. He started as an assistant professor and launched the Gonzalez Lab at Columbia in 2006.

In addition to his research, Gonzalez takes his role as an educator very seriously. “I had such fantastic mentors, people who had an incredible influence on my education and my research,” he says. “I was given the room to grow and learn, and I was always pointed in the right direction. I strive to do the same for my own students.”

Students need opportunities as well as mentorship, and increasing the diversity of STEM is also important to Gonzalez. As a first-generation Cuban-American who grew in an immigrant household and community, he says he struggled with issues he is now trying to address, such as an overreliance on standardized test scores for admission to academic programs and advanced courses. “I didn’t do as well as I thought I needed to on my GRE, and I figured I was sunk,” he admits. Nonetheless, some of the admissions committees saw past his test score. “So now I feel like it’s my responsibility to point out that the GRE is not the only metric, that we shouldn’t exclude students like me. All of my work is grounded in an awareness of systematic ways we take exclusionary positions — as a faculty, as a department, as an institution — and what we can do to address that.”

“George Floyd’s murder and everything that’s happened since then has just amplified that,” he continues. “I really do feel like we have a *moment* right now, and it feels different this time. There’s an opportunity to do something transformative. For years it’s felt like we’ve been chipping away at one little thing at a time. Now I feel like we can roll in the trucks and do something significant.”

Gonzalez lives in Riverdale with his wife and two children; he enjoys cycling, running, and camping with his family. He also likes to cook, and grows his own vegetables in their small backyard. He especially loves cooking Cuban food, he says. “I’m true to my roots!”

# The Abstract Sculptor Who Melded East and West

By Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90

“I have looked upon every new job as another opportunity to break new ground,” said prolific abstract sculptor Isamu Noguchi CC 1926. In his 84 years, Noguchi broke new ground aplenty. Fusing time-honored Asian aesthetics with Western modernism, he created a plethora of striking specimens — everything from mammoth monoliths to tabletop conversation starters. His public works, embracing standalone pieces and entire sculpture gardens alike, dot the globe. Noguchi fashioned memorials, minimalist stage sets and even smart postwar home decor. He was,

said critic Robert Hughes in 1980, “the pre-eminent American sculptor.”

Born in Los Angeles to a Japanese father and an American mother, Noguchi apprenticed as a teenager with Gutzon Borglum, the creator of Mount Rushmore. Borglum told him that he would never be an artist, but Noguchi’s mother disagreed, advising: “Be your own god and your own star.” At the College he enrolled as a premed but only lasted a year and a half. His mind was elsewhere; his chemistry and biology notebook, said his mother, was filled with “nothing but sketches of vagaries — fishes, rabbits, nude ladies, etc. Not one word of any science.” In spring 1924 a visit to Onorio Ruotolo, director of the Leonardo da Vinci Art School on East 10th Street, paid off; Noguchi became his studio assistant, and his first exhibition, of 22 plasters and terra-cottas, came just three months after they met. Ruotolo proclaimed him a “new Michelangelo.”

In 1927, Noguchi won a Guggenheim Fellowship. “It is my desire,” he told the administrators, “to view nature through nature’s eyes, and to ignore man as an object for special veneration.” This he did in Paris under the legendary Constantin Brancusi. “He showed me how to square a block out of limestone,” Noguchi recalled dryly. Soon, Noguchi was fashioning clay, brass, wood, plastic and especially stone of all sorts into puzzling, fiercely asymmetrical pieces, replete with unexpected twists, angles, cuts, holes and nodules. He branded the results with such names as *Globular*; *Foot Tree*; and *Noodle*.

Noguchi’s East-West duality informed his life and his work. Though American by birth, he spent a decade of his childhood in Japan, returning home in 1918; during WWII, he voluntarily spent several months in a Japanese-American internment camp in Arizona to better understand his own nature. “With my double

© THE ISAMU NOGUCHI FOUNDATION AND GARDEN MUSEUM, NEW YORK / ARS

*Foot Tree* (1928)

nationality and double upbringing, where was my home?” he wondered. “Where my affections? Where my identity? Japan or America, both — or the world?” Noguchi ultimately determined that “For one with a background like myself the question of identity is very uncertain. It’s only in art that it was ever possible for me to find any identity at all.”

His output, he said, resulted from the “process of listening.” Always, his goal was to form and convey a relationship with his raw materials, tapping and releasing the natural forces that he felt within them. Indeed, Noguchi often thought of his creations as living things, asking to be fully awakened. “When I face natural stones, they start talking to me,” he said. “Once I hear their voices, I give them just a bit of a hand.”

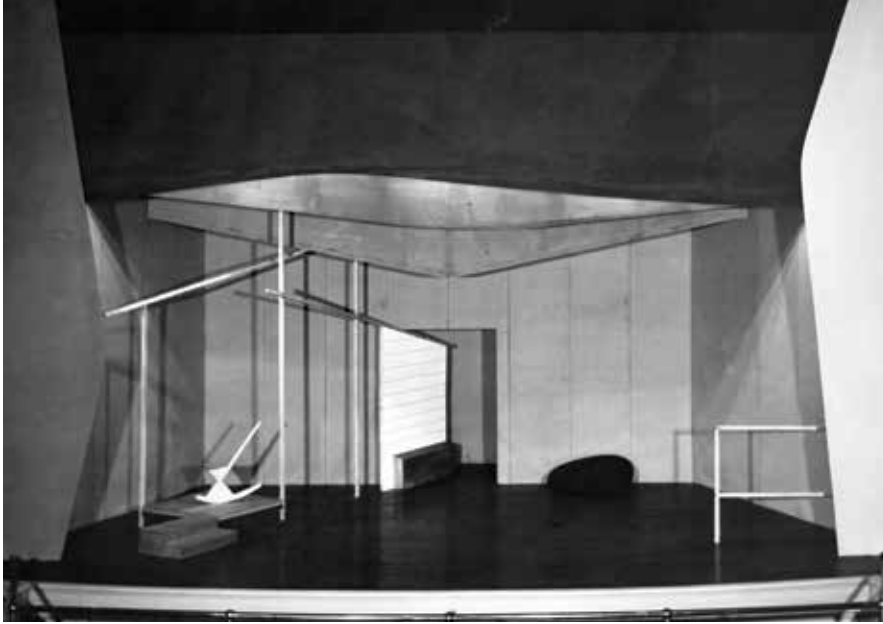
Noguchi, wrote his biographer Hayden Herrera, preferred “certain shapes — columns, twisting pylons, pyramids and triangles, interlocking elements, cubes, circles, spheres, and emerging earth forms.” He expressed these forms with everything from soft marble to hard granite, from organic balsa to inorganic aluminum. In



WALTER REISER / © THE ISAMU NOGUCHI FOUNDATION AND GARDEN MUSEUM, NEW YORK / ARS

Noguchi, circa 1970, fused Asian aesthetics with Western modernism in a career spanning six decades.





Ballet set for *Appalachian Spring* (1944)

1978, reviewing the traveling exhibition *Noguchi's Imaginary Landscapes*, future Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic Allan Temko '47 wrote that Noguchi's output sprang from his "several distinct selves, all exquisitely refined."

Like most great artists, Noguchi was determined and single-minded. "When I'm with the stone," he said, "there is not one second when I'm not working." But he readily collaborated with choreographers like George Balanchine and Merce Cunningham. For Martha Graham he designed 20 ballet sets, including for *Appalachian Spring* (1944), with Pulitzer Prize-winning music supplied by Aaron Copland. "The works he created for my ballets brought to me a new vision, a new world of space," said Graham. (Admittedly, the two strong wills sometimes

clashed. "More than once," Graham said, "I had to order him off the stage.")

Noguchi easily catered both to formidable institutions and ordinary people. For the former, he realized the eclectic Billy Rose Art Garden for Jerusalem's Israel Museum and nine exuberantly spouting stainless-steel fountains for Expo '70 in Osaka. In New York City he fashioned the 24-ft.-tall *Red Cube* at the Marine Midland Bank and the urgently rendered nine-ton bas-relief plaque *News*, above the entrance to the Associated Press Building in Rockefeller Center. Literally close to home, Noguchi won widespread praise for his instantly recognizable three-cornered glass-topped coffee table and the living-room lamps known as *akari*, the Japanese word for "light." Constructed of bamboo ribbing and *washi*, the handmade



*Red Cube* (1968)

paper that comes from the inner bark of the mulberry tree, they emit a milky glow that, Noguchi suggested, offers "a magical unfolding away from the material world."

Some time before he died on December 30, 1988, Noguchi had announced, "I have come to no conclusions, no beginnings, no endings." Then again, such uncertainty defined his *oeuvre*. Sculpture, Noguchi said, "is the art which can only be appreciated in the raw, relative to man's motion, to time's passage, and to its constantly changing situation."

## From the Archives

# The Living-Learning Center Brings Students Together

**D**id you know that the only all-class residence hall at Columbia opened 20 years ago? The Living-Learning Center comprises Hartley and Wallach Halls; students from all undergraduate class years can live together in a community focused on building connections through events and on-campus involvement. In the Fall 2000 issue, *CCT* covered the opening of the dorm, which was a new concept for the College at the time. Then-Dean Austin E. Quigley was quoted about its importance: "Rather than being brought together for one event, the same people come back again and again and contacts and relationships get built on a deeper level." Find the story: [bit.ly/2EQED2m](http://bit.ly/2EQED2m).



SCOTT RUDD

# ROAR, LION, ROAR

## 10 Great Moments in Lions Football

By Alex Sachare '71

**THIS FALL** marks the 150th anniversary of Columbia football, but in the COVID-19 era there are no fall sports being played in the Ivy League. To fill the void, we thought it would be fun to wake the echoes and provide a list of the 10 greatest moments from the Lions gridiron. They are listed chronologically; we hope they stir some enjoyable memories.

**What's your favorite Lions football moment?**  
Let us know at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu).

*Alex Sachare '71 is a former Spectator sports editor and CCT editor-in-chief; his favorite Lions football moment came on October 2, 1971, when Columbia snapped a 20-game losing streak to Princeton by beating the Tigers 22–20.*



1.

**NOVEMBER 5, 1870**

Columbia plays its first game of intercollegiate football and becomes only the third school in the country to play the sport. The Lions lose at Rutgers 6–3 in the first interstate game ever played; the three previous games had been between Princeton and Rutgers.



2.

**OCTOBER 15, 1915**

Columbia beats St. Lawrence 57–0 in its first game following a nine-year hiatus. Football competition had been discontinued after the 1905 season, when some deemed it too violent and inappropriate for college students. The Lions would celebrate the sport's return by winning all five of their games, which were played on South Field, the team's home until Baker Field opened for competition in 1923.

3.

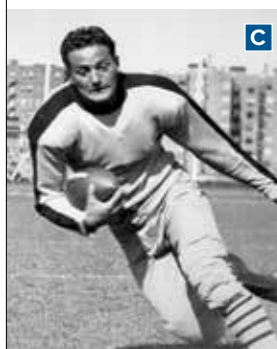
**JANUARY 1, 1934**

Columbia defeats Stanford 7–0 in the Rose Bowl on a 17-yard touchdown run by Al Barabas CC 1936. The play was called KF-79: Quarterback Cliff Montgomery CC 1934 fakes a handoff to Ed Brominski CC 1935 going to the right, and when the Stanford defense pursues in that direction, he gives the ball to Barabas, who sweeps around left end to score. It marks the only Bowl Game appearance for Columbia.

4.

**DECEMBER 12, 1938**

Quarterback Sid Luckman '39 is the first player selected overall in the NFL Draft, by the Chicago Bears. He goes on to play 12 seasons for the Bears, leading them to four NFL Championships, winning NFL MVP honors and earning a place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



5.

**NOVEMBER 25, 1947**

Columbia ends Army's 32-game winning streak by beating the Cadets 21–20 at Baker Field in what is considered one of the biggest upsets in college football history. Trailing 20–6 going into the fourth quarter, the Lions climb back into the game on a 28-yard touchdown pass from Gene Rossides '49, LAW'52 to Bill Swiacki BUS'48 then win it on a 2-yard run by Lou Kusserow '49 that was set up by another Rossides-Swiacki completion and Ventan Yablonski TC'48's point after conversion.

**A.** Stuyvesant Fish CC 1871, captain of the 1870 team.

**B.** The KF-79 in action at the 1934 Rose Bowl.

**C.** Sid Luckman '39, who went pro for 12 years, at Baker Field in 1938.

**D.** An aerial view of the South Field gridiron, circa late 1910s-early 1920s.

**E.** Bill Swiacki TC'48 makes a catch at the 1947 game that broke Army's 32-game winning streak.

**F.** Legendary coach Lou Little was inducted into the National Football Hall of Fame in 1960.

**G.** Team captain Bill Campbell '62, TC'64 celebrates the win over Penn in 1961 in the Lions's only Ivy League Championship.

**H.** *Spectator's* back page from November 8, 1971, highlighting Paul Kaliades '73's 34-yard field goal.

**I.** Josh Wainwright '21 is hoisted by teammates after his 24-yard TD pass secured a Homecoming 2017 victory.



## MORE ON LIONS FOOTBALL

Learn more about the first 150 years of Columbia football at [exhibitions.library.columbia.edu/exhibits/show/roar-lion-roar](https://exhibitions.library.columbia.edu/exhibits/show/roar-lion-roar), and keep an eye on [gocolumbiaions.com](https://gocolumbiaions.com) for Athletics's own retrospective, to come later this fall.



6.

**NOVEMBER 24, 1956**

Lou Little coaches his final game for the Lions, an 18–12 victory over Rutgers. Little, who was inducted into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame in 1960, holds the Columbia coaching records for most victories, 110; most seasons, 27; and most games, 236.



7.

**NOVEMBER 18, 1961**

The Lions dominate Penn in all phases of the game to post a 37–6 victory and win their only Ivy League championship despite the absence of their team captain and inspirational leader, Bill Campbell '62, TC'64, who was out due to injury. Five players — Bob Asack '62, Lee Black '62, Tony Day '63, Tom Haggerty '62 and Russ Warren '62 — receive All-Ivy League honors as Columbia goes 6–1 in Ivy play and 6–3 overall.

8.

**NOVEMBER 6, 1971**

Columbia knocks off previously unbeaten Dartmouth 31–29 on a 34-yard field goal by Paul Kaliades '73 with 54 seconds left to play. Dartmouth entered the game undefeated in 15 games over two seasons. Columbia goes on to post a 6–3 record, its first winning mark since 1962.



9.

**OCTOBER 8, 1988**

The Lions end a record 44-game losing streak by rallying to beat Princeton 16–13, the first win at the new Lawrence A. Wien Stadium at Baker Field. Columbia fell behind 10–0, cut the margin to 10–9 at halftime and then, after a Princeton field goal, scores the winning touchdown on a 2-yard run by Solomon Johnson '91 in the final five minutes.

10.

**OCTOBER 14, 2017**

Columbia beats Penn 34–31 in overtime as Anders Hill '18 hits Josh Wainwright '21 with the winning 24-yard touchdown pass, prompting many in the Homecoming crowd of 13,081 to storm onto the field in celebration. The Lions rally from a 21-point fourth-quarter deficit to snap a 15-Homecoming game losing streak. After starting the season 6–0 under Ivy League Coach of the Year Al Bagnoli, the Lions finish the campaign 8–2 overall and 5–2 in Ivy play.



# YOUR CORE STORIES

GENERATIONS OF ALUMNI  
CELEBRATE THE WORKS,  
INSTRUCTORS AND EXPERIENCES  
OF THE **100-YEAR-OLD**  
CORE CURRICULUM

**T**he measure of the Core Curriculum resides not only in the number of years it has existed, but also in the generations of students it has influenced. And as the Core sails into its 101st year, that influence shows no signs of abating — it remains one of the defining experiences of a Columbia College education and unites the entire College community. For that reason, we knew that

every alum would have a Core story to tell. Over the past year, as part of the College's Core Centennial celebration, we've asked about your favorite works, thinkers, artists and writers; which professors had an impact; what you learned; and which part of the Core experience you enjoyed most. Here's a sampling of your responses; share *your* story at [core100@columbia.edu](mailto:core100@columbia.edu).

— *The Editors*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
**JAMES GULLIVER HANCOCK**

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

The Core is a century old, and I am getting close! The sum of my Core experience only became apparent to me after graduation and the realization that, year after year, without diminution to this day, the Core had become the foundation for a life of honesty, integrity, curiosity and an appreciation of the values upon which a virtuous life may be built. That “virtuous life” became, and remains, the primary goal toward which I strive in the small ways that present themselves day to day.

— John Weaver '49

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

I came to Columbia with a background in math and physics. The Core opened my eyes, mind and heart to a lifetime of fullness and inspiration.

— Dr. Larry Harte '53

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

So much of one's experience is based on the ability of the professor to communicate, and to facilitate and elevate discussions, creating magic in the classroom and bringing home the Core. I enjoyed so many teachers — adjunct, graduate, full professors — who were able to do this consistently.

— Dehua “Wah” Chen '92

[ FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR ]

I remember the first thing Elliot Gilbert, our Lit Hum instructor, said at the beginning of the course: “Only a very thin piece of asphalt or cement separates us from the jungle.” I've kept it in mind through everything and have, I hope, managed to increase its thickness.

— Harry Levy '65

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

*Learning is a painful experience sometimes. Unhinging your interior and allowing in new ideas and new thoughts, and new perspectives from other students, is not an easy or comfortable experience. The single institution to which I'm most indebted is Columbia College. I've drawn from what I learned there my entire life.*

— Tony Kushner '78

[ CORE WRITER ]

**Herodotus:** His work is dirty, mythical, action-packed.

— Sara Cherkerzian '94

[ WHAT I LEARNED ]

**There is no substitute for being an educated citizen, and the Core prepares you to be just that.**

— Brian Krisberg '81, LAW'84

[ CORE WORK ]

**Genesis:** Analyzing what is perhaps the most influential text in the Western canon for its literary value was fascinating to me.

— Jacob Kim-Sherman '23

[ WHAT I LEARNED ]

Lit Hum and CC opened my eyes to civilization as a conversation, how authors wrote in response to their predecessors and how my classmates and I fit into that conversation. The Core taught me to read, to listen and to see.

— Dr. Jonathan Rosand '88, PS'94

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

My first museum visit was thanks to Art Humanities; it changed my major from economics to art history.

— Laurence Berger '69, SIPA'70, BUS'71

[ WHAT I LEARNED ]

Great and constructive ideas can come from anybody at any time.

— Alan Freeman '93

[ CORE WORK ]

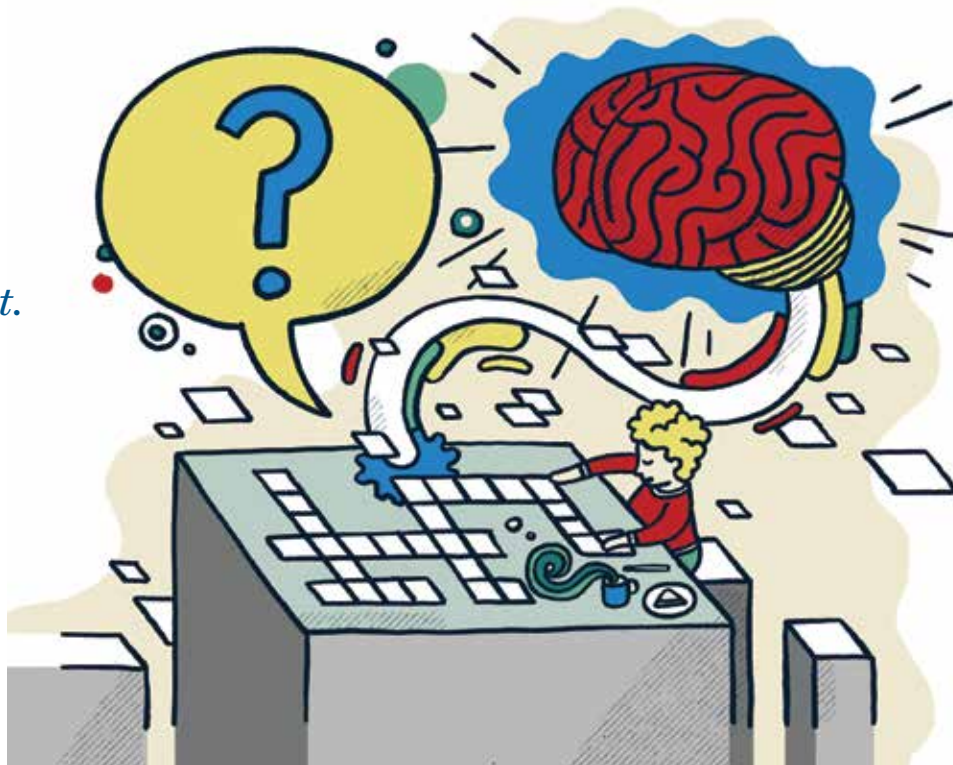
**Symposium:** *It offers a lens into some of the most forward and progressive discussion around gender, sexuality and love in the Core, especially from someone as far back as Plato. It inspired me to look for other early queer discussions in the Core and my other literary endeavors.*

— Salvatore G. Volpe '19, GSAS'21

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

*Often my wife will ask me a question when doing a crossword puzzle, reading a book or needing some fact. Often the answer comes to me out of the Core. She says, "HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?" I smile.*

— Gregory Tarsy '65



[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

I was presented with two options among the Ivy League schools to which I was admitted. One was to effectively choose my own curriculum and, other than satisfying major requirements, I could choose any class I liked. The other, at the College, was to have the first two years of my education chosen for me. I wisely decided that a 200-year-old college telling me what a good college education was would be a better choice than an 18-year-old kid (*moi*) guessing what a good college education might be. I have never regretted it.

— Mark Olsen Morris '82

[ CORE WORK ]

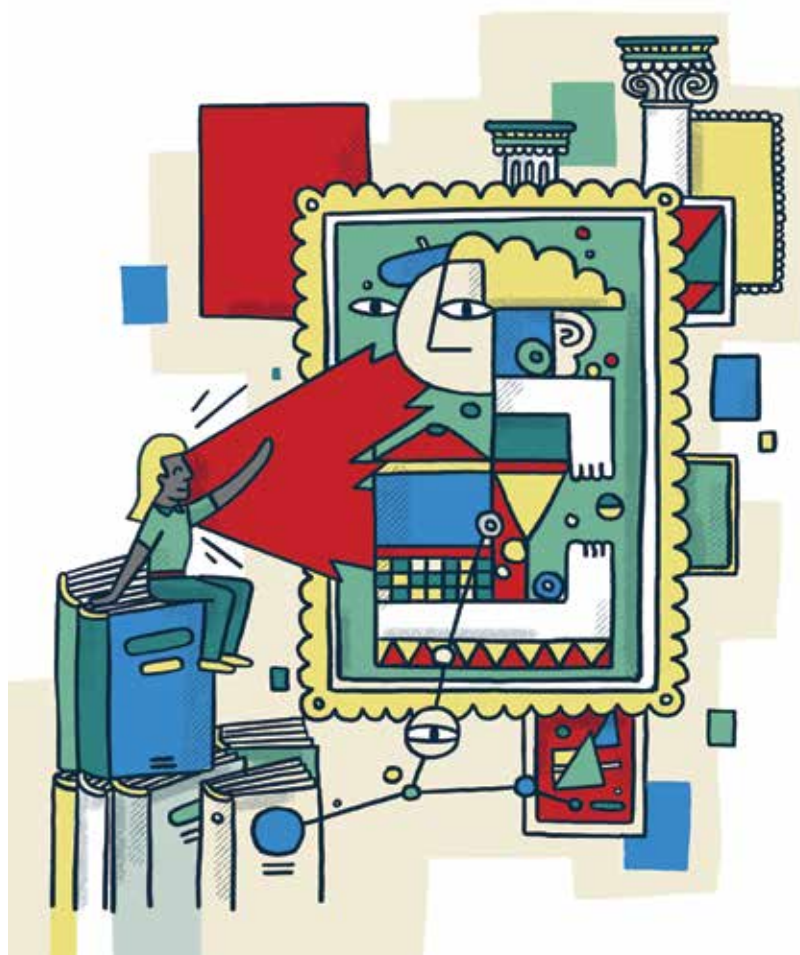
*Lysistrata: It made me fall in love with theater and the power of women on stage.*

— Siobhan Gilbert '09

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

**Lit Hum is the great unifier for College alumni not only because of the conclusions that we arrived at through the texts, but also by the act of searching for answers in the words.**

— Anna Couturier '10



[ CORE ARTIST ]

I appreciated studying Picasso's work because it reflected an intentional deviation from tradition and the very rules that we learned had served as the foundation for art forms for several centuries. Only with a strong understanding of those rules could he have masterfully broken them, and created an exciting way to express himself and connect with others. He was particularly striking to me because his journey embodies what the Core could be for CC students, as well: As we continue to engage with old texts/works through this shared experience, we develop pillars of critical thinking.

— Kavya Tewari '20



[ CORE WORK ]

***Song of Solomon:***  
the way in which  
Toni Morrison uses  
language to both  
tell her story and  
subvert traditional  
power structures is  
just ... too good.

— Jane Watson '22

[ FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR ]

One Lit Hum exchange with Professor Larry Lapidus stands emblematic: I raised my hand to respond to a classmate's comments and prefaced my remarks by saying "I was thinking ..." when he interjected, "Good, Mr. Halpern, good."

— Mitch Halpern '78

[ CORE WORK ]

***Crime and Punishment.*** *It was a life-changing book that made me reflect on the ideas of religion, guilt, human existence and our inner condition.*

— Johnna Wu '12

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

I did not like the Core when I was going through it, but once in the workforce, I realized what an advantage it was. It gave me a broad perspective that allowed me to relate to strangers and colleagues. It made it easier to find common ground.

— Michael Sin '05

[ CORE WORK ]

*The Prince*. I was so absorbed in it that I read it in one sitting. I was amazed by how much of a book written in the 1500s could be applicable to politics today.

— Andrew West '13

[ CORE WRITER ]

*Herodotus, for his great storytelling abilities and sage observations of human nature. I remember the “Wheel of Life”: Sometimes you are on the rise, or at the top; sometimes at the bottom. But the wheel keeps turning.*

— Michael O'Connor '69

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

Before Columbia I did not have much appreciation of art and certainly not of art history. However, after taking the Core class as a freshman, my interest grew; I ended up majoring in biology and became a physician, but I also ended up with a minor in art history. Throughout the years I had visited a few art museums here and there, and three years ago my wife and I finally visited Italy. Among our stops were the Vatican collection in Rome and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. It all came flooding back to me as I could see in real life what I had only seen in books and prints all those years ago. It was awe-inspiring, to say the least, and I am forever grateful for the foundation I received from the Core.

— Robert Werner '77

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

There are many fine colleges where students read Aristotle, Shakespeare, Dante and Morrison. What distinguishes the Core is the academic “hothouse” that comes from contemporaneous academic study of these fundamental works with one’s peers.

— John Vincenti '90



[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

After a term of Music Humanities, I convinced my parents to buy an annual subscription to the New York Philharmonic. We had it for about 45 years.

— Beril Lapson '64, SEAS'73, BUS'77

[ CORE WORK ]

*The Oresteia: The compelling drama and conflict between the characters felt so modern — thrilling as a new Columbia student.*

— Hope Silberstein '14

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

Some of us thought at the time that the Core's purpose was to equip us for cocktail conversation. We were wrong.

— Steve Conway '93

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

*The Core exposed me to a lifetime's worth of enjoyment of the classics, philosophy and art. It provided a nibble of what has turned out to be a veritable banquet.*

— Dr. Ilan Hartstein '81

[ WHAT I LEARNED ]

*Latin phrases!* 😊 De facto, ad infinitum, a priori, a posteriori.

— Wanda Marie Holland Greene '89, TC'91

[ WHAT I LEARNED ]

**Truth may not be a singularity.**

— Harrison Zhang '22



[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

A classmate and I were both commuters. After some stimulating discussions in the Core courses, we would continue our intense “debates” near our homes, often well into the early morning hours. We were sometimes greeted from a raised window with “Go home already!”

— Gordon Silverman '55, SEAS'57

[ CORE THINKER ]

Thucydides, because among other things, he illustrated how fragile democracies are — how the fortunes of a society are shaped by good and bad leaders, and how important it is for citizens to be on guard against demagogues and thus work to become acquainted with the prevailing economic and social issues of the day, to vote intelligently. I believe *History of the Peloponnesian War* is the most relevant and engaging of all the books we studied in Lit Hum and should always remain on the syllabus. I have read it five times since graduation, once (partially) in Greek. It is truly a *kteima eis aei*, a possession for ever.

— Paul Schwarzbaum '84

[ FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR ]

*Freshman CC: Arthur Danto GSAS'53, hand in the air, flicking ashes from his cigarette, eyes looking to the clouds as he groped for just the right words to glean the kernel of wisdom from Plato or Bentham.*

— Dr. William Greenfield '66

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

The Core made me switch majors. I started out as a science scholar and biology major on the premedical track, but a wonderful experience in Literature Humanities set me on a different course. There, I gained a wonderful mentor in a professor who not only cemented my love for literature, but also believed that my education and intellectual development in a field wildly different from my own were nevertheless valuable and worthwhile. Now, I'm doing my Ph.D. in English literature at Harvard, continuing my studies in Anglo-Saxon literature, manuscript studies and philology.

— Emily Sun '19

[ CORE WORK ]

Plato's *The Republic* was the first book I read at Columbia College in 1975; I realize how relevant it still is today. I recently checked out the insights of this philosopher, who was born in 427 B.C. Plato was disillusioned with his democratic government and wrote about behaviors ideal for people "to whom you would entrust your state." From the yellowed page 280 of my 1974 Penguin Books edition, Plato wrote: "Good memory, readiness to learn, breadth of vision and grace, and be a friend of truth, justice, courage and self-control."

— Dr. Jeffrey B. Freedman '79

[ CORE CLASS ]

**Contemporary Civilization: I loved reading the Bible as a piece of literature rather than as a piece of religion.**

— John Rodin '97

[ CORE WRITER ]

**Virginia Woolf: She taught me to appreciate the small moments in life.**

— Jonathan Young '17

[ CORE WORK ]

**The Odyssey:** Despite the fact that it was “written” more than 2,000 years ago, human nature remains the same — we are brave but also cowardly, adventurous but also homebodies, and above all else, we value the bonds with family and friends closest to us.

— Genevieve Thornton '02, BUS'09

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

**Even though I excelled at writing in high school, I could not master “Logic & Rhetoric.”**

— Jessica Craig '94

[ FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR ]

I had Susan Sontag as an instructor for Lit Hum. The rigorous reading and interpretive thinking she expected was sobering; after a few months I began to appreciate what in-depth scholarship by a brilliant mind was about.

— Dr. Jack Singer '64

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

*I recall that tingling sense of excitement I felt the first day of Lit Hum as my professor chanted The Iliad's opening line, “Sing Goddess, the anger of Peleus' son Achilles.”*

— Benjamin Apfel '18, LAW'21

[ SOMETHING I LEARNED ]

**You have to ask the right questions in order to get the right answers.**

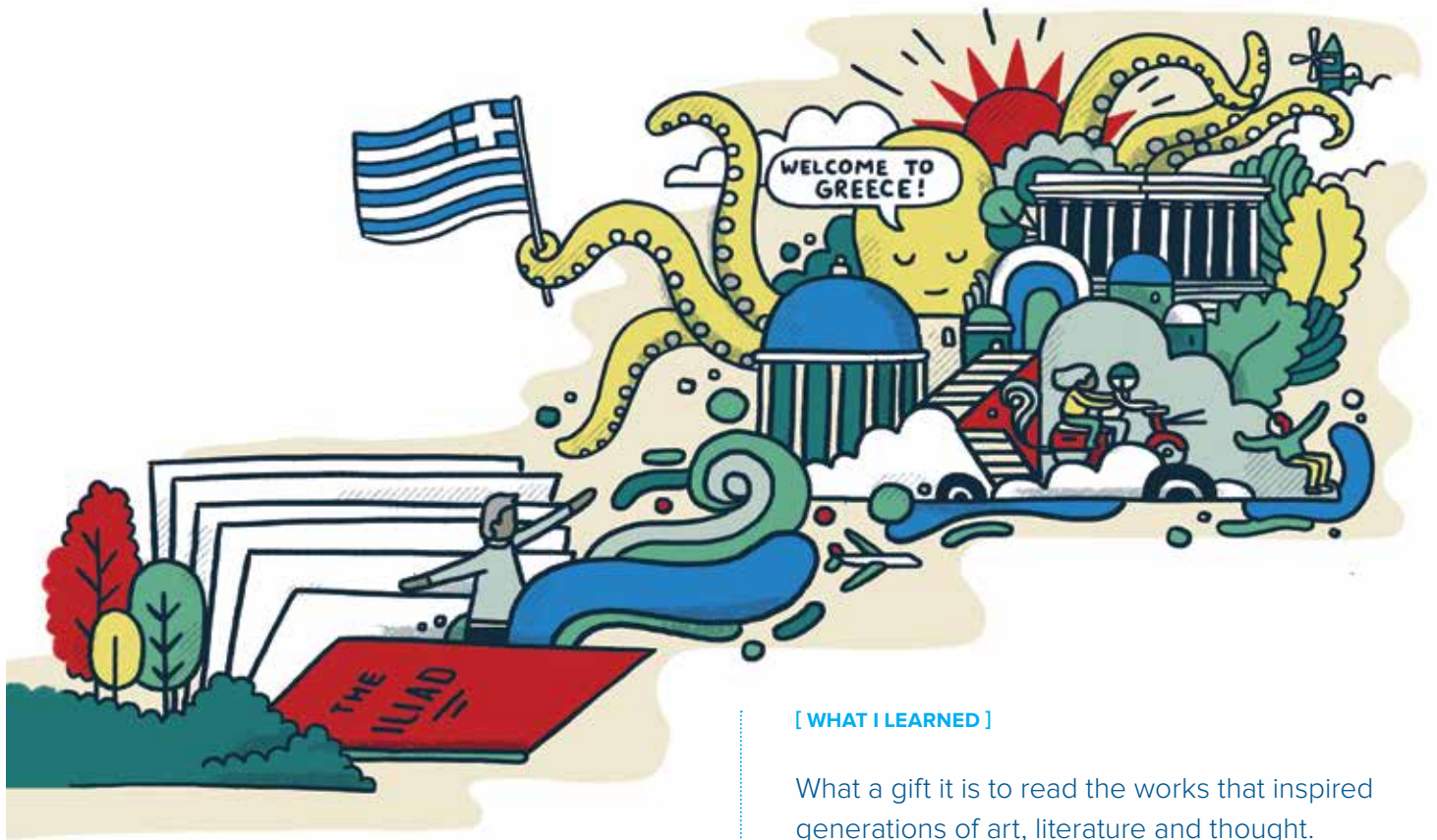
— Henry Berumen '81

[ FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR ]

*I was lucky enough to be assigned to Professor Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932's section for CC. His erudition and courtesy to his students so impressed the class that several of us referred to him as “The Prophet.” After a few weeks we decided that this did not do him justice. The more suitable name would be “God.”*

— Dr. Jerold Schwartz '52





[ CORE WRITER ]

**Hannah Arendt:** Her thought gave me a framework to make meaning, and set upon a course of purpose, in my life.

— Adam Sieff '11

[ WHAT I LEARNED ]

*I was brought up in a fairly strict Christian church. The Core taught me that there are philosophical ideas and principles that you can learn to live a good life by, with plenty of room for questioning and understanding.*

— Reginald H. Henderson III '84

[ WHAT I LEARNED ]

What a gift it is to read the works that inspired generations of art, literature and thought. Thirteen years after I read *The Iliad*, my parents and I traveled to Greece. Its history and culture were brought to life by those years spent in Hamilton Hall. The pebbled foundation was once the citadel of Mycenae — can you imagine what terror and power ran through those halls?

— Avanti Maluste '08

[ CORE WORK ]

**The Federalist Papers:** *The tension between the greater good and individual rights continues today.*

— Dr. David Borenstein '69

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

**From Gregorian chants to Bessie Smith — what a journey.**

— Abe Greene '99

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

***The Iliad:*** There was so much intricate and unique language that it was easy to just get lost in the wording.

— Bryan Uceda-Alvarez '23

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

*In 1965, Professor Everard Upjohn assigned an Art Humanities paper to compare and contrast the architectural style of City Hall with that of the Parthenon. One Wednesday midday I took the subway downtown to examine City Hall and noticed a poster for the musical Funny Girl at every stop. Unable to suppress the urge, I got off the train at Times Square, walked to the Winter Garden, bought an orchestra seat to the matinee for \$9.50 and fell in love with Barbra Streisand's performance. The next day I went to Korvettes and bought all of her albums for \$1.97 each.*

*P.S.: I did eventually get to City Hall, and received an A on my paper!*

— Alan “Buzz” Zucker '68

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

I think that the Core made me more curious about philosophy. I had a Lit Hum professor who shouted, “Why do people think they actually have a purpose? Why can't we simply exist?” He was obviously being provocative and making a point. But those questions stuck with me and made me think of my life differently. Now that I'm in my 50s, I think I better understand what the hell they were getting at.

— Dr. David Kornguth '87

[ CORE WORK ]

I could write a book about the Core and someday just might. Wallace Gray assigned *The Brothers Karamazov* to be read before Spring Break; I was so frustrated at its length that I decided to do no other work until I finished it. I spent two weeks doing nothing but, and it shook me up so much that I wound up learning Russian, spending time in Russia and returning to Columbia for grad school in Russia stuff. I'll read it again in 20 years and update this post. Books live and grow along with us.

— Eric Roston '93, GSAS'98



[ WHAT I LEARNED ]

Acknowledging the other side to an argument and active listening is crucial to understanding. But recognize it's OK to disagree.

— Brian Sarfo '17

[ CORE WORK ]

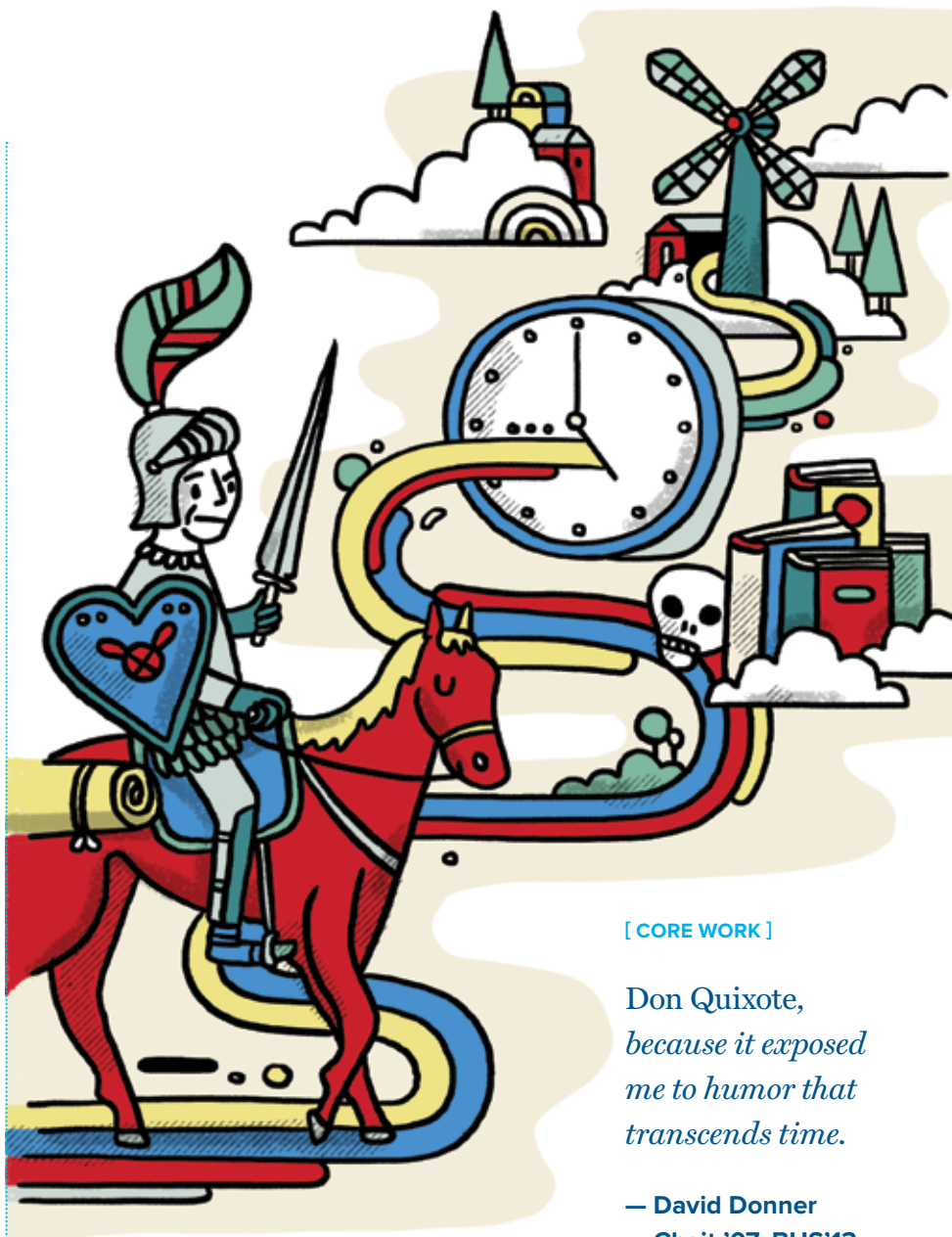
*Plato's The Republic: Our Core discussions were very foundational in my learning process, and it was during these discussions that I discovered and developed my confidence in sharing my thoughts.*

— Noor Habboosh '14

[ CORE EXPERIENCE ]

The Core Curriculum is the soul of the University. It is the place where we concern ourselves not with what we know, but with who we are. It's an invitation to look inward; the "deliverable" in the Core is a clearer vision of yourself.

— Roosevelt Montás '95,  
GSAS'04



[ CORE WORK ]

*Don Quixote, because it exposed me to humor that transcends time.*

— David Donner  
Chait '07, BUS'13

## THE ARTIST AT WORK

Watch illustrator James Gulliver Hancock create this issue's cover:  
[college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extra/coreillos](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extra/coreillos).

[ WHAT I LEARNED ]

*The same things that affect me have affected scholars, heroes, dreamers and people of the world for millennia.*

— Christian Palomares '22



**C**athleen Price '92 was a junior pre-law in the College heading home to Denver for the holidays, thumbing through an airline magazine while the plane prepared for takeoff. Her page-flipping abruptly stopped when she came across an article about a small nonprofit legal clinic in Alabama that was defending inmates on death row. The organization had been founded by a young lawyer named Bryan Stevenson, who believed that everyone was entitled to equal justice under the law, and that the measure of a society is how it cares for its most vulnerable citizens. His legal work delved deeply into the trauma visited on the region's Black families and communities for generations. Bringing those specifics to light, he insisted, was a prerequisite for justice, both in individual cases and for society writ large.

"The article definitely struck a chord with me," Price remembers. She had studied the history of the Deep South in class, including the injustices so many had faced, and still faced. But Stevenson's work also spoke to her on a personal level. "My parents' roots are in Mississippi and Louisiana," she says, "so I had learned about the *lived* experience of racism and injustice from my family history and sense of identity, as well. What I was reading hit me with great immediacy and familiarity."

She couldn't have known it then, but Stevenson and his fledgling organization — which evolved into the nationally renowned, Montgomery, Ala.-based Equal Justice Initiative — would become the heart of her professional career.

Price did internships there as a student at Harvard Law School, and turned down offers from white-shoe law firms in New York to join EJI full-time in 1997. "Cathleen came to Montgomery at a time when it was not fashionable for people from

elite legal institutions to come to the Deep South and do this work," Stevenson says. "She helped build a foundation on which much of our work over the last 15 years has been able to grow and expand."

Through the years, EJI has provided representation to thousands of poor, incarcerated and condemned clients and mounted important legal challenges to racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. Stevenson himself has become a social justice icon. His bestselling memoir, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, was recently adapted into a Hollywood docudrama starring Michael B. Jordan as the young Stevenson and Jamie Foxx as his wrongly convicted death-row client, Walter McMillian.

Asked to describe her longtime mentor and colleague, Price doesn't mention charisma or star power, however. "The first word that comes to mind is *humble*," she says. "And the second, which is more reflective but no less meaningful to me, is *rigor* — the rigor of one's work, and one's commitment, the rigor in which you hold yourself accountable." She adds, warmly, "Knowing Bryan has been one of my life's blessings."

Price left the full-time EJI staff in 2007, but has continued to work closely with her colleagues there in a consulting role while maintaining a private practice in appellate law; teaching an undergraduate seminar at the College on race, poverty

**For Cathleen Price '92  
and the Equal  
Justice Initiative,  
confronting the  
past is essential  
to righting its  
wrongs today**

**By Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80**

# THE LEGACY OF INJUSTICE

and criminal justice; and assisting Stevenson in a clinical law program at NYU, where he is a full professor. Asked what he would say about Price to someone who never met her, Stevenson is effusive: “I’d say that you’re going to be so blown away by this smart, talented, thoughtful, creative person, who will engage you in conversation about anything and have a really informed and insightful perspective to share,” he says. “She’s incredibly dynamic and the kind of person that once you meet, you don’t forget.”

