


CCT

Columbia
College
Today 

Anita After Annisa



On the eve of her famed restaurant's closing, chef **Anita Lo '88** contemplates the transition ahead

“Every day, I learned something that forced me to reevaluate — my opinions, my actions, my intentions. The potential for personal growth is far greater, it would seem to me, the less comfortable you are.”

— **Elise Gout CC'19**, 2016 Presidential Global Fellow, Jordan Program



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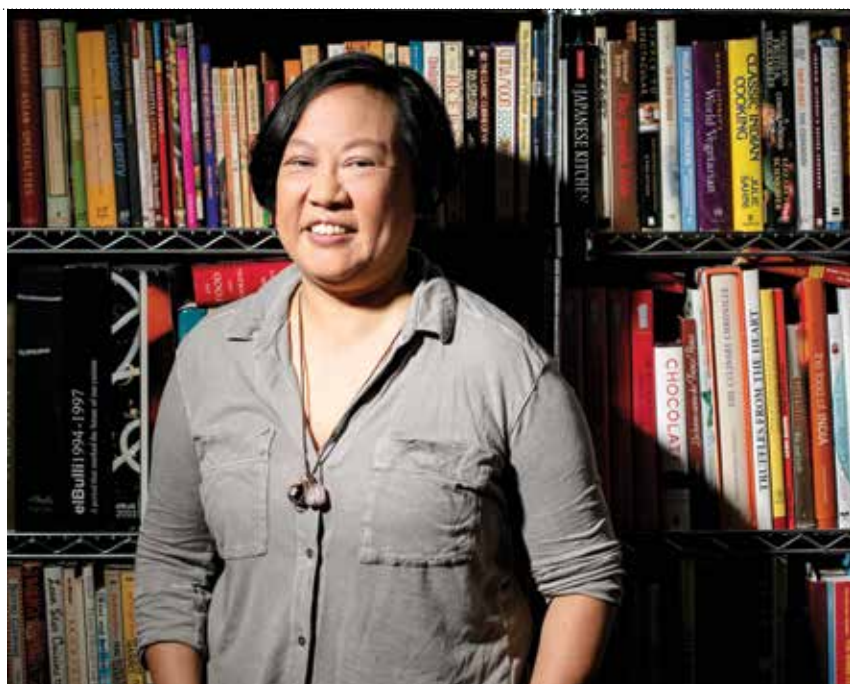
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THE LATEST

LION'S DEN | JUNE 1

"... The question of who has the information, or who has access to the information, is as important as the information itself."

— Ben Ratliff '90

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? | JUNE 12

"We had a reputation — fans, followers and customers — so there's a mix of people who understand the legacy of 5001 FLAVORS."

— Sharene Wood '94

TAKE FIVE | JUNE 23

"*King Lear* remains, for me, the greatest achievement of the human mind. I would not trade it for all of Mozart, Michelangelo or Chekhov."

— Terrence McNally '60



Within the Family

A New Destination for Columbia College Today

Click, click, tap. Click, click, tap.

This is the soundtrack to our days — the click of the mouse, the tap of fingers, the rat-a-tat rhythm that accompanies our online wanderings. Everyone has their go-to destinations for news or a social fix, but why not make room for one more? Come, click over in our direction: *CCT* online is doing something new.

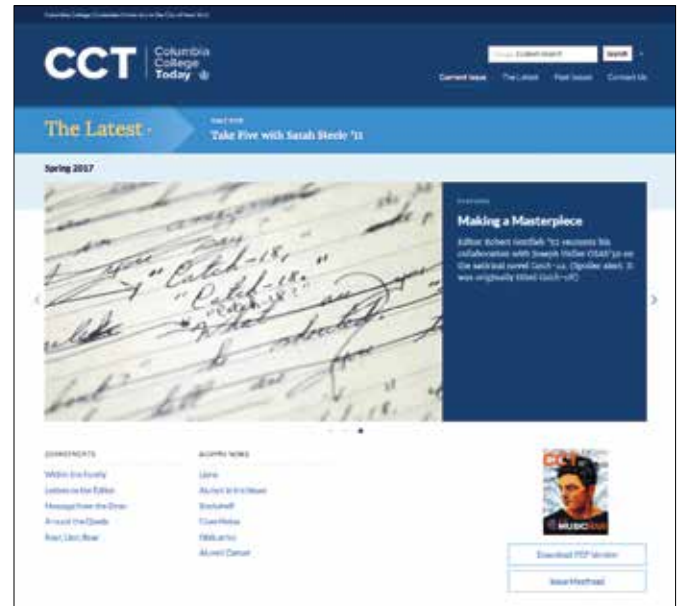
There, for the first time, we're publishing original, web-only content between issues. It's easy to find — just look on our home page under "The Latest."

We cheered when our inaugural post went live in May, and the glow still hasn't worn off. Original digital marks the start of a new era for *CCT*. Yes, we've put our issues online for many years, and will continue to do so. But we are now a publication that truly bridges print and web, with a richness of offerings in both spaces that befits the way most of us read today. Want to curl up with a longer feature? Pour a cup of coffee and page through the print magazine. Want a quick alumni hit while you're on the go? Click on the website; we post our most frequent feature, "Take Five," every Friday. Other stories go up biweekly, monthly and quarterly.

When we were mapping out plans for "The Latest," we talked a lot about what its aim would be and how to differentiate the new online content from the print while remaining true to the spirit of *CCT*'s mission. Time and again, we returned to the idea of creating a place for your alumni voices. We wanted to find more ways to put you in conversation with one another, to invite reflections on your time at the College, to share your professional expertise and to express your opinions. Ultimately, we wanted to capture the diversity of viewpoints and experiences that characterize the Columbia College community.

In the end, our desire to hear more from you — along with a commitment to diversifying the types of stories we produce — served as our guiding principles. "Take Five" and "Lion's Den" are two expressions of this. The first features reminiscences from alumni about their College experiences, prompted by five questions, a fascinating exercise in revisiting our younger selves, the things we most remember and what we'd choose to do over (or not). The second is a monthly column by a guest writer sharing their perspectives on culture and current events (former *New York Times* music critic Ben Ratliff '90 penned the excellent debut).

Alumni expertise and experience also figure prominently in the sections we call "Think Tank" and "Like Minds." In "Think Tank," we pose a topical question to a small group of alumni experts. (When President Trump pulled out of the Paris Accords, we knew that climate change would be the first topic.) In "Like Minds," we ask two alumni to interview each other about a subject that's important to them both. The tone here is more personal — like a coffee-house chat that we all get to listen in on.



The monthly section "Where Are They Now?" is what it sounds like — a catch-up with the subject of an earlier *CCT* profile. (Fun fact from the most recent installment: that glitzy Cher-inspired outfit Vanessa Hudgens wore to host May's Billboard Music Awards was by 5001 FLAVORS; Sharene Wood '94 is the company's CEO.) And because our alumni so frequently make headlines, we'll be posting regular updates in a biweekly version of "Alumni in the News."

Developing this roster of recurring web features, and working on the stories, has been an invigorating — and just plain fun — addition to our days. Special thanks go to deputy editor Jill C. Shomer and associate editor Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09 for being the creative forces behind most of the content. We hope you'll visit often (college.columbia.edu/cct). Go ahead and bookmark our page. Or if you haven't already followed Columbia College Alumni on Facebook (facebook.com/alumnicc) or Twitter (@Columbia_CCAA), I encourage you to do so; we'll be sharing there whenever a new "Latest" post goes live. And please let us know what you think. Jill can be reached at js4987@columbia.edu and you're always welcome to write me at alt2129@columbia.edu.

Thanks, and happy clicking!

Alexis Boney

Alexis Boney SOA'11
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Supporting Gorsuch

I write to dispel some of the persnickety comments attributed, unfortunately, to fellow Columbians about Neil Gorsuch '88.

Neil has been lambasted for the newspaper he founded, violating postering rules, supporting unpopular causes, his quotation in the yearbook and his fraternity, among many other things. The students who actually knew Neil can attest to his character. In fact, more than 150 of his classmates, both Democrats and Republicans, submitted a comprehensive and thoughtful letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of his nomination.

I was friends with Neil. He created "The Fed" [*Federalist Paper*] to encourage respectful and open dialogue among students from a voice not often heard at Columbia. I was the dummy who violated the sign posting rules in his run for school senate, and I can verify that he knew nothing about it. I lived at the Fiji house for three years, and I can attest that the wild allegations in the press were unfounded and outrageous.

During the Senate hearings, many of Neil's colleagues praised his good nature, respect for others and sharp intellect. These were the same qualities we saw at Columbia and why so many of his friends came out in strong support of his nomination. We know that politics will not play a part in his decisions, but instead he will be guided by his strong character, humility and integrity, which should make all Columbians proud.

Rob LaPlaca '89
Weston, Conn.

Columbians on the Court

Regarding "Gorsuch Nominated to U.S. Supreme Court" ("Around the Quads," Spring 2017): The article concludes with, "If confirmed, Gorsuch would be the second Columbian to serve on the country's highest court [after John Jay (Class of 1764)]."

There were actually three others from the College — Jay, Samuel Blatchford (Class of 1837) and Benjamin Cardozo (Class of 1889).

As for the broader group of Columbians on the Supreme Court, it also includes Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59, first in her class and the school's first female tenured professor.

Kenneth A. Iczkowski '86
Brookfield, Wis.

Editor's note: CCT thanks Iczkowski, and also Peter Law '08 and Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90, for pointing out the oversight. We regret the error.

Van Am

On page 33 of the Spring 2017 issue (“Alumni News”), you report that the sculpture in the Van Am Quad [at right] “is actually the third bust produced from the mold.”

Hello? Where are the first and second busts? Inquiring Lions want to know!

Congratulations on a great issue, as always, of a most welcome publication.

Alex Auerbach '66
Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Editor's note: We found reports of the two other busts' origins, but not their present locations. Commissioned in 1912 and 1913, respectively, the first was installed in Hamilton Hall and the second was given to the Columbia University Club.

The Right Woman?

Professor Martha Howell GSAS'79's comments on gender equality (“Hear Us Roar,” Spring 2017) were of considerable interest, but I found her reply to the question of whether we are ready for a female President somewhat convoluted. Howell noted that, in the election, “there was an element of, ‘Is this the right job for a woman?’”

I would suggest rather that there was an element of “Is this the right woman for such a job?”

Philip Lille '62, SIPA'64
Paradise Valley, Ariz.

Extraordinary Service

I write to recognize Michael Rothfeld '69, BUS'71, SIPA'71, JRN'71 for his 12 years of extraordinary service to the Columbia University Board of Trustees, a service that has benefitted the University and the College.

Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not CCT, the College or the University. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and CCT style. Please direct letters for publication “to the editor” via mail or online: college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus.



DAVID DINI SIPA 14

Michael was responsible for the board's review and approval of the University's annual budget, capital budget, capital structure and financings. He led the Student Life and Learning Committee for nine years and the Finance Committee throughout his tenure. As chair of finance, Michael reviewed quarterly, for a number of years, the University's financing of the new science, performing arts and Business School buildings in Manhattanville — specifically the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, which houses the Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, opened in October 2016, and the Lenfest Center for the Arts, opened in April 2017.

In addition, Michael worked tirelessly last fall reviewing closely the financing for the Business School's new building; the groundbreaking took place in December 2016 and the building is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

Columbia has greatly benefitted from Michael's work as a trustee and he has honored the Class of 1969 throughout his distinguished tenure.

Thank you, Michael!

Jonathan D. Schiller '69, LAW'73
New York City

Editor's note: The writer chairs the Columbia University Board of Trustees.

The Experts

A terribly late response to “The Experts” feature [Winter 2016–17]: Thanks all around for some pretty good tips. But I would add one biggie to those offered by Michael Gerrard '72 to combat climate change: Don't fly if you can avoid it.

In *Moby-Dick* (Chapter 45), after relating a few stories about the many sailors killed hunting whales, Melville implores us: “For God's sake, be economical with your lamps and candles! not a gallon you burn, but at least one drop of man's blood was spilled for it.”

Melville was unhappy with the killing of the whales, too, but he recognized that the true cost was not just the money paid for the whale oil.

By the way, best wishes to Alex Sachare '71 on his retirement, and thanks for all his good work through the years.

Allen Schill '73
Torino, Italy

Just wanted to say, the issue of CCT with all the alums providing tips and tricks [Winter 2016–17] was great reading. Keep up the good work!

Ryan McChristian '07
Washington, D.C.



Message from the Dean

A Perfect “10”

At Class Day on May 16, I spoke about the synergies that are created by bringing together individuals within our community. What follows is an abridged version of my speech. To our most recent graduates, who are now receiving Columbia College Today, congratulations again and welcome to the community of more than 50,000 Columbia College alumni. I hope you all continue to benefit from the synergies that you developed along College Walk.

At the Senior Dinner two weeks ago, I told you, the Class of 2017, that you were a “10,” as in the highest rank on a scale of one to 10, and said that you were one of only four classes in the 263-year history of Columbia College to be a “10.” I presented this as a puzzle for you to solve because I always have a puzzle at the Senior Dinner. And the answer, which many of you figured out right away, was that only four Columbia College class years have digits that add up to 10: 1801, 1900, 2008 and 2017.

To be ranked a “10” means to be complete, to lack nothing. The academic regalia you are each wearing signifies that, as a graduate, you have become complete and lack nothing according to the requirements of Columbia College. I ranked you as a class as a “10” to focus your attention on you as a group, who together are complete, lacking for nothing, when all 1,172 of you are considered together, joined together, added up, just as the digits in 2017 add up to “10.”

There is an enormous pressure for each of us, individually, to aspire to be complete, to lack for nothing, right now, and always. And it is something we are not likely to achieve, despite our best efforts. Each of us will make mistakes, be confused, misjudge situations, fall short, perform inadequately. Completeness, lacking for nothing individually, will elude most of us.

Should we stop trying? No. Rather, we should adjust our sights from the individual outcome to the individual effort. And we should also adjust our sights from an exclusive emphasis on ourselves individually to what we can do together, because what each of us can achieve together can exceed even what the most nearly complete of us can achieve alone.

To say you, the Class of 2017, is a “10” by adding you up the way the digits 2-0-1-7 add to 10, is a flawed metaphor. It implies that the whole of you is simply the sum of you individually. But, that isn’t true, because of synergy.

Synergy is created when individual parts interact such that their value goes beyond that contributed by each individual part. Our Columbia campus is majestic because of the relationship among its buildings that transcends their individual architecture. It is even more apparent in human endeavors. Our Columbia a cappella group Notes and Keys is more than the voices of its individual singers. And, the true value of the Columbia College Core Curriculum is the relationship of the works you read, a value that far exceeds the value of reading any of them individually.

This kind of synergy was our goal when we brought you all to campus four years ago. We admitted you to Columbia College because we believed you were the applicants best able to profit from and contribute to the experience of Columbia College, best able to create a syn-

ergy that would enhance your individual success and satisfaction. It is what has brought you to this place today. You each have contributed to the undergraduate experience of one another to create a collective value that goes well beyond a sum of your individual contributions.

[Class Day speaker] Sheena Wright [’90, LAW’94] has told us how she contributed to and profited from her experience here. In an interview with *Columbia College Today*, she said of her undergraduate years: “It was a great way to learn about organization and leadership — how do you organize a collective around an issue and achieve results?” She not only majored in history and sociology, but also was active in many groups and activities on campus, and these communities, these experiences, helped her land where she is today.

In fact, when she received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement from the College last spring, Sheena spoke of the “scaffold of love and support and nurturance that came from every strata of this place.” She said others saw in her what she didn’t and instilled in her the confidence that helped her grow.

Today, Sheena’s work continues to depend on synergy. The United Way [of New York City], the organization that she leads, uses what they call a “Collective Impact Approach” to bring families out of poverty. They bring together different entities to achieve a result, a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

I urge you to seek out endeavors that offer that synergy, that give you the opportunity to achieve more working with others than you could yourself — even if you think you individually can get a rating of “10.” Because the act of working with others might lead to something better for everyone working together, even you. You might be an “11” or a “12,” because that synergy scale goes above and beyond “10.”

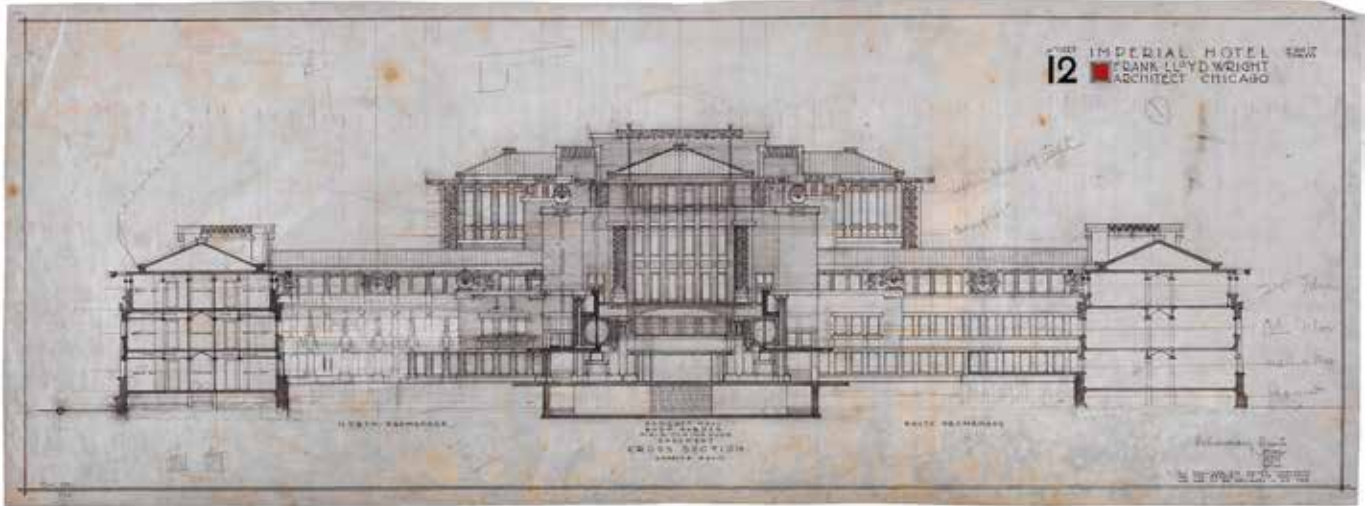
That synergy is what multiplies the value of Columbia College — the 4,500 students, 1,000 faculty members, 300 staff members and 50,000 alumni — whose interactions make something of far greater value than the sum of our individual contributions. It is the reason I can say Columbia College is the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world.

So, I will close by saying, thank you for coming to Columbia College. Thank you for all that you have taught me. Thank you for what you have taught one another. Thank you for what you have given to Columbia. Congratulations to all of you, to your families, to your professors, to your coaches, to your advisers, to your mentors. Class of 2017, you are not only a “10,” you are the best class ever.

James J. Valentini
Dean

CCT Print Extras

To view Valentini’s Class Day speech in full, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.



Frank Lloyd Wright design for the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo. 1913–23.

New Frank Lloyd Wright Exhibit Opens at MOMA

By Jill C. Shomer

A fresh perspective on the work of one of America's most renowned architects has come to the Museum of Modern Art in an exhibition organized by Barry Bergdoll '77, GSAS'86, curator of MOMA's Department of Architecture and Design



Barry Bergdoll '77, GSAS'86

ROBIN HOLLAND / COURTESY THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK

and the Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History and Archaeology.

"Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive" was developed in celebration of the anniversary of the architect's birth — June 8, 1867 — and the acquisition of the Wright archives by MOMA and Columbia's Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library. "Unpacking" refers both to the Herculean task of moving thousands of photographs, drawings, letters, models and more from the The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation's storage facilities in Wisconsin and Arizona, as well as the figurative opening up of Wright's work for examination and debate. The exhibition will run through October 1.

The archives were acquired jointly by the museum and Columbia in 2012 from the foundation. Bergdoll told *CCT* that having the archive housed on campus in Avery makes it uniquely available to scholars for teaching and for dissertations, and even for viewing by Columbia humanities students. Contents from the archive are also part of the regular programming of architectural display at MOMA and shown to the public in that way.

One of the conditions of the partnership among the three organizations was committing to develop two Wright exhibitions in a five-year period. Bergdoll says he thinks the foundation imagined the museum would simply display masterpieces from the archives, but he had other ideas.

"Frank Lloyd Wright is probably the best known American architect in history and there have been any number of comprehensive exhibitions," he says. "A blockbuster show would never announce that this collaboration brings something new to the archive, so we wanted to make the exhibitions into research platforms."

The first exhibition, "Frank Lloyd Wright and the City: Density vs. Dispersal," displayed at MOMA in 2014, examined the contradictions in Wright's thinking about the growth of American cities in the 1920s and 1930s, when he was simultaneously creating radical designs for skyscrapers and making models for a suburban utopia he called Broadacre City.

For "Unpacking the Archive," Bergdoll wanted to try an approach that takes advantage of MOMA's and Columbia's



Frank Lloyd Wright, Fallingwater (Kaufmann House), Mill Run, Pa. 1934–37.

ability to address “hard questions and contradictions.” “The new exhibition is not a comprehensive monograph or form of hero worship,” says Bergdoll. “It’s an experiment in research.”

The exhibition — comprising approximately 450 works made from the 1890s through the 1950s — is divided into 12 sections, with each segment investigating a key object (or cluster of objects) from the archives, unpacked by scholars and one conservator, most of them fresh voices to

Wright rather than seasoned specialists. Visitors watch films of the scholars in the actual archive in Avery Library; they can see what an archive looks like and learn how architecture historians do their work. The scholars are not giving lectures; rather, each discusses how they solved a particular research puzzle. The audio for the films (each around five minutes) is not played in headphones, so visitors will hear voices all around them, including Wright’s. While the segments are chronological, the pac-

ing is not directed or overdetermined — “it’s about connections and serendipities,” Bergdoll says.

In September, Columbia’s Lenfest Center for the Arts, on the Manhattanville campus, will present the exhibition “Living in America: Frank Lloyd Wright, Harlem and Modern Housing,” which examines Wright’s housing design in relationship to the rise of modern housing design in Harlem. It will overlap the MOMA exhibit through October and run until December 17.

Celebratory Senior Dinner



RICH ORMANOWSKI

More than 860 members of the Class of 2017 celebrated their transition from seniors to alumni at the annual Columbia College Senior Dinner on May 1. The festivities, which coincided with the last day of classes, were held under a tent on South Lawn. Dean James J. Valentini and senior class president Jordana Narin '17 delivered remarks, and Senior Dinner co-chairs Vivian Chen '17 and Kunal Kamath '17 led a toast. At presstime, 417 donors had contributed to the Columbia College Senior Fund.

The Columbia Club’s New Home

After two decades in residence at the Princeton Club of New York, as of this past March the Columbia University Club of New York has a new home only one block away, at the Penn Club of New York, 30 W. 44th St. The move was made to offer lower membership rates to Columbia University Club members and to take advantage of the Penn Club’s extensive amenities, such as guest rooms, multiple dining options, a fitness center and private event and banquet facilities. Learn more at columbiaclub.org.

University Announces Fundraising Campaign

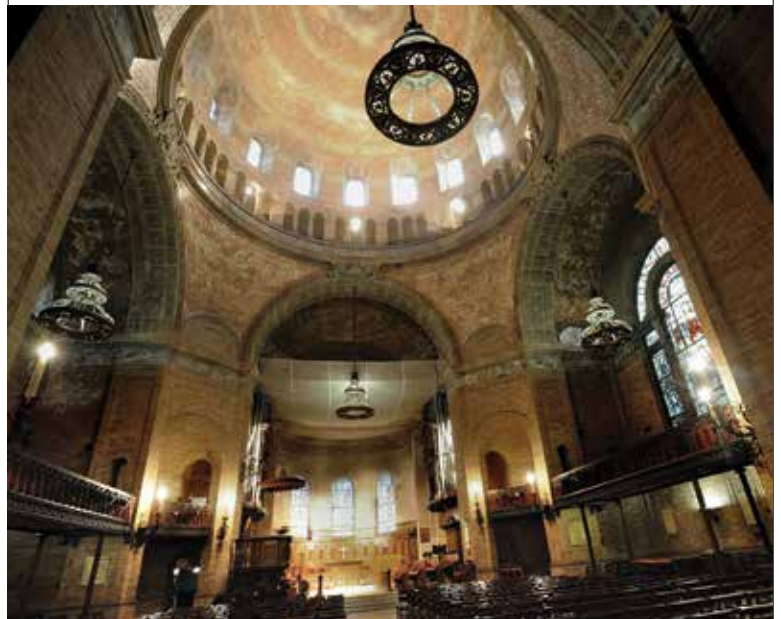
Connecting the role that Columbia's laboratories, libraries and classrooms play in addressing the world's most urgent issues, the University has launched an ambitious capital campaign — The Columbia Commitment — which aims to raise \$5 billion in five years.

"The Columbia Commitment is more than a commitment to the University," President Lee C. Bollinger said in a May 11 letter to the Columbia community announcing the campaign. "It is a renewal of our bonds with the world and our shared future."

In addition to underscoring Columbia's dedication to its faculty and students, the campaign emphasizes the University's resolve to engaging the most serious and challenging issues of our time. It includes commitments to arts and ideas; climate response; data and society; the future of neuroscience; global solutions; just societies; and precision medicine.

The campaign follows the lead of Core to Commencement, the Columbia College campaign that so far has raised \$280 million for College students and faculty. The money raised through Core to Commencement will count toward The Columbia Commitment.

"The University's effort amplifies our own historic campaign, mobilizing volunteers and presenting opportunities for us to attract new donors to support Columbia College — through gifts to the Core Curriculum, to summer research internships and global experiences, and to departmental research and collaborations, as well as to key student issues like wellness and financial aid," said Dean James J. Valentini.



EILEEN BARROSO

St. Paul's Acoustics Made American Music History

Did you know that the sounds of St. Paul's Chapel are permanently preserved? Each year, 25 songs are added to the Library of Congress National Recording Registry in Washington, D.C.; the songs are chosen to showcase the range and diversity of American recorded sounds and to increase awareness about preservation. Among the most recent batch added to the registry in March 2017 was Judy Collins' a capella arrangement of *Amazing Grace*, recorded in 1970 in St. Paul's. The chapel is a landmark in and of itself; it was officially designated by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1966.

Alumni and Students Presented Awards

Nine College alumni received 2017–18 Fulbright U.S. Student grants, which fund international teaching positions and research for students and young professionals. **Miranda Arakelian '17** will teach in Germany; **Daniel Bergerson '17** will teach in Mexico; **Brooke Robbins '17** will teach in Taiwan; **Eliana Kanefield '17** will teach in Argentina; **Vivian Chen '17** will study public health in China; **Molly Engel '17** will study economic development in China; **Rebecca Pawel '99, TC'00, GSAS'16** will conduct research in Spain; **Catalina Piccato '17** will do a business internship in economics in Mexico; and **Martin Ridge '17** received a UK Partnership Award, which enables him to study toward a degree at Queen Mary University of London.

Two College students were awarded 2017 U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarships. **Kaatje Greenberg '18** will study Russian in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, and **Benjamin Regas '19** will study Chinese in Suzhou, China.

Viviana Prado-Núñez '20 won the 2017 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature for her book, *The Art of White Roses*.

Anneliese Mesa-Jonassen '17 received a Mortimer Hays-Brandeis Traveling Fellowship, which provides \$19,000 to support students in the visual and fine arts for travel and living expenses outside the United States. Mesa-Jonassen plans to use the fellowship to travel to Colombia, where she will first work with anthropologists to study the ontology of the indigenous Muisca society and will then apprentice with ceramicists in Ráquira and La Chamba.

George Liu '17 and **Alan Gou SEAS'17** won first place in the Columbia Venture Competition's Undergraduate Challenge for their startup, Palette, "a platform used by teams to plan, record and learn from growth and marketing experiments." They received \$25,000 in funding as part of the prize.

John McWhorter

Linguist John McWhorter's career combines academics and media, a feat he says requires "two different brains." He is an associate professor in the Department of English and Comparative Language, teaching classes such as "History of the English Language," while also writing regularly for outlets including *The New York Times*, giving TED Talks about texting, and authoring 19 books on language and race (his most recent was the subject of a lengthy review in the May 15 issue of *The New Yorker*). McWhorter is also a regular contributor to a biweekly podcast on language and linguistics, "Lexicon Valley," for *Slate*. He recently spoke to *CCT* about his love of lists, teaching the Core and the accelerated state of American media.



GUSTAVO FERNANDEZ

MCWHORTER WAS RAISED in Philadelphia; both of his parents earned advanced degrees while he was growing up. "I grew up in a house full of books," he says. "I was one of those kids, a little professor. I loved making lists — I can still do useless things like rattle off the names of all of the Presidents' wives." From a young age he knew he wanted to teach and write and he was clear about his direction: "I loved writing little 'books' explaining things like what the parts of the body were — I didn't know the terminology, but what I wanted to write was non-fiction."

HE JOINED the College faculty in fall 2008 as an adjunct professor teaching Contemporary Civilization. He had been an associate professor of linguistics at UC Berkeley from 1995 until 2003, then left academia to become a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research in New York City, writing essays and commentary for the conservative-leaning think tank.

TEACHING CC was "something I never thought I would be doing," McWhorter says. He was reading a lot of material for the first time himself, and because the student body was so politicized in 2008 as a result of the Obama phenomenon, it made teaching the course especially interesting. "We learned a lot together," he says.

IN SPRING 2010 he took a semester off and wondered if he would return to the College; Professor of Slavic Languages Alan Timberlake asked him to stay and teach

"Introduction to Linguistics." "I'm glad that happened," McWhorter says, "and now I'm definitely here for the long haul." His students were glad, too — in September 2011 Columbia's student blog, BWOOG, named McWhorter's linguistics intro a "Class To Take Before You Die (Graduate)."

MCWHORTER CONTINUED to teach the Core, but he switched to Music Hum. As a musician who plays piano, he thought there would be less of a learning curve; still, he found it challenging: "Classical music has no significant place in modern American culture today. Nobody is going to come out and play a cello solo on Jimmy Fallon, so students don't know what the joy of classical can be," he says. "But I think once they're exposed to it they get something they can benefit from."

MCWHORTER STILL WRITES regularly for the popular press, which he calls "pleasurable but also ephemeral." He says, "You write something, it gets lot of attention and then it's gone. That's the way the media is. Books are around forever but we're moving away from a book age." Podcasting has become a more satisfying outlet for him. "I'm finding that talking into people's ears is the new medium that reaches smart people," he says. "It's faster and more immediate."

HE LIVES WITH HIS FAMILY in Jackson Heights, where he says "English speakers are the minority — it's mostly Spanish or Chinese, or an Indian language

or Russian." As a linguist, he enjoys the scatterings: "I love to guess what people are speaking. Queens is one of the most linguistically diverse places on earth."

HIS LATEST BOOK, *Talking Back, Talking Black: Truths About America's Lingua Franca*, a defense and celebration of Black English, generated some controversial reviews. "This is a book that says 'Yes, racism has something to do with why people don't like Black English,' but telling people 'If you don't like Black English you're a racist' doesn't change anybody's mind. It hasn't for the past 50 years," McWhorter says. "The book takes linguistic arguments to say 'Here's why black speech isn't incoherent' and I tried to write it in an accessible way. But for many people the fact that I don't stress the racism is noxious." McWhorter was pleased and surprised to get such an extensive — and positive — review in *The New Yorker* (writer Vinson Cunningham says "[The author's] intelligent breeziness is the source of the book's considerable charm.").

MCWHORTER HAS A SABBATICAL coming up, but he doesn't have another book in the works. Instead, he plans to concentrate on teaching himself Mandarin. "If you're a language guy in 2017, it's not good enough anymore to talk about Spanish, German and Russian. I need to be able to handle Mandarin," he says. He also wants to listen to more music and watch a lot of movies. Naturally, he has a list.

— Jill C. Shomer

Faculty Honored

In April, President Lee C. Bollinger named **Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic** as a University Professor, the highest rank Columbia bestows on faculty. Vunjak-Novakovic, a 12-year veteran of the University community, is the Mikati Foundation Professor of Biomedical Engineering, professor of medical sciences and director of Columbia's Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering. "She has been a pioneer in the engineering of functional human tissue for use in regenerative medicine," Bollinger said of Vunjak-Novakovic, adding: "The discoveries emerging from her laboratory have led to new approaches for treating injuries and complex diseases and also have supported the development and evaluation of therapeutic drugs."

Eight faculty members won Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards, known as the Lenfest Awards. Established in 2005 with a \$12 million gift from then-Trustee Gerry Lenfest LAW'58, Lenfest Awards honor exceptional instruction and scholarship; winners each receive a \$25,000 stipend for three years. The 2017 recipients are **Elisheva Carlebach GSAS'86**, the Salo Wittmayer Baron Professor of Jewish History, Culture and Society; **James Curley**, assistant professor of psychology; **Valentina Izmirlieva**, professor of Slavic languages and chair of the Department of Slavic Languages; **Matthew McKelway GSAS'99**, the Takeo and Itsuko Atsumi Professor of Japanese Art History and chair of Art Humanities; **Samuel Roberts**, associate professor of history and director of the Institute for Research in African American Studies; **Rachel Rosen**, assistant professor of theoretical physics; **Dustin Rubenstein**, associate professor of ecology, evolution and environmental biology; and **Oliver Simons**, associate professor of Germanic languages.

The Academic Awards Committee of Columbia College honored the student-nominated recipients of the 2017 Lionel Trilling Book Award and Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching at a ceremony on May 3 in Low Library. **Elizabeth A. Povinelli**, the Franz Boas Professor of Anthropology, was honored with the 42nd annual Lionel Trilling Book Award for her recent book, *Geontologies: A*



Elizabeth A. Povinelli (seated, at left) and Caterina Luigia Pizzigoni (seated, at right), with Dean James J. Valentini and members of the Academic Awards Committee.

Requiem to Late Liberalism, and **Caterina Luigia Pizzigoni**, associate professor of history, was honored with the 56th annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching in recognition of her "Humanity, Devotion to Truth and Inspiring Leadership."

The Van Doren Award also was celebrated earlier this year with a gathering of past recipients, students and administrators at the West Midtown studio of Mark Van Doren GSAS 1921's grandson, Adam Van Doren '84, GSAPP'89, a painter and filmmaker who teaches at Yale. Among the 13 professors in attendance were Edward "Ted" Tayler, the Lionel Trilling Professor Emeritus in the Humanities; Carol Gluck GSAS'77, the George Sansom Professor of History; and Holger Klein, professor of art history and archaeology. "They all share a common bond — from the first to the last — that they most emulate Mark Van Doren's intellectual integrity and leadership," Van Doren said. "And they all share that special something that students have responded to for over 50 years. I thought, wouldn't it be nice to have them all meet and to celebrate that?"



DAVID DINI SIPA/14

Columbia College Women's Symposium a Success

Columbia College Women celebrated the 30th anniversary of the graduation of the College's first fully coeducational class with a daylong symposium on April 22. The event, held at Faculty House and attended by 300 alumnae and students, kicked off with greetings from President Lee C. Bollinger and Dean James J. Valentini and featured engaging panel discussions on topics such as the media's portrayal of women, creating a successful feminist movement and helping young girls today become the leaders of tomorrow.

ROAR, LION, ROAR

Men's Tennis Wins 14th Ivy League Title

Men's tennis won its fourth consecutive Ivy League title after sweeping Brown and Yale at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center April 22–23. The Lions finished with a 6–1 Ivy League record, sharing the championship with Cornell and Harvard.