**P**rice’s legal specialty is death penalty appeals, mostly stemming from Southern states with long histories of capital punishment meted out arbitrarily or unfairly, particularly if the defendant is poor, Black, falsely accused or inadequately represented. Appeals can go on for years, with soul-wrenching ups and downs. For a lawyer, this can be difficult, grinding work, requiring an unusual skill set. “You have to be able to deal with death-row prisoners, Alabama prison guards, expert witnesses, federal judges, prosecutors,” says Robert Amdur, associate director of Columbia’s Center for American Studies and an adjunct associate professor of political science, who has known Price for 30 years. “It takes a real talent and a real psychological acuity.”

As with mass incarceration, the roots of death-row injustice run deep — back to the eras of enslavement, convict leasing and racial terror. Capital punishment is “a stepchild of lynching,” Stevenson has said.

“Why do some states have the death penalty and not others?” asks EJI deputy director Randy Susskind, who has worked closely

with Price. “Why did this person get selected to be on death row? I mean, there are hundreds and hundreds of murders a year in a state, and yet only a handful are on death row? How did we get to this place?”

Price wrestles with those questions every day as an advocate and teacher.

“If you want to understand criminal justice and therefore have a coherent and comprehensive concept of reform,” she says, “you do need to understand why we do the things we do, why certain crimes are traditionally overly punished while others are considered matters that you could be rehabilitated around. And that goes right back to the construction of race in order to justify slavery in what was otherwise supposed to be a free country. The way all of that continues to play out in our criminal justice system is very raw.”

**M**ontgomery is a quiet city that nonetheless thrums with the passion of America’s racial struggles, past and present. It was the first capital of the Confederate States; a statue of Jefferson Davis still stands tall before the imposing Alabama State Capitol building, where Gov. George C. Wallace gave his defiant “segregation forever” inaugural address in 1963, calling this place the “very heart of the great Anglo-Saxon Southland.” Yet Montgomery also cradled the civil rights movement: Rosa Parks, the bus boycott, the Freedom Riders and the emergence of Martin Luther King Jr. The last voting rights march from Selma in 1965 culminated in a mass rally at the State Capitol, electrified by King’s oratory. Rep. John Lewis lay in state there after his funeral procession in late July.

Price was involved in discussions and planning for the city’s newest landmark: The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, conceived by EJI and dedicated in 2018 on a gentle hillside just a mile from the Capitol. The stark monument commemorates some 4,400 Black victims of lynching between 1877 and 1950, sometimes in remote backwoods, sometimes in town squares with white families taking in the spectacle and collecting souvenirs. A smaller monument recognizes those lynched since 1950, including Emmett Till, and a new pavilion opened this year in downtown Montgomery, commemorating more than 2,000 victims of lynching between 1865 and 1877.

The main memorial is dominated by hundreds of oblong slabs that hang suspended from the ceiling, each one engraved with the victims’ names and the dates of lynching in a single county. The symbolism is chilling, calling forth an echo of terror that does not feel safely past, even while respecting the significance of each individual life and acknowledging the trauma visited on their families and communities. It is a place of solemnity and reflection, a space where visitors of all races are visibly moved.



PHOTOS COURTESY EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE / HUMAN PICTURES

**A chilling exhibit at the Equal Justice Initiative's The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration (left) and one section of The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which commemorates some 4,400 Black victims of lynching between 1877 and 1950.**



## **“My father’s father was born a slave, so I’m only two generations from slavery.”**

EJI has engaged in an exhaustive research project documenting the atrocities, even to the point of collecting soil from known lynching sites. “This is soil containing the blood and the sweat of the enslaved people, the tears of people who were lynched, the tears of people who experienced the indignity of segregation,” says Sade Stevens, an EJI Justice Fellow from South Africa, pointing to hundreds of earth-filled jars collected from the sites. “So there really is that tangible piece through which we can trace the history.”

That history and those emotions were close at hand for Price when she attended the dedication ceremony in 2018.

“I couldn’t really talk. I think the clinical term is *overwhelmed*,” she says. “My father’s father was born a slave, so I’m only two generations from slavery. He grew up sharecropping in Mississippi, one of 20 children. They all got out. None of them were picking cotton as adults. So I was feeling all the pain, thinking of all the experiences that make you remove your life from the real hellhole for Black people that was the rural South in the 1940s and the ’50s.”

Almost in passing, Price mentions another connection. A member of her own family was lynched in Louise, Miss., in 1962.

“My father’s first cousin, Eddie Davis Jr. He was decapitated on the side of the road,” she says. “It was a trauma that was sort of unspeakable within the family. I remember asking my father about it and he wouldn’t really talk about it.”

Price was born and raised in Denver, the youngest of three children of Calvin and Naomi Price; both are now deceased. He was a Korean War veteran and civil engineer who worked for the federal government; she was a registered nurse from a Louisiana family that migrated before WWI to Chicago’s South Side, where the Prices lived before moving to Colorado. “Both my parents were raised very poor, but my mother was ‘city poor’ — she was a little better off.”

The family’s majority-white, Southeast Denver neighborhood was a far cry from Chicago’s South Side. “It was a new suburb. There were large fields and a horse farm nearby,” Price says. She paints her childhood in generally happy colors, despite some racial tensions around the issue of school integration and busing. Hers was a musical household, where Duke Ellington and Count Basie reigned; they remain favorites to this day. Price herself was “very bookish,” she says. “I used to read voraciously, is the positive term. But I think it was actually defensively. I would sort of disappear into books. I was kind of lonely. Spent a lot of time at the library.”

All that reading helped propel her to the top rung of her class at Thomas Jefferson H.S., where she played volleyball and competed in

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ORDER OF PARK BOARD.

VISITING DAY'S  
SOUTH 531 BROAD  
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MORNINGS 10 AM TO 11 AM  
AFTERNOONS 1 PM TO 2 PM  
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TIL 12-NOON ONLY  
CLOTHES PACKAGES  
ONLY ALLOWED

THIS DOOR  
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GO TO BACK OF BUS

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SEGREGATED  
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JUMPERS GOOD GUESS

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TENANTS IN OUR  
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WHITE  
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IN BALCONY



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WHITE ONLY

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OR APE  
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ALLOWED  
INSIDE BUILDING

WHITE WO  
SENORAS B

ICE-WATER  
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NEGROES MUST  
MOVE TO THE BACK  
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REST ROOMS  
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NEGROS NOT WANTED IN  
THE NORTH OR SOUTH  
SEND THEM BACK TO  
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THAT IS THEIR HOME

THIS PART OF

track while working part-time as a babysitter, housekeeper and restaurant hostess. Price also interned at the Denver district attorney's office, where she witnessed two capital trials, her first brush with death-penalty matters. She pushed herself hard in high school, she says. "I definitely was raised in a home where you needed to have a plan."

Her plan was to attend a top-tier college in a major city, and she looked into options from coast to coast. "I got an admissions videotape from Penn with Donald Trump on the cover," she recalls. But Columbia paid her way to a minority recruitment weekend on campus, and she was sold.

"I think that I was genuinely educated at Columbia, and I'm grateful," she says. "It's a good place for oddballs," she adds, not excluding herself from the category. "There was quite a bit of non-conformity, but it wasn't actually pretentious conformist nonconformity. It was kind of a place for people who felt really awkward at the high school Homecoming."

Price especially appreciated her classes with historians Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69, Barbara Fields and Elizabeth Blackmar, and with Marcellus Blount, in English. Law School professor Kendall Thomas hired her as a research assistant; she credits him with sharpening her ability to think clearly. "I'm not sure I was that helpful to him," she says. "But I learned so much, and he was so patient with my mistakes."

**N**ot long after Price's arrival at EJI in 1997, she was assigned to work an appellate case with Randy Susskind representing a condemned Alabama inmate named Willie McNair, who had been convicted of murder and sentenced to death in 1991. In 2004, a federal appeals court reviewed the case, heard evidence that had not been presented in state court and found that the death sentence was invalid. That ruling was later overturned. Ultimately, in 2009, McNair was executed by lethal injection, witnessed by Susskind as Price stood outside the prison gates. "We won, lost, won, lost," she says. "I think he should have won."

The McNair case was her baptism into many aspects of her life's work. "I kind of learned how to be a lawyer with him," Price says. "Not the technical part, not the substantive part. But you're sort of walking a road with a client. They don't teach you how to do that in law school."

Price grew close to McNair and members of his family. At one point, his aunt said to her, "I just want to thank you for holding on." The experience still gnaws at her.

There are victories, too. Price was on one of the successive teams that gained freedom for Anthony Ray Hinton after 30 years in prison, most of them on death row, for a crime he did not commit. Today he is a successful author and public speaker who works in community education for EJI, and a close friend of Price. His guest appearances at her College seminar are a revelation for students, she says.

**T**eaching and learning are close to the heart of Price's work at EJI, too. One of her important roles there has been mentoring younger staff members.

"Cathleen is a model for what it means to be an attorney doing this work, in terms of the seriousness, and professionalism, and gravity, and just the hard work that is required," says Charlotte Morrison, a senior attorney from Montana and former Rhodes Scholar who joined EJI in 2001. "As a young student coming into an



Price and Anthony Ray Hinton, whom she helped exonerate after 30 years in prison.

**"You're sort of walking a road with a client. They don't teach you how to do that in law school."**

office with lawyers like that, you just very quickly learned what was at stake. This wasn't about your own career path or your own identity — it was always directly linked to the lives that you were serving. That is the culture that Cathleen embodied and passed down to all the students like me who worked with her."

Price's life isn't all about work, though that's never too far away, it would seem. For one thing, she has a deep love of jazz, and keenly misses going out to New York's great clubs, now shuttered because of the pandemic. Then there is her pursuit of culinary serendipity.

"We've spent a lot of time on the road," Stevenson says. "She is a serious, serious foodie. I mean, at levels that are not easily managed by many people. Even after a long day of investigation or spending a lot of hours in a prison, she was always up for a small adventure if the best biscuits, fried chicken and collard greens were the rewards for that."

This was no small thing, he believes.

"It's great to have someone who was unafraid to explore all of the details of a cultural environment. We did some cases with really isolated poor Black families in the Deep South, and she was not only comfortable, but also was respectful and curious about how to learn more from the people we served. She helped us appreciate that this work is not just our struggle," he says, "it's also our life."

*Former CCT editor Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80 has held senior editorial positions at People, Vibe and Latina magazines and contributes to Smithsonian Magazine and other publications.*

LEFT: Signs of Jim Crow, inside The Legacy Museum.

# RADIO DAYS

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

The dawn  
of WKCR's  
Jazz Age,  
described by  
the mavericks  
who made  
it happen

**LONGTIME WKCR JAZZ MAN** Phil Schaap '73 pinpoints the radio station's arrival as a jazz destination to the Charlie Parker Festival in August 1973. Schaap, winding up a hosting shift, put on Parker's "Scrapple from the Apple" and then left for his job at the University's ID office. He continued hearing the music in his head: "I go through Bird's solo and then Miles Davis's solo, and then Duke Jordan plays the piano solo. I come out the fire exit door on 114th Street, and I start to realize I actually hear the record

**CHARLIE "BIRD" PARKER (1920–55):** a blazingly fast and virtuosic saxophonist who was a master of improvisation and father of the quick-tempoed bebop style

**MILES DAVIS (1926–91):** monumental trumpeter and composer whose seminal albums included *Kind of Blue* and *Birth of the Cool*; though his style continually evolved, he was known for his intimate, near vibrato-less tone





COURTESY SHARIF ABDUS-SALAAM '74

**ON THE AIR:**  
Sharif Abdus-Salaam '74  
(né Ed Michael) hosting  
his show in 1972.

**JAZZ MAN:**  
Phil Schaap '73  
in the WKCR  
studio in 1991.



JOHN ABBOTT

again.” Up and down the street, windows were open and Bird’s song was in the air. “I said, ‘By God, we’ve got it.’”

In the decades since, WKCR’s reputation has grown with fans and musicians alike; the latter especially appreciate the education it offers. “What made KCR different was the substance of its programming,” says renowned trumpeter and jazz educator Wynton Marsalis, adding that the musicians tuned in to learn. “You could always *hear* the music,” Marsalis says.

But when Schaap first debuted on KCR — 50 years ago, on February 2, 1970 — he joined a station in transition. Musically, the offerings at 89.9 FM were eclectic but leaned into classical. It aired campus lectures, covered United Nations news, carried interviews with D.C. politicians. The sports and news departments were particularly strong; KCR delivered the live play-by-play for the basketball team’s electric Ivy League championship in March 1968, only to crackle the next month with reports from campus throughout the thundering student protests.

Jazz, meanwhile, was disappearing from the popular landscape. A creative peak and audience surge in the mid-1950s and early ’60s had given way to growing tastes for rock ’n’ roll (its decline was represented perhaps most acutely by the death of the legendary John Coltrane in 1967). Against that backdrop, WKCR’s student programmers began a deliberate embrace of the genre, inspired by its place in American culture as well as the station’s literal place — adjacent to the historic jazz heart of Harlem, in a city that was itself an epi-

center for the industry. In the span of just four years, from 1969 to 1973, they laid an enduring groundwork: jazz on the schedule every day of the week; 24-hour (or longer) music festivals and birthday broadcasts that went deep into the oeuvre of a single artist; live sessions and interviews that added to and filled in the gaps of jazz history (down to minute details, thanks largely to Schaap).

**JOHN COLTRANE**  
(1926–67):  
saxophonist and  
composer whose style  
changed radically from  
hard bop to later, more  
experimental works;  
landmark albums  
included *Giant Steps*  
and *A Love Supreme*



**DUKE JORDAN**  
(1922–2006): pianist  
who helped build  
bebop, best known for  
playing with Charlie  
Parker’s 1947 quintet



Indeed, the famously encyclopedic Schaap, along with the ebullient Sharif Abdus-Salaam '74 (né Ed Michael), have volunteered at the station near continuously to this day. They and other contributors from that seminal early '70s period recently recalled what it was like working at the station during that ambitious, transformational time. This is their story, in their own words.

## A GROWING GROUP OF INSURGENTS

**TOM NESI '70, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, HOST "JAZZ ECHOES":** I didn't realize before I came to Columbia that there was a professional FM radio station that I could simply join. It was just three blocks from my dorm. I started off as the correspondent for the U.N.

**JAMIE KATZ '72, BUS'80, JAZZ DIRECTOR, HOST "JAZZ 'TIL MIDNIGHT":** Even before I applied, I'd listen to WKCR. There was a wonderful Sunday night jazz show hosted by George Klabin '68, "Jazz 'Til Midnight." I would call in from time to time, 'cause he'd have a contest or something; so I knew him a little by phone. When I got accepted, I called him and he said, "Well, stop by the station and find me." No sooner have I arrived practically, but he says, "I have to go to Brazil" — he was from there — "why don't you take over my show?" It's like, October of my freshman year. Back then there was a bit of an apprenticeship; they put you on the AM station and you worked your way up the minor leagues. But I didn't have to do any of that. I just had this show all of a sudden.

**NESI:** I played jazz saxophone and clarinet for years, and I was brought up in a family of jazz lovers. My uncle George — George Van Eps, not a blood uncle, but that's what we called him — invented the seven-string guitar. He was a famous jazz guitarist in the 1930s, '40s and '50s. He used to come to our house at Thanksgiving and sit around and play for the family.

**KATZ:** My father, Dick Katz, was a jazz pianist, composer and sometimes producer. He was my greatest teacher of jazz knowledge. It was important to him that I understand the music — the chal-

lenge of it and the difficulty and the craft — all that it takes to be a creative musician and a working professional. So I grew up in that world; there were always musicians around and I went to hear a lot of things and was exposed to a lot of jazz. It seemed as natural as the air we breathe.

**NESI:** Jamie and I talked often about expanding the programming. We said we should be thinking of jazz — which, after all, is an American art form. We should give it the same credibility and exposure as we give to the Europeans.

**KATZ:** I thought it was important that Columbia have more of a bond with the community it was adjacent to in Harlem, and the city in general. I felt and continue to feel that jazz is a very important American achievement and a living piece of culture that should not be ignored. I had a bit of an evangelistic bent.

**"It was important that Columbia have more of a bond with the community it was adjacent to in Harlem."**

**NESI:** Of all the jobs I've ever held in my life, being program director was certainly the most fun. I didn't have a boss. I designed the entire radio programming. Though, once somebody got their own show, I didn't do much except give a helpful nod here and there.

**KATZ:** When I became jazz director [in fall 1969], I took it very seriously. I thought, the only way we're going to get more jazz on the air is if I recruit a bunch of really good people and we sort of flood the station. Tom created all these slots across the week. And that's exactly what we did.

**McCOY TYNER**  
(1938–2020): a hugely influential pianist known for his work with the John Coltrane Quartet as well as his long solo career



**GEORGE VAN EPS**  
(1913–98): swing and jazz guitarist who invented the seven-string guitar

**DICK KATZ**  
(1924–2009): pianist, arranger and record producer; recognized for his versatility and vast knowledge of jazz from stride-piano era to 1960s modernism

**LESTER YOUNG**  
(1909–59): tenor saxophonist with a lyrical, relaxed style, known as much for his porkpie hats and hipster language as for his remarkable solos; Billie Holiday's favorite accompanist

Several key WKCR figures started at Columbia in fall 1969: Schaap, Abdus-Salaam, Fred Seibert '73 and Jim Carroll GS'77, then a College student. They held multiple roles and hosted various shows throughout their tenure.

**CARROLL, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, HOST "JAZZ PROJECTIONS":** Growing up in northwest Pennsylvania, jazz on the radio was pretty much non-existent. My introduction came mostly by way of references made by musicians I liked — I'd say, "Who's this guy Coltrane?" I'd buy a record, check it out, one thing led to another. When I got to New York, I went crazy going to the used record shops and loading up on vinyl.

Most people's point of entry to WKCR was as an engineer. You'd run the soundboard and do a station break every half-hour. I would do that sometimes for Jamie, then he introduced me to David Reitman '69, who had a show on Wednesdays. It was quite eclectic; he would play avant-garde jazz, as well as blues, and somewhat obscure R&B. There were a group of us who had these diverse interests and were curious about how they crossed over each other. We began to grow this little group of potential insurgents.

**SCHAAP, HOST "JAZZ ALTERNATIVES":** I had been raised by the jazz community; the pioneers of jazz were still alive then, and I had known them from literally infancy. My father was a translator for the French jazz scholars; my mother was a bohemian and a classically trained pianist. Then we moved to Hollis, Queens — that was the bedroom community of jazz. As a young child I knew Lester Young; he died when I was 8, but many others lived well into my adult life and indeed, I brought them all to KCR and did these interviews.

**KATZ:** I'm in my dorm room on the seventh floor of Furnald. I hear a knock at the door and there's this tall, friendly guy. He said, "I'm Phil Schaap, I live upstairs and I understand you're the guy to talk to about jazz at KCR." We get to talking and he's very personable and seems to have a great enthusiasm for jazz. I decide to give him a blindfold test; that's where a musician sits down and I.D.s a record

cold. I put on McCoy Tyner at Newport, playing a tune by Dizzy Gillespie called "Woody'n You." And he immediately got the record.

**SCHAAP:** He put me through my paces. Then he thought he tricked me by playing Count Basie's first record, before he developed his leaner style — but I aced that.

**KATZ:** And another one and another one. Finally, I put on one that I thought might stump him. By a jazz guy named Benny Carter. He gives me the date of the recording; the name of the tune; the entire personnel — including, "and on piano is Richard Aaron Katz." Nobody knew my father's full name, not even in the family; nobody called him Richard, it was just on his birth certificate. Phil even said, "Born in Baltimore on March 13, 1924, and in this solo he shows the definite influence of Basie and Ellington and Teddy Wilson," and I'm of course floored. I said, "I think you're qualified."

**ABDUS-SALAAM, DIRECTOR OF THE JAZZ DEPARTMENT, HOST "JAZZ 'TIL MIDNIGHT":** When I got to Columbia, I wasn't thinking about radio. I played football. But after the fall semester, I wanted to find something else to do. Something inside said, "Why don't you go by the radio station?" So I started coming in, and Jamie said, "Hey man, you ever thought about doing a jazz show?" I said, "No." He said, "Well, think about it, because I'm going abroad in May." I took over "Jazz 'Til Midnight" on Sunday nights.



#### DIZZY GILLESPIE

(1917–93): trumpeter, bandleader and composer who was a seminal figure of bebop; his playing presence was unmistakable as much for his great ballooning cheeks and the angle of his trumpet as for his virtuosic technique

#### BENNY CARTER

(1907–2003): a Renaissance man with a prolific career, he was a saxophonist, trumpeter, clarinetist, composer, arranger and bandleader; known for promoting the alto sax as a lead solo instrument in jazz bands and helping to develop the swing-era sound

#### COUNT BASIE

(1904–84): pianist, bandleader and composer; a towering figure in big-band jazz, he was known for his eponymous orchestra that helped define the era of swing

**SEIBERT, ENGINEER, HOST “JAZZ ALTERNATIVES”:** I told the guy who answered the door at KCR, “I’ll do anything.” He said, “OK, I have a broom, you can sweep the floor.” That was fine with me. Once I decide I want to do something, I’ll do whatever it takes.

The first engineering role I had was a two-hour shift on Sundays. The first hour was with Jim Carroll, who had an avant-garde jazz show, and my second hour was a calypso show with a guy called Ethan 4. They couldn’t have been more different. Jim’s show was screeching saxophones and noise, as far as I was concerned. Every time I put on a record, I’d turn it down to almost zero so I didn’t have to listen. Ethan’s show was playing all the hits from the islands, Jamaica, St. Maarten or wherever. I’d been doing that for several months, and then one day I went to see a band of former jazz musicians playing what became known as fusion. I walked away transformed. The next day, I went to engineer Jim’s show, and the music made sense to me. Albert Ayler, Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane, Cecil Taylor — all of a sudden I could hear the music for the first time.

**KATZ:** By 1970, we had a lot of people working on a lot of shows. Once Phil and the next group took over, they never let go.

## “JIMI HENDRIX DOESN’T NEED US”

**SCHAAP:** In the week preceding classes in September 1970, there was a meeting of the people of KCR. It became clear that we could create something, on our own initiative, that would be broadcast to New York City and the metropolitan region. To use a modern term that people didn’t really use in those days — this was an “opportunity.”

**ABDUS-SALAAM:** A spot on the FM dial in New York was important.

**SEIBERT:** I think there were 78 radio stations in the city at the time.

**SCHAAP:** We decided to pursue alternative programming — we were going to present culture, primarily music, that had no commercial following; music that we thought needed to be heard.

**CARROLL:** We had the opportunity to fill in some big holes.

**ABDUS-SALAAM:** We wanted to be the most non-college, college radio station that existed. We had an AM and an FM station; the AM station was just for the dorms. So students who just wanted to play around, to play rock and stuff, could do it and have fun.

**CARROLL:** This was an opportunity to get some music out there that was emanating from communities that were not well served by New York broadcasting, the Black community in particular.

**SCHAAP:** There was an understanding of jazz’s importance, its connection to the African-American experience. Commercial radio had abandoned jazz. Somebody said, “Jimi Hendrix doesn’t need us. Duke Ellington and Ornette Coleman do.”

**DUKE ELLINGTON**  
(1899–1974):  
legendary pianist,  
bandleader and  
composer who  
described his works  
as “American music”  
rather than jazz; he  
wrote thousands  
of songs, including  
standards such as “It  
Don’t Mean a Thing (If  
It Ain’t Got That Swing)”  
and “Mood Indigo”

**TEDDY WILSON**  
(1912–86): swing-  
era pianist and  
arranger known for  
his sophisticated and  
elegant style

**ALBERT AYLER**  
(1936–70):  
saxophonist and  
innovator of free jazz,  
his instrument’s  
squeals, honks  
and yelps made for  
some of the most  
confrontational sounds  
of 1960s avant-garde

**SEIBERT:** We needed to take a strong stance that jazz was the pre-eminent musical expression of its time, and that we needed to be the standard bearer for it. We had the loudest mouths in the place. I think that's what it came down to. We sort of took over.

**SCHAAP:** We did our first marathon festival that fall, for Albert Ayler. One show for a couple of hours is easy to miss; but this would be distinct, it was more time for people to find out about us. Who

**"We had the loudest mouths in the place. We sort of took over."**

else could have done 24 hours on Albert Ayler? There was no NPR; PBS was in its infancy. He's not even going to get a mention — "Albert Ayler died today" — on 1010 WINS. The marathon programming seemed a way of making a bigger splash. It also seemed more dignified and reverent. [At that time] there wasn't a lot of *reverence* for this remarkable addition to the American experience, and this African-American contribution to the American experience.

**CARROLL:** In 1971, I was fortunate in being chosen program director. We went to a schedule with about 40 percent each of jazz and classical. The rest was a combination of folk, blues and country, and the international music shows.

**ABDUS-SALAAM:** As the jazz department grew, musicians began to realize this would be a venue for people to hear their music. The first phone call I received was from a bassist, Reggie Workman. At the time he had just come off from playing with Coltrane for a number of years. He called me because he was working with some other musicians, I think based in Brooklyn, and he heard our jazz on the radio. He introduced himself and what he was all about, and said, "Man, I'm so glad to hear you're on the air."

**SEIBERT:** The only other station in the marketplace that was playing jazz with any regularity was WRVR, up at Riverside Church, and they only paid attention to the most mainstream musicians.

**ABDUS-SALAAM:** Because we were non-commercial, we didn't have to worry about what sponsors might say — "We don't like that music, or that's too far out." They basically left us alone.

## AN OPEN DOOR FOR THE AVANT-GARDE

**CARROLL:** We had a significant renovation of Studio A, which became the primary studio for recordings and live music broadcasts. With the improvement of the acoustics and a new mixing board, it became a very viable facility.

**SEIBERT:** One night, David Reitman invited an actual group of jazz performers to play live on his show, and nobody wanted to engineer it. I was like, "Oh, I'm in, I'll do that." The booth couldn't have been more than 12 ft. by 12 ft. And we threw in a drummer, a vibraphonist, a trumpeter, a bassist and an alto saxophone. I was in heaven. David at this point was a professional working for music magazines, and he started inviting musicians regularly to perform. That encouraged other people to invite musicians to their shows. And, very quickly, jazz musicians were floating in and out of the place.

**ABDUS-SALAAM:** Schaap was my go-to sound guy. I said, "Phil, I have all these musicians coming up and we want to do a live broadcast." The band was Moudon Peace Excursion.

**SCHAAP:** I get there and they had 26 musicians! It was insane, there wasn't a room that could have held them at the station, even without their instruments. I had to go into Furnald and



**ORNETTE COLEMAN**  
(1930–2015): alto saxophonist and composer who was the principal founder of free jazz; his approach liberated the music from conventional rules of harmony, tonality and structure



**REGGIE WORKMAN**  
(b. 1937): versatile double bassist known for his fluidity with both hard bop and avant-garde styles; recognized for his work with the John Coltrane Quartet and Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers

**CECIL TAYLOR**  
(1929–2018): classically trained pianist and free jazz pioneer; he was known for his complex, boundary-pushing improvisations and fierce, percussive playing style



start knocking on doors, asking if people had transistor radios with batteries, and could I borrow them? In the end I broke them into three separate rooms and wired them all to go live on the air. I'm still proud of it.

**SEIBERT:** We were bringing all of these what I'll loosely call either up-and-comers, or ignored musicians because they were avant-garde musicians, more free jazz stylists than the mainstream. Those are the people who were eager for attention.

**CARROLL:** They had found a lot of doors closed in their faces. Publicity at that point [was a challenge]. If you couldn't get on the radio, the options were live performance and getting your recordings into record stores. In New York you had little specialty shops down in the Village, but if you walked into Sears, you weren't going to find a lot of cutting-edge jazz recordings. The word got out that WKCR was a place your music could be heard, and where you would be treated respectfully by people who were really interested in what you were doing.

**SEIBERT:** Then the musicians themselves started telling each other. So when you called a musician and asked them to perform, they were like "OK, that's home for me. That's a place where I can belong and they will take care of me on some level. Village Vanguard won't give me a venue, Birdland won't give me a venue, but these people will."

**ABDUS-SALAAM:** We did a lot of live broadcasts in the studio, and I learned a lot from conversations with musicians. That's one of the reasons we did interviews, so people could get first-hand information. That's how we tried to grow the knowledge of this music.

**SCHAAP:** Sharif and Vernon Gibbs '74 interviewed Charles Mingus in 1972, that was a very momentous thing.

**GIBBS, HOST "BLACK MUSIC HAPPENINGS":** In high school I'd started writing about music for *Rock* magazine and other underground publications, going down to the Village and being part of that scene. On my show I would play the complete spectrum of Black music. I liked pretty straight-ahead jazz — I was more of a Herbie Hancock fan, more of a Miles Davis fan. But I was aware of Mingus's importance. And he was married to the publisher of one of the rock publications that I wrote for, so I was able to get him to agree to an interview.

**ABDUS-SALAAM:** Mingus had a reputation for being somewhat gruff. He wouldn't take no mess. So here we are, these two young kids, 18 or 19. He was a little late getting to the station and when we sat him down, he didn't want to be there. You could absolutely tell he didn't want to be bothered. We started asking questions and he gave one-word answers. After a while we put some music on and he said, "Wait a minute, is that me playing with Red Norvo?" I said, "Yes, it is." And he said, "Take that shit off, because he never paid me!"

Once again, I'm thinking about Mingus's reputation — what am I supposed to do? I took the needle off the record. Then he looked at us and said, "Hey, you kids are alright." And we did a two- or three-hour interview. We had a ball, he started telling stories. We had a wonderful session.

**GIBBS:** I don't remember him being contentious or a problem. He was polite, he answered questions directly. I remember him being a very well thought-out interview.

**"The word got out that WKCR was a place your music could be heard."**

**CHARLES MINGUS**  
(1922–79): bassist, composer and bandleader who elevated the bass to the status of a solo and melodic instrument; stylistic eclectic and hard bop pioneer known as much for the force of his personality as for his musicianship

**HERBIE HANCOCK**  
(b. 1940): ground-breaking pianist and composer; a former member of the Miles Davis Quintet, he is recognized for working in both the electronic and acoustic spheres of jazz

**RED NORVO**  
(1908–99): bandleader known as "Mr. Swing"; credited with bringing mallet instruments to jazz, including the xylophone, vibraphone and marimba

**ABDUS-SALAAM:** Art Blakey, Max Roach, Ornette Coleman — the list [of people we interviewed] goes on and on. Monster musicians. Miles Davis never made it to the station, but basically everyone else who was on the scene then came through.

## TELLING THE STORY OF JAZZ

**CARROLL:** There was a great deal of collaboration, that was one of the wonderful things. We'd throw ideas around; occasionally you'd get into a somewhat heated argument over something. It was very educational, as well as damn interesting.


**SEIBERT:** I never went to class. To this day I have not graduated — I majored in WKCR.

**ABDUS-SALAAM:** Everyone was focused toward putting out some great music on the airwaves; nobody was there for an ego trip, nobody was trying to become a radio personality. It was the right people in the right place at the right time, having the opportunity to do what we were able to do.

**GIBBS:** We were happy to be in our situation, happy to help the musicians. And we were happy to be part of the story of keeping jazz as, and recognizing it as, a form of classical music. That was our angle, and KCR helped us — everyone who played the music and loved the music that they played — to tell that story.

**SCHAAP:** On July 4, 1971, one of the listeners to the Louis Armstrong birthday broadcast was Louis Armstrong. His neighbor Selma Heraldo told me. He was bringing his stereo on a dolly out to the garden of his house in Queens. And she said, "You don't have to do all that, just put a radio up on the garden wall. They're playing your music around the clock." He turned us on and there we were.

*Interviews have been condensed and edited for clarity. Ben Ratliff '90 and Jim Gardner '70 (né James Goldman) also contributed to this story.*



**LOUIS ARMSTRONG**  
(1901–71): trumpeter, composer and vocalist, aka "Satchmo," who popularized scat and was pivotal to establishing the concept of improvised solos in jazz

### THEIR FAVORITE THINGS

WKCR music men share the jazz tunes they love:  
[college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extra/WKCR](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extra/WKCR).

**ART BLAKEY**  
(1919–90): drummer and bandleader whose thunderous style helped define hard bop; co-founder of the Jazz Messengers, an ever-changing ensemble that introduced many rising stars of jazz

**MAX ROACH**  
(1924–2007): composer and a leading drummer of the bebop era; he rewrote the rules of drumming, shifting the emphasis for keeping the pulse from the bass drum to the ride cymbal

## Riding High

Journalist Sarah Maslin Nir '08, JRN'10 investigates the lives of “horse people”

You probably recognize **Sarah Maslin Nir '08, JRN'10's** name from her byline in *The New York Times*, where she has earned a reputation as a prodigious writer. Originally a freelancer on the beauty beat, she powered her way into the *Times* by barraging the paper with query after query; she eventually became its exuberant

nightlife columnist, “Nocturnalist.” In that role, Nir attended more than 200 parties, including one Fashion Week stint where she covered 25 in five days. She then became a staff reporter and began her best-known work: “Unvarnished,” a 13-month investigation of worker exploitation in New York City’s nail salons. The series made her a Pulitzer finalist in 2016.

Now Nir has published an ambitious and highly personal debut, *Horse Crazy: The Story of a Woman and a World in Love with an Animal* (Simon & Schuster, \$28). Nir is a committed equestrian, and her memoir makes clear how much the sport has shaped her. The book won advance praise from celebs and writers like Alec Baldwin and Susan Orlean, and was singled out as one of *USA Today's* “20 Summer Books You Won’t Want to Miss.”

*Horse Crazy* is both self-exploration and survey, at once an odyssey through Nir’s own horse-obsessed life and a reporter’s look at the sometimes-zany world of horse fanatics. The child of a Holocaust survivor turned prominent psychiatrist, Yehuda Nir, and his psychologist wife, Bonnie Maslin, Nir had the toniest of Upper East Side childhoods. She attended a blue-chip school (Brearley) and summered in the Hamptons. But her cushy lifestyle wasn’t always a comfortable fit — Nir was all fidgety energy; to her older parents, immersed in high-profile careers, this was definitely a problem. They decided to solve Nir’s restlessness with horses. She writes: “Putting me on a moving horse would be the secret to getting me to sit still. ... On a horse, I could be as hyper as I itched to be but unable to skitter out of sight. ... They had no idea what their clever plan would set in motion.”



ERIN O'LEARY

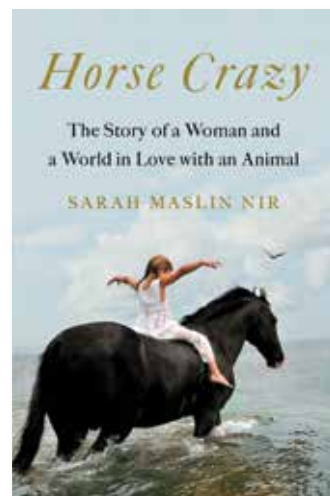
As Nir and her parents found out, horses are challenging beasts to love and ride: Pain is part of the deal. Nir's story of her first bold cantering atop a towering horse is also the story of her first fall, an accident that narrowly missed being fatal. She learns to control the animals — and excel at equestrianism; Nir trains at the prestigious Claremont Riding Academy, works in tack shops and competes in shows as a teenager. At 17, just six weeks after breaking three vertebrae in her back (and being told she could no longer ride), she is back in the saddle at the Hampton Classic, clearing jumps and finishing second in her 60-person event. "To fall off is to ride," she writes, and adds: "Perpetual pain is part of my life." A reader can't help but feel that her childhood rides were an early education in daring — preparation for the courageous journalism that has become her trademark.

As well as providing what her psychiatrist father might have approvingly called a sense of mastery, riding also gave Nir the emotional sustenance she needed as a child. In the moving chapter "Benediction," she admits that she became closer to horses because she couldn't be close to her three much-older brothers. "In the barn, I was grateful to be in the company of creatures who, unlike my family, had nowhere else to be but by my side," she writes.

Nir understands that many riders feel as deeply about horses as she does, and part of her book revolves around her fellow fans and the horses that have captivated them. She visits a crowded competition in Leesport, Pa.; details the wild-pony colony on Assateague Island, Md.; and, most movingly, sidetracks into a little-known part of American history, via the Museum of the Black Cowboy. Nir makes the point that horses are a key part of our country's ongoing story — "furls of an American flag in equid form, imbued with our narratives of national identity. They carry on their backs the tales we tell ourselves about who we are."

What's next for the adventurous Nir? After a rotation for the *Times* in West Africa, writing about terrorism in Benin, she is hoping to work as a foreign correspondent, something she tells *CCT* she was "born to do." And does she dream of owning a stable filled with horses? Her answer is mischievous: "I have a fantasy of breeding a polka-dot horse and competing among all the glossy fancy horses in the Hamptons one day," Nir writes. "Its name will be 'Outrageous!'"

— Rose Kernochan BC'82



## Chapter 1

"We're horse people!" my dad said roundly one afternoon when I was about seven years old. Back then, he smoked cigars, truly committing to the antique Viennese vision of the crusty smoke-shrouded psychiatrist. I liked it, because he would give me the thin paper rings from around them, and I would put them on my fingers as he puffed and pretend I was betrothed to some Cuban-loving knight. I sat at his feet. My thirteen-year-old brother, David, squawked his clarinet somewhere in the distant confines of our country house. "They've been in our family for generations!"

My ears pricked. Even at that age I understood and loathed that my entrée into the sport was as an outsider. Everything about me was, a way of being in the world inculcated into me by family lore, by the narratives that tethered and constricted like sinews running taut through my life.

Externally, I appeared every bit part of the life my parents had devised for me, but that never occurred to me for the long years of my youth. I felt like an interloper, a spy, in my elite private school, Brearley, where it seemed I was the only one out of the 656 girls who brought kosher lunch meat on field trips and asked in the cafeteria if the soup contained pork. I felt like an outsider even as my address was 1050 Park Avenue because my mother was born out of wedlock, illegitimate issue of an illicit rendezvous of an Irish nurse and a Jewish doctor. She was abandoned by them, given up for adoption to my grandpa and grandma. Grandpa David and Grandma Frieda, the offspring of immigrant Russian Jews, found themselves the instant parents of a green-eyed, flaxen-haired babe. Her narrative of abandonment, of being a stranger in a strange land, interlaced with my own.

But mostly it was because even in my plush life, it felt like we were still in hiding, so crisply is trauma

transmitted through generations. My father's early experience of being concealed in plain sight from the Nazis somehow felt to me that it continued on Park Avenue. I hoped our lavish address was the ultimate armor. Who could rip us from our lives again when we presided over the turret of the castle of the world?

Sometimes I woke up nights in my room in the back of the kitchen, worried the Gestapo — a word I had so often overheard while playing with plastic horses under the dining room table that to me it just meant boogeyman — had come. Other times I was afraid to explain to the blonde and barretted competitors in the short-stirrup, or kiddie, arena that I had been absent from a competition because it fell on Yom Kippur. I had muddled in my baby mind that their Aryan phenotype meant they were actual Nazis. There is a joke in my family that you can't have a meal finish without someone mentioning the Holocaust: sometimes when no one has brought it up yet and dessert is scraped clean, someone will yell "Holocaust!" and we will laugh and push out our chairs and leave the table.

Looking back, it's not very funny.

I felt like an outsider because my dad was old and didn't know the rules of baseball. He was emphatically a foreigner. When he moved to America, he arrived at his first Fourth of July party dressed in a tuxedo because he had assumed that the celebration of the birth of the nation was an occasion that called for formal wear. And where American dads watched baseball, my father's spectator sport was opera.

Second only to his love of Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, and Georges Bizet was his love of bragging about how little he paid for a seat to hear opera. He'd go solo to Lincoln Center most weeknights in New York's winter. There, he'd hang out by the dancing fountain at the center of the plaza and try to spot the love-lorn — those who'd been stood up by opera dates and had a ticket to sell. He would approach them only minutes before the curtain rose. The seller would suggest \$100; my father would hold up a crumpled \$20. A few moments later, Dad would usually be snug (and smug) in the front-row velvet by the time the orchestra raised their quivering bows.

My father's favorite aria is from Verdi's *Aida*: "*Ritorna Vincitor*." Return of the victor. Dad viewed his successful life as a magnificent victory lap, but I viewed it as tenuous. The success my parents had both amassed, despite their brutal beginnings, was not truly ours, I felt. It all seemed contingent, ephemeral, and liable to vanish. Just like my father's bourgeoisie life had when the Nazis invaded and murdered my grandpa. Just like my mother's biological parents had themselves vanished. How could I possibly belong to my family's new life?

I think about why I chose horses to devote my life to, and I think of the soft muzzles and limpid eyes and thrumming heartbeats that so draw me to these animals. But trained by my Freudian father, I can't help but think harder and unpack all of what equestrian sport

represents in my society. It is the sport of kings and Kennedys, a pursuit dripping with elitism and Americana. As the progeny of immigrants, of people who did not belong to this land, I was claiming rights to the leisure of the Other. "Ralph Lauren was born a Jewish boychick from the Bronx named Ralphie Lifshitz!" my dad would tell anyone who would listen, and indeed it is true. Ralph understood my need to take cover, to escape the *shtetl*, or Jewish ghetto, for the safety of the *ubermensch*, to camouflage in their cashmere and jodhpurs.

So when Dad casually tossed out the fact that our family were horse people that summer day, my heart leaped. Dad had a string of catchwords and phrases he used ad infinitum, both in conversation and in his practice where he treated both Upper East Side elites and Jews from my city's own shtetls: Crown Heights, Borough Park, and Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Because he was a polyglot, he was sought after by the city's ultraorthodox, the Hasidic Jews who live in those insular enclaves where Yiddish is the vernacular, to treat them in the languages they spoke. He saw them largely for free, palming the poorest of them subway fare to flee their ghettos of Brooklyn for his office down the street from our apartment at 903 Park Avenue. Under their head-coverings, fur *shtreimels* for the men and *sheitels*, wigs worn for modesty to hide women's own hair, was strife — just like any other New Yorker. Often it was underscored and exacerbated by the repression demanded by extreme religious observance.

For them, Dad offered his favorite diagnoses-by-catchphrase. One was "A sense of mastery." What we were all looking for, Dad said, was the feeling that we achieve only by mastering something, and he exhorted his patients and me to take full command of our lives. Those endemically human feelings of being lost, rudderless, unmoored, Dad believed, are the result of not giving oneself permission to seek out mastery. Fully living was not just making one's place in the world, he said, but mastering it.

"Belonging and not belonging" was another favorite — a paradox that he believed was the root of so many of his patients' suffering. For the largely impoverished Hasids, belonging and not belonging was the struggle of remaining pious anachronisms in a modernizing society. In his own daughter, belonging and not belonging was inescapable as well. It was why my mother had torn up the wiring on the grandiose toe buzzer beneath the dining room table in the Park Avenue apartment. She was *in* the apartment but not *of* it, her actions insisted.

I experienced it as an essential tremor of unworthiness, an electric current that pulsed one word like neon behind my eyes: *outsider*.

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From the book *HORSE CRAZY: The Story of a Woman and a World in Love with an Animal* by Sarah Maslin Nir. Copyright © 2020 by Sarah Maslin Nir. Reprinted by permission of Simon & Schuster, Inc.



## A POSTCARD FROM THE PAST

Take a stroll back in time with this vintage illustration of campus from 1915. As part of West 116th Street, College Walk was still an active route for vehicles (it was rezoned as a pedestrian walkway in 1953), and Dodge Hall and Miller Theatre were not yet built. The Superintendent's House, a remnant of the campus's former life as the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum (before Columbia moved to Morningside Heights in 1897) is visible in front of Lewisohn. The house was torn down in 1922 to make way for Dodge.

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# Creating Community as a Light in Dark Times

By Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94

To quote the popular band R.E.M., "It's the end of the world as we know it and I feel fine!"

But do I feel fine? And if not, what can I do?

More importantly, what can we do together, as Columbia College alumni? College lasts only four years, but on average we are alums for more than 60.

I embrace my new role as president of the Columbia College Alumni Association. As this is my first column in *CCT*, let me introduce myself. I graduated with the great Class of 1991. I blame one too many good times with my classmates for my decision to stay another three years on campus at the Law School. I have been on the CCAA Board of Directors for more than 10 years, focusing on alumni engagement and fundraising.

In times of turmoil we all feel a renewed urgency to promote the ideals of fairness, opportunity and freedom of expression that underpin the University's mission.

As you know, the College offers one of the most inclusive undergraduate experiences in one of the most diverse cities in the world. Last year 50 percent of Columbia undergraduates received need-based financial aid, at a total of \$174 million. Eighteen percent of Columbia students are the first generation in their families to go to college and more than 50 percent of Columbia students self-identify as persons of color. As alumni, we can contribute to their and all students' experiences through greater engagement with student life and mentoring.

The pandemic has shifted our mindset to a more community-centric one. Each of us is more aware of the greater good, even through the simple gesture of wearing a mask. You can see it daily on sidewalks around the world, and definitely here in New York City. In my CCAA

role, I aim to tap into ongoing technological advances, like better digital venues for remote programming, as well as the diverse talents and perspectives of our alumni, to strengthen the College community.

While many of us continue to hunker down in semi-isolation, we try to grapple with questions of injustice in any way we can. We take advantage of new forms of gathering online and the benefits of not commuting, which frees up time. Some of us are suffering loss. Uprooted from our regular routines, we reevaluate what's important, as time itself presents differently. Did Labor Day just happen, or was it Memorial Day? Imagine being a first-year who jumped from virtual high school graduation to virtual Convocation, Orientation and classes!

In conclusion, I think back to Lit Hum, one of our shared academic experiences. I could quote the lofty Thucydides, Heraclitus or Boccaccio, but instead I turn to the grittier French existentialist Albert Camus. His words on solidarity from his timely novel, *The Plague*, strike a chord: "No longer were there individual destinies; only a collective destiny, made of plague and emotions shared by all." Today we too inhabit a time of upheaval and pronounced interconnectedness. We continue to see the College as a source of light in what is now a darkened world. I can't think of a better time for the CCAA community to reengage more fully and give back. And while we do, let's not stop roaring!



P.S. I welcome your feedback: [tedschweitzer100@gmail.com](mailto:tedschweitzer100@gmail.com). Please stay safe.



COURTESY TED SCHWEITZER '91, LAW'94

## A CCAA Conversation with Khadijah Sharif-Drinkard '93

In June, I sat down with Khadijah Sharif-Drinkard '93, an entertainment attorney for ViacomCBS (BET Networks) who often uses her platform to advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion. Khadijah is also an active leader with the CCAA and president of Columbia College Women; her enthusiasm for CC always inspires me. Given the race and social justice issues that currently command our attention, I invited her to have a conversation about these ideas through the perspective of New York City, the College and the Core.

**Tell us a little about yourself, both growing up and now. I understand you had connections to Columbia early on.**

I grew up just 10 blocks from Columbia, in the Manhattanville Housing Projects. I spent a lot of time on campus with my mom, who would bring my siblings and me — there were six of us — to sit on South Lawn and take in a college setting, and then later in high school at the Double Discovery Center. Today I lead a bicoastal team of attorneys and legal professionals who are charged with acquiring and protecting the intellectual property for ViacomCBS. I am

grateful for the experience I had as a Columbia student because it prepared me for a world in which I would have to negotiate a number of identities that were ascribed to me as I climbed the ladder to success.

### How did the Core Curriculum prepare you to think critically about race and identity?

I had professors who allowed and sometimes encouraged me to explore ideas from Black authors in the context of Core assignments. For example, I juxtaposed Plato's *Republic* against Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideas of justice and character of the city-state in his fight for civil rights.

Through the Core I sought to understand the history and experiences of people whose journeys differed from my own, both when studying the texts and in real life with my classmates. It was through the Core that I developed my listening and debating skills. I learned that many of the issues that Black activists raised were not unlike the issues that were raised in the texts written by white males that we were studying. The rights that Greek philosophers espoused are the same rights that we continue to fight for as Black people in this country. I also understood that many civil rights leaders were well versed in the texts that we read, so if I was going to be a critical thinker and offer something constructive in the realm of race and identity, I too needed to understand the Core.

### Columbia has frequently convened with thought leaders around issues of race and justice — for example, through the Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights, which has the motto “living the Core and advancing justice.” In this climate of tense racial relations, do you see any pitfalls we must avoid as a community that welcomes all voices?

In order for us to “live the Core,” it has to be representative of our diverse experiences because we cannot live that which we cannot see. So, while we aspire to advance justice through our scholarship, actions and debate, there have to be respectful rules of engagement, which entail the civility we are all entitled to when exchanging ideas. I encourage us to lead and speak with empathy. I am a fierce advocate of free speech, but with the freedom to speak is the burden of responsibility for what that speech will do to and for others. Civil debate can be encouraged through exemplifying the best ideals of civil discourse; by showing students, faculty and alumni that we can work together for the greater good of humanity despite our differences.

### How can alumni engage in making a society that's more just, and more equitable?

I believe that it is our duty as alumni leaders to have the difficult conversations in our circles. As president of CCW, I led a board discussion right after the death of George Floyd so that we could all express how we were feeling. I did not want to shy away from this difficult and painful conversation. I wanted to lean into it and have my fellow board members understand how painful it was for me to watch a Black man be murdered in such a cavalier way. And I asked everyone who participated in the discussion to care for one another as we all struggle to understand what this social construct of race has done to our human family.

I also wanted us to acknowledge that there are subtle forms of bias that are at work in our everyday lives. Systemic racism exists in



every academy and industry; we have to name it when we see it and be more intentional in order to fight against maintaining the status quo. As graduates of this great institution, we all have a responsibility to fight for a more equitable and just society. We should be doing it on campus, as we share our wisdom and experiences with current students. And we should be doing it in the larger society by making the changes we know need to be made if we are going to collectively win.

### For alumni who wish to do more in this arena through the CCAA, what do you recommend?

Alumni should reach out to the CCAA ([ccalumni@columbia.edu](mailto:ccalumni@columbia.edu)) to learn how they can become part of the anti-racism work that we are committed to doing. We all have an important role to play as alumni, and one of the key areas is as mentors through the Odyssey Mentoring Program. Imagine if all of our almost 52,000 alumni used their influence and power to help students chart their course; there would be nothing that we could not accomplish together. Although we are still in the midst of a pandemic, there are a number of virtual events that we can participate in with students and fellow alumni like book clubs, panels, “lunch and learns,” and welcome events for new students.

### Speaking of mentoring, can you share any advice you would give your two daughters as they navigate growing up in these times?

I want them to know that this is a journey and that there will be pivots and pitfalls along the way — but that is often where we find the greatest lessons and opportunities. Failure is the precursor to any true success.



LILLIAN HUTTON

## Keeping New Yorkers Safe in a Crisis

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By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

**A**s deputy commissioner of the New York State Office of Public Health, **Brad Hutton '92** has seen a lot during his 26-year career. From Superstorm Sandy to measles, vaping to H1N1, Hutton's department has developed strategies to contain and treat public health threats and keep residents safe and informed. As coronavirus spread across New York in March and April, the state faced its biggest health crisis in a century, but Hutton and his team were ready to fight: "I feel like I've prepared my entire career for this moment," he says.

In the early days of the outbreak, when much about the virus remained unknown, Hutton and his staff, who are based in Albany,

put in long nights and weekends working on research and messaging. He notes that the Wadsworth Center, New York State's world-renowned public health lab, developed its own antibody test and diagnostic tests early in the outbreak, while the Office of Public Health's contact tracing initiative worked to identify and contain new clusters of COVID-19 across the state.

For Hutton, the response has been a testament to the importance of trusting in the scientific community. "We're guided by science," he says. "As each day and week elapsed and we learned new things about this virus — how it was transmitted and what we know about immunity — we continued to make policy decisions based on the

science. And that's how we always are, whether it was Zika or Ebola. It's not new for us in public health to have an emerging pathogen; this one just happens to be affecting the entire world."

Hutton notes that New York State poses unique public health challenges, as it is home to the densely populated New York City, extremely rural upstate communities and everything in between. "We can't use a cookie-cutter approach," he says. "We're always having to fully understand the population impacted by a public health problem and develop an appropriate intervention or solution." With that in mind, Hutton's office is currently focusing on preventing the state from reverting to where it was in the early days of the pandemic, when New York City and Westchester County were the epicenter of the outbreak. His team is creating travel advisories and quarantine guidelines for people coming into New York from other states, and building contingency plans for school reopenings to ensure the risk of outbreaks is reduced. Hutton's team is also preparing deployment plans to implement large-scale vaccinations as soon as a viable one becomes available.

Hutton acknowledges that "pandemic fatigue" is a major concern as the outbreak continues. "Mask use, good hand hygiene, staying home when you're sick, social distancing — these are really simple things. When we see mass gatherings and parties, even in some parts of New York State, it is upsetting."

Hutton had a passion for health from a young age, and was recruited by Columbia to play football as an offensive lineman. (He fondly recalls the team breaking its 44-game losing streak in his

first year, and the student body carrying the goalposts down Broadway in celebration.) He was on the pre-med track, but when he didn't get into medical school, he researched other options and fell in love with the field of public health. Hutton earned an M.P.H. from SUNY Albany in 1994, and started work at the New York State Office of Public Health. He initially worked in cancer control, investigating clusters of breast, cervical and colorectal cancers, then moved to researching infectious diseases. He has been in his role as deputy commissioner for four years. "One of the great things about the job is the variety," he says. "I have not had a dull day."

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, the Office of Public Health had several major wins under Hutton's leadership. In June 2019, after a statewide measles outbreak was traced to clusters of non-vaccinated students, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo signed a bill that ended religious exemptions for vaccines. Concerned about the effects of vaping and its target demographic of younger users, the Office of Public Health also pushed for a ban of flavored vaping products. Signed into law by Cuomo in April, the ban took effect on July 1. "New York State is incredibly progressive when it comes to public health," Hutton says. "It's a dream state to work in."

Hutton notes that while his team prepares for vaccine deployment, Americans should focus on self-care and stress reduction, and adhere to safety recommendations like mask-wearing and social distancing. "There are local, state and federal health departments that prepare for this," he says. "There's a lot of expertise to rely upon — listen to and heed the advice of that expertise."

## Anthony "Ace" Patterson '11 Makes Music on His Own Terms

By Nathalie Alonso '08

In February, just weeks before coronavirus shut down the country, rap artist **Anthony "Ace" Patterson '11** released an EP that was, coincidentally, titled *Working From Home*. The collection, which speaks to Patterson's experience juggling corporate and musical careers — he also has a full-time job with YouTube — surpassed one million streams on Spotify.

In late June, the nationwide protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement inspired Patterson to release *Working From Home Extended* — five songs that explore themes of survival amidst a global pandemic, racial injustice and social unrest. He donated the proceeds from pre-sales to Faith in Action's Live Free campaign, which works to prevent gun violence and mass incarceration.

Patterson began writing lyrics when he was a middle-school student in Bridgeport, Conn., where, at one point in his childhood, he lived in a shelter. In 2016, he founded his own music label, Light Armor Music. Three years later, under the alias Call Me Ace, he released his first album, *Airplane Mode*. It debuted at number 3 on the iTunes Top 40 US Hip-Hop Album Chart and at number 50 on the Billboard Top R&B/Hip-Hop Album Sales Chart.

Patterson describes his music as "uplifting," while pointing out that "it's definitely not bubblegum; it's real-life stuff."

"I understand what it means to come from nothing and have to overcome adversity," he adds. "It's a consistent theme in my music."

Patterson attributes his love of music to his mother, a Jamaican immigrant who would have him and his siblings perform songs by Boyz II Men, Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson. He cites hip-hop legends Snoop Dogg, DMX, Busta Rhymes, Ludacris and Young Jeezy among his musical influences.

"There's a lot regarding cadence, rhyme schemes, confidence and authentic storytelling that I took away from them," says Patterson.

As a College senior, Patterson opened for Snoop Dog at Bacchanal's Spring Concert. The Columbia University Society of Hip-Hop, which Patterson co-founded in 2009 with Mpho Brown '12 and Jon Tanners '11, beat seven other musical acts to land the coveted gig.

"I never felt like I couldn't perform in front of 26,000 people, but knowing that I did, it's like, 'Cool, I know I can do that,'" says Patterson.

By the time he took the stage on Low Plaza, however, Patterson was at a crossroads. He found himself at odds with the themes of



RENEE LOPEZ

hip-hop, which he notes often include drug use and chasing money and women. “I didn’t want to rap anymore,” Patterson says. “I didn’t necessarily like or connect to the things I was rapping about.”

After graduation, Patterson quit music for about four years. He was pursuing an M.B.A. at UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business when a childhood friend convinced him to pick up a microphone again. In his final semester, he and a classmate recorded a parody song dedicated to the school, titled “YOHO (You Only Haas Once),” that was well received by his fellow students.

“That’s what made me say, ‘Oh wow, maybe there is a unique lane for me in the music business,’” says Patterson.

Patterson lives with his wife in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he previously worked at Facebook and is now a global program manager with YouTube’s creative and development team. In that role, he designs and oversees initiatives that help creators and artists scale and monetize their work. All the while, he’s constantly looking to use the knowledge he’s gained in the corporate world to broaden his own audience.

“The way I see it, I’m just getting started,” he says.

## CCT Print Extras

Watch the music video for “Still Dark Tho,” from *Working From Home Extended*: [college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct).

**Nathalie Alonso '08**, from Queens, is a freelance writer and an editorial producer for *LasMayores.com*, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish-language website.

# This CEO Gives “Evil” a Good Name

By Rebecca Beyer

In 2019, global revenue in esports — the catch-all name for an industry built around competitive video gaming — topped \$1 billion, with more than 440 million people tuning in to events streamed live around the world. That’s a bigger audience than pro football and rugby combined, and growing fast thanks to fans looking for alternatives in the COVID-curtailed world of traditional live sports.

In May of that year, **Nicole LaPointe Jameson '16** became the first African-American woman to lead a major esports organization, taking over as CEO of Evil Geniuses. She had her work cut out for her: Founded in 1999, the company — essentially a group of players and teams who compete in different video games under the Evil Geniuses moniker — was considered “storied, but fading” according to *Forbes*, which named LaPointe Jameson to its “30 Under 30 - Games 2020” list. LaPointe Jameson, whose background was in management of distressed assets, knew she had to make a major move, fast. She set her sights on fielding a team for the massively popular League of Legends game — a multi-player fictional arena in which “champions” with unique abilities battle other players — both to diversify Evil Geniuses’s fan base and expand revenue potential.

She gave herself two years to accomplish the goal; she only needed four months. Last fall, Evil Geniuses landed a spot in the

League of Legends lineup from developer Riot Games, outbidding traditional sports owners and media conglomerates, and reportedly paying more than \$30 million for the privilege.

LaPointe Jameson counts the successful bid among her proudest accomplishments at Evil Geniuses. About eight million people log in daily to League of Legends; Evil Geniuses finished third out of 10 teams in the spring 2020 playoffs.

LaPointe Jameson has never waited long to make her mark. She received a job offer from the investment firm PEAK6 during the summer of her junior year at the College. Once on board, she helped turn around companies in fields ranging from online dating to insurance before setting her sights on Evil Geniuses as a “diamond in the rough.” She was hoping for a seat on the organization’s board. Instead, after months of due diligence preceding PEAK6’s purchase, she was named CEO. She was 25.

“A lot of my first two months was listening,” she says.

She also worked such long hours that she kept a sleeping bag at the office.

“There was a solid six to seven months where I did nothing but work,” she says, laughing. “It was the furthest thing from being easy and enjoyable. If I didn’t love where I thought we could be, I wouldn’t have done it.”



RIOT GAMES

At the College, LaPointe Jameson was drawn to numbers, studying statistics, quantitative research and applied data mining. She chose Columbia in part because of the Core Curriculum; one of her favorite classes was a Core course in the ethnography of Caribbean and Afro-Latin music with Professor Chris Washburne GSAS'99. For her final project, she gathered empirical data on the impact of prison music programs.

"It was so memorable," she says. "I appreciated that I was given the freedom to take the course in my own direction."

She's taken Evil Geniuses in her own direction, too.

Since she arrived, LaPointe Jameson has rebuilt the Seattle-based organization from a group of less than 20 men into a team of nearly 80 people, including a new office in Los Angeles that opened in late 2019 (two other Columbians have leadership roles: Brian Millman BUS'14 is director of corporate partnerships and Saira Mueller JRN'15 is director of marketing).

The esports industry has recently had to confront accusations of sexism and discrimination; LaPointe Jameson has increased efforts to recruit more diverse players and staff. Evil Geniuses already had Ricki "HelloKittyRicki" Ortiz, a transgender Street Fighter player; in March, LaPointe Jameson signed Dominique "SonicFox" McLean, the highest-earning fighting game community player of all time, who identifies as non-binary. She also instituted a culture of support that includes parental leave and a player wellness program, and in June, Evil Geniuses launched the podcast LiveProud to discuss social issues (the first episode was devoted to Black Lives Matter).

"We make the market we want to exist in," LaPointe Jameson says. "People know that if you are the best of the best, you will have a home at Evil Geniuses, regardless of your race, creed or religion."

As a young Black woman in a male-dominated field, LaPointe Jameson knows what it's like to be overlooked.

"I've continually put myself in spaces where I'm not the expected individual," she says. "At the end of the day, I try to surround myself with people who know it's about the work output: Do you win?"

**Rebecca Beyer** is a freelance writer and editor in Boston.

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## A Renovated “Brownstone Bible”

By Jill C. Shomer

When you think of a beautiful New York City neighborhood, do you picture a leafy street studded with brownstones? Featured in countless films, shelter magazines and real estate pages, row houses in communities such as Harlem, the Upper West Side, Greenwich Village, Park Slope and Bed-Stuy have been admired for almost two centuries.

If you can't stroll these streets yourself, a sumptuous volume makes for a lovely escapist fantasy. The third edition of *Bricks & Brownstone: The New York Row House* (Rizzoli, \$85), known to its legion of fans as “The Brownstone Bible,” has recently been updated by **Patrick W. Ciccone '03, GSAPP'08**, a historic preservationist and real estate development advisor.

Ciccone had big shoes to fill: The seminal first edition, published in 1972 by architectural historian Charles Lockwood when he was just 24, helped to renew interest in the 19th-century row houses that now define the landscape in historic New York City neighborhoods. Rizzoli published an expanded edition in 2003. Ciccone, along with preservationist Jonathan D. Taylor GSAPP'13 and photographer Dylan Chandler, has modernized the latest edition with revised text, reconfigured chapters and specially commissioned color photography and design.



Ciccone met Lockwood in 2006 during his first semester at the Architecture School, when Lockwood was looking to hire a student with editing experience. Ciccone had majored in comparative literature at the College, but had always been interested in architecture (he is a native of Charlottesville, Va., known for its Jeffersonian buildings). “When I came to Columbia, I had an *ALA* [American Institute of Architects] *Guide to New York City* and I would bike around all over the city to look at buildings and neighborhoods,” he says.

In 2008, Ciccone and Lockwood made plans to work together on a new edition of *Bricks & Brownstone*, but the recession hit and the plans were shelved. Ciccone worked for a year on Lockwood and his brother John Lockwood's book *The Siege of Washington: The Untold Story of the Twelve Days That Shook the Union* (2011), then reconsidered the *Bricks & Brownstone* update. But by that time Lockwood was too ill to proceed, and he passed the mantle to his colleague.

Lockwood died in 2012. “Charles wanted the book to live on, and was generous enough to allow me to take over and shape it as I saw fit,” Ciccone says.

As a preservationist, Ciccone was excited to take on the massive project. “My interest in architecture has been how buildings come together to form cityscapes, and row houses are a great example of that,” he says. “I think that ‘average’ buildings — brownstones, apartment buildings, tenements — form cities in a way that ‘great’ buildings often don’t.”

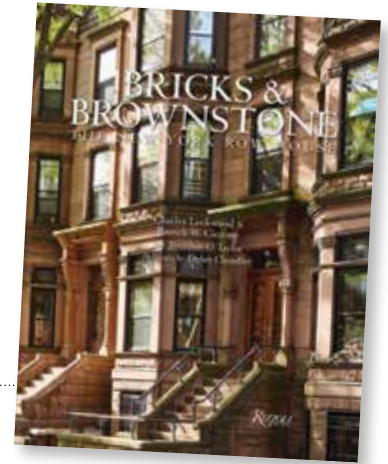
*Bricks & Brownstone* needed to evolve, because the brownstones themselves have. In the 19th century, brownstones housed single families; when they fell out of favor for high-rise apartment buildings, they were easily divided up into apartments. But in the past few decades, the pendulum has swung again in the other direction, with many brownstones housing higher-income single families. “In being so simple, row houses have proven to be very adaptable,” Ciccone says.

A major change from the earlier editions is the photography. The 2003 edition included some new color photos as an insert; after Ciccone started working with photographer Chandler, they realized they had to re-shoot everything. “I scouted most of the locations on my bike over a couple of years, in historic districts in Manhattan and Brooklyn,” he says. “Then I let Dylan loose with notes and addresses.” Getting shots of houses without cars in front was a significant challenge, with only a narrow window of time that Chandler could shoot them — especially the wide shots — successfully. “In a way, the whole book is an essay about compliance with alternate-side parking,” Ciccone laughs.

“I want readers to be forced to see the city only as houses — without other types of buildings, so slightly abstracted,” he says. “I want people to be shocked by how beautiful and amazingly diverse row house streetscapes are.”

But for Ciccone, the main challenge of *Bricks & Brownstone* was creating something that would both honor Lockwood's memory and satisfy loyal fans of the earlier editions. “The book has such a giant reputation that it was almost frightening,” he says.

“In some ways, this has been like the ultimate preservation project,” Ciccone muses. “You have an existing classic with great bones, but it's in need of work and revamping. It's really a work of historic preservation in book form.”



### CCT Print Extras

Check out a selection of *Bricks & Brownstone's* stunning photos at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).



**Tale of an Unlikely Pediatrician** by Dr. Paul Winick '59. Winick describes his ambivalent struggle through medical school and the ultimate joy and success he found as a pediatrician (AuthorHouse, \$20.99).

**Between the Lines: My Stories as a Conductor and Tennis Umpire** by Stanley Sperber '63. Sperber combined his passions for classical music and tennis into an unusual dual career (Independently published, \$11.99).

**Complex Systems in Medicine: A Hedgehog's Tale of Complexity in Clinical Practice, Research, Education, and Management** by Dr. David Aron '71. How knowledge of complex systems in clinical medicine can help physicians and health care providers (Springer, \$59.99).

**Poverty and Welfare in America: Examining the Facts** by David Wagner '72. Wagner's book aims to clarify some of the most contentious and misunderstood aspects of

American poverty and social welfare programs (ABC-CLIO, \$65).

**Inside the Empire: The True Power Behind the New York Yankees** by Bob Klapisch '79 and Paul Solotaroff. The authors take a deep dive into the Yankees's clubhouse, dugout and front office (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$28).

**Between Lakes** by Jeffrey Harrison '80. Following the death of his father, Harrison, the author of six books of poetry, explores the spaces between the living and the dead, and the ways that time can shape lives and alter relationships (Four Way Books, \$16.95).

**George Harrison on George Harrison: Interviews and Encounters** edited by Ashley Kahn '83. Though known as "the quiet Beatle," this anthology of Harrison's words and ideas suggests he was the most thoughtful and outspoken of the Fab Four (Chicago Review Press, \$30).

**City at the Edge of Forever: Los Angeles Reimagined** by Peter Lunenfeld '84. How Los Angeles began the 20th century as a dusty frontier town and transformed into a supercity with unparalleled cultural, economic and technological reach (Viking, \$28).

**Hollywood Double Agent: The True Story of Boris Morros, Film Producer Turned Cold War Spy** by Jonathan Gill '86. Gill, a profes-

sor of American history and culture at the University of Amsterdam, reveals that the Academy Award-nominated Morros, a major figure in the 1930s and '40s, also worked for Russian intelligence (Abrams, \$27).

**Beyond Contempt: How Liberals Can Communicate Across the Great Divide** by Erica Etelson '89. The author provides detailed instructions and examples that explain how to communicate respectfully, passionately and effectively with people who have differing political views (New Society Publishers, \$18.99).

**The Spinster Diaries: A Novel** by Gina Fattore '90. In this chick-lit satire, an anxious, self-described spinster finds inspiration from an 18th-century novelist and diarist (Prospect Park Books, \$16).

**American Harvest: God, Country, and Farming in the Heartland** by Marie Mutsuki Mockett '92. Mockett accompanies a group of evangelical Christian wheat harvesters through the Nebraska panhandle and contemplates the politics of food and the culture of the Great Plains (Graywolf Press, \$28).

**The Golden Prison** by Paul Alexander Sangillo '93. In this legal mystery, an eager young attorney discovers that his new boss may be involved in a murderous scheme (Red Sky Presents, \$14.95).

**A Planet of 3 Billion: Mapping Humanity's Long History of Ecological Destruction and Finding Our Way to a Resilient Future: A Global Citizen's Guide to Saving the Planet** by Christopher Tucker '94. Tucker makes the case that Earth's carrying capacity is limited to three billion humans, and that cataclysm awaits if we don't pay down our "ecological debt" (Atlas Observatory Press, \$29.99).

**Ms. Marvel's America: No Normal** edited by Hussein Rashid '96 and Jessica Baldanzi. A group of scholars discuss the significance of Kamala Khan, the first Muslim superhero, known as Ms. Marvel (University Press of Mississippi, \$30).

**Threat of Dissent: A History of Ideological Exclusion and Deportation in the United States** by Julia Rose Kraut '03. Kraut, a lawyer and historian, provides a comprehensive overview of the intersection of immigration law and the First Amendment (Harvard University Press, \$35).

**Modernism on the Nile: Art in Egypt between the Islamic and the Contemporary** by Alex Diga Seggerman '05. The author analyzes the modernist art movement that arose in Cairo and Alexandria from the late 19th century through the 1960s (University of North Carolina Press, \$34.95).

— Jill C. Shomer

## SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

[college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_bookshelf](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf)

# classnotes



SCOTT RUDD

Thinking of a time  
when we can  
be together on  
campus again.

## 1940s

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

Wishing the members of the classes from the 1940s, and your loved ones, good health during these uncertain times. If you would like to share news in the Winter 2020–21 issue, please send us an email at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu).

## 1950

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

No news for this issue. Classmates would enjoy hearing from you!

Please send us an email at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu). Stay safe, and be well.

## 1951

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

**David Kettler** GSAS'60 writes:  
“I write two weeks after my 90th birthday, which we had to celebrate with no more than a Zoom presence of our three daughters. Hannah has a Ph.D. in industrial economics and is a director of vaccine financing; Katherine has an M.S. in social work and a J.D. and is director of legal investigations at Intel; and Ruth Finkelstein, my oldest, has an Sc.D. and is executive director at CUNY Hunter’s Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging.

I am more proud of the work they do than of the titles they bear.

“Last summer, on my 89th birthday, I published a lengthy study of Franz L. Neumann, the political theorist who’d been my principal Columbia teacher in graduate school; this year, I am publishing a collection of translations dealing with the theme ‘first letters from exile,’ finishing a group project I initiated some years ago.

“As I assess my strengths and weaknesses at this point of my life, I surmise that these are my last academic studies. It has been a rewarding journeyman career. Columbia be thanked. And my wife, Janet, above all.”

Classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too. Please send us an email at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu). We wish

you good health during these challenging times.

## 1952

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

**Bob Reiss** got in touch: “I was a starter on the 1950–51 basketball team, which is in the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame; am a past president of the Varsity C Club; am the recipient of the 1971 Athletics alumni award; have been a guest speaker at the Business School for 24 straight years; and am a founder of 16 companies.

“I’m working on a marketing test that revolves around giving away thousands of digital copies of my book *Bootstrapping 101: Tips to Build Your Business with Limited Cash and Free Outside Help*. It is for anyone who can benefit from it, entrepreneurs or wannabes. Here is a link to a piece by a professional reviewer, someone whom I think read the book carefully: [bootstrapping101.com/professional-review-of-bootstrapping-101](http://bootstrapping101.com/professional-review-of-bootstrapping-101).

“To download a free copy, go to [bootstrapping101.com/author](http://bootstrapping101.com/author). The lower part of the page has a picture of the book and a sentence in red: “Download a complementary copy of *Bootstrapping 101*.” Click either the picture of the book or the red words and you will be taken to a page that asks for your email address, to which we will quickly send the download. Easy. The people you are directing to this book and who read it will thank you.

“Here is a link to an article on me in the Harvard Business School *Alumni Bulletin*: [bootstrapping101.com/trivial-matter](http://bootstrapping101.com/trivial-matter).”

We also heard from **Carl Meier** PS’56: “As you can all imagine, with COVID-19 added to my age of 89,

my life has been a little quieter. Crossword puzzles and 1,000-piece puzzles have replaced Bridge, picking up meals at the dining facilities has replaced Pickleball, and going for car rides has replaced attending concerts and movies. Our life care community of 2,500 has been generally spared the coronavirus, with only seven positives since March (as of early July). We are indeed fortunate.

“Our lecture series and concerts are presented on either our own TV channels or on Zoom. We miss traveling and in particular seeing our seven children and 13 grandchildren, but fortunately have weekly Zooms, which bring us a great picture of them all. We got started a little late on kids but have three of the seven lining up for retirement. Who would have believed in June 1952 that we would be in our 90s and have children retiring? We were blessed with good health and an excellent education at Columbia that prods me to continue exploring the history of the United States and white racism. I wish all continued good health.”

Please send *CCT* your news, too! Classmates would enjoy hearing from you. Please send us an email at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu). Be well.

## 1953

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

In case you missed it, the Summer 2020 issue of *CCT* was online-only. Type “college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/summer20/article/class-notes” in your search bar, and then type “1953” in the open box, and you will see an update from **Larry Harte**.

Please be well and take a moment to send your news to us via email at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu).

## 1954

**Bernd Brecher**  
[brecherservices@aol.com](mailto:brecherservices@aol.com)

This year started so innocently. Obviously, I knew *nothing*. So this will be remembered as the Year of Coronavirus, while we hope that 2021 will be able to stay clear of that moniker.

Now, an info alert to all ’54 classmates, particularly those even less techie than I. If, despite several

### COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

<b>BC</b>	Barnard College
<b>BUS</b>	Columbia Business School
<b>CP</b>	Pharmaceutical Sciences
<b>DM</b>	College of Dental Medicine
<b>GS</b>	School of General Studies
<b>GSAPP</b>	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
<b>GSAS</b>	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
<b>HN</b>	Institute of Human Nutrition
<b>JRN</b>	Graduate School of Journalism
<b>JTS</b>	Jewish Theological Seminary
<b>LAW</b>	Columbia Law School
<b>LS</b>	Library Service
<b>NRS</b>	School of Nursing
<b>PH</b>	Mailman School of Public Health
<b>PS</b>	College of Physicians and Surgeons
<b>SEAS</b>	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
<b>SIPA</b>	School of International and Public Affairs
<b>SOA</b>	School of the Arts
<b>SPS</b>	School of Professional Studies
<b>SW</b>	School of Social Work
<b>TC</b>	Teachers College
<b>UTS</b>	Union Theological Seminary

previous alerts, you are still waiting for the Summer 2020 issue of *CCT* to reach your mailbox, listen up: That issue, because of COVID-19 budget cuts, was digital only, so here is what you do: Type “college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/summer20/article/class-notes” in your search bar, and then type “1954” in the open box, and *voilà!* you’re in. Email me at [brecherservices@aol.com](mailto:brecherservices@aol.com) if you have any questions.

So-o-o-o-o-o, welcome back Class of Destiny and let us all begin to plod forward to our 70th anniversary reunion, which might be held on the moon if not some more mundane place here on Mother Earth. A lot will depend on the wit, whims and wisdom of our Reunion Committee, so please start to volunteer now. Any ideas? True, those of us left will all be over 90. So?

“Weinstein Judge Blocks a Payout, Calls \$12 Million in Legal Fees ‘Obnoxious’” broadcasted the headline over the second lead above the page 1 fold of *The New York Times* on July 15. Our class’s judge, Hon. **Alvin K. Hellerstein** LAW’56 of the Southern District of New York, once again ruled in his inimitable way in a singular case that had attracted wide attention. “Expressing deep skepticism,” the *Times* reported, “a federal judge ... upended

a \$25 million proposed civil settlement between Harvey Weinstein, his former film company, and dozens of women who have accused him of sexual harassment and abuse.

“In a scathing 18-minute phone hearing,” the paper continued, “Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein of the Southern District of New York picked apart the class-action law suit at the heart of the deal, suggesting it was misconceived.” He suggested that the women might pursue individual cases, discussed how much their allegations varied in severity, and questioned whether the group met the definition of a legal class. By the end of the call Judge Alvin denied a motion for preliminary approval of the agreement, in essence scuttling it.

Gentlemen, stay tuned. There is much more here that we will try to bring up to date in the Winter 2020–21 issue; or, even better, don’t wait; try googling on your own.

Breaking News: As this column went to press, Judge Alvin did it again with a top of the page 1 fold, second lead headline in the *Times*: “Cohen Is Target of Retaliation, A Judge Rules.” From the article: “... I make the finding that the purpose of transferring Mr. Cohen from furlough and home confinement to jail is retaliatory, the judge, Alvin K.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of *CCT* prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of *CCT*, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on *CCT* Online and in archives.

Hellerstein of Federal District Court in Manhattan, said in court. And it's retaliatory because of his desire to exercise his First Amendment rights to publish a book and to discuss anything about the book or anything else he wants on social media and with others."

The *Times* went on to say that "Judge Hellerstein's decision was a remarkable rebuke of prison and probation officials and, by extension, the Trump administration."

Much more to come that you will have read about before this issue of *CCT* is published.

**Bob Weber** SEAS'55, SEAS'56 writes, "When my wife of 56 years died in 2017, rather than downsize from a large home, I invited a daughter and two smartphones with grandchildren attached to move in. I can report that the 'generation gap' is real. But good to have family around during the pandemic isolation. The efforts of the cultural arts community to open its archives of operas, concerts, dance and theater is much appreciated and has made the isolation from friends and family bearable."

Bob hopes it is not too long until he will be able to visit other daughters and family in Paris and Nogent-sur-Vernisson but says, "Yay, Skype and FaceTime." He had been working in the kitchen at the Kingston Senior Center on the Meals on Wheels program before the coronavirus put it on hold, but keeps involved in local library, environmental and historical organizations with trustee meetings using Zoom.

"Last year among these '54 Class Notes," writes **Ed Yeaker**,

"there was a typically poignant and humorous commentary from **Saul Turteltaub** LAW'57 re: 'being old,' and reflecting on Saul's words, led me to express my thoughts in the following poem," which Ed sent me before learning of Saul's death earlier this year:

#### WE'RE STILL HERE (Class of Destiny)

I read a moving rhyme ...  
about the passing of our time

Tho' summoning a tear  
It shouted we're still here

With aging there's dealing  
For the days we're stealing

A blessing that's been granted  
Not to be taken for granted

Still thinking of you all ...  
Most especially, in the fall.

After learning of Saul's passing, Ed wanted to share with classmates his deep sadness amid reminders about Saul's gratitude for their early friendship as Saul's career began to bloom.

Thanks Ed, for sharing your thoughts and for your heartfelt verses.

**William F. Haddad** JRN'54 died on April 30, 2020 at 91. A classmate reported that he had earned two Columbia degrees in June 1954, one from Columbia College and one from the Journalism School. Bill had registered at both schools and simultaneously completed all requirements for both degrees. But Columbia's administration had not noticed until his name appeared on two lists of graduates-to-be. They then told Bill, "No, you can't do that." Bill retorted that he had violated no Columbia regulation or by-law and stuck by his guns. He prevailed. (Columbia later amended its rules prospectively.)

His widow Susan informed us that **Ronald F. Thompson** passed away on January 21, 2020. Ron had graduated from Yale Law School and spent most of his legal career in various positions at United Technologies. Our sincerest condolences to Susan and the family.

**Vito R. Vincenti** LAW'57 died on July 21, 2020. His son John '90 writes, "He was to the end an avid reader, a lifelong learner, and a supporter of the College. His

experiences as a student were very dear to him." Our condolences to his widow, Edna, their two sons and a large extended family.

**Seymour Hertz** LAW'56 died on May 24, 2020. He was a corporate partner at the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison until his retirement and of counsel to the firm at the time of his death. Sincerest condolences to his widow, Elaine, and family.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more.]

"He was a mentor and friend to many in our class," writes **Larry Kobrin** LAW'57 about Professor Henry Graff GSAS'49, who died on April 7, 2020, at Greenwich Hospital at 98 of COVID-19 complications. "He was the last of the professors I remembered from College. He was wonderful and alert the last time we saw him at a class function."

Several classmates alerted me to Professor Graff's passing, and I share here a short bio from the history department: "A distinguished scholar of United States history, particularly the history of the presidency, he received his Ph.D. from our department in 1949 and continued on the faculty until his retirement in 1992. He won the Mark Van Doren Award and Society of Columbia Graduates Great Teacher Award, and was granted an honorary doctorate from Columbia in 2005. Newer faculty will recognize him as the benefactor behind the fourth-floor faculty lounge in Fayerweather." [Editor's note: See "Around the Quads"/"In Memoriam," Summer 2020.]

Book Beat: Our class's photographer and storyteller extraordinaire, **Ted Spiegel**, has two new e-books to offer, *Access: A Photojournalist's Search for Storytelling Photos* and *Renaissance Florence: An Invitation*, for Marist College, both a joy to read, look at and learn from.

**Henry Buchwald** PS'57, physician, surgeon and inventor extraordinaire, reports that his latest book, *Surgical Renaissance in the Heartland: A Memoir of the Wangenstein Era*, has been published. It has already received excellent reviews in the Twin Cities.

"My wife, Ann Louise, and I fled the Washington, D.C., heat for our rustic 'camp' in northern New Hampshire," writes **Edward Cowan**, where "there has been little

COVID-19 in Coos County, up against the Canadian border, and we felt safer there than we might have in D.C., and cooler. We swam in Forest Lake, took in live music concerts outdoors, read books, pursued email correspondence, participated in Zoom discussions of books, mowed the grass, and had several visits from our daughter, Emily, who lives in Concord, N.H., and her daughter, Ada (16), the oldest of our five grandchildren."

Sounds like a tough quarantine and a great survival technique, Edward!

He also reports that he speaks frequently with **Brian Tansey**, who lives in the Twin Towers retirement community in his native Cincinnati. Ed says Brian continues to take an active interest in Democratic politics in Ohio and nationally, and that Brian is in regular contact with his daughter, Eira, who is on the faculty of the University of Cincinnati Libraries.

From me, **Bernd Brecher** JRN'55, our granddaughter Samantha Savitch — an incoming fourth-year at Thomas Jefferson Medical School — has had a paper for which she was lead writer recently published on esophageal cancer and minorities' surgery survival rates. She has a way yet to go to catch up with **Henry Buchwald**, but we're still proud of her.

*Miserable Moms*, a hilarious picture book for adults about the trauma of booting your kids out of the nest on their way to college, is not yet available for sale but can be previewed on social media. The narrative is uncensored and the illustrations are delicious. Oh, did I mention the author, Sharon Brecher, is my favorite DIL? She did work for Disney once.

Thanks for getting this far in our '54 Class Notes. Once again there will not be a test, but if you think you deserve a lollipop just let me know. It's been a tough year in many ways for us all, more so for classmates through no choice of their own who are living alone in lockdown.

We all hope there are ways each of us can help others to better cope until these "troubles" are behind us. Helping others helps ourselves, so I repeat here my admonition in this column to do good and help cure the world. Be well, do well, do good, be good, write, call, email, don't forget each other. Luv to all, Bernd. Excelsior!

## Stay in Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:  
[college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).

## 1955

Gerald Sherwin  
gs481@juno.com

The last several months have been focused on the COVID-19 virus. Columbia was locked down, and there are no winter sports coming up, such as football practice or basketball practice. There are also no alumni events, so we can't see familiar faces like **Jack Freeman** and **Dick Kuhn**, and there were no class dinners with regulars like **Berish Strauch**, **Allen Hyman**, **Marvin Winell** and **Sheldon Wolf**. We hope to get back to normal soon.

Stay tuned for make-up reunion news shortly.

There hasn't been much activity, as the school was under lockdown. Classes will remain online for the fall semester, but we hope winter sports will restart.

We heard from **Jim Amlicke** from Redondo Beach, Calif.

Everyone wear a mask. Stay safe. Be careful. Be prepared. Love to all. Everywhere!

## 1956

Robert Siroty  
rrs76@columbia.edu

No luncheons to report, no pictures. But a lot of news. To start, Margo and I are celebrating our 61st wedding anniversary as we hunker down in Somerset, N.J.

I will accept ideas for favors for our reunion. Suggestions so far are 1) an autographed copy of a book by an alumnus who will speak at reunion; 2) a picture frame with the '56 logo; 3) a souvenir walking stick with the '56 logo; 4) a face mask with the '56 logo.

I had a call from **Dick Spann** SEAS'57, in Lancaster, Calif. After a career with Solid Rocketry, Dick went to law school at Marymount University. Eventually he became a municipal court judge, then a justice of the California Superior Court. He broke his arm in January, and was still recuperating in May.

Hope it is healed by reunion in June 2021.

**Howard Sturtz** reports that he is "alive and well" in Walnut Creek, Calif., sheltered in place

during the pandemic and hoping to retire later this year from an orthopedic surgery practice.

**Taylor Thompson** SEAS'57, BUS'70 reports from Kingston, N.Y., where he is chairman emeritus of Millrock Technology. His son, Taylor Jr., is president and is working with a few pharmaceutical companies in developing a "freeze-drying system to process THE vaccine" as soon as they finish developing it ... you can't wait until the last minute to complete the whole process! Fortunately, some researchers think ahead."

**Fred Strassburger** SEAS'57 is retired from designing and building process plants all over the world, and lives in Stratford, Conn. He is looking forward to the Columbia-Yale games at the Yale Bowl Stadium in New Haven with Mel Holson '46.

**Marty Mayer** LAW'59 and his wife, Susan, are hunkering down in Florida. He writes that after publishing four books of poetry, three of them original social commentary limericks (the most recent is *Limerica The Beautiful*), "I have drawn upon my 25 years of experience as a commercial lease auditor representing tenants only to author an esoteric manual addressing plain language conceptual misunderstandings in landlord-prepared commercial leases. It should be out in a couple of months and will be of benefit to corporate leasing executives and attorneys with no commercial construction background. The title is *Traversing the Commercial Lease Minefield*."

**Buz Paaswell** SEAS'57 is remotely teaching one class daily on policy. He is also watching old Yankee games on TV, and "they always win."

**Ron Kapon** recently finished his last Zoom wine class, and will forgo the fall semester as classes on wine do not "lend themselves to Zoom." He reports that when the weather is nice, "I sit on the bench across the street from my apartment, and read for an hour or so."

**Art Salz** reports that he and his wife, Janie, "are living in a wonderful retirement community outside San Francisco." He is learning to play the ukulele with a 114-member ukulele band and is looking for tips, ideas and fun songs from classmates. Art is in touch with **Alan Press**, **Morty Jaffe**, **Danny**

**Teitelbaum** and **Art Tepper**, whom you can be sure can be relied upon to "critique his singing."

**Larry Cohn** writes, "I have moved to a very active (when life returns to normal) 55-plus community. The golf course opened recently, with many restrictions. Looking forward to the 65th."

**Grover Wald** writes, "These days I pursue a daily routine of stretching and light weight exercises, an hour's walk, reading a combination of relaxing and stimulating books, watching great lectures on DVD from the Great Courses and never-ending work on a vintage tugboat model."

I heard from **Ed Smith**, in Cambridge, Mass., who retired as chair of the radiology department at UMass Medical School, then went back to work part-time for another 10 years. He is in contact with **Burt Sultan**, **Elliott Urdang** and **Herb Klein**.

**Dan Link** is still in Florida, as of this writing. He says he is waiting until the "coast is clear to return to New York."

**John Censor** is staying home. *The News-Press* of Southwest Florida reports: "When **Lee Seidler** was a student at Columbia, he remembers walking around campus and seeing buildings named after figures in the American Revolution. 'I never imagined that I would walk around and see a Seidler Hall. ... Nor did my father.' Academic Building 7 — the building that houses the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University, was renamed Seidler Hall ... in exchange for a financial gift that Lee (80), his wife, Gene, and Lee's daughter, Laurie, made to FGCU."

**Jack Katz** still practices psychiatry, with a mask on. He is hoping to play tennis soon, and is looking forward to the 65th.

**Jay Martin** has watched 54 operas on the Metropolitan Opera nightly stream, in addition to the 300 he has watched in person. He has retired from teaching after 64 years at Yale, UC Irvine, Moscow State University, USC, the UC Irvine School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, Claremont McKenna College and the University of Hawai'i. Jay maintains a private psychoanalytic practice. He has written 31 books, and is writing another, *The Psychologies of Political Exile*. Jay has also testified before Congress while

working with the State Department. He says, "None of this would have occurred had I not attended Columbia College. I married five days after graduation, and have remained married for 63 years."

**Ken Swimm** SEAS'57 writes, "I can't help but remember the golden days of the Class of '56 and what's transpired since then. I was reminiscing with **Neil Klein**, my best friend since kindergarten, as he was rapidly failing. After remembering first dates, friends, football (we were the managers), subsequent jobs, marriages and families, we came to the following conclusion: 1) We hadn't changed; 2) The younger generation was going to hell; and 3) We had lived in the best of times. OK, we hadn't lost some of the smart-alec Bronx background."