It was Columbia's 14th Ivy title and its 12th during the 35-year tenure of head coach Bid Goswami. "It's a good feeling for me, but I can't imagine how they must be feeling," Goswami said of his players. "They worked hard from the beginning. They earned this with their hard work."

"I never expected to win four titles," said Shawn Hadavi '17 about his career with Columbia tennis. Hadavi compiled a 14–5 record in singles play as a senior and teamed with Jackie Tang '20 for a 13–6 mark in doubles. "Every year we developed a winning culture, where we expected to win no matter which guys we lost [to graduation]."

Columbia defeated 11 of 14 non-conference opponents, and its only loss in Ivy competition was to Harvard 4–2 on April 15.



MIKE McLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

But the next day, Harvard bowed to Cornell 4–2, and since the Big Red had lost to Columbia 4–1 on April 1, all three teams went into the final weekend of the season with one league loss. Harvard closed out its season by beating Princeton and Penn while both Columbia and Cornell defeated Brown and Yale on the final weekend, so all three tied for the league crown.

Columbia, ranked 23rd nationally, received an automatic qualifying bid to the NCAA Championships in Charlottesville, Va., where the Lions defeated Purdue 4–2 in their open-

ing match on May 12 before bowing to host Virginia 4–0 the following day. Columbia finished the spring season with an 18–5 record.

The Lions were especially strong in doubles play, compiling a 50–17 record. In addition to the Hadavi-Tang pairing, Christopher Grant '17 and Michal Rolski '18 posted a 13–1 record and Richard Pham '17 and Victor Pham '19 compiled a 14–7 mark.

In singles play, four Lions surpassed double figures in victories: Timothy Wang '19 (18–4), Hadavi, Victor Pham (13–7) and Tang (12–4).

Archery Wins National Crowns

Columbia's archery team won national championships in the recurve and compound divisions at the 2017 U.S. National Outdoor Collegiate Championships in Chula Vista, Calif., on May 20. It was the second time in three years that Columbia won both divisions at the Nationals.

Christine Kim '20, Bianca Gotuaco SEAS'19 and Aileen Yu '19 led Columbia past Texas A&M in the finals of the recurve division to record the archery program's sixth national championship in the division. Gotuaco won the individual gold medal by defeating Kim in the final match, and Yu completed an individual sweep for Columbia by beating Cassandra Pelton of Georgia Southern University in the third-place match.

In the compound division, Sophia Strachan '20, Judy Zhou '17 and Katherine Alfaro BC'18 led Columbia over Michigan State in the finals. It was the Lions' second national title in the compound.

Gotuaco, Kim, Strachan and Yu earned All-America honors and Kim and Strachan qualified to compete in Taipei this summer for the World University Games team.

Fencing Finishes Third at NCAAs

After winning the NCAA Championship the last two seasons, Columbia fencing fell short in 2017–18, finishing third behind Notre Dame and Ohio State at the NCAA Fencing Championships in Indianapolis March 23–26.

Coach Michael Aufrechtig took the result in stride, saying, "Third place is a good way to remind us that [winning the championship] isn't easy and you do have to work very hard. I am sure we will come back next season with that thought."

Margaret Lu '17 was the top individual finisher in women's foil with a 21–2 overall record but lost to Ohio State's Alanna Goldie, 15–13, in the semifinals and came away with a bronze medal. In her first NCAA Championships, Iman Blow '20 went 19–4 in women's foil, good for sixth place.

On the men's side, foil also was Columbia's strongest weapon as Nolen Scruggs '19 compiled a 17–6 record and won a silver medal.



For the latest news on Columbia athletics, visit gocolumbiaions.com.

Leone, Flax Kaplan Honored

Peter Leone '83 and Rachel Flax Kaplan '03 each received an Athletics Alumni Award at the 96th edition of the Varsity C Celebration, held in Roone Arledge Auditorium on May 3. The awards are presented to alumni who have been long-term, outstanding contributors to Columbia Athletics.

Leone was a football player at Columbia and has been an ardent supporter of the program for more than a quarter-century. As president of the Columbia Football Players Club, he helps the program build alumni support, focusing on fundraising and mentoring. A financial services representative for Northwestern Mutual, he also has been president of the Columbia University Club of Pittsburgh and chair of the Western Pennsylvania Alumni Representative Committee.

Flax Kaplan was a diver at Columbia and has supported the program since graduation, serving as chair of the Diving Advisory Committee and helping to establish The Gordon Spencer Fund for Diving. She is the head teacher at the Barnard Center for Toddler Development and continues to visit Uris Pool, where she coaches club diving.

Flax Kaplan was a diver at Columbia and has supported the program since graduation, serving as chair of the Diving Advisory Committee and helping to establish The Gordon Spencer Fund for Diving. She is the head teacher at the Barnard Center for Toddler Development and continues to visit Uris Pool, where she coaches club diving.



MIKE McLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Lions Win Seven Ivy Track Titles

Columbia men and women took home seven individual titles at the 2017 Ivy League Heptagonal Outdoor Track & Field Championships, hosted by Yale May 6–7.

Robert Napolitano '17 became an eight-time Ivy League champion by capturing the 1,500m run and anchoring Columbia's winning 4x800m relay team, which also included Sam Ritz '19, Willie Hall '20 and Alek Sauer '19. In addition, Ryan Thomas '18 won the 5,000m.

On the women's side, Akua Obeng-Akrofi '18, who represented Ghana at the 2016 Rio Olympics, won the 400m, Sarah Hardie '18 captured the 800m, Henna Rustami '17 took the 5,000m and Natalie Tanner '17 won the 10,000m.

In the team competitions, Columbia's women finished fourth and the men came in seventh.

HEADLINERS

KHALIFA: Osama Khalifa '18 won the College Squash Association individual championship, hosted by Dartmouth on March 5, defeating Rochester's Mario Yanez in three sets (11–1, 11–6, 11–5) to become Columbia's first squash national champion.

The championship capped an impressive season for Khalifa, who won 15 of his 16 matches and avenged his only loss by beating Harvard's Saadeldin Aboudaish in the team nationals. He was a First Team All-American for the third consecutive year.

Khalifa is the second member of his family to win the CSA individual national title. His older brother Amr Khalifa, who competed for St. Lawrence University, won the crown in 2013.

Columbia's men's squash team finished fourth in the nation after having climbed as high as second in the rankings earlier in the season, while the women's team finished the season ranked eighth.



PHOTO COURTESY COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

ZIMMERMAN: Camille Zimmerman '18, who led the Ivy League in scoring and rebounding and was a unanimous choice for the All-Ivy League First Team, has been named Women's Player of the Year by the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association. She is the first Columbia woman to receive the honor and joins three Columbia men: three-time recipient Jim McMillian '70, John Azary '51 and Chet Forte '57.

"It's an honor to be selected for this award," Zimmerman said at the awards presentation on April 26. "There are a lot of really good schools and really good players here, so to be selected amongst them is really awesome."

Her coach, Megan Griffith '07, says: "I've never second-guessed Camille's commitment to wanting to be great. We talk a lot about chasing greatness, and I really believe that this young woman does that every day."

Zimmerman ranked 10th in the nation in scoring with 22.5 ppg and was among the top 50 in the country in eight statistical categories. She set a Columbia single-season scoring record with 608 points, surpassing the mark of 598 set by Ellen Bossert '86 in 1985–86. Her career total of 1,408 points is just 39 shy of the school record of 1,447, held by Ula Lysniak BC'87, TC'94.

The highlight of Zimmerman's season came on January 27 in Hanover, N.H., when the 6-foot-1 guard/forward posted career highs of 37 points, 19 rebounds and 4 steals in a 91–88 quadruple-overtime victory over Dartmouth, which matched the longest game in Ivy League women's basketball history.



PHOTO COURTESY METROPOLITAN BASKETBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

SCOREBOARD

4

Consecutive Ivy League championships won by Columbia's men's tennis team

.395

Batting average for third baseman **Randell Kanemaru '18**, the Ivy League Player of the Year

6

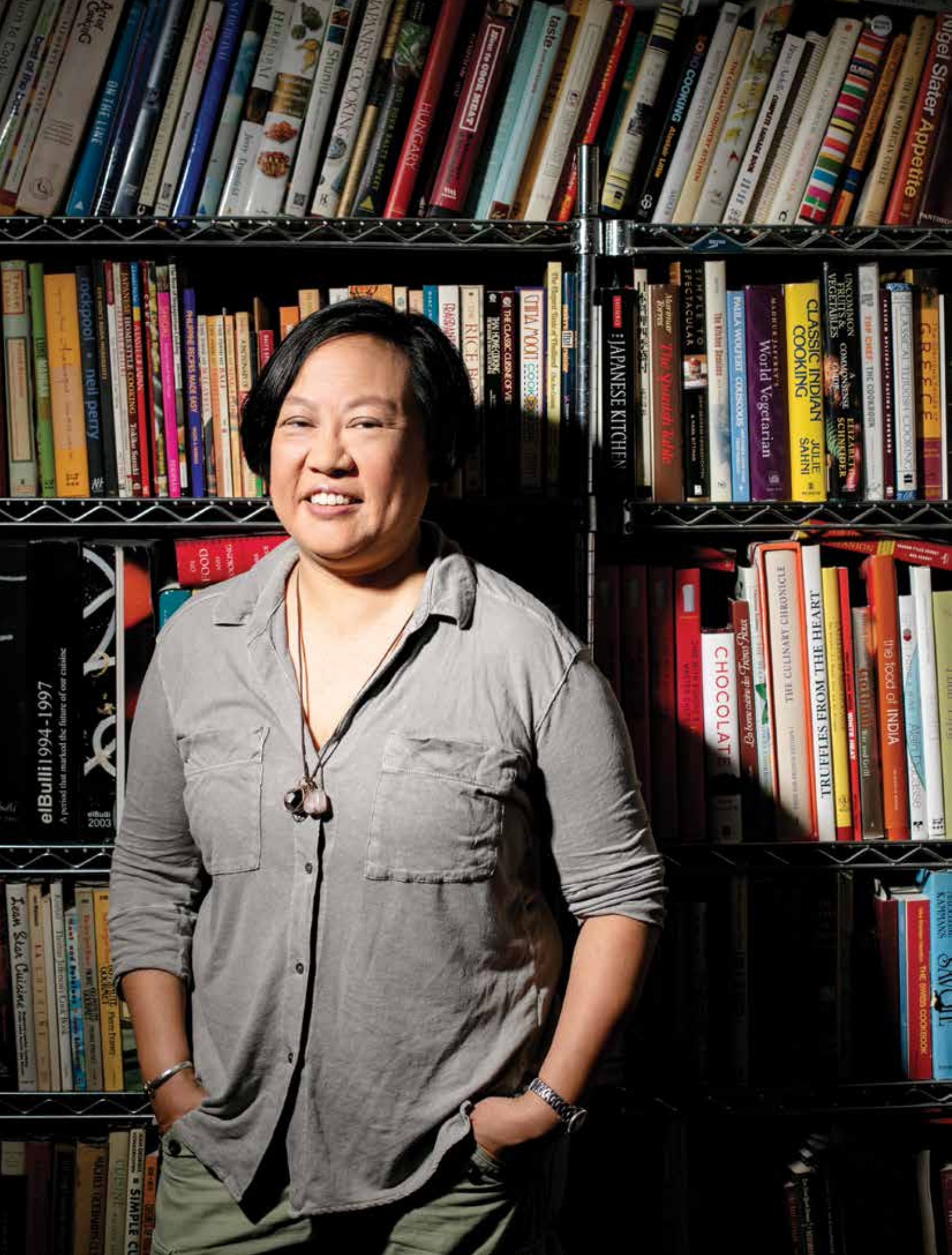
National championships won by Columbia's archery team in the recurve division

15–1

Match record for national champion and three-time squash All-American **Osama Khalifa '18**

10

Home runs by softball's Madison Gott '18 and Sommer Grzybek '20, tops in the Ivy League



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the food of INDIA

Migel Slater Appetite
THE NEW VEGETARIAN DIET
CLASSIC INDIAN COOKING

THE SWISS COOKBOOK

After Annisa

On the eve of her famed restaurant's closing, chef **Anita Lo '88** contemplates the transition ahead

By Klancy Miller '96

When I learned that chef Anita Lo '88 would be closing her acclaimed West Village restaurant, Annisa, it came as a surprise — Lo has been a fixture atop the notoriously fickle New York City dining scene for more than 17 years. In 2014 *The New York Times* lavished three stars upon Annisa, with critic Pete Wells declaring, “[T]he city is a more exciting place for it.”

Where would she go from here?

I'd heard Lo speak a few years ago at Cherry Bombe Jubilee, a conference celebrating women and food, but much of what I knew about Lo I'd learned from seeing her on TV. She competed on *Top Chef Masters* in 2010 (her braised daikon with steak tartar, egg yolk and chili sauce looked amazing!). Five years earlier, she was the first woman to face off in *Iron Chef's* Kitchen Stadium, beating Mario Batali in “Battle Mushroom,” where her use of subtle flavors bested the bolder Batali in dishes scored for taste, plating and originality.

Digging further, I also learned that Lo has one of the most impressive culinary bios of anyone in the United States. She was raised in Birmingham, Mich., and grew up in a Chinese-American family that valued food and travel. Lo became an inveterate world traveler and is known for finding inspiration in the foods she's tasted in various exotic locales. She landed her first restaurant job in 1988, at the upscale French restaurant Bouley, and in 1990 enrolled in the prestigious Ecole Ritz Escoffier culinary school in Paris. While in that city, she also had *stages* (apprenticeships) at the Michelin-starred Restaurant Guy Savoy and Michel Rostang (now Maison Rostang).

Lo returned to New York in 1991 and worked each station at Chanterelle. In 1996, as the executive chef at Mirezi, she earned a two-star review from Ruth Reichl in *The New York Times* for interpreting Korean cuisine to appeal to Americans.

Lo opened Annisa (“women” in Arabic) in 2000 as a showcase for her global cooking style and a year later was named one of the “Best New Chefs in America” by *Food & Wine* magazine. Annisa was destroyed by a fire in 2009; it reopened in 2010. Now that the restaurant would be closing forever I needed to have the experience of eating there; while the clock was ticking (the restaurant closed May 27), I made a dinner reservation.

On a crisp spring night, I met my friend Davis at Annisa's elegant bar, next to the entryway. The host guided us to our table, and we sat side by side. The room was intimate — 13 tables — and simple, with warm tones and muted colors: earthy pink banquettes, cream-colored walls and golden light. The lighting had to be some of the best in any restaurant in New York City; it was soft and flattered everyone.

We ordered Lo's famous foie gras soup dumplings for our appetizer and agreed they were sublime — silky in texture, umami flavors with notes of star anise and cinnamon. They were astoundingly delicious. For my main course I had sea bass and Davis had striped bass. Both were gorgeously presented. We promptly posted photos to Instagram, then savored every perfectly cooked bite. Dessert was butterscotch beignets and a hazelnut torte — both winners. Afterward we received an extra treat of a chocolate drop with a small mint leaf alongside it and a piece of crystallized ginger next to a tiny blood orange popsicle. The post-dessert served as a miniature, less sweet, more modern version of petit fours. Genius! >>

Photographs by Jörg Meyer

When Lo and I sat down to talk I happily learned we have a number of things in common: We both studied French, went to Reid Hall, attended culinary school in Paris and authored cookbooks for solo diners. We spoke about how the NYC dining scene has changed, the reasons she's moving on and what she wants — and doesn't want — to do now.

Klancy Miller: Why did you choose the College?

Anita Lo: It was important to me that I go to a good school; I came from an environment that



valued Ivy League schools. My brother, James '83, went to Columbia, too. He graduated the same year as Obama.

You studied at Reid Hall. Do you think majoring in French led to your culinary path?

It's not quite as direct. I think being in France and their focus on food was just a perfect segue for me on some level.

How has NYC dining changed in your view as both a New Yorker and as a chef during the past 30 years?

I think it continues to get more diverse. Chefs were focused on French cuisine when I was coming up. And it was also fine dining — really formal both in service and in cuisine. Fine dining has

certainly branched out from there. On some level it's not necessarily as fancy, but there's still room for all of that. We still have that at Daniel. We still have that at Bouley. Molecular gastronomy happened. That wasn't around back then. It's just become less Franco-focused.

How would you describe the restaurant climate now versus then in terms of the economics of running a restaurant?

It's a completely different business model now, especially if you go into the "no-tipping" model. Our cooks have different focuses. Back in the day we all wanted to hone our craft. We were willing to put in six-day workweeks, 12–15-hour days — and everyone wanted to go to France. Nowadays I think people are more worried about money, and I guess rightly so. It's impossible to live on a cook's salary here unless you have help from your family. It's just a lot of sacrifice.

I read your piece in Eater [February 11, 2016] about how a service-included model can be devastating as a business owner.

In New York, the minimum wage will increase to \$15 in 2018. This will affect restaurant owners and how they will pay their staff, especially non-tipped employees in the back of the house like cooks and chefs. Whereas servers can earn three times as much because of tips, the wages for cooks have been stagnant and much lower. Many restaurants have switched to service-included systems in order to pay staff more equitably, to recruit and retain a high-quality kitchen staff and to avoid the





massive discrepancy between wages. Restaurants that make the change to service-included menus must increase the cost for items on the menu in order to cover the cost of increased wages. This is tricky because a customer might experience sticker shock due to the higher costs on the menu. Annisa experienced a decline in customers after switching to a no-tipping system.

Is that part of why you decided to close?

There were a million other reasons to close. The little cuts were making me do something I wanted to do anyway. The financial situation just helped me to get to that point. We were having increases across the board: minimum wage, the price cap of what to charge — we had to raise our prices for no-tipping, real estate taxes were going up, infrastructure was crumbling — there were \$30,000 worth of repairs and also labor issues. It could keep going but I would have had to cut people's hours back. It's not sustainable for them either. You can't live anywhere in New York on \$15 or \$20 an hour. It doesn't feel good to run a business like this anymore.

Will you open another restaurant?

I definitely don't want to open another restaurant. I've been doing this almost 30 years; that's enough! And it's a young person's job. Not that older people can't continue to do restaurant work, but not on the

scale that I want to do it. At this point I don't want to have an empire. That being said, I might open my partner Mary Attea's — who's also my chef de cuisine — restaurant down the line. But I'm not opening Annisa 3.0. It's not happening.

What's next? What do you most look forward to?

I'm really looking forward to taking some time off. My partner and I take a 10-day break every year and I go on trips all the time but they're usually work trips. Some of them are very pleasurable but it's not like sitting on a beach for 10 days. I'm gonna take a year off. I've got some great travel coming up. And then I'm going to figure it out. I know that I'm going to continue to write — I had a column for about a year. I would look into that again. But I don't know. I don't feel any pressure to figure it out.

Is it a relief not to feel any pressure? To not have things laid out?

I think I will feel that pressure in another year but I don't feel it now. I've been successful. I don't really feel like I have to prove anything more right now [as far as cooking professionally]. I am very worried about being bored. I would love to find something that's engaging and exciting that makes me feel that I'm giving back to the community at large.

“I'm not opening Annisa 3.0. It's not happening.”

Where are you planning to go?

In September I'm going to Sicily. I have never been. I've actually never been to southern Italy. I've never been to Rome, which, as a food person at my age, I think that there's something wrong with that, and I'm going to fix that right now. I'm going with a culinary diplomacy program and I'm going to talk with refugees, and there's a couscous festival that I'm going to be part of. I'm so excited!



“Cooking was an obsession for me ... I hope I will find something else like that.”

After that, I hope, Mexico. I guess I'm not really taking a year off! I'm hosting a culinary trip to the Yucatan. And then I'm going to Ethiopia for the sesame harvest. I'm really excited for that. I've always wanted to go to Ethiopia. I'm going with Soom [a purveyor of premium quality tahini]; I'll probably go to Asia in the winter. My sister lives there so we'll stay with her for a little bit. I really want to go to Cambodia; I've never been. A friend wants to go to Thailand. I've been there a lot but my partner hasn't been. We'll probably do all of that. I have two aging dogs and a cat, so I'm not quite sure — I don't know how I feel about leaving my old dogs for so long.

You mentioned that you might help your partner open a restaurant. How important is mentoring for you? Is it built into the role of chef?

I don't think it's necessarily built into the role of chef, but I think it should be. I think it's

key, actually. Cooks really make nothing. It's all about passion and love and the fact that they even work for you ... as long as they haven't left you in a bad way and they didn't do terribly, I think you owe it to them to be there for the rest of their career.

With Annisa closing, have you seen people from your past?

Tonight we have three former employees from Portland, Ore. — they had all moved to Portland but when they heard [that we'd be closing] they booked a trip just to come. Oh my God! So amazing. A lot of former employees have come by, and a lot of old regulars have come by, so it's good.

Are you working on any writing projects?

My cooking-for-one book is in editing right now. I don't want to start another one until this is done.

How did the book come about? What's the title?

It's called *SoLo: Easy, Sophisticated Recipes for a Party of One*. It came about because a friend and I were trying to name something and then he started riffing on my last name and said, 'You could do something on "Lo-country cooking." You could do "SoLo..." and it kept on going. We came up with 50 titles. And I thought, 'Oh my God, I should do the cooking for one!' because I'm so neurotic about waste and I thought it would be easy because the recipes have to be easy. My editor is Haruki Murakami's English editor. It should be out in 2018, probably in the fall.

Will there be a book tour?


I'd like to do one. I love the city but I don't think I can do the city all the time. I need different scenery sometimes.

Are there any other wishes you have for yourself as you're making this transition?

I hope that I will still get invited to do charity events and travel events. Cooking was an obsession for me ... I hope I will find something else like that as well.

What about reading? Reading and travel go well together.

I used to be an avid fiction reader and that's another thing I'd like to get back to. I just read *The Vegetarian*, by Han Kang; it was amazing. >>



After speaking with Lo, I wanted to experience Annisa again, and this time I chose to dine alone. I'm glad I did. I took in all the details: the simplicity of the white tablecloths, the candles casting golden light across the tables; Ella Fitzgerald singing "Midnight Sun" in the background. Annisa was elegant and intimate, yes, but even more than that, it felt soothing — the ideal place to relax and savor great food.

To start, the waiter brought the tiniest piquillo pepper tart. I ordered the fresh field greens salad as an appetizer and then the barbecue squid with peanut and edamame, followed by the same delicious sea bass that I had the first time — I had been craving it. Lo came into the dining room to say hello; that was a happy surprise. While I finished my meal I spied another party of one. I found myself grateful to be at Annisa in its last days, alone, feeling the spirit of Lo's upcoming book. Indeed, SoLo.

Klancy Miller '96 is the author of *Cooking Solo: The Fun of Cooking for Yourself*. She is a writer and pastry chef deeply fascinated by all things French. After graduating from the College and working in international development in French Polynesia, she earned a diplôme de pâtisserie from Le Cordon Bleu Paris. Miller was a commentator on the Cooking Channel show *Unique Sweets* and has contributed to Food Republic, Bon Appétit, Cherry Bombe, The Washington Post and Food52.

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Anita Lo '88's recipe for bread pudding
college.columbia.edu/cct/latest

"THE
JOURNEY
WAS THE
EXCITING
PART"

By Jacqueline Raposo

Compass CEO Robert Reffkin '00, BUS'03
on creating his own path to success,
from Rude Boy to real estate



R

Robert Reffkin '00, BUS'03 started his first business when he was just 15 — a DJ company funded with his bar mitzvah and babysitting savings. This was in 1994, long before the era of music streaming and easily shuffled playlists. Reffkin invested in high-tech equipment that mixed CDs and guaranteed he'd play any 50 songs clients requested — then frantically stocked up on *Now That's What I Call Music!* mixes and compilations.

By the time he graduated from high school, Reffkin's Rude Boy Productions had earned him more than \$100,000. The experience was largely guided by his teenage involvement with the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. "NFTE taught me that if you set a dream, you can realize it," Reffkin says. "And if someone were to tell me no — which my mom did initially — it's more a reflection of their fear than my ability."

Twenty-three years later, that lesson has paid off several times over. Reffkin has navigated the world of finance, worked for the White House and launched a nonprofit that went national. Returning to for-profit entrepreneurship in 2012, he co-founded and became CEO of Compass, a real estate company that's revolutionizing the industry by developing software that both speeds up and simplifies the home-purchasing process.

With the mindset of a local, friendly shop, Compass quickly became competition for mom-and-pop offices and real estate heavy-hitters alike; in 2015 it was named Mid-Sized Business of the Year by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. Reffkin has been named to both *Crain's* and *Fortune's* "40 Under 40" lists, included in *Business Insider's* most "exciting startups in New York City" and was recently honored with the Business School's Distinguished Early Achievement Award. In less than five years, Compass has grown from a single New York City office into a billion-dollar enterprise with 30-plus offices nationwide.

But for Reffkin, the definition of success is not a financial bottom line but a rewarding work environment and a mission to transform lives. In his mind, people are motivated by meaning: "I believe Compass will help more people realize their dreams than any other company on Earth," he says.

Reffkin doesn't think that's idealistic; you only have to talk with him for a few minutes to recognize his sincerity. His big dreaming, along with his drive and belief in the power of community, are the hallmarks of his personality. And they have been with him since childhood.

Reffkin grew up in Berkeley, Calif., as an only child. His mother, Ruth, emigrated from Israel with her family when she was 7, but became estranged from her parents in adulthood. Reffkin's father was absent from his life, too, having passed away when Reffkin was 11. "I didn't have a dad, grandparents or anyone other than my mom. But I had everything," Reffkin says. "Although I had little, all was positivity. My mom, collectively or reactively, only accepted that around her."

Ruth worked hard to seek out a better future for herself and her son. When Robert was an infant, she started a daycare program in their home, attending to 25 children on the first floor and in the backyard. At night, she put Robert to sleep by telling him to imagine all the wonderful things he could be and the impact he could have on the world.

Reffkin was a bright and ambitious student, and by his early adolescence, Ruth had closed the daycare center and would soon start over as a real estate agent. "Seeing her choose her own life, again and again, bouncing back after failure, made me believe that the journey was the exciting part," he says of the drive she instilled in

him. But there was only so much time in the day she could devote to "do everything." They needed guidance, and more opportunities not yet financially available to them.

Before he started high school, Reffkin and his mother found A Better Chance, a nonprofit that connects talented students of color from underserved communities with top boarding, private day and public schools. Mother and son filled out a common application that ABC then distributed to a selection of schools, sidestepping the repetition that often dissuades potential candidates who cannot afford a pile-up of costly fees. Reffkin matched with San Francisco University H.S., and eagerly enrolled.

He filled the two-hour commute dreaming of what his future held — a practice he admits calms him in adulthood, too. The stu-



Robert Reffkin '00, BUS'03 ran a marathon in every state to raise money for his nonprofit, New York Needs You.

dent body lacked diversity to such a point that Reffkin was the only black student in every class, which instilled in him a profound understanding of how certain environments can be horribly isolating. "Being alone is a very hard thing when you want to feel connected to something more," he says.

ABC required regular meetings with fellow students in the program, and there Reffkin found friends who felt similarly and were energized to seek opportunity and adventure. In the summers, programs like Summer Search and Outward Bound took him further and further from home, expanding his view of the world and idea of community involvement. "I realized there were more organizations that wanted to help me than there was time in the day; they had staff and board members who wanted to see me be successful," Reffkin says of the surrogate siblings and family members who guided him during this time. "I quickly started to believe that opportunity is everywhere. I felt exhilarated. I felt excited."

At 14, Reffkin began to hone his business acumen through NFTE, which teaches skills vital in entrepreneurial and leadership positions

to those in high-need communities. With NFTE's guidance, he laid out his plan to build Rude Boy Productions — a name chosen in a nod to Bob Marley's first band. "There's something about Bob Marley that resonated with me," he says. "He was mixed — half white and half black, from Jamaica. That's why he grew dreadlocks and loved the idea of Rastafarianism and started playing the music he played. In a way, he was searching for his place in the world. I've been on a search my entire life."

Although NFTE and the other organizations he joined — seven total — introduced Reffkin to a diverse group of similarly ambitious teenagers, he never felt he found his community. "That's why I came to New York, the city of diversity," he says of crossing the country to study economics-philosophy and history. "If there was any place that would accept me, it's this city."

At the College, Reffkin met students from around the world. Working alongside them, he learned that "the probability of success is enhanced when you collaborate with people who have different perspectives and different ideas. I became addicted to diversity. That's what led me to pursue many kinds of careers."

After graduation, Reffkin was an analyst at McKinsey & Co. for two years, then returned to Columbia for an M.B.A. He worked for

two years in finance at Lazard, one as a White House Fellow in the U.S. Department of the Treasury and then moved back to New York City to work at Goldman Sachs.

But in the finance world he once again "felt alone — like there wasn't a community that I felt a part of," he says. "What motivates me is community and impact. I wanted to be a part of building a better community."

In 2007, Reffkin began to lay the groundwork for the nonprofit New York Needs You (Nyny; now America Needs You). For inspiration, he thought back to the childhood programs where he felt most empowered and engaged. Across the board, they'd left him with lessons about the rippling

influence of mentorship: "I literally didn't know what the word 'Columbia' was when I was a junior in high school," he says with a laugh. "If no one had told me, we wouldn't be talking right now!" He decided to create an organization, focused around the idea of mentorship, that would offer career development, college support and summer internships — one that would focus on ambitious low-income students who were the first in their families to go to college and so needed the same kind of advice he had.

"But then I had to finance it," he says.

In a grand visual gesture, Reffkin set out on a mission: He'd run a marathon in every state and set an overall fundraising goal of \$1 million. Some funds would go back to the organizations that helped him in his youth, and the rest toward Nyny. He registered under the name Running to Support Young Dreams.

Reffkin started at California's Death Valley Marathon in December that same year. In January, he ran in both Mississippi

and Florida. For a time he ran a marathon every month, with his mother there to cheer him on. He kept working at Goldman. By 2009, he had enough funds to start Nyny. He began dating the woman who would become his wife, and later the mother of their two daughters. As the years passed, more time passed between remaining marathons.

"No matter how good you are — no matter how good — your mind is telling you to quit," he says of the incessant routine. "It's a constant environment of give up, quit, give up, quit. All the trainings — give up, quit. Every morning — give up, quit. Every marathon — give up, quit. You're working against that part of your mind to say: 'I know you can do it, just keep going.'"

Six years after he began, Reffkin did his final fundraising run, the New York City Marathon. With 12 friends and colleagues now involved with Nyny joining him, the team raised more than \$150,000, topping his \$1 million goal.

During this time, Reffkin became acutely aware of the emotional muscle that pushed him past moments of self-doubt, and how it gave him confidence at other points of possible self-defeat. He remembered both the loneliness of isolation and the energy of found community. He thought back to how being a real estate agent had offered his mother flexibility and high income. And he started to become increasingly inspired by colleagues who were starting their own companies and putting community and meaning first in their work.

In 2012, it all came together when Reffkin took the plunge and founded Compass.

As a high-tech real estate company, Compass develops software for both buyers and sellers. Its programs provide details about which houses are moving on the market and what industry trends might affect price, interest rate fluctuations and other factors. *Forbes* hailed Compass' most recent "high-tech and high-touch" software, Collections, as the "Pinterest of real estate"; the user-friendly program allows potential homeowners to create photo galleries of intriguing properties, share and talk about them with friends and families, and connect with agents to supply details.

Reffkin now celebrates collaboration and diversity of ideas by having designers, programmers and agents work together under one roof. He builds inclusive workspaces through social events and networks like Women of Compass that have philanthropic programs. Reffkin wants agents to help clients not only find their dream homes, but also ideally, community: "A place where they can feel valued and safe, and have a sense of belonging," he says. "What inspires me the most about Compass and our mission is that we're helping people find their place in the world."

Last year, Reffkin's mother joined Compass as an agent. At a recent Shabbat dinner, she shared her pride that the company she'll retire from will be one that her son built, that treats its employees well and that offers them a quality of life they deserve.

"I feel very fortunate," Reffkin says, "after getting so much from my mom in terms of inspiration and support, that I'm able to provide the same things."

And in turn Reffkin hopes his success will inspire others to start their own companies, create communities and have lasting, positive impact, too. "The more people pursuing their dreams, the better the world will be."

Jacqueline Raposo is a writer and radio host. Her work can be found at wordsfoodart.com.

"No matter how good you are — no matter how good — your mind is telling you to quit ... You're working against that part of your mind to say: 'I know you can do it, just keep going.'"



CLASS OF 2017, “KNOW YOUR

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11 // Photographs by Eileen Barroso

The sun shone on Class Day 2017, with 1,172 seniors joining the ranks of College alumni. Keynote speaker Sheena Wright '90, LAW'94, president and CEO of the United Way of New York City, delivered a speech that doubled as a call to action and rallied the graduates to the challenges ahead.

“The first thing you should expect is that the world will change dramatically and unexpectedly,” said Wright. “I think you — Class of 2017 — probably know that more than most ...

“The question will be: As Columbia graduates, will you be drivers of that change, or will you merely be impacted by it?”

The ceremony, held on May 16, also included remarks from Dean James J. Valentini (see page 6), senior class president Jordana Narin '17 and valedictorian Michael Abolafia '17, among others. It began with the 14th annual Alumni Parade of Classes, sponsored by the Columbia College Alumni Association, which featured alumni marchers from almost every class from the Class of 1951 through the Class of 2016.

Wright took the stage early in the program. Born and raised in the South Bronx, she distinguished herself at the College in athletics as well as in social justice and cultural affairs. Wright was president of Delta Sigma Theta, headed the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Black Students Organization and co-founded the Pan-African House, a special interest housing community devoted to raising awareness of diversity. She took the helm at the United Way of New York City, a nonprofit committed to helping low-income New Yorkers, in 2012. She is the first woman to lead the organization in its nearly 80-year history.

In her speech, Wright encouraged the graduates to be open-minded and curious, and advised: “Know your power and use it well.

You will walk into situations where you are the most junior person in the room, but your lack of experience does not denote a lack of power.”

Citing statistics on poverty, climate change and income inequality, she said, “There are unbelievable challenges facing our city and world. We need you, Columbia graduates, to not only think of your personal success but to take on the responsibility of solving the problems that are waiting for us. ...

“You have a duty to drive change in the world with commitment and passion.”

The University-wide Commencement took place the following day. There, Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76 and Dr. Allen I. Hyman '55 were among the eight people receiving honorary degrees, and two other College alumni were among the 10 recipients of Alumni Medals for distinguished service of 10 or more years to Columbia: Stephen M. Kane '80, LAW'83 and Sherri Pancer Wolf '90. President Lee C. Bollinger also gave his annual address.

Echoing themes of Wright's speech, Bollinger underscored “the pervasive sense that society is at an historic juncture,” adding “the way you think, and speak, and engage those who will be your partners in charting the future will count for everything.”

Elsewhere during graduation week, on May 15, Kai-Fu Lee '83, president of Google China, delivered the keynote address for Columbia Engineering. He focused his speech on artificial intelligence, predicting its influence will be “on the scale of the Industrial Revolution.”

On a hopeful note, he said, “Despite what we've seen in some science fiction movies, no AI program — today or that we will see in our lifetime — will love” and that's “what makes us human.”

CCT Print Extras

To view videos of speeches from graduation week; photos from Class Day, the Alumni Parade of Classes and Commencement; and a list of Academic Awards and Prizes winners, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.





POWER”



“YOU HAVE A DUTY TO DRIVE CHANGE IN THE WORLD WITH COMMITMENT AND PASSION.”