**Mike Spett** is hunkering down in Florida, thinking back to the February luncheon in Boynton Beach where 15 of us (plus guests) gathered for what he describes as the "best ever."

**Murray Watnick**, who recently had a "nice chat" with **Frank Thomas** LAW'63, has retired from clinical radiology and has completed work with the World Health Organization as a temporary advisor. His work is on the internet at "Radiology for the People: A Basic Radiological System for Health Care in Developing Nations." You can read it by going online to [bit.ly/3f9SDk4](http://bit.ly/3f9SDk4).

**Alan Broadwin** SEAS'57 sent me a copy of a photo of The Lyceum Society (retired members) of The New York Academy of Sciences featuring volunteer VP **Ralph Kaslick**.

**Henry Bamberger** and his wife, Sheila, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Henry continues to sit on the ethics committees of the two Utica, N.Y., hospitals and Hamilton College. He shares, "For fun, I am a docent at the Utica Zoo."

Got a great note and picture from my med school roommate **Frank Neuberger**, in Maryland, of his great-granddaughter.

I am sad to report the death of **Theodore Lindauer**. Ted was a Harvard-trained child psychiatrist who specialized in treating troubled teens, helping them into productive adult lives.

If you did not get the blast email in April, please let me know your current email address, and let the Alumni Office know as well ([college.columbia.edu](mailto:college.columbia.edu)).

edu/cct/update\_contact\_info). You don't want to miss the details of our 65th reunion in June 2021!

## 1957

**Herman Levy**  
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I hope you all had a pleasant and safe summer. We heard from **Harry Siegmund**, who noted that *The New Yorker* recently republished an article by Charlayne Hunter-Gault, originally published on December 30, 1967, "Columbia's Overdue Apology to Langston Hughes." The article reported, "Seven months after the death of the Black writer, Professor James P. Shenton ['49, GSAS'54] acknowledged at a memorial ... [that there] lived a poet down the street from Columbia, and Columbia never took the time to find out what he was about."

Harry commented, "I do not know why *The New Yorker* is republishing this now ... 99 years after Langston Hughes sought to move into Hartley Hall. Jim Shenton is mentioned; I took one seminar on historiography in which he was the lowest-ranked professor. He was very deferential to Fritz Stern '46, GSAS'53. I forget the name of the middle-ranked professor. Jim made his mark as a storyteller with an emphasis on lower New York City in the first half of the 20th century."

## 1958

**Peter Cohn**  
petercohn1939@gmail.com

As I write this column in early July, New York City is reopening after 100-plus days of restricted activities due to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the firm leadership of Gov. Andrew Cuomo (whose daily news briefings were must-watch TV) and the cooperation of millions of city and state residents with mask wearing, physical distancing and nonstop handwashing, we finally flattened the curve, while the rest of the country outside the Northeast is now experiencing the brunt of the pandemic. The social isolation felt from many days of sheltering in place (or its equivalent) were at least

partly mitigated for my wife, Joan, and me by the hours spent on Zoom and FaceTime with family and friends. The "cocktail hours" with classmates and their spouses were especially helpful in minimizing feelings of isolation.

Now for class news: A special shout-out to **Bob Levine**, who published his sixth (!) nonfiction book in May. *The Uninformed Voter* deals with the sorry state of politics in the United States. After beginning with a well-referenced review of how we got where we are today, Bob offers suggestions for what can be done to improve citizens' awareness and responsibilities in our electoral process.

On the sad side, I was notified by **Ira Carlin** and **Mark Weiss** on the passing of **Larry Harris** on May 20, 2020. Ira had been in the Naval ROTC with Larry and maintained a friendship with him through the years. After graduation from the College, Larry served in the Navy until 1962 and received a law degree from Georgetown. He spent most of his business career in the telecommunication sector. He became president of Metromedia, general counsel of Telegent and senior counsel at the law firm of Squire Patton Boggs, and was subsequently appointed to the board of directors of MCI, where he had begun his career in 1972 as an executive at the then-fledgling firm. Larry was a longtime champion of Democratic Party activities, and is remembered for "his big heart and keen sense of humor." He certainly will be missed. Condolences to Susie, his wife of 58 years, and their two children and four grandchildren.

Dr. **Charles Goodstein** died on April 30, 2020, from complications of COVID-19. Charles grew up in Manhattan and attended Stuyvesant H.S. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and served as a medical officer in the Air Force. His professional career was spent as an adult and child psychoanalyst in Tenafly, N.J., while on the clinical faculty at NYU School of Medicine as part of the Psychoanalytic Association of New York. Charles enjoyed a variety of cultural and recreational activities, and was very much involved with his family. He was married for 58 years to Dr. Carolyn Goodstein, and is also survived by two children and two grandchildren. Condolences to all.

We were notified by **Bernard Goldstein** of another death: "**Norman Herzberg** died suddenly on March 29, 2020. He earned a doctorate in mathematics from MIT in 1965 and was employed by the Institute for Defense Analyses in Princeton from 1968 until his retirement in 2000. In addition to his professional skills, he was a good friend."

Bernard adds that Norman is survived by his wife, Barbara; brother, Edward; and sister, Susan. Our condolences for their loss.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

As far as intercollegiate sports are concerned, the Ivy League canceled fall events but has not decided on winter and spring sports as of this writing. Likewise, we are not sure our class luncheons will have resumed by the time you read this column. If you are interested in attending one of the Tuesday sessions, please contact **Tom Ettinger** for the latest news: tpe3@columbia.edu.

## 1959

**Norman Gelfand**  
nmgc59@hotmail.com

I write these Class Notes with a heavy heart. Our country is experiencing a crisis of epic proportions. More than 100,000 people have died here in the United States in a cruel pandemic that is taking more lives every day. The pandemic obviously has had its impact on Columbia: in-person classes were suspended; Class Day, Commencement and reunion were held virtually; *CCT* decided not to publish a Summer 2020 print edition; and students were sent home, probably for the first time since the Revolutionary War when Alexander Hamilton CC 1778 left to join Washington and the Continental Army. Then, as now, the government seems unable to effectively respond to the legitimate needs of the people to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

As I write this, I suspect many of us are more or less confined to our homes, venturing out carefully and infrequently, while relying on others to procure for us the necessities of life. This is hardly how I hoped, or expected, to spend the remaining years of my life.

I am sorry to report the death of **Wally Katz** GSAS'61. I thank

**Ken Scheffel** for passing along the following information: "Wally contracted COVID-19 in a nursing home while awaiting elective surgery for a vision problem. He responded well to treatment and was about to be released back to the nursing home when he died suddenly (probably of a heart attack). Divorced without children, he left no family, just some close friends. He spent his career in college teaching (including stints at Wesleyan and Vanderbilt) and in Democratic Presidential administrations (including, I believe, both Carter and Clinton), and at the time of his passing, held some sort of adjunct position at SUNY Stony Brook. I wish I had better news to report."

**David Horowitz** reports, "I have had the unexpected pleasure in old age of having written two Amazon bestsellers, at ages 80 and 81, and receiving an endorsement from the President about the latest. The books are *Dark Agenda: The War to Destroy Christian America* and *Blitz: Trump Will Smash the Left and Win*. The latter book is a detailed account of the seditious campaign by Democrats to overthrow a duly elected President and sabotage their own country. It also attempts to provide an explanation of why Trump has been able to prevail despite being the most vilified and slandered human being in history. I'm used to the fact that people on the left — so-called liberals — deal with arguments they don't like by suppressing and/or ignoring them, but I invite classmates to engage in a civil exchange about this book and prove me wrong. I will print the exchanges on my webzine, frontpagemag.com. You can reach me through **Norman Gelfand** at nmgc59@hotmail.com — I don't feel comfortable publishing my email given the leftist Lynch mob that is out there — or through my Twitter feed, @horowitz39."

**J. Peter Rosenfeld** writes, "My surviving frat bros — **Dan Ein**, **Marty Janis**, **Dave Peck** and **Frank Wilson** — and I have had wonderful Zoom reunions, the second to take place later today (Father's Day). We plan to have a serious discussion about how the structure of our democracy gave rise to the election of Trump. I taught a spring class at Northwestern on the demographics, mechanisms and detection of deception using many advanced new techniques involv-

ing functional magnetic resonance imaging, electroencephalography, oculomotor activity and Implicit Association Tests.

"My wife, Carmen, and I are mostly at home. We enjoy wine near the fountain on our rear patio. We take nice long (masked) walks around our Glencoe, Ill., neighborhood, and long drives up and down the Chicago lake shore. We go to the opera via Met On Demand, and to the Berlin Philharmonic also virtually. With a big-screen TV and fine speaker system, it's really quite OK, though not as nice as attending our (shuttered) Ravinia Festival (like Tanglewood) that is five minutes from the house."

During reunion last year (somehow it seems more than a year ago), we had two sessions called "Looking Back." We heard recollections from a number of classmates. I will include the remarks in Class Notes as I have room. The following is from **Sam Bahn**: "I have had two careers. The first was traditional business — B.A. in economics, M.B.A., PricewaterhouseCoopers C.P.A., the business computer revolution, and consulting at IBM and beyond.

"My second career was triggered during a five-year professional stint in Israel. In the course of the 1982 Lebanon War, I became aware of major discrepancies between anti-Israel American news reports based on Arab sources in Beirut and what I was hearing from colleagues returning from the frontlines and was reading in the Israeli press. Thomas Friedman's *From Beirut to Jerusalem* quietly admitted that journalists were being intimidated. Such advocacy and double standards were clearly antithetical to our Columbia values, and anti-Semitic to boot.

"Back in New York and watching this trend deepen, I embarked on this second career in 1988, founding a chapter of the media watch organization CAMERA, which I ran for three years. Ever since, I have been critically analyzing, writing, teaching and lecturing against unprofessional (anti-Semitic) anti-Israel media advocacy, drawing on our Core studies.

"On a parallel front, I was also observing and monitoring how such Israel-based anti-Semitism was seeping into universities, even our beloved Columbia, a development that President Lee C. Bollinger confirmed and forcefully condemned in his principled and historic March 6,

2020, address to the Senate Plenary. Following a Columbia College Student Council resolution calling for a student referendum on the Boycott, Divestment, Sanction (BDS) movement, Bollinger cited a double standard and excessive campus hatred on these issues and its chilling effect on Jewish students. He even referred to, and denied, charges by outsiders that Columbia is an 'anti-Semitic institution with systemic bigotry.'

"My own experiences included witnessing a 35-minute 2018 speech by the Israeli ambassador to the UN systematically interrupted seven times by groups of students from Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine, which has the open support of some Middle Eastern studies faculty. And the public record includes numerous Israel-based anti-Semitic slurs by Columbia professors — such as Israel having no right to exist and Israel as a key player in every evil act happening in the world.

"I have advocated Columbia's immediate adoption of the widely used International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance anti-Semitism standard, which would put teeth in Bollinger's historic address and an end to such public faculty defamations of Israel (which it is hard to believe do not seep into the classrooms), as well as an end to the anti-Semitic 'Israel Apartheid Week' and BDS campaigns at alma mater.

"The road to opposing Israel-based anti-Semitism at our beloved Columbia, and its chilling effect on Jewish students, has been paved at the highest level by Bollinger himself, so there is every reason for it to be a part of our Class of 1959 and our individual legacies to alma mater, as we continue to celebrate our 60th reunion."

Classmates who would like Sam's original reunion comments are welcome to get in touch; email me at nmgc59@hotmail.com to be connected.

I hope that by the next time I solicit contributions for our Class Notes something resembling normalcy will have returned to our country and that progress has been made in redressing the ills that infect our nation. Lincoln wrote that this nation cannot endure "half slave and half free." I do not believe that it can really endure as half Republican and half Democratic. It needs to come together as one nation,

America, with liberty and justice for all. We Americans can and will have our differences on issues and policies for our government to follow, but we must stand together to protect the lives and liberties for all.

I hope that I haven't offended anyone with these comments. Since I have been class correspondent I have not edited or censored any of the submissions that I have received. [Editor's note: CCT edits all Class Notes columns for appropriateness, context, clarity and style, as well as confirms facts and alumni names and class years.] I don't think that I have exercised the opportunity to express myself, but I feel strongly that I this time I want to communicate my views. If anyone feels that I have acted inappropriately they are welcome to assume the role of class correspondent.

## 1960

**Robert A. Machleder**  
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The most extraordinarily stressful and heartrending circumstances beset **Thad Long** as he left home to begin his college education at Columbia with the Class of '60. He writes, "I was from a small town in Alabama. My parents both passed away my senior year of high school. I had no money, but I was awarded a scholarship to Columbia covering my tuition and room, and a job in the Johnson Dining Hall, where I could work for my meals. After a very challenging summer, I got on the Greyhound bus with two small suitcases and headed for New York. There were delays, and I got there late. I was not even sure I would be received and get a place to stay that night. To save time, I asked the bus driver if his route would take us anywhere near Columbia and he said, yes, it would. I asked him if he would tell me when we got as close as we could and if he would let me off the bus and point the way to the College. He agreed, and I started off in the direction he had pointed, walking in the dark. Fortunately, the reception process was still in operation, I got my room key and my Columbia career was underway."

Thad entered as a physics major, but became enamored of his studies of the humanities: "There was culture shock, but there was excite-

ment about the big city and about the academics. When I heard other students from outside the New York area complain about the impersonal coldness of New York, I could not relate to that, because I accepted New York on its own terms and was so grateful to have the opportunity to be there and be surrounded and immersed in the thoughts of the great thinkers and doers of our culture. I was a physics major, looking for wisdom and truth, but regarded it as a part of natural philosophy that fit right in with CC and the humanities. Having been inspired by my exposure to philosophy and the arts, I got a scholarship to the University of Virginia School of Law, where I fell in love with the law and knew almost immediately that lawyering was what I was designed to do.

"After law school, I repatriated myself back to Alabama, this time to Birmingham, where I had the opportunity to practice antitrust law, complex litigation and intellectual property. I had a fulfilling but challenging career of nearly 50 years of very active practice, followed by a full-time trusteeship and executorship for several years thereafter. I have recently written my memoirs — not sure exactly what is going to happen next with them.

"I have had a great life, with a wonderful wife, Carolyn, two fine children and four fine grandchildren. I have taken two *National Geographic* trips around the world and have traveled to all seven continents. I have really enjoyed seeing firsthand all the wonderful icons of civilization that I used to read and dream about. When I think back about the things that have made the greatest contributions to my life, I have to think of Columbia."

In response to my email to classmates that mentioned my proclivity to have Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven accompany me in my exercise-at-home workout routines, **Elliott Kaback** LS'68 wrote, "I share your devotion to Haydn, whose music has enriched our lives, especially in the last few years. My wife, Patricia Woodard, and I are both retired librarians and singers who have been members of Riverside Choral Society for the last 10 years, during which we have sung several of Haydn's great Masses. The virus deprived us of our May concert of his 'Creation' Mass,

and choruses from 'The Creation.' We live in the house in Brooklyn bought by my grandparents in 1925, in an atmosphere of great peace. Our main frustration stems from being separated from our daughter and two delightful Franco-American grandchildren who live in Greensboro, N.C. Thanks to Zoom, FaceTime and the like, we can keep in touch with our circle of family and friends, but the absence of singing great music with friends under a great conductor (Patrick Gardner) is painful. I remember my years in the Glee Club (as it was then called) with pleasure. In 2010, you might remember that Glee Club alumni gave a concert at reunion. I hope we survive this dark time and resume our musical activities, which make life sweet."

**Paul Brief** writes, "Trying to weather this COVID-19 onslaught of boredom, isolation, restaurant deprivation and work restrictions: Telemedicine doesn't do much for you (or the patient) in orthopedics. But, it's better than nothing."

"Personally, two things about coronavirus tick me off more than anything else: 1) The daily avalanche of trite, lame, not-funny jokes and 2) The inability to get a haircut: As a Marine, anytime my hair length exceeds 1.5 cm I feel I'm out of uniform and very, very restless."

"Sad about the deaths of **Terrence McNally** and **Brian Dennehy**, great losses for CC'60. We also lost **Frank Siracusa** in 2017. Frank was a well-respected high school science teacher, a wonderful husband and father, and a sweet, kind, lovable man."

"Quite serendipitously, I recently came to be in touch with **Vinnie Russo** and **George Camarinos**, two of my best pals at Columbia along with **Frank Siracusa**, **Joel Kanter**, **Lenny Binder**, **Dick Nottingham** and **Anthony Barone**. Russo lives in Massachusetts, Camarinos in Florida — they are both well, and it was wonderful reminiscing and laughing with them about the good old days on campus."

"I'm in full agreement with you about the 'Three Musketeers' of classical music: Ludwig, Franz and Wolfgang, although I'd tend to group Brahms with them (Dumas's three musketeers were four guys anyway). Sometimes when I drive around listening to WQXR I have trouble distinguishing between Mozart and his mentor, Haydn."

"On the personal side I've developed a bit of a second career: You might remember that a few years ago I had the good fortune to publish my book *Hootch 8: A Combat Surgeon Remembers Vietnam*. I have developed a lecture-slideshow based on the book and have traveled to churches, synagogues, men's clubs, veteran groups and several colleges, including West Point, SUNY Maritime College and SUNY Rockland Community College. The students in particular have been very receptive, as Vietnam remains controversial and polarizing."

"I hope we New Yorkers continue to weather this storm well, along with all our countrymen and countrywomen."

Delighted to hear from **Norbert Schachter**, who succeeded in overcoming a mild case of procrastination. He writes, "I am sending you this somewhat overdue note that I have thought of sending on and off for 40 or 50 years. Now, at 80, having been retired two months ago by COVID-19, in reading your paean to Hayden et al., I thought it was time to say hello and wish you and our classmates well. As I write, I am listening to Bill Evans in a 1960s recording playing Gershwin, namely 'I Loves You Porgy.' My listening choices are pretty evenly divided between classic/New Orleans jazz and classical music, with an emphasis on Beethoven."

"The years have been good, I have practiced ophthalmology in Montclair, N.J., for quite a while, and have mostly done it my way. Sort of a pre-Jurassic style. My partner,

Cheri, and I have been together for 20 years, and I have five kids. Three are in town, one is in Baltimore and one is on the West Coast. Grandkids number eight. Despite the odd barnacle or two accumulated over 80 years I have no major complaints and keep on ticking."

**Gary Hershendorfer** sends a brief note to wish all classmates well and to offer his remembrance of **Terrence McNally** and **Brian Dennehy**: "Regarding Terrence (I think he went by Terry?) and Brian, it was/is a shock. I remember them clearly. Brian was one of my first Columbia acquaintances. I was always struck by the size of his head! When I met him he was sitting and was wearing a (too small) beanie. Aside from the cap, he didn't appear to be a freshman. Terry had a wry sense of humor. And it flowed easily. Looking back, who would have guessed at their future public fame?"

**CCT's** Class Note word limit approaches and I have many more notes at hand — word arrived from **Claudio Marzollo** that trying to locate **Tom Raup** LAW'66 produced an obituary. Tom died on August 30, 2016, and although he was a longstanding and outstanding trial court judge in Williamsport, Pa., we were unaware. Tom was an exceptional person. His memory deserves more than this passing statement. We will continue in the next issue. Stay safe and be well."

## 1961

**Michael Hausig**  
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**Ed Kaplan** has been a resident of Memphis since his birth in 1939, and he and his wife, Phyllis, have lived there since their marriage in 1968. In July, they moved to Salt Lake City for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the fact that their daughter, Natalie, her husband, Toby, and their 8.5-year-old granddaughter, Eva, live there. Toby is the owner of Creative Energies, a successful solar energy company, and Natalie teaches third grade at The McGillis School. Ed and Phyllis are retired and this will be a new beginning for them."

**Gene Milone** is enjoying the virtual attendance at astronomy conferences, which he believes is far

more efficient and informative than the in-person conferences with their multitude of parallel sessions and impossibility of seeing missed sessions. It is a great way for retired academics to keep up with what's new, and at the same time avoiding COVID-19 travel and all the carbon footprints and expenses associated with them."

**Jack Samet** began a one-year term on July 1 as president of The PLATO Society of Los Angeles, a lifelong-learning society with approximately 400 members. A description of the PLATO Society can be found on Wikipedia, and its activities are described in more detail on its website. The "heart and soul" of the PLATO Society are its peer-led discussion groups, known as study discussion groups (SDGs). They meet for two hours once a week and have in-depth discussions in seminar-style classes. In addition, they hold monthly colloquia that feature renowned speakers, member-led lunchtime lectures, foreign travel, local cultural events, retreats and numerous extracurricular activities that complement their academic programs. The president's welcome message contains a description of how Jack became involved in the society during his wife's terminal illness."

**Herman Kane's** son, Dr. Jamie Kane '97, a specialist in medical weight loss and diabetes prevention at Northwell Hospital, was promoted to associate professor. Northwell is affiliated with Hofstra. Jamie played on the Columbia squash team, as high as number 2. Herman became a grandfather in August."

**Mike Clark** SEAS'62 turned 81 and his philosophy now is, "I look forward to each coming day, and the new things it will bring into my life!"

**Chuck Gutowski** BUS'63 finished the English translation of a book to be published in October, *La Voix des Eaux* (*The Voice of Water*). It is about the Canton of Valais in Switzerland, where Chuck lives, and how the water cycle through the centuries has shaped the Alpine valleys with glaciers, torrents and rivers flowing down to the Rhône river and Lac Léman. The book contains some history, some geology and some quite fantastic photos (which Chuck did not take!). Another book is planned on the history of glaciers in the Alps."

**Bob Salman** LAW'64's political activity continues, as he is serving his fifth consecutive term as a



## Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. As such, he is actively involved in the Biden campaign and the campaigns of Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.). His granddaughter Mackenzie, a high school senior, was a volunteer summer intern for Pallone. His granddaughter Taylor, who graduated from Maryland's business school, started her career in July as a manager for Target. His oldest granddaughter, Sydney, obtained a master's in nutritional science from St. Joseph's University, and his grandson, Jack, is starting his second year at Wharton.

The political campaigns are vastly different in this COVID-19 age. Bob looks forward to our October class lunch, which will probably be held virtually, when he will hazard his predictions for the 2020 election.

## 1962

**John Freidin**  
jf@bicyclelv.com

On June 2 I emailed all of you to suggest that you write about "the triple crisis we are facing: COVID-19; economic calamity; and racial outrage." Here, in alphabetical order of respondent name, is what you wrote:

**Neilson Abeel:** "Portland, Ore., has been shuttered since March 14. We go grocery shopping every three days — usually at 'geezer hour.' Three weeks ago we took a four-day trip to the Summer Lake [Ore.] Wildlife Area and rented a house with two friends. We plan to do it again on June 11. If COVID-19 and the protests against racism unseat Trump, it may have some redemption."

**Paul Cooper:** "Our country is suffering from the anti-science, anti-truth, anti-expertise, anti-government views of Trump and his confreres. Republican governors are intent on not having people quarantine in place, which is stimulating the virus's spread. For people our age, the good economic news is that most of us have chosen to retire. The other good news is that racists and their racist-in-chief are taking it on the chin. I am an optimist: Trump and his band of incompetents and know-nothings will be gone in January; a vaccine will enable us to return to our pre-COVID-19 lives; and the economy will gradually improve."

**John Garman:** "In 1918 we learned of the destruction a pandemic can cause, with 615,000 dead in the USA! When we were warned about COVID-19 in January, our leadership ignored it! Blamed others for our lack of preparation! Claimed credit for good results and blamed others for the bad. How will it come out? Economic calamity has overtaken Americans who cannot work from home. When the virus has passed, will they have jobs? Will their employers reopen their businesses? Will they have customers? Will we need office space when many work from home?"

"The video of a police officer pressing his knee on the neck of a Black man should motivate our country to put its collective knee on racial profiling and bigotry, which seem so prevalent among police officers. But don't get your hopes up. Hats off to protestors who demonstrated peacefully. Durham, N.C., had no violence. Tensions between demonstrators and police in Greensboro, N.C., rose almost to a boiling point, when the police, two lines deep, all kneeled. Seeing this, the protestors kneeled. After four minutes, the protestors got up, shook hands with the police and everyone left the street. And, finally, the county sheriff in Flint, Mich., removed his police vest and joined the marching demonstrators."

**Chris Haakon:** "Lots of Zoom calls. Still on six boards and busy in the house. In March we had to reduce our two-week stay in Florida by a week. There were just 29 folks on the plane to Washington, D.C."

**Roman Kernitsky:** "As a physician I feel that governors and mayors have used politics as their guide in the lockdowns rather than listening to front-line doctors. These politicians have allowed abortion operations but have deemed cancer surgeries as nonessential. This is unconscionable! Abortions are almost never essential. Furthermore, if you starve because you are unemployed due to the lockdown, how is that better than being infected with the COVID-19 virus? There has to be a better compromise than a lockdown."

**Peter Krulewitch:** "Sadly, Professor Henry Graff GSAS'49 died of COVID-19. I was in touch with him until several months ago, and he was strong, alert and healthy. The obituary in *The New*

*York Times* linked to my oral history book, which included Professor Graff's remembrance of his youth in Inwood and his amazing wartime translation of Ambassador Hiroshi Oshima's telegraphed messages, identifying where German forces expected the D-Day landings. See [oldnewyorkstories.com](http://oldnewyorkstories.com). Now, the worst pandemic since 1918, the worst economy since the Great Depression, rioting in the streets, Trump President — what could be wrong? I give credit for this statement to **Peter Lushing**; we remain in regular communication."

[Editor's note: See "Around the Quads"/"In Memoriam," Summer 2020: [college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/summer20/article/memoriam-henry-f-graff-gsas-49-professor-emeritus-history-presidential](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/summer20/article/memoriam-henry-f-graff-gsas-49-professor-emeritus-history-presidential).]

**Phil Lebovitz:** "My beloved audiologist retired the day the Illinois governor moved the state to phase 3. My 75-year-old, quick-handed dentist stopped seeing patients. We watched New Trier H.S.'s virtual graduation by computer and saw our grandson's picture float across the screen as his name was called. We celebrated my son's 50th birthday with family seated outdoors at the required social distance. I organized an initiative for the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute faculty to provide eight sessions pro bono for front-line personnel. We watched in horror as 1968 seemed to replay — this time with a leader who fans the flames. The rabbi my mother idolized for his efforts to mediate the sanitation workers' repression in Memphis broke vividly into my thoughts."

**Peter Lushing:** "Worst rioting since MLK 1968."

**Bob Meyers:** "A 'news diet' every few days and evening walks help me find calmness and equanimity."

**Jeff Milstein:** "To help us cope with the crises in public health, the economy and race relations, we can be inspired by the experiences of our parents and grandparents. They endured social oppression, emigration, the flu of 1918–20, WWI, the Great Depression and WWII. Many lost relatives, friends, loved ones and livelihoods. Yet they nurtured us, and gave us the opportunities we have enjoyed for eight decades. Now it's our turn."

**Charlie Morrow:** "We are proud to stand up for science and research. The knee on the neck of one man

is the knees of all who prey on those at their mercy, which is all of us. This moment, when those we trusted with the stewardship of our nation take for themselves, calls for our participation in reshaping the America we love. Or we ourselves will be enslaved losers."

**Don Splansky:** "We have been living through dark times, but as Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.' His words seem more of a pious hope than an established fact. I pray that our classmates are safe and 'hunkering down,' while, at the same time, are working for the betterment of society. Be strong and courageous."

**Pete Stevenson:** "Racial outrage is a complete falsehood. The violence is the product of professional disrupters taking the Democrat party note, 'Never let a good crisis go to waste,' and putting it into practice. The economic disaster resulting from COVID-19 is terrible. It will live with us for a long time. Sadly, it was greatly exacerbated by the terrible error of shutting down the economy. Like suffering from a gunshot in one foot and shooting oneself in the other for balance! Local government must take charge, devise plans to permit people to earn a living while staying distanced and healthy. Lockdown ain't it."

**Frank Stoppenbach:** "Current questioning of the lockdown in Germany and Denmark suggests my skepticism (in Daily Freeman, April 3) may have been on target. One would think officials might ask questions before implementing policy with such huge consequences. The United States, with great economic inequality, needs, but probably won't get, dramatic shifts in policy like those of the 1930s. A better deal for most people won't prevent all racial injustice, but it will reduce economic stresses that can trigger explosive responses. Our country has many problems — a shame we aren't putting the unemployed (counted and uncounted, recent and long-term) to work solving them. My congressman — Antonio Delgado (D-N.Y.), a Black man in a largely white, very rural district — concludes in an op-ed that in times of anger our response must be love, put into action through protests, voting and the recognition, quoting the

Roman-African playwright and slave, Terence, that 'nothing human is alien to me.'"

**Anthony Valerio:** "In my case, praying, chanting — arm-in-arm with my mates in solidarity for universal peace, political and social change, and, yes, hope and love."

**Larry William:** "After much moaning and groaning, I am following the path of Voltaire's hero: 'Candide serait un chef-d'œuvre incomplet si le philosophe, après avoir ainsi étalé nos misères à nos yeux, ne nous ranimait pas par une conclusion réconfortante. ... tout le monde la connaît: il faut cultiver son jardin.' And so, I grow tomatoes and bake sourdough."

Thanks to **Jim Balquist** for this appreciation of his lifelong friend, **Bob "The Duck" Dickstein**, who passed away on April 4: "Bob and I played on the same Teaneck, N.J., high school soccer and wrestling teams and co-captained an undefeated District Champion 1957–58 wrestling team. We also wrestled at Columbia and took pride in defeating powerhouse Cornell for the Ivy championship of 1960–61. Duck later coached the Columbia freshman wrestling team, attended law school and practiced law in New Jersey."

"He had two daughters and two granddaughters from his first marriage and one stepson and two grand-stepsons from his second. His widow, Janet, routinely participates in the New Jersey women's age group tennis tournaments. Bob was her biggest fan."

"Bob was a fitness fanatic who maintained his love for wrestling as a high school referee and Columbia wrestling fan. Everyone who knew him loved his outgoing spirit. Those who really knew him were careful shaking his hand, because they might get arm-dragged."

"In retirement, Bob lived by the belief that he should give back to society what it had generously given him and us. He spent almost half his time helping others: speaking at meetings, visiting schools, prisons and rehabs, and functioning as a mentor and sponsor to many in need."

"Columbia wrestling created the Bob Dickstein Memorial Award in Bob's memory. It is given to the wrestler who best embodies his joy for life, inspirational leadership, sportsmanship and loyalty to Columbia. Joe Franzese '22 is the first recipient."

I apologize to **Bob Meyers** and readers of these notes for omitting from the Summer 2020 issue the following from Bob: "I want to briefly note (vent?) to classmates, who seem to do a lot of international airplane travel, that perhaps they might consider their considerable carbon footprint and its long-term effects on the planet and their grandkids. Consider the new attitude in Sweden called 'Flygskam' or 'Flight Shaming,' which emphasizes taking trains, or what I prefer ... fly less, stay put more and delve deeper into things local."

## 1963

**Paul Neshamkin**  
pauln@helpauthors.com

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on our class. Some very sad with suffering and death, but also some profoundly happy with successful recovery from this terrible disease. I hope all of you are staying safe and well.

One of the unexpected happy outcomes of the coronavirus is that it has brought our class closer together. I continue to hear from many of you, and because we have not been able to hold our monthly Class of '63 lunches in person, I started holding them virtually on Zoom. The first took place on our scheduled lunch date in April, and it was so successful, everyone asked to keep it up on a weekly basis. And so we have. Every Thursday at 12:30 EDT, about 20 of your classmates gather online, generally with a cold beverage in hand, to discuss the latest science about COVID-19, the latest on BLM, and the protests and the government's reaction to them. It's an interesting group, signing in from Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Maryland, Florida, Texas, New York, Tel Aviv, Cape Cod and the Jersey Shore. We always have lawyers on hand to give legal expertise, doctors to give the low-down on potential therapeutics and vaccines, and leaders from the scientific community to give us the background on the effects of climate change and other factors.

More importantly, we have been sharing the latest news on one of our regulars, who was having an especially rough time with COVID-19, but has

finally, after months, recovered. But it's all not completely heavy — in the absence of any real sports, we still have time to share our sports stories with our class experts. It's a gas, and we hope you will join us. Simply email me, and I will invite you to the next one. We've decided to keep this up, even after we are able to start our in-person lunches. It's a great way to see old friends for an hour or hour and a half every week.

**Abba Rubin** writes, "My wife and I now live in a delightful suburb of Baltimore. We are doing well and are socially very active — but from a distance. We go for walks and talk to others also walking, but across the street. My eldest, a son, comes to visit and we talk from our front door across the street to his car. My other son comes right into the house to visit — both he and his wife and their kids, but they only come in via Skype. No one wants us to get sick. Actually, we don't want to either. Our conversation now is, of course, only about COVID-19. We worry about those in trouble, and are amazed at the heroic efforts of so many who help in so many ways."

**John Gleason** writes, "We're all doing fine. My wife, Carol, and

Associates [donors of \$1,500 or more to the Columbia College Fund]. I have been a mid-level federal 'civil servant' all my working career, yet I include Columbia College at that donation level (in addition to other special gifts like for the gymnasium and the Core Curriculum). I also contribute to Columbia Athletics and a Columbia religious outreach program, yet this represents only 10 percent of my annual donations. I'm a proud and joyous member of the Class of 1963."

**Richard Tuerk** writes, "We recently moved to Plano, Texas, and were getting used to the city and the retirement apartments here. But things didn't turn out at all the way we expected. I feel especially concerned about the many members of our class that live in and around New York City. I hope you are all doing well. I've reestablished contact with one of my best friends while I was at Columbia, **Steven Shirk**. I know the words are trite, but recently, they've taken on new meaning: Be Safe! Take Care!"

Richard later sent more news: "After spending 42 years in Commerce, Texas, my wife and I are now living in Plano. The transition from

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*John Gleason '63 and his wife read as much as they can:  
"I'm working on Euripides, to test whether I can  
still read ancient Greek."*

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I am socially distanced in our San Francisco flat. We've been at home for some two weeks, with me only going out for an occasional exercise walk and Carol to work in our backyard garden. We are very lucky that one of our daughters, Sarah, lives right next to us and handles all our grocery shopping. Beyond that, we both read as much as we can. I'm working on Euripides, to test whether I can still read ancient Greek. I'm very pleased to write a sentence like the preceding, and for that I owe Columbia thanks."

**Martin Greenfield** writes, "Still seeing patients as an endocrinologist in Nassau County. But at a much-reduced number."

**Elliott Greher** writes, "I am surprised that so few members of my class are members of the John Jay

a house in a relatively small town in Texas to a retirement apartment in part of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex went fairly smoothly until the pandemic shut everything down. Our governor decided to reopen the economy much too early, so now Texas is having terrible surges of illness and death."

"Fortunately, at the time of this writing, we, the other members of our family, and our dogs are still well and managing to get the food and other things we need. Our daughter is dean of students at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas. Our son works for Apple in Dallas. In February, my book *Rebirth in the Life and Works of Beatrix Potter* was published. Since I'm not yet willing to go into post offices, I've been unable to send out as many copies as I would like. I hope

Texas will soon join the ranks of the places that are at least beginning to do a good job of handling problems involving the pandemic.”

**Mike Brenner** writes, “Serial careers are no longer a rarity. After a certain age, though, they need to overlap. I’m now on my third and fourth. The first was architecture, engaging me 1963–73. The second was psychiatry, lasting until 2007. My third is a mix of guide, wise uncle and shaman. For anyone curious about what that means, go to alive-with-intention.com. In my fourth career, for eight years now I’ve been a writer and producer. In fall 2019, I published the totally outside-the-box *Evolution Diverted: How an Altered Genetic Origin is Leading Us to Self-Destruct*. This is not the place to pitch the book, other than to say that Trump and COVID-19 are enhancing its relevance. If the title rouses your interest, the website is [evolutiondiverted.com](http://evolutiondiverted.com). You’ll find a video there of the NYC stage performance based on the book. I’m now working on the screenplay for a fictionalized feature film. I’d love to hear from classmates.”

**David Orme-Johnson** writes, “Here is a link to the new issue of *Enjoy TM News* about maintaining health in the coronavirus pandemic, which has my article on the research on the effects of transcendental meditation on immunity ([bit.ly/3kxR8jK](http://bit.ly/3kxR8jK)). I try to explain why TM improves immunity, as well as health in general. I think that the rest and relaxation TM provides is highly restorative because the different bodily systems become in better communication with each other. For example, EEG coherence increases and connectivity of deep-brain structures improves, correlated with decreased stress. I think improved communication in the nervous system, which regulates bodily systems, allows all the homeostatic self-healing mechanisms of the body to work more effectively, whatever the imbalance they are trying to normalize. It’s a theory. Enjoy the article, and be well.”

Once this is over and you’re back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club — once it reopens). I’m a pessimist, but hoping we might be able to meet again by

December 10; the next two will be January 14 and February 11. In any case, we will meet virtually on Zoom every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. EDT. Just email me at [pauln@helpauthors.com](mailto:pauln@helpauthors.com) for an invitation.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next. Stay safe!

## 1964

**Norman A. Olch**  
[norman@nolch.com](mailto:norman@nolch.com)

I began my Summer 2020 Class Notes column in April stating that I have been in my Manhattan apartment for weeks, and that I do some legal work, read, nap and watch movies, that the news is grim, but I hope society’s lot will have improved by the time the Summer 2020 CCT appears in July.

It is now July, and I remain in my apartment doing some legal work, reading, napping and watching movies. The situation has improved in New York City, but all sports arenas and theaters are still closed, and restaurants can provide only makeshift outdoor dining. With the largest public school system in the country, the city is debating how to safely reopen in buildings and classrooms not built for social distancing.

Columbia has announced the fall semester will begin in September and will be entirely remote. The Ivy League has canceled all team sports for the fall semester. The situation is dire in some parts of the country, and the fear here in the Northeast is that the virus will return in the fall. I can only repeat the hope that by the time this is published in September, society’s lot will have improved.

**Mark Rogers** (Mark Rosenberg at graduation) writes from Miami, Fla., “My unusual career as an academic physician/M.B.A. entrepreneur continues with the signing of the contract for the sixth edition of the eponymous *Rogers’ Textbook of Pediatric Intensive Care*. It is my 13th book, including books in Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese and so on. With an endowed chair named for me at Johns Hopkins and an honorary degree from the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) where I did a Fulbright, it has been a rewarding academic career with dozens of students all around the world now

caring for children on six continents in pediatric intensive care units.

“Getting my M.B.A. at Wharton led to me becoming CEO of Duke Hospital, and my recruitment as the senior VP of the NYSE company PerkinElmer, which, under the name Celera, joined the National Institutes of Health in sequencing the human genome. In turn, this led me to the brand-new field (in the 1990s) of biotechnology and to founding companies that went public and that were responsible for drugs to cure acute promyelocytic leukemia as well as a series of other cardiac and pain products.

“My experiences at Columbia, particularly Contemporary Civilization, made me a lifetime student of culture and art which, fortunately, led to me to fully enjoying the invitations and visits to more than 80 countries with my wife, as well as to educational adventures such as driving the Pan Am Highway from Canada to Santiago, Chile. Each visit to an exotic place required a reading about the history and the culture that I had learned to enjoy at Columbia as part of Contemporary Civilization.

“It is a long trip from the South Bronx, which I could not have made without an education and a set of standards that I learned at Columbia.”

**Dave Levin** is back in the New York suburbs, after seven weeks in Florida, with his wife, Linda.

I am saddened to report two deaths. **Mark Steiner** entered with CC’64 and graduated with CC’65 (see the 1965 Class Notes and “Obituaries”).

**Fred Kantor** GSAS’73 entered the CC’63 and graduated with us. A physicist and an inventor, Fred was a regular and lively presence at reunions, Class Days and the monthly informal class lunch in Manhattan.

For his doctoral thesis at Columbia, Fred invented a way to polish the surfaces of an X-ray telescope. Tragically, the rocket carrying the telescope he built crashed on takeoff at Los Alamos, N.M. His patented design was replicated by Lockheed Martin for NASA, and one day might yet circle the globe. Fred’s other patents included new ways to make air conditioners, new ways to carry away sewage waste and new ways to help people with macular degeneration to read again. He was always welcome at the Symposium restaurant on West 113th Street because he had lent the owner

\$5,000 to keep the business going during hard times.

In 1977, Fred published his book, *Information Mechanics*. His brother Paul ’59, an emeritus professor at Rutgers, explains that the book “developed a completely different way of thinking about physics” and contains “many predictions about things that may one day be observable.” Fred’s family reports that donations in his memory may be made to the Columbia Department of Physics, the New Jewish Home in Manhattan or a charity of your choice.

[Editor’s note: See “Obituaries.”] *Requiescat in pace.*

## 1965

**Leonard B. Pack**  
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CCT forwarded to me a notification from Azriel Genack ’64 reporting the first COVID-19 casualty I’ve heard about in our class, distinguished philosopher **Mark Steiner**. Azi provided me with this description of Mark and his work: “Mark Steiner, professor emeritus of philosophy at the Hebrew University, passed away on April 6 [2020] from the COVID-19 virus, at 77. Mark entered Columbia in 1960 but, in 1963–64, he, along with **Mel Barenholtz**, took a year’s leave to study Talmud in Israel at the Kerem B’Yavneh Yeshivah. Mark made the most of his time at the College and was deeply engaged with fellow students and faculty, especially with Sidney Morgenbesser. He married Rachel Freeman BC’65 while at Columbia. They have five children. Mark graduated from the College *summa cum laude*.

“After graduation, he studied philosophy at Oxford as a Fulbright Fellow and received his doctorate in philosophy from Princeton in 1972. Mark joined the philosophy department at Columbia, where he taught until he moved to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1977. He was for many years the department chair, but often came back to Columbia to teach during the summer. Until the week before his death, Mark was teaching a popular seminar on the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein. In work published a year earlier, Mark explored imagination and possibility in its historical role in the

philosophy of mathematics of David Hume and Moses Maimonides.

"Mark's work on the philosophy of science and mathematics is enormously influential. In his book, *The Applicability of Mathematics as a Philosophical Problem*, published by Harvard University Press, Mark argued that the process of the discovery of the laws of nature shows that the universe is 'user-friendly' to human cognition."

Seeing his name, I followed up with **Mel Barenholtz**, who provided a generous update on his doings as well as further thoughts about Mark. He writes, "I have good news and bad news.

"First, the good news. As I reported last year in a Class Note,

challenge while an optimist makes every challenge into an opportunity.' As an inveterate optimist, I treated my solitary Seders as an opportunity and enjoyed the experience — but which I hope will never be repeated.

"Now, for the bad news. On April 6, I received an email from my sister Sherry Feintuch BC'69, of Jerusalem, informing me that my friend **Mark Steiner** had passed away that day from COVID-19. During my first two years at the College, Mark and I, along with several other College students, studied Talmud every weekday afternoon with Rabbi Emanuel Gettinger of the Young Israel of the West Side. Inspired by our studies with Rabbi Gettinger, Mark suggested that we take a year's

immediate family. But his sons set up a Facebook page, where dozens of people have posted remarks and hundreds of people have posted comments: [bit.ly/39TQ2K2](https://bit.ly/39TQ2K2).

"I can be reached at [mbarenh@yahoo.com](mailto:mbarenh@yahoo.com) if anyone would like to share memories of Mark.

"I will close with an excerpt from a eulogy written by two of Mark's academic colleagues: 'Mark possessed a mind that was as versatile as it was penetrating, as capacious as it was deep — together with a religiosity that was profound and authentic.'

"*Yehi Zichro Baruch* — May his memory be a blessing."

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

I got an anxious note from Dave Sard '69, who saw somewhere on the internet that a CC'65 classmate had died. That didn't sound right to me. I checked, and the classmate, channeling Mark Twain, confirmed that the reports of his passing were greatly exaggerated. But Dave followed up with a great note: "I have now reached the age where one thinks of writing to one's alumni magazines, so here goes: I entered Columbia in 1961, knowing virtually nothing about it. Most people in my hometown, St. Louis, Mo., had never heard of it. (In Missouri, 'Columbia' is the state university.)

"I had a very mixed experience at Columbia, but I was lucky to have two smart, decent, helpful roommates, **Niles Eldredge** and **Ken DeWoskin**. Some big disappointments kicked off a period of depression, and I was in and out of school for four years, finally finishing in 1969. The Vietnam War was hanging over all our heads. In the middle of all this I got married and had a daughter, Kristen, who is now an artist in San Francisco. My grandson, Odin Sard-Thayer (16) is an aspiring — and very proficient — guitarist. (My daughter married Charley Thayer SEAS'91, whose dad is Jonathan Thayer '68. None of us knew each other then.) Anyway, I'm getting lost in the details. Kristen and Charley are still together and they are the light of my life. Kristen's mom, Sarah, and I came to an amicable parting of the ways in 1990.