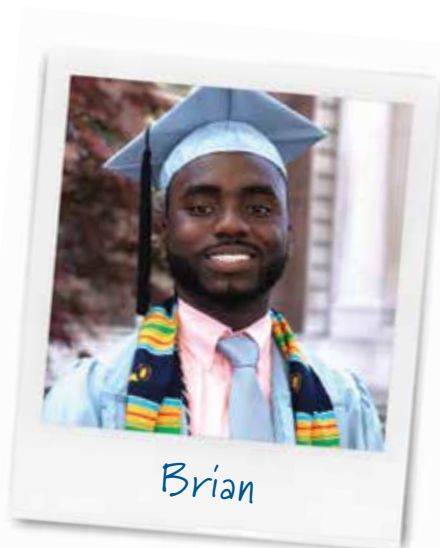
— CLASS DAY SPEAKER
SHEENA WRIGHT '90, LAW'94



KAYLA MALONEY**MAJOR:** Neuroscience and Behavior**WHAT'S NEXT:** "I'm going to the Yale School of Nursing to study to become a pediatric nurse practitioner."**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** "Columbia taught me about inclusivity. The biggest thing for me is that healthcare is — in my opinion, and this has been shaped by Columbia — a right versus a privilege. I think healthcare should be given to all people, and I'm looking forward to working in clinics and low-income communities."**DAYALAN RAJARATNAM****MAJOR:** Financial Economics, with a Concentration in Mathematics**WHAT'S NEXT:** "I'm working in private equity at Blackstone."**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** "I've learned how to think effectively and with clarity, and how to argue different points or defend different positions."

CONTINUING EDUCATION

WE ASKED 10 (VERY!) RECENT GRADUATES about their plans and what from the College will stick with them

BRIAN SARFO**MAJOR:** Urban Studies, with a Concentration in African-American Studies**WHAT'S NEXT:** "I'm signed on to be an educator in Brooklyn, so I'll be working at a charter school. I hope to go to law school after two years."**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** "The biggest thing at a school as diverse as Columbia is the relationships that you make. I do a lot of work with the Alumni Office, so I understand the benefits of connecting with College alumni, realizing that it's an extended family."**BIANCA GUERRERO****MAJOR:** Political Science**WHAT'S NEXT:** "I'll be in D.C. this summer doing an internship with the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, and then in September I'm starting as an urban fellow at New York City's City Hall."**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** "I'm going to use my education to ask better questions and challenge institutions to be better places."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ESON CHAN



Maria

MARIA D'IORIO

MAJOR: Neuroscience and Behavior

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'm going to the NYU School of Medicine and then to ob/gyn residency."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "I've learned how to listen to and get along with different people from different places with different backgrounds. And the Core exposes you to a lot of different ideas. I'm going to be working at Bellevue, a public hospital, and meeting a lot of different kinds of people — Columbia taught me how to deal with that really well."



Darius

DARIUS ANSARI

MAJOR: History, with a Special Concentration in Business Management at the Mendelson Center for Undergraduate Business Initiatives

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'll be doing a fellowship with Venture for America. I'll be working at an early-stage start-up in an emerging city somewhere in the U.S. I'm finding out where I'll be very soon. I hope it's someplace I'll feel at home and can become part of the community and have an impact. I'm looking forward to the next adventure!"

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "It's taught me how important it is to be flexible and open-minded, and how to be a hard worker no matter what. Those three things have embodied my experience here and have allowed me to be successful in my internships, my club and my academic commitments. At the end of the day, just work as hard as you can for what you believe in."



Chimsom

CHIMSOM ORAKWUE

MAJOR: Psychology

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'll be taking a couple of gap years before medical school. I'll work here this summer as a supervisor at the Double Discovery Center, helping minority high school students get materials for college. I hope to travel; I want to get into nutrition and wellness to help communities of color."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "I've learned to be independent. I've learned that I am unique and that I can have an impact on the world. I can make a real difference!"



Neil

NEIL KHOSLA

MAJOR: Mathematics, with a Concentration in Physics

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'm going to grad school at Cambridge."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "I learned a lot of life lessons. In terms of math, I'm sure I'll be using that in my math degree. But you grow up at Columbia, so I think I'll use the things I learned here every day."



Claire

CLAIRE SEO

MAJOR: Biology

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'll be doing clinical research at a hospital in Virginia."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "The experience has taught me how to think broadly and also deeply, and taught me how to consider other perspectives."



WELCOME TO

Welcome to Real Life, Class of 2017! A confusing, anxiety-filled and kind of boring week of activities awaits to orient you to your post-College existence. Get excited!

By Susanna Wolff '10

Illustrations by Dr. Ben Schwartz '03, PS'08

MONDAY

Move-Out Day

Pack up the sentimental mélange of papers, tchotchkes and outright garbage you've collected during the last four years (but leave the bed lifts and one enormous, permanently sticky stain on the rug). It's time to head to your new home: your old home!

Welcome Dinner with Parents

Get reacquainted with your new/old roommates over a home-cooked meal. Wow! Look at all those vegetables!

TUESDAY

Résumé Refresh

Update your résumé with your new status as a Columbia College graduate. Should you list "Microsoft Word" as one of your skills despite the fact that it's 2017 and even infants are expert typists now? Sure! Gotta fill up that page somehow!

Hit Up Everyone You've Ever Met on LinkedIn

And then never log in again.

WEDNESDAY

Email That Person You Met at an Internship Two Years Ago Who Now Has a Cool Job and Might Be Able To Help You

Spend four hours delicately crafting the perfect email subject line to convey both a casual friendship between equals and the professional respect of someone who really, really wants a paying job.

THURSDAY

Oh Jeez, It's Thursday Already?

Wake up in a cold sweat with the realization that time is passing at what seems to be an exponentially increasing rate. Remember that it was just a few weeks ago that you were capable of reading four books and writing five papers in a week. Try to muster that same energy and work ethic. Watch 10 episodes in a row of *The Good Fight* on your parents' CBS All Access account instead.

Midnight Snack with Mom!

She's a little worried about you, so she bought those Babybel cheeses you like. Do you want to go to Kohl's with her tomorrow?

LIFE!



FRIDAY

There's No Place Like (Another) Home

Look for apartments on Craigslist while you still have dorm-level housing standards. It's time to spread your wings and really enter adulthood. Oh look, this potential roommate has ferrets! Plural!

Get Back to the Job Hunt

Discover that all the entry-level positions that are even remotely relevant to your interests require at least three years of experience. Each volume that you've read of Dante's *Divine Comedy* counts as a year of applicable experience, right?



SATURDAY

Read a Book for Pleasure!

Realize you finally have time to read all the books you wanted to read when you were busy reading other books for school. ...What were those books again? Uh. Hmm. Ask Dad to drive you to the bookstore tomorrow to find the perfect leisure-reading book. Till then, back to *The Good Fight*.

Pizza Party with Peers

Prepare to get WILD! Text, "What are you up to tonight?" to everyone you still know in your hometown until you get enough people together to seem like this counts as going out. Tell your old friends about Koronet by making a triangle with your arms, then feel a sad, cold sense of loss when you see that no one cares. Was Koronet even good? Or is it your old friends who aren't good? Is anything good? When attempting to split the bill, discover that you've already forgotten all math.

SUNDAY

Buy an LSAT Prep Book

Maybe it's time to go back to school.



Susanna Wolff '10 is a comedy writer living in Los Angeles. Her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker* and *Politico Magazine*, and on *CollegeHumor*, where she was formerly editor-in-chief.

Exposing a Buried Past

Photographer Daniella Zalcman '09 sheds light on a dark time in Canadian history with her award-winning project, *Signs of Your Identity*



Daniella Zalcman '09

ANGELA RADULESCU '11

In 2014, Daniella Zalcman '09 began reporting on a part of North American history she felt had been erased from the continent's narrative — part of the lesser-known “cultural genocide” that followed the decimation of Native American societies. Between 1870 and 1996, thousands of indigenous children in Canada were removed from their homes and sent away — sometimes hundreds of miles — and forced to learn to assimilate in Indian residential schools. Zalcman wanted to document some of the more than 80,000 survivors of this trauma. “Children were made to believe ... that they needed to be more white, that they needed to be more Western,” Zalcman told CCT. They were made to give up Native language and practices and in many instances were victims of physical and sexual abuse. The lessons they remember, as adults, are those of cruelty.

Though she had created conventionally “good” images of her subjects in Canada, Zalcman felt they didn't have the appropriate gravitas. “For me, a straight series of portraits wasn't going to be enough to tell that story,” she says. So she added another dimension: Each portrait would include an overlaid image of “something that had to do with their memory, their experience in residential schools.” The double exposure, an “extra layer of storytelling” as Zalcman calls it, resulted in a project that has won her multiple honors, including the Magnum Foundation's Inge Morath Award in 2016, the 2016 FotoEvidence Book Award, and, most recently, a 2017 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award.

Zalcman got her professional start freelancing for the New York Daily News in between undergraduate classes as an architecture major. After graduation, she became a daily assignment photographer at the News, then at The Wall Street Journal. She now travels between bases in London and New York and is a contributor to outlets as diverse as Vanity Fair and Mashable. Her work is also featured in the permanent collection at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

Zalcman says she'd like to continue working on long-term projects that “explore the legacies of Western colonization.” In an 2016 interview with the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting — which funded her research — she muses about students of history and how much she wants them to learn the narratives that might be missing from their textbooks. And if her work can help expose rich layers of a buried past, so much the better, she says. “The act of acknowledging ... is really important, psychologically.”

— Rose Kernochan BC'82



SERAPHINE KAY
QU'APPELLE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
1974–75

"I was raped at school. He was an old man, the janitor. I didn't tell anyone for decades, because I thought people would judge me. The only person I ever told was my mother [who went to Muskowekan Residential School]. All she said was 'that was how I was brought up, too.'"

INDIAN ACT OF 1876 – Section 119 (6)

“A truant officer may take into custody a child whom he believes on reasonable grounds to be absent from school contrary to this Act and may convey the child to school, using as much force as the circumstances require.”

For 120 years, the Canadian government operated a network of Indian Residential Schools that were meant to assimilate young indigenous students into western Canadian culture. Indian agents would take children from their homes as young as two or three and send them to church-run boarding schools where they were punished for speaking their native languages or observing any indigenous traditions, routinely sexually and physically assaulted, and in some extreme instances subjected to medical experimentation and sterilization.

The last residential school closed in 1996. The Canadian government issued its first formal apology in 2008.



MIKE PINAY
QU'APPELLE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
1953–63

“It was the worst ten years of my life. I was away from my family from the age of six to 16. How do you learn about family? I didn’t know what love was. We weren’t even known by names back then. I was a number.”

“Do you remember your number?”

“73.”



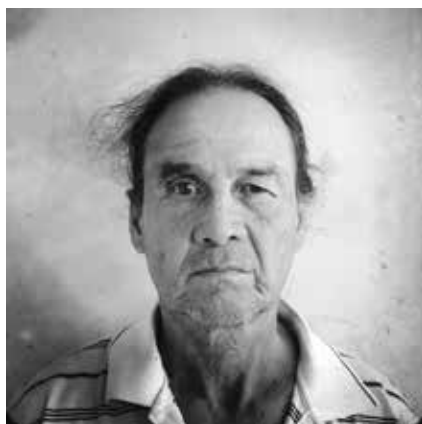
VALERIE EWENIN
MUSKOWEKAN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
1965–71

“I was brought up believing in the nature ways, burning sweetgrass, speaking Cree. And then I went to residential school and all that was taken away from me. And then later on, I forgot it, too, and that was even worse.”



FARRELL RUNNS
MONTMARTE CONVENT SCHOOL
1975–85

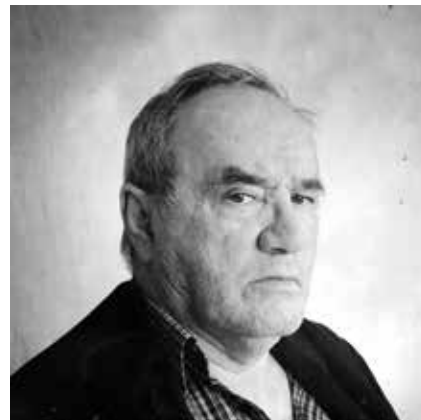
“It was unbelievably hard, staying in that school all year round. I was strapped, I was abused. I just wanted to go home and be with my family.”



RICK PELLETIER
QU'APPELLE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
1965-66



“My parents came to visit and I told them I was being beaten. The teachers said that I had an active imagination, so they didn’t believe me at first. But after summer break they tried to take me back and I cried and cried and cried. I ran away the first night, and when my grandparents went to take me back, I told them I’d keep running away, that I’d walk back to Regina if I had to. They believed me then.”



GRANT SEVERIGHT
ST. PHILLIPS INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
1955–64

“We as a people have normalized every conceivable dysfunction that we experienced in residential school. Negativity is transmitted — and, if we don’t deal with it, we pass it on. Even in school, kids who themselves were terrorized grew up to be abusers. We need to figure out how to heal from that.”

**Contents**

THE URBAN OASIS

Wintercreeper. Crimson pygmy barberry. Variegated Solomon's seal. Purpleleaf sand cherry. The names of some of the plants growing on Columbia's campus could be dropped into Shakespeare's witches' brew, but for students and returning alumni they create an oasis from the hustle and bustle of the city outside The Gates. Visit facilities.columbia.edu/garden-tours to download a walking tour of the gardens; you can also find a list of some of the signature plants on the Morningside campus (and learn exactly where to find them!).

PHOTO BY LEON WU '18

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KIEN QUAN

Joanne Kwong '97 Revives Iconic Pearl River Mart

By Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09

Pearl River Mart is that rare New York City institution that blends commerce and culture with community — a store whose combination of chock-a-block tchotchkes and fine Chinese goods endeared it to shoppers as diverse as its wares. Pearl River had *everything*. And when it closed last spring after 46 years — the rent on its sprawling SoHo space had quintupled — the public lament was immediate. Media from *Vogue* (“this wonderful emporium, a beloved New York City landmark”), to *Crain’s New York* (“the Chinese department store that has become a New York City shopping institution”), to *The New York Times* (“more than the sum of its dry goods”) bemoaned the loss. For **Joanne Kwong '97**, the closure was a call to action. The

New York City native and now president of the resurrected Pearl River stepped in to save the store and grow it for a new generation.

Kwong’s in-laws, Ming Yi Chen and Ching Yeh Chen (Kwong’s husband is their son, Gene Hu SEAS’97), founded Pearl River in 1971. Their original goals were twofold: to share Chinese culture with Americans during a time when the two countries did not have a diplomatic relationship, and to provide a bit of home for Asian immigrants in NYC. Kwong describes it as “an interesting amalgamation of retail business and mission-related work,” because of the store’s unique focus on building cross-cultural connections. Across the decades, the store moved three times in lower Manhattan, retaining its loyal customers while gaining new ones.

The idea to bring back Pearl River floated up during a family dinner in the early fall; after a lengthy discussion, Kwong was tapped to lead the effort. No stranger to change, the dual poli sci and psychology major had already taken turns as an attorney, a judicial clerk, a professor and a communications VP at Barnard. “I’ve had a bit of a non-traditional career path, but all of the skills I’ve gathered along the way have helped with this next step,” she says. She credits the College for encouraging curiosity about the world and stressing the importance of exploring new viewpoints.

Once the decision to reopen was made, Kwong found a space in TriBeCa; she wanted to attract holiday shoppers, and so aimed for a November/Black Friday opening. With only a few weeks to plan, she decided to go with a pop-up on the ground floor. The temporary shop would sell classic Pearl River items (from ceramic dishware and cooking supplies to slippers, tea sets and parasols) and close in February, after the end of Lunar New Year, for renovations. The plan was to then reopen as a fully realized store in the spring. But with the buzz around the pop-up better than expected, Kwong decided to keep it open and renovate around it, and the store has been humming along ever since.

Kwong, who describes her role as “like a homecoming,” says, “[It] makes me happy because I’m doing something for my community — both the Asian-American community and New York City — providing some joy to people in their everyday life ... I feel that small joys create community, create understanding between neighbors.”

In addition to offering traditional wares, the store now showcases works from Asian-American artists. Pearl River’s first collaboration was with Kwong’s Carman Hall friend Jenny Wu ’97, an architect and jewelry designer. A limited edition collection of Wu’s 3D-printed jewelry line, LACE, debuted at the pop-up; Kwong plans to continually feature new artists “to come together and really cheer on and celebrate one another. There’s so much innovation and creativity within the [Asian-American] community that is



Joanne Kwong '97 and her in-laws cut the ribbon at Pearl River Mart's reopening.

KIEN QUAN

fighting for attention and doesn’t always get it.” Wu says, “Pearl River was such a New York City institution, especially to me when I was at school. When I got married, I got a lot of things from there. It is such an iconic place, so I am really excited to be part of it.”

Pearl River’s new space also has a mezzanine gallery, where Kwong has been exhibiting an array of works that depict the Asian-American experience. She says a special moment for her occurred during an exhibition of famed Chinese-American photographer Corky Lee’s works, “Chinese America on My Mind” — she recognized that some of the photos came from protests she attended at Columbia to push the College to include ethnic studies. The store is also using the gallery space to create neighborhood relationships; from May 20 to June 25, the artist-in-residence program highlighted works by primarily Asian-American students from P.S. 184/Shuang Wen School, a bilingual public elementary and middle school in Chinatown; the show was called “East Meets West: A Look into Our Worlds.”

Kwong sums it up: “Where Asian heritage meets New York City — that’s kind of what Pearl River has always been about.”

The Poet Laureate of *Paterson*

By Eugene L. Meyer '64

Very few poets find fame as well as fortune during their lifetimes; most reside in eternal obscurity. Not so **Ron Padgett '64**. He is enjoying what he calls his “16 minutes of fame” as the author of poems spoken on screen by actor Adam Driver (*Girls*) as a bus driver named Paterson in the film of the same name set in, where else? Paterson, N.J.

The quirky, sad, funny little indie film reflects what *The New Yorker* in 2007 hailed as Padgett’s “plainspoken, wry” voice and has made him a rock star of poetry in his 70s. “Yeah, I’m still writing,” he says. “Just because I’m 75 doesn’t mean shit to me. Not in terms of my writing. It’s like somebody asking, ‘Ron, you’re 75, you still eat?’”

Paterson — written and directed by Jim Jarmusch '75 — features seven of Padgett’s poems, three written specifically for the film. The movie received critical acclaim when it opened in December. For Padgett, the response has been nothing short of astonishing: He’s been invited to give readings in Rome and Berlin, and his formerly

obscure volumes of poetry have lately appeared in German, Portuguese, Italian and French editions. “Pretty far out,” he says, reverting to 1960s counter-culture-speak, “this sort of sudden onslaught of interest from other countries.”

Paterson is an homage to the working-class town that was home to famed poet-physician William Carlos Williams and Beat poet Allen Ginsberg '48, whom Padgett came to know. Padgett has been identified as a member of the second generation of the New York School of Poets, a brand name that he says was created by an art gallery director for the first generation that included Frank O’Hara, Barbara Guest and Kenneth Koch, who taught Padgett Literature Humanities (then called CC Humanities). “There’s a third generation, too,” Padgett says. “It’s like children having children, and they have children. It’s kind of a tedious label.”

While Padgett has a son who lives in Vermont, he refers to his poems as his children. “I like them. I’ve written too many, actually.”

"It must have been hard/for the Romans to multiply—I don't mean reproduce,/but to do that computation . . .," he wrote when he was 67. "I have a 6 and 7 that,/when put side by side, form my age./Come to think of it,/I'd rather be LXVII."

Padgett's poetry is often whimsical, sometimes serious, sometimes both. Mostly, it's not political — at least not overtly. "The Absolutely Huge and Incredible Injustice in the World" begins: "What makes us so mean?/We are meaner than gorillas,/the ones we like to blame our genetic aggression on." But not until much later are mean places — Rwanda, Sudan, Guantanamo, Rikers, Babi Yar — even mentioned.

An only child, Padgett grew up in Tulsa, Okla., the son of a bootlegger father, and a mother who took the orders and kept the books. His was a strictly blue-collar family on "a very middle-class looking street." Inspired by a junior high school teacher, he began to read pretty much everything, which led him to the Lewis Meyer Bookstore, a local institution whose owner hosted a book review television show that ran for 42 years. Meyer hired Padgett to work afternoons and weekends and introduced him to poetry. At the store Padgett also browsed literary magazines, and later, he and some high school chums published their own, *The White Dove*. Audaciously, they invited people like Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac '44 to contribute, and they did, for free. "We just sat down and wrote them letters," Padgett recalls, still surprised.

Rejected by Stanford, Padgett came east in fall 1960 to Columbia. It was still the era of the Beat Generation, when Kerouac and Ginsberg were the freeform sirens of the avant-garde. Padgett had already begun a correspondence with Ginsberg, who invited him to meet. They became fast friends and later both took part in programs of The Poetry Project, a nonprofit founded in 1966 to encourage reading, writing and enjoyment of poetry.

Love Poem

We have plenty of matches in our house.
 We keep them on hand always.
 Currently our favorite brand is Ohio Blue Tip,
 though we used to prefer Diamond brand.
 That was before we discovered Ohio Blue Tip matches.
 They are excellently packaged, sturdy
 little boxes with dark and light blue and white labels
 with words lettered in the shape of a megaphone,
 as if to say even louder to the world,
 "Here is the most beautiful match in the world,
 its one-and-a-half-inch soft pine stem capped
 by a grainy dark purple head, so sober and furious
 and stubbornly ready to burst into flame,
 lighting, perhaps, the cigarette of the woman you love,
 for the first time, and it was never really the same
 after that. All this will we give you."
 That is what you gave me, I
 become the cigarette and you the match, or I
 the match and you the cigarette, blazing
 with kisses that smoulder toward heaven.

— Ron Padgett '64; from *Collected Poems*
 (Coffee House Press, 2013). This poem
 opens the film *Paterson*.



PATRICIA PADGETT

Ron Padgett '64 (left) and Jim Jarmusch '75 in Padgett's NYC apartment on January 4, 2017. The two were clowning around after having been interviewed by Jeffrey Brown of PBS' *NewsHour*.

Padgett directed the project for two and a half years starting in January 1978. Then he was publicity director for the Teachers & Writers Collaborative, a New York City-based nonprofit, and edited its books, designed its catalogue and oversaw its sales and rights. For 10 years and 100 issues, he edited *Teachers & Writers Magazine*.

While at the College, Padgett met now-longtime friend Philip Lopate '64. They worked together on *The Columbia Review*, a student literary publication the administration notoriously censored in 1963 for its seminal use of the f-word. In protest, the *Review* editors quit en masse and published a mimeographed *The Censored Review*, which quickly sold out, at 25 cents a copy. The following year, the *Review* was revived, with Lopate as the editor and Padgett a contributor.

"He's kept the faith. And now he's become sort of a grand old man of poetry," Lopate says. "Ron is essentially a very kind, courtly man, and a lot of writers are essentially cruel bastards. Ron is really gentlemanly; there's a sweetness to him."

Does Padgett have a life lesson to share?

His poem "How to be perfect," which takes the form of a 99-page illustrated guide, offers some. It begins: "Get some sleep ... Don't give advice ... Take care of your teeth and gums." It concludes with: "Take out the trash ... Love life ... Use exact change," and, "When there's shooting in the street, don't go near the window."

Eugene L. Meyer '64 is a former Washington Post reporter and editor and an author. He contributes to *The New York Times*, edits *B'nai B'rith Magazine* and is writing a book about the five African-Americans with John Brown at Harpers Ferry.

CCT Print Extras

To read more of Padgett's poems, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.

Alicia Yoon '04, founder and chief curator of Korean beauty source Peach & Lily, was featured in *People* on March 30 for the launch of her collaboration with CVS, for which she curated four K-beauty brands to be sold exclusively through the drugstore chain. Items were available at more than 2,100 retail stores by the end of April.

Jonah Reider '16, who made his name as a chef by opening a restaurant, Pith, in his room in Hogan Hall, now has new digs. In April he reopened Pith as a supper club in a townhouse near the Brooklyn Navy Yard; a May 22 *New Yorker* profile described the tasting menu as featuring “a pillowy yet rich spring-onion soubise with caviar; bruléed squash with lemon balm ... buttery homemade pasta with morels and pea shoots; and a flawlessly seared Seattle wagyu sirloin.”

Neil Gorsuch '88 was confirmed to the Supreme Court on April 7, making him the fourth College graduate to serve on the United States' highest court. He was sworn into office on April 10. “As a deep believer in the rule of law, Judge Gorsuch will serve the American people with

distinction as he continues to faithfully and vigorously defend our Constitution,” President Trump said.

In other political news, the United States Senate confirmed **David Friedman '78** as the United States Ambassador to Israel; he was sworn in on March 29. Rep. **Beto O'Rourke '95** (D-Texas) announced his candidacy to challenge Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) in the 2018 Senate race. On May 22, Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.) appointed the Hon. **Rolando Acosta '79, LAW'82** as presiding justice of New York's Appellate Division for the First Judicial Department. **Ben Jealous '94**, former head of the NAACP, announced on May 31 his candidacy for governor of Maryland; he will challenge incumbent Republican Gov. Larry Hogan.

College alumni are all over TV screens this year: **Brian Yorkey '93**'s Netflix original, *13 Reasons Why*, debuted on March 31 to huge numbers and set a record as Netflix's most-tweeted-about show (it has already been renewed for a second season); **Amanda Peet '94** stars in the new IFC series *Brockmire*; **Tinsley Mortimer '99** joined the cast of Bravo's *Real House-*

wives of New York this season; and **Vanck Zhu '11** competed on the current season of *The Amazing Race*.

On the big screen, **Bill Condon '76**'s *Beauty and the Beast* opened with \$170 million in North America, setting a record for top domestic opening for a PG-rated film, and **Vanessa Gould '96**'s documentary film, *Obit*, was tapped as a Critic's Pick by *The New York Times*. On the Great White Way, **Terrence McNally '60** wrote the book for the new musical *Anastasia*, which debuted on April 24. *Underground Railroad Game*, created by and starring **Jennifer Kidwell '00** and Scott Shepard, received an Obie, which honors Off-Broadway works. *The New York Times* describes the play as “an audacious exploration of slavery in the guise of a misguided middle school history lesson.”

In other media happenings, **Robert Siegel '68** announced that he will leave NPR's *All Things Considered* in January 2018; he has hosted NPR's flagship news broadcast since 1987. **Jen Chung '98** and **Jake Dobkin '98**, founders of New York City blog Gothamist (and several of its sister sites), were in the news after media company DNAinfo purchased the Gothamist brand.

In the arts, **Crystal Hana Kim '09, SOA'14** won the 2017 PEN America Literary Awards' Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers; **Wah Chen '92** received the Lee & Low New Visions Award for her book *Operation Yellowbird* (written with her sister); cellist **Alisa Weilerstein '04** was featured in *The New York Times* for tackling the feat of performing all six of Bach's solo cello suites in a single concert; and **Stephanie Stebich '88** was named The Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in early 2017. She began work on April 3.

Matthew L. Schwartz '00, LAW'02 was listed in *Crain's New York Business* “40 Under 40” for 2017. A partner with Boies Schiller Flexner, Schwartz “led the investigation into Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme and the trial of associates dubbed the Madoff Five, winning guilty verdicts and the forfeiture of nearly \$9 billion.”

— Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09



FRANZ JANTZEN, COLLECTION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

bookshelf

High Noon and Hollywood History

By Rebecca Prime '96

After a successful career as a foreign correspondent, what do you do for a second act? For **Glenn Frankel '71**, a lifelong cinephile, the decision was easy. Wearing his new hat as a film historian, Frankel first explored the history — and mythology — of the American West in his 2014 book *The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend*. For his latest, *High Noon: The Hollywood Blacklist and the Making of an American Classic* (Bloomsbury USA, \$28), he uses another iconic Western as a lens through which to examine a tumultuous moment in American politics.

Frankel's reinvention was driven by his desire to avoid cliché. After retiring from *The Washington Post* in 2006, Frankel knew he "didn't want to be one of those foreign news experts living in Washington or California," he says. "You get stale very quickly." Instead, he accepted a position teaching journalism at Stanford and began research on the 1956 film *The Searchers*. "I thought it was just going to be a 'making of the movie book:' John Wayne and John Ford go to Monument Valley." Instead, Frankel quickly became fascinated by the true story on which the film was based and plunged into its history — that of 1830s Texas and the Comanche wars. "Half the book is about the wars and half the book is about the movie and the evolution from one to another."

Frankel's attraction to the confluence of history, politics and popular culture has its roots in his College years. Despite a passing familiarity with New York City (thanks to relatives in the outer boroughs) and liberal politics (thanks to his working-class Jewish family), the 17-year-old from Rochester "felt like an alien" when he arrived on campus in fall 1967. "My politics were left but not coherent," he says. When the protests began in spring 1968, Frankel remained primarily a bystander. "I didn't sleep in any of the buildings, but I stood outside and chanted a little of this and that." But what Frankel witnessed on campus that spring shaped his choice of career. "As a journalist, I could be an insider and an outsider at the same time ... I had embraced neither the institution nor the radicals who sought to destroy it."

After this turbulent start, Frankel's subsequent years at Columbia were marked by discoveries of a more purely intellectual nature. A history major, he delighted in Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69's African-American history seminar and David Rothman '58's American social history course. Andrew Sarris '51, GSAS'98 had recently begun teaching his introductory film course in Butler's basement. "That's when

I saw *The Searchers* for the first time as an adult. Sarris was so good and showed so many wonderful movies,"

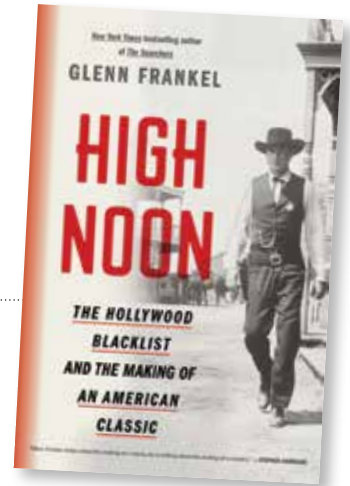
Frankel recalls. Frankel continued his film education at the nearby Thalia and New Yorker theaters, by his own calculation spending more time there than he did in class.

Upon graduation, Frankel landed a job as a clerk in the Museum of Modern Art's film department, where he fed his cinephilia and says he might have pursued a career but for a girlfriend who wanted to hitchhike to San Francisco. So he quit that job, married the girl and by 1979 had arrived at *The Washington Post*. Frankel spent much of the next two decades overseas, covering South Africa at the height of apartheid and the Middle East during the first Palestinian Intifada. In 1989, his "sensitive and balanced reporting from Israel and the Middle East" was recognized with the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting. Held in Low Library, the awards ceremony marked Frankel's Columbia homecoming, the library's steps transformed from the scene of student protests to the path of professional achievement.

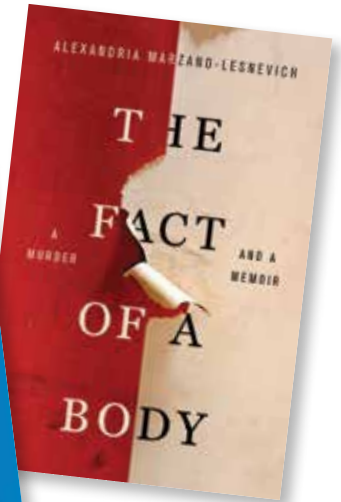
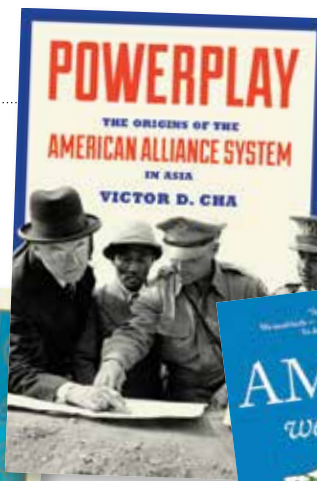
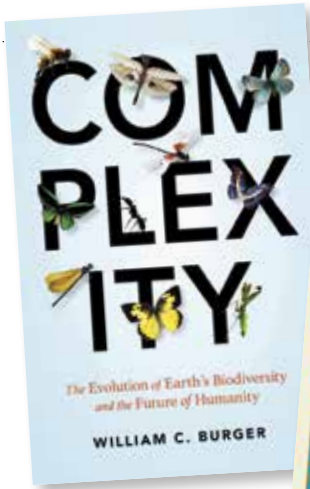
Frankel's new book draws upon his years as a journalist in both its exemplary research and ethical orientation. "I'm interested in people and what happens to them when they face moral and political crises," Frankel says by way of explaining his attraction to *High Noon's* tale of conscience versus compromise. "In the places I went to as a foreign correspondent — Israel, South Africa, Northern Ireland — people were confronted by history and had to make tough and personal decisions. I could tell that the Blacklist fit this criteria." Frankel describes how the corrosive Cold War politics of the 1950s pervaded every aspect of *High Noon's* production, which coincided with the peak of Blacklist-induced hysteria in Hollywood. With a conservative leading actor (Gary Cooper), a liberal producer (Stanley Kramer) and an erstwhile Communist screenwriter (Carl Foreman, who was called to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities during the film's shoot), *High Noon* had as much drama off set as on screen.

While writing the book, Frankel was alert to the then-and-now parallels between the Red Scare and the Tea Party, both of which he characterizes as backlash movements driven by a dispossessed Right and directed toward left-wing "subversives" (whether communists or coastal elites). However, Frankel could not have predicted the book's resonance in the Trump era. "The similarities are, unfortunately, the gift that keeps on giving."

Rebecca Prime '96 is a film historian and author of *Hollywood Exiles in Europe: The Blacklist and Cold War Film Culture*.



BETSYELLEN YEAGER



Obesity Prevention in Children Before It's Too Late: A Program for Toddlers & Preschoolers by *Dr. Alvin N. Eden '48 and Sari Greaves R.D.N. Eden*, a well-known pediatrician and authority on childhood nutrition and obesity, presents a definitive guide for parents and caregivers, with meal plans and recipes by Greaves (Hatherleigh Press, \$15.95).

Making It by *Norman Podhoretz '50*. A reprint of Podhoretz's controversial 1967 autobiography that frankly depicted New York's intellectual elite of the time, with a new introduction by *New York Times Book Review* columnist Benjamin Moser (NYRB Classics, \$17.95).

Complexity: The Evolution of Earth's Biodiversity and the Future of Humanity by *William C. Burger '53*. Telling the history of our planet and life on Earth, acclaimed botanist Burger shows that cooperation and symbiosis have played a critical role, from the cellular level to complex animal and human societies (Prometheus Books, \$26).

Jerzy: A Novel by *Jerome Charyn '59*. The life and death of enigmatic author Jerzy Kosinski becomes a story told through multiple narrators, including a homicidal actor and Joseph Stalin's daughter (Bellevue Literary Press, \$16.99).

A Mother's Tale by *Phillip Lopate '64*. The author transcribes interviews he conducted three decades ago with his now-deceased mother and comments on both sides of the conversation with the clarity of the present (The Ohio State University Press, \$24.95).

Rumi's Secret: The Life of the Sufi Poet of Love by *Brad Gooch '73*. Literary biographer Gooch delivers a detailed portrait of the popular 13th-century poet and mystic, including translations of Rumi's original Persian works (Harper, \$28.99).

Powerplay: The Origins of the American Alliance System in Asia by *Victor Cha '83*. Cha, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., examines the evolution of the U.S. alliance systems and the reasons for its continued importance in Asia and the world (Princeton University Press, \$35).