"After I finished at Columbia (luckily for me, it doesn't like to let go of people), I spent a few years trying to save the world as a teacher and counselor, chiefly in Bed-Stuy and the Lower East Side. Obvi-

ously I failed, so I went back to grad school and got a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at City University in 1986. My dissertation was a study of mothers' and infants' touching. After bouncing around for a bit in various clinics, I ended up in Newark, N.J., as supervising psychologist at The Child Development Center of Children's Hospital of New Jersey. It was a wonderful learning experience, and I met some wonderful people, including my mentor, Leta Bagdon; my wife, Cheryl Thompson (now deceased); and my stepson, Jason Wiggins, who is finishing a doctorate in astrophysics at Notre Dame. After several years, things changed and I became a school psychologist in Madison, N.J., with a private practice. Along the way, I dabbled in psychotherapy and psychoanalysis. I became an Episcopalian, which seems to mean that I acknowledge chiefly that there is something out there that is bigger than I. Now I have a small private practice and I teach psychotherapy at Pace University in NYC. Also, I joined a chorus, Oratorio Singers, of Westfield.

When we are up and running again you are all invited. We were working on Haydn's 'Creation' Mass when the virus struck."

More from Dave in the next issue, as we've run out of space.

## 1966

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

**Louis Locascio** writes: "I graduated from Seton Hall Law School, in Newark, N.J., and married my high school sweetheart, Sue Anne. After 22 years as a board-certified civil and criminal trial lawyer, I was appointed by Gov. James Florio (D-N.J.) to the Superior Court of New Jersey, where I served for 17 years, sitting in the civil, criminal and family divisions. After retiring 11 years ago, I became of counsel to Gold, Albanese, Barletti & Locascio in Red Bank, N.J., managed by my son Anthony and where I head up the mediation and arbitration department. I also have a monthly column, 'Court Watch,' in the *New Jersey Law Journal*."

**Daniel Gover** shares his thoughts on NYC during COVID-19: "A friend of mine visiting from England

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*Attorney Louis Locascio '66 is of counsel to a firm in Red Bank, N.J., and also has a monthly column, "Court Watch," in the New Jersey Law Journal.*

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my oldest grandchild, Yehuda Zev Barenholtz, married Leah Gartenhaus in January 2019. Now, I am very happy to report that Yehuda Zev and Leah had a baby boy, Yaakov, in February 2020, making me a great-grandfather. It feels wonderful to be a great-grandfather when I am still young enough and in good enough health to be able to go skiing with my grandchildren during the winter and hiking (while socially distanced) in the spring and summer.

"This year, I am happy to report that my second-oldest grandchild, Yehuda Zev's brother, Bezalel, married Rivky Swyaticki in November 2019.

"The past few months of 'Corona Time' have been very strange for me, as I am sure they have been for all of us. For example, in normal times, my sons from Teaneck, N.J., and Boca Raton, Fla., along with their wives and eight children, always came to my house for the Passover holiday. The highlights of the holiday are the two Passover Seders that, with all the discussions, good food and group singing, usually wouldn't end until after 1 a.m. This year, I was 'home alone' for Passover. It was very strange to contemplate making a Seder by myself, for myself but, as Winston Churchill said: 'A pessimist makes every opportunity into a

leave of absence in order to study Talmud in Israel. I readily agreed to join Mark in this adventure, and we spent the 1963–64 school year studying at the Kerem B'Yavneh Yeshiva. In a Yeshiva, students attend a daily lecture in Talmud and, for the rest of a 10-hour day of study, they study in pairs. For the entire school year, for about six hours each day, Mark and I studied Talmud and Codes together. We had a great year and always cherished the experience.

"Upon returning to the College, Mark resumed his study of philosophy and graduated in 1965. As an undergraduate, he began a very close relationship with legendary Columbia professor of philosophy Sidney Morgenbesser, a relationship that lasted for more than 40 years, until Morgenbesser's passing in 2004. During Morgenbesser's final illness, Mark spent many hours at his bedside trading jokes and discussing philosophy.

"In normal times, hundreds of people would have attended Mark's funeral and he would have been eloquently eulogized by his children and by distinguished rabbis and academic colleagues. Due to the pandemic, he had a private funeral attended only by the members of his

went to a newsstand in Brooklyn and asked the gentleman there, 'May I please have a copy of *Newsweek* magazine?' The guy looked at her and said, 'Skip the speeches, lady.' It was clear to him that she was nuts. 'Ah,' I said. 'It's obvious that you lacked the local parlance required of a rushed world of commuters. "*Newsweek*" would have been more than sufficient to make your purpose known.'

"This tale has always reminded me of the innate kindness and courtesy of true New Yorkers. Now during a time of virus and plague, we become once more aware of the fundamental decency that is essential to life in the big, compressed, cheek-by-jowl, apartment-dwelling city.

"Another friend passing through from Utah was once surprised by a New York cabbie who did not overcharge him for a ride from Idlewild Airport into Manhattan. He tipped the cabbie generously and said, 'Thank you very much, sir.' The cabbie gave him the old fish eye and said, 'What are you, a wiseguy?' Truly, this was a driver who had long pickled and marinated himself in the salty brine of the urban metropolis.

"It must have been a New Yorker who wrote the lines for the mobster and his moll in the movie *Scarface*, the one from the 1930s with Paul Muni as the gangster. In one scene Muni gets all dolled up for the mis-sus and asks her, 'How do you like my diamond stickpin, baby?' 'Ooh,' she replies, 'it's verry ostentatious.' 'Yeah,' the mobster says with a laugh, 'I knew you'd like it!'

"With such palaver as this, how can one not love the inherent refinement of true New Yorkers? I know I do. It's my hometown and I'm sticking with it, especially when times are tough. When times are tough, the tough put on their masks and go to work."

Share your news with CCT and your classmates by sending us an email.

## 1967

Albert Zonana  
az164@caa.columbia.edu

Class Notes for CC'67 will be back in the Winter 2020–21 issue; until then, stay healthy and be well. Please take a moment to send me a note. Your classmates want to hear from you.

## 1968

Arthur Spector  
arthurspector@gmail.com

Greetings from Miami Beach and upstate New York! I hope all members of the Class of 1968 are staying well.

I heard from **Bill Chin**, who is on the Cape; he sounded engaged with some research — always a good sign for us all.

I also heard from **Arthur Kaufman** LAW'71, who teaches at the Law School — his 20th year, how time flies (*Tempus fugit*). He sounds full of good cheer, and his sons are doing well. He is a happy grandfather and he and his wife, Susan, sound like they too are surviving the lockdown. He has been swimming a good bit — I didn't know that rowers could swim!

I hear from my neighbor in Miami, **Ira McCown**, who seems to be weathering the storm there. A bit of trivia: Ira and Arthur went to Horace Mann H.S.

**Tom Sanford**, Arthur and I did a Zoom a few weeks ago (do you "do" a Zoom?). Tom, as usual, is full of charm and grace and has a deep interest in Columbia.

I received a package from **Ken Tomecki** out of the clear blue. He is probably trying to compensate for missing the 50th, but I expect to see him at the 55th and onward.

Thanks, Ken, for the gift!

**Robert Brandt** and I have talked a lot recently; he is always a pleasure to chat with on public policy issues. His two sons seem to be doing well; one is off to Chicago. He is regularly cooking for his wife; a good job for sure. Robert's skiing continued this past winter. I learned a little more about his life in Miami Beach (near where I live) when he was a child, and his summering at The Sagamore on Lake George, where **Seth Weinstein** spent some time. They were probably 10 years of age but didn't meet until many years later, of course.

Our great public health expert, **Nigel Paneth**, has been trying to contribute to the research on and finding some solutions to the virus. I don't think he made it to Vermont this summer.

**Gordon Harriss** and I have emailed, and he seems to be well

aware of some of the great legal issues of our time. It would be great at our next reunion to have a panel on constitutional issues. He could chair; I bet it would be raucous and enlightening.

By the way, **Ken Tomecki**, our famous dermatologist, was careful with me to be careful with the sun and, Ken, I am! I try to swim almost every day. **Frank Dann** would be impressed, along with the many swimmers in the class.

It was so good to hear from **Tony Kao** and **George Ting**, friends for all these years. I also heard from **Pete Janovsky**, who was checking to see if I was all right. His twin daughters are now off to college. Peter is behind some of us, but has the joy now of hearing the good stories from first-years. Peter's great interest in the Marching Band must have been heightened as the school decided about football and the other sports.

I did have a fun call with **Andy Herz** — always good cheer — and heard a great story about his wrestling career and his reporting on Bill Campbell '62, TC'64. Many whom I have spoken to have told me of the impact Bill had on them. **Paul de Bary** is another in this category. Paul and his wife, Stefana, sound like they are weathering the crisis of the day, and I hope they visit me again in Miami.

**Rich Rosenblum** writes, "The news, of course, is that **Masahiko Taketomo**, **Jeff Kurnit** and **Abby Kurnit** BC'68 and I are among the 25 Columbia alumni singers who appear on a recent Alumni Singers video. This arrangement of 'Down in the Valley' has been a mainstay at Columbia. The all-male Glee Club performed this piece often when we sang with that all-male group: go online to bit.ly/3gKToBR."

I am hoping that we can have a Class of 1968 event in Miami Beach; I was thinking about Art Basel. I know **Tom Sanford** is up for the idea.

I hope you are all well, and I look forward to hearing from you when you can be in touch.

## 1969

Nathaniel Wander  
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Greetings for fall, Class of 1969. **Bill Bonvillian** LAW'74 teaches

and runs research projects at MIT; the MIT Press is releasing his book *Workforce Education, A New Roadmap* this year. It takes a hard look at America's broken workforce education system and how to fix it, a key policy step in redressing U.S. economic inequality that COVID-19 has significantly worsened. He came to this policy interest by a path that began with social history courses from David Rothman, Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 and James Shenton '49, GSAS'54, and summer experience in Project Double Discovery, efforts to help ready poor high school students for college.

I taught in Double Discovery, too; it sometimes seemed like the most productive thing I did at Columbia. Learning to read is a double-edged sword, however; I nearly flunked out in our first semester reading *The Sot-Weed Factor*, *Catch-22* and *V* during finals week, instead of catching up on all the classes I'd skipped.

A retired professor of English living in western Massachusetts, **Eugene Hill** '70 has been married for a third of a century to **Heidi Holder** GSAS'85, who teaches drama. He is often in touch with friends from Stuyvesant, Columbia and Princeton. Essays from his pen on Elizabethan plays are regularly imposed on graduate students being trained to produce more of the same. The current viral enclosure has encouraged him to cultivate a beard of Whitmanic dimension.

I encountered Elizabethan English head-on during a long-ago Jamaican honeymoon. A remarkable turn by the Folk Ballet drew a spectator behind me to utter, "*Ah, but it warrrrms the cuckles of me hearrrt*" in the thickest brogue since Finley Peter Dunne laid down his pen. The speaker turned out to be a sable-skinned woman in bright-colored African fabrics — the Brogue, Caribbean English, Brooklynese and N'Orleanian preserved traces of Elizabethan articulation at the margins of the empire.

A couple of classmates have remarked that what they brought away from Columbia most relevant to present circumstances were experiences of racism and police violence from 1968. **Michael Jacoby Brown** writes, "During the COVID-19 pandemic, I am reminded how racism affects who is infected and who

dies, including many of those now incarcerated where the pandemic is most ferocious.”

Michael was arrested “by the NYPD in April 1968 for sitting in my American history lounge when the University did not want me there. The first people hit and the hardest were Black Harlem high school students sitting in with us; their blood was all over the room. When I spent several days in a NYC jail, all my jailmates were Black and Brown men who could not make bail or had been arrested for the crime of having dark skin. This was not part of the ‘official’ Columbia curriculum, but thank you, Columbia, for these experiences.”

In a similar vein, **Renee Chin-quapin** wrote: “Getting bashed by a NYPD cop during the strike graphically taught me ‘law enforcement’s’ role in protecting the interests of the ‘Ruling Class.’ During COVID-19 I’ve been holed up but thrilled and identifying, thanks to my Columbia experience, with the BLM folks fighting police brutality.”

What **Nathaniel Wander** brought away of most current relevance is a generalization from Pascal’s Wager. The 17th-century physicist and theologian Blaise Pascal cast an argument for the worship of God as a bet for or against eternal life. If (an essentially French Catholic) God existed, Pascal posited, and one failed to believe or practice as ordained, one risked losing the promised resurrection, while if one believed and practiced and God didn’t exist, only some minor worldly pleasures would be lost. QED: The rational person should believe and act as if God existed.

While one could argue the contents of Pascal’s theological wager — are the costs of acting on Catholic theology as small as he claimed? (does the phrase “Spanish Inquisition” ring any kind of bell?) — the form is genius: Acting on an alternative that costs little if false but returns great benefit if true is preferable to acting skeptically on an alternative that costs immensely if untrue. Like wearing face coverings when going out during the COVID-19 pandemic. If “masking theory” is correct — while highly plausible it has yet to be formally tested in a convincing manner — the benefits of mask-wearing in limiting the spread of the pandemic and

protecting the most vulnerable are huge. If masking should have turned out to be nonsense, the cost will have been the surrender of a little autonomy (“Who is the governor to tell *me* what to do?!”) and sartorial elegance while incurring a bit of physical discomfort, admittedly exacerbated in hot or humid locales. QED: The rational person masks up.

It turns out that **James Casimir Wisniewski**, whom I thought had been “lost to view,” died at 67 in Pittsburgh on November 1, 2015. I had searched for Jim fitfully on the internet over the years, but only discovered his fate in late June, responding to a query by a friend, Dr. Christina Surawicz BC’69, who’d known him briefly. There’s more to say about “The Wiz” in the next column, but being reminded of ongoing ties to Barnard classmates like Chris and to teachers like anthropology professor Abraham Rosman, whose April 13, 2020, death was memorialized online by the department on July 3, segues neatly into *The Things They Carried* question for Winter 2020–21 column submissions.

Question: What have you carried away from Columbia in terms of connections to Barnard, to classmates and to teachers?

## 1970

**Leo G. Kailas**  
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We missed our 50th reunion but that will now I hope be rescheduled for June 2021, so please tune in to notices you receive from the College.

In the Summer 2020 Class Notes column, I published a note from **Jim Kunen** about **David Lehman**. David, who is still active as a professor and editor of *The Best American Poetry*, responded to my column with a flattering “thank you” that was also a tribute to our classmates. David writes, “What a surprise, and what a pleasure to read the Class Notes in *CCT*. God bless **Jim Kunen**, a very talented writer who wrote about Spring ’68 even as it was happening under the name Simon James, as I recall; it became *The Strawberry Statement: Notes of a College Revolution*.” To be complimented by him is wonderful, and I feel like opening a bottle of champagne — even more so now that I’ve read your own com-

ments. Like Jim, to whom go my very best wishes and thanks, I am grateful to you for the work you do on Class Notes. We had superb classmates, and I am never surprised when one of us — whether **Dov Zakheim** or **Sam Estreicher**, **Jim Periconi** or **Michael Stern**, **Paul Starr** or **Jeff Rudman** — does something exceptional.”

My goal in writing the Class Notes is to let classmates hear about other classmates and, I hope, share some of the pride that I feel as a member of the Class of 1970.

My friend Professor **Michael Aeschliman** GSAS’91 wrote me about the republication of his book, *The Restoration of Man: C.S. Lewis and the Continuing Case Against Scientism*: “Pardon me for not being in better touch, and probably too late to do anything about reunion: your emails all went to my old Boston University account, which, here in Tuscany and in retirement, I did not until very recently check. If anything about me would still be of interest it could be found on the Wikipedia article on me that recently went up (due to an old admirer and friend in Geneva, and a great surprise to me). The best recent news from me (other than the well-being of my beloved wife, surviving this coronavirus plague in northern Italy despite lung cancer and heart problems) is the republication of my first book in both English and French in an updated edition, *The Restoration of Man*, with a particularly welcome review of the French edition in the weekly magazine of the great Paris newspaper *Le Figaro*.”

“I still think about my beloved deceased classmate **Holland Hendrix**, whom you kindly allowed me to mention and praise in a Class Note. I was also pleasantly surprised at how well Columbia handled the memorial service for my friend and beloved former Columbia teacher Edward W. Tayler. I knew him very well and still think he was a secret Christian. In any case, on the side of the angels.”

**Peter Grossman** SOA’72 took the opportunity of the canceled reunion to give us a complete report on what he has done professionally and in life: “In light of the anniversary, I thought I would write a little bit about my life for the past half-century, even though I doubt very many of my classmates have any memory of me. I was neither one of the best students nor was

I very involved in campus activities — at least, not until I lucked out with a high draft lottery number, and decided I should help other students who were not so fortunate. So in spring 1970 I became a draft counselor, a task I kept at for two more years while I was a playwriting student at the School of the Arts. After getting an M.F.A. and seeing a few of my plays performed Off-Off-Broadway, I became a freelance writer, writing magazine articles mainly about business and finance (about which I knew very little); then I became an assistant professor of journalism (though I’d never taken a journalism course); and still later, at 40, indulged a mid-life crisis by going back to school to get a doctorate in economics. I was told by one school that, given my lack of prerequisites (I majored in philosophy at Columbia with no econ courses), I had no more business applying for a doctoral program in economics than for med school. However, I was accepted into the program at Washington University in St. Louis, where I studied with Nobel laureate Douglass North. I received a Ph.D. in 1992 but didn’t get an academic job until 1994, when I became the Clarence Efrogmson Chair/Professor of Economics at Butler University. After 25 years, six books and dozens of articles (for general as well as scholarly audiences) published, 14 different courses taught, as well as lots of good college basketball games attended, I retired as the Efrogmson Professor, effective May 2019 — just in time to avoid the COVID-19 disruption at Butler.

“On the personal side, I have been married to a wonderful person and scholar for 36 years. We have two sons — one of whom is a lawyer, the other a writer (I don’t know where he got that from). Though both thought about going to Columbia, neither applied. My younger son was hoping to play college baseball (which he did at Williams College) and needed to be recruited by the CU coach (which he wasn’t), and my older son told me, ‘It’s a lot harder to get into Columbia now than it was when you applied,’ so he never sent in an application. But of course, he was right.”

The Summer 2020 issue included an obituary for **Heyward Dotson**, who was part of the great Columbia basketball team with **Jimmy McMillan** (also now deceased) that made us all proud. I regret his passing.

## 1971

**Lewis Preschel**  
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**Bill Christophersen** TC'78 writes, "My fourth collection of poetry, *Where Truth Lies*, was published in April. Its edge is urban; its mix of styles skews formal. It ends with a rendition of the Anglo-Saxon poem *The Seafarer* that received the 2016 Translation Prize from the poetry journal *Rhino*."

Bill is also spending his time locked down by reading epics such as Derek Walcott's *Omeros*.

On a sad note, Bill informs us that **Rafael "Ray" Leonardo Black** died on March 15, 2020, from complications of COVID-19. Bill remembers his arid sense of humor, as well as his unique artistic talent. He demonstrated an early version of his art when he illustrated the campus literary magazine *Atman*'s cover.

Ray was born in Aruba. He spoke and read English, Dutch, French and Spanish. He showed unique talent as a draftsman and artist as a child. His parents encouraged his artistic

many, including symbolists, surrealists, poetry and art. He was an avid reader in all of the languages he was fluent in, reading epic and classic mythology. Ray managed to introduce psychedelic effects into his work, while demonstrating his interest in classic mythology. He explored his African-American roots via his works and portraits.

For 30 years Ray labored in his small studio apartment in Brooklyn tucked away like a monk. To paraphrase a quote from Ray's obit in *The New York Times*, he read and made pictures because when an artist stops making art, he stops being an artist.

Ray was recognized for his art at 64 with a personal show called *Insiders Art*, held at Francis M. Naumann Fine Art gallery. It received a wonderful review by *The New York Times*'s art critic. They had so much interest in Ray that a follow-up interview by the *Times* was arranged. His last appearance in the *Times* was his obituary.

Ray left Columbia a semester short of graduating on time. He never returned, as he kept busy with his art and supporting his work with small jobs. He will be missed by his College friends with whom

ogy at the University of Michigan, Emily earned a Ph.D. at Columbia. Subsequent to that they moved to Durham, N.C., where Nick opened a geology consulting business.

He loved reading literature, with particular interest in archeology and antiques. His passions included jazz, art and architecture. Nick became a skilled woodworker and blacksmith. He volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and the Durham Public Library. He also helped found the Lerner Jewish Community Day School in Durham. From all I have read about Nick, he never forgot the ideals his Columbia education instilled in him.

**James Holte** communicates that during the lockdown he has stayed home or socially distanced. Recently retired as professor emeritus of English and film studies at East Carolina University, he notes that the position enabled him for many years to read great books and watch excellent movies while the state of North Carolina paid him for it. He has written several books. The last was *Imagining the End: The Apocalypse in American Popular Culture*. He did devote a section to pandemics; very intuitive.

When he retired, James, accompanied by his wife, traveled by train across the nation. This recreated his 1969 Jack Kerouac '44-style hitchhiking trip, without the dangers of strangers. Although a long train trip should be put on hold for the foreseeable future, James suggests a long Amtrak ride as a great experience.

**Ray Stricker** PS'78 says COVID-19 has all of San Francisco "hiding and hoping." When school reopens and the kids and teachers share rooms and breathe on each other, it is very worrisome. Ray's daughter, Zoe, is finishing an M.F.A. at Bennington College and will, she hopes, get to see the beautiful Vermont fall foliage. His son, Avi, works for Schrödinger, which develops drug design software platforms for Big Pharma, so, it hopes soon, it can design one for a COVID-19 vaccine. Ray's wife, Gina, retired from NASA. Ray remains specialized in fighting tick-borne diseases via telemedicine, but he has raised his voice for more aggressive preventative measures against COVID-19.

Our class's presently most-renowned individual, **William P.**

**Barr**, was featured on the cover of *The New York Times Magazine* section on June 7. He was the subject of the feature article in that issue, "William Barr's State of Emergency," by Matthias Schwartz.

As humans over 70, all of our class must take care — social distancing, PPE (masks), washing our hands regularly, trying to not contact surfaces that could be contaminated and so on. Be serious about preventative measures. We are a select group, the Class of 1971, and we are leaving our mark on the world. Let's try to continue to have a chance to do just that.

## 1972

**Paul S. Appelbaum**  
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As I write this in early summer, we are in strange times on the Columbia campus. You probably know that classes went virtual and most students went home in March. The eerily empty campus has become a place where young people and families can enjoy some fresh air and some greenery while socially distancing. None of us know what the fall will bring. However, life goes on in Morningside Heights: People socially distance while waiting to pick up their orders at Shake Shack, and the old West End is undergoing yet another conversion, this time to a game café. And life goes on for our classmates as well.

**Sherwin Borsuk** writes that he and his wife, Ruth, are "keeping a low profile at home and find ourselves enjoying the slower pace of life social distancing necessitates. I am happily retired since 2016. My radiology group has grown from 10 to 35 since then and I would not have enjoyed going large and corporate.

"Ruth and I have three wonderful granddaughters — Rosalind, Dorothea and Calla, ages 3.5 years, 2.5 years and 8 weeks — and are enjoying our grandparental dotage. Our last trip pre-COVID was to Morocco, which was fascinating and colorful. We learned a great deal about Moroccan history as well as about two Jewish groups who had lived there, those in the Atlas Mountains and those from the Spanish expulsion, and their differing customs. Looking forward to travel again when reality allows."

*Recently retired James Holte '71 traveled by train across the nation, recreating his 1969 Jack Kerouac '44-style hitchhiking trip without the dangers of strangers.*

pursuits. He moved to New York in 1965 and became involved in the culture of the Village and the new age of rock 'n' roll — visiting many of the small clubs, he saw musicians such as Jimi Hendrix prior to their fame. The self-trained draftsman's unique art forced his discovery by literary culture of the village.

Ray developed his style of straight line, pencil art that earned him recognition to the point of drawing illustrations for reviews in *Crawdaddy*, an iconic village scene magazine. In 1967 he illustrated the magazine's reviews of The Beatles's *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* and Jimi Hendrix's *Are You Experienced*.

His black and white, linear, detailed and precise technique was so intricate that to fully appreciate it, often the viewer needed a magnifying glass. His sources were

remained close, including John Taylor '69, SOA'75 and **Tej Harazika**.

Rev. **Taigen Dan Leighton** is using his quarantine time to check in with his congregation members while sheltering at home, out of respect to age and health. He also informs *CCT* that his good friend **Nick Bogen** GSAS'83, who graduated with CC'77, passed recently.

Both Nick and Dan took time off after the intensity of emotions from the 1968 spring semester. Dan expressed for both of them that they identify with our class.

Nick earned a doctorate in geology from Columbia in 1983. He grew up on the Long Island Sound, developing a deep love of sailing and nature from his youth. At Columbia, Nick met his wife, Emily Klein BC'78, GSAS'89, who was attending Barnard. While he taught geol-

Right here in the neighborhood is **Jonathan Crary GSAS'87**, who since 1989 has been teaching at Columbia, where he is the Meyer Schapiro Professor of Modern Art and Theory. His twin boys, who grew up in Morningside Heights, attended the Columbia K–8 school. Jonathan teaches courses in areas of 19th-century art, media studies, and issues in technology and visual culture. He writes, “My recent book, *24/7: Late Capitalism and the Ends of Sleep*, staked out some new directions for my work; it’s been translated into 21 foreign languages so far. Since the mid-1980s I’ve been a co-editor of *Zone Books*, which I started with two fellow CU grad students, and it’s now an internationally noted small press for philosophy, art, social theory and history.”

If you haven’t written in because you’re sure you wrote recently, take a lesson from **Wayne Cypen**: “I got your email inviting me to contribute to *CCT* Class Notes, and I thought, ‘I just did that not long ago.’ Imagine my surprise when I went back to my last submission and saw it was almost 10 years ago!

“Some things haven’t changed. I’m still the chair of the Miami Alumni Representative Committee, now going on 40 consecutive years, and Columbia is even more popular — and even more selective. I have actually interviewed a number of applicants whose parents I had interviewed. I take pride in the fact that our region consistently ranks among the leaders in number of interviews completed and percentage of applicants interviewed when compared to regions of our size (we had 404 applicants this year). I am also on the Board of Directors and chair of the investment committee of Miami Jewish Health Systems.”

But Wayne does have changes in the family. His older son, Jeremy, graduated from medical school at the top of his class (earning Alpha Omega Alpha honors), did an internal medicine residency at Duke and worked there for a year before accepting a hospitalist position at UC Irvine, where his wife, Sanja, an ophthalmologist, is doing a two-year fellowship in oculoplastics. He says, “Jeremy and Sanja welcomed their first child — and our first grandchild — Jackson, in September 2018.”

Wayne’s younger son, Scott, graduated from the University of Maryland and earned a master’s in sport

administration from the University of Miami. In January 2019, Scott married Lindsey, and the couple moved to Boston, where Lindsey is in her final year of residency in ob/gyn at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Scott recently earned a second master’s (in business administration) from Boston College and works for a boutique private wealth management company. Says Wayne, “Red Sox fans will envy the fact that he can see the field at Fenway Park from the roof of his apartment building. Both couples hope to return in the near future to live in Miami Beach.

“These days my wife and I are staying safe at home, while Florida, and Miami in particular, have become hotspots for the COVID-19 pandemic. Because I’ve been retired for 22 years, we are used to spending both our days and nights together. Our two favorite vacations — cruising and Las Vegas — are, not surprisingly, suspended for the foreseeable future. Ironically, the virus has brought me closer to many high school friends, as well as a number of cousins, through regular Zoom conferences. I continue to enjoy listening to books on my daily walks, and for the first time, I’ve binge-watched Netflix and Amazon Prime shows.

“To all my Columbia classmates, I wish you the best. Please be well and stay safe!”

Finally, **Ron Cohen PS’76** reflects that these are “strange times indeed. I can confirm that my Carman roommates, **Ed Reisner** and **Tom Shorten**, are at least well enough to read emails occasionally. I’m still active as a clinical professor of pediatrics/neonatology at Stanford. One of my ‘hats’ is disaster preparedness, which is keeping me particularly busy on Zoom lately. When not in the NICU, I’m able to social distance at our cabin with internet in the Sierra mountains. I’m guessing it’ll be a while before I’ll safely be able to board a plane, walk through JFK and revisit Morningside Heights. My middle child, Emily, graduated from high school this past spring without any graduation, prom or goodbye, and is now waiting to find out if she’ll actually be able to go to the UC Santa Barbara campus she fell in love with, or if it will turn out to be a ‘correspondence course’ college.

“Best to all my fellow Columbians — please wear a mask and stay safe!”

Let us know how you’ve been coping with our current world. And do stay safe.

## 1973

**Barry Etra**  
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Someday we will tell our grandkids about living through this time. Many of us are experiencing it with them.

**James Minter** hopes that all have stayed safe; he and his husband, David, have been ensconced in their Hudson Valley retreat since early March. Lots of books, DVDs and long walks are the order of the days, and their “closets have never been cleaner.” They will mark 30 years together in September.

As noted in *Columbia* magazine, **Robert Katzmman** was presented the 2020 Vilcek Prize for Excellence in Administration of Justice, an award that honors champions of immigrant causes. He is the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, recognized for broadening access to legal representation.

**Eugene Drucker**, as mentioned in this column previously, is a founding member of the Emerson String Quartet; as well, his first novel, *The Savior*, was published in 2007. He expects to finish his second by next summer. The Quartet’s recording of three Schumann quartets will be released in late October; their concert schedule has been canceled until some indeterminate future, for obvious reasons. Eugene has been on the faculty at SUNY Stony Brook since 2002. He has composed several works for voice and strings, as well.

There you have it. Stay safe, be smart, be well. This, too, shall pass.

## 1974

**Fred Bremer**  
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The pandemic has disrupted many aspects of our lives. This included the ability of our *CCT* staff to produce the print version of the Summer 2020 issue. But fear not — you can find it online at college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/summer20. Just click on the Class Notes link, type “1974” in the box and you will be able to read updates from a

variety of classmates. Unfortunately, it also gives details on a classmate who passed away in April: **Carl Yirka**. As you will read, Carl had just retired from a 30-year career at the Vermont Law School Library (most recently as its director). The timing of his death only makes it feel more tragic.

An email came in with the intriguing subject line: “Once every 40 years ...”. It was from **Paul Mondor**, who admitted to last updating us around 1980. Seems like around that time he was working in the family business and “trying to find myself.” Chance had it that a buddy took him for a ride in a small Cessna: “I fell in love with flying, so much so that I left the family business and started down the aviation highway.”

After a few years at a commuter airline, Paul was hired by Delta, and during the next 33 years he logged many miles flying all over the world. “In the course of all this travel I met a woman from Scotland who lured me there one summer day. I fell for her and now consider Scotland my home for the past 12 years,” he shares. You might also find Paul at his home in Highland Beach, Fla. He retired in 2017 and says he is filling his days with golf, fly fishing, cycling and skiing. He says, “Some days it is hard to decide which to do first!”

I’m sure there are many classmates actively involved in the COVID-19 crisis, but I’ll pass on updates from two of our pandemic docs. **Dr. Christopher Puca** wrote from Tucson about what he called “a beautiful day in the neighborhood.” He tells of standing in a parking lot examining an individual in his pickup for possible COVID-19. He said it was made more challenging by the 106-degree Tucson sun, being attired in a full hazmat suit, face mask, goggles and gloves, and the smoke from a nearby forest fire that gagged him and his colleagues. (Think of this when you hear someone complain about being required to wear a mask at Walmart!)

Another classmate on the front lines of battling the virus is **Dr. Larry Stam** (who lives in Manhattan and is a nephrologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital). He tells us that he has had to deal with the acute renal failure that afflicts many coronavirus patients. Larry also sits on the medical board at the hospital.

He added that he occasionally bumps into Dr. **Reggie Manning PS'78**, who is an orthopedist at Methodist Hospital.

For the past 30 years, Dr. **David DiJohn** has been doing research on and treatment of pediatric infectious diseases, including infants and children with HIV/AIDS. He directed a pediatric AIDS clinic in New York, taught clinical pediatrics at the NYU Medical Center and was the director of pediatric infectious disease for the Flushing Hospital Medical Center in New York. As best I can tell, David moved to Nevada in 2014 to become an associate professor of pediatrics at the Reno School of Medicine and for the past three years has done the same at the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

I saw a Facebook post from **Mark Mogul** (who lives in Port Washington, N.Y.) announcing the latest member of the greater Class of '74 family, as Mark welcomed a third grandchild.

I wonder how long it will be before the number of grandchildren will outnumber the number of classmates?

A press release came in saying **Les Bryan JRN'75** (who lives in Derby, U.K.) has taken over as president of the Rotary Club of Derby. It noted that due to COVID-19, Les will face the challenge of holding club meetings and events online.

From the West Coast came an update from **Garrett Johnson** (an entertainment lawyer who splits his time between Los Angeles and Mount Vernon, N.Y.). Garrett comments on the occasional retirement announcements in this column: "Kudos to all those in the position and who have the inclination to make that choice. I am fortunate to have a vocation that is also an avocation, which I still very much enjoy."

Garrett recently began a one-year tenure as president of The California Copyright Conference, a 50-year-old professional trade organization involving the practical and legal aspects of copyright law, licensing and publishing. He was also selected to be one of the legal counselors to the estate of jazz legend Thelonius Monk. Garrett clues us in to be on the lookout for an "undiscovered gem" — a live performance by Monk that is expected to be released this summer (*Monk - Palo Alto*). Garrett says the estate has a "treasure trove of Monk material being catalogued for exploitation and I hope some-

thing that will keep me tasked for the foreseeable future."

A bonus item for those that have made it to the end of this column. Walking by Tom's Restaurant recently, I saw the latest item to be added to its traditional menu of greasy items (and, of course, cups of "creamo"): a lobster roll. I had to go in to find the price of this delectable: \$19.50. Seems like a good time to add a "caveat emptor!"

There you have it. Updates from classmates battling infections in various parts of the country, a grandchild joining our ranks and classmates following differing paths to and in retirement. Take a moment to pass on how you are spending your waning years as a sexagenarian!

## 1975

**Randy Nichols**  
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First, an apology for not submitting Class Notes for the Summer 2020 issue! Miss 'Rona (aka coronavirus) is not the only thing that can play whack-a-mole with an old guy's body! I am healthy again and enjoying life in Baltimore with my two cats.

**Melih "Mel" Dogan LAW'78** was appointed in January as an arbitrator in art with the Court of Arbitration for Art, a joint initiative of the Netherlands Arbitration Institute and the Authentication in Art Organization. CAfA was founded to resolve disputes in the wider art community through mediation and arbitration. Mel has more than 40 years of business arbitration and litigation experience in U.S. federal and state courts, as well as international forums, and he has represented numerous artists and collectors in contractual disputes with galleries. He also has negotiated and provided representation for gallery-artist contracts, art shipment and storage issues, art taxation and estate matters, art-related labor claims and Art Fair agreements. Mel co-founded, with investors, the C24 Gallery in Chelsea, New York City. For the past nine years, it has showcased an international coterie of painters, sculptors, installation and video artists; has participated in more than 25 art fairs in the United States and globally; and has hosted more than 35 artist exhibitions since

its inception. Mel's educational background also includes the NYU master's in taxation program. Visit his CAfA profile: [bit.ly/30VqFUk](https://bit.ly/30VqFUk).

**Jose "Cheo" Diaz** has written a short autobiography, *From the Streets of New York City*. Jose covers his career in Latin music radio, as a baseball commentator, in a DA's office, as a judge and as an attorney practicing in Boca Raton, Fla. His book is about an individual raised in the tough streets of Spanish Harlem who became successful, and is available in Chinese, French, German, Spanish and English. Jose broadcasted his radio show "The Mambo Machine" on WKCR radio at Columbia 1971-2001.

**Peter Garza-Zavaleta** has been living in Germany (Erlangen, Bavaria — close to Nuremberg) with his partner, Hendrik Reinke, for four years. Peter still has his place in Sitges, Spain, outside of Barcelona. He loves to travel, and does so as often as he can, mainly in Europe, Mexico and the U.S. He is a business English and Spanish language trainer for Siemens, but is enjoying semi-retirement. Peter is a member of the Neukirche Kantorei Choir in Erlangen, singing in concerts and loving it. He continues to paint; check out his work at [petergarza.art](https://petergarza.art). He enjoys riding his bike, cooking and of course eating out! Recently Peter took a wine tasting tour in La Rioja, spending time in the Basque area of San Sebastian, where his family is from.

**Jorge "George" de Jesus Guttlein SIPA'79, LAW'79** passed away on December 23, 2019. I asked his good friend **Fernando Castro** to share a few words on his passing: "Jorge would have been 67 on the 29th of December. He is survived by his son, Juan Carlos; wife, Luisa; and grandchildren, Siboney Rose and Joaquin Ronin Guttlein. Gregarious and generous, it was impossible not to know him, as he was a security guard at various Columbia College dormitories on a work-study program. Jorge had an unmistakable laugh that was accepting of everyone and that cut through any pretensions. During his years at the College, rather than opting for more spacious quarters, he remained in 12 John Jay with classmates who remained friends/family for life. The only son of a single mother, Jorge approached his studies with a strong

work ethic, an attitude of gratitude for the financial assistance he received from Columbia and a willingness to help others. Jorge practiced law for more than 30 years in criminal and immigration litigation, including in the Latino community, during the present anti-immigrant administration. He started Jorge Guttlein & Associates in 2007, and he mentored young attorneys. For us out-of-towners, no visit to New York was complete without stopping to visit Jorge, who managed to find time to meet friends despite his impossible schedule. Future visits will never be the same."

**Phelps Hawkins** and his wife, Sandra, fled the humid and, in these days, somewhat crazy American South, for their second home in the Adirondacks. Pictures of them sailing make me drool!

Reminding me that he was the original class correspondent in the 1970s but had not contributed to our Class Notes since, **Eugene R. Hurley III** now has plenty to share. He was in the mood to do so because he's making a big life change — after a lifetime in the NYC metro area, he and his wife moved to Bloomington, Ind., for his retirement years.

After graduation, Gene was a trade magazine editor, then entered Brooklyn Law School, graduating in 1982. During and after law school he was a clerk for U.S. Magistrate John Caden in the Eastern District of New York. In 1983, Gene joined the Manhattan D.A.'s Office as an assistant D.A., spending the next 35 years there before retiring in the middle of 2018, working in the Trial Division and specializing in homicide cases as well as sex trafficking rings. He was appointed a senior trial counsel in 1994, and says that the work was always challenging and engaging.

For the past few years, Gene's been creating a collection of walking guides to Paris, France, for cell phones. It involves a great deal of historical research (and yes, visits to Paris and learning to read French).

Gene married a Brooklyn Law School classmate, Margaret Schaeffer, in 1982. They have two sons, Bill and Peter. Bill (34) is a successful software engineer, and Peter (31) is a successful patent agent, both in the New York area. Gene and Margaret divorced in 2003. In 2004, after meeting on Match.com, Gene

married Ivy Millerand, and they remain happily married.

Gene has lived in Manhattan, Long Island (where he grew up) and northern New Jersey (where he's been since 2004). Ivy is from northern Jersey, though she has also lived in New Brunswick and briefly in Denver. In NYC, they had a great view of the Manhattan skyline and were planning on staying put. Then came a visit to Gene's sister and brother-in-law in Bloomington (they have lived there for four decades, since attending the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music). Gene and Ivy met their vast array of friends and saw the many cultural offerings at the university, and they also noticed the big improvements to the town since Gene was last there in 2008, including dozens of ethnic restaurants, the many outdoor recreational opportunities and the lack of traffic. Deciding they had nothing tying them to the NYC area, they made the move, and have no second thoughts.

Reacting to an article in *CCT*, **Albert Mrozk** reminds us that he was the first openly gay judge appointed to a New Jersey municipal court, in 1993.

**Ken Scherzer** has submitted his final grades and retired. He looks forward to having more time to do research and spend time on things that he enjoys. Like many of us, Ken was excited about the reunion Zoom call, but disappointed when he (we) didn't receive connection details in time to participate.

**Bob Schneider** is now a third-degree Knight of Columbus.

Founded on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, the Knights were established in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney while an assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn. Its intent was to bring financial aid and assistance to the sick, disabled and needy members and their families.

**Edwin Vega** enjoyed **Jose "Cheo" Diaz's** book (mentioned earlier). Edwin teaches mathematics to high-risk high school students in the Los Angeles area.

By the way, **Gene Hurley's** note reminded me of how I became your class correspondent. I had just moved to Louisiana, was uncomfortable being a gay Yankee in the conservative deep south, was in the process of getting a divorce and was in general not very happy with life. Then **Terry Mulry** and **Allan Bahrs '63, BUS'65** from the Alumni Office contacted me and twisted my arm to take on the challenge of being class correspondent. I don't know what they were thinking, but doing so forced me to reestablish ties to New York and to you all. It's been an amazing ride since! Go Lions!

## 1976

**Ken Howitt**  
kenhowitt76@gmail.com

Here's hoping all my classmates are faring well in these trying times. I usually send out a broadcast email to get updates, but with everyone in slow-motion mode, depending on where you are, I relied on my contacts with the usual list of suspects, and there is almost nothing extraordinary to report. Everyone I talked to had mainly "not much different" news, and the bad news is usually not theirs to report.

I received the following update from **Tom Schwartz** at Vanderbilt University about his latest book: "*Henry Kissinger and American Power: A Political Biography* was published on August 25. Book promotion in the age of COVID-19 means that I will be doing some Zoom interviews, but I can't do the traditional bookstore appearances or signings. But I would be delighted to sign any Columbia classmate's copy if they want to send it along. I am in my 30th year at Vanderbilt, and while we don't have

CC or Humanities requirements, I still benefit from those educational treasures in my own teaching."

For the rest of this column, I want to share my personal reflections on isolation in an urban environment, and hope it will inspire '76ers to share their thoughts for the next column.

**Family:** Seeing everyone without the usual kisses and hugs is difficult. Since my three children are all relatively local, but also in urban environments, most meetings are with masks. I did experiment with a recent outdoor Mexican restaurant gathering. The evening was very enjoyable and almost normal. Unfortunately, events like bar mitzvahs and weddings have been canceled for the most part or happen on Zoom, which is not the same thing. But in true '76er fashion, I usually have a drink during any Zoom event.

**Alumni:** Columbia has done a really good job staying in touch, offering interesting live events and making them available via streaming. The Earth Institute in particular has had some interesting scientific/medical discussions of the pandemic.

Zoom reunions with certain activities and classmates have also been enjoyable. Plus, the usual telephone calls are important and meaningful. Please reach out to me if you want to be included or notified about any Columbia alumni activities. I can get you on the list with the Alumni Office or email you when I am doing one.

**Work:** Since January 2019, I have worked about 80 hours a month as a bookkeeper for a technology firm. Since we have resources worldwide, the online video discussions were part of our normal operations, so there was no real adjustment once the shutdown came. In general, we use Teams, but all of those programs are similar.

**Friends:** Interestingly, when I walk around Hoboken and recognize a masked-up person, it is a terrific encounter. I live very close to a Starbucks, and I think that people, just to get out, are buying more coffee than ever. I am still trying to save money out of habit and make coffee at home.

Another great part of my week is a regular Zoom call with a Barnard classmate who has lived in Egypt with her husband for the last 15 years. Every Friday at 7 a.m., we talk for more than 90 minutes —

reminiscing and looking forward. Also, we compare the situation in Egypt to the United States, and the time just flies.

**Dining:** My cooking has been improving by leaps and bounds. I am now making vegetarian chili with kidney beans and lentils and a number of other non-meat dishes. I am trying to lose weight, unsuccessfully, because either my cooking is so good, or my cooking is totally compromising my previously delicate sense of taste. I also have driven to West 110th and Amsterdam to get V&T to go. It has to stay there post-pandemic or my heart will be broken! Plus, we still need a gathering place for our Thursday or Friday night 45th reunion meetup in June 2021 (staying optimistic!).

**Hobbies and household repairs:** This is the most exciting category. Piano-playing has become so much fun, as I endeavor for the first time in years to learn new classical music. I am working on new Debussy and Field nocturnes, and continuing with Beethoven, Bach, Chopin, Gershwin and Schubert piano works that I know — plus more. My audience of one (me) thinks I play terrifically. That's my story and I am sticking to it!

Household repairs have been an adventure. I have a very capable handyman, Elvis ("Elvis is in the house!") is what I declare to my kids when a repair project is underway). My late wife's Singer sewing machine needed rebuilding, so we got some gears and my mask-making (for free) business is still steaming along. Let me know if you need masks. Classmates will not pay anything, so I don't get criticism or complaints.

The other major repair was my gas dryer. More than 30 years ago, we bought a stackable White-Westinghouse washer/dryer set that ended up separated under the kitchen counter. The washer has been replaced three times, the dryer was still the original. In March, it started malfunctioning. So, Elvis and I removed the motor and started our tinkering. I was not eager to replace it at the beginning, since who wanted a new dryer that came with the coronavirus? Also, the size could not be matched and a new gas dryer would have necessitated a total kitchen remake.