Buying Time: Environmental Collapse and the Future of Energy by *Kaz Makabe '85*. The author, a financial systems expert who lived through the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, presents an overview of the state of the environment and the impending choices over energy resources for a growing population (ForeEdge, \$27.95).

America, We Need to Talk: A Self-Help Book for the Nation by *Joel Berg '86*. "How did we get here, America? How did our relationship get so broken? And where do we go now?" These are the questions Berg suggests we ask ourselves in order to begin doing the work of solving our nation's problems (Seven Stories Press, \$29.95).

Six Minutes in Berlin: Broadcast Spectacle and Rowing Gold at the Nazi Olympics by *Michael Socolow '91*. Socolow, a professor of communications and journalism at the University of Maine, describes how a single crew race between Americans and Germans at the 1936 Olympics became the origin of global sports broadcasting (University of Illinois Press, \$24.95).

Leadership Step by Step: Become the Person Others Follow by *Joshua Spodek '93*. Leadership coach Spodek, who earned five Ivy League degrees, provides a progression of exercises (analogous to wannabe piano players learning scales) derived from real-life leadership practices (Amacom, \$24).

The Production of American Religious Freedom by *Finbarr Curtis '95*. This book examines shifts in the notion of religious freedom in the United States from The Second Great Awakening of the early 19th century to contemporary Tea Party conservatism (NYU Press, \$28).

Ours to Lose: When Squatters Become Homeowners in New York City by *Amy Starecheski '99*. The history of a radical movement that began on the Lower East Side in the 1980s in which illegal building occupants fought for decades to become legal cooperative property owners (The University of Chicago Press, \$30).

The Fact of a Body: A Murder and a Memoir by *Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich '01*. The author's debut is part true crime story, part memoir and details how secrets from her own past colored her understanding of a murder case she worked on as a law student (Flatiron Books, \$26.99).

Chimeras of a Form: Modernist Internationalism Beyond Europe, 1914–2016 by *Aarathi Vadde '03*. Vadde considers how six authors — Rabinath Tagore, James Joyce, Claude McKay, George Lamming, Michael Ondaatje and Zadie Smith — have developed ideas about international belonging in a period defined by globalization (Columbia University Press, \$60).

Bed-Stuy Is Burning: A Novel by *Brian Plutzer '04*. In Plutzer's first novel, longtime residents and newly arrived gentrifiers of the titular Brooklyn neighborhood come together to protest the fatal police shooting of a 12-year-old boy (Atria Books, \$26).

— *Jill C. Shomer*



Alumni Reunite on Campus

SUNNY SKIES AND PERFECT TEMPERATURES

greeted alumni and their guests on Morningside Heights for Reunion 2017, June 1–4, and All-Class Reunion, June 3. The 2,500 reunion-goers enjoyed all-class favorites like the Tri-College Reunion Luncheon on South Lawn, the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception, as well as class-specific lunches, receptions, dinners and panels. Attendees relived their student days at Mini-Core Classes and lectures given by distinguished faculty (including the keynote address, given by University Professor Dr. Richard Axel '67 on “Scents and Sensibility: The Fascinating Relationship Between the Brain and Smell”) and also enjoyed campus and neighborhood tours.

Photographs by Scott Rudd



CCT Print Extras

To view more Reunion 2017 photos (including class photos), go to college.columbia.edu/cct.



6



7

1. An illuminated class dinner on South Lawn.
2. Enjoying the Starlight Reception.
3. Alumni are welcomed back to campus through The Gates.
4. Friends gather at the Wine Tasting on Low Plaza.
5. The Dean's Breakfast brings together classmates.
6. Dancing the night away at the Young Alumni Party.
7. Catching up with friends.
8. Good times at the Tri-College Reunion Luncheon.
9. Dr. Richard Axel '67 delivers the keynote lecture.
10. Reliving the College experience with Mini-Core Classes and lectures.
11. Sunny skies over Low.



8



9



10



11

classnotes



NOAH ZINSMEISTER '16

1941

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025

Albert Sanders SEAS'41 was pleased to hear from *CCT*: "At 97, 80 years after starting at Columbia College, it's nice to be remembered. So thanks for this opportunity!"

"My first memory of Columbia is of an assembly of some sort at a vaguely religious-looking building with a domed roof. It was just east of Low Library, the one with *Alma Mater* out front, but no visible books. However, nothing of a religious nature took place. What most impressed me was singing the old German war song *Germany Over Everyone*. After all, it was only 17 years after the end of WWI, with

visions of Allied propaganda posters showing German soldiers murdering babies. But it turned out that the song had different words and was much honored at Columbia.

"It also struck me as odd that many of the freshmen I was singing along with seemed to know the song. Where had they learned it? It began to dawn on me that many of the freshmen had not come from a public high school as I did. They had gone to something called a 'prep school' — a place that prepared them for going to Columbia and singing its songs, and who knew what else. What had I missed?

"I saw some freshmen wearing a silly little hat called a beanie. No particular reason; only to make them look foolish just because they were freshmen. I decided to revolt. I wore no beanie and no harm came to me. I just had to skulk around whenever I spotted big guys who looked like

they might be upperclassmen.

"But life wasn't entirely worrisome. One night I was told that I was expected at some sort of reception for freshmen. It turned out to be in a magnificent mansion on Morningside Drive. A lovely woman, the wife of a professor, organized it. She was so sweet to these freshmen, all of them apparently unknown to her. And I have never forgotten the exotic drinks she served these kids. Hot grape juice! So that was what people drank in sophisticated circles! Already my life was changing, thanks to Columbia College.

"And I haven't even got to the actual learning, and how it forever changed my life for the better.

"Thank you, Columbia."

The Spring 2017 issue had a note from **Ray Robinson**. Just as that issue went to press, Ray's wife, Phyllis, passed away at their Upper East Side home. Ray says he is extremely

grateful to her caregiver, who will remain with him.

The New York Times featured an obituary, written by Ray and Phyllis' daughter, Nancy Miringoff SW'76: "Robinson, Phyllis, C., age 92, died at home in New York City on Monday, March 13, 2017, after a determined and graceful battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was the wife for almost 68 years of her devoted husband and partner, Ray Robinson. Phyllis Ann was the only child of Fred G. and Sophie Friedenthal Cumins. Phyllis Robinson

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.

led a full and productive life. She was a book author, an avid reader, a public school teacher, and a lifelong Progressive Democrat. She was a Senior Editor at Book of the Month Club, a Yorkville neighborhood community activist, a Board member at Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association, an advocate for parks and open spaces, and served as the Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Affairs under Mayor John V. Lindsay. She was an active Vassar College alumna (Class of 1945-46) who proudly made Phi Beta Kappa in her Junior Year. A graduate of and President of her Senior Class at Julia Richman High School, she aspired to be an actress, and for a brief period of time, she acted on radio. During WWII, she worked at the Office of War Information (OWI) and for Brooklyn Union Gas. She was a literary person who grew up in the Bronx and delighted in saying that she lived on Shakespeare Avenue and Featherbed Lane! She enjoyed the company of her friends and children over long lunches, and her beautiful and engaging smile lit up a room when she entered it. The Robinson beach house at Fire Island gave her much enjoyment over 55 summers. Phyllis Robinson (and here's to you ...) was an exemplary citizen. She believed that the role of government was to take care of the most needy of its citizens. She gave much of her life towards the vision of a just and moral society. She cared about all people and ideas and worked towards making a better life for all New Yorkers. She has been and will be missed by friends and family. In addition to her husband, she is survived by Nancy and Lee Miringoff, Steve and Elizabeth Robinson, Tad and Amy Robinson, and four grandchildren. For the past six and a half years, she has been cared for with compassion and dignity by Lorna Cambridge, Edmund and Hadassah Mitchell, and visited regularly at her home by her childhood friend, Marilyn Lukashok. ... Donations in Phyllis' memory can be sent to: Greater New York Chapter, ALS, at 42 Broadway, Suite 1724, New York, NY 10004; or the Alzheimer's Association, New York City Chapter, 60 E. 42 St., #2240, New York, NY 10165; or Bideawee, 410 E. 38th St., New York, NY 10016."

Ruth Richardson Montgomery, widow of **Signmund John Montgomery** Ph.D. SEAS'42, SEAS'49, sent a note that he passed away on February 27, 2017. John (96) was a

Darien, Conn., resident for about 70 years. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on July 10, 1920, and grew up in Katonah, N.Y. John earned a B.A. from the College in 1941, a B.S. and an M.S. from Columbia Engineering in 1942 and 1949, respectively, then served in the Eighth Air Force, assigned to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's staff in England and France. He left the military as a major with a Bronze Star in 1946. After the war, John returned to Columbia, becoming an assistant professor at Engineering in 1948; he taught there until 1959. John moved to Darien in 1947 and began consulting in management and engineering. Later, he earned a Ph.D. in accounting from NYU's School of Business. After NYU, he helped develop the School of Business at the University of Connecticut Storrs and the M.B.A. program at UConn Stamford. While John was teaching in Connecticut, UConn loaned him to the City of Stamford, Conn., to be commissioner of finance. He also continued consulting.

John was predeceased by his first wife, Jean Montgomery. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; his daughter, Cynthia Kowalski, her husband, Ronald Kowalski and their five children and four grandchildren; and three stepchildren, Charles Skeele, Harrison Skeele and Sarah Post. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association (alz.org).

Share your story or news — even a favorite Columbia College memory — with CCT and your classmates by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Wishing you a restful summer.

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Melvin Hershkowitz
22 Northern Ave.
Northampton, MA 01060-2310
DrMelvin23@gmail.com

This correspondent was a financial donor for the big, new, enclosed, all-weather dome at the Baker Athletics Complex, adjacent to Wien Stadium. It is up and functional and has already improved the spring training workouts for our football team, confirmed by Coach Al Bagnoli in a video on the athletics website, gocolumbialions.com. The website

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

has daily reports on all Columbia sports, with a lot of information on teams and individuals in all sports — including some of the lesser-known ones such as squash and women's archery (in which Columbia has been preminent). Women's archery has won several national championships in recent years, and this year Osama Khalifa '18 won the National Individual Squash Championship. He will, I hope, repeat this great accomplishment next year. There is a feeling of optimism about our football prospects for 2017, with a lot of experienced players back from last year, including nationally-ranked field goal kicker Oren Milstein '20, and several promising freshman prospects. We have a greatly improved quarterback in Anders Hill '18, who — at 6-3 and 215 lbs. — looks like an All-Ivy candidate. Stay tuned. [Editor's note: See "Roar, Lion, Roar" for more on these and other sports topics.]

As our Class of 1942 alumni continue to succumb to illness and old age, I am happy to report that I continue my contacts with Dr. **Gerald Klingon** (96), a retired neurologist in Manhattan. He remains cognitively intact and well-informed on Columbia affairs. Another old Columbia pal, Ray Robinson '41 (96), is in full possession of all faculties. Ray lives in Manhattan near Gerald, and they

occasionally see each other. Ray has been my lifelong friend since we met at the *Columbia Jester* office in 1939, where Ray was a cartoonist before he became famous as a magazine editor and the author of numerous books. He has published biographies of Lou Gehrig '23 and Will Rogers, as well as several additional books on baseball, including the wonderful *Greats of the Game: The Players, Games, Teams, and Managers That Made Baseball History*, which features marvelous photographs of well-known players and managers.

Two more of my lifelong friendships that began at Columbia were with Dr. **Herbert Mark**, my sophomore year roommate in Livingston Hall, and **Gerald Green**, the world-famous novelist and television executive. Gerald wrote more than 20 books, including his novel *The Last Angry Man*, made into a movie with Paul Muni in the leading role as a doctor in Brooklyn (based on the life of Gerald's father), and *Holocaust*, a novel and television production that aroused worldwide interest.

Herb and Gerald both died in 2006. Since that date, I have more frequently thought about the emotional attachment I have with Columbia, which has remained intense since I left the campus in 1942 to enter the NYU School of Medicine. Having begun my medical school classes at

East 26th and East 28th Streets and Bellevue Hospital on First Avenue, my longing for the Columbia campus became intense, so one day I took the subway up to West 116th Street and walked to the Sundial, where I stood and looked across South Field to Hartley, Livingston, John Jay, Hamilton and Van Am Quad, finally returning to the subway and my new life in another part of the city. WWII was on during that time, eventually resulting in the deaths of 14 classmates (accuracy not certain), including two of my good friends, **Phil Bayer** and **Roger Dounce**. Phil was a star halfback on our football team, a Marine officer decorated for heroism, killed in the invasion of Peleliu in the war against Japan. Roger was a gifted writer, a quiet pipe-smoker (rare on our campus), shot down in combat in the Pacific. My memories of such classmates and friends remain alive and intensify my emotional connection to Columbia.

On April 8 I received a note from Marie McLivnan in Lakewood, Colo., thanking me for my comments in the Spring issue about her husband, our distinguished classmate **Stewart McLivnan** LAW'48 (96). Stew is in a nursing and assisted living facility near his home in Colorado. Though he is impaired, Marie tells me he can still read and express his feelings about "the good old days" at Columbia, where Stew was a member of our basketball team and a star halfback on our football team. His intellectual powers equaled his physical skills. After his WWII service in the Navy, Stew returned to Columbia, graduated from the Law School, served briefly in

the FBI and then began a long career as an executive in a national trucking industry firm, from which he retired. His modesty and good humor, along with his intellect and athletic skills, made him a wonderful friend, admired by many classmates.

Kind regards and best wishes to all surviving members of the Class of 1942. Please contact me with your memories, news reports and philosophic comments: 413-586-1517 or drmelvin23@gmail.com.

1943

G.J. D'Angio
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Eye problems again in February. The diagnosis — IOIS (Idiopathic Orbital Inflammatory Syndrome) — reflects the unknown underlying dysfunction. I am now doing well on low doses of steroids; they are both prophylactic and therapeutic. Pretty smooth sailing since they were instituted.

Many members of the family spent time with me and my wife, Audrey, in early 2017, including my granddaughter and her two children. Otherwise, we had a quiet winter.

May 2 was my 95th birthday. A small dinner with friends for that landmark date was my preference rather than a gala with dozens of guests.

My son Peter came to visit in early May and Audrey's nephew and his wife from England followed later that month. They overlapped with my granddaughter and her family over Memorial Day weekend; she was attending her 10th Bryn Mawr class reunion. Then a trip to Edmonton, Canada, in June beckoned. Somewhere in there were a few days with an old colleague and friend from France. Our B&B doesn't want for customers! CC'43 classmates would be welcome anytime.

Bernard Weisberger reports: "Many things remind me of my Columbia connection. I first made Professor Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69's acquaintance back when he and I became historical advisers on a project launched by the *Reader's Digest* book department. I have admired him and his work ever since. Professor Kenneth Jackson was one of my students in an introductory class on historical method that I was teach-

ing at the University of Chicago. None of my children attended the College, but I have mentioned in earlier letters that I have a grandson-in-law, Jeremy Bob '00, currently the legal correspondent for the *Jerusalem Post*, who did.

"Of personal news, there's very little. I've done no published writing lately though I occasionally post a thought or two on the website maintained by another much-admired friend of years, Bill Moyers. I made two excursions of escape from Chicago's winter climate in February. The first was a week with my wife, Rita, in Cancun, devoted to eating, sunning ourselves and scrupulously avoiding newspapers and newscasts to provide us a Trump-free week. Shortly after returning, I flew to New Bern, N.C., to visit some other old friends and enjoy daytime temperatures in the 70s. It's an interesting place; for a time it was the capital of North Carolina (when it was still a colony), with a restored colonial governor's capital preserved as a museum — a historian's pleasure to browse.

"Even if I wanted to forget that I will be 95 in August (and grateful for it), time rolls on with frequent reminders. My two daughters and my son are all over 60 and sneaking up on Social Security eligibility. My oldest granddaughter turned 30, an age which, in the wild 1960s, was supposed to render her unworthy of trust. Glad to be past that foolishness. I have a commencement to attend in a couple of weeks, as the youngest of my four granddaughters will receive her master's in social work here in Chicago. And in general, as Rita describes it, 'we're in good shape for the shape we're in.'

"As my thoughts stray back to Columbia, I will save for the next letter my personal recollections of two of the great teachers of my era — Gilbert Highet and Jacques Barzun '27, GSAS'32. I wonder if others of the Class of '43 would be interested in doing the same. I'd be delighted to read them. Likewise any other recollections of campus buddies, particularly significant classes, or other Columbia moments that had special meaning for us in those years of transition to adulthood. If this sounds like a hint to encourage more contributions from us '43-ers, it is. So, au revoir until 90 days hence."

A Columbia nugget — R.R. Ambedkar (GSAS 1927), was born

a *talit* ("untouchable") in India (1891–1956), attended Columbia 1913–15 and graduated with an M.A. in economics. He became a prominent politician who fought tenaciously for a change in the caste system. Calling on his thousands of supporters, he asked them why they stayed with a religion that denied them equality of status. Ambedkar became a Buddhist in 1956.

Sad note: **Felix E. De Martini** PS'46 died in Vero Beach, Fla., on November 7, 2016. He was an outstanding physician and prominent senior officer at the Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital for many years.

1944

Columbia College Today
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No updates this time! *CCT*, and your classmates, would be happy to hear from you. Share your story or news — even a favorite Columbia College memory — with *CCT* and your classmates by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Wishing you a relaxing summer.

1945

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John Khoury responded to *CCT*'s call for news: "I have read Class Notes for decades and I have been impressed by the successes of my classmates. It has made me reluctant to write about myself. Like Lou Gehrig and James Cagney, I did not graduate. Instead, I joined the family business in 1946. For the next 70 years I was in the wholesale business of importing and manufacturing fancy, hand-embroidered household linens. There were some good years and some fair years. Working in Manhattan and competing for business every day was exciting and often nerve-racking. I managed because I graduated from Manual Training



Contact CCT

Update your contact information; submit a Class Note, Class Notes or wedding photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

H.S. (now John Jay H.S.) in Brooklyn, N.Y. It is the only high school named for a college dormitory.

“My Columbia College education was priceless. Except for three years in the Army I never worked for anybody but for a few part-time jobs. In the Army, I rose from private to private first class and was awarded a combat infantry badge and a bunch of medals. Education is important to my four children, who have earned many degrees, including a bachelor’s, a master’s and a doctorate from Columbia.”

Share your story or news — even a favorite Columbia College memory — with *CCT* and your classmates by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Enjoy the summer.

1946

Bernard Sunshine
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Currently our class numbers 65 men (we started with 425). Our early chronological listing in this publication is another indication of our longevity. The collection of class dues was the practice in our early alumni years, but our relatively unsuccessful efforts were probably mirrored by other classes, and the Alumni Office and Dean’s Office had the good sense to discontinue dues.

Thinking back, it brings to mind the visit of the King and Queen of England to the College while we were attending. I photographed the event; etched in memory are the security men positioned on the roofs of buildings that surrounded Low Library as the guests walked up its front steps.

It is interesting to note that many classmates continue to work and practice in their fields of interest and expertise. **Herbert Gold** GSAS’49 is a screenwriter and author living in California. We telephone from time to time and I find remarkable the people of note he casually mentions as friends in our conversation.

Malvin Ruderman continues to research and teach physics at Columbia and NYU.

Herbert Hendin PS’59 has devoted much of his practice as a psychiatrist to military veterans at risk for suicide. In a piece for the American Association of Suicidology

he wrote: “Suicide rates among military personnel had a significant drop in 2013, but there is no evidence of a drop among veterans. The problem of suicide among combat veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) remains a source of concern.”

Let me hear from you about your work, travel, interests and so on, so I can report it and we can all “catch up” with you. Recommended reading is also good to include here. Please do reach out to the addresses at the top of this column.

1947

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Herewith, a poem written by Dr. **Nicholas Giosa**, with “my best to those few of us that yet remain:”

Epilogue

Once, I was vivid as an exclamation !
familiar as a quote from Bartlett; stood
solid - a gnarled and rooted oak;
valid like an ancient proverb;
an asterisk, not willing to be ignored.
I am now but an addendum - a dash -
an afterthought in process of
transformation;
more a question mark or unwritten
word.

Once, I held sway as a duke, a grandee;
had true command of myself
and reigned
a master of my discipline, in full season;

I soared:
a teacher unloading reason, in solemn
charge of devotees; royal as
Charlemagne -
drawn sword,
astride honor,
leading my column.

But time was relentless; haunted
me everywhere
through the unraveling years: each day
eyeing me as I shaved and combed
my hair,
a quotidian staring, circling me
assuredly
stalking me as some animal at bay -
a jackal, its designated prey.

In the end, as I taste my ashes, recite
it not with an accent grave; might

my bones [bracketed with bare dignity]
be boxed down without rite or eulogy.
without music, apostrophe of
facile praise;
rather, let it be with silence, unsaid,
an ellipsis ...

Share your story or news — even a favorite Columbia College memory — with *CCT* and your classmates by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Have a lovely summer.

1948

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Dr. **Alvin N. Eden** writes, “In addition to continuing to practice pediatrics, I have been working with the American University of Antigua, an international medical school. As clinical chairman of the pediatrics department, I have been helping to level the uneven playing field of the U.S. students studying abroad to obtain U.S. residencies, especially

email address or postal address at the top of the column. Wishing you a warm and sunny summer.

1949

John Weaver
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Thank you, one and all. It has been heartwarming to hear from heretofore unrepresented classmates, as well as to receive a brief but important note from **Charlie Peters**, whose voice has been silent in these parts for too long.

Charlie has been “our man in Washington” for lo these many years and his incisive commentary and analysis are a valued asset for us all in these times: “My new book is *We Do Our Part* (see article about it by Jonathan Martin in *The New York Times* on March 8). I figured if you could still do your column, I could write another book.”

Just an aside; with pride I note that Charlie equates my continued presence as your correspondent with his extraordinary work — a more than welcome reward for my

Malvin Ruderman '46 continues to research and teach physics at Columbia and NYU.

in primary care — family medicine, internal medicine, ob/gyn and pediatrics — the areas in medicine with the greatest shortage of physicians. I send my best wishes to classmates.”

On April 3, **Dick Hyman** was named a 2017 Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts. He writes, “The Kennedy Center event, including my speech, is on the NEA website: arts.gov/honors/jazz/dick-hyman. In May I was scheduled to receive an honorary doctorate from Juilliard. I continue to play concerts and to compose — among other things, a clarinet concerto for Ken Peplowski — and am planning for next season.”

Share your story or news — even a favorite Columbia College memory — with *CCT* and your classmates by sending it to either the

persistence. I do hope to hear from you all, before the next Class Notes deadline, that you have purchased and read Charlie’s book.

In keeping with our “theme,” two new voices from our class echo their sense of how profoundly our undergraduate experience influenced our lives. Both of the following letters are from classmates who struggled with the daily commute from distant parts of our city. It is a privilege for me to get to know them through this medium. I hope all who might have missed their acquaintance in our undergraduate years enjoy getting to know them, as I have, through their correspondence.

First, an all-too-brief note from Dr. **Calvin Kunin**; he understates the value and importance of his life’s work, to be admired by us all: “Few

will remember me. I was one of the subway students from East Flatbush, Brooklyn (90 minutes each way).

"I was a pre-med with a major in zoology, apart from the intellectual scene on campus. Nevertheless, I share the Columbia tradition of lifelong learning. My field of infectious diseases has allowed me to travel widely in the United States and abroad to study the social and environmental factors that contribute to the spread of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms.

"Serendipity has always played an important role in my career. I offer the following quotation from Louis Pasteur. 'In the field of observation, chance favors only the prepared mind.' This concept has also been true in my current avocation as photographer of nature and people.

"I recently made my 22nd annual visit to Taiwan, where I mentor young investigators in infectious diseases. I will always be grateful to my undergraduate mentor, Professor Francis Ryan, who introduced me to the birth of molecular genetics.

"By the way, did you have a major role in *Murder in the Cathedral* while at Columbia, or am I thinking of a different person?"

I responded to Calvin that I was a knight in the first College production of *Murder in the Cathedral*, which also featured departed classmates **Sorrel Booke**, **Joe McDermott** and **Dolph Sweet**.

Al Kloekner GSAS'50 provided the following; I hope you all find his personal story — so firmly founded on the experience of his College years — as warm and intimate as I did. It is never too late to get to know a new friend who is an "old classmate."

Al writes, "Oh my, what a very short column from the Class of '49; as short as a politician's fingers. I am torn out of 60 years spectatorship to offer *CCT* a few quick glimpses of my journey from 116th Street. Since every detail is so long a story, let me try a little synopsis.

"I commuted from Hollis, Queens. 1944: two accelerated semesters, Humanities A (Burdette Kenny, bright yellow tie, challenged everything the class held dear); 1944–46: Navy hospital corps; 1946–49: English major (adviser Dwight Miner); 1949–50: master's from Columbia, studying German *Hamlet* translations of the 18th and 19th centuries; 1950–51: teaching reform school in Westchester; 1951–56:

teaching assistant of English at Indiana University (includes Fulbright teaching grant in Hamburg, Germany, and marriage in Hamburg to an IU grad student); 1956: Ph.D. on 'Moral Sentiments and Intellect, Emerson's Ethical Terminology'; 1956–59: instructor in English at the University of Rochester; 1954–60: assistant professor of English at Loyola University in Chicago.

"The next move, in retrospect, was the game changer. In Chicago, our third child was due, the real estate was out of reach and it was John Daley's first term as mayor: No place that we wanted to raise children. Graduate teaching was very promising but we decided to move right away. I had summered in western Massachusetts since 1935. Providentially, Norwich University in Northfield, Vt., had an opening in the English department; the interview visit to Vermont was a geographical homecoming. Therefore, 1960–92, I was professor of English at Norwich.

"Circa 1970, when the Shakespeare courses needed a teacher, my theater history work with *Hamlet* on the German stage qualified me. Until I retired, I taught Shakespeare's plays as stage theater and crusaded — especially with high school teachers — for teachers to see themselves as stage directors to their students. I held one class, for each play studied, in the college chapel to block and rehearse a key scene. In the 1980s I acted in local semi-professional companies. It probably all started with Andrew Chiappe '33, GSAS'39, my Shakespeare professor at Columbia. He read from plays dramatically and beautifully.

"My meager professional doings are overshadowed by my marriage (was 63 years in April) to Frieda Hartfiel of Milwaukee: wife, mother, gourmet health cook, colleague and brilliant teacher. The children are reaching their 60s and are real human beings. We now live in Middlebury, Vt., in independent living in a retirement community.

"There is so much to cherish from my Columbia education; it was the founder and developer of my way of thinking. The English department led me to my profession; swimming and water polo were my alternate life. Coach Kennedy taught us water polo in a week so that we could restart collegiate competition with a game at West Point. After the

scheduled meet (we lost 3–2) we went on to greater things.

"Please pardon this form of letter. Had I continued teaching after 1992 I would've taken to the computer because the freshman classes were reaching 50 percent computer literacy."

Al's letter came to me as six pages, handwritten, on lined yellow pad — my personal "stationery" of choice. To you all who have yet to join the chorus, your stories are welcome here.

Enjoy the summer and stay well. Our 70th reunion is only two years hence.

1950

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From **Durand Harootunian**: "Hail Columbia, alma mater. Hail **Mario Palmieri**, who shepherded our Class Notes for decades. I called him just before his passing. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."] Upon seeing vintage photos of Lou Gehrig '23 and the running track on the dusty dirt South Field we knew, I recalled a spring and fall ritual. It was that blunt-nosed, unkempt used oil truck that crisscrossed 'the Field' with its patter of pollution. It worked: The swirls of dust that headed toward Van Am Quad ceased. Got to be a story here for a *Spectator* reporter. Little do those undergrads know today what lies beneath the green bower that is South Lawn."

CCT would love to hear from members of the Class of 1950. Please send notes to either of the addresses at the top of this column. We wish you a pleasant summer!

1951

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Phillip A. Bruno checked in: "After 57 years in the art world in New York, and 10 years in retirement, I am as busy as ever. My wife, art critic Clare Henry, and I constantly

travel between Manhattan, upstate New York and Scotland. We see art exhibitions — and family and friends — regularly in all three places, as my wife still writes. At 87 I am still keen to explore new events and new places. I love Scotland, with its beautiful unspoiled landscape and friendly folk. Six grandchildren are a joy."

We heard from **Joe Ambrose**, who shares: "From reading the Class Notes in the Spring 2017 issue, **Elliott 'Bud' Sherwood** and I learned that we both live at Willow Valley Communities, a retirement community in Lancaster, Pa. As neither of us is able any longer to travel to Columbia for activities there, we had a very enjoyable two-man class reunion here at Willow Valley, at which we brought each other up to date as to what we have been doing with our lives during the past 66 years. As Bud said, 'It's a small world.'"

"This has been a difficult year for the CC'51 NROTC contingent," writes **Leonard A. Stoehr**. "Having started out on June 7, 1951, with more than 40 new Navy ensigns and USMC second lieutenants, we have lost several more alumni officers, leaving only seven survivors from a great group of young men."

Paul J. "Spin" Miller says: "I think I am getting married, but she does not know it yet. Thanks for the invitation to be in touch and give all my congratulations for living this long. Well, I am close to the same age as most of us are, but I was 16 when we graduated.

"Since retirement my life has been traveling. I should have been a traveling salesman and the travel would have been for free.

"My educational days in classrooms are over. It has surprised me in my travels how much of the liberal arts classes I found to be helpful. Things I thought were useless became familiar. I was not a great admirer of my Humanities and Contemporary Civilization classes. I wanted to dig right in on business subjects. But I must admit I was wrong. I'd be in Athens and look around and see what I thought I would never use. Now I have a large collection of Greek pewter as reminders of time I spent in those classes and on my visits to Greece. Then, as I passed different areas of bulldozed landscape, I would see the geological formations that we studied. It also helped in my current investments in gold, silver and other minerals.

“Never would I use Spanish, I thought, until I spent many vacations in Spain and Spanish-speaking countries. I have since traveled most of the world, going around the world twice.

“[I took law classes,] but not because I was going to be an attorney. So many times I have been in situations where the basic/101 law classes alerted me to [the need to] investigate something further. Thankfully, my English classes with Mark Van Doren GSAS 1921 taught me to put a comma for a pause and a period to stop. That is what he told me when I told him I was not good with punctuation. It has stood me well over the years as I wrote training manuals, several travel articles and my autobiography. He told me it was the content he graded on, not punctuation. I apologize if you get an ‘F’ in English for what you write and you can’t read what I am writing.

“Spent three years as a life-guard while in college; the Army in Germany; and Columbia for three years to get a B.A. Have since earned a Ph.D. Spent four years at Curtiss-Wright Corp. buying at first parts for jets just coming into their own. Switched to New Jersey Telephone Co. selling business systems and then on to Florida as district commercial manager with General Telephone & Electric Corp. I saw little advancement, because those ahead of me on the ladder did not go into the service. But it put me in touch with a VP at Shearson, Hammill & Co., a brokerage firm. We became good friends and he offered me a position with his firm selling securities. It was the right move to make. Many mergers later it is Morgan Stanley and I have retired from the remains of that firm. Hard work and luck have made my retirement very, very comfortable. I live in a nice lakeside home in Florida. I have no wishes that have not been satisfied. I am, however, single again, as my wife, Pat, died and I’m back on the market. I am now enamored with one who can kiss and hug like in high school. Oh Lord, help me out. It appears no 34-year-old lady wants a 55-year-old man. But, I keep trying. In fact most people tell me, ‘I am trying.’

“You know I’m lying about my age. I appeal to all for advice on how to de-age, or how to find a 34-year-

old slim lady who likes wealthy old men. At 69, or younger, I’ll buy my way out.

“Marriage and two children matured me. No classes for that.

“Paul, my 18-year-old son, was killed. He and Linda, my daughter, were the prizes from my marriage.”

From **Richard Wiener**: “Heading for the big 9-0, I have the good fortune to be in continuing vibrant health. I am active in The ManKind Project, a men’s organization that presents transformational trainings for men on four continents. I have a close relationship with Berea College, a no-tuition school in Kentucky attended mostly by Appalachian students, to which I will return this fall to present a convocation lecture and to view my legacy gift of a peace garden, a contemplation space on campus. Also this fall, my children and grandchildren will accompany me on a celebratory birthday trip to the Caribbean. As a child survivor of the Holocaust, I am forever grateful not

in Atlantic City, and from Admiral Farragut Academy, I was offered many scholarships from colleges, and I selected Columbia. While in high school I was selected captain of the football team and broke many records in football, basketball and track. I received city, country and state awards for breaking records in those sports.

“At Columbia I was halfback on the football team and captain of the track team.

“I was recruited by General Electric Co., along with 12 other people, for the first corporate-wide employee relations training program and, for three years, worked in manufacturing, engineering and accounting assignments throughout the company. I was then hired at the jet engine plant in Everdale, Ohio, in labor relations. I was later hired as the corporate head of the first equal opportunity/minority relations meeting with the group executives, chairmen and the CEO on strategy, goals and plans. I also led corporate

dinner with the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Michael Mullen, at his home in Washington, D.C. Frank has a bridge named in his honor at the Navy facility in Newport, R.I., and plaques at his high school and college.

“I meet with other members of Columbia’s football and basketball teams on a regular basis.”

Please send your news to the addresses at the top of this column. Your classmates would like to hear from you!

1953

Lew Robins
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On April 15, I received the following email from **John H. Plate**: “A week or so ago my wife, Carol, and I visited with Nancy Edwards (**David Edwards**’ widow) and her daughter, Cynthia Cowdery, at the Publik House in Sturbridge, Conn., and had a chance to catch up on the many activities of the Edwards/Cowdery clan. After Dave’s passing last year, Nancy and Glynis went through Dave’s substantial accumulation of memorabilia and came across a program for the Columbia Glee Club’s performance at Town Hall on West 43rd Street in Manhattan. The Vassar Glee Club shared the program with Columbia.”

John sent along a copy of the program, which indicated that the concert was in honor of Benjamin Hubbard, who was retiring as the director of King’s Crown Activities. The program lists **Baily Harvey** as the director of Columbia’s Glee Club, and the following classmates as officers: **Herb Mark** as the manager, **Ronald Klinzing** as business manager, **Albert Belskie** as publicity manager and **David Edwards** as secretary. According to the program, the Blue Notes Quartet sang during the intermission and dedicated the *Columbia Reunion Song* by Joseph Burns ’29, LAW’32.

John also mentioned that he and Carol spent three weeks in Japan last fall, including stops in South Korea and Sakhalin Island. They are also planning to visit Germany, the United Kingdom and Norway later this year and in 2018. They are look-

Frank Toner ’52 meets with other members of Columbia’s football and basketball teams on a regular basis.

only for my survival, but also for the many opportunities to pass on the gifts I have received.”

Share your story or news — even a favorite Columbia College memory — with *CCT* and your classmates by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Do enjoy the summer.

1952

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CCT was happy to receive a letter from **Frank Toner**: “Born in Atlantic City, N.J.; my father bailed when I was 9 days old and my single mother was a waitress her entire life, putting me through school. After graduating from Holy Spirt H.S.

responsibility for union relations, consulting, personnel practices and recruiting. I accepted the position as VP of human resources at Boise Cascade and was SVP of American Can. After senior corporate positions, I went into the human resource consulting business and also met with the senior corporate VPs of companies like IBM, DuPont, General Motors, International Paper and General Electric on a quarterly basis on policy, strategy and practices in employee relations.

“I was married to Peggy Reeves of Atlantic City for 25 years; Peggy Foley from Ireland for 20 years before her death from cancer; and have Barbara Pfeiffer as my partner for 15 years, living in Port St. Lucie, Fla., and Atlantic City, N.J. I have three children, Frank, Karen and Linda, and seven grandchildren. My oldest grandson, Frank IV, a lieutenant in the Navy, was killed in Afghanistan. His wife, Brooke, and my family were honored at a private

ing forward to attending our 65th reunion, also in 2018.

Stan Maratos was recently elected to a founders membership in the Order of Daedalians, a group of American WWI fighter pilots. Active membership in the Order of Daedalians is limited to Air Corps pilots commissioned prior to November 12, 1918, or to combat pilots named in honor and memory of the founding pilot. Col. Maratos was named in honor of founder Maj. Edwin T. MacBride.

Congratulations, Stan!

I received the following from **Gordon Henderson**: “Columbia made the right decision. It admitted my grandson and now both of us are very happy.”

Congratulations, Gordon. In this highly competitive year, admission to Columbia College is quite an achievement.

Allan “Ajax” Jackman, who lives in California, sent the following: “The only classmate I know of who lives in the Bay Area is Dr. **Bob Blau**, with whom I get together once a month. Imagine my amazement a few years ago when Bob confessed to me that he used to play schoolyard basketball with our most famous/infamous classmate, **Jack Molinas**. Jack was also a fraternity brother of mine (TEP) and rarely came to our weekly Monday night meetings, but the gals he brought to occasional Saturday night parties were each more beautiful than the last. He is probably the only College grad to ever be assassinated by the Mafia. It is all detailed in the great book *The Wizard of Odds: How Jack*

Molinas Almost Destroyed the Game of Basketball. I miss frat brothers **Norm Marcus** and **Julie Ross**.”

Larry Harte writes that he works in orthodontics three days a week and recently received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in Orthodontics.

Wow, keep up the good work!

Larry also indicates that in their spare time, he and his wife have visited 105 countries — although he confesses that they are getting tired!

1954

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Gentlemen of ’54, welcome once again to your home away from home, our Class Notes section — where anything goes. Are you marking on your calendars the (still-tentative) weekend of Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3, 2019, for the celebration of our 65th anniversary of our graduation? (Remember, time flies!) It’s always a pleasure to hear from any of you — some of you are regular correspondents — and it is particularly rewarding to frequently welcome back classmates who have been in a quiet mode since 1954.

Under “intergenerational news,” we draw your attention to a thought-provoking *New York Times* op-ed column this spring by James P. Rubin ’82, SIPA’84, a former assistant secretary of state for public affairs under President Clinton, titled “59 Missiles Don’t Equal a Foreign Policy.” He is the son of **Harvey Rubin**, a very proud dad.

Peter Maris (né Marinakos) shares with us this update: “I am a retired ophthalmologist. Last November my wife, Kay, and I took a 25-day around-the-world trip by private jet with National Geographic Expeditions to many of our bucket list destinations, for example, Machu Picchu; the Taj Majal; the Serengeti Plain; Australia’s Great Barrier Reef; Angkor Wat, Cambodia; Easter Island; Petra, Jordan; Lhasa, Tibet; and others. It was the trip of a lifetime and I highly recommend it to all. We have two children who are CC graduates — Kathryn ’93 and Peter Jr. ’95, who is assistant professor of ophthalmology at Columbia.”

Serge Gavronsky, recently retired from half a century as a French professor at Barnard, wants us all to *qvell* (that’s not French) with him about his family: “Wife is a retired ceramist, daughter is a disability lawyer in New York, older granddaughter is a magna cum laude graduate of Kenyon, hired in senior year as paralegal by Sullivan Cromwell,” but “as for me, check me out on Wikipedia.”

OK, Serge, but the book is out on loan at my library.

Memoirs appear to be THE task of the 21st century for members of our Class of Destiny. When I mentioned recently about embarking on mine, the floodgates opened to inform me that I may be the last on line. LISTEN UP, ALL — if you have a memoir in your thoughts, in a first draft, being submitted to self-publishers, in the midst of a million-dollar auction battle by Knopf and three others, or just like the idea of exposing yourself to the world, let me know. CCT will be glad to mention them in Bookshelf.

The latest and perhaps among the most finished memoirist to have gotten in touch is **Manfred Whitehorn**, “after 63 years, to be precise! What bestirred me to write to you is your remark about writing your memoir. I beat you to the punch, as I self-published, for grandchildren, relatives and friends, my memoir last year. And the outline of your proposed tale eerily resembles mine, at least the early years. I’ll send you a copy so that we can compare notes.”

Thanks, Manny. FedEx delivered your book as these Class Notes were being processed. Quick peek showed a terrifically designed, hard-bound, nearly-500-page full-self-disclosure volume that reveals *everything* I ever wanted to know about you. (Title is *By Luck Possessed*; it was published by Lulu Press, Morrisville, N.C.)

With all the post-election politicking continuing into the second “100 days,” I was alerted to the accomplishment of our class’ photographer *extraordinaire*, **Ted Spiegel**, who interacted with a previous White House resident nearly 60 years ago. Ted’s photograph of John F. Kennedy now graces the United States Postal Service’s Forever stamps; the new stamp was unveiled this year in a ceremony on President’s Day. In Ted’s own words: “The photograph

was taken on September 6, 1960, in Victory Square, Seattle, adjacent to downtown’s Olympic Hotel. Sen. John Kennedy was in the first week of his campaign for the presidency: His itinerary was nation-spanning — Maine to Alaska.

“Seated by the podium from which he would deliver his first speech in Seattle, he was looking up at office building windows crammed with cheering supporters. It was a highly energetic moment and one could sense Kennedy subsuming the place and people surrounding him.

“Soon he would address thousands at Seattle’s Civic Auditorium. His remarks closed with these words: ‘I have called the challenge of the future the new frontier ... my call is to those who believe in the future ... I want you to join me ... give me your help, your heart, your voice ... and this country will move again.’

“For me, this photograph captured Kennedy sensing his responsibility to the public’s response.”

More kickbacks from my “85 is the new 65” column last quarter. **Allan Wikman** mailed “20 years my junior, huh, Bernd? I am always the outlier, for example, defending Joe McCarthy on campus by streetlight. I add 100 years each time a pharmacy or other bureaucracy asks my birthday. ‘January 31, 1832,’ I respond — 75 percent in one ear and out the other. To any astute listener I confess, *‘It was only a listening test, and you passed!’* Alternatively, *‘That was my first birth.’*”

(Saul, do we or don’t we have the makings of a *Saturday Night Live* crew? We work cheap.)

Stanley Fine PS’57 writes that “while reading your column in CCT that mentioned our diploma in Latin, I was reminded about my first voting experience. My election board was in Riverdale (I had recently started at P&S) and I had to bring a diploma to prove I was competent in English. Well, I wasn’t going to bring our diploma from Bronx Science when I had one from Columbia! However, the personnel at the table couldn’t read Latin and were going to turn me down until I showed them the translation I had taped to the back.”

Quick thinking, Stan; our Bronx Science and Columbia educations paid off once again.

“The Heart Attack” is how **Saul Turteltaub** LAW’57 headlined his



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.

most recent adventure to share with us. It follows: “Until last week, at the age of 84, I thought ‘heart attack’ was the answer to the question, ‘What did he die of?’ Last week I learned it is the answer to, ‘What were you in the hospital two nights for?’

“Saturday night I had chest pain and my wife, Shirley, called the paramedics. She barely beat them to the front door. I was examined in St. Luke’s Hospital by a doctor and friendly nurses, who quickly decided I should be helicoptered to St. Luke’s Twin Falls. In less than a half-hour I was there on the operating table, still wondering what to tip the pilot.

“Two hours later, after being surgicaled, I was wheeled — with my two new stents, placed into two of my old arteries — to my room in the intensive care unit where, for the next 36 hours, I was intensively cared for by the wonderful, smart and friendly nursing staff. Shirley and I were there for a total of three meals chosen by us from a restaurant-quality menu and then

University and writes, “I mostly taught in the Commonwealth and France after that, including 10 years in Nigeria, five in Canada, four in New Zealand and so forth. I began as a specialist in British 17th–18th-century literature with a book on John Dryden’s plays, one on Andrew Marvell and a history of 17th-century English literature.

“For a few decades I tried to keep my hands in both traditional British literature and the new literatures of the Commonwealth (Nigerian, West Indian, etc.) ... In 1987, my *Modern Indian Poetry in English* was the first serious book on the topic; it has often been republished and was followed by two more books on Indian English literature.”

Bruce authored two books about the St. Lucian Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, who died in March. “My *Internationalization of English Literature* in 2004 was volume 13 of *The Oxford Literary History*. My autobiography, *An Interesting Life So Far/Memoirs of Literary and Musical*

Among the news items concerning classmates that we publish, many of which are filled with the joy of sharing, are those about illness, tragedy or death. While we remember classmates who died 63 or more years ago, while we were still on Morningside Heights, we are now concentrated on keeping up. As we have done in this column, and *CCT* does in the Obituaries section of this magazine, we will share with you when we hear about the deaths of members of the class. Our sources are family members, classmates, newspaper obituaries and the proverbial information received over the transom. This quarter we report on several.

Linda Onsruth Toborg emailed me about her husband, **Alfred Toborg** GSAS’65, who died on March 20, 2017. “Al had both his B.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia,” she wrote. “He taught history and German at Lyndon State College for 39 years. He served as an ordained deacon in the Catholic Church for 26 years and was active in local civic affairs. I am not sure if this fits your request for class notes but I did want to notify you of his recent death. We were able to attend the 50th reunion, which was great fun.”

Thank you, Linda, again, for keeping in touch and for continuing to be part of Al’s class. You have our deepest sympathy and my personal condolences on your — and our — loss.

Reports on the passing this spring of **Richard Hobart** of Binghamton, N.Y., and **Dick Wagner** of Seattle have come from Ted Spiegel, who said Dick “was a fraternity brother, roommate and my best man at my wedding.” *CCT* published a profile of Dick and his Center for Wooden Boats about two years ago [Editor’s note: See our Winter 2015–16 issue]. In its obituary notice, the center called him “one of a kind ... he believed profoundly in the power of people. Dick has left Seattle and the world a better place.”

As for me, I continue to keep my hand in nefarious causes. In February I was a delegate of the American Alliance of Museums to Capitol Hill on AAM’s Museums Advocacy Day. We spent several days at meetings and receptions on the Hill and at the Library of Congress with our senators, representatives and lobbyists on such vital matters as funding for museum projects, and saving the

National Endowment for the Arts, the charitable gift deduction, STEM education and other good things that help make our country great. My meetings included one with the New York delegation and our senator — and Senate minority leader — Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and a one-on-one in the Hill cafeteria with my congressman, Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.). Life goes on!

Be well, do good stuff, write often, and all my best, Bernd. EXCELSIOR!

1955

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There is a lot of activity going on, especially just outside the school. John Jay Awards were given to five well-deserving alumni on March 1 at Cipriani 42nd Street.

You should know Columbia is now part of the Penn Club of New York, 30 W. 44th St., after a “falling out” with Ivy League brethren Princeton. For details, ask your class correspondent.

Class Day (for the Class of 2017!) and the Senior Dinner were both on South Field, where approximately 1,000 attendees enjoyed one another’s company. The Society of Columbia Graduates Great Teacher Awards were given to worthy faculty members during Reunion 2017 in Low Library. Commencement was its usual spectacular event, with thousands of parents, graduates and faculty attending. President Lee C. Bollinger gave his usual thoughtful and stirring speech.

Where are our classmates and what are they doing now?

Alfred Gollomp is taking time in Florida, where he had dinner with **Bob Sparrow** and **Bob Crossman**. **Jim Appel** is in South Carolina. **Bill Langston** is in Northern California. **Roland Plottel** (our patent attorney) called to catch up about Columbia and the industry. **Jack Stuppin** was in the midst of putting together a showing on the West Coast. **Beryl Nusbaum** and **Dick Kuhn** wanted updates on Columbia Athletics (a little different than patent law). **Jerry Plasse** moved to Montana from Maryland a couple of years ago. If he’s happy, I’m happy.

Bruce King ’54 retired 17 years ago, but has become known as a pioneer in the shift from British to postcolonial literatures.

discharged for having too good of a time. Can’t wait to go back for something serious.”

More of us in our class are keeping cardiac surgeons in business, it seems. When I told Saul mine was not an “attack” in 2006 but a triple bypass performed by Dr. Mehmet Oz at Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital, he responded, “Yours was bigger than mine.” (Oh? But more on that some other time.)

Bruce King wants to bring us up to date on his various lives (not wives, being married to Adele, whom he met the year we graduated and married two years later). Both are retired university professors, she being an expert on Albert Camus (about whom she wrote or edited several books), and wrote several others about African literature and female French novelists, and translated a French cookbook into English. Bruce earned a doctorate in English literature at Leeds

Peregrinations, might be followed by a final book that might take me another five years ...”

He adds, “I had a stroke two years ago, from which I recovered but took as a warning. We no longer travel to New Orleans in April for a month of jazz and dancing, nor Croatia during the summer for swimming. We ‘retired’ to Paris 17 years ago and I seem to have become known as a pioneer in the shift from British to postcolonial literatures.”

Bruce says he has had limited contact with Columbia since 1954, but that **Joel Gerstl** and his wife, Judy, visited last year and that he has been emailing with **David Bardin**. He adds that in Paris “we sometimes run into Columbia College graduates, but otherwise our life is here, especially among musicians and writers, and with dancing and restaurant-going.”

Do I hear a “take me back/return to the fold” message here between the lines? Our class welcomes back all sinners.

Back on campus, **Allen Hyman** continued as Hood Marshal at Commencement. **Ted Baker** (Maine inhabitant and Ford Scholar) shared his contact information: lizeded@earthlink.net. Is **Ralph Wagner** a candidate? **Ed Francell** will be at the 65th after surviving a huge fire in Atlanta. **Bob Bernot** escaped the confines of Manhattan for Long Island — he still comes to basketball games, however. Did **Bill Mink** and **Bob Brown** ever consider a Hastings-on-Hudson H.S. reunion? Maybe we could get **Paul Frank**, **Jules Rosenberg** and **Anthony Viscusi** from Forest Hills H.S. **Elliot Gross** was espied marching with our class at Class Day.

Harvey Greenberg was in Europe during reunion. The burning question is: Are they bringing back the world-famous Haji?. Still living in Manhattan, **Dick Ravitch** makes speeches and is a strong figure in New York City politics. **Harris Epstein** is part of the Columbia community in Long Island. **Norm Goldstein** loves living in and working in Manhattan after many months in Hawaii. **Stan Blumberg** lives in Manhattan and has been a fixture there since he graduated from the College. **Bill Epstein** resides on the West Side, close to the theater district. We can't forget Minnesotan **Walter Croll**, former track and basketball standout. **Jim Berick** practices law in Cleveland.

The 65th will soon be upon us, with plenty of new and different activities. Watch your diets and don't

forget to exercise. Remember: A healthy class is a resilient class.

Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

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Floridians and snowbirds got together on February 16 in Boynton Beach, Fla. Susan and **Marty Mayer**, Janet and **Jon Garnjost**, Elinor and **Dan Link**, and Margo and I enjoyed the weather and the company.

Back in New York, **Alan Broadwin**, **Peter Klein**, **Maurice Klein**, **Gordon Silverman**, **Ralph Kaslick**, **Gerald Fine**, **Robert Paaswell**, **Jesse Blumenthal** and I gathered for lunch at Faculty House in March with our guest, Claire Gumus, associate director of alumni relations in the Alumni Office (she works with the Alumni Representative Committee). In addition to the usual reminiscing about the good old days, we gave Claire some ideas of why many alumni no longer interview, and gave her a chance to recruit among us.

On a more somber note, I report the passing of **Lou Hemmerdinger SEAS'56**, **SEAS'58**. Lou had been very active in class events in New York and in Florida. He will be sorely missed. **Bill Schaffer** (also now deceased) described his fraternity brother as "larger than life" and a "dear friend."

Keep in touch, and please send me info for Class Notes. I can be reached at either of the addresses at the top of this column.

1957

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Sal Franchino: "Anticipating a visit to Scranton, Pa., I thought I'd check in with friend **Ralph Brunori SEAS'58** and googled him for contact information. I was stunned to find that he had passed on in September 2016. In the event that this is your first notice of Ralph's death, here is an excerpt from his obituary, which ran in the *Scranton Times-Tribune*: "Ralph T. Brunori, 81, of Clarks Summit, died Friday morning in Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Plains Township. His wife is the former Joanne Marchese. The couple had been married for 57 years.

"Born in Jessup, he was the son of the late Carlo P. and Josephine Agostini Brunori. He was a graduate of Jessup High School, and attended the Hun Preparatory School of Princeton, N.J.

"Ralph went on to receive his degree in engineering from Columbia University in 1958. While at Columbia, he was a three-year letterman in football. Ralph served his country in the Army Corps of Engineers. During his career as an industrial/manufacturing engineer and engineering manager, he worked for several corporations. He retired from Lockheed Martin in 1996.

"Ralph was an active member of several organizations to include the Young Democrats of Lackawanna County, the Scranton Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and the Abington Sportsmen's Club. He was an enthusiastic member of the Scranton Canoe Club and served on its Board of Directors. Maintaining his ties with Columbia University, he was a member of the Varsity C and Football Clubs. He also was an active alumni representative in NEPA." See more online: bit.ly/2q4bfNt.

Ralph was a good and decent man and one of the first friends I made as a freshman at Columbia.

Malcolm "Mac" Gimse has written a poem, "Every Life Matters," honoring the 204 members [at presstime] of our class who have passed away as of June 3, 2017. The title came from a lecture he gave a decade ago on the Holocaust. Mac planned to recite it at our reunion class dinner that night.

"Every Life Matters"

...every life matters

Come to this tender celebration of lives stilled to remind us of the dreams we had when we left each other sixty years ago to embark on our vast experiments of living away from the familiar. *"Tomorrow's the future still..."*
...every life matters.

We are drawn to the sound of our laughter that rang with determination to remember those never-to-be-forgotten moments that moved us toward our uncertain futures. Now we think on our separated histories of spirit-friends, while winds of urgency carry through our thanks for the joys we shared, to ease the echo from our many losses. *"Out on life's stormy sea"*
...every life matters.

Remember our burning passions in the forever now, to feel again the youthful exuberance held close by our Columbia '57 Classmates. As young men, we were ready to dash through the marathons of life. Now we pause to feel the harmony of souls that hover delicately between us and the greatest of mysteries, when we, as mere mortals, must someday meet, where so many of our classmates already have, in our realm of final destiny beyond this life. *"...all of us soon will be, far, far away."*
...every life matters.

Those who have vanished from our midst, will always be cherished, because we are holding fast to our waking past. Then we release them to fly again into our consciousness of what it is we need to know



In March, several members of the Class of '56 met on campus for lunch at Faculty House. Seated, left to right: Gerry Fine; Ralph Kaslick; Gordon Silverman '55, SEAS'56; and Jesse Blumenthal; and standing, left to right: Buz Paaswell, Alan Broadwin, Peter Klein, Bob Siroy, Associate Director of Alumni Relations Claire Gumus and Maurice Klein.

about the fragments of life that remain.
*"What if 't be winter's chill, rain, storm
 or summer's thrill..."*
 ...every life matters.

We carry a gentle chorus of
 memories from
 Morningside Heights: *"What if
 tomorrow bring,
 sorrow or anything, other than joy?"*
 that keeps us anchored to our
 common heartbeat
 of chance, of risk, of caring.
"...this is today!"
 ...every life matters.

*"Long may Columbia stand,
 honored throughout the land,
 our Alma Mater grand, now and for ay...
 our Alma Mater grand, now and for ay."*

Mac also wrote a poem, "Tribute
 to Martin Luther King Jr.," for the
 event Arts for Martin; the poem
 was performed at Arcadia Charter

1958

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Howard Winell forwarded this
 note: "David Paul [04] here, your
 friend **Steve Paul's** son. I'm very
 sorry to be writing with sad news,
 but unfortunately my father passed
 away on December 24, 2016. He
 had sustained a head injury in a
 fall last July from which he never
 recovered, and after six months of
 struggle and decreasing quality of
 life in the hospital, I think he was
 ready to go. While I'm very sad it
 had to end this way for him, I'm
 relieved that he was able to enjoy
 his life right up until the accident
 and even in the hospital was able to

which ranks scientists by the num-
 ber of lives that were saved by their
 inventions and discoveries (Fritz
 Haber and Carl Bosch, the inven-
 tors of synthetic fertilizer, are first
 with 2.7 billion lives; Louis Pasteur
 doesn't even crack the top 10). So
 your reporter investigated further
 and quickly came across **Bert
 Hirschhorn** PS'62 at number 28
 (54 million lives). As this column's
 readers may remember, many years
 ago we reported on the discovery
 by Bert and his team of an oral
 rehydration therapy that revolution-
 ized the treatment of cholera and
 other dehydrating diseases. In 1987,
 UNICEF proclaimed this discovery
 as the greatest medical breakthrough
 of the 20th century.

Chuck Golden writes: "It's been
 some time since I last wrote about
 what's happening in my life, espe-
 cially now as I approach my 80th
 birthday. I am in reasonably good
 health, but with the usual aches and
 pains that are common at this age.
 But, I can still move around pretty
 well on a tennis court and partici-
 pate and hold my own in two very
 strong doubles games twice weekly
 with younger guys. Professionally,
 I am officially 'semi-retired,' but do
 work out of my house for some for-
 mer clients. It's nowhere near having
 an office with a very busy practice,
 but it keeps me busy enough.

"I am fortunate that both of
 my children and their families live
 here on Long Island, so my wife,
 Sheila, and I get to see them and our
 five grandkids regularly for school
 events, family get-togethers on holi-
 days, and so on ... And have I ever
 mentioned that I am an avid model
 railroader? It keeps me busy as well.

"As for fencing, I follow the
 present team and have celebrated its
 recent successes as NCAA champions
 for the past two years. (Maybe
 a three-peat this year? It's looking
 good so far.)"

Chuck's wish was granted. The Lion
 fencers finished in a three-way tie for
 the Ivy championship, sharing the title
 with Penn and Princeton. Meanwhile,
 the women's team came in second and
 six Lions made All-Ivy. [Editor's note:
 See "Roar, Lion, Roar."]

Chuck continued: "I see some
 former teammates on a regular basis.
 In fact, I attended the Columbia
 University Athletics Hall of Fame
 black tie dinner in October in Low
 Library to induct **Jim Margolis**,

and the entire 1954 championship
 fencing team, which included Barry
 Pariser '55, Ted Reuter '54 (my
 freshman coach) and Steve Sobel
 '54, who were present. Steve Buch-
 man '59 and Ben Janowski '59 were
 in attendance as well.

"Several years ago I attended
 the induction of our late coach, Irv
 DeKoff, into the Hall of Fame. I
 guess you could conclude that fenc-
 ing was and still is an important part
 of my Columbia experience! Look-
 ing forward to seeing classmates at
 our 60th in 2018."

Rick Brous' family threw him
 a surprise 80th birthday party at
 Costco. Rick's reaction: "Yes, I was
 shocked, completely surprised! My
 wife, Marcia, did an incredible,
 amazing job; [it was a] difficult
 undertaking, especially because
 Costco does not allow private events
 inside its stores."

Given Costco's business model,
 the party undoubtedly concluded
 with the world's largest birthday cake.

The Class Lunch is held on the
 second Tuesday of every month, in
 the Grill at the Princeton Club of
 New York, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31 per
 person). E-mail **Art Radin** if you
 plan to attend, up to the day before:
 arthur.radin@janoverllc.com.

Rick Brous '58's family threw him a surprise 80th birthday party at Costco — particularly impressive because Costco does not allow private events inside its stores.

School in Northfield, Minn., in
 January 2017. That poem will run in
 the Fall issue of CCT.

Bernard Gittleman's daughter,
 Bonnie Brensilber BUS'91, submit-
 ted the following on behalf of her
 father, about her daughter: "My
 daughter, Jamie Brensilber LAW'20,
 will be the third generation of
 Columbia graduates for our family."

Lawrence Merrion writes: "**John
 Webster** SEAS'58 passed away in
 March at 82 in Mystic, Conn., where
 he was employed at Electric Boat for
 35 years as an engineer. At Columbia
 he received his degree in indus-
 trial engineering. He was an active
 member of Sigma Chi fraternity and
 an NROTC ... midshipman [and
 became] a commissioned naval officer
 serving on destroyers in the Atlantic.
 He was a member of the Westerly
 Chorus, Habitat for Humanity and
 the Mystic Seaport Shipyard. John
 always accepted a challenge, looking
 for a simple solution.

"So, Herman, we lose another
 classmate ... I remain as ... one of
 the few members of Sigma Chi who
 are still around."

listen to lots of music and enjoy the
 company of loved ones.

"My dad never tired of speaking
 about his Blue Notes days, and I
 was happy to find a cassette tape of
 you guys singing amidst his many
 recordings. I know he very much
 appreciated your friendship and
 loyalty through all the many years
 since then."

Howard added, "Steve was also in
 the Glee Club and Notes and Keys,
 as well as an integral part of the
 Blue Notes. He lived these many last
 years in Hamburg in retirement.

"Steve's involvement in music
 was lifelong. As an undergraduate,
 he played the flute in the band and
 was involved with the *Varsity Show*,
 the Columbia Orchestra and the
 Columbia Chamber Music Society,
 among other activities. He obtained
 a master's at Yale and was awarded
 a Fulbright scholarship to study in
 London. He then had a long career
 as a record producer for Deutsche
 Grammophon."

A recent *New Yorker* article on
 genetic engineering contained a
 reference to scienceheros.com,

1959

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I hope this finds you well, that you
 had a relaxing spring and that you
 are enjoying summer. Please share
 your adventures and experiences
 with your classmates.

Bob Ratner fills us in on his life
 north of the border: "Not that anyone
 was wondering, but I'm still alive, a
 retired sociology prof, still pumping
 out some sociological quiddities,
 still living in Vancouver, Canada
 (feeling lucky about that these days)
 in the same house with the same
 wife, though there's a new dog in the
 family. These self-regarding details
 aside, my main reason for writing was
 to compliment **Ken Scheffel** for his
 remarks about Cuba in the Winter
 2016-17 Class Notes (I await Part II
 of his reflections) and to throw in my

two cents on this important subject. I have been upset by the vitriolic, unbalanced criticism of Fidel Castro by some commentators in the wake of his death. His detractors seem to forget the murderous dictatorship, bolstered by United States mafia bosses, which Castro's revolutionary movement supplanted. How, really, could Castro have led Cuba for 50 years, staved off U.S. military aggression and endured periods of economic peril, had the people not been for him? How did a poor country, made poorer by the senseless U.S. embargo, survive to achieve the heights of national literacy, free education and expert medical care? Why is Fidel lionized by so many world leaders if he was the villain depicted by his opponents, who chose exile rather than accept the necessary changes wrought by the revolution?

"My first impressions of Castro came in 1959 when he and his cigar-chomping confederates arrived in Jeeps and battle fatigues on the Columbia campus. One of my professors at the time was C. Wright Mills, a renowned iconoclast who was soon to write a book defending the Cuban Revolution (*Listen, Yankee*, 1960). I had already taken Mills' third-year social stratification course in which (a few of you may remember) I replied, to Mills' query about the significance of Thanksgiving, that 'it was the one day of the year when all classes, low, middle and high, could eat the same bird.' It doesn't seem quite so funny now, but it drew gales of laughter and applause back then. In the senior year seminar, Mills' teaching favorably inclined me toward the changes taking place in Cuba.

"Over the course of my career at the University of British Columbia (still *Columbia*, just a different country), I made two visits to Cuba, one as a member of a group of 20 North American criminologists on a study tour of the Cuban criminal justice system (1985) and the other as a participant in an international academic conference (2000). On the first visit our group was introduced to diverse examples, in action, of the courts, prisons, civil and political systems, including lengthy interviews with key officials. I asked hard questions, sometimes upsetting my U.S. colleagues, but our hosts answered with alacrity, insisting cleverly that, 'There are no indiscreet questions, only indiscreet answers.'

"Our tour ended with an evening dialogue with one of the many Neighborhood Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. A party militant (or 'professional') conducted the group meeting, but all of our questions were answered by the assembled villagers with gusto and apparent candor. If it was staged, they were wonderful actors. On our last day, my Canadian colleague and I visited a family at their home in Havana. The husband had once taught at my university, moved to Cuba, married and had three children, one of whom had just returned from Kiev University to help celebrate his parents' 25th anniversary. Soon after we arrived, a party member, described by our host as a friend, knocked on the door and joined us for the full three hours. This seemed a little ominous at first, but we proceeded to have an animated discussion where no question went unanswered. Of course, I wondered about the presence of a party official at each of the two supposedly informal occasions, more than suggesting that the situations were being monitored to assure that the 'wrong' messages were not conveyed to outsiders. Even so, the exchanges were frank and robust, portraying a Cuban society that was still in struggle but thankfully liberated from an ugly past.

"The academic conference that I attended in 2000 came not long after the 'special period,' during which Cuba suffered new privations after the loss of its bulwark Soviet Union trade partner. Now buses and taxis had returned to the streets and Cuba was no longer reeling economically, although the U.S. embargo continued. But there was ample evidence of blight; even at the convention center flustered delegates emerged from bathroom stalls that were without toilet paper, still an unaffordable luxury in many public places. Yet most of the people I spoke with told me that they loved Fidel and would fight to preserve the values enshrined by the revolution. Clearly, however, they wanted more in the way of material comforts and hoped for some relaxation of political constraints. Developments since then have made both achievable if Fidel's critics would relent and enable change to take a salutary course.

"I hope to visit Cuba again and I urge all of you to do the same ...

before Donald either closes the door or opens it to the same old reprobates. Cheers."

David Horowitz LAW'62 shares his opinions with us: "Thirty years ago my co-author (Peter Collier) and I wrote a cover story for *The Washington Post's* Sunday Magazine explaining why we had voted for Ronald Reagan in 1984. Until that moment, we were best-selling authors featured on page one of the Sunday *New York Times Book Review*. Our latest book on the Kennedys was a number 1 *New York Times* bestseller at the time. But once our article appeared we became pariahs in the literary culture, which is dominated by a hate-filled progressive left, and soon vanished altogether from the pages of the *Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Washington Post* and other left-wing venues. These

occupied with three pro bono boards — Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, which I helped found 31 years ago; The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut, for which I am chairman; and most recently, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, [where I am on the Board of Trustees]. I also did some branding work for Columbia College Dean James J. Valentini to try to help position and distinguish Columbia College from its primary competitors — Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Brown, Chicago and Stanford — putting the focus on our Core Curriculum and location in NYC as unique and potentially a source of exceptional life opportunities. My wife and I divide our time between Lyme, Conn.; Park City, Utah; and NYC, and thankfully have little time to kvetch about the tarnish on the

Eric Jakobsson '59 has published three peer-reviewed scientific journals so far this year and hopes to "crank out a few more."

venerable institutions rebranded themselves as 'safe places,' protecting themselves and the public from our politically incorrect ideas. It's pretty difficult to have a bestseller when you are boycotted by the literary world. Imagine my surprise then when my new book (brace yourselves), *Big Agenda: President Trump's Plan to Save America* — published three days before the inauguration — hit the *Times'* best-seller list a couple of weeks later, and remains there at this writing.

"At 78 I consider this serendipity, particularly since progressive America's bilious hatred for Trump even exceeds that of its antipathy towards Reagan. I have waited 30 years for actual liberals to reappear on the other side of the political divide — people who value two or more sides to a political debate, and who regard character assassination (such as that conducted by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) in the recent confirmation hearings against my friend Jeff Sessions) with the disgust they deserve. I don't think I'll be waiting any longer."

From Allen Rosenshine we learn, "Having celebrated my 10th year of retirement, I am keeping

golden years. Hope to see classmates at our 60th in a couple of years.

From Eric Jakobsson we hear: "I have published three peer-reviewed scientific papers so far in 2017, and I hope I can crank out a few more, as the ideas are there and my students have provided the raw material. I am planning a couple of grant proposals in collaboration with younger colleagues, as I am too old to guarantee an incoming graduate student that I will be there in support for another decade (the degree, and reference letters for postdoc and beginning faculty position) without a younger co-mentor.

"I will go to Memorial Sloan Kettering in a couple of months for the next visit in watchful surveillance for diagnosed prostate cancer, which seems to be retreating under my self-administration of lithium. I will probably have cataract surgery and surgery to relieve intraocular pressure to prevent further advance of glaucoma.

"I will soon become a grandfather to my 13th grandchild. The rest of the family is well and does well, albeit with all the normal stresses and strains of life. I agreed to stand for election for another four years

on the Urbana City Council. I also decided that my major activity in the ‘Resistance’ will be fighting to support climate science. I planned to march in the People’s Climate March in Washington, D.C., on April 29 and am figuring out how else to help, within the umbrella of the Union of Concerned Scientists. My rationale for this choice is that the most imminent existential threat to civilization is climate change-induced food shortages, as neither agriculture nor fisheries will be able to adapt. Demagogues come and go, but the effects of drastic climate change will be very hard to recover from.”

J. Peter Rosenfeld GSAS’61 has had an unfortunate experience with a major airline. In order to protect the guilty, I will delete the name of the airline and summarize his experience. His story begins with an invitation to speak at the conference “Reading the Deceptive Brain and Mind,” which took place in Lucca, Italy, March 16–18.

It was not to be. Peter made reservations for himself and his wife, Carmen, which included flights to London, then to Milan and via train to Lucca, but that was not all. “I needed to arrange for a cat-sitter for our Siamese and to get euros and British pounds. We had to get up at 5 a.m. to leave house at 7 a.m. for airport arrival at 8 a.m. for a 10 a.m. flight.”

After doing all that they “boarded the plane to London, got seated and, two hours later, the plane hadn’t moved and they canceled the flight. This was the new Boeing 787 dream liner, a beautiful, modern plane. There were many empty seats so we each could stretch out. And I think that was the secret problem — too many empty seats, so they canceled. They claimed no, it was ‘mechanical,’ but I don’t believe ‘the airline.’

“After we got off the plane, we had a one-hour line to speak to a ticket agent to reimburse Carmen’s trip (I had to reimburse mine separately by phone, as it was booked with frequent flyer miles). Then there was another one-hour line to get our bags back. They had rebooked us on a red-eye through Madrid, which would have gotten us into Milan without sleep. But then we would have needed to get to Lucca, making new train reservations. I might have arrived just in time for my presentation — but without sleep. No way. It was just too much and, having

just celebrated my 78th birthday, I didn’t want to spend the next 12 hours rebooking and traveling, so we decided to cancel the whole thing. And I must say it was a bit of a relief: London, Milan, Lucca, Venice all at once? This is for the young. From now on, only one city at a time. Next will be Vienna in October.”

As Allen mentioned, we will have our 60th reunion in less than two years. I hope that we can all attend and that the College will let us have a class-specific reunion rather than cobbling us together with other classes.

1960

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Jim Scala, author, lecturer and teacher, had a résumé of unique experiences already under his belt when he joined our class. After graduation he pursued his passions with a relentless enterprise and vigor that continues to this day. He writes to recap some highlights and to give us an update on his life: “At 82, Nancy and I will celebrate our 60th anniversary in June. We live in Lafayette, Calif., where I conduct a senior’s walking (2.75 miles) and yoga program three times weekly. I write two monthly newspaper columns, ‘Walking the Reservoir’ and ‘What’s Up.’ In the latter, I tell what’s visible in the night sky, which goes to my original scientific interest in astronomy. However, my adviser, Professor Larkin Farinholt, guided me into biochemistry and I was awarded a fellowship to study at Cornell. He was right on.