Elvis and I (the retired printer, who did those repairs for 20 years)



## Send in Your News

Share what's happening in your life with classmates. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct), or send news to the address at the top of your column.

started diagnosing the motor problem and ultimately replaced the GE starter switch, and the dryer is now humming along like new. The best part of this story is when I asked Elvis, “How long will this dryer last in this kitchen?” His answer was, “Longer than you!” You got to love Elvis.

I hope you enjoyed this column about my thoughts and adventures. I am looking forward to some equally pleasant reflections from classmates for the next issue. So, send in your updates! Stay healthy, stay safe and keep smiling.

## 1977

David Gorman  
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“Stay well, wash your hands and don’t touch your face,” advises first-time respondent **Michael Katzman** PS’81, who gets to say this because he is a professor at Penn State College of Medicine, specializing in infectious diseases. Michael recounts, “After medical school, where I met my wife, we moved to Cleveland and then to Hershey, Pa.” At the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Michael divides his time roughly equally among teaching, clinical work and “directing our Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, which I developed as my 25 years of basic research on retrovirus integrase enzymes was winding down.” Michael and his wife “raised three wonderful children, who graduated from Wellesley (and then P&S), Yale and Hopkins, and who live in Idaho, the Philly area and San Francisco,” concluding, “I hope the world will settle down so we can visit them again.” We all second that. Oh, and he mentions that “it was great reconnecting with **John Santamaria**, **Leslie Cohen** and **Mark Ligorski** at our 40th reunion in 2017.”

We last heard from **Bill Dorsey** not long after that same reunion, when his house in northern California (along with more than 1,000 others) burned in the Tubbs Fire. “My wife, Lynn, and I were fortunate to find a comfortable home about seven miles away, after a couple of months of jumping from place to place. Two stressful years of dealing with insurance, architects and builders led us to being able

to move back to our home on October 1, 2019. Just in time for fire evacuation orders two weeks later!” However, “Since then, we have been enjoying our new home, now furnished, landscaped and comfortable. Lynn and I both work at local hospitals” — Bill is a clinical social worker — “so we have something resembling a familiar routine. Hospital work can be stressful under the best of circumstances, and now the pandemic has raised the levels.” Bill remarks that it is “so unsettling to have an uncertain future” but also that, obviously, “Our family has survived trauma, and continued, and we will keep moving forward.”

I heard from **Walter Simson**, who lives in Irvine, Calif., and is CEO of an international tech company. “I commuted weekly from New Jersey until my back just couldn’t take it anymore, at which point my wife and I moved to California. This is my fifth cross-country move for a CEO assignment and is probably the best in terms of, say, surf quality.” If this were not enough, Walter has other aspirations: “My long-form writing projects are on hold. (Turnarounds are bad for aspiring novelists. Too many plot twists in real life.) I did maintain a weekly CEO column for Inc.com for a number of years, and I’ve recently taken out a notebook for some other ideas. Other than that, I’m being tutored in German. My language skills are not improving, but German grammar is said to be good for warding off early dementia.” In the Before Time, Walter adds, “I saw **Bill Gray** a number of times in New York and enjoyed those meetings. **Geoff Levitt** ’76 (my Carman suitemate freshman year and my best man some time later) have gotten together in New York, on Zoom and in Tokyo, not in that order.”

Greetings also from **Michael Haley**, who has been writing songs in the last two or three years (more than 100 as of when he wrote me), and has started recording them, as well.

## 1978

Matthew Nemerson  
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I’m not sure where to start, except to say that 46 years ago when we showed up for Orientation — and yes, I know that we didn’t have a real

one and that there was no Facebook that year — not one of us would have predicted that the USA and world be where it is today. Nor could we have predicted that the very term “Columbia” and what it stood for — an alternative and proud claim of patriotism and a synonym for America itself — would be subject to historical and perhaps soon existential questioning. And yet, in the Core that we were soon diving into as freshman (or “first-years,” as it is now correct to say) — which recently celebrated 100 years — there was always a hint that nothing is promised to anyone, that there are no easy answers or even obvious questions, and that just when all seems lost, often the worst is yet to come. Still, we were taught that you can survive and then go on to victory or understanding, or at least to write an insightful description of what just happened and a theory on how to avoid it the next time.

So I can only say that the Class of 1978, as with all those mid-second half of the 20th century Morningside Heights classes, is made of sterner stuff, and I doubt that 2020 will get us down for long if at all.

One of our many class scientists, **J. Alexander “Alec” Bodkin** (of McLean Hospital, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School) shares, “As for the pandemic itself, this is a completely unanticipated chapter in the history of human life. I appreciate the intellectual help Columbia provided us to deal with this unanticipated catastrophe. I hope that Columbia is able to refrain from ‘canceling’ the expression of thinking that does not adhere to the views required by the far left. Princeton has plummeted from its prior heights by eagerly indulging the preposterous demands of those who despise the efforts of past Americans. Columbia must not do the same.

“The political offerings for November are not that compelling, but Joseph Biden is not terrifying, while Trump is a horror. But if Biden edges much further to satisfy the demand of the far left, he too may become a horror. What we should do then, I do not know.

“I read endlessly about the magnificent efforts of Winston Churchill to save the West. I hope that our parents’ generations’ sacrifices are not threatened by those who reject intellectual freedom

and the freedom of markets, in the pursuit of fanciful models of human progress. Beyond that, my corner of the world is adapting to survive the dangers of disease, in which setting I continue to work to advance medical treatments to alleviate mental illness, mild and severe. Outrageously, much of that work must be done with medicines never granted FDA approval for the care of mental illness, and thus never provided insurance coverage for that purpose; or with medicines approved long ago, with the result of a virtual absence of recent academic support comparing these treatments to the current, often feeble ‘standard of care,’ simply for lack of industry support, which is now virtually the only support of academic research in clinical psychopharmacology. As I gradually retire from direct patient care, it is my intention to publish a textbook including the best clinical findings of the past to guide current-day clinicians to the best care of the many forms of mental illness, without regard to the latest commercial products on offer.”

I have had the good fortune to catch up with a number of ’78ers during sessions organized by fellow Columbia scribe **Ken Howitt** ’76, as described here by the inimitable **Tom Mariam**: “The one good thing to come out of the pandemic has been the opportunity to reunite, as a group, with many friends from Columbia. I have enjoyed regular Zoom calls with the WKCR sports staff of the 1970s (including **Matt Nemerson** and **Jeff Klein**) and also the Board of Governors of the Columbia University Club of New York, which included a lot of 1978ers (**Fred Rosenstein**, **Tom Bisdale**, **Don Simone** and **Ed Deitch**). I also dug into my Columbia roots during the pandemic by ordering dinner from V&T, even though I live in Westchester. We have to make sure that V&T is not a casualty of COVID-19. It has meant a lot to all of us all these many years.”

I think Tom makes a great point about V&T, and I go there when my wife, **Marian Chertow** BC’77, and I visit the neighborhood. It would be great if everyone went out of their way to keep ordering during these difficult times.

Back to the medical world with word from Dr. **Bob Crockett**: “I retired from surgery in February. Looking for another thing to do,

but the plague has made it a little difficult. Moving from Montana to California where my wife, Dr. Donna Smith, will finish out her career. Then, if we are both stay healthy, who knows?

"One thing we learned for certain at Columbia was how to read, which I find a great comfort these days.

"For November we will either elect Biden and return somewhat back to a rule of law, or elect 'tRump' again and wind up living in a dictatorship, ruled by executive orders enforced perhaps by force.

"Looking at the issues of the BLM movement we also learned that we are all equal. Historically, certain groups have clearly been left

Mintz Levin came to the rescue of this column: "Working from home has been challenging on several levels. The work part is not really a problem but staying in touch with my clients, friends and contacts, and doing networking and business development, is difficult. It has also been hard seeing my grandchildren at a distance and not being able to hug them and roll on the grass with them. My 'night job,' as an EMT on my local volunteer ambulance, has also been challenging. Late March and April are just a blur, trying to work from home and dealing with five times our normal call volume on the ambulance service was difficult. The back seat of my car looks like

more democratic and more normal politics. Otherwise, I shudder to imagine. On the issue of BLM, I believe I recognize the incredible scope of white privilege, more than I ever knew. I hope the BIPOC population will be helped by our government due to the insistence of the population that every American citizen should be treated equally, and having a permanently poor, over-policed class living in areas deprived of many services white people like me assume we can get, is not only untenable but an affront to what America should stand for."

We are all fine here. My wife had to and will again probably teach her Yale classes on Zoom, but she picked it up quickly and once we installed a new fiber-optic connection in our house it all went well. My daughter in Shanghai, Joy, was the one we were worried about in February, and now she worries about us.

And with that we conclude the class column written (like all), from home, but which hopes to find you all safe at home and with healthy families and with lives not too terribly impacted by the current situation. I thought the scariest thing I would be writing about this year was starting to think about Medicare, but as often happens, reality got in the way. Stay well and write soon.

## 1979

**Robert Klapper**  
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Today's Columbia thought comes courtesy of the COVID-19 pandemic. I was intrigued by the offer to participate in a Columbia Alumni Association Zoom lecture, courtesy of the music department, titled "Lessons From Jazz."

The miracle of today's technology makes our campus journey 45 years ago seem truly prehistoric. The whole idea of a Columbia professor associating the revolution in music that was jazz, to the science of microbiology and coping with a virus, immediately struck the Columbia chord that lives within me. I finished a long day in surgery and could not wait to get home to do something that I had not done since I sat in 309 Havemeyer Hall. I took out a legal pad and a pen, just like I would have done with my

Columbia notebook back in the day. I decided that I should be prepared to take notes even though there would be no test; it was an experience of pure learning.

I then told myself, "Why are you taking notes? Just enjoy the lecture." But I was so glad I had my notebook and pen because, like a salmon, I was swimming upstream to where learning first really entered my life, the halls of Columbia College. The Zoom lecture professor, Chris Washburne GSAS'99, was fantastic. He gave a beautiful history of the racial divide that was New Orleans, including cartoons from the newspaper at the turn of the last century, when a crowd of white "owners" refuse to listen to "slave music." He was clearly a master of the world of music, yet the metaphor that he saw in jazz touched me deeply.

As an orthopedic surgeon for 31 years, what I've learned to appreciate in more than 15,000 operations is that my life in the operating room is also a lot like jazz. The steps of a surgery from beginning to end do not come with an owner's manual like your car, a machine built by a human being. Rather, I work each day on a machine built by something else. Whether you believe in God or not, it is a privilege to work on this miraculous machine. Even if I am replacing the "other" knee on a patient for whom years ago I did the contralateral side, in that same person the artery, the nerve, the ligament, the tendon, the muscle, the bone, the cartilage will not be exactly like the other side. What I learned in this lecture was that my world is actually also a world of jazz, and I must be ready for the Miles Davis (the artery) to change course mid-concert (surgery) and play my instrument (scalpel) slightly differently every time I play (work) in the operating room.

The professor closed his lecture by saying, "Each semester there are approximately 28 different classes for my students, and I tell my students to walk home a slightly different route after each lecture." He said, "You will be amazed at what you will find." He then said, "All of my students do this, and over the years have had the most incredible experiences that they tell me about; some met their future spouses; some changed careers because of what they saw on that walk home." It was special to

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*Dave Campbell '80, a highly lauded and board-certified spine surgeon, was on television during the pandemic, giving updates from Florida.*

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behind, especially POC and women. We must lift these groups up to assume their place in our society. We must continue to protect the rights of women to choose when they become pregnant and protect safe and legal abortion. We must protect the rights of LGBTQ and anyone else who is 'different.'

"I am reading *Against the Day*, by Thomas Pynchon. Long and challenging enough to last a plague. A few other things. Enjoying *London Review of Books*; *Paris Review*; and *Lapham's Quarterly*. The scientific literature, especially the recorded sessions from UCSF, have been fascinating, and I recommend them to get a better understanding of what is happening."

**Bruce Fraser** was succinct this time around: "If you want to know what I am doing, Zoom is now required. At Columbia, viruses were covered with Professor Bancroft and *King Lear*. In November, shouldn't we let the most technically astute win? To get a better sense of COVID-19 I am reviewing microbiology and organic chemistry."

And no 1978 Columbia class is complete without a few lawyers, and we have one who also volunteers in the emergency ambulance world — which qualifies for hero status, I think — so **Jeffrey Moerdler** of

a PPE warehouse. Now our call volume has settled down but it's still scary being out there. So far I have not been sick but who knows what to expect going forward?"

We also heard from **Alfred Feliu LAW'81**, of New Rochelle, N.Y.: "Most of my work is as an arbitrator and mediator of employment and commercial disputes, and in-person hearings and mediations were not only the norm but also almost invariably how such proceedings were conducted. No longer. Like everyone else, my professional life, for now at least, is almost all virtual. It is amazing how quickly things can change and how quickly we can adapt. I'm glad Columbia gave us the historical perspective and the value of truth and honest leadership.

"Looking to November I am most concerned about voter suppression and a commitment on the part of our own government not to interfere with our having a fair election. This can only bode poorly for what is ahead."

**Joseph Schachner**, from Teledyne LeCroy in Suffern, N.Y., is a column stalwart whom I thank for his many contributions over the years. He writes, "Columbia gave us a belief in science and trust of scientists. So, if Biden wins, who also has this belief, then we are headed for

me when he said, “all my students,” because for a moment, I was so proud to be one of “his students,” too.  
Zoom, lion, zoom!

## 1980

**Michael C. Brown**  
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

*Don't stop, thinking about tomorrow,  
Don't stop, it'll soon be here,  
It'll be, better than before,  
Yesterday's gone, yesterday's gone.*

*Why not think about times to come,  
And not about the things that  
you've done,  
If your life was bad to you,  
Just think what tomorrow will do ...*

We all need to continue to think about what tomorrow will bring in the current environment, and we have seen encouraging signs in New York City this fall. If we remain diligent, we will come of this pandemic in a better place.

One thing I find myself doing more of is watching morning television, and I was pleased to see **Dave Campbell** giving us the updates from Florida. Dave, a physician, is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, the American Board of Spine Surgery and the National Board of Physicians and Surgeons. His professional affiliations include the ABOS, the North American Spine Society, the American College of Spine Surgery and many others.

He lectures nationally and has authored numerous publications, articles and abstracts on spine surgery and spine surgery issues.

Additionally, Dave has served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice, the State of Florida Office of the Attorney General for spine surgery and is an expert medical advisor to Florida's Agency for Healthcare Administration Division of Workers Compensation. He was for three years Jupiter Medical Center's director of spine surgery and has staff privileges at the following Palm Beach County hospitals: attending orthopedic spine surgeon at JMC and attending orthopedic spine surgeon at Jupiter Outpatient Surgery Center.

Throughout his career, Dave has been consistently recognized for his achievements, innovations and commitment to the highest standards of medical proficiency and ethics.

He is also committed to community service by volunteering his expertise and time to local school athletic teams as team physician.

Good work Dave, covering the events occurring nationally and in the Southeast.

I hope that you all remain safe and in good health. Drop me a line.

## 1981

**Kevin Fay**  
kfay0516@gmail.com

Thank you to **Dan Tamkin** for letting us know that his daughter

Emily Tamkin '12 has written a book, *The Influence of Soros: Politics, Power and the Struggle for Open Society*. She is also the U.S. editor of *NewStatesman*. [Editor's note: See “Bookshelf,” Summer 2020.]

During this period of COVID-19, to be honest, I did not expect any updates from the class, as we are all dealing with this disease, and some have been impacted more than others. As for me, our adult children (three daughters) left their apartments and decamped in our house outside Charlottesville, Va., for more than a month, which was probably the first time all three have lived at home in more than a decade. For empty-nester parents, it was a little weird but nice to have them around. We took turns cooking dinner, and I have to admit the next generation is much better at this task than ours (the range of food they prepare and eat — wow).

The Class of 1981 has an important reunion coming up next June (our 40th). I encourage the class to consider attending, assuming the world returns to normal.

## 1982

**Andrew Weisman**  
columbiacollege82@gmail.com

Greetings, gentlemen! The summer is now coming to a close, as we all close in on seven months of home confinement. I kinda feel like Paul Manafort, without the guilt issues ....

Checking in this period is our extraordinarily accomplished classmate (and our class's holder of the most degrees from Columbia, currently standing at five!) **Ed Harris** GSAS'89, LAW'95. He writes, “After retiring from practicing law in 2008, I returned to teaching and joined my children at The Kinkaid School in Houston, where I chair the history and social sciences department. I teach economics and A.P. U.S. government classes, and many of my students have attended Columbia, including my daughter Brynn '17. In response to the pandemic, I was pleased to create a door-dash Columbia graduation ceremony in Houston for my former student, Grant Carmain '20, who graduated magna cum laude with a degree in financial economics. Congrats, Grant, and the Class of 2020! Roar, Lion, Roar!”

Thanks for checking in, Ed! I buzzed around online and was able to look at some of the comments your students have posted about what a wonderful teacher and source of inspiration you have been. Really heartwarming to read!

Folks, drop me an email so we can all hear about what you're up to! It's really easy. Doesn't have to be anything Earth shattering.

## 1983

**Roy Pomerantz**  
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I am sad to report the passing of Harlan Simon '81. Harlan was the drum major for the Columbia University Marching Band. As the featured halftime show juggler for the Marching Band, Harlan was one of the first upperclassmen I befriended. I will never forget his tireless energy and tremendous school spirit. CC'83 band members include **Stephen Holtje, Frank Capalbo, Seth Farber, Lawrence Silverman, Jonathan Adams, Gil Aronow, Luke Hill, Mark Licht, Steven Greenfield and Rob Kahn.**

**Steven Greenfield** reminisces, “I overlapped for two years with Harlan, including his stint as drum major. It was generally thought that Harlan did not know the difference between 3/4 and 4/4 tempo, which made him a Bad Drum Major. On the other hand, his long, lean body was perfect for forming the letters of ‘gimme a C!’ etc., which, together with a certain natural charisma, made him a Good Drum Major. His legendary goofiness (he once started to scrawl ‘BAND SUCKS’ instead of ‘BAND RULES!’ on the inside of a Ferris Booth Hall elevator) belied a seriousness of purpose that led to a long and successful career in banking and finance.

“My indelible recollections of Harlan include his blithely pitching LP records out a Plimpton window into the airshaft while ostensibly studying for a Music Humanities final. Also, though, I recall how easily he later engaged as an alum with current band members, listening to their issues in dealing with a recalcitrant administration and dispensing advice and encouragement. Then there was the memorable line uttered by his band friend Scott Plotkin '81 fol-



PAM CARMAIN

In May, Edward Harris '82 hosted a socially distant Columbia graduation ceremony for Grant Carmain '20 in Houston.

lowing a particularly execrable home football 'victory' against Lafayette, 6-0 (two field goals the only offense in the team's lone win of the season), in my sophomore year: 'Hey, Harlan! Wanna get up a team and play winners?'

"My condolences to his family."

**Henry Boehm** shared, "I remember Harlan walking around the dining room at a Howard Johnson's, introducing himself as Howard Johnson III, and solicitously asking diners if they were enjoying their meal."

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

I moderated and organized a Zoom meeting, "COVID at Columbia." Senior Associate Dean for Columbia College Development and Senior Director of Principal Gifts James McMenamin was the featured speaker. Participants included **Tai Park, Barry Rashkover, Jeff Walker, Carl Faller, George Wilson, Nathaniel H. Christian III, Robert Harding Davis and Steven Coleman.**

**Carl Faller:** "I was fortunate to attend the final men's tennis match of 37-year coach Bid Goswami in spring 2019 in the Round of 16 in the NCAA team tournament, which took place in Columbus, Ohio, against Ohio State University in front of a packed home crowd. Columbia admirably competed that day at the highest levels of collegiate tennis. Best wishes to his successor, Howard Endelman '87, and his players. It was a joy to watch and say hello to folks."

"Spring 2019 found me attending my daughter's college graduation from Fordham. I'll miss the opportunities to visit Little Italy in the Bronx. The winter months of 2019 and 2020 provided opportunities to watch my twin sons, Robert and John, play college basketball for Case Western Reserve and Denison, respectively."

"Personal time is spent cycling, playing tennis and supporting the local organization Move to Prosper with its mission of providing single-head-of-household families with living and educational choices in higher-opportunity neighborhoods. I look forward to visiting NYC and the Columbia campus at an opportune time."

**John Bonomi:** "Sorry to have missed the Zoom meeting on COVID-19. I'm an attorney and partner at Deloitte, with a specialty in labor and employment law. I'm on the Board of Directors for MicroAid,

**Jon Ross's** charitable organization. That actually came about when we renewed our friendship at the 35th reunion. I played tennis in college and continue to be an avid player. I'm in touch with **Martin Ottomaneli, Rob Dell Angelo and Steve Reich LAW'86** — Steve and Rob are lawyers and Martin is a banker. All three have kids, as do I — Liza (17) is at Hamilton College and Celia (13) attends school in NYC.

"My fondest academic memory of Columbia was my first-year Contemporary Civilization class. It was taught by a TA, Constantin Fasolt GSAS'81. The class really opened up new worlds to me, and Constantin was incredibly engaging and encouraged every student in the seminar to stretch the way we thought about the world. He is now a full professor at the University of Chicago."

"[...] I'm wondering if there are ways to get the Columbia community more involved and help the organization grow to build houses for even more families in areas impacted by natural disasters."

**Chris Boyle:** "I'm a partner in BNS Real Estate, a New York City-based real estate investment firm. Same company for the past 34 years, believe it or not! We own and operate warehouses in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx. I am married with three kids and live on Staten Island. My wife, Grace, is an attorney. The kids: Sarah is a recent graduate of Lehigh, Erin attends Penn and Jack is a senior at Poly Prep in Brooklyn. I've been an avid sailor for 30 years, and due to the recent world events requiring more time to be spent at home, I've revived a long-dormant passion for woodworking, making furniture out of wood scavenged from the forest around my home. So something positive has happened in the face of COVID-19, I guess."

"I stay in contact with **Andy Gershon, Koco Eaton** and **Brent Giddens '84**. I see Andy regularly, attending various Columbia sporting events. Koco is based in St. Petersburg, Fla., so I've seen him annually on my trips to Florida as part of being a travel baseball dad. Brent is in California, but I see him pretty often, as his daughter recently finished at NYU, and he has regular business on the East Coast."

"A Columbia thought/memory: With all the turmoil in the world today, I sure do long for the days

of sitting with several friends in the back of one of Professor Selig's classes, simultaneously doing the *Times's* crossword and listening to the great one opine on the fortunes of Don Quixote ('Don Kwiksit,' as he would say) and Sancho Panza. Oh, for simpler days ...."

**George Bogdan:** "As of July 2, I have been with the New York State Department of Financial Services for five years. I am a senior attorney in the Office of General Counsel. We are all still in coronavirus lockdown. Somehow you can keep a regulatory agency functioning on a virtual basis, albeit not perfectly. I do miss my physical office, and many of my co-workers. Our Albany offices will partially reopen first. I hoped my NYC office would start reopening in July."

"I didn't get coronavirus. My sedentary lifestyle has not been great for my cardiovascular condition, but I hope that will improve, and soon I can get to a barber and to outdoor restaurants, shop for things in real physical stores, visit friends again, etc. No family — I basically have lived as a hermit for three months. Sure wish I had a dog. I have only spoken on the phone with one CC alumnus, who is just as stir-crazy as I am, but I hope we will be saner soon."

"My only hobby is chess, and I have been playing online quite a lot. Alas, that has not greatly improved my game."

"Our governor made Juneteenth a holiday for us, and we owe him a thank you. He will propose making it a bank holiday next year. I'd be curious to know if Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 knows anything about its history."

**Andrew Botti:** "I have been a practicing attorney for 30 years. I'm with McLane Middleton in its Woburn, Mass., office. I do business and employment litigation. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of Associated Industries of Massachusetts and Lazarus House. My daughter, Madeleine, recently made the National Honor Society, and my son, Paul, is a great mathematician and basketball player. I have been married to Lesa Stramondo, also an attorney, for 20 years. I was recently featured in *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* because of my hobby of oil painting."

**Michael Broder:** "My husband, award-winning poet Jason Schneiderman, and I celebrated our 20th meeting anniversary in March

and our 16th wedding anniversary in June. Last year he was promoted to associate professor of English and was granted tenure at Borough of Manhattan Community College. I continue to direct Indolent Books, a nonprofit poetry press, and one of our authors, Dante Micheaux, won the prestigious Four Quartets Prize, awarded jointly by the Poetry Society of America and the T.S. Eliot Foundation, for his book, *Circus*, which we published in chapbook form in 2018."

"Those are some of the highlights of our adventurous life in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, where we grow magnolias in the backyard of our turn-of-the-century townhouse and where we also care for three feral cats — a 12-year-old mom and her 10-year-old sons."

**Gerry Brandt:** "In addition to my freelance work as a C.P.A., I am a pyrotechnician. Unfortunately, Independence Day celebrations were for the most part canceled this year. Last year I spent June and part of July in Saudi Arabia, where we fired 43 displays in 41 days. Since we work at night it's only 90 degrees. Fun stuff."

Stay safe everyone, and I hope to see you at Columbia sporting events in the spring.

## 1984

**Dennis Klainberg**  
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Columbia is providing Zoom classes this fall, canceling fall sports and — most likely — curtailing or scratching extracurricular activities. It's necessary, but regrettable, as the interaction between upper- and underclassman in these activities creates powerful, life-changing bonds. Being a first-born child, I was (and still am) most grateful for the influence of a number of "older brothers," all Marching Band personnel, who enriched my life at Columbia and whose friendships I still cherish, if only via Facebook communications.

As a freshman, our band conductor was senior Harlan Simon '81, who died last June after a long bout with cancer. Superbly non-musical, lanky, intelligent, confident, droll and very tall, I will always remember seeing him upon entering the band room in Ferris Booth Hall for our first rehearsal. Standing on a podium, towering over a sea of

musicians, just waving his hands with great joy, and truly no idea of a downbeat! Encouraging and enthusiastic about making the band a fun refuge, Harlan was nonetheless an exemplar of hard work and dedication, managing to keep up an internship at Citibank during his senior year, and forging a successful career in finance. It was no doubt because of his great leadership skills and generosity of spirit that he was inducted into Columbia's oldest service-honor society, the Nacoms. Moreover, despite suffering these last few years, he still found the strength as a loyal friend and alumnus to maintain ties with close friends and classmates including **Michael Ackerman** and fellow Nacoms **James Weinstein** and **Roy Pomerantz '83**. He attended reunions, supported the Marching Band Alumni Board, and, in the last year, personally met with the College administration to advocate for reinstating the Marching Band.

And now, another edition of "College Professor COVID Book Writing SMACKDOWN!"

**Adam Van Doren**, True Blue, writes: "I am happy to report another generation of Van Dorens has graduated from Columbia. My daughter Abbott '20, an English major, and I shared many enjoyable connections to Columbia over the last four years, including visits to The Hungarian Pastry Shop, sunset chats on Low Steps and a wallowing of Penn 44-6 at Homecoming last year. I continue to teach art at Yale, where this past semester I found myself, like so many others, in the throes of Zoom. Overall, my class went OK, but it was quite a challenge to teach painting over the internet. Otherwise, I am using COVID-19 'time off' to work on a book (which will combine my writing and artwork) of historic sites/landmarks of the American Revolution. I look forward to sharing more of its progress in coming issues."

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*Gerry Brandt '83, a freelance C.P.A., is also a pyrotechnician, but things were quiet this year as the pandemic canceled many July 4th celebrations.*

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Harlan leaves a beautiful and loving family behind, and I take the liberty to wish them our class's sympathy. Harlan Simon, RIP, g(tb)2.

**Daniel Armstrong**, founder of Find A Tree, wishes everyone the best and is pleased to share his new video, "The Power of a Dream." You can watch it by going online to [bit.ly/39DhvPY](http://bit.ly/39DhvPY).

**Paul Foglino** SEAS'85 is rocking us once again! He writes, "After misspending my youth playing country-rock music with my pal **Tom Meltzer** in the band 5 Chinese Brothers (hear us on Spotify), I have spent my middle age teaching math to the terrific students of The Brearley School in NYC. I've kept in touch with music by writing songs for Ellen Foley and performing as a singer-songwriter (Spotify again). My wife, Libby O'Connor BC'88, and I are pleased and proud that our daughter Francesca SEAS'24 stated at Columbia this fall. I have every expectation that she will prove to be a better engineering student than I was."

From **Peter Lunenfeld**: "This COVID/Depression/Rebellion spring, my wife, Susan, and I saw both our daughters graduate virtually — Maud with a B.A. from the New School and Kyra '16 with an M.F.A. from CalArts. I taught my entire quarter remotely at UCLA, and was amazed by the passion my students brought to our Zoom discussions. I was also inspired by the BLM protest marches that streamed through our neighborhood. Dave Filosa '82 ran a crew alumni virtual cocktail hour on Fridays, which was the perfect way to wind down the weeks in quarantine. In the realm of the real, I have a new book, *City at the Edge of Forever: Los Angeles Reimagined*. It's the product of more than a decade of work, and three decades of thinking about my adopted city."

**Dennis Klainberg**, proud father of four SUNY college graduates, congratulates child number 4, Jacob Philip Klainberg, who graduated from SUNY Purchase College with

a degree in screenwriting and playwriting. Post COVID-19, Dennis is dying to drop "leave the gun, take the cannoli" from his repertoire. To paraphrase another classic line in *The Godfather*: "I'm sending (Jacob) to, uh, (Los Angeles) under the protection of, uh, Don(s) **Peter Lunenfeld**, **Adam Belanoff** and **Michael Ackerman** (of (L.A.) ... to learn the (entertainment) business."

Wishing you all good health and sanity during these very challenging times.

## 1985

**Jon White**  
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I hope you and your families remain safe and well during these challenging times. In moments like this, our 35-plus-years-long connections are more important than ever.

While the pandemic postponed our on-campus reunion, 10 classmates joined a Zoom conference call to catch up. Kudos to **Mark Rothman** for facilitating the session and creating so much dialogue — we went beyond our allotted time. Mark asked the group, aside from providing updates about where they were today, to name the most important thing they learned from Columbia. We were also asked to share what we are most looking forward to and challenges we are facing now.

Several common themes: Many mentioned a medical challenge. Others discussed retirement issues. Almost everyone had clear memories of what they would have done differently in College now (several of us, myself included, said "have more fun"). There was discussion of the recent protest marches and a request for our Orientation facebook (not the Mark Zuckerberg one — the one you received at Orientation).

**Barry Ableman** lives in New Jersey, north of Princeton (having lived in NYC after college), and ran into **John Phelan** not too long ago. Barry was an urban studies major, has worked for the State of New Jersey for 15 years and has a daughter at Brandeis. Barry said he wished had done more of the reading.

**Thomas King** has done financial programming in New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia. His daughter is applying for the Class of 2025

this fall. He is in touch with friends from 40 years ago, and remembers the excellence of the faculty — and not necessarily appreciating them enough. His wife has noted that his CC friends were more critical than her college classmates.

**Heather Paxton** remains in the Kansas City suburbs (having lived in both the Missouri and Kansas cities). She transferred from Swarthmore and graduated early. Heather has written several books on local history, done some charity work, earned a master's and had a brief foray into the law. Kudos again to her for her great work on our class Facebook page (the Mark Zuckerberg one).

**Nick Monroe** returns to campus for swim team reunions. He lives in Sonoma, Calif., with his wife and three kids. The youngest graduated from high school this past spring and will enter the College either this fall or next. Nick fondly remembered his CC experience, noting how the Core and museum visits opened up perspectives on many things. He is involved with the real estate and hospitality industries.

**Paul Getzels** has remained in Manhattan his entire life (residing in various locales within one block of another on the Upper West Side). He has been practicing matrimonial law for 30 years and regularly performs with the New York City Bar Chorus (led by his wife, Katherine Schneider BC'86), which has regularly performed for many charitable events at many major NYC venues.

**Steve Ohno** was the coxswain for the heavyweight crew and clearly remembers rowing on the Harlem River (and trying not to fall in!). Born in Japan, Steve is currently in Los Angeles in the entertainment industry. He is married with two college age-daughters, at UCLA and UC Berkeley. Steve went to film school after the College and has many great memories of his Morningside Heights experience, including bonds with lifelong friends, core values gained and dealing with struggles/challenges. He says he misses the intellectual stimulation from those days and commented that his College education allowed him to listen better, be calmer, hear people and take their voices into consideration. He offered a great coda: "Peace in spirit, love in heart, health in body."

**Jeffrey Lautin** is a public librarian. He lived in Japan for a year after school, and wished that in addition to having us read Plato and Homer, the College would also have provided practical help with employment and communications with others. He recalled some faculty not being sufficiently realistic or supportive about making a living.

Other nationwide updates: **Laura Glick Meyer** wrote from the West Coast, “What a crazy year it’s been so far, with challenges and silver linings. I always like to start with the good. My three boys in college are all home with me now, as is my 83-year-old mom, here in Los Angeles. Thankfully, my kids have adapted well to online learning, online communication with their friends and, together at home, they are their own fraternity! This is bonus mom time I have with them and I will cherish every minute! The pandemic has presented both opportunities and challenges for my e-commerce business, theultimategreenstore.com. Eco-friendly/organic products that are good for one’s health and good for the planet, coupled with growth in e-commerce trends, make working exciting. There are times when physically going into the office is necessary. Too many people (not in my offices but others we share common areas with) are not wearing masks. As someone with an autoimmune disease who is at higher risk and desperately wants to keep my business going, I say: Please wear those masks, people! Love thy neighbor, and hope everyone is well!”

**David Schellhase** has been mostly lawyering, mostly in-house, mostly at tech companies, for 30 years. “I’m the general counsel at Slack Technologies, which went public last year. In addition to my legal responsibilities, I also look after the corporate development and privacy functions and also our charitable arm, Slack for Good. Immediately before Slack I was the chief operating officer of a tiny startup that was bought by Twitter. Before that, plenty of other companies that occasionally hit the news, like Salesforce and Groupon. I love the constant dynamic of changing technology and the pace of the work in and around tech companies. I live in San Francisco with my wife.

“I was in Manhattan the day before the shelter-in-place started, and it certainly did not feel as though what might be the signature event of

our lifetimes was dawning. But history only presents itself in an orderly way in hindsight. I’m pretty sure I learned that by the time I graduated.

“In this day and age, I find myself thinking back to a tuition hike that occurred, I think, in our junior year. Some of us in Laurence Dickey’s early modern European intellectual history class asked him what we should do about it. He was an unreconstructed Berkeley radical. Without hesitating he said, ‘Blow up the administration building.’ I think he was using hyperbole to tell us to get off of our asses and do something. That unprofound but highly motivational lesson has stuck with me.

“I also think back to Stendhal’s *The Red and the Black*, which I read in some class or another as a sophomore. Stendhal says something like, ‘Maturing is trading the heroic dreams of youth for the comfortable mediocrity of middle age.’ I’m just out here, perched on the edge of the West Coast, trying to hang on to those heroic dreams.”

**Mike Malik** wrote from Iowa, and sent me a gorgeous picture of the sunrise: “Things are good for me in the orchard. Life has not changed much due to the virus. It is pretty easy to be naturally socially distant here.

“So, with little concern for my health, I have remained focused on building the orchard — the main infrastructure project this summer was building a deer fence around the orchard to protect the 14,000 trees that I planted. It is 7,842 linear ft. and it took me all summer to pound the posts and hang the wire, and I am now, thankfully, working on hanging the gates, which will be the end of the project.

“The trees are going to have their first harvest this fall and although it will be small, it is exciting to see the apples developing. I’m growing cider apple varieties and will press them into juice and ferment them to make hard cider.

“It has been four years since the trees were planted and I’m hoping that the economy will enable me to market and build a consumer base for the cider next summer, as I’m going to need some revenue soon.

“Outside of working on the business, things are good. I enjoy life on the farm and my two dogs have a great time chasing rabbits and deer out of the orchard while I’m working each day. I stay in touch with

**Amy Lloyd** (née Waxgiser). She is doing well; her two daughters are grown, with one a teacher in Detroit and the younger in a study abroad program in Edinburgh who had to return early to NYC due to the virus. All are safe.”

Stay well and please write!

## 1986

**Everett Weinberger**  
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We all have pandemic stories. **Jeff Arle** and **Michael Caldwell**, two accomplished doctors in our class, will never forget theirs. I’m heartened that both of them ended their updates with words of hope that we will get through this and come out the other side.

Jeff writes, “Hi fellow pandemic-ians: Just a quick note of adventure and tragedy. I was one of those people stuck on a boat coming from the Antarctic near the end of March — we were coming back through the Drake Passage hoping to avoid a hurricane-like front and 30-ft. waves when first Ushuaia, and then all of Argentina, closed its doors (ports). After an additional week at sea heading north, we luckily (through some backdoor negotiating with embassies and consulates) managed to disembark with police escorts in Montevideo, Uruguay. I flew back through Buenos Aires and Miami to Boston, and then my wife put me in isolation for two more weeks at home as our two boys, who were now home from NYC college, were past their quarantine.

“I’ve had to go into the hospital for emergent surgeries a few times. We recently suffered the loss of my mother to COVID-19, as it ravaged her nursing home here in Concord, Mass. Be well — eventually, this will end.”

I asked Jeff what he was doing professionally and in his free time, and was duly impressed. He says, “I am the vice chair of neurosurgery at one of the Harvard hospitals in Boston (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center), primarily sub-specialized in the field of neuromodulation, where I recently edited my third book; it came out last January. In some spare time I have done a fair amount of travel over the years, giving talks nationally and internationally and doing some high-altitude mountain-

eering (five of the ‘Seven Summits’) and lately have been working on a quest to do the peaks in the seven seas with a friend (that’s how I ended up in Antarctica). I live in Concord with my wife, Kelly, and kids (17, 19, 21) — Chad ’21 is the oldest.”

**Michael Caldwell**’s move to Nashville started out placidly but quickly became anything but, as he was faced with the city’s biggest public health crisis since the Spanish Flu pandemic. He writes, “As I was learning about the community, I attended a meeting of Metro Arts: Nashville Office of Arts & Culture. I was an art history major at the College and I have always been interested in local arts. I had the pleasure of catching up with former fencing teammate **Will Cheek**, who is a lawyer and commissioner on the Arts Board. Will’s weapon was foil and mine was épée.

“After spending the last five years in the biotech industry, I had the opportunity to return to public health when I was selected as the director of health and chief medical officer for the Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville/Davidson County. Nashville suffered a devastating tornado last March and I began my position helping out in the Emergency Operations Center. This continued with Nashville’s first COVID-19 case on March 8. My official start date was March 9, and one of my first acts was to work with the mayor and our board of health to essentially shut down the city.

“I am thinking of Columbia and all of our classmates and their families and wishing them health and safety. My condolences to all who have lost someone to this illness. This is one of the most challenging times of our lives. I look forward, with all of you, to the day when we can all reflect on this difficult chapter in our history. That time will come. We will eventually have a vaccine and we will be able to move on.”

## 1987

**Sarah A. Kass**  
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In these very weird times, I posted on Facebook during the summer looking for encouraging news.

**Deena Ackerman** answered the call. Not only did she send me a link

to a wonderful article in *The Washington Post* about a man who asked strangers to share positive stories (read it at [wapo.st/3icu5J1](http://wapo.st/3icu5J1)), but it also turns out that Deena participated in his project! She shared with this person that during quarantine, she successfully grew a tomato! Cool in its own right (says the woman in the apartment with no garden) but even cooler that it became part of this compilation!

Thank you, Deena!

So I put to all of you a challenge: Please send me messages with one new thing that YOU have done during quarantine. I will feature them all in future columns.

I also received a note from **Garth Stein** SOA'90: "My eldest, Caleb (24), graduated from Berklee College of Music last year to have his work as a classical music recording engineer evaporate due to the virus. My second son, Eamon (21), was studying film at FAMU in Prague and was sent home because of the virus. And my youngest son, Dashiell (13), has watched his career in the Seattle Sounders FC development program fizzle due to — you guessed it! — the virus. But the good news is, the first book of my graphic novel series, *The Cloven*, was published on July 28 ([theclovenproject.com](http://theclovenproject.com)). So there's still some fun to be had out there."

## 1988

**Eric Fusfield**  
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I write this during the summer quarantine, still adjusting to days spent primarily in the house, during which time I heard that Professor Henry Graff GSAS'49 passed away from complications due to COVID-19. Graff, who was 98, taught in Columbia's history department for 45 years and established himself as one of its legends before retiring three years after our graduation. One of my lasting memories of senior year was taking his spring seminar on the U.S. presidency and staying after class with him each week to discuss that year's presidential election as the campaign unfolded. For years afterward, I would watch him take part in ABC's coverage of presidential inaugurations, where his insights offered historical context and a sense of the moment's

timelessness. The presidency is "the litmus paper for testing the nation's aims and character," as he was quoted in his *New York Times* obituary. We're now eight election cycles since graduation, still applying that litmus test. [Editor's note: See "Around the Quads"/"In Memoriam," Summer 2020.]

Grandparent alert: **Mark Timoney** became only the second member of our class (whom I'm aware of) to experience this generational shift in his personal life, thanks to his daughter giving birth this year. "Our first grandchild was born on January 22," he writes. "His name is Mateo Benjamin. He came bringing joy. Otherwise all is well — living and working, working, working from home, home, home."

Mark, **Philip "Shraga" Levy** — are there any others in our class who have joined, or are about to join, this exclusive grandparent club? Please let me know.

Closer to my own end of the parenting spectrum, the only classmate of ours (again, whom I'm aware of) with a child younger than my two: **Salvatore Zoida**. "I attended Georgetown Law," he writes. "I bounced around among law firms and startups, first in Los Angeles and then in San Francisco. Along the way, I wrote news scripts at NBC Bay Area News and got a number of my short stories published. I have a literary agent who has my debut novel at Macmillan, HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster and Penguin Random House."

"Five years ago, I became a father," Salvatore continues. "My daughter is a precocious child who has voiced her frustration with me countless more times than I have with her. She is enamored of the idea of attending Columbia in fall 2033."

Perfect. If my daughter Esther is a junior when your daughter arrives on campus, she can show her around and recommend which Lit Hum instructor to choose.

My freshman- and sophomore-year suitemate **Patrick Cable** died of natural causes at 53 this spring. Many of you might not remember Patrick; he transferred to another school after sophomore year, but we stayed in touch for a few years past graduation. He went on to a successful and varied career as a museum curator, most recently as chief curator at the Taubman Museum of Art

in Roanoke, Va. Reading the various memorials to Patrick online, I was struck by how literate, accomplished and universally liked he was. "Those who knew him best will remember him for the standard of excellence he brought to his work, his impressive and wide-ranging intellect, his exceptionally well-developed sense of humor, and his unflagging kindness and acceptance of everyone who came his way," according to a tribute published in the *Citizen Times* of his native Asheville, N.C. Patrick lived a short, peripatetic life, in which he changed cities and jobs often, but he seemed to leave friends, admirers and a record of achievement wherever he went. He wasn't here long, but he touched the lives of others.

## 1989

**Emily Miles Terry**  
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I hope my notes this season find everyone well and safe. I feel very fortunate, and relieved, that those I know personally have recovered from COVID-19 to date.

I connected with **Duchesne Drew**, who was the news editor at the *Spectator*, and he has gone on to a successful career media. Duchesne attended graduate school at Northwestern and then worked for several years at the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. In May, he took the helm as president of Minnesota Public Radio during a turbulent time — both the pandemic and the murder of George Floyd, just miles from where Duchesne lives, had a huge impact on his work and life, but Duchesne says, "I'm built for this and as a long-standing member of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul community I feel compelled to be part of the solution to some of our community's challenges." Duchesne is hopeful and optimistic and says that he "is very glad to be in my new role."

Duchesne is married to Angela Davis, an Emmy-winning reporter and host of *MPR News*; together they have two children. Duchesne speaks of his "deep affection for Columbia, both the education and the friendships." He is still connected to *Spectator* as a member of the Board of Trustees, and he recently Zoomed for a digital happy

hour with **Umberto Serrano**, **Brian Domitrovic** and **Jeff Berg**.

Through Duchesne, I caught up with Jeff, who by day directs client services for CMIT Solutions of Wall Street and Grand Central (an IT-managed service provider) in the NYC area, and by night occasionally moonlights as a stand-up comedian. His comedy touches on themes of the sandwich generation (yes, that's us). You can find his set on YouTube: [youtu.be/-TwIo7FHyM](https://youtu.be/-TwIo7FHyM).

Jeff writes, "Yes, astoundingly, after getting a B.A. in English and an M.F.A. in fiction writing, I've spent my entire career in IT. Fortunately, my job allows me to work from home, with, in normal times, occasional jaunts into the city. I live in the northwest corner of Connecticut with my wife, Susie, and our dogs, Hank and Zoe, and — since the beginning of the pandemic — two of my three kids, Sarah (25) and Ben (20). Our son Alex (24) lives in Bushwick and has remained hunkered down there."