“Armed with a Cornell doctorate, I followed a career in biochemical nutrition. I taught at several med schools and UC Berkeley and worked with *Apollo* astronauts. Later, [astronaut] Gordon Cooper asked me to work with him on Walt Disney’s EPCOT Center. I became a hero with our children when I introduced them to Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse and Goofy. Walt Disney folks awarded me a gold Mickey Mouse watch at EPCOT’s completion.

“An exciting life experience was a speaking tour [astronaut] Alan Shepard and I did in Japan. Alan taught me an important lesson: ‘We

all put our pants on one leg at a time.’ On that trip, our young daughter often fell asleep on his lap while he slept. Alan proved that men who walked on the moon are regular guys.

“I was United States Olympic Ski Team nutritionist for two Olympic Games. I worked with outstanding coaches, trainers and athletes. Serving as nutritionist for the *Voyager* flight, I shook hands with President Reagan when he awarded the pilots and designer the U.S. Medal of Freedom.

“I followed my star and wrote 14 books. Hofstra awarded me a Doctor of Humane Letters for my book *Eating Right for a Bad Gut*, which helps Crohn’s Disease sufferers lead a more normal life. I did speaking tours in many countries, which helped me appreciate this incredible world and its diverse people and their marvelous ways of life.

“As one of the last Korean War GI Bill students, married with children and older than most of my classmates, you’d think I was outside the Columbia College student group. Not so — I enjoyed many good friendships and was invited to frat houses for dinner when I took night classes at the School of General Studies. I enjoyed much warm fellowship. I express my thanks to all my classmates for being so warm, friendly and supportive. We shared great fellowship and a unique learning experience in an outstanding school.”

In the Spring 2017 issue this column acknowledged, with pride and gratitude, the contribution that **Larry Mendelson** and the Mendelson family made in support of the College. It is now worthy of note that the highly regarded magazine *Institutional Investor* named Larry as the Best CEO in Aerospace and Defense Electronics, and named his company, HEICO Corp., to its All-America Executive Team. *Institutional Investor* conducts a survey of the top 3,100 portfolio managers and analysts to assemble its list of the country’s best companies and management teams. The survey looks at various factors that investors, analysts and the magazine consider to be important characteristics of a strong management team. Ultimately, *Institutional Investor* selected 171 U.S. companies out of the roughly 20,000 U.S. publicly held companies for inclusion in the All-America Executive Team. The awards were presented at a ceremony in New York on March 7.

1961

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Martin Wenglinsky GSAS’72 retired as emeritus professor of sociology at Quinnipiac. He keeps active, in part, by writing a blog about culture and politics, “Wenglinsky Review” (wenglinskyreview.com), which might interest classmates.

Carl Klotz is going to Madrid in October for the New Jersey Bar midyear meeting and plans to visit Montego Bay, Jamaica, in January.

Recently, Drew Greenblatt, son of **Mickey Greenblatt**, president of Marlin Steel Wire Products and member, former board member and president of the Wire Fabricators Association, visited the White House and met with President Trump. In Drew’s words, “It was an honor.”

He reports that they spent about half an hour in the Roosevelt Room and then went into the Oval Office. Drew says that what you see on TV is what we are really getting; President Trump has a real focus on manufacturing — he is supportive of the industry and is enthusiastic to help. Vice President Mike Pence and adviser Stephen Miller were also a part of the meeting. Additionally, Drew met White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and Steve Bannon, assistant to the President and White House chief strategist.

Drew told the President about the U.S.’ manufacturing renaissance and how we are at an inflection point that will create a lot of jobs. Drew says that Trump’s policy prescriptions will match goals to be more effective. Drew described the conversation as “very uplifting.” You can hear Drew’s public comments to Trump in front of the press at 17 minutes and 40 seconds online at bit.ly/2pdzc0l.

Bob Salman LAW’64 will be on the Democratic Party primary ballot on June 6, seeking his fifth consecutive term as an elected member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. As he is on the official party line with gubernatorial candidate Phil Murphy, he is expected to win reelection.

In April, **Eugene Bardach** was elected a fellow of the American

Academy of Arts and Sciences. Gene is professor emeritus at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California.

Joe Rosenstein has a new hip (left), a new grandson (number 11), is retiring in June after 48 years as a math professor at Rutgers and continues to publish math books (see new-math-text.com, which is appropriate for the mathematically curious of all ages) and non-conventional traditional Jewish prayer books (see newsiddur.org, for the religiously curious of all ages). “I am certain that if every bored Jew held this prayer book, they would never be bored again,” writes Abigail Pogrebin about Joe’s *Machzor Eit Ratzon* in her recently published *My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wandering Jew*.

Michael Kahn, artistic director of the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., for the past 30 years announced on February 13 his plans to retire.

From the press release: “Kahn accomplished much here, in this city and with this company, has pretty much fulfilled his ambitions, dreams and expectations. I don’t really have any thoughts about doing plays that I haven’t done. There’s no big task, no regrets or unfulfilled plan or anything like that,” he said. “I think by the time a new person is hired, I like to think they’ll be in a position to fulfill and bring their own ideas and visions to the task, and that they’ll be about the future of the theater moving forward.”

“Kahn, whose impact has been enormous and far-reaching, isn’t retiring just yet. The summer of 2019, when he plans to depart, is more than two years away. On March 9, he was the featured guest at Georgetown Media Group’s next Cultural Leadership Breakfast at the George Town Club. Kahn, who married interior-design architect Charles Mitchem in May of 2015 (Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg [LAW’59] officiating), had been mulling over his professional transition for a couple of years. ‘You’re looking for the right time. It takes at least a year before a new person comes in to put together their own season.’

“Kahn arrived in Washington in 1986 as a confirmed New Yorker, mainly to help stabilize — or more accurately rescue — what was then called the Shakespeare Theatre at the Folger Shakespeare Library. He did so with aplomb, energy and style, with memorable productions

of *Richard III*, *The Merchant of Venice* and many others. Some of the casts were headed by major stars of the screen, including Patrick Stewart, Stacy Keach and Kelly McGillis.

“McGillis — at the height of her movie star fame (*Witness* and *Top Gun*) — became a mainstay of Kahn’s company, with turns in *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, among others. ‘It wasn’t about stars,’ Kahn said. ‘It was, then, about finding the best actors for the roles, and they were the best actors.’

“Kahn moved the company downtown to the Lansburgh Theatre on 7th Street NW when the effort made him a pioneer, along with restaurateur Jose Andres, who opened his Jaleo around the same time.

“You would not recognize the area then. It was not that far removed from the riots. There was a bar across the street and some sex shops, I believe. It was a rundown area,” he said. ‘We are looking at 30 years,’ Kahn said. ‘If anybody had told me I would be here for 30 years, well, I had no idea and no intention to do that. It wasn’t my style. I thought, well, maybe a few years, maybe two or three or more, and things didn’t turn out that way.’

“What did turn out was a Washington institution, complete with powerful adjunct parts and the innovative spirit of Kahn himself. In his retirement statement, Kahn said: ‘From the day I arrived in Washington, I have been determined to make this city a destination for lovers of theater and performing arts. I wanted to make STC accessible to all and introduce new audiences to classic theater.’

“Among his innovations have been the annual Shakespeare Free For All, originally at Carter Barron Amphitheatre, from which nearly 700,000 theatergoers have benefited, and the popular Text Alive! program, which saw the company going into classrooms and bringing students to the stage. He formed the Academy for Classical Acting at George Washington University, and its graduates have filled the ranks of regional theater communities — including Washington’s — with gifted and experienced actors.

“Kahn and then Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser were the guiding forces behind a citywide Shakespeare in Washington Festival in 2007, in which some 40 cultural

organizations, encompassing theatre, dance and music, took part. It went on for about half a year. ‘We started out thinking in terms not quite that large or for that long a time, but it had a momentum of its own,’ Kahn said.

“Under Kahn, the Shakespeare Theatre Company — which went from the Folger to the Lansburgh and added its Sidney Harman Hall centerpiece in 2007 — won a Tony for outstanding regional theater company in 2012. Productions he directed, including *The Oedipus Trilogy*, have toured nationally and internationally.

“We’ve done a lot of Shakespeare plays that people had not seen before,’ he said. ‘I can’t say that I’ve done all the plays — *The Comedy of Errors*, for instance, I didn’t see the need, and *The Tempest*.’ But, to be clear: ‘I don’t have a bucket list. I think I’ve done most of what I wanted to do, and I thought it was just the right time for me to retire.’”

My wife, JB, and I completed our fourth season as ski ambassadors at Copper Mountain, Colo. **Alex Liebowitz** joined us for a great week of skiing. **Bob Rennick** and his wife, Lisa, who live in Colorado Springs, visited twice for lunch and dinner, and we watched the Super Bowl on the 5x9-ft. screen with **John Drake** and family at their home in Silverthorne, Colo. This has been a tradition since 2016.

1962

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Allen Young recently had enjoyable telephone conversations with **Lawrence Kotin**. Larry (a longtime resident of the Boston area) and Allen were high school friends and classmates at Fallsburg Central School in the Borscht Belt (Sullivan County, N.Y.), but at Columbia they hardly interacted. Larry was shy and put off by the more verbally aggressive Columbians — the so-called “big men on campus” — and Allen admits he was one of those, largely because of his involvement with *Spectator*, where he became editor-in-chief. Allen wants his classmates to know that as an attorney Larry became a hero to the parents of many special needs children for the part he played

in writing and passing Massachusetts’ special education legislation. In 2014 Larry retired from the law firm of Kotin, Crabtree & Strong.

Harvey Silverberg and his wife of 51 years, Ellen, recently traveled to Montreal to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Harvey’s graduation from medical school at McGill. “It was enjoyable to catch up with **Alan Barnes**, who also went to McGill,” Harvey writes, “but after living in southern California for nearly 50 years, I didn’t relish the weather. I’ve had a few speed bumps healthwise, not surprising in our golden years, but will spare you an ‘organ recital.’”

Harvey keeps busy in Santa Barbara with golf two days a week, a class at Santa Barbara Community College and a weekly ophthalmological clinic at Santa Barbara County Hospital. Harvey and Ellen’s older son, a pediatric ophthalmologist, lives nearby with his wife and three children. Harvey and Ellen have six grandchildren on the East Coast, so their travels now center on going to bar/bat mitzvahs.

Last year was monumental for **Jerry Doppelt** and his wife, Sharon Weremiuk. On July 1, Jerry formally retired from UC San Diego, where, since 1974, he had taught required lecture courses on current ethical issues related to global warming, genetic testing/engineering, the distribution of healthcare, biomedical ethics, abortion, medical paternalism/patients’ rights, social justice and minority rights. His publications focus on issues in the philosophy of science, such as the possibility of truth and knowledge of scientific theories, the role of observation and experiment in science, scientific revolutions, self-respect, work and labor, gender justice and minority rights in the contemporary nation-state. When added to his seven years at Penn, Jerry has completed 50 years as a professor. He received six teaching awards. At UCSD he held many administrative positions, including director of an NSF-funded Ph.D. program in science studies and chair of the committee that decides all academic hires and promotions for the university. Jerry was fêted at a big party at the UCSD Faculty Club. During the next three years this “retiree” will teach one class a year. By the time you read this, he will have already taught one of those courses!

But that's not all. Jerry and Sharon — a biologist, oceanographer and caseworker for pregnant and parenting teens — have been worldwide travelers for years. Last year was no exception. During Jerry's sabbatical in winter 2016, he and Sharon returned to India for five and a half weeks. They visited Kolkata, where Jerry presented a paper, and then took a four-week odyssey through southern India, partly with Overseas Adventure Travel. They visited Untouchable villages, Brahmin towns, tea plantation worker camps and one of the largest slums in Mumbai. They concluded their trip with a luxurious stay at the Taj Mahal Palace, where in November 2008 a small group of heavily armed Pakistanis besieged the hotel and approximately 30 people, including the attackers, were killed. Jerry and Sharon plan at least one more trip to India to visit the north-west province of Rajasthan.

In July, Jerry and Sharon flew east for a niece's wedding and then headed to Philadelphia. All their old haunts were gone! They even struggled to find the Leidy biological labs, where Sharon had worked, and the philosophy building where Jerry taught. They concluded the trip by visiting Greenport on the North Fork of Long Island and Sagamore Hill. Inspired by their visit to Roosevelt land, Jerry and Sharon bought two Russian Siberian kittens and named them Teddy and Eleanor.

Late in August, Jerry and Sharon took their daughter Sasha to Maui — "beautiful as always," they say. Finally, they flew to Florida in December to visit their 89-year-old aunt Marie and cousin Georgette for two weeks. From there they joined an Oceania cruise to the West Indies with Sharon's sister, Kathy, and her husband, Tal. They ventured as far south as Colón on the east side of Panama, where Sharon lived for a month in 1972.

Jerry keeps fit, especially by swimming. Sharon teaches tai chi, is co-president of the La Jolla Playhouse Partners, volunteers at the San Diego Natural History Museum in botany and is an occasional guide on the UCSD campus. These responsibilities have led her to take a temporary break from the study of Russian.

To see **Paul Gitman's** extraordinary travel and wildlife photographs, go to gitman.shutterfly.com.

Peter Krulewitch joined **Paul Cooper** and **Burt Lehman** as our

latest classmates to have knee transplants — a partial in Peter's case. His surgeon at Columbia, Ron Drusin PS'66, retired from seeing patients this year although he continues to teach at P&S. Peter's new cardiologist, Stefano Ravalli, is age-appropriate and has also seen **Peter Lushing** and **George Frangos**. "When I saw him recently," Peter wrote, "I told him that he was the Class of '62 cardiologist extraordinaire!"

Volume II of **Anthony Valerio's** *Immigrants* recently appeared in digital form. One critic wrote: "This collection of portraits of immigrants includes migrations past and present that are loomed together in a great tapestry of stories. Like all great tapestries, not all the figures featured are human. That is why some of the immigrants are animals that have come to North America by many routes, some as refugees of war. The lives brought together in *Immigrants II* have much to teach us of 'humanity' in its many forms."

Anthony wishes "all my mates lots of good health and happiness."

Phil Lebovitz writes: "I joined Facebook because that seemed to be the only route I had to reach Ron Chernow, the author of the definitive biography of Alexander Hamilton that inspired Lin-Manuel Miranda to create the rave musical *Hamilton*. I am working on a psychoanalytic perspective of Hamilton and Chernow has access to all kinds of source material that would be helpful. I had no luck with Facebook Messenger. So if you know any way I might contact Ron, I would be very grateful."

1963

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I write to you on a beautiful spring day, having just returned from meetings on campus. The place looks great, actually far prettier than when we were there. Commencement and finals are about a month away and the students, as always, are enjoying the Low Steps. A perfect scene; brings back many memories. For those who never write, please think back to your College years and share your memories here. It would be good to hear from you.

David Orme-Johnson writes: "My wife, Rhoda (Vassar '62), recently published her book, *Inside Maharishi's Ashram: A Personal Story*, about our 47 years with Maharishi. It is getting good reviews on Amazon."

David adds, "**Nick Zill** and his wife, Karen, came for a visit recently and we had a good time walking on the beach, talking and eating at good restaurants."

Speaking of Nick, I got the following update from him: "Ivanka, Eric and Don Jr. are arguing over who gets to develop our national parks and monuments. But the President and the Chinese have other plans. You can see and hear all about it in our new *City In A Swamp* video on YouTube, *Under Development: Trump Family Plans for Our National Parks*: youtu.be/2OLoOkVzYUw. Sketch written by yours truly, with some brilliant ad lib additions by the actors. Please enjoy (if that's the right word) and share with friends, family, colleagues and fellow conservationists."

Among classmates who have been moved to write about our national scene, **Michael Lubell** has spoken out for *The Hill* on cutting science funding, and on the futility of restoring coal-mining jobs for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. You should 'friend' Michael at facebook.com/mslubell to see links to these and other articles.

And, in case you missed it, **Allen Frances** PS'78 wrote a notable letter to the editor of *The New York Times*, clarifying our President's condition. As chairman of the task force that wrote the latest *D.S.M.* (the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*), Allen feels that President Trump is not mentally ill, suffering from narcissistic personality disorder, but rather "a world-class narcissist" who has caused distress rather than experiencing it. Well worth doing a Google search to read the entire letter.

For the second consecutive summer, **Lee Lowenfish** taught a baseball and American culture class at the Chautauqua Institution, the renowned adult education mecca in western New York State. Earlier in the spring he talked about Cuba's abiding love for baseball at the annual Cooperstown Symposium.

Frank Partel writes that he doesn't really have any news to share but added, "We reversed a decision and took the Chappy house off the market for at least a couple of years. I had a

great summer fishing from my new power boat, *Amazing Grace*. Caught fish every time we went out — bluefish, striped bass, fluke, sea bass and bonito. This year we are going to target blue fin tuna, typically 25–50 lbs., and run a five-pole spread. I'll guarantee we won't come home with fish every time if we pursue tuna."

Frank, glad you decided to keep your Chappaquiddick house a while longer. May you have a great summer of fishing!

David Saxe has retired from the bench and joined the law firm Morrison Cohen. The firm issued a press release stating: "The Hon. David B. Saxe joined the firm as a partner in the business litigation department. Justice Saxe served on the bench for 35 years, the last 19 of which have been as an Associate Justice, New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division, First Department. Justice Saxe will be joining Morrison Cohen's highly regarded appellate practice group. His many years as a respected judge and a successful attorney will provide clients with a unique perspective on navigating the litigation and appeals process. He also will lead Morrison Cohen's strategic case review practice, where he will provide an impartial review of case strategy and recommendations from the perspective of an experienced member of the bench. Justice Saxe is a gifted and prolific writer and is the author of more than 900 decisions, many of which have appeared in the *New York Law Journal* and the *Official State Reporter*. His decisions are regularly cited by colleagues and often have been the subject of scholarly critiques."

David Alpern reports: "We made a delightful four-day visit to London in March for the revival of the 1997 Broadway musical *The Life* by the late, great Cy Coleman (*Sweet Charity*, *City of Angels*, *Witchcraft*, *The Best Is Yet to Come*) and my lyricist friend Ira Gasman. I had helped arrange a letter from Ira to the London company on how *The Life* came to life, which was printed in the full color 'programme.' And the producers asked me to write a sidebar on the show's setting — sexy, smarmy, scary, pre-Disney Times Square. That, as it happens, was the subject of my first major reporting assignment at *Newsweek* when Mayor John Lindsay launched what the writer to whom

I filed my report described, with appropriate *Guys and Dolls* panache, as “The oldest established permanent floating clean-up in New York.” The opening night audience was wildly enthusiastic, reviews have been strong and fingers are crossed that the show can move from the 250-seat Southwark Playhouse to a main stage on the West End. We enjoyed mixing at the after-party and brought home for Ira a program signed by producer Amy Anzel ’95, and Tony-winning director Michael Blakemore OBE, as well as Coleman’s widow and every member of the cast. Felt great to play a small part in it all.”

Zev bar-Lev (ne Robert Lefkowitz) writes, “My Global Alphabet website (languagebazaar.com) has recently been rebuilt. It features my new poem, *If letters could speak, I’d learn (in a week) Latin, Hebrew, and Greek*, in a song by my daughter, Nomi bar-Lev. My new website answers the question ‘How many words do you need to begin reading in any foreign language?’ The usual answer is about 2,000 word-families (root-words). My answer is different: 23 words — the same ones for many or all languages. But they’re actually Key-letters, much easier to learn than words. Of course, cognates are a bigger help in cognate languages like Spanish and French, but my comprehensive but tiny theory of the world’s languages is also interesting as a theory of the human mind, as I see in workshops that I give for senior citizens on my Global Alphabet.”

Ed Collier writes, “If you have nothing to fill the Class Notes, maybe you can note my participation in the Orgo Night letter to CCT [Editor’s Note: See “Letters to the Editor,” Spring 2017]. We are still trying to find someone to talk to (either the alums or the band leaders) — it’s like finding Judge Crater — and any notice that the game is still on can’t hurt.”

For those not following the latest at dear old Columbia (and you should): The banning of the Columbia University Marching Band from Butler Library Room 209 during finals, on the night before the organic chemistry final, has touched a nerve — the end of an almost 45-year old tradition. Read about it and follow other happenings on Morningside Heights by subscribing online to *Spectator*. It’s always a good read (although often perplexing).

Our 55th reunion is only 11 months away. Please mark your calendar and hold the (estimated) dates, Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3, 2018. As I mentioned in a recent issue, we have already formed a Reunion Committee and had our first meeting. Please contact me if you want to help organize and gather your classmates. Let’s make it a great party.

Remember, our regular class lunches at the Columbia University Club of New York are always a great place to reconnect. If you’re back in NYC, try to make one of the lunches. The next is on July 13. We will skip August and then meet again on September 14 — it’s always the second Thursday. Check cc63ers.com for details (I promise to update it soon).

1964

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The Museum of the American Revolution has opened in Philadelphia in a red-brick building designed by Robert A.M. Stern ’60. Many thanks are owed to **Steve Case** LAW’68, vice-chair of the museum’s board. Steve writes: “This new institution (on 3rd and Chestnut, just down the street from Independence Hall) is the first such museum anywhere in the United States; just short of \$160 million was raised. The beautifully designed new building was completed in September. Exhibits were installed, and opening day was April 19, the 242nd anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Among a large number of never-before-on-public-display artifacts is the only surviving campaign tent used on a daily basis by George Washington all through the Revolution. That is only one of a large number of unique, exciting items on display that will thrill visitors. I hope that everyone will put a trip to this exciting new facility on the list for their next trip to Philadelphia.”

In January, **Fred Kantor** made his first trip to Israel, to visit an aunt. He traveled with his brother and sister-in-law, and while there put a note in the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. **Allen Tobias** visited Israel during Passover.

I previously reported that in 2016 **Beril Lapson** spent a week in Nor-

mandy visiting the beaches of the 1944 invasion. He found it “moving” and “dramatic,” and said, “I couldn’t imagine being one of those guys.” Beril adds that the inspiration for the trip was stories told by Professor James Shenton ’49, GSAS’54 in his 20th-century history class.

I am saddened to report the death in March of **Larry Kessler** LAW’67. Larry and **Allan Sperling** lived across from the room I shared with **Jack Lipson** and **Alan Willen** in Hartley Hall. Larry remained a good friend after graduation. At the time of his death, Larry was the Richard Cardali Distinguished Professor of Trial Advocacy at Hofstra Law School, where he had taught torts, criminal procedure, evidence and criminal law since 1974. For 35 years he was the director of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy Northeast Basic Trial Skills course, and he also taught trial advocacy in Russia, France and Moldova. After graduating from the Law School, Larry clerked for a judge in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and then was defense counsel for the court’s Federal Defenders before entering the academic world. Our condolences to Larry’s wife, Barbara, and to the rest of his family.

Requiescat in pacem.

1965

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Sharp-eyed readers of the “Letters to the Editor” section in the Spring 2017 CCT might have noticed that **Dan Carlinsky** JRN’66 and **J. Donald Smith** were among the signers of a letter protesting the recent banning from Butler Library, on the basis of “Library rules,” of Orgo Night, a 45-year-old cherished tradition in which, the night before the organic chemistry final, the Columbia University Marching Band, in the words of a student quoted in a College admissions brochure, “storms into the room playing songs and reading jokes while the rest of us [students studying] are standing on the tables and chairs dancing and laughing.” If you’re interested, more information can be found at columbiaorgonight.blogspot.com.

Ken DeWoskin (kjdewosk@umich.edu) and his wife, Judith, spent the weekend of March 17–19 with my wife, Adele, and me in NYC. They were in town for the opening night performance of their son-in-law Zayd Dohrn GSAS’04, GSAS’06’s new play, *The Profane*, which recently received a rave review from *The New York Times*. Zayd is married to Ken and Judith’s daughter, Rachel DeWoskin ’94, an accomplished poet and novelist. Her appreciation of the late poet Derek Walcott appeared in *The New Yorker* on March 25.

The Times and *West Side Spirit* have reported on **Robert Gangi**’s candidacy for mayor of New York. Robert was executive director of the Correctional Association of New York for more than 29 years and founded the police reform organizing project at the Urban Justice Center in April 2011. He has been an activist, community organizer and public policy advocate in New York City through the years and is a recognized expert on criminal justice and law enforcement issues with a focus on police and prison concerns. According to the *Times* article, Robert’s candidacy presents an unusual challenge to current mayor Bill de Blasio: A campaign focused on policing as well as “social, racial and economic justice” issues that might resonate with the mayor’s base among Black and Latino voters. *The Times* reported Robert’s vow that on his first day in City Hall he would end the police department’s low-level enforcement practices, often known as “broken windows” policing, which he has called the “new stop-and-frisk.”

Good luck, Robert!

Barry Herman (herman@newschool.edu) sent a wonderful note: “I applaud your collecting correspondence from classmates for decades (for half a century?) as our class correspondent.”

Barry gives me too much credit — **Bob Reza**, now deceased, was my predecessor.

Barry continues: “I read **Noah Robbins**’ contribution in the Winter 2016–17 issue. As he noted, I was part of that Erasmus Hall H.S. contingent that came to Columbia and, like Noah, I was happy to reconnect with **Bob Kronley** a few years ago. What prompts me to write is reading that Richard Steingesser ’66 has

died. I mainly read good news and super achievements in the Alumni News section of *CCT* and this was decidedly not good news.

“I had not seen Steingesser since Columbia. I still have close friends from Erasmus and at a recent ‘boys night out’ my friend Eric Shtob remembered something Steingesser did that is worth sharing with my class, even if Steingesser was Class of ’66. One day in spring 1961 (we were seniors), military recruiters came to Chapel (what the auditorium was called in our once-private public school) to sell us on joining the military. Erasmus was huge (2,000 people in our graduating class) and the Chapel must have been full. Richard stood up and said in a loud voice something to the effect of ‘Why are you up there when any war would be a disaster?’ To Miss Grace Corey, the white-haired assistant principal who kept her hair in a bun (maybe) and someone who made Nurse Ratched seem kindly (definitely), this could not stand. She sent Richard to ‘the office’ and he was never seen again (the last part is false). Of course, Richard was right, as the United States was just beginning to gear up for what would become the disaster of Vietnam. I was sorry to read of his passing.”

I asked Barry about his activities at The New School. He replied, “Since you ask, I actually have stopped teaching at The New School, but keep some faculty privileges. I am more involved at the United Nations, where I am informally advising the Financing for Development Office in the Secretariat. After three decades there, I should have some useful observations. I am also writing and advocating on financing what the International Labor Organization calls social protection floors, the idea being to provide minimum cash transfers and health services across the life cycle (from child benefits to old age pensions). It’s about taxation and assuring funds during economic crises and natural catastrophes in developing countries.

“Final update: My Barnard girlfriend, Martha Feldman BC’66, and I are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this year. I am not old enough for this. In my head I am still 18, although chasing after grandchildren reminds me I am not.”

Paul Novograd died on March 24, 2017. Paul received a full half-page

obituary, written by Sam Roberts, in *The New York Times* on March 27. I last mentioned Paul in this column regarding his closing Claremont Riding Academy in 2007. This, according to the *Times* obituary, “turned Manhattan into a no-horse town.” Also according to the obituary, Paul, who had learned to ride at Claremont as a child, went to work there in 1972. As a student of East Asia at the time, he had recently returned from Japan, where he had been studying Zen gardens under a Fulbright scholarship (in fact, Judith and **Ken DeWoskin** took over the Japanese house that Paul vacated to return to New York). Paul was a graduate of Horace Mann School and worked on his doctorate in East Asian studies at Columbia. He spoke eight languages. Paul is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughters, Sasha and Maggie; and son, Daniel. The *Times* reports that there was a sign over Paul’s desk at the stable reading “*Culpa equestribus non equis*,” which can be loosely translated as “It’s always the rider’s fault, never the horse’s.”

Steve Steinig (sns4@optonline.net) responded to a note from **Walter Reich** that appeared in the Winter 2016–17 issue, in which Walter wrote that he’d seen Steve and his wife, Renee Stern BC’67, at the bat mitzvah of a mutual family member. Steve wrote, “After the publication of Walter’s note in *CCT*, Walter sent me an email, reminding me that, a few months after that wonderful event, we saw each other again, this time at the bat mitzvah of my granddaughter, Talia. What an opportunity to kvell (a uniquely Yiddish word meaning to experience and express great pleasure and pride in another’s accomplishment, especially a child or grandchild)!”

“Her bat mitzvah celebration was one of three special events in the last eight months. The first was an extraordinary Jewish heritage trip to Lithuania and Poland, sponsored by YIVO and the Jewish newspaper, *The Forward*. YIVO is the Institute for Jewish Research, founded in Vilna in 1925 and transplanted to New York as WWII got under way. Its initial six-person honorary Board of Directors in 1925 included both Einstein and Freud. The purpose of the trip was to expose us to the glories of the Jewish past in Eastern Europe; the depth of human depravity, evidenced in killing fields and concentration camps during the Holocaust; and the contemporary revival of interest

in all things Jewish since the fall of Communism. Because YIVO and its director, Jonathan Brent ’71, have strong ties to the cultural and research institutions in Poland and Lithuania, our group was greeted and treated throughout as special guests. If the subject matter interests you, contact YIVO for information about this summer’s repeat trip.

“The last event to report on is my wife and I celebrating our 50th anniversary with our daughters, sons-in-law and four grandchildren. Our anniversary was in June, but we celebrated in January, not being confident we could find a weekend in June that everyone could make. One show (*Beautiful: the Carole King Story*, which proved to be an excellent consensus choice for all three generations), three meals, a lovely hotel and some time watching the historic and heartwarming Women’s March on New York City go up Fifth Avenue, just half a block away — all combined to create a most memorable weekend. I’m not the first in our class to reach the 50-year milestone, and over the next several years many will. I assume that the others are as disbelieving as I am that this many years could have passed since we said ‘I do.’”

Daly Temchine was featured prominently in a February 3 *New York Times* article about Andrew Puzder, President Trump’s Secretary of Labor. The article referred to Puzder’s defense in the 1980s of Morris Shenker, who was hit with a \$34 million judgment for squandering funds from his union workers’ pension funds. Daly was the lead lawyer in the case for the Department of Labor. He is quoted as saying “I personally find there is some irony in Mr. Puzder’s being nominated to be the Secretary of Labor. Back then he represented the guy who thought it was okay to screw his employees.” Daly described his litigation strategy against Puzder: “In my opening statement to the jury I said, you may hear a lot from the defense about how complicated this is, but it’s simple. He borrowed \$1,000 from each member and promised to give it back, with interest. He didn’t.” The jurors sided against Puzder. After a five-month trial, Puzder was required to pay all the money he had borrowed plus interest for a total of \$34 million, but he declared bankruptcy. According to Daly, during

the bankruptcy case, the government lawyers were able to extract \$26 million for the pension fund.

1966

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William “Hank” Abrashkin GSAS’68 writes, “How does one summarize the past 50 years in a paragraph or two? Especially when the interesting parts of a life are found as much or more in the evolving spheres of learning, relationships and emotional development than in the events within which they take place. But, to start with the events, like many of us I’ve had various jobs and careers since college: attorney, judge and now director of a large housing agency in Springfield, Mass. I’ve been married, divorced, single and am soon to be married once again, with two grown kids — one a physician in Queens, the other, a Columbia College and Columbia Engineering grad, the business manager for a company in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Two grandkids and another on the way; the younger generations provide the best reasons to get back down to the city from time to time.

“Much travel, significantly in Latin America. Recipient (so far) of the greatest gifts life can offer — health and vigor into our venerable age (but what time is it now?). Best friend and all-but-biological brother since college is **Barry J. Nigrosh**.

“Well, there’s a peek, and if there is anyone reading this who might remember me from college, and vice-versa, and who is so moved, email away (william.abrashkin@gmail.com) and we’ll take it from there. Last but not least, thanks to Rich for taking on the daunting project of dragging classmates from obscurity into some level of rudimentary communication.”

From **Bob Meyerson**: “We went skiing in Utah — Deer Valley to be precise (they don’t allow snowboards) and booked a trip to NYC for May 6–13 when my son (Jin, not Jim, Meyerson; you can google him) is exhibiting his artwork. We will be attending a performance of *Sweat* by Columbia writing professor

Lynn Nottage. I'm also waiting to arrange a tour at Columbia (for me and whoever else) so that I'm better able to speak intelligently when my Columbia interviewees ask me what Columbia is like (I get just about everyone west of the Mississippi in Minnesota, which in some years is only one). I was last at Columbia as a student only 50 years ago. Nothing's changed, right?"

Your correspondent had an interesting spring, taking an old-fashioned road trip with my wife, Kathy, from North Jersey to Florida for two weeks. I must be getting either mellow or medicated, as we didn't have one argument the entire time despite spending up to eight hours a day in our car. In Naples we caught up with **Rich Beggs** and his wife, Geri, for a waterside lunch. Rich spends winters there and summers in the Poconos. Earlier, I also did a "Bar Rescue" road trip to Cleveland with my son, visiting a number of establishments featured in the TV series of the same name. We hit Pittsburgh and Youngstown along the way. It was a genuine laugh riot and brought me back many years. And I finally saw *Book of Mormon* on Broadway, which was amazingly performed, although I think for concentrated and wicked wit, the *South Park* animated episode from which this show is drawn is peerless. Finally, the season was continually warmed by customary get-togethers with **Tom Chorba** and his wife, Celeste, and with **Harvey Kurzweil** and his wife, Barbara.

Michael Garrett, organizer of our irregular but fun NYC class luncheons, sent us this. "I recently attended a talk at the Law School by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), minority ranking member of the House Investigation Committee, on the weaponization of hacked cyber information in the context of the 2016 election. Schiff was so well-informed, so grounded in history, politics, strategy and law, so focused on practical technological and legislative solutions, that it made me realize how rare such competence and perspective are in our current political condition. While the considerable problems that would have been inevitable in a Hillary administration have been averted, the proud ignorance of history, process and policy, childish egotism and temper, unashamed casual ser-

endipity with facts and irresponsibility with communications astounds. I am confident and terrified that the occurrence of one or more in a long menu of possible domestic and foreign catastrophes is highly probable. Also, Schiff's erudition and careful characterization of complex issues stands in stark contrast to the current administration."

After an unusual hiatus, we hear from peripatetic classmate **Rich Postupak**: "I unfortunately missed **Fran Furey** in San Francisco, where I had hoped to spend some quality time with him reliving our halcyon days of the '60s. Happily, I was able to link up with **Neill Brownstein**, who as usual got me to pay our tab at the restaurant he chose, after picking my brain for investment insights. I had, years ago, pointed him to high-tech and bio as areas of potential. I then worked my way (figuratively) down to Los Angeles. A friend had requested advice for setting up a pastry catering service. I have extensive experience in that arena. However, his interest is more Italianate, whereas I have a love of French. Although our mutual efforts were short-lived, I was inadvertently exposed to social interaction with members of the Trump campaign, as they were regular clients. Through a curious series of events, I became a peripheral (yet salaried) member of the national cadre, which to me was ironic, as I have been a staunch liberal and intellectual my entire life. At any rate, I have many new and interesting tales to tell if and when we all reconvene.

"Additionally, I spent some quality time with **Barry Nazarian**. Many of you might recall him as a gruff football type, but he has become not only an accomplished competitive bicyclist, but also has been an avid painter for many years. His works can be seen in some of the finer residences here in SoCal. On my trip back east I hope to visit with **Tod Hawks**."

Dean Mottard was honored in April at Fenway Park for his many years of support for disabled veterans at Hanscom AFB in Massachusetts. **Eugene Thompson** reports: "Dean was honored at a Red Sox game. Two of his sons (Lee and Troy) and I accompanied him to the game. It was a great tribute. Here is a short video I took: youtube/O5AJdhDqy5Q. Thousands cheered

and hundreds shook his hand or offered high fives on our way back to our seats. He made us all proud."

As background, Dean was a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam and was seriously burned when he was shot down, undergoing a long course of recovery upon his return.

Bob Klingensmith also wrote a moving tribute in this regard. "Deano — when we ran into each other at the San Antonio Airport as I was heading home after finishing my active duty and you were coming back for treatments for burns that you had suffered when your copter went down, I postponed my flight, we went to the bar, had several drinks and reminisced about our wonderful days at Columbia, playing ball and partying at Alpha Chi Rho. I was concerned for you and how bleak your life might be if you let your wounds and pain get to you. As we said goodbye, you reached out to shake my hand proudly and, with conviction in your mind and love in your heart and soul, you formed a steady, strong hand (as purple as it was) and said, 'You see, I can make a handshake again; that's just the beginning.' And I knew you weren't going to have a wasted and self-pitying life. You were going to be a true warrior and come back stronger than ever. And, yes, what a great life you've had! Better yet, you were just properly acknowledged in front of thousands of Red Sox fans — and many, many more watching on TV — for all that you did for all of us. We're all so proud and happy for you. Well deserved. Very. Well. Deserved! We all salute your courage and service. And we all love you, brother."

Bob also visited NYC in May. He says he visited "for the annual Columbia Football Golf Outing (May 1) and the Old Blue Rugby Club's annual Hall of Fame dinner (May 6), where we honored Bill Campbell '62, TC '64's legacy, especially as one of the founders of both the Columbia University Rugby Football Club in 1961 and the Old Blue RFC in 1963."

During his stay, Bob joined one of our irregular '66 lunch gatherings, organized by **Michael Garrett** — this time at Ben's Deli on West 38th Street. In addition, we had **Bob Gurland** and his wife, Gabriella Jordan; **Dan Gardner**; **Harvey Kurzweil**; and me. I was stopped from ordering a pastrami on white

with mayo. Anyone interested in coming to the next one please email me at rforzani1@optonline.net.

Pete Wernick continues to travel the country playing bluegrass. His band Hot Rize will soon celebrate the 40th anniversary of its first gig, and will perform in locations as far-flung as the Winnipeg Folk Festival, Dollywood, the Telluride Bluegrass Festival and the IBMA Wide Open Bluegrass Festival in Raleigh, N.C. Most of his time is spent at "Dr. Banjo's Rural Rancho" near Boulder, piloting his national/international network of bluegrass music teachers teaching The Wernick Method.

Two years ago, Pete performed with his other band, Long Road Home, at the 70th birthday party of **Bob Meyerson**, held near Bob's home in Minnesota.

From **Anthony Starace**: "Our reunion was not the only one for me in 2016. In May 2016, I was invited to be a FAST (Femto-Atto-Science and Technology) Fellow at the ETH-Zürich in Switzerland. This involved giving five hours of tutorial talks and a research seminar related to FAST, i.e., the science of ultrafast physical processes studied by means of ultrashort pulses of laser light. Over a long weekend, my wife, Katherine, and I visited old friends in Freiburg, Germany, where I spent my first sabbatical, 1979–80. In Zürich, we also became reacquainted with the family of one of my former physics Ph.D. students, now a Swiss banker. Then, in late June 2016, I attended a reunion of relatives on my mother's side of the family in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. My mother had six siblings (resulting in my having 20 or so cousins), all of whom lived in Wilkes-Barre before a majority moved to New York City. In talking with my cousins (as well as with National Park Rangers about conditions in Wilkes-Barre in the 1930s), I learned things about my parents that I never knew. It was similar to my experience at our reunion, where I learned things about Columbia, its neighborhood and our fellow students about which I was oblivious when I was there. Such is the great value of reconnecting with old friends and relatives.

"The 50th anniversary reunion of our class was very special for me, as I had not been back to campus in decades. It was great to not only become reacquainted with old

friends, but also to make new ones. I especially appreciated getting to know **Bob Gurland**, and I thank him for hosting our class reception on Thursday evening at his wonderful rooftop home in TriBeCa. I also became acquainted with Bob's wife, Gabriella Jordan, who is the principal of the Handel Group Education Division. This led to an invitation to Gabriella to deliver the keynote address at our physics department's annual WoPhyS (Women in Physical Science) Conference in Lincoln, Neb., in late October. WoPhyS attracts about 100 female undergraduates from around the United States majoring in STEM fields. Gaby's talk, 'Designing an Extraordinary Life as a Woman in Science,' was well received."

Finally, I have this from **Bill Corcoran**: "As Winston Churchill said: 'You have all the characteristics which I dislike and none of the characteristics I like.'" It did not have the impact intended, however, as Bill's beautiful wife, Kathy, had revealed to me, years ago, that those were the same words with which she greeted Bill upon their first meeting. Kidding aside, Bill invites any of the class traveling to the Boston area to join him for lunch or dinner, his treat.

1967

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Arthur Rhine: "In late 1966 or early 1967, we held a silent vigil on the steps of Low Library to protest the release of grades to the Defense Department, which was threatening to draft the bottom 25 percent of all college students. Columbia students did not take kindly to being lumped in with other colleges. Almost 700 students showed up for that silent vigil. It is to thank them that I now write to *Columbia College Today*. I had the lowest grade point average in our class. Perhaps my subsequent history will be of interest to those students who opposed the government that day a half century ago.

"I didn't get my diploma until May 1969. After graduation, I was a teacher and held odd jobs until entering law school six years later. Yes, some third-tier law schools were

willing to take a chance on me given the Columbia degree (must not have checked my transcript) and a lucky spectacular grade on the LSAT. I did OK in law school and got some fellowship money to help create a housing assistance plan in Chicago. I became the first staff director of the Uptown People's Law Center — we made national news when we uncovered an arson-for-profit ring — which has continued to fight displacement and to obtain benefits for disabled miners, among other things, for almost 40 years.

"Upon returning to New York, I was director of the New York Loft Tenants and as counsel for the Lower Manhattan Loft Tenants. Then I went into private practice; my firm fought for tenants and workers. We were responsible for numerous precedent-setting cases in the field of Loft Law, especially while representing the Brooklyn Live-Work Coalition in Williamsburg and Bushwick. For a while, I was the darling of *The New York Times*, whose journalists interviewed me on numerous occasions, but I fell out of favor when I opposed one of their urban development schemes. Working with local tenants, my associates and I were able to stop several of these urban displacement scams, harkening back to lessons I first learned when, as a member of the Columbia swimming team, I joined the opposition to the building of a gymnasium on land that better served the residents of Morningside Heights. There are many artists and working people who still have their homes in TriBeCa or Williamsburg because of the efforts of the organizers and tenants' groups with whom I worked during the past 30 years. We weren't able to stop all displacement, of course, but we often forced the developers to redistribute some of their wealth, as it were, to the artists who were being displaced. With an extensive bartered art collection, I retired in 2012.

"I am married to a retired public school teacher. We have two sons; one is a lawyer, the other is a musician. My experience raising my sons with my wife changed me from an angry young man to a joyful grown-up. Now I spend my time reading voraciously, gardening and bowling (I had a 207 average and a perfect game). I remain friends with **Mel Brender** (mathematician) and

Richard Glaser (doctor). I wish good health to all my fellow graduates as we enter our Golden Years."

Bill Martin: "It's about time that I gave an accounting of the nearly half century since I graduated. I've lived in New York the entire time, with the exception of three years in Vermont. I had a career as a lawyer — three and a half years of it in Vermont as a poverty lawyer — and the rest in New York City government as a legislative and budget official, and as the general counsel of several city agencies. I started my NYC career under Ed Koch and finished under Michael Bloomberg. I'm married to Dianne Mitchell, a native Bronxite. A step-family, we have two children between us (both the same age), and I have one grandchild with another expected in August.

"After a number of years in Brooklyn, Dianne and I bought an old Arts and Crafts bungalow on Staten Island at the end of a dead-end road with a large lot. We are happily tending our fruit trees and flowers. (When we were struck by lightning soon after moving there, the local newspaper, the *Staten Island Advance*, described the setting of the house as 'secluded.')

Since retiring, I've concentrated on my classical piano skills, practicing several hours a day. I also had a long career as a singer in amateur choruses, most notably performing in Carnegie and Avery Fisher Halls. We have a summer house in Amish country; it's a post-Civil War log cabin with axe marks on the beams inside. I'm in touch with several classmates. We spend time in London every winter and are beginning to explore out-of-the-way places there as we did in New York City."

Les Schwartz: "I work full-time as a psychiatrist, for the past 15 years at the West Palm Beach, Fla., VA Medical Center. I've been happily married to Peggy for nearly 45 years; we have lived in Syracuse, Chicago, New Jersey and South Florida. We have three children and seven grandchildren in New Jersey, Israel and Washington, D.C., and I hope to spend more time with them in the near future. My fondest Columbia memories: co-hosting a WKCR opera show and attending operas at the old Metropolitan Opera House, both of which spawned a lifelong love of opera."

Joseph Solodow: "In 2013, I retired from teaching Latin, along

with Spanish and comparative literature, at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. I had been head of my department for two terms and been appointed to a named chair before retiring. I continue to teach advanced Latin courses at Yale. I've published four books about the Latin language and literature. A widower now, I live just outside New Haven in a setting somewhere between suburban and rural — me, a kid from Brooklyn! A contented kid, despite everything."

Joel Klaperman GSAS'69: "After a fantastic four years at the College, I ultimately graduated from Harvard Law School and practiced law at the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy; then at Debevoise & Plimpton; and then, for the last 38 years, at Shearman & Sterling. At Shearman & Sterling I specialized in corporate transactions and developing financial products; I led the corporate finance group for many years. I now am 'mostly retired' (as Renee, my wonderful wife of 25 years, would say). We split our time between an apartment in New York City, a house in a rural area in the northern tip of Bucks County, Pa., and visits to our two sons. Our oldest son is a portfolio manager in London and our youngest son is a mathematician at Facebook in Palo Alto."

Jim Bourgart: "Inspired by the wealth of 1967 Class Notes in the Winter 2016–17 issue, I'll share with classmates a synopsis of my career for the past 50 years. I went on to Stanford and earned a master's in political science, focusing on Soviet and Eastern European politics. While I did spend time and had my share of adventures in Eastern Europe in the 1970s, my subsequent career had almost no relationship with my academic specialization — except for the ability to learn fast, which Columbia inculcated in me. I returned to the San Francisco area, where I'm retired as of a year ago.

"My career has been split between public and private sector. I stumbled my way into the field of transportation, including time at a regional public policy think tank, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and in California state government. I was on the staff of the California State Legislature and eventually was the deputy secretary of transportation and infrastructure for Gov. Schwarzenegger. My wife,

Arielle, and I enjoy living our very urban lifestyle in San Francisco, and we plan much more travel.”

Stephen Rice: “It’s been 20 years since I moved from Seattle to Manalapan, N.J., started a sports medicine clinic and became program director of the pediatric sports medicine fellowship at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, N.J., where one or two physicians per year learn sports medicine after completing their residency. I have been privileged to teach and mentor more than 25 fellows and hundreds of residents and medical students. My plans include moving to part-time this fall. I have become active in medical advocacy on a statewide and national basis, and provided medical coverage for sporting events including women’s professional soccer, Division II collegiate sports, high school sports, youth soccer and local running events.

“In April 2015, I underwent triple coronary artery bypass surgery but am happy to report that I have fully recovered and lost enough weight to be close to what I weighed as an undergraduate. On June 2, I received a lifetime achievement ‘Citation Award’ from the American College of Sports Medicine at its annual meeting in Denver.”

Mark Steinhoff: “What age are you in your good dreams? Undergraduate days at Columbia were a Camelot moment for me. Professor Orest Ranum, with whom I still correspond, encouraged me to pursue an academic career and Professor Norman Cantor inspired me to become a medievalist. As a scholarship student I was agape for grades but failed miserably to contribute to community and political debate.

“In my bad dreams I’m 25: On my 25th birthday I deployed to Vietnam and returned on my 26th; Professor Ted de Bary ’41, GSAS’53’s ‘Oriental Civilizations’ lectures came in handy. But overall that experience was as transformative as college itself.

“The trajectory of my life started in Brooklyn (I just discovered in perusing the freshmen directory that **Dean Ringel** lived around the corner from me) but led to the Blue Ridge Mountains and took me from Columbia to Liberty University. In the shower I sometimes intend to sing ‘Champions Arise’ (Liberty’s fight song) but what comes out is

‘Roar, Lion, Roar.’ But I, too, am a son of Columbia. In the wake of the cultural revolution of 1968 I take refuge in Andre Gide’s observation: ‘It’s better to be hated for what you are, than loved for what you are not.’ In my retirement I aspire to reflect on my journey in an article ‘From Walter Rauschenbusch (Father of the Social Gospel and friend of my grandfather) to the Falwells.’”

Paul Raso: “I received a master’s in education from Teachers College and started a long and fulfilling career as a high school science teacher and coach for track and cross country. I retired in 2011 after 43 years of teaching, mostly in Brooklyn. I reconnected with **Art Sprenkle** after 45 years when I was traveling in Seattle. I split my time between Brooklyn and Long Island.”

Joel Greenberger is a professor and chair of radiation oncology at Pitt Medical School.

Finally, a sad note. **Harold Wechsler** passed away unexpectedly in February, shortly after he submitted his news for the Spring issue. He was a beloved professor, author, colleague and, most recently, co-director of NYU’s Graduate Program in Education and Jewish Studies. Harold published two widely-read books in Jewish Studies: *Jewish Learning in American Universities: The First Century* (with Paul Ritterband) and *The Qualified Student: A History of Selective College Admission in America, 1870–1970*, which opened the door to subsequent studies focusing on quotas against Jewish students. Jonathan D. Sarna, chair of H-Judaic, wrote, “He was among the field’s most respected scholars, and was also known for his dedication to students and for his human qualities. He will be missed by all who knew him.” In 1969, Harold was selected by the New York Mets as the World’s Greatest Fan. He leaves behind a daughter, Abigail, a son, Samuel, and a granddaughter.

1968

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Sorry gents, no column this issue. Have a wonderful summer, and share your news by emailing me at arthurb spectator@gmail.com.

1969

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Let me first direct you to this issue’s “Letters to the Editor,” where **Jonathan Schiller** LAW’73, chair of the University Board of Trustees, thanks **Michael Rothfeld** BUS’71, SIPA’71, JRN’71 for his 12 years of service as a trustee. It is quite rare for one College class to have two classmates serving together as trustees, and probably few would have predicted in the late ’60s that our class would achieve this distinction.

Thanks for answering my emails. Here is another block of responses:

From **Peter Rugg:** “I visited campus in April with my granddaughter, Catlin, who is interested in Columbia. Class of ’69 to Class of ’22 is quite a wonderful span. Catlin lives in Aiken, S.C. I have five grandsons behind her: Peter and Benjamin (11 and 9) in Aiken and Tench (5) and Bridger (3) in Denver.”

From **Fred Fastow:** “I retired recently from the law department at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. I’m working on starting up my next career, though I don’t yet know what it will be. I still go running and biking, and do guitar-ing. My wife, Judith, works part-time as a teacher. My oldest daughter, Ramona, with our two grandsons, has been staying with us while her husband, Chad, serves in South Korea in the Army. Last summer our middle daughter, Hélène, married Seth Alexander; she has been running an Etsy website for her made-to-order ink drawings of wedding gowns and other garments and she teaches fashion design at the Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls in Hewlett, N.Y. Our youngest daughter, Sara, was dancing as a showgirl in the Las Vegas production of *Jubilee* when, after 34 years, the show closed. Sara’s new gig is at the SandCastle on Guam.”

From **James Lo Dolce:** “After graduating from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, I purchased a farm in Otisco, N.Y., and attended the family medicine residency program at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Syracuse. I took a two-year residency leave,

working ER at Schuyler Hospital in Montour Falls, N.Y., and simultaneously started private practice on my farm. I resumed residency in 1976 (while continuing my private practice) as my wife, our three daughters, son and I operated a commercial sheep farm. I had the unique experience of being in active rural family practice while also being a family medicine resident.

“After residency completion, I moved the practice to neighboring Lafayette, N.Y. In 1987, I sold the practice to a local HMO and assumed the role of Lafayette’s center chief, as well as PHP family medicine department chair. In the 1990s, I led a joint venture with PHP, Crouse Hospital (Syracuse) and SUNY Upstate Medical Center to transform the Lafayette practice into a rural, non-hospital-based family medicine residency, which maximized residents’ outpatient experience while stressing electronics in medicine. Unfortunately, the residency closed after a few years due to Crouse and PHP’s financial difficulties. In 1998, after two years of ER work, I renewed my family practice in the Liverpool and Fayetteville offices of North Medical Family Physicians, a large, Syracuse-area multispecialty group. While engaged in clinical practice, I was director of medical informatics and project manager for Allscripts EHR deployment. After St. Joseph’s Hospital purchased the practice, I was a ‘super-user’ and physician trainer for EPIC EHR deployment.

“After retiring from family medicine in May 2016, I published a book, *Sail Through Office: Practice by Adopting Efficient, Effective Workflows: A Tutorial for Primary Care Providers*, and developed ‘Ask Dr. Jim MD,’ a PCP efficiency training and consulting business, while continuing to provide per diem urgent care services.

“Outside the office, my wife, Donna, and I enjoy time with our grandchildren, sailing Lake Ontario on our 40-ft. Freedom sailboat and being avid golfers.”

From **Howard Lemberg:** “Thinking back to Columbia, the incredible mix of interesting people I met in our class, on the faculty, at Columbia Engineering and the graduate schools, and in the neighborhood were, without question, big factors in my education. From the

political junkies in our class (like **Jerry Nadler**, **Mark Leeds** and **Rich Rosenstein**) — I learned the value of informed political activity. I was able to apply the lessons learned from them years later to agitate successfully (against great odds) for a new library in my corner of New Jersey, leading to a library that's consistently rated in the top 10 in the country for towns of our size. When I interview high school seniors in northern New Jersey for the College, which I've done for close to 30 years, I sometimes mention that political involvement at Columbia was like a 'lab section' for CC, with long-term practical value in all the places I've since lived and in all of my professional accomplishments since then.

"Other memories of Columbia — demonstrations and occasional draft card burnings — come to mind, along with some relief that I hadn't actually burned my own draft card. At one point I had to prove to a girlfriend that I was younger than she was, and the draft card was all I had. Maybe that draft card, which I still possess, is why we're still together.

"Breaking traditional boundaries was part of the academic excitement for the chemistry and physics majors I hung with — people like **Ira Cohen**, **Jerry Gliklich**, **Fred Schachat** and **Tom Rescigno** — and the experience propelled me to redefine boundaries in the work I did for a long time at Bell Labs, its corporate offspring, and in the technology consulting work that still excites me. Yes, I'm still working, because I've somehow been able to morph work into fun for close to 50 years. If I had to choose one word to describe my career, it would be 'thrilling,' in the rollercoaster, gravity-defying sense of that word.

"On the home front, I guess my daughters absorbed the kind of values I learned at Columbia without being hectorated by me — that's my version, at least. Since one went into medicine and the other's a professor in Hong Kong, maybe the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Another notable experience was the most amazing Art Hum class focused on Bernini's sculpture, *Saint Theresa of Avila*. The scintillating lecture that day stayed with me for more than 30 years, until I made a point of going to see that dazzling work at the Cornaro Chapel in Rome. Lots of good memories, invaluable experiences, unforgettable

acquaintances, boundless opportunities and enduring joy."

From **Alan Yorker**: "I am enjoying semi-retirement, working only 20 hours a week at the Talbott Recovery Campus in Atlanta with addicted physicians and other professionals in their journey to sobriety. In my free time I have elected to join some groups, including the Decatur (Georgia) Rotary Club, the Robert Burns Society of Atlanta and the Georgia Post Card Club. I also am president of my condominium association and sing in my temple's choir.

"My wife, Janie, and I enjoy traveling and sailed around Cape Horn of South America in early March. In September we will cross the Atlantic aboard the *Queen Mary 2* (which was built in France), in official celebration of the city of Le Havre's 500th anniversary. I am active with my Scottish Clan, the McLains, and have attended a number of Highland Game gatherings in the past year. We spent last July in Oban, Scotland, and toured the Orkney Islands as well. We raise two dogs, a Scottie and a West Highland, along with a cat and three birds. I gained a third granddaughter last August and feel gratitude that my three grown children are all happily married and living under their own roofs."

From **John Herbert** PS'73: "As I wind down my career in anesthesiology, I am pleased to have been instrumental in improving the safety of our patients, as outlined in a few of my publications. But I am really proud of my daughter, Amy Kristina '98, SOA'01, DM'12, who, in addition to her professional theater career, now is assistant professor of pediatric dentistry for the University of Texas in Houston. Our family, including my late father, Benne '32, DM'36; brother, Mike '77; and wife, Sandra TC'71, always credited Columbia with the opportunity for continued success. We look forward to my 50th!"

From **Jim Alloy**: "I am happy to report from Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island, Fla., where my wife, Bonnie, and I have been spending our winters for the past nine years. We spend time enjoying tennis, golf and the beach. Recently, we had a visit from **Ron Rosenblatt** and his wife, Robyn, who were traveling from their home in Des Moines. Ron and I met our freshman year when we lived on the fourth floor

of Hartley Hall. Ron shared an end suite in Hartley with his high school classmate from Scarsdale, **Bob Kahan**. The same week that Ron visited, I received a happy birthday phone call from another Hartley fourth-floor neighbor, **Fred Bartek**. Fred and I have stayed in contact since we graduated. Fred is retired and lives in the Poconos with his wife, Susanne. We often reminisce about classmates from our first year in Hartley: **Bob Biondi**, who was my roommate and one of the most interesting and gifted people we met at Columbia; **Emery Cox III** (Fred's roommate), Tony Mastroianni '73 (now deceased), **Chet Stewart**, roommates **Jack Schachtner** and **David Borenstein**, **Henry Jackson** and **Rod Smith** (deceased).

"Traveling to South Florida, Bonnie and I stopped to see the Lions baseball team play against the Florida Gators and also visited with Mary Ellen and Bob Straskulic '68. Bob and I went to the same high school in Dunmore, Pa., and it was through him that I discovered Columbia. What is most noteworthy for us is that Mary Ellen and Bob introduced Bonnie and me back in the day (45 years married this June)."

From **John Castellucci**: "As a guy who studied Russian at Columbia, I would appreciate it if you would include this item — Sergei Dovlatov had to leave the Soviet Union to get his work published. The stories and novels he wrote while living in the United States placed him at the forefront of the last generation of Soviet writers, beloved in the country he was forced to leave. You can read my story about Dovlatov in the March/April issue of *Russian Life* online at bit.ly/2qJJKFf.

From **Barry Hamilton**, some terribly sad news sent in late March: "This is not the message I wanted to send, but I thought my classmates should know. I have stage four pancreatic cancer that was diagnosed last summer. As you might recall, I was part of a group of four guys from the band — **Mike Schnipper**, **Dick Heyman** (now deceased), **Mike Teitel** and me. None of us lived close together, but we managed to stick together. Unfortunately, Dick died about three years ago (August 2014) of lung cancer. He was a beautiful person and I miss him every day. For all Columbia bandmen, all I can say is (GTB)2. Go Lions!" [Editor's note:

Barry Hamilton passed away on May 24, 2017.]

Please email your news or views.

1970

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Since I wrote my last column we have experienced the most surprising presidential election outcome in my lifetime. As I have gotten older I can only observe that we are a very resilient people. On that note, I can report the following news from our class.

John D'Emilio GSAS'72, a professor of history and gender studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, writes: "Columbia is known as one of the great pioneers in the field of oral history; its oral history collection is a treasure trove for researchers. The library has recently begun a project to collect oral histories of its LGBT alums. And, I'm proud to say, I am in the group of five that it is beginning with. I completed a two-part interview, as well as participated in a public event on campus in early March in which I was interviewed before an audience, followed by a couple of commentators and questions from attendees."

Congratulations, John!

John is the author of *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin*; and, with Estelle Freedman, of *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*.

Another professor, **Michael Aeschliman** GSAS'91, wrote an article that can be found online at bit.ly/2qKJDwH. Michael thanked me for my note on his accomplishments [Winter 2016–17] and writings and noted that, however liberal Columbia is, "I am ever more convinced that its unique core-knowledge curriculum inoculates large numbers of bright young people against silly radicalism (and of course stupid capitalism, too)."

David Lehman GSAS'78, who edits *The Best American Poetry* (which I highly recommend), wrote a touching and informative piece on the death of poet Harry Mathews. I excerpt: "In January 1979 Harry came, at my invitation, to teach a one-month course at Hamilton

College, where I was then on the faculty. It was Harry's first teaching gig in the United States — Bennington would follow — and he made the most of it. He introduced the students to OuLiPo procedures such as the 'n + 1' construction (and variants thereof), the equivoque and the technique of generating a plot by starting with a phrase that has or can have a double meaning."

Every time I read one of David's pieces I learn things about poets and musicians, such as Bob Dylan.

Thank you, David.

Share your news in the Fall issue by writing to me this summer at the addresses at the top of this column. We would be happy to hear from you.

1971

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Mark Kingdon was honored as this year's Gershom Mendes Seixas Award recipient at the Columbia/Barnard Hillel annual Seixas Gala Dinner.

Seixas was the first American-born rabbi, a Revolutionary War patriot and the first Jewish trustee of Columbia College. The Seixas Award is bestowed by Columbia/Barnard Hillel on those who have made outstanding contributions to Jewish life at the University.

Hillel notes that Mark is founder and CEO of Kingdon Capital Management and that he "serves on the boards of the Harlem

Children's Zone, the New York City Police Foundation, the Social Science Research Council and New York City Center. He is co-chair of Columbia's Global Leadership Council, chairman of the Board of Directors of Columbia's Investment Management Corporation and heads the investment committee for HCZ.

"In 2006, along with several other alumni, Mark sponsored the Institute for Israeli Studies and the Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi Chair in Israel and Jewish Studies. He is Trustee Emeritus of the University and is a recipient of its John Jay and Alexander Hamilton Awards."

From **Ron Bass**: "I'm working on the ukulele arrangement of 'Bag Man with a Man Bag,' my most recent sonnet, written one Sunday evening in December 2016:

"A bag man with a man bag in
the rain
Suborning all who dare to cross
his path,
As Cupid's doubled image in a bath
Can raise tornadoes on a
distant plain.
Betrayal is a gift the gods can turn
Aside when claims of blood are
meant to stay
Precisely as they are, in lieu of pay.
Place emphasis on tools that seem
to learn
New uses, as the moons will fructify
Your chance to ride forever in a blip,
As long as you look forward not
to strip
Acceptances of dates made on
the sly.
Pacing back and forth in the
scriptorium,
The act of slaking informs
an encomium."

From **Steve Ross**: "I'm in my 38th year teaching history at the University of Southern California. After co-founding and co-directing the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities for 18 years, I've taken a new position as the director of the USC Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life.

"I have a book coming out this October about a time when hate groups moved from the margins to the mainstream of American society. *Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against Hollywood and America* is the true story of a spy ring run by Jews in Los Angeles (and funded by movie studio heads)

from August 1933 until the end of WWII — a spy ring that foiled repeated Nazi and fascist efforts to kill Jews and sabotage American defenses. It's a story that seems too bizarre to be true, but it is."

In May, **Greg Wyatt's** *Bill of Rights* eagle sculpture was dedicated at George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School.

Remember back 50 (*fifty!*) Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. *We are still connected.*

1972

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In anticipation of our 45th reunion (which will be history by the time you read this), **Wayne Cypen** offered a reaction I'm sure many of us share: "It's hard to believe 45 years have gone by so quickly."

Wayne adds, "Apart from my marriage and the birth of my children, Columbia has been the most central 'event' of my life. The education — curriculum, faculty and fellow students — and the New York City experience are a permanent part of my psyche. Columbia instilled in me a lifelong love of learning."

Lots of family news from Wayne: "My older son, Jeremy, a Harvard College graduate, spent a year in cancer research at Oxford, graduated from the University of Miami Medical School and is now a resident in internal medicine at Duke. In October, he will wed his fiancée, a resident in ophthalmology, also at Duke. My younger son, Scott, graduated from the University of Maryland, got a master's in sports administration from the University of Miami and joined Miami's sports compliance department. As of June 1, he relocated to Boston with his girlfriend, who will begin a four-year residency in ob/gyn at one of the Harvard hospitals. Fortunately, both Jeremy and Scott plan to come back and live in Miami. For the first time in decades, we are, thankfully, tuition-free.

"My wife, Nicole, and I have continued to travel extensively, with cruises in Europe, South America, the Middle East, the Far East and,

of course, the Caribbean. I continue to focus on my charitable work, my golf game and updating my Facebook page."

Another classmate who's planning to be at reunion is **Bruce Jacobs** SEAS'73, whose firm, Jacobs Levy Equity Management, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2016. In 2017, Bruce's book, *Equity Management: The Art and Science of Modern Quantitative Investing* (coauthored with business partner Ken Levy), which presents their insights into quantitative equity investing across the past 30 years, was published. This fall, the Jacobs Levy Equity Management Center for Quantitative Financial Research at Penn's Wharton School will host its fifth annual forum. At that time, the third biennial Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize for Quantitative Financial Innovation will be presented in honor of the late Stephen Ross, who developed the multifactor asset pricing model known as Arbitrage Pricing Theory. The first two recipients of the award were both Nobel laureates in Economic Sciences.

Bruce and his wife, Ilene, celebrated their 41st anniversary last year. They live in Morristown, N.J., and have four children (two of whom are married) and two grandchildren. The children's careers span social work, finance, start-ups and advertising.

Gene Cornell sends the good news that he became a grandfather. He writes, "Our granddaughter, Chloe, was born on April 14 to our daughter Rebecca and her husband, Mike. She's very cute, but are there any grandchildren who aren't?"

Gene sold his software company in 2012, stayed on for a few years, and then retired. "I am glad to see the last of business. I loved developing software, but running a business was rarely fun," he says.

Not very optimistic about the current political and economic environment, Gene says nonetheless that he and his wife, Susan, are "still going strong." He continues, "Like many of you, we have had our share of tragedies and difficulties. Our younger daughter Debbie died in 2007, and that is not something that ever goes away entirely. Susan had stage-4 colon cancer, but has made a complete recovery. I am lucky that my health has been good, with only minor issues to deal with. Since retirement, we're having a pretty



Send in Your News

Share what's happening in your life with classmates. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct, or send news to the address at the top of your column.

good time. Provence in October, Italy in February. I'm working on a book, which I was doing on and off while I had the business — mostly off given the demands of the work. I'm trying to improve my French and am going to the gym regularly. I hope my health will remain good, and I'll have more to report for the big 50th."

Lastly, **Jonathan Freedman** (whom I think is our only Pulitzer winner) was featured in a panel discussion hosted by the Department of Journalism at the City College of San Francisco on "Freedom of the Press in the Age of Trump." Unfortunate that it's a timely topic, but undoubtedly worth hearing.

Hoping to have lots of news from our 45th reunion in the next issue. Send your notes to me at pappel1@aol.com.

1973

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Michael Thompson is enjoying life as senior orthopedic surgeon at Lahey Health in Burlington, Mass. His wife, Monique, is CEO of Teach Plus, a national education company; his oldest daughter, Mikaela, is at Harvard ("couldn't twist her arm to go to CC"), and his second child, Izzy, is "10 going on 18, and a full-time job."

Welcome to parenthood!

Ravi Venkateswaran lives in Mill Creek, Wash., north of Seattle. Ravi is semi-retired after a long stint in Nigeria with an oil company, and he came away with an admiration for the "spirit of optimism and perseverance" there. He says he enjoyed the travel he did in Africa — to Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania — "a beautiful and mysterious continent."

Ravi has become a trustee of his former boarding school, in Colorado; is in reasonable health; and sends his regards.

And **Barry Etra**, in a rare TV appearance, is alive and well (or this would truly be ghost-written). Barry runs the RAISE Forum at Emory University's Goizueta Business School twice a year, matching post-revenue, early-stage SE (Societas Europaea) companies with top local investors, helping to keep more

companies local and fund more at higher levels. The forum has funded 15–20 percent of its finalists, running twice a year.

Send in your news for the Fall column; our 45th reunion is only a year away!

1974

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Are you a MOCA? That is, a Man of a Certain Age? This is when you are stuck in a modern version of *Twilight Zone* when Rod Serling asks, "Imagine, if you will, an ordinary man that finds himself stuck in a place where he is certainly not young, but also not old." You are too old to follow news on *Buzzfeed* but too young to enjoy "Laughter Is the Best Medicine" in *Reader's Digest*. Where you still enjoy a vigorous game of singles tennis, but increasingly find people offering to pick up something you have dropped. Where young mothers at the airport tell their offspring to get out of the way of "the gentleman."

But how do you know where you are on the Gen-X/Geezer continuum? I've developed some telltale signs to give you a hint. Remember, this is not black or white. Like your hair, it is "50 shades of grey!"

Technology gives us some fairly obvious signs. When you need to know the time, do you look at your watch or your smartphone? Do you tend to read paper newspapers and books, or are you mostly digital? When you give someone your home phone number, is it your landline or your cell phone? When you are relaxing at night, do you watch broadcast content on your TV or digital content on your laptop or iPad?

How you dress on weekends also tells a lot. When out in jeans and sneakers, are your white athletics socks above or below your ankle? Is your golf shirt tucked in or hanging loose? Are you wearing traditional boxers or boxer briefs? Do you have a cloth handkerchief in your back pocket (even though you never use it)?

There are hundreds of similar signals of where you are. If you need more, just ask your kids! If they give you too much grief, just tell them

you are going back to your den to slip into your beanbag chair, pop a Mamas & the Papas cassette into your Walkman and sip a Harvey Wallbanger. (If they ask what any of this is, just tell them to "google it!")

Even as we reach what has been known as retirement age (65), classmates seem to be repositioning themselves. This doesn't sound like they are stopping work soon! Take **Marc Reston** and his changes during the past decade. The 2006 alumni directory said that Marc was executive director for Animal Defense International in San Francisco. The 2009 directory said he was at the AG Edwards brokerage firm (still in San Francisco). By 2014 we see that Marc has become an associate at Chadbourne & Parke in Washington, D.C. Sounds like there is more to this story — stay tuned! I also saw a Facebook post where Marc wrote, "Daughter Caroline is on a roll. After stints working on *Grey's Anatomy* and the TV Land cable channel, she's an assistant writer for Comedy Central."

Another classmate that has had a varied career in the past decade is **Steve Simon**. In 2009 he was a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in NYC. In 2011 he became the senior director for the Middle East and North Africa for the White House National Security Council, the high-powered group that is the principal forum that advises the President on national security and foreign policy matters. By 2014 he was also the executive director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in D.C. We now learn that he has left the Washington, D.C., "swamp" for the bucolic life as a visiting professor at Amherst. Along this journey, Steve has written at least nine books, mostly on Middle East politics. The latest one we heard of came out in 2016: *The Pragmatic Superpower: Winning the Cold War in the Middle East*.

Joel Almquist (at the K&L Gates law firm in Boston) writes that he now has a second grandson, Henry, born last September. His first grandson, Charlie, is 3. Joel says, "Grandparenting is wholly joyful; less fraught than parenting. I recommend it without qualification." He also notes that he is continuing his painting avocation: "It has changed the way I look at paintings when I visit museums. If only I had possessed this perspective back when I took Art Hum."