Of his venture into stand-up comedy, Jeff writes, "It was mostly in reaction to being a member of the 'sandwich' generation, where we still have kids in college, but our parents are slowly dying. I have not been able to pursue it since the fall due to our current worldwide insanity. Instead, I am spending a great deal of time trying to actually get fit — exercising every day, hiking, running, lifting weights, swimming. In addition to getting my physical house in order, I am also trying to reinvigorate my mind. That is to say, I am thinking about writing. I guess you can't move forward on all fronts simultaneously."

Many of our classmates have been involved with efforts on behalf of pandemic relief. **Danielle Maged BUS'97** is chief growth officer for Global Citizen, whose *One World: Together at Home*, a global broadcast to support frontline health care workers and the WHO, aired earlier this year. My family has watched the artistic and amazing performances many times — you can still send support and see it at [globalcitizen.org](http://globalcitizen.org).

As COVID-19 raged in Massachusetts earlier this year, **David Odo**, director of academic and public programs at the Harvard Art Museums, led brief breaks for small groups of doctors from local hospitals, examining different works from the museums' collection to

help doctors briefly disengage from the pressures and stresses of their work during the pandemic.

**John MacPhee** is the CEO of The JED Foundation, a nonprofit that protects the emotional health for our nation's teens and young adults. The foundation offers many resources for today's youth, including COVID-19 resource guides.

Please write to tell me how you are.

## 1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs  
youngache@hotmail.com

It's not what we were expecting, it's not what we're used to, but you know what? It was fun. Our official 30th reunion hasn't happened yet, but the Reunion Committee organized a June 5 Zoomunion and TED-style talks on June 6 to hear from various alumni, including three classmates — **Julie Fishman**, **Justin Abelow LAW'95** and **Gina Fattore**. CC'90 had the largest representation by far among the speakers, I'm proud to say. Julie discussed her career in the world of LGBTQ rights, Justin spoke about Central Park and Gina talked about how she became a writer and Hollywood showrunner.

Well done, folks!

Friday night's affair was BYO-refreshments, and **Adel Aslani-Far** was enjoying his Scotch. The organizers put the 70 of us into breakout rooms by freshman dorm or floors. Carman 7/8 won the trophy for the biggest breakout room, with 14 people. Wahoo! What follows are the notes I so diligently took from those very fun 30 minutes, as well as what I learned from others when the group reunited and from an unofficial follow-up Zoom on Sunday a handful of us joined.

**Gwen Knitweis** sort of made it to her first reunion! She has been in California (now in Sacramento) since 1991, is a hydropower engineer and is still playing the saxophone. Had reunion happened at Columbia, she would have been there. **Peter Spett LAW'93** is practicing law in Boca Raton, Fla., having moved there 10 years ago from Manhattan. He missed our 25th reunion because of a trial and was happy to catch up this year. **Carol Shahmoon LAW'92** lives on Long Island, has her own law

firm and is hoping her youngest has a good start to her first year at Penn. Carol mentioned running into **John Vincenti** at the Faux Columbia Club in Manhattan, aka the Penn Club. It seems that many Columbia alumni hang out there. John commutes from northern New Jersey to the city, where he practices law with his brother. They also practiced with their father, Vito '54, LAW'56, until his passing on July 21, 2020. John and his wife Robyn's two sons are both high schoolers, which kind of blows his mind. **Isaac-Daniel Astrachan** feels the same way every time he remembers that his son is a high school senior.

**Mark Ambrosino** splits his time among Long Island, Nashville, Los Angeles and London. He started an independent record label in 2006, tours (if you recall, he spent half of his Columbia years working as a drummer) and says nothing would be possible without his beloved wife, Rozan. **Liz Pascal** lives in Buffalo and is a tax lawyer. She has two daughters, one of whom graduated in May from Oberlin. **Yong Liu** joined the group from Charlotte, home for the last 10 years, after 20 years in Los Angeles. **Sherry Pancer Wolf** has worked in finance all these years and has lived in Boston for the past 25 with her husband, Doug Wolf '88. Their youngest is a first-year at Columbia.

**Radhi Majmudar** lives on Staten Island with his husband, **Ifran Aziz**. Their children are both at Columbia — one a freshman, the other a junior. **Judy Shampanier LAW'93** works for a judge in Westchester County, N.Y., has a son in 11th grade and daughter who is a first-year at ... wait for it ... Columbia! **Melissa Landau Steinman's** younger son is a first-year student at Wesleyan and her older son graduated from Brown in May and just started a Ph.D. program at ... Columbia!

**Jon Edwards** Zoomed in from London. He works in the Beijing office of the London Stock Exchange, and three years ago his wife and two children (now 14 and 16) returned to London. Jon went to visit them in January and got "stuck" there because of the pandemic. **Elyn Grossman Levine** does independent consulting and has lived in Philadelphia for the past three years. As of June, she was planning to teach a communications class

to undergrads at Penn's Wharton School this fall.

Elyn, let us know what came of that! Her youngest began high school this fall.

**Dan Max** hasn't left the Washington, D.C., area, but he did leave the Morrison & Foerster law firm in late 2019 and joined King and Spalding's M&A and finance practice group. **Judy Bernstein** has gone back to school to enroll in a social work program at SUNY Stony Brook. She has two seniors (one at Harvard, the other in high school) and an eighth-grader. **Julie Weber** (née Schwartz) has been in Needham, Mass., since summer 2019 after nine years in the D.C. area. She left her job as ombudsman at Montgomery College in Rockville, Md., to take that position at Brown. In her previous life, Julie was an employment lawyer. Her three children attend Tufts, Grinnell and high school.

Of course, we also talked about friends who couldn't make the Zoom. **Adam Ginsburg SEAS'90** and Stephanie GS'90's youngest child started at University of Florida this fall. That makes three Gators (middle

at Wharton, and jobs at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Microsoft and Merus Capital (the Bay-area VC company he co-founded).

"The numerous moving tributes to him are a testament to the lives he touched and the many who loved him. He made friends so effortlessly — always charming and charismatic, he was the life of the party who would do anything to get a laugh, and had an infectious passion for life and adventure. Whenever you had a dinner, activity, or trip with Peter, you were in for a real ride; it would always turn into a memorable experience. Over the past 34 years, our very close group of Columbia friends have had so many memorable experiences with Peter: trips to Europe and Napa, skiing, concerts and many hours-long dinners that would end in late-night karaoke in Koreatown and 5 a.m. Korean food. Even during the coronavirus pandemic, he focused on keeping us connected and set up weekly Zoom calls so we could all stay in touch while quarantining. Through it all, he was the instigator and the glue that held us together; everything we did was better, shinier and more beautiful because of him.

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*Gwen Knitweis '90 has been in Sacramento since 1991, is a hydropower engineer and is still playing the saxophone.*

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child is a junior and oldest graduated) and no Lions among the kids. **Hilary Nover Klein** is a psychologist in the D.C. area and has been seeing a lot of COVID-19-related anxiety and stress in her clients.

I learned some bad news in July: **Peter Hsing SEAS'90** died. **Gloria Pak LAW'95** submitted this reflection: "The Columbia community lost one of its best this summer. On July 17, 2020, Peter passed away unexpectedly from cardiac arrest, leaving behind his beloved children, Brandon and Nicole; his parents, Fred and Fei Hsing; his brother, Andy Hsing; and a large community of friends and family around the world. We are all grieving his loss immensely. Peter had so many tight-knit groups of friends, from high school at Loomis Chaffee, college at Columbia, business school

"Beyond all of that, Peter was the most generous, loving and loyal person. He was an active alum in the SEAS Entrepreneurship Program and mentored many. He would go out of his way to help anyone who needed it and would drop everything to be with you when you called day or night. He was kind and gentle, deeply sensitive to others and he loved with his whole heart. He was so incredibly proud of his kids and family and loved them beyond measure. We all feel his loss profoundly and will miss him each and every day. Rest in peace, our beloved friend and brother. (Note: A fellowship at Columbia in Peter's honor is being established, in case people are interested in contributing. Details will be sent to the Columbia community.)"

On that sobering note, I wish everyone good health and hope we

can reunite as a large group soon. In the meantime, check out the 195 classmates who made a page in the online Class Book ([columbia.brightcrowd.com/1990](http://columbia.brightcrowd.com/1990)). If you didn't, there's still time to make one. It's really, really easy. Also, please send me any updates.

## 1991

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

**Joel Rubenstein** writes: "As planned, once our kids went off to college (UMass and Temple), we left the United States and moved back to Europe. We live in Malmö, Sweden, just across the bridge from Copenhagen, where I am the president of a Nordic-only OTC pharma company, Niconovum AB. If anyone finds themselves in Copenhagen or southern Sweden, please let me know."

From **John Evans**: "My friend **Michael Gitman** was interviewed by *NBC News* on April 6, regarding the surge in COVID-19 cases on Long Island. Michael was speaking in his role as medical director of North Shore Medical Center in Manhasset, N.Y. North Shore is part of the Northwell health care system, New York's largest. Specifically, Michael was talking about his facility's preparedness. They had set up three large blue and white tunnel-shaped tents in a distant corner of the facility's parking lot, which had about 60 beds ready and waiting for COVID-19 patients. The facility had also converted an auditorium, conference room and every other available space in the hospital to prepare for the influx of up to 500 COVID-19 patients. At the time of the interview, Long Island's two counties, Nassau and Suffolk, which have about three million residents combined, had more than 29,000 COVID-19 cases, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and were continuing to spike at that time. The online article ended with Michael saying, 'I think the way we're going to be successful is keep our staff healthy, keeping our staff safe and keeping them focused on our patients. We are trying to save our community.'

"I hope all of our fellow Columbians, like Michael, who are on the frontline or are essential workers in any capacity, are surviving and

staying safe, and I thank them all for their service."

CCT wishes good health and safety to the members of the Class of 1991! Please send us a note with your news.

## 1992

**Olivier Knox**  
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Dear classmates, as I write this in mid-July, the country is being tested as never before in our lifetimes. And at least three of our peers have been playing special roles. Dr. **Ashish Jha** directs Harvard's Global Health Institute and teaches global health up at that same "School up in Boston." I've been lucky to get him on my radio show to take listener questions on science and health — a challenge given our rapidly changing understanding of SARS-CoV-2. I didn't know Ashish well at Columbia, but as a guest he's been able to explain science so well that even "I" understand it, and my worst grade at Columbia was a "C" in "Dinosaurs and the History of Life."

Ashish writes, "By early March, our entire team was focused solely on the pandemic, both here in the United States and globally. We have provided essential data to the White House COVID-19 task force, to Congress and to governors — data such as how much testing America needs, when our hospitals might get overwhelmed or how nursing homes are faring."

"On a personal note, this has been physically the hardest months of my life. Early on, as I started doing media hits and worked long hours, my wife and I agreed that I would work from my office in Cambridge. Each morning, I would leave the house around 5 a.m., drive the empty roads from Newton to Harvard Square. I would spend the day in the office alone, usually until about 11 p.m. Weeks went by and I don't think I saw a single person outside of my family. I would stare out the window occasionally and see no one in Harvard Square," he says.

But while he may not have seen anyone, we certainly have seen him! "Since March 1, I have averaged about 15 media interviews per day, seven days a week," Ashish calculates. "My days were and are a mix of media calls and appearances, data

analyses, speaking to policymakers, reading new science and writing."

By late April, concerned about burning out, he started to take Saturdays off, reconnecting with his family, pulling back a bit and preparing to transition to a new job at the Brown University School of Public Health. Ashish says that he remains "strangely optimistic" despite the long road ahead.

"When this pandemic starts to draw to a close, I plan to take an extraordinary amount of time off. And sleep. And pick up a hobby," he adds. "I'm looking for ideas."

[Editor's note: See CCT Online's exclusive Q&A, "Pandemic Expert Dr. Ashish K. Jha '92: 'We Will Get Through This.'": [college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/spring20/article/pandemic-expert-dr-ashish-k-jha-92](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/spring20/article/pandemic-expert-dr-ashish-k-jha-92).]

When I started to put this column together, I asked **Eric Garcetti** SIPA'93 to share his unique perspective as mayor of Los Angeles.

"Greetings from L.A. Hope this finds everyone safe and healthy during the toughest collective year of our lives," Eric writes.

"This year started as one of great hope and promise — my last social weekend before COVID-19 hit was going to Palm Springs to celebrate the 50th (!) birthday of **Karl Cole-Frieman** LAW'97 with many classmates, including Wanda Cole-Frieman BC'94; Imara Jones '94; George Kolombatovich '93, LAW'98; Dae Levine BC'92; **Jason Griffith**; and Amy Schrader BC'92 at the former home of Frank Sinatra," Eric reports. "Then the world changed and within weeks we were slammed by a triple challenge of the biggest collective health threat, the deepest economic downturn and the most urgent call for racial justice in our lifetimes."

Eric, who has a bit less than two and a half years left in his second and final term as L.A. mayor, sees "our country and my city at a crossroads, struggling to determine whether we will just 'get through this' or take this year as a deep moment to fundamentally reimagine and co-create a more just, healthier and fairer future for everyone."

Eric has been speaking "almost nightly" to Los Angeles, and "building short-term and long-reaching ways to alleviate poverty in my city and our country for everyone, including immigrants who have been left

behind, and to take bold steps on racial justice, from embracing universal basic income (a dream of Martin Luther King Jr.) to reinvesting in Black communities with funds usually assigned to police departments."

Eric has also been serving as one of the two first national co-chairs of former Vice President Joe Biden's presidential campaign, crafting policies relating to the Latino community, the climate crisis and economic recovery, and leading Biden's search for a running mate, "which will be announced by the time these notes are published," he notes. Eric predicts the election will anoint "the first woman Vice President in the history of our republic."

Eric writes that our time at Columbia has helped shape this moment, "from political science memories from Charles Hamilton, Carlton Long '84 and Judith Russell GSAS'92 to activism alongside classmates in Harlem and on campus."

"Through all of this, I am blessed with an incredible wife, Amy, and our exceptional and resilient daughter, Maya (8), who continue to be my support through these difficult days. And a community of friends, classmates and colleagues, who give me strength every day," Eric says.

My friend and East Campus suitemate **Peter Hatch** serves as New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's COVID-19 Public-Private Partnership Czar after being chief of staff to the deputy mayor for health and human services and senior advisor to the mayor on street homelessness. In his new role, Peter oversees and coordinates work with private sector and philanthropic partners to aid the city's response to the pandemic.

In practice, Peter writes, this means efforts to "procure, manufacture and raise donations of critical PPE; feed health care and other essential workers; support remote learning for public school students and virtual summer employment for NYC youth; and provide cash assistance to undocumented New Yorkers who can't access federal, state or other city financial relief programs."

Did I mention that Peter got COVID-19? Because Peter got COVID-19. "Quarantined for seven days (the official guidance for essential workers at the time) and only saw my wife, **Hilary Hatch**, and our girls via FaceTime, which was the



Paul Bollyky '94 and Kathryn Hudacek '94 caught up and reminisced.



Paul Bollyky '94 met up with Mason Kirby '94 to surf.

worst of it, as I was lucky to have only a mild case," he says.

As ever, this column only works when you write in. Please share any and all personal and professional news.

## 1993

**Betsy Gomperz**  
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Class Notes for CC'93 is taking a hiatus this issue and will be back in the Winter 2020–21 issue; until then, stay healthy and be well. Please take a moment to send me a note. Classmates want to hear from you!

## 1994

**Leyla Kokmen**  
leylakokmencct@gmail.com

Hello, everyone! I pride myself on hitting deadlines, so it truly pains me to have flat-out missed a couple of columns, resulting in a lengthy delay in sharing some of your updates. My apologies! I'm afraid the coronavirus has thrown life into chaos this year, and with the e-learning (not great), the working from home (at a card table in the bedroom) and the general uncertainty (read: impending doom), well, Class Notes paid the price. I'm sure many of you have been feeling the same stress. I hope you and yours have been staying safe and well during these crazy times.

**Brian Greenspan** sent in a terrific note with news of a major

career change: After 26 years working in advertising and marketing as a graphic designer, Brian has moved back to New Jersey from San Francisco, his home of 22 years, to go to school for nursing. "I figured it was time to polish up the ol' soul after foisting loans and credit cards on people for Wells Fargo for the last 16 years," Brian writes. "It's a two-year program plus pre-reqs. If I like it, I'll continue on to be a nurse practitioner, maybe specializing in pediatrics." Thus far, Brian's completed two semesters of pre-reqs and is hoping to apply to a nursing program this fall.

Brian also shared some fun updates from classmates: "Before leaving SF, I was in Alamo Square with my French bulldog, Biggie. A couple showed up with a little Frenchie, so Biggie went over to explore. I followed him because he can be obnoxious. I was talking to one of the doggy's dads, but kept looking at the other as I did. Finally I asked him, 'Did you go to Columbia?' His reply: 'Yes, Brian. How are you?' It was **Karl Cluck**, my dorm neighbor senior year. He had moved back to the United States from Asia after 14 years and had been in SF for one year."

Shortly after he returned to the East Coast, Brian caught up with **Anny Shin** while she was in NYC, and then he crashed her daughter Ida's bat mitzvah in January in Washington, D.C. Brian reports it was a blast; he ran into **Kevin Dwarka** there.

Brian also writes that he is in frequent contact with **Phyllis**

**Fletcher**, who "is happily married with an amazing son, and living in Seattle."

In other news, **Paul Bollyky** sent in a lovely note while sheltering in place this spring: "All is well here. I'm an infectious disease physician and researcher at Stanford. There is a lot going on with COVID-19, of course, including efforts around sample biobanking and clinical research studies. However, if there is a silver lining to the pandemic, it's been in reconnecting with lots of friends, including from Columbia days. It seems like everyone is reaching out and getting back in touch."

Paul got together with both **Kathryn Hudacek** and **Mason Kirby** over the past year.

That's it for this time. Drop a line when you can. Note my new email address, at the top of this column. In the meantime, be well.

## 1995

**Janet Lorin**  
janet.lorin@gmail.com

I hope this finds everyone and their families safe and healthy.

Thanks to **Lynette Pineda** for her update. She works at Securian Asset Management, where she's managed the Northeast Commercial Mortgage origination platform for more than two years. She lives in Westport, Conn., with her three kids and three dogs.

Please keep the news coming, and if you've never written in, this is a good time to drop me a note.

## 1996

**Ana S. Salper**  
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Dear classmates, as I look back at my last Class Notes column, I cringe at how naïve I was in thinking that we would be on the other side of this pandemic by the fall. These have been long, challenging months, and we have to continue to persevere in the coming months as well, adjusting our lives as best as possible to get through this pandemic. I did not receive any notes to share for this issue. I must say, though, in light of the current state of the world, and in support of the continuing battle for civil rights and racial justice, I do not think that this is an appropriate moment to focus on each of us as individuals. Instead, I call for us to come together as a community and to work as hard as we can in our respective lives to show our fellow citizens respect, empathy and understanding. And please — stay safe.

"We can disagree and still love each other unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist."

—James Baldwin

## 1997

**Kerensa Harrell**  
kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope that you had a pleasant summer and that you all have been staying in good

health throughout this frightening pandemic. I recall my great-grandmother Thelma, who was born in 1907 and lived until 1999, telling me all about how she had lived through the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic as a pre-teen in rural Alabama. Our current pandemic seems quite reminiscent of that one, though I daresay we should count ourselves luckier that so many laboratories around the world are working tirelessly to invent and mass-produce a vaccine for us as quickly as possible.

In February, **David Scharff** joined with several other Alumni Representative Committee volunteers in Los Angeles, where they interviewed candidates for admission to the College. ARC's "Super Saturday" events provide alumni with the opportunity to interview multiple candidates in a single day. David shared a photo of himself with Nina Hong '93, Justin Chow SEAS'11 and Erik Feig '92 that was taken at Erik's company Picturestart.

On the evening of March 24, I had just put my daughter to bed and sat down to watch *The Rachel Maddow Show* when suddenly I did a double-take at the name of the doctor who was being interviewed. It was **Rebekah Gee PH'98**, talking about the challenges that New Orleans is facing amidst the pandemic and how there needs to be a national focus on that city due to its having the highest growth rate right now in the world. Rebekah is the CEO of Health Care Services for Louisiana State University and has been helping out with LSU's

COVID-19 response, as well as helping with the COVID-19 response for the state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans.

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, while I wrap up this column and am constantly worried about the pandemic, it is mid-July and I am carefully preparing for the final battle of a two-year-long war in which there have already been many other fierce battles leading up to this final one, which is to take place in just a matter of days from now. There is so much at stake, the most important of which is my precious 3-year-old child. Recently I took a break from my battle preparations, in order to give my mind a brief respite, and sat down on my Indonesian mamasan chair (a double papasan chair) to watch the entire series of the *Twilight* movie saga, none of which I had seen before this year even though it came out a decade ago. I completely resonated with the motto of the final film of the saga, which was "gather the witnesses." And when I heard the saga's haunting waltz song, "A Thousand Years," it suddenly brought back bittersweet memories of my former life in New York City, when I had my choreography business and was coaching couples on how to perform their dance to their selected wedding song. Several couples had selected that song. One day I would really love to show my daughter around New York City and point out all the places I used to frequent during the 20 years I lived there — the dance rehearsal studios, the tea parlors, the

theaters, the restaurants, Central Park, the Tilden mansion and the grand ballrooms of historic hotels like the Waldorf and The Plaza, where all the society balls took place.

I will end with a few lines from that haunting waltz. Nowadays when I hear it and contemplate its lyrics, I actually think of the love I have for my child, and how long I had to wait for her sweet arrival in my life, which sure felt like a thousand years.

*"I have died every day, waiting for you  
"Darling, don't be afraid, I have loved  
you for a thousand years  
"I'll love you for a thousand more ...  
"... I will not let anything, take away  
"What's standing in front of me  
"Every breath, every hour has come  
to this."*

Blessings to all, and please be safe. I look forward to receiving updates from everyone.

*In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

## 1998

**Sandie Angulo Chen**  
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Hello Class of '98. At the time of writing this column, we are in month five of pandemic living. Some of you have written us with updates about what you're missing and others with what you're still doing. I hope that whatever your situation, you're healthy, safe, and with family and loved ones.

First, a big congratulations to **Adina Berrios Brooks**, who was elected to the New Rochelle Board of Education in New Rochelle, N.Y., where she lives with her husband, Ross, and their daughters, Nola and Clara. She was sworn in on July 7.

Next, two sets of congratulations to **Teresa López-Castro**, who wrote in our Class of 1998 Facebook group that she had a second daughter, Alma Ines Gispert-López, in April 2019.

Teresa, who's an assistant professor at City College of New York's Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, also recently was funded by the National Institutes of Health to look at how PTSD impacts treatment for opioid use disorder. According to the press release: "At the City College of

New York, a \$200,000 National Institutes of Health grant to psychologist Teresa López-Castro will enable her to delve into an aspect of the epidemic — barriers to treatment engagement for individuals with opioid use disorder who have post-traumatic stress disorder. Her project is entitled: 'Impact of PTSD and trauma re-exposure on buprenorphine maintenance treatment in syringe exchange programs.'"

Be well and stay safe!

## 1999

**Adrienne Carter**  
**Jenna Johnson**  
adrieliz@gmail.com  
jennajohnson@gmail.com

No news this time, but best wishes for the continued health and safety of CC'99 and your loved ones. Let's stay connected! Send a note to either of our email addresses.

## 2000

**Prisca Bae**  
pb134@columbia.edu

Classmates: While it's sad we could not see each other for reunion, I am looking forward to seeing you all next year (fingers crossed) if we can get past the pandemic. Hope you have all been healthy and as happy as can be in our new world of sheltering in place, wearing face masks and marching for racial justice. Please send me your quarantine stories! And thanks so much to those who sent in notes!

**Mike Showalter** reports, "I'm the same — I've had the same office and the same job for almost a decade (truly bizarre). **Jen Park**, on the other hand, has had a pretty big year. While she's been a visiting professor at Illinois Institute of Technology, she's also joined a great architecture firm in Chicago, Brininstool + Lynch, as a partner. Shortly after she joined that firm, it was named by AIA Chicago as firm of the year and Jen was presented by AIA Chicago with the 2019 Dublin Family Young Architect Award for being the best young architect in Chicago. (I think she's excited about being both best and young.)"



In February, Nina Hong '93, Justin Chow SEAS'11, David Scharff '97 and Erik Feig '92 joined with several other Alumni Representative Committee volunteers in Los Angeles to interview high school candidates for Columbia.

**Afiya Jordan LAW'05** is VP and assistant general counsel in the Office of the Secretary at JPMorgan Chase, where she is responsible for corporate governance, transactions and signing authority for subsidiary entities. She is also a leader with The Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, Black Organization for Leadership Development, Women on the Move and the Pro Bono Committee.

**Karen Graves-Scheffold** earned a Psy.D. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2009. She is a psychologist for the State of New York, where she runs a clinic for people with developmental disabilities. She lives in upstate New York with her husband and two children.

**Jasmine Dreame Wagner** has been busy! She recently released a record, *Switchblade Moon* (jasminedreamewagner.bandcamp.com), premiered the record and video at For the Rabbits and was profiled in *BOMB Magazine* (bit.ly/2Y3J2G3). You can watch the video here (Jon Schwarz, who is married to **Mira Lew**, is the DP): bit.ly/2Y3JLaf.

Meanwhile, Jasmine's short film, *Five Elizabeths*, is an official selection of the New Faces New Voices film festival in New York City this fall, most likely moving online for streaming: bit.ly/2XPqUiZ.

**Abigail Krauser Shrier** shares, "My book is now available: *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters*. It explores the possibility that trans-identification has become one more peer contagion among teenage girls."

**Vernon Gibbs II** writes, "I've been a stay-at-home dad for the last

five years. My wife is a physician and we have three kids — a 7-year-old boy and 5-year-old boy/girl twins. I recently wrote an article that was published in *The Washington Post* about my struggles as a Black father and still trying to find happiness and hope in this sometimes dark and tumultuous world. It is my second piece for them; my first was in 2018 when I wrote about miscarriages from my perspective as a father."

You can check out the first article at wapo.st/2FbMGqE and the second at wapo.st/33NcHXw.

Thanks, everyone! Send me updates!

## 2001

**Jonathan Gordin**  
jrg53@columbia.edu

Hi all, it's such a strange time right now. I continue to write this column from my house in Los Angeles, under quarantine, and you, like me, might be looking for as much human interaction as you can get. Sure, there are all those Zoom calls for my job, but I miss real social interactions with friends so much. It makes me truly wistful for my Columbia experience. The idea that incoming first-years will not get to experience NSOP and COBOP/COOP and make all those memories that colored my first few weeks at school makes me sad, but also grateful for all of you and our shared experiences.

**Ashish Agarwal** "lives in Mumbai, India, and is married to Kay Kapoor BUS'05. We have two boys, 7 and 3. I run businesses in transportation and real estate. Would love to connect with classmates living in or visiting India!"

**Jasper Cooper** recently relocated to Utah with his family. He continues to work for Moody's (remotely) and is excited to start a new chapter of his life. Jasper and his wife, Josie, welcomed identical twin boys Joshua Reynolds Cooper (5 lbs., 0 oz.) and Holden Henry Cooper (4 lbs., 11 oz.) on July 23.

**Sara Batterton** shares an exciting small-world story: "As is the case with everyone right now, our world is very small and proximate. We live in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, D.C., about a mile from the Capitol and the Supreme Court. We currently take lots of

intimate walks in and around our home due to social distancing.

"During the past two months, my daughter Sadie (4), who is very social, has made friends with a group of nuns who live in a convent two blocks from our home. We didn't know them pre-pandemic but they've been friendly to her every time we walk by. She's made friends in particular with Sister Maria Theotokus. We chat with this sister a few times a week as we stroll by. Recently we had a particularly long conversation with her and I happened to mention I was from Baltimore, and in a separate part of the conversation that I went to a girls' school there for 12 years while growing up. Hearing these two comments, she said, 'Did you go to Bryn Mawr?' When I replied yes with a very surprised look on my face, she said 'Do you know the Miola sisters? I studied at Columbia University with them and they are part of my order.' I was even more shocked at this revelation because I immediately realized that this sister, to whom we had been speaking for months behind masks and fences was actually a classmate of ours. Her birth name is **Elinor Adams** and she is very good friends with **Christine Miola**, also a nun. Chrissy and I attended high school together in Baltimore. Both Elinor and Chrissy entered the order after graduating from Columbia. I learned from my conversation with Sister Maria Theotokus (Elinor) that Sister Maria del Fiat (Chrissy) lived in the convent around the corner from my home until a year and a half ago. She now lives in Italy. Sister Maria Theotokus is pursuing a Ph.D."

Stories like the one Sara shared are so exciting and help showcase how Columbians are truly everywhere (this particular column places them in Utah, India and around the corner from our homes, wherever you may be). I hope everyone stays well and safe, and keeps in touch.

## 2002

**Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani**  
soniahird@gmail.com

Class Notes for CC'02 is taking a hiatus for this issue and will be back in the Winter 2020–21 issue; until then, stay healthy and be well. Please take a moment to send me a note. Classmates want to hear from you!

## 2003

**Michael Novielli**  
mjn29@columbia.edu

I hope that you are staying healthy and safe during these difficult times. Despite the challenges that we are facing throughout the world, our classmates continue to do interesting and amazing things, and I'm happy to share a few of those with you. As always, we would love to hear from you even if there isn't anything major to share in terms of your careers or families. Feel free to drop me a line with any book or Netflix recommendations or to update us on any new hobbies you've picked up while spending more time at home.

On that note, **Nadege Fleurimond** used the quarantine as an inspiration for her latest book, *Taste of Solitude: A Culinary Journal Book*, which has more than 25 recipes and can be purchased here: bit.ly/3gWNBZO.

**Brian Cantrell**, VP, acquisitions and capital markets at Vornado Realty Trust, was named one of *Crain's New York's* Rising Stars in Real Estate.

**Emily Zibart** is the associate general counsel, corporate services for Bridgestone Americas.

**Raj Patel** is managing counsel at United Airlines.

**Will Hu** lives in San Francisco with his wife, Jessica Meksavan BC'05. He writes, "She joined MUFG about a year ago and I joined the startup WhyHotel about the same time. We have two kids, Corinne (2.5 years) and Hugo (6 months). Everyone is happy and healthy, and my hair is really long."

**Catherine C. Espallat** was recently promoted to associate professor of astronomy at Boston University.

## 2004

**Jaydip Mahida**  
jmahida@gmail.com

After obtaining an M.P.A. at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and living in California for nine years, **Pam Pradachith-Demler** has relocated to the historic village of Schuylerville in upstate New York and opened a family-owned and operated farm brewery. After decades of working in

**Columbia College Alumni on Facebook**



facebook.com/alumnicc

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more.

the nonprofit sector, she has realized a lifelong dream of creating a space to build community over a pint of craft brew. Bound By Fate Brewing is committed to social justice and will routinely brew specialty batches that support local organizations. Even though Pam opened a small business in the midst of a global pandemic while our county confronts its complicated history of systemic racism, she believes we can emerge from this more united, creating a more perfect union for all people. Pam — along with her husband, Brett Demler — is the proud parent of Weston Otis (4) and Elliott Roslyn (1).

**Scott Moncur** and his wife, Becky, welcomed their third child, Emma, on April 12. Sister Madison (4) and brother Andrew (2) welcomed her with open arms! Scott also just took on a new role at the Royal Bank of Canada as director of role strategy, starting in July.

**Jacob Barandes** (jacobbarandes.com), his wife, Shelley Barandes BC'01, and their daughters, Sadie (11) and Emily (7), continue to live in Cambridge, Mass., where Jacob is co-director of graduate studies for the Department of Physics at Harvard, and Shelley is the owner and head designer of Albertine Press, an antique-letterpress and graphic-design studio and store.

**Jacqueline Shreibati** writes, "I moved to the Bay Area in 2005 for medical school at Stanford and never left. My husband works in tech, and we have two children, Julian (4) and Natalia (2). I completed medical school, health services research training, an internal medicine residency and a general cardiology fellowship at Stanford, and after I graduated in 2016, I joined a consumer health startup, AliveCor, while maintaining a cardiology practice at a community clinic nearby. I was chief medical officer at AliveCor until December 2019, when I joined Google Health. I still see patients once a week, predominantly Medicaid patients, for general cardiovascular care, which keeps me grounded and inspires my work in digital health.

"I am grateful for all of the mentorship and professional advice I received at Columbia College: to be always curious, to push out of one's comfort zone, to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. Those

values and skills have served me well as a physician, mother, wife and innovator."

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you may be taking, any events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either to the email at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 2005

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

CCT wishes the members of CC'05, and your loved ones, good health during these uncertain times. If you would like to share your news in the Winter 2020–21 issue, please send us an email.

## 2006

**Andrew Stinger**  
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This summer I've spent a surprising amount of time thinking back on my first few weeks as a transfer student (am I even allowed to write this note?!) into the Class of 2006. After arriving in Morningside Heights, I almost immediately realized that getting the most out of my experience as a Columbia Lion would mean engaging in uncomfortable discourse, listening to divergent points of view and giving myself space to form or revise previously held opinions. As our world encounters no shortage of reckonings, I hope you find yourself courageously engaging in hard conversations that will no doubt shape the world we find on the other end of a pandemic.

And now for our classmates' exciting updates on how they are already shaping their futures!

**Brian Wagner** was promoted to lieutenant commander in the United States Navy Reserve and is assigned to Commander, U.S. Third Fleet.

**Robert Wray** has also been serving the United States: "I am a

major in the Air Force selected to commission into the new Space Force in September. I think I will be the first Columbia graduate to do so. I work for the State Department as a military aide supporting space policy."

**Emily Hawkins** has also been making career moves: "In the midst of unprecedented uncertainty, I'm beyond grateful to have embarked on a new professional journey with Amazon."

We also have two new books to add to our CC'06 bookshelves! **Paasha Mahdavi** published his first book, *Power Grab: Political Survival Through Extractive Resource Nationalization*, which explores the rise and fall of leaders in oil-rich countries. For the past two years, he has been an assistant professor of political science at UC Santa Barbara, where he enjoys socially distanced hiking with his 2-year-old son. **Elizabeth W. Carey's** first book, *Girls Running: All You Need to Strive, Thrive, and Run Your Best*, was to be published this summer.

## 2007

**David D. Chait**  
[david.donner.chait@gmail.com](mailto:david.donner.chait@gmail.com)

I continue to wish everyone in the Class of 2007 good health and all my best during this difficult time. I hope these updates from classmates are uplifting.

**Julia Kite-Laidlaw** writes, "My twin son and daughter, Francis Benjamin Stewart Laidlaw and Daphne Genevieve Laidlaw, were born on May 12 in Manhattan. While I definitely didn't have 'give birth in the middle of a pandemic' in my plan, I'm happy to say the kids are at home in Queens and doing well, and we look forward to less socially distant times."

**Monica Ager Jacobsen** shares, "I am an attorney adviser at the U.S. Department of State Office of the Legal Adviser, advising on human rights issues. Earlier this year I was honored to be named a finalist for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (also known as 'the Sammys'), which highlight excellence in the federal workforce. The nomination focuses on my work implementing the Global Magnitsky sanctions program and for 'playing a crucial behind-the-scenes role shaping the complex legal and

policy issues involved in imposing sanctions against dozens of human rights abusers worldwide."

**Jonathan Truppmann** writes, "While the past six months seem like a dream, they haven't exactly been very sleepy."

In February, as general counsel of Casper, Jonathan helped take the sleep brand public on the NYSE. On March 14, he married Tile Alle-mann at Villa Mara in Mammee Bay, Jamaica, cocooning in a final bubble of paradise as the chaos of COVID-19 drastically disrupted the wider world. After mini-mooning in Port Antonio and the Blue Mountains with Jonathan's mother-in-law (who was stranded from Switzerland), Jonathan and Tile began their marriage cohabitating with Jonathan's parents in Miami, just like old times.

He says, "We are quarantining in the Swiss Alps with my father-in-law in a village of 21 people, but look forward to descending from the mountain July 28 to close on a house in Coconut Grove, Fla. Visit us (when that's a thing again)!"

**Liz Miller** (née Epstein) shares, "Looking for things to do during quarantine, we took a family hike to Inwood Hill Park. Lo and behold we were met by the Columbia 'C' painted on the rocks of the Hudson. My kids were so excited to see their future alma mater!"

**Chloe Raquel Woods Adebayo** writes, "This is my first time submitting an update, but I have some phenomenally good news to share! I was selected by the National Bar Association for the 2020 '40 Under 40 Awards - Nation's Best Advocates,' as well as a 2020 'On the Rise - Top 40 Young Lawyers Award.' The 2020 list of honorees is available online at [bit.ly/30Xt2Gb](http://bit.ly/30Xt2Gb)."

**Sarah Smick** shares, "I'm proud to report that I earned an M.F.A. in writing for screen and television from the University of Southern California, where I am also an Annenberg Fellow."

**Rebecca Hartog** writes, "My husband, Peter LaRossa, and I welcomed our first child on June 8. Adelaide June LaRossa is a gorgeous redheaded spitfire, and we are completely smitten. In July, I begin my last of three years in a pediatric cardiology fellowship with plans to pursue advanced fellowship in adult congenital heart disease."

# Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Congratulations!



ADRIAN MCDONALD



TYME PHOTOGRAPHY



SALZMAN &amp; ASHLEY STUDIOS



KRISTINE PAULSON

**1:** Jonathan Truppmann '07 and Tile Allemann were married at Villa Mara, in Mammee Bay, Jamaica, on March 14.

**2:** On October 12, Sharilyn Phillips '09 and Joel Bowen were married in a destination wedding in Johannesburg, South Africa. In attendance, left to right: Princess Myrie '06, Sonya Shadravan BC'10, the groom, the bride, Lucia Mattox BC'10 and Tiffany Dockery '09.

**3:** Debbie Goodman '11 and Matthew Scheff were married at Temple Beth El of Cedarhurst in Cedarhurst, N.Y., on March 8. Left to right: Sharon Green PH'19, Laura Sperber '11, Richard Goodman '80 (father of the bride), the bride, the groom, Zoe Lubitz '11 and Carly Solon BC'12.

**4:** Alena Lovi-Borgmann '16 and Daniel Meyer GS'13 were married in Missoula, Mont., on June 13.

**Eric Bondarsky** shares, "I took four hikes this spring. I don't think I've hiked in about 10 years."

**Rebecca Hogue** writes, "I graduated with a Ph.D. in English and a Designated Emphasis in Native American studies from UC Davis, where I was a Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow. This fall, I will begin teaching at Harvard."

Congratulations, everyone, on your exciting news!

## 2008

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

No news this time, but best wishes for the health and safety of the members of CC'08 and your loved

ones. Be well, and let's stay connected — send us an email. Class-mates want to hear from you!

## 2009

**Chantee Dempsey**  
[chantee.dempsey@gmail.com](mailto:chantee.dempsey@gmail.com)

Despite a global pandemic, CC'09 continued to thrive.

**Emily Jordan** recently cofounded the health tech startup Ancora, an AI-powered platform to connect patients to clinical trials. They have been doing a lot of work on COVID-19 and have recently received several grants from EIT Health and Future Perfect. Their vision is to diversify and democratize clinical trials, as they are one of the best ways for patients to get early and

free access to incredibly innovative medicines. COVID-19 trials are aiming to recruit more than one million participants, and this number is growing, which poses an unprecedented challenge for the medical research community. Ancora.ai has been trying to help accelerate this challenging process by empowering patients and healthy volunteers to participate.

**Billy Freeland** SIPA'10 announced in July that he is running for New York City Council as a candidate in District 5, which includes the Upper East Side, Roosevelt Island, East Harlem and Midtown East. He is running on a platform of affordable housing, investing in public transit, decarceration policies, climate justice and tackling systemic racism. You can follow him at [billyfreeland.com](http://billyfreeland.com) and on Twitter

@BillyFreelandNY. The Democratic primary is in June 2021.

**Jenny Lam** has created a virtual version of "SLAYSIAN" — the exhibition she curated in the spring featuring 39 Asian-American artists from Chicago and the Midwest area — which can be enjoyed in the safety and comfort of your home at [artistsonthelam.com/slaysian](http://artistsonthelam.com/slaysian). As for her own artwork, Jenny is thrilled to announce that she's been selected to receive a 2020 Individual Artists Program grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

**Michael Emerson** and Adina Bitton BC'08 recently celebrated the one-year milestone of their move to Jerusalem. Michael started working at Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies leading its recruiting and market-

ing strategy, as well as working in development and fundraising on the side. Adina masterfully led the pandemic shelter-at-home efforts keeping everyone busy with arts and crafts, daily exercise and educational activities. Daughters Maayan, Lital and Keren have adjusted smoothly to the new language, new schools and new environment. Michael and Adina wish classmates health, happiness and a better start to 2021!

**Brandon Shulman** finished his hand surgery fellowship at Harvard's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and recently relocated to Connecticut with his wife, Brooke TC'11, and daughter, Lily. Brandon is an orthopedic hand surgeon at OrthoConnecticut in Norwalk and Westport.

**Meredith Martin and Heron Haas** will move to the Raleigh area this fall with their son, Briar. Meredith completed a Ph.D. in forest ecology at the Yale School of the Environment this year and will be an assistant professor of silviculture at NC State in January. She and Heron would love to hear from anyone in the Triangle!

**Samuel Fury Childs Daly** GSAS'17 is an assistant professor at Duke. His book *A History of the Republic of Biafra: Law, Crime, and the Nigerian Civil War* will be published this year.

**Heather Robinson** was awarded a Ph.D. in modern Iranian history from the University of St Andrews this past summer.

**Tom Stewart** is a father! He and his wife, Alyson Pullman, welcomed Luca West Stewart on July 5 (6 lbs., 8 oz.)!

**Arita Thatte** GS'15 graduated from medical school and started her internal medicine residency at UW in Seattle.

## 2010

**Julia Feldberg Klein**  
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

**Laura Z. Weldon** was awarded a doctorate of naturopathic medicine from the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, Ore., on June 27. She earned a master's in integrative mental health last summer. Laura plans to return to Kentucky this fall and begin practicing via telemedicine, specializing in natural and integrative therapies such as nutrition

and herbal medicine. Her practice, Weldon Wellness, will focus on supporting people with chronic physical/mental illness and neurodivergence, including autism and ADHD.

**Rebecca Salley** shares, "After two years at the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati (and University of Michigan Law School, Class of 2016) I joined the Cincinnati civil rights law firm Gerhardstein & Branch Co. as an associate attorney in December 2019. My litigation practice focuses on police brutality, prisoner abuse, reproductive freedom, fair housing and other anti-discrimination issues. Gerhardstein & Branch is noted for representing plaintiff Jim Obergefell at the Supreme Court in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (a marriage equality case) and Ohio's reproductive health providers, including Planned Parenthood."

**Chris Yim** writes, "What the hell? This year has kicked me in the head, socked me in the jugular and slapped me in the face. There are so many things to say about it, and it's 1 a.m. right now, so I'll see what I can muster up. I have been feeling pretty downright depressed this week because I have this question lingering in my head as I read news headlines, my Facebook newsfeed, see people outside and show up in my own relationships, and that question is — how do I care about others more than myself? I don't feel super optimistic about people's ability to be less self-centered. I think where I land on others' ability to change is more a reflection of how I feel about myself than it is anyone else. So, I came to acting school in Brooklyn in January of this year. I had no idea what it would be like, but I knew that I wanted to explore what it meant to transform. When I think about healing myself, my relationships and society, I think about transformation — our ability to see ourselves differently so that we can be different. The reason why I got into acting was so that I could transform through storytelling."

"Anyway, this year has pushed me to become more available to myself, and as a result, it's made feeling all these emotions that I was previously unaware of really taxing. COVID-19 has taken a lot out of me — the collective sadness and suffering that we're experiencing have been very heavy. I am sad for all those who have lost loved ones. My condolences.

"I want to say my small piece about the systemic oppression of Black folks in the United States. I'm curious as to what our newsfeeds will look like when this issue comes out. I had to reawaken recently to the horrors of this country. I had gotten comfortable and fallen asleep. I spent most of my 20s disconnecting from my emotions, and it made me unable to feel the grief of what is happening to Black people in this country. I knew it intellectually, but I didn't feel something in my heart. As I am trying to own my complicity, the ways that I have pushed racist ideas and agendas forward, I have become more aware of how this connection we have to other people's pain is important. In my own experience, I can best empathize with someone else's vulnerability when I can connect it to the ways that I've felt isolated. All this to say that there's a lot of work to do on ourselves, as we change the system."

"Author and scholar Ibram X. Kendi says that because racism is so much about denial, anti-racism has to be about confession. I didn't see or know anything about systemic oppression when I was in college, but when I look back, there were so many messed up things that I said, did and supported. I wish that I had begun to decolonize my mind earlier. (Just look at all the names above Butler — I did that recently on a run — they are all white men.) I guess I'm just urging whoever reads this to confess your own complicity in racism, own it in a deep way that forces you to sit with the discomfort and vow to change it in the world. Columbia got me thinking about the world that I want to live in, and it's one where people care about the wellness of all."