I caught up with **Abbe Lowell LAW77**, our busy white collar defense lawyer who hangs his hat at Chadbourne & Parke in D.C., but seems to be all over the globe these days. He confirmed that he is "caught up in the latest intelligence stuff in D.C." but says it is with "clients I cannot name."

Abbe is also globe-hopping for international clients in Switzerland, Israel and the United Kingdom. Then he adds, "Now for the good stuff — trying to keep up with the 15-year-old daughter, who is becoming an activist and is as passionate about causes as you and I were 100 years ago, and I'm enjoying my older two kids' first baby boys (one each — six weeks apart)."

Abbe is one busy dad and grandpa! Sounds like **Vince Marchewka's** financial career has taken him around the world, but he has stayed put in Manhattan (and lives in White Plains, N.Y.). He was at Mizuho (the second largest Japanese financial securities group) in its midtown NYC offices. He left that position in 2013 to become head of U.S. credit sales at BBVA (the Spanish bank), but he says after three and a half years, BBVA grew weary of battling the big banks and downsized Vince. This led him to move to Mesirow Financial (a 70-year-old Chicago investment bank) in its New York office.

Vince's wife, Susan, is a nonprofit consultant specializing in fundraising. Eldest daughter, Victoria, lives in NYC and teaches pre-K at the Episcopal School. Son, James, lives in Charlotte, N.C., and is a CLO (bond) analyst for Barings (the former Babson Capital). Daughter Katie lives in Chicago and works for Edelman & Co. (a major advertising firm) as a media team leader.

We hear from **Gerry Krovatin** that he continues to work at the Krovatin Klingeman law firm in Newark, N.J., and sees "no end in sight." His kids, however, seem to offer great diversions. His eldest son, **Quin**, and **Quin's** wife, **Lynn Shi Feng**, gave Gerry and his wife, **Anna Quindlen BC'74**, their first grandchild (Arthur Krovatin). Faithful readers of this column will recall that **Quin** and **Lynn** met while both were in Beijing a few years ago. Gerry adds, "To keep up with our grandson, Anna and I are taking Mandarin lessons. I don't recall that Mandarin was an option to satisfy the

language requirement for the Class of '74. *Bu hao.*" (Translation: Not good.)

Gery goes on to say his son Christopher is back in New York (from Denver) and working for a British publisher. Daughter Maria is in Los Angeles "writing and peddling her movie." Anna is — what else? — writing yet another presumed bestseller.

From the Bay area comes an update from **Nick De Lancie**. He has spent the last 16 years at the Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell law firm. Nick specializes in commercial loan restructuring and bankruptcies. He says his main achievement has been shepherding his three daughters through college: Two graduated from the University of Oregon and one from Villanova. "Three for three!" he crows. For years Nick says he commuted to work by bike. This ended a few years ago, when he broke his elbow in a bike accident. He claims to still do 50-mile bike rides, but commuting to work by bike has slipped away. Nick adds, "As my grandfather used to quip, 'I'm in pretty good shape for the shape I'm in!'"

There you have it, all you MOCAs! We may be slipping down that slippery slope, but we are still enjoying new careers, new grandchildren and the exploits of our children. If you have news to pass on, or new ideas for MOCA tests, please take a moment to pass them on. We're all passing through the "65 speed limit" more or less together and need the support of our buddies from the past 47 years!

1975

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I hope you all enjoyed the notes in the Spring issue provided by **Charlie Lindsay**.

Thanks again, Charlie!

Now I'm back to using what I see on Facebook, what I receive after begging emails and (once in a great while) what I get from emails out of the blue.

Fernando D. Castro has retired from the California Department of Transportation after 22 years of state service. He was an air quality specialist dealing with the complex

issues of congestion and mitigation efforts to fight pollution in the Los Angeles region. He returns to private architecture practice and will pursue his love for engaging the Latino community in theater and creative writing. In April, Fernando's *grupo de teatro tayer* completed a three-week run of workshops and a mini-festival of short plays called *the language of the mask* about the tradition of the mask in Latin America. The pictures on Facebook are rich and vibrant, and show how much the participants were enjoying their performances.

Bruce J. Einhorn, a retired federal judge, has moved to California's central coast, from which he writes op-eds on public law and policy for the *Los Angeles Times* and other publications. He also is a commentator on immigration issues for local media and consults on immigration issues with the Democratic minority in Congress. Bruce is also the founding chair of the nonprofit Coalition for the Advocacy of the Persecuted and Enslaved, which helps provide free legal and therapeutic services to indigent asylum seekers and victims of torture and human trafficking. Lastly, and most importantly, Bruce is crushing (NOT!) in a Central Coast bocce ball league. Bruce posts to Facebook almost every day.

Another Facebook friend is **Doug Emde**. Doug says that he "has considered sending something" for *CCT*, but hasn't yet been sufficiently motivated or whatever.

Doug, is this enough to motivate you? Classmates want to hear from you!

A little more than a year ago, **Peter Garza-Zavaleta** moved to Europe, where he spends time in both Spain and Germany. During the summer, he is in Spain near the Mediterranean. Currently, he is teaching business English and Spanish at Siemens, mainly in Erlangen, Bavaria. He goes to work by bike and otherwise tries to be respectful of the environment. Peter continues to paint and take art lessons at the university. In addition, he sings in a local choir, the Neustädter Kantorei, performing great works like Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" in a beautiful 400-year-old church. You can also follow Peter on Facebook.

David Gawarecki writes that after maybe minutes of intense and consternated internal debate, he

had planned to retire from teaching at the end of this past semester. As of this writing he had not decided between using his free time to mull over the CC reading material he gave admittedly insufficient time to 46 years ago or to go back to school and study the pure sciences, a decision that — had he made it back in the day — would have spared him years of correcting college composition papers. For her recent birthday, David and his wife, Martha Hayes, flew to Antwerp, where they picked out the engagement ring "she truly deserved" and then went on to Bruges and Ghent.

While other classmates are learning to be empty-nesters, **Bob Katz** is not one of them. Younger son Harry recently celebrated his bar mitzvah. Harry is named after Bob's late father, Harry Katz DM'37, and is in the seventh grade at Ramaz School. Bob reminds us that oldest son Adam '08 was bar mitzvahed 18

who will be both an Austrian and American citizen.

Robert Sclafani GSAS'81 has been a director of the cell biology program for the University of Colorado Cancer Center for more than 20 years. Every year the directors meet with a group of external advisers about progress and plans for the program. After successfully renewing their grant from the National Cancer Institute, they needed a new set of advisers. When they met, Bob learned that the new adviser for cancer prevention and control was Marc Goodman '76. Marc is director of cancer prevention and control in the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles. "We both enjoyed telling everyone silly stories about each other," Bob says.

Marc and Bob took several biology classes together at Columbia, including the famous cell biology class taught by Dr. Eric Holtzman.

Robert Sclafani '75 has been a director of the cell biology program for the University of Colorado Cancer Center for more than 20 years.

years ago. The rabbi at Bob's synagogue, and former principal of the Ramaz School, is Haskel Lookstein '53. The rabbi recently celebrated his 85th birthday and close to 60 years in the rabbinate. Bob's youngest son, Joseph, is 10. Bob says that he can't even consider retirement yet, knowing that a year at the College will be in the six figures by the time his sons finish college.

Several issues ago, **Moses Luski** shared the story of his family's journey to the United States, including many years in pre-Castro Cuba. More recently, he wrote an analysis of the Cuban Embargo for *Insights*, a newsletter from Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, where Moses is a partner. "Shining Light into the Heart of Darkness: An Update on the Cuban Embargo" is a great read! I especially enjoyed the background history that Moses provided. Read the analysis online at bit.ly/2pXqN4y. Daughter Emily Luski Terenyi BC'08 is married and living permanently in Vienna, Austria. Last year she gave birth to Bob's grandson Theodore,

Holtzman's class was the only class where the professor wrote the textbook. Although detailed, it still was merely a summary of his lectures. Bob says he looks forward to seeing Marc next year.

Bob and his wife, Christine, enjoy traveling. Last year, they went to Tuscany, Liguria and Piemonte in Italy. They enjoyed outstanding food and wine (Tuscany-Brunello, Piemonte-Barolo, etc.) and their visit to the Cinque Terre in Liguria was great despite the rain and stormy weather.

Bob's consulting work for craft breweries continues and includes new and interesting beers and people. His background in yeast genetics prepared him for it — as said in the business, "A yeast cell takes a bath in champagne every day." The craft beer business continues to grow in Colorado and is slower only than the legal marijuana business. "No, I am not in that one!" says Bob.

Leaving Milwaukee after 25 years, **Jason Turner** and family moved to Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., to

take advantage of the Republican administration. Jason's business, the Secretaries' Innovation Group, is an association of state and city human services secretaries (such as I was under Mayor Rudy Giuliani) whose members hail from about half the country and report to Republican governors. With three boys (twins from Jason's first marriage and his wife's son, who is in school in Ukraine) in college simultaneously, Jason and his wife are feeling the pain. "Thank God for cost-effective Big Ten schools," Jason says.

The recent move brought back Columbia nostalgia because of Jason's books — the Capitol Hill townhouse doesn't hold as many as their previous home and so he had to decide what to keep. Remember the Barnes and Noble on lower Fifth Avenue (before the chain), where you could find half-priced books? Jason discovered it sophomore year and, with his budget and earnings, had enough to buy and keep a whole bunch of books, especially philosophy and history, which he read in various classes. Since then, he's accumulated many more, but has always kept these old volumes on the shelf, sometimes leafing through them for the wonderful memories of our undergraduate years.

Yours truly (**Randy Nichols**) began a new gig at Penn in April. I've told **Bob Schneider** (and several other Schneider family members) and Mike Liccione '80 that, when they request a Penn transcript four years from now, it will be produced by the system I'll help implement and, if the data is correct, it will be because my conversion team hit the mark. With Penn included, I will have done IT-related work for all of the Ivies except Cornell. (Cornell could be in my future, because I am not planning to retire for a while!) The week before starting at Penn, I flew to Boston for a day to visit the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum with a dear friend. The first week on the job at Penn, my hotel was right across the street from the "new" Barnes Foundation — a place I plan to visit often.

Finally, who sent me the postcard from Burma? No signature, and I don't recognize the handwriting, but I'm pretty sure from the message that it came from a classmate. 'Fess up!

Best wishes to all. Keep posting to Facebook, emailing me or responding to my begging emails. If

you want to read about others than the "new" regulars, write me!

1976

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CC'76ers! First, my update: In February I took my first trip overseas and spent 10 days in Israel; it was a great trip with a group of friends from my Jersey Shore hometown. In other news, my youngest son recently received a bachelor's from the University of Oregon, and May brought the award of a CUNY master's to my daughter Katherine '13.

I got a great email from Federal District Court Judge **Vinnie Briccetti**: "When I was selecting a jury recently, I asked the prospective jurors, as I always do, what TV shows or radio stations they regularly listen to. Not one, but two of the jurors said, 'WKCR.' I said the last time I was in the same room with so many KCR fans was 1976."

From **Dennis Goodrich**, in Syracuse: "My wife, Linda, and I headed to Amsterdam, Brussels and Paris in April. We met our daughter Katy, who works in London for Adobe, the two days we were in Amsterdam. Son Kris and his husband, Ben — professors at the University of New Mexico — and Katy will be taking Linda and me to Poland in July as a gift for our 40th wedding anniversary, which was last year."

Linda's 1976 college graduation gift to Dennis was agreeing to marry him.

Linda, it finally paid off. Great kids!

Dennis also reported that **John Connell** was in London this year visiting his daughter, Maura; son-in-law, Eric; and his new grandson, Oliver.

Congratulations, all!

Dan Gottlieb was another traveler to Europe at the beginning of the year: "As I write this, I am just back from a busy week in England. My wife, Marilyn Gottlieb, was invited to show two of her photo-transfer-on-metal pieces in the London Art Biennale 2017, held at the end of March. The show, which featured 400 works of art by 120 artists from 40 nations, was well conceived and Marilyn's pieces were well received. She was awarded the second-place prize for

photography and both of her pieces were sold before the show was over. In between stints at the show, we enjoyed all that London has to offer — museums, shows and fine dining. It was lovely!

"This was our second trip abroad this year; in January, we flew to Nairobi. There we met up with our younger daughter, Becky (who was on vacation from her job as the student affairs manager for a study abroad program), on the slopes on Ngorongoro Crater, and went on a two-week safari around Kenya and Tanzania. This was our third trip to East Africa since Becky began working there."

I got a note from **Bob McDonald SEAS'76**, who is United Supermarkets Professor of Marketing in the Rawls College of Business at Texas Tech University. Bob does not get to NYC much anymore, but might come in this summer. I hope to catch up with him then.

Finally, from my 10 Carman days, an email from **Derrick Tseng**, who was making a film in upstate New York. We will get together after he wraps up. His update will be in the next issue.

Looking forward to getting updates from a lot more '76ers. Thanks for staying in touch!

1977

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By the time this column appears, our reunion will be history. I had hoped to catch up with as many classmates as possible and to report out (as they say) in coming issues.

Meanwhile, I received two notes:

One was from **David Friend** JRN'78, who was involved in campus broadcasting back in the day. "In June," he says, "we celebrated our 40th year since graduation and I celebrated my 11th year at CBS, where I am the SVP for news at 13 of our television stations around the nation." He adds, "More significantly, I am the grandfather to five, father and father-in-law to three and husband to one. I still listen to WKCR and long for the days when radio was king and no one had even dreamed of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram."

David and his wife, Wendy, live on Long Island, with a place on West 89th, "definitely within walking distance of Tom's."

The other note was from the ever-quotable **Vietnhi Phuvan**, whom we find in a reflective mood at this watershed moment: "I think all of us who are still working are considering retirement. I made my decision long ago and I am sticking to it: Screw retirement, I am putting the pedal to the metal, and I am working until I drop if I have my way."

Yes. Yes! I love this guy.

"I don't know about you all," he continues, "but I've changed careers about three times. I am currently a solutions architect specializing in the AWS (Amazon Web Services) cloud, I have four stents in my heart and, as a New Yorker, I hope that I am living by burning the candle at both ends. I was young and stupid; now I am just stupid. But you know what, thinking and doing stupid stuff is how I forge ahead when all I have in front of me is the unknown — I correct myself as I push on and the feedback comes in. When you start getting scared of looking stupid, then you have started to die — your brain, your mind, your heart. But you all already knew that, right?"

Whether or not we share Vietnhi's views, I daresay that, since 1977, we've all experienced the ups and downs he mentions. "I have laughed and I have cried over the years, most recently over the result of the 2016 election. I get grim satisfaction that neither my home state of New York nor my current state of Virginia gave 45 the votes he craved," he says.

With any luck, we'll live to see a few more elections. Anyway, watch this space.

1978

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Steven Bargonetti updates us with his latest adventures: "I'm contributing to a book on music and sound for *Sesame Street*. As the show's multi-instrument fretted string player and sometimes composer, you can hear me on much of the show's music, as well as being the banjo of Elmo and the guitar of Rosita. Also,

the production of August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, for which I am original music composer/music director, received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Revival and Best Ensemble. Columbia College training has come in handy, helping prepare me for a bit of project juggling."

I asked people this month where their favorite place on campus was (outside of the dorms), and Steven mentioned the Furnald Folk Festival.

Another regular, **Chuck Callan**, tells us of a family connection: "My uncle, Nick Cicchetti '42, is celebrating his 75th reunion this year. We love to discuss the Core — no better way to dismiss all the *chazerai* that's going on in the news. And, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our 40th reunion next year!"

Chuck's favorite places on campus were the inside of St. Paul's Chapel and the bridge over Amsterdam Avenue to the Law School. I remember the theatrics when *Bellerophon Taming Pegasus* by Jacques Lipchitz was installed and dedicated in November 1977.

Jeffrey Moerdler, of Mintz Levin, writes, "Life has changed since our three kids got married and we had two grandchildren. Zacky (15 months) is walking and starting to talk, and Celia (10 months) is crawling. Our third son's wife is expecting, so the Moerdler clan is growing. I now think about my grandchildren all the time and it has changed my focus on life.

"My favorite place was hanging out on the quad. It was just a beautiful place to sit and read, study or socialize. Now I'm getting ready for the next milestone — turning 60 this summer."

Jeff, welcome to the club; I think many of us are old hands by now.

Rafik Beekun GSAS'79 writes (for the first time and from the far west) that he's been, "promoted to co-chair of the managerial sciences department in the College of Business at the University of Nevada, starting this July."

Rafik's favorite place on campus was Butler Library.

Another western alum is **Robert F. Crochelt**, although he's about 1,000 miles away from Rafik. He writes, "I practice general surgery in rural Northeast Montana in the town of Glasgow. I am married to Donna, and look forward to taking a bit more time off over the next few years."

And, like your humble scribe, Bob's favorite place on campus was the bowels of the WKCR studios.

Kevin Vitting, of the Suburban Nephrology Group in Jersey, didn't have news but reminds us that, "As a gregarious commuter, I would have to say the McIntosh Center at Barnard was my favorite place. It's gone now — replaced by the Diana Center, which serves the same function."

James Burner Crew, of Nirvana Analytics in Cleveland, says, "I will always remember the touch football games on the central lawn, or just throwing a Frisbee with friends. For this reason my favorite place is nearby, the Sundial."

More updates from our Middle East connection, **Gary Pickholz**: "I recently completed one of the most difficult challenges since moving to Israel — having Israeli scholars admitted as candidates for the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford. It was a brutal battle that took more than a decade.

"[As I write, I was] looking forward to hosting the Columbia champagne yacht in the annual Ivy League/Oxbridge yacht regatta in June at the Herzliya Yacht Club, and enjoying dining and dancing under the stars thereafter. If anyone is in Israel traveling, look up our local Columbia alumni chapter. **David Friedman** recently arrived in town as the new U.S. ambassador; we will have him speak in the autumn."

Let me thank the almost 120 class members who have contributed more than \$130,000 to the Columbia College Fund; also, thank you to **Chuck Callan** and **Bryon Moger** for their hard work raising money from all of us.

1979

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Michael F. Verderame GSAS'84 writes, "After 26 years on the faculty at the Penn State College of Medicine — the last 11 as associate dean for graduate studies — I took a position as senior associate dean with the Graduate School at University Park. Still at Penn State, but now roughly 100 miles to the northwest of Hershey. In this role I oversee

the curricular review process for 188 graduate majors, the graduate faculty (more than 2,800 faculty members) and a number of special projects.

"Phyllis and I are proud parents of three: Rebecca (Penn State grad and newly minted occupational therapist, with the job she wanted); Chris (doing drafting and design for a precision metal stamping company while working toward his engineering degree at Penn State); and Thomas (recently graduated from high school)."

Daniel M. Simon GSAS'82 runs an "independent New York City-based book publisher, Seven Stories Press. In 1984, not long after graduate school, I started a company called Four Walls Eight Windows, initially in order to reissue the novels and stories of Nelson Algren, all of which were out of print at the time. In 1995, I began Seven Stories. We do politics, literature and kids' books. It's been an interesting journey.

"A book publisher practices medicine of a certain kind, and it's been interesting across the decades to see what you can learn and what you can do over the long reach of time. Writers are a known quantity in our society, and the best ones — I think — fight against society's definition of their role as writers, and make it their own remarkable creation. Publishers, on the other hand, have kind of the converse problem. No one really knows what a publisher actually does, though there is recognition certainly of the results. At Seven Stories Press we've had the honor to work closely as friends and collaborators over the long term with some of the smartest minds and greatest talents America has known: Noam Chomsky, Angela Davis, Kurt Vonnegut, Howard Zinn, Octavia Butler and Barry Gifford, and so many up-and-coming younger writers who will fill those shoes as voices of conscience and imagination in the decades to come. It's been a real privilege to do what we do. One of the things I'm proudest of is all the people that have passed through and gotten something of a second education with us, sometimes starting right out of college as interns, and gone on to start their own companies or to have an impact in other ways.

"My oldest child recently started at Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif., where she's immersed in

social justice education. My son is a musician at LaGuardia H.S. And there is a younger son of just 2 at home, which doesn't exactly make me feel younger, but he's a glad and glorious presence nonetheless.

"There's so much going on in America that is tremendously exciting, a great dynamism and social ferment. So it's honestly just a drag for such good things to be happening under the Mordorian shadow of a Trump presidency."

John Sharp says, "I don't have much to report from NYC, but your memory of Mama Joy's roast beef sandwiches made me think of other eateries of our era. Did you ever have the Chicken Mornay at The Balcony (with the asparagus and the cheese sauce)? You must have had the burgers and steak fries at Happy Burger's? Chili at The Gold Rail in the booth with the bullet hole from 1968? My first off-campus meal during Freshman Orientation was at The West End at 11:30 a.m. I went in alone and got a too-rare cheeseburger and some maimed, stunted, overcooked fries. I had too much trepidation to ask for a little more fire on the burger from the fellow holding a cleaver next to the grill. So I culled out 'This Magic Moment' by Jay Black and the Americans on the jukebox, recalling yet another missed opportunity with a Barnard woman at a freshman mixer. Best, John Sharp (one of the 'Roy Boys,' as **Vinnie Butkiewicz** would say)."

Robert S. Ross: "This is a first writing to Class Notes — glad I got prodded by Klapper. Seeing that so many others are celebrating the big 60 along with me, I guess it's time to update the group. I've been married to Linda (an internist) for almost 31 years at the time of this writing. We have three wonderful kids — Rachel (27), an analyst at the Rand Corp. in Santa Monica, where she probably has a better view than available from Klapper's office in Beverly Hills; Danielle (25), who is in marketing in Palo Alto, heading for an M.B.A. soon; and Ryan (16), who toured Columbia last summer. We'll see if he becomes a legacy!

"I'm a professor of medicine/cardiology at UC San Diego, working on multiple fronts studying the molecular basis of heart failure in the lab, seeing patients and dabbling in teaching along with the spare 50 percent of my effort as assistant

vice chancellor for Health Science Academic Affairs. I attended the Columbia-Yale game this past year (a first since graduation), but unfortunately watched a terrible defeat. Last time I saw Klapper was when we met at the faux subway station pizza place LaMonica's in Los Angeles — not exactly V&T, but pretty good by West Coast standards. If you're in San Diego, drop by or send me a note (ross@ucsd.edu)! Great to see everyone's successes."

Robert C. Klapper: Of the many experiences I had during my four years at the College, one of the most creative was serving as the cartoonist for *Spectator*. Getting into the elevator and hearing the conversation about the latest cartoon discussed among my classmates, with none of them realizing that I was the artist, are some of my most precious memories.

One of the cartoons had me lowering on top of Low Library's dome — a giant yarmulke by helicopter with the name "Howie" on it, with one observer saying to another, "but I thought your donation had no strings attached?" — just as an example. This endeavor lasted my whole freshman year and, because of our mascot, I can't tell you how many times I had to draw a lion.

I am currently doing a project at the La Brea Tar Pits here in L.A., which made me think about the Columbia lion. I have been asked to examine the skeleton of one of the saber tooth tigers, which clearly suffered from a congenital abnormality to one of his hips. This project has led to a better understanding [of the animals] — this lame cat clearly was able to survive into adulthood with this severe deformity because the other members of the pack hunted for him.

This big cat project led to my discovery of the true story behind the MGM lion logo that roars before every movie. The evolution of this big cat in the zeitgeist in America is for another column, but what I recently learned is the reason why MGM begins every movie with a lion roaring is because Sam Goldwyn, the "G" in MGM, hired a PR guy, Howard Dietz (JRN 1917). When Howard started working with Sam at the film studio in 1917, he wanted to use Columbia's mascot. So the very cartoons I labored so intently over during our freshman year are in some way now related to my current project at the La Brea Tar Pits.

The very fact that you can all follow along with me on the crazy connection between art and science is a tribute to the Core Curriculum that we all share — not to mention the cat-like reflexes required to cross Broadway in the middle of the night to get to Barnard.

Roar, lion, roar!

1980

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We are having another warm summer here in New York City; the dog days are upon us. But, we are looking forward to the football season. Coach Al Bagnoli has put together another fine recruiting class — we are bigger, faster and stronger than we have ever been, so expect good things this fall.

I received a nice note from **Joe Daly** regarding his retirement from Appalachian State, where he taught management for 27 years. Joe had a distinguished career and was recognized for his outstanding research and teaching excellence. He was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Best of luck, Joe!

Bill Hertz stopped by on a recent trip to NYC from his home in Tampa. He runs the Institute for Innovation Development, which helps the financial industry and its advisers in the areas of practice management, client acquisition and fintech opportunities (innovationdevelopment.org).

Steve Kane was presented the Columbia University Alumni Medal at Commencement in May. A press release from Steve's law firm, Rich May, states: "The Alumni Medal, first awarded in 1933, is the highest honor bestowed by the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) for distinguished service to the University ... Steve started doing alumni interviews for Columbia College applicants in 1984. He has been annually elected to the Board of Directors of Columbia Alumni Association of Boston since 2004, and was president of CAA of Boston from 2008 to 2016, during which time the Boston Club won the CAA Club Award of Excellence in 2014. Steve also has also been

a member of the University-wide CAA Board since 2011."

Drop me a line at mbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

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Having stepped back into the role of class correspondent, I think it's safe to say — based upon first respondents — we are at the age where "good news" and "bad news" share center stage.

First, the good news: **Jonathan Aviv PS'85** is the clinical director of the Voice and Swallowing Center for ENT and Allergy Associates of NYC. In addition to his duties operating the clinic, he recently published his second health and wellness book, *The Acid Watcher Diet: A 28-Day Reflux Prevention and Healing Program*, which was also featured in *The New York Times*. Also, he is working with Atlantic Records, which recently released a series of "TED meets MTV" videos on vocal health, "Project Wellness," which can be found on YouTube.

Stephen Wermert found my Gmail all the way from Singapore, where he has resided since 2012. Stephen spent six years in Kazakhstan as the Asian Development Bank country director and head of private sector operation/business development for the eight-country Central Asia and South Caucasus region. He is now an independent consultant working on private infrastructure projects for the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Sounds like an incredibly interesting job, especially if you like exotic locales.

We heard from **James Klatsky LAW'84**, who wanted us to know that his wife of nearly 33 years passed away last November. James met Davina Farber Klatsky during our sophomore year at Columbia (she was studying at NYU), and dating led to marriage in 1984, while he was attending the Law School.

Finally, it is with great sadness to inform the class of the sudden and tragic death of **Charles Murphy**. Chuck was the captain of the heavyweight crew team, a member

of St. Anthony's fraternity and an incredibly bright student. Several members of the class informed me, especially those who knew him from Stuyvesant H.S. (**Steven Gee** and **Lenny Cassuto**).

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Klatsky and Murphy families.

1982

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Gentlemen, when you receive this missive we will have recently returned from attending our 35th reunion (this assumes, of course, that Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump don't get into a "bum fight" between now and then). Thirty-five! How is that possible? I'm still in my late 20s!

Writing in this month, our entrepreneurial classmate **Phil Smith**. He says, "A little over a year ago, I decided to leave 'big law' after 26 years and form my own firm and start a business (judgmentacquisitionpartners.com), funded by a private equity firm. The idea was to work less and make more but all I have done is the same crazy amount of litigation and spend way too much time at my former firm. We have been so busy over the last year with some big cases and the business that we haven't even had time to form the law firm! We are doing that soon, so more news to follow."

Despite working so hard, Phil and his wife, Jody, managed to guide a couple of really great children into adulthood and off the family payroll. Daughter Katy (a classmate and good friend of my daughter Izzy) recently completed a master's in geoscience at the University of South Florida and then headed to Jackson Hole to teach skiing for the winter to decompress after a number of years of rigorous academic focus. Son Henry recently completed flight training in the Navy, and will shortly find out where he will do advanced training specializing in helicopters.

For those not in the know, these programs are super selective! Congrats on both fronts!

Phil also shared a great Columbia story: "This morning I showed up in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals to argue an appeal and ran into my

good friend **Eddie Hernstadt**, who was arguing a case directly after mine! One has to be a commercial litigator in New York to realize what a coincidence that was. What made it more odd was that I had just been thinking about Ed and how we were overdue for beers. Ed is an employment lawyer and did a terrific job on a hard case. I had a difficult argument for a pro bono client who had been unconstitutionally denied parole. It was a treat to see each other in court after all these years.”

Thanks for checking in, Phil!

One and all, keep those notes coming in to weisman@comcast.net

1983

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Once again, my sons, Ricky (9) and David (12), and I attended every home Columbia basketball game. We also saw Columbia lose at Brown with Steven Spieth (golfer Jordan Spieth's brother) providing much of Brown's scoring. **Richard Gordon, Ed Joyce, Kevin Chapman, Andy Gershon, Michael Schmidtberger '82, Joseph Cabrera '82, Jim Weinstein '84 and Dennis Klainberg '84** attended many of the games. I also spent time with Jon White '85 and Leon Friedfeld '88. Jon signed a deal for Disney's *Frozen* license, one of the hottest properties in licensing. Leon is a huge Mets fan and shares season tickets with Jon.

I was thrilled to run into **Robert Kahn** and his wife, Linda Kahn GSAS'91, PH'17, at a Hunter H.S. auction. Linda graduated from Yale and has a Ph.D. in epidemiology from the School of Public Health. She is a post-doctoral fellow in the department of pediatrics at NYU. Rob, who was a drummer with the Marching Band, creates music for TV and documentaries. Their son, Elliot, graduated from Hunter H.S. and is a freshman at the University of Chicago. Elliot is a talented actor. Their daughter Eva is in the 11th grade at Hunter H.S. and is an accomplished ballerina and violinist. Younger daughter Leda is in the 8th grade at Hunter and pursues piano and singing.

Rob is in touch with many Columbians: Mike Melkonian '84

builds training systems and lives in Manhattan. **Bob Gamiel** has two children, one of whom is in college. He works in computers and splits his time between White Plains and Florida. John Albin '84 lives in Port Washington and works for NYC; he has a child in elementary school. Greg Poe '84 lives in Washington, D.C.; he has two daughters in high school. Greg started his own white collar defense law firm. Bob Montay SEAS'83 lives in Larchmont; his daughter attends St. Andrews. Bob works for the Ford Foundation. **Paul Saputo** lives in Manhattan and runs the River Club tennis program. **Marty Avallone** has four children and lives in Connecticut; he is in media sales.

I had the pleasure of spending an unplanned afternoon with **Steven Arenson**, his wife and their four children. Steven's son Jake was competing against my son Ricky's baseball team in Ardsley, N.Y. Steve is an employment lawyer; his family lives in Riverdale.

Michael Fatale: “I was appointed the deputy general counsel at the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in July 2015. I am [just at] 25 years with MA DOR. In 2015, I began as an adjunct law professor at Boston College Law School. This is my third year teaching for the school (I teach a state and local tax class); see my school bio online at bit.ly/2pPaGCm. I am particularly proud of the fact that my various law review articles have been cited in big state tax cases. That happened again last October, when one of my articles was cited in an important state tax case decided by the Ohio Supreme Court: bit.ly/2qnGzE5.”

“I am in touch with **Nick Paone, Ted Weinberger, Mark Momjian and Bruce Momjian**. I attend the Columbia-Harvard football games when they take place in Cambridge; this year at that event I talked with **Dave Rubel** and his wife; their daughter attends CC.”

From Sharon Chapman BC'83:

“My husband, **Kevin Chapman**, and I had a great time on John Bingham and Jenny Hadfield's Great Alaskan Running Cruise last summer, so in February we went on their Caribbean Running Cruise. The cruise was in and out of San Juan and included runs in St. Croix, St. Maarten, Barbados and Grenada (and an off day in Dominica). In

fact, we enjoyed the Caribbean Running Cruise so much that we will do it again in February. Running cruises are a wonderful way to visit some fabulous places while staying fit!”

My email to **Doug Novins PS'87** bounced back due to his being out of the office. But I was blown away by his job titles: “Douglas K. Novins, M.D. | Cannon Y. & Lyndia Harvey Chair in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry | Chair, Pediatric Mental Health Institute, Children's Hospital Colorado | Professor, Vice Chair, & Director, Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine | Professor of Community & Behavioral Health, Centers for American Indian & Alaska Native Health, Colorado School of Public Health.”

Doug, please send an update when you are back in the office!

Taylor Smith: “As my dad (Yale '55) left for what he's been told will be the last of his official class reunions (since there are so few left to organize them), it made me reflect on my own great college experience. With thanks to Roy for the prompt, I can share the following: I am in touch with fewer and fewer class members now, but think fondly of my wonderful New York City experience and particularly those from my Carman 8 freshman year.

“I run a small consulting company and have had the rewarding experience of working side-by-side with Susan, my wife of 26 years, who also runs her own business. We work with overlapping clients from time to time. Our son, Austin, is enjoying a highly successful role as a product manager for a tech company here in Chicago; our daughter Lauren finished her junior year in materials science at the University of Illinois and will enjoy a summer interning at Los Alamos; our youngest daughter, Caroline, completed a great freshman year at Western Michigan, to which I ascribe entirely the Broncos' success in 2016!

“As the children take their journeys, we are downsizing from our emptier house to something smaller and hope to put a boat in the water this summer. Ultimately it's my hope to boat ‘The Great Loop,’ adding that to my passion for motorcycle riding. If any of you are passing through Southeast Wisconsin later this summer, reach out and say ‘hi!’”

Allen Shelton: “Since graduation I moved from being an economist for the City of New York Department of Finance (1983–86) to Princeton and McCormick Seminary (1988–97). I was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 2001 and served a congregation in Northern New Jersey until 2014. In 2014, I became the executive director of a not-for-profit I launched while I was a pastor, Good Success Academies. I reside in Montclair, N.J.”

Bill Spiegelberger: “I've been a lawyer in Moscow since 2003, after stints in New York and Paris. In March I celebrated my 10th year as director of the international practice department at RUSAL Global Management, one of the world's largest producers of aluminum. I commute between Moscow, where my main job is, and Vienna, where I serve on the Board of Directors of Strabag SE, the Austrian construction company, and where my wife and daughter have been living for five years. My daughter, Sophie Helen (18), spent her first five years in New York, the next nine in Russia, and the last four in Austria, where she studies political science at Vienna University. Trilingual, she is my proudest achievement.

“In my spare time I read a lot of Russian literature and history, and reread the syllabus of Literature Humanities, Contemporary Civilization and the Colloquium, which was then taught by Karl-Ludwig Selig. I have the fondest memories of taking a break in the middle of the colloquium to let some of the tobacco smoke clear out of the classroom (Hamilton, second floor). I have kept in touch with the lads of second floor Carman Hall, mostly through Facebook in light of the distances involved: **Bruce Probert, Yu Jin Ko, Paul Canning, Steve Rubenstein** and Nang Van Tran SEAS'83. Two years in Carman stood me in good stead to endure stoically life's vicissitudes and various hardships. Perhaps it was the spell in Carman that also made me fond of reading gulag memoirs.”

Wayne Allyn Root shares: “USA Radio Network announces today they have entered into a national radio syndication deal with Wayne Allyn Root, the fiery, dynamic, high-energy conservative warrior, capitalist evangelist and nonstop champion and defender of Donald

Trump. Root is a national media personality, best-selling conservative author and columnist, TV host and producer, and former 2008 Libertarian Vice Presidential nominee. USA Radio Network will debut Root's daily radio show 'WAR Now: The Wayne Allyn Root Show' starting on Monday, April 10. It will air from 6-9 p.m. EST/3-6 p.m. PST around the country."

From **Michael Azerrad**: "Since