"Does anyone else ever think about how backward the world is sometimes? I find myself thinking about this so often during these times (I guess times have always been backward), but I feel so sad that humans are so inflexible. I had friends in the Bay who just wanted to 'have a good time,' and I see a lot of people who graduated from our school who have gone down the path of wanting to conform to convention — make a lot of money, partner up, have a kid, conform, conform, conform — and it's not that conforming is bad, it's just that we paid so much to be able to think for ourselves and to challenge our paradigm, but many don't do that. We are so desperately afraid of

what it might mean to be alone, to stand apart from a crowd, to not be liked, to sit in tension, and I think that's why the world is messed up. My comment about just having a good time is that this is how you get the shades pulled over you, and you forget about the reality of what's happening in the world. Also, seeking to live for a good time is such a boring existence. Get out, fight, shake shit up. I'll get back to you soon about how 2020 ends. For now, I'll leave you with this Audre Lorde quote about how we tear down the system: 'For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change.'"

## 2011

**Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell**  
nurielm@gmail.com  
sean.udell@gmail.com

Black lives matter.

We are proud of the members of the Class of 2011 who are taking the time to reflect on systemic racism in our communities and who are stepping up in their daily lives to produce action and change. We hope our class, and the Columbia alumni community as a whole, will continue to participate in this worldwide movement for equality and justice in perpetuity. There is much work to be done.

## 2012

**Sarah Chai**  
sarahbchai@gmail.com

I hope that classmates are staying safe and healthy in these difficult times. Please be well. If you would like to share news in the Winter 2020–21 issue, send me an email.

## 2013

**Tala Akhavan**  
talaakhavan@gmail.com

Hello, Class of 2013! I hope everyone is staying safe, washing their hands and soaking up the last bits of summer as much as possible, given

these crazy times. Here are a few exciting updates from classmates.

On a personal note, in July my husband, Andrew Wood '14, and I welcomed a baby girl, Mila, into our family. We spent the summer enjoying getting to know her (in quarantine!) and taking advantage of the outdoors in Los Angeles, where we now live.

**Patricia Howard** was planning to open Dame, a modern English restaurant, in the West Village this fall with her partner, chef Ed Szymanski. With the opening postponed by COVID-19, they pivoted to a more casual, to-go-friendly outdoor concept, Dame Summer Club, which specializes in fish and chips, Pimm's Cups and Eton mess. All profits are donated to charity, with a different cause every month; June's profits were donated to NAACP and July's to Harlem Grown. Located at 85 MacDougal St., the pop-up is open Tuesday–Sunday through October. Dame will continue to operate various pop-up concepts until opening a permanent location is safe and sensible. Stop by to taste the treats and support a Columbia-owned business!

**Iman Nanji** graduated with an M.B.A. and an M.P.P. from UCLA in June. She will join the Boston Consulting Group as a consultant in its Los Angeles office in January along with two other members of the Class of 2013! Iman got a fellowship through BCG to work for a nonprofit and learn Portuguese until she starts her job. The highlight of her summer, she says, was meeting **Tala Akhavan** and Andrew Wood 14's beautiful baby girl, Mila!

**Caitlin Hoeberlein** got engaged in London over the New Year holiday. This spring, she graduated from Harvard Law School (virtually) and has since relocated to Seattle with her fiancé. She'll start work as a litigation associate for Perkins Coie this fall; in the meantime, she's volunteering with the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality on race and criminal law in Washington, D.C. Any Lions out west, feel free to reach out!

After earning a master's in Budapest, **Rebecca Smith** lived for five years in Barcelona, where she learned Spanish and Catalan and spent time with her freshman-year RA, Adina Rose Levin '11, who also moved to Barcelona. She felt the time had come for more professional

opportunities in sustainable development, and last year moved back to her hometown, Paris, after what had been 10 years abroad. Rebecca now is a sustainable finance analyst at Vigeo Eiris, a sustainability research company affiliated with Moody's. With her team, she does an independent evaluation of the environmental and social aspects of "green" and "social" financial instruments (e.g., bonds and loans), assessing their expected contribution to sustainability.

Over the past year, **Alejandra Jimenez** has been working on writing and producing a solo alternative rock EP under the name Agent Envy. Her leading single, "My Own Summer," was released on all platforms (Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, etc.) on August 14, with additional original singles off the EP to follow in the coming months. Check out her Instagram profile (@agent.envy) for the latest updates.

**Ryan Mandelbaum** married Brittany Wideth in a private ceremony on April 20. He works at IBM, where he runs a blog on quantum computing.

**Katie DeSandis** returned to Columbia in 2017 as an assistant coach for the varsity field hockey team. She was named head coach this past June.

Congrats, Katie!

**Bridget DeSandis** graduated as a doctor of physical therapy from Arcadia University in January, and was awarded the Jill Sisenwine Berger Physical Therapy Award (presented to a physical therapy student who best exemplifies the core values of the physical therapy profession — accountability, altruism, compassion and caring, excellence, integrity, profession, duty and social responsibility). Bridget graduated on the Dean's Distinguished Honors list, as a member of the Alpha Epsilon Lambda - Phi Chapter and as class co-president. After graduation, she spent time working at the Friends of Redeemer United Physical Therapy Clinic in St. Elizabeth parish, Jamaica, prior to beginning her job at Excel Physical Therapy this past spring.

**Blaine Harper** completed a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Arizona this year, and is on the job market in data science. If anyone in CC'13 knows of interesting data science roles, please reach out to Blaine!

**Harry Flager** is the pastry chef at a fine-dining restaurant in San Francisco.

Having started her pre-med journey at Columbia, where she graduated with a major in neuroscience, **ChiChi Mpamaugo** is proud to announce that this year she graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She obtained both an M.D. and an M.P.H. This year, she started her pediatric residency at University of Washington Seattle Children's Hospital, where she has an interest in cardiology and health inequality. She looks forward to moving to the West Coast for the first time and seeing what Seattle has to offer. As we continue to fight two viruses, both COVID-19 and ongoing racism, ChiChi hopes to make a lasting impact on the lives of her patients and within her community.

## 2014

**Rebecca Fattell**  
rsf2121@columbia.edu

If you would like to share news in the Winter 2020–21 issue, please send me a note. Be well, and let's stay connected!

## 2015

**Kareem Carryl**  
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

No news this time, but best wishes for the continued health and safety of the members of the Class of 2015 and your loved ones. Let's stay connected — send me a note.

## 2016

**Lily Liu-Krason**  
lliukrason@gmail.com

Hey, 2016. This has been a hard year for me so far. Many of you wrote in sharing similar feelings, but through the ups and downs of 2020, I am inspired by the determination and perseverance among us and the ability to make me smile, laugh and reflect all at once. Here are some words and updates from your classmates (and keep nominating your wonderful friends).

**Catherine Jenkinson** started a D.Phil. in history last fall at the University of Oxford, where she is a student at Hertford College. Her

dissertation considers the Tower of London's use as a state prison in early modern England and the role of status in determining prison privileges. She says that while there, it's been wonderful for her to connect with many fellow Columbia grads studying or visiting Oxford! After the university temporarily closed in March, she went to North Dakota, where she's been working for the state's COVID-19 response unit. She hopes to return to the U.K. soon, and she shared a photo of her and **Alex Randall** at Oxford.

From **Katrina Martell**: "After my first job out of college, I became a senior fellow for Humanity in Action, through which I traveled to Bosnia, and later began a policy fellowship in Washington, D.C. Yes, I still miss New York! I serve as communications director and policy advisor for Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.), a senior member of the Congressional Black Caucus and Democratic leadership. Since I got here in 2018, Dems won back our House majority, formally impeached President Trump and entered 2020 grappling with a (double) pandemic — COVID-19 and a long-overdue national demand for an end to systemic racism in policing.

"I am honored to be advancing many important goals — from minority rights, equity in education, justice in policing, human trafficking awareness and public health, to women's rights, among other things — during such a tumultuous, historic and, yes, very much still a hopeful time. I let my 'D.C. basic' shine through in my love of brunch and happy hours, and am always up for



Isabel Robinson '16, Justine Horton '16 and Yixin Sun '16 went hiking.



Alex Randall '16 and Catherine Jenkinson '16 met up at Oxford.

scary movies, tennis or a good run. If you're in D.C., please connect!"

From **Iman Fears** SOA'19: "After I graduated from Columbia, I moved to Atlanta to work at an advertising agency, where I helped to develop AT&T's media and brand strategy. There were a lot of hectic-yet-fun moments, like launching the Taylor Swift NOW x AT&T app (which I'm pretty sure no longer exists). After one year, I returned to NYC to earn an M.F.A. in fiction at Columbia, graduating with a half-written YA novel. Ever since then, I've worked in the Brooklyn office of Mission North, a Silicon Valley-based tech communications agency. My clients include AI companies, VCs and fintech startups like Betterment and Albert. In March 2020, I finally finished my novel, and in April I signed with a wonderful literary agent who really believes in my work. Publishing is weird right now because of the pandemic, but I hope I'll be on bookshelves in a few years! Message me if you want to go on a social-distancing walk."

From **Madison Ford**: "Dear alumni, like so many of us, I was promised quite a few things when I (my dad) wrote that first tuition check to Columbia. Global respect. Unending connections. Fortune. Ideally fame. But here we are, eight years and a billion tuition checks later (a bunch I am having to write now, too), and I am simply poor. I am very funny, and very cool, do not get me wrong. And I do have some respect in some very small, niche circles. But where is the wealth, Columbia? Where is the alumni network lifting me up and shooting me toward the stars? These are hard times. Scary times. Uncertain times. And we need to be there for each other. But more than anything, we need to be there for me. So. Please find it in your hearts to donate money and connections to this sad, unwashed white girl. And if you cannot spare connections, money is fine. Go Lions!"

From **Polina Porotsky**: "I feel like *Cosmo* told us that your 20s are a confusing and tumultuous time. 'Not for me it won't be!' said naïve, 16-year-old Polina. But here we are, and I am reporting unprecedented levels of confusion on my part, ranging from questions about my purpose in life to my fashion choices. After Columbia I made the unexpectedly scary decision to not go to medical school. It felt like I've been preparing to be a doctor my whole life and suddenly I wasn't sure whether I was making conscious decisions or trodding along because of the sunk cost fallacy of sorts."

"I ended up in journalism school, writing about ants, diabetes, pig poop and all other kinds of stuff. Since then I've worked at NBC, *Psychology Today* and other publications, as well as at a documentary company. I'm also finally back to playing piano regularly and making memes. You can always drop me a line at [pporotsky@gmail.com](mailto:pporotsky@gmail.com)."

**Yixin "Sunny" Sun** was recently the subject of *The Dilemma of Desire*, a documentary that explores the work of four women who are shattering the dominant and outdated sexual narratives that have mostly gone unexplored and unchallenged in our society. The documentary also weaves in the stories of five young women (including Sunny!), intimately exploring what it means for them in "real life" to find their voice and the courage needed to own their sexuality. To stay updated on screenings, follow the documentary on Instagram @dilemmaofdesire.

## 2017

**Carl Yin**  
[carl.yin@columbia.edu](mailto:carl.yin@columbia.edu)

Class Notes for CC'17 is taking a hiatus for this issue and will be back in the Winter 2020–21 issue; until then, stay healthy and be well. Please take a moment to send me a note.

## 2018

**Alexander Birkel and Maleeha Chida**  
[ab4065@columbia.edu](mailto:ab4065@columbia.edu)  
[mnc2122@columbia.edu](mailto:mnc2122@columbia.edu)

**Julien Reiman** started a docuseries, *Talk With Your Mouth Full*, last

summer with Farah Al Chammas, a Syrian refugee and anthropologist. Both Julien and Farah studied how the act of sharing meals has profound political and social meaning. The goal is to use food to tackle the political and social divisions that are tearing America apart. Every episode profiles a different immigrant chef, and features a roundtable mealtime conversation among people of different political/economic/racial identities. The show is running a Kickstarter campaign, and you can find the trailer online as well: [bit.ly/3hMInQr](http://bit.ly/3hMInQr).

**Briley Lewis** recently earned a master's in astronomy and astrophysics from UCLA and is continuing on to her Ph.D. She also decided that working from home for the foreseeable future meant it's the perfect time to adopt a dog, and welcomed Rocky, a sweet 8-year-old Husky rescue mix, into her life. He loves belly rubs, meaty treats and exploring the outdoors.

**María Muratalla Maes** is directing and producing a feature-length documentary that is a self-determined representation of Indigenous peoples militarized by the México–U.S. borderlands to protect the sacredness of the land, her peoples and her creatures. Specifically, María is looking into permanent surveillance apparatuses that are being built in the backyards on the Tohono O'odham Nation reservation. She is also choreographing, directing, producing and editing a short dance film about ancestral grace, resilience and unity, which features many Columbia and Barnard folk as collaborators and dancers.

## 2019

**Emily Gruber and Tj Aspen Givens**  
[tag2149@columbia.edu](mailto:tag2149@columbia.edu)  
[eag2169@columbia.edu](mailto:eag2169@columbia.edu)

**Josh Schenk** is enrolled in Yale Law, Class of 2022. He is a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee law clerk in Washington, D.C.

**Tj Aspen Givens** recently completed the Fortune 500 M&T Bank: Management Development Program. She works at the firm's Park Avenue location as a commercial banking marketing manager,

overseeing 16 specialty lending verticals and solutions partners' annual advertising, content, digital, sponsorships and social campaigns. Tj was recently honored with the Gramercy Institute's Return on Investment Award – Lead Generation category for her "Grow New Markets Differently – Commercial Equipment Finance" campaign.

**Katie Smith** will be staying in her native Ohio to attend the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. To Katie, Cincinnati feels like the biggest small town in America (she has never said hi to so many people before on the street). That, in addition to the welcoming admissions team, innovative curriculum and rewarding connection to the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, makes her ecstatic to begin this fall.

## 2020

**Santiago Tobar Potes**  
**Stephen Cone**  
[stp2120@columbia.edu](mailto:stp2120@columbia.edu)  
[jsc2247@columbia.edu](mailto:jsc2247@columbia.edu)

CCT welcomes the CC'20 class correspondents, **Santiago Tobar Potes** and **Stephen Cone**! Below, they introduce themselves. Please take a moment to send them your news.

From Santiago: "Hello, Lions! Our Class Notes column allows you to share announcements with our memorable Class of 2020, as well as the broader Columbia College alumni community. Share with us your career changes, engagements and marriages, vacations or relocations, and more, including pictures! Who knows who you'll (re)connect with down the line? Write me — especially if you are also in the NYC area. Let's outdoor-dine!"

From Stephen: "Hello, fellow Columbia College graduates. While I unfortunately did not meet all of you throughout our time together in Morningside Heights, we can still learn about each other's exciting post-graduation lives (New jobs! Graduate school! Weddings! Fun Columbia memories!) through the Class Notes. Please feel free to email me with any and all updates. I look forward to seeing you all again soon during our in-person graduation (first reunion?) sometime in the future."

# obituaries

**Editor's note:** In recognition of the toll taken by the COVID-19 pandemic, CCT wishes to acknowledge those in our community who have died from complications of the virus. Their obituaries are marked with a ♦ symbol.

## 1947

**Harold E. Pagliaro**, retired professor, Swarthmore, Pa., on February 15, 2020. A renowned scholar of 18th-century English literature, Pagliaro



Harold E. Pagliaro '47

was provost emeritus and the Alexander Griswold Cumming Professor Emeritus of English Literature at Swarthmore. Born and raised in the Bronx, he spent two semesters at the College before he was drafted into the Army during WWII, where he served on the European front and

received a Purple Heart, a Combat Infantry Badge and a Bronze Star. After his discharge in 1945, Pagliaro resumed his studies and earned two degrees from GSAS, an M.A. in 1948 and a Ph.D. in 1961. He taught at Columbia until 1964, when he moved to Swarthmore and taught 18th-century English literature and English romantic poetry until his retirement in 1992. He chaired the English literature department 1971–74 and 1986–91 and was provost 1974–79. Pagliaro authored several books on English literature as well as *Naked Heart: A Soldier's Journey to the Front* (1996), based on letters he had sent to his parents while stationed in Europe. He is survived by his wife, Judith GS'66; sons, Robert, John and Blake; daughter Susanna; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

## 1952

**Richard A. Symes**, retired reverend, Granville, N.Y., on April 3, 2020. Symes earned a bachelor of divinity from Princeton Seminary and a doctorate of divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He served parishes in Detroit, New York, Palo Alto, Calif., and Caracas, Venezuela, and also served on national committees of the Presbyterian Church. Before he began parish ministry he spent a year in Germany, including a semester at the University in Bonn. Along with members of his congregations, Symes marched for civil rights and in protest of the Vietnam War, yet despite his antiwar stance he collected and painted miniature soldiers. Some of the churches he served became More Light (LGBTQ) and Sanctuary churches. He was a volunteer prison chaplain in New York and a visitor to the local federal prison in retirement. Symes and his wife of 60 years, Patricia, retired to Granville, where he had built a summer cabin in 1973. They traveled extensively in the early years of retirement, particularly in Italy, and he added Italian to other languages he had learned. In addition to his wife, Symes is survived by his sons Christopher, and Preston and his wife, Jennifer; two grandchildren; and sister, Barbara Jones. He was predeceased by an infant son, Mark.

## 1954

**Seymour Hertz**, retired attorney, New York City, on May 24, 2020. Born on July 12, 1932, Hertz earned a degree from the Law School in 1956. He was a former partner in the New York firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; daughter, Patricia; and son, Stephen.

**Ronald F. Thompson**, attorney, Philadelphia, on January 21, 2020. Born and raised in Brooklyn, Thompson earned a law degree from Yale. He devoted much of his career to being in-house counsel at United Technologies Corp. for various divisions, including Otis Elevator in Paris, France. His passion was music; he was an active choral singer for most of his adult life, singing with the Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, the Hartford Symphony Chorale and St. Mark's Choir in Philadelphia. Thompson is survived by his wife, Susan; daughters Diana, and Dana Goldberg and her husband, Jacob; and Zoe Katz and her husband, Jeremy; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Penn Medicine Hospice, Bala Cynwyd, Pa., or Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, Philadelphia.

**Vito R. Vincenti**, attorney, Woodland Park, N.J., on July 21, 2020. Vincenti was born and raised in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, and was a longtime resident of Manhasset, N.Y. After graduation from the Law School in 1957, he was a commercial attorney for more than five



Vito R. Vincenti '54

decades, specializing in cross-border transactions and litigation. Vincenti co-founded and for 33 years was a partner of Vincenti and Schickler in Manhattan, then formed Vincenti & Vincenti with his sons, John '90 and Paul, and practiced law for an additional 20 years. For more than 50 years he was a member of the Tiro A Segno social club, where he was a director and officer, helped draft its constitution and bylaws, and chaired its foundation. A longtime supporter of the College and former president of the Columbia University Club of Long Island, he was an avid fisherman, and an insatiable reader with a strong independent streak and a zeal for lifetime learning. He is survived by his wife, Edna; son John '90 and his wife, Kampf; son Paul and his wife, Christina; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Core Curriculum c/o the Columbia College Fund ([college.givenow.columbia.edu](http://college.givenow.columbia.edu)).

## 1958

♦ **Charles Goodstein**, psychoanalyst, Tenafly, N.J., on April 30, 2020. Born and raised in NYC, Goodstein graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. After graduation from the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, he served as a captain in the Air Force and then became an adult and child psychoanalyst in Tenafly. Goodstein was a clinical professor on the faculty of NYU Medical School, teaching as part of the Psychoanalytic Association of New York. He was a devoted family man with enthusiasm about the world, an ability to make everyone laugh, a flair for the dramatic and a never-ending intellectual curiosity. Goodstein is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carolyn; son, Clifford; daughter, Catherine Wallace; brother-in-law, Ian Wallace; and two grandchildren.

**Norman P. Herzberg**, retired mathematician, Princeton, N.J., on March 29, 2020. Born in Brooklyn, Herzberg graduated from James Madison H.S., then magna cum laude from the College and earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from MIT in 1965. He was employed by the Institute for

## Obituary Submission Guidelines

Columbia College Today welcomes obituaries for graduates of Columbia College. We do not publish obituaries for undergraduate or graduate alumni of any other Columbia University school. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at the editors' discretion. Links and/or addresses for memorial contributions may be included. Please go to "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct) and fill out the "Submit an Obituary" form.

## William F. Haddad '54, JRN'54, Journalist, Politician, Crusader

**William F. Haddad '54, JRN'54** was never one to stay in any place, or any job, for very long. But wherever he went, he made his presence felt.

As a journalist, he helped bring down New York power broker Robert Moses and founded a weekly newspaper, the *Manhattan Tribune*, with Roy Innis, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality. As a politician, he advised many office holders, including Estes Kefauver, Robert F. Kennedy and Mario M. Cuomo. As an activist, he was the first inspector general of the Peace Corps, spearheaded the sale of generic drugs and helped bring affordable AIDS medication to Africa. As a businessman, he was marketing director for John DeLorean, the charismatic carmaker whose company would implode due to DeLorean's corruption.

In his heart, Haddad considered himself a crusader. "I'm a provocateur," he once said. "I learned that from Estes Kefauver. I used to ask him, 'Why do you get into all these battles?' and he would say, 'Never let one go by.' I wish I could. I wish I could learn to keep my mouth shut. But I can't."

Haddad died on April 30, 2020, in Poughquag, N.Y. He was 91.

Born on July 25, 1928, in Charlotte, N.C., Haddad lied about his age so he could join the Merchant Marine at 15 and served aboard cargo ships in the Pacific during WWII. While at the College, he simultaneously earned a master's from the Journalism School.

He joined Kefauver's staff in 1954 and helped to secure his nomination as Adlai Stevenson's vice-presidential running mate in 1956. Haddad then became a reporter at the *New York Post*, where, along with other reporters, he linked Moses to paybacks, financial corruption and organized crime, leading to Moses's downfall after more than 40 years as the city's most powerful politician. Haddad received a George Polk Award, one of journalism's highest honors, in 1958, and shared another in 1959.

In 1961, Haddad became a top assistant to R. Sargent Shriver, founding director of the Peace Corps, and was its associate director and first inspector general. A friend of the Kennedys, he made an unsuc-

cessful bid for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964 and never ran for office again, but advised on RFK's 1968 presidential campaign and managed Cuomo's victorious 1982 New York gubernatorial campaign.

In the 1970s, Haddad taught at Sarah Lawrence, returned to the *New York Post*, worked for DeLorean for two tumultuous years, chaired a state panel on education and directed the State Assembly's office of legislative oversight and analysis, where he investigated corruption in banking. In 1974, he persuaded the legislature and Gov. Hugh L. Carey to let doctors prescribe generic drugs in place of higher-priced brand names. A decade later, he took his campaign nationwide and was instrumental in shepherding landmark legislation that removed longstanding legal and regulatory hurdles to the manufacture and sale of generic drugs.

Haddad devoted the latter part of his career to lowering the cost of drugs used to treat HIV/AIDS in Africa and elsewhere. In 2001, he worked with Cipla, a drug company in India,



TED RUSSELL / GETTY IMAGES

to make way for the use of generic AIDS medicines and to reduce the price of lifesaving drug cocktails.

Haddad's marriages to Kate Roosevelt, a granddaughter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Noreen Walsh ended in divorce. He is survived by his daughters from his first marriage, Laura Whitney-Thomas, Andrea and Lulie; children from his second marriage, Amanda Reina and Robert; stepson, Steve Walsh; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

— Alex Sachare '71

Defense Analyses at Princeton from 1968 until his retirement in 2000. Herzberg published several papers on his specialty, number theory, and wrote numerous classified papers while at IDA. He and his wife of 52 years, Barbara, whom he married in the MIT Chapel in 1967, traveled all over the world together, often to Greece and the nearby islands. They also went to Malta, Morocco, Madeira, Mexico, China, Egypt, India, England, Ireland, Scotland, France and Italy, among other places. Herzberg was an avid and skilled photographer and documented their travels extensively. In addition to his wife, Herzberg is survived by his brother, Edward; and sister, Susan.

### 1961

**Joel Friedman**, investor and real estate developer, New York City, on July 20, 2020. Born in Denver on

August 17, 1939, Friedman lived in Westchester County and Manhattan after graduation. As a partner of Founders Capital Group, he was a skilled dealmaker who loved his work. Friedman was an avid runner and expert skier who enjoyed travel, singing and spending time with his family. He is survived by his son, Ted; daughter, Jennifer '93, LAW'98; brothers, Daniel and Jonathan; and two grandchildren.

### 1963

**Paul V. Reale**, retired composer, Canoga Park, Calif., on July 22, 2020. Born on March 2, 1943, Reale earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1967. He was a prolific composer of classical music whose output included works for every musical instrument. A professional pianist, he wrote countless solo keyboard pieces. Reale taught at UCLA,

retiring in 2004, and continued to compose music that is available on the Naxos, MSR, and Music & Arts labels. He is survived by his wife, Claire Rydell.

**Geoffrey A. Thompson**, financial executive, Lyme, Conn., on August 3, 2020. Born on October 26, 1940, in White Plains, N.Y., Thompson grew up in Central Valley, N.Y., as the oldest of five siblings. He attended Deerfield Academy and spent a year working on a sheep station in the Australian outback before majoring in history at the College. After two years in the Navy, he earned an M.B.A. from Harvard in 1967. Thompson often joked that he held 72 jobs in his life, from waiting tables and driving taxis to running a bank and serving on corporate boards. He started his professional career at *Newsweek* but switched to banking in 1970 and held positions at A.G. Becker and

Citicorp before joining GE Capital in 1978 as general manager and VP for consumer finance. In 1981, Thompson moved to Marine Midland Bank and was president and CEO 1985–90. He remained CEO after Marine Midland was acquired by HSBC and sat on the board for eight years. He later worked in the executive search business and private equity, and sat on several corporate boards. A lifelong lover of sailing, Thompson is survived by his wife of 54 years, Claudia; daughter, Marina Cummins and her husband, James; brothers, Jonathan and Kimberley; sister, Kathy McCurdy and her husband, John; and two grandchildren.

### 1964

**Frederick W. Kantor**, New York City, retired physicist and inventor, on May 15, 2020. Born in NYC on July 19, 1942, Kantor entered



EILEEN BARROSO

with the Class of 1963 and earned a Ph.D. in physics from GSAS in 1973. For his doctoral thesis, Kantor invented a way to polish the surfaces of an X-ray telescope. Although the rocket carrying the telescope he built crashed on takeoff at Los Alamos, N.M., his patented design was replicated by Lockheed for NASA. His other patents included new ways to make air conditioners, to carry away sewage waste and to help people with macular degeneration to read again. He developed an approach to physics that was captured in his groundbreaking book, *Information Mechanics* (1977). Kantor had an ear for music and taught himself guitar, piano and organ. He is survived by his sister, Susan G. Zepeda and her husband, Fred P. Seifer; and brother, Paul B. '59 and his wife, Carole J. Kaplowitz Kantor. Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia physics department or the New Jewish Home in Manhattan.

## 1965

♦ **Mark J. Steiner**, philosophy professor, Jerusalem, Israel, on April 6, 2020. Born in the Bronx, Steiner

entered the College in 1960 but spent a year studying Talmud in Israel prior to his senior year. Azriel Genack '64 recalled Steiner as being "deeply engaged with fellow students and faculty, especially with Professor Sidney Morgenbesser," with whom he developed a close friendship that lasted until Morgenbesser's death in 2004. After a Fulbright Fellowship at Oxford, Steiner earned a Ph.D. from Princeton in 1972 before becoming an instructor at Columbia. He moved to Israel in 1977 and chaired the philosophy department at Hebrew University in Jerusalem in the 1990s, although he often returned to Columbia to teach during the summer. Steiner also translated a series of Jewish philosophy books from Yiddish to English. In his most famous book, *The Applicability of Mathematics as a Philosophical Problem* (2002), Steiner argued that man's ability to discover natural laws means that the universe is innately user friendly and that there is meaning and reason in things. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Rachel Freeman BC'65; brother, Richard; sons, Hillel, Yoel and Aharon; daughters, Hadas and Navah; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## 1970

**Charles I. Linzner**, attorney, Yardley, Pa., on June 6, 2020. Born in Philadelphia on August 30, 1948, Linzner earned a J.D. from NYU in 1974 and began his professional career at Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood, where he worked in NYC 1974–77 and 1980–83 and in Paris 1977–80. He became VP, general counsel, for Squibb Medical Systems in Bellevue, Wash., in 1983; associate general counsel for Squibb in Princeton, N.J., in 1985; and general counsel of U.S. operations for Squibb in 1988. Since 1991, Linzner was VP, senior counsel pharmaceutical research institute/worldwide business development, for Bristol-Myers Squibb. His interests included mountain climbing, technical rock and ice climbing, skiing, scuba diving and fly fishing. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Nancy J. Meyer.

## 1975

**Jorge de Jesus "George" Guttlein**, attorney, Bronx, N.Y., on December 23, 2019. A history major who was a residence hall security

guard to fulfill work-study obligations, Guttlein earned three graduate degrees from Columbia: international fellow in 1976 from SIPA, M.I.A. in 1979 from SIPA and J.D. in 1979 from the Law School. He practiced criminal and immigration litigation law for more than 30 years, including in the Latino community. In 2007, he founded the Bronx firm of Jorge Guttlein & Associates and mentored many young attorneys. He was an avid student of history, a foodie and a benefactor of the arts. Guttlein is survived by his wife, Luisa De La Nuez; son, Juan Carlos and his wife, Jessica; stepdaughter, Pamela Gonzalez; and two grandchildren.

## 1977

**Nicholas L. Bogen**, geologist, Durham, N.C., on April 23, 2020. Bogen entered with the Class of 1971 and was active in the student protests before leaving the College in 1969 and working as a carpenter for several years in upstate New York. He earned an M.A. and an M.Phil. in geological sciences in 1981 and 1982, respectively, and a Ph.D. in earth and environmental sciences in 1983, all from GSAS. Born on May 2, 1949, in NYC, Bogen moved with his family to Port Washington, N.Y., when he was young, and there he began a lifelong love of sailing and nature. He taught geology at the University of Michigan before moving in 1989 to Durham, where he worked in geological consulting. Bogen volunteered at Habitat for Humanity and the Durham Public Library and helped to found the Lerner Jewish Community Day School in Durham. He is survived by his wife, Emily Klein BC'78, GSAS'89; son, Jeremy; daughter, Alexis; and brother, Timothy.



Nicholas L. Bogen '77

## Robert L. Gnaizda '57, Civil Rights and Public Interest Attorney

**Robert L. Gnaizda '57**, a prominent public interest attorney who advocated for social justice and civil rights, spent five decades fighting on behalf of the underdog. During his career he took on myriad powerful opponents, including Southern counties that tried to disenfranchise Black voters, employers who discriminated in hiring and banks that redlined neighborhoods to prevent minorities from obtaining loans or mortgages.

"Bob Gnaizda was, in my opinion, the most imaginative, creative and consequential public interest lawyer of his generation in the United States," said J. Anthony Kline, presiding justice of the California Court of Appeal in San Francisco, who, with Gnaizda and two others, formed a pioneering public interest law firm in California in 1971 that won a legal battle that forced the San Francisco Police and Fire Departments to end discriminatory hiring and promotion practices.

Gnaizda, who graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. and earned a law degree from Yale in 1960, died in San Francisco on July 11, 2020. He was 83.

Rebecca Kee '05, who was Gnaizda's deputy and became his lifelong friend, described him to *CCT* as "brilliantly smart, quick-thinking and focused on his work, to the exclusion

of pleasantries and small talk .... That is, unless you're lucky enough to find yourself with him in a quiet, uncrowded place and you happen to ask about what exactly he was doing in Mississippi during the 1960s.

"Suddenly his eyes are twinkling as he tells you his best stories, the ones of ingratiating himself with suspicious officials through friendly baseball trivia or his tale of faking a federal order to hold hearings in the deep south about the mistreatment of Black voters. To most of us it's history come to life, but to Bob it's just tales of the good old days, hiding people on the floor of his back seat so that he could stir up legal trouble to shake down the powers-that-be."

Born in Brooklyn on August 6, 1936, Gnaizda's passion for civil rights was sparked when he was young. Growing up in Brownsville, then a tough Jewish neighborhood, he defended friends against neighborhood bullies, and later watched the abuse to which Jackie Robinson was subjected from some fans and even fellow players at Ebbets Field as he broke baseball's color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

As a young lawyer, he collected testimony on how white officers were

preventing Black people from voting in Clay County, Miss., that helped influence the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The following year, during the era of Cesar Chavez, he co-founded California Rural Legal Assistance and took class action cases on behalf of farmworkers forced to work for low wages in poor conditions.

In 1973 Gnaizda co-founded Public Advocates in San Francisco to discourage financial institutions from discriminating against Black and Hispanic home buyers. He served as deputy secretary of health and welfare for the State of California under Gov. Jerry Brown 1975–76.

In 1993 he co-founded the Greenlining Institute, bringing together a diverse group of community leaders to fight against redlining and for the economic empowerment of communities of color. He later was general counsel for the National Asian American Coalition and the National Diversity Coalition, fighting on behalf of universal access to affordable housing, small business loans and equal opportunity. Gnaizda was interviewed for the Oscar-winning documentary *Inside Job* (2010) about his efforts in the mid-2000s to warn the Federal



Reserve of the impending subprime mortgage crisis.

"Bob saw the world as it is, yet he moved through it as if he could just mold it to his will and forge new pathways toward justice and equality for all," said Kee, his former deputy.

Gnaizda is survived by his wife, Claudia Viek; sons from a previous marriage, Josh and Matt; and one granddaughter.

— Alex Sachare '71

Read more about Gnaizda's and Kee's work together in *CCT* Online's "Like Minds" Q&A, "Talking Social Advocacy with Robert Gnaizda '57 and Rebecca Kee '05": [bit.ly/31FDHp0](http://bit.ly/31FDHp0).

Donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity of Durham, the Lerner Jewish Community Day School or Judea Reform Congregation.

## 1981

**Harlan H. Simon**, financial executive, Chappaqua, N.Y., on June 22, 2020. Simon earned an M.B.A. from Penn's Wharton School of Business and was a foreign exchange trader at Bank America International. As an undergrad, he was the conductor of the Marching Band and a member of Nacoms. He supported the Marching Band Alumni Board and maintained lifelong friendships with classmates, band members and Nacoms. Dennis Kleinberg '84, a fellow band member, recalls Simon as "superbly non-musical, lanky, intelligent, confident, droll

and very tall ... towering over a sea of musicians, just waving his hands with great joy and truly no idea of a downbeat! Encouraging and enthusiastic about making the band a fun refuge, Harlan was nonetheless an exemplar of hard work and dedication, managing to keep up an internship at Citibank during his senior year and forging a successful career in finance." Simon is survived by his wife, Eden M. Platt; sons, Nathaniel and Jacob; daughter, Rebecca; father, Morton; and sister, Leslie.

## 2012

**Alexander Aurricchio**, professional athlete, Dix Hills, N.Y., on June 8, 2020. During his four years at Columbia, he was a starter on both the soccer and baseball teams.



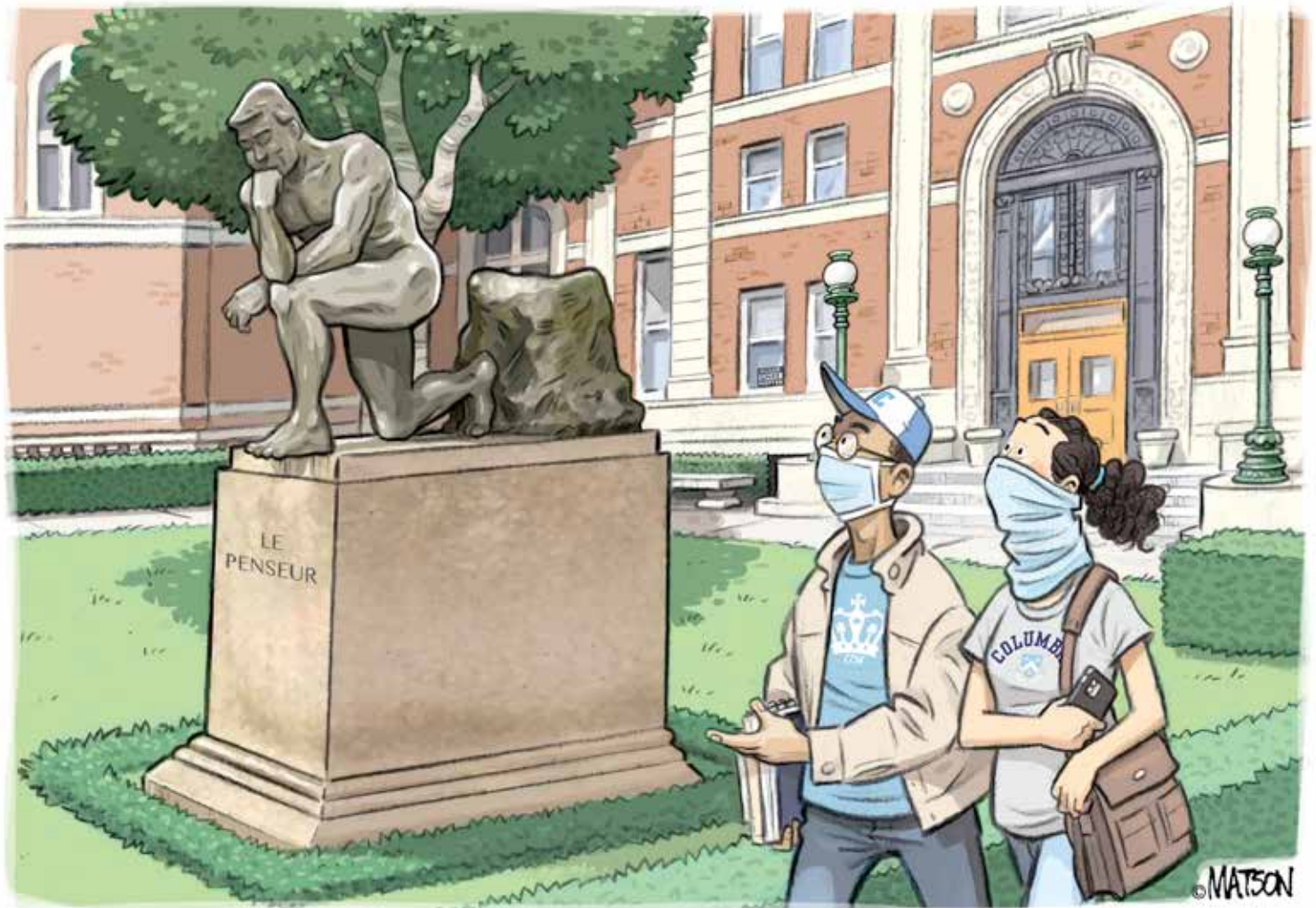
Alexander Aurricchio '12

In soccer, he earned the starting goalkeeper role his first semester and maintained it through his senior year. As a sophomore, he played every minute of every match, recording 76 saves that included a 9-save performance in a shutout against nationally ranked

Dartmouth. In baseball, Aurricchio was a two-time All-Ivy League selection, including a first-team honoree as a sophomore after slugging a team-high 13 home runs. He finished his career third on Columbia's all-time home runs list with 23, and his 13 home runs in 2010 still rank third in single-season history. His baseball coach, Brett Boretti, described Aurricchio as "a huge personality that everyone fed off of and enjoyed being around," and his soccer coach, Kevin Anderson, said, "When he walked into a room you knew it, and he made you feel it deep into your soul." Aurricchio moved to Australia in 2014 to pursue a career in football and played for several teams, most recently the Waratah Football Club in the Northern Territory Football League. He is survived by his father, Louis; mother, Jill; and siblings.

— Alex Sachare '71

# *caption*this!



## CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST CONTINUES

We got so many responses for our previous caption contests that we're keeping the creativity going! This installment is by editorial cartoonist R.J. Matson '85.

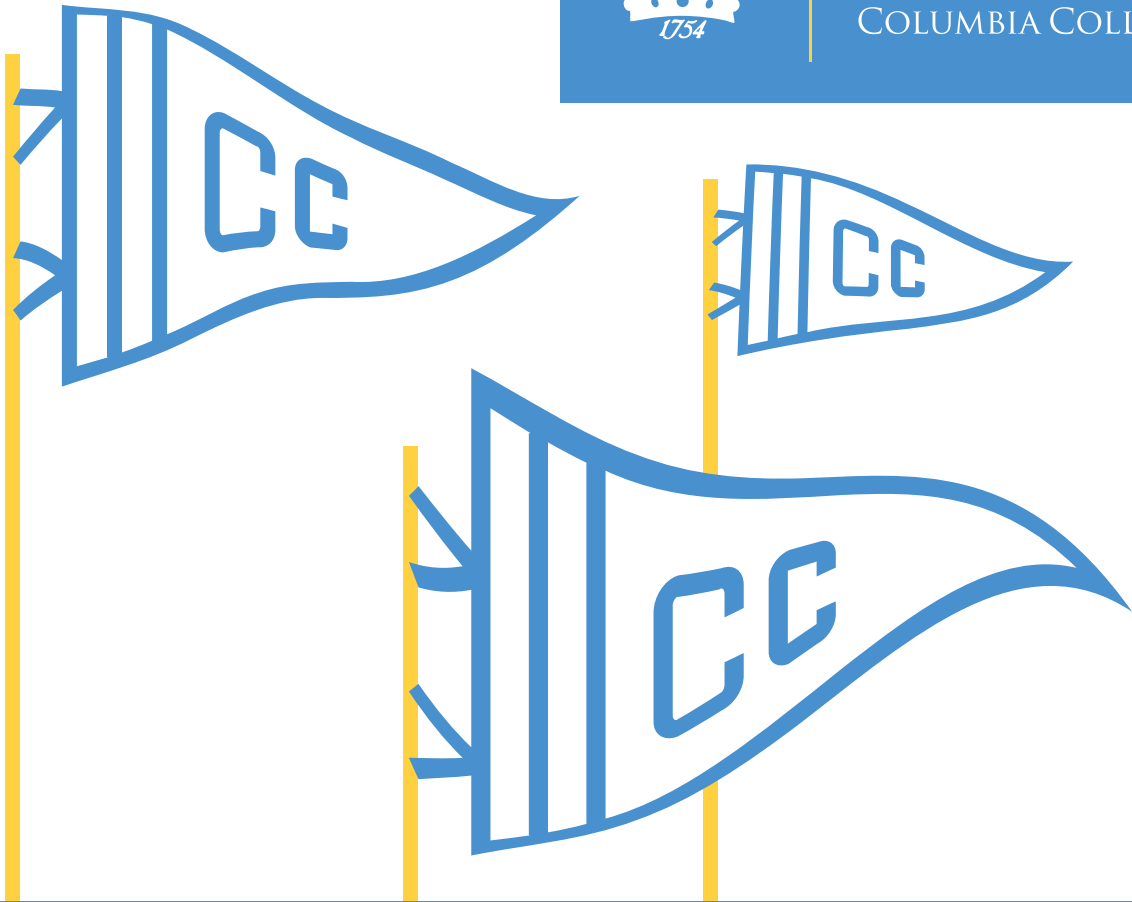
The winning caption will be published in the Winter 2020–21 issue.

Any College student or College alum may enter; no more than three entries per person. [Submit your idea, along with your full name and CC class year, to \*\*cct@columbia.edu\*\*](#) by Tuesday, December 1.



## CORE TO COMMENCEMENT

COLUMBIA COLLEGE



Over 1,300 Columbia College students on financial aid saw summer employment and paid internships disappear due to the global pandemic. In response, Columbia College waived their expected work contribution so they could continue their education this fall, without financial disruption.

This one-time grant aided our students with more than \$4 million and was made possible in large part by the philanthropic support of College alumni and parents.

Let's continue our support for deserving students.  
Learn more about the Core to Commencement campaign at  
[college.columbia.edu/campaign](https://college.columbia.edu/campaign).

## Core *Stories*

The Core has been a huge part of my everyday life. Whenever I read fine literature or evaluate political events, I do so keeping in mind lessons that I learned during the Core. I cannot express enough what a profound impact it has had.

*ILAN HARTSTEIN '85*

When I left Columbia I knew my values and where I would draw the line on issues of ethics, social behavior and morals. Thank you, Columbia College and Core Curriculum!

*FLOYD HOLLISTER '58*

Columbia taught me how to continue exploring life through a lens of uncertainty and curiosity about what is it that makes the world what it is today.

*MAYA JOYCE MATTHEWS '20*

The Core taught me that life's big questions will continue to persist through the ages [...] those pearls of wisdom continue to inform my decisions today, for which I am eternally grateful.

*SONIA DANDONA HIRDARAMANI '02*

## How'd the Core Shape You?

Share a favorite Core work or personal reflection and be part of our community memory project honoring the Core Curriculum's Centennial. Submit online or email us, and join the #CoreCelebration.

[core100.columbia.edu/corestories](https://core100.columbia.edu/corestories) | [core100@columbia.edu](mailto:core100@columbia.edu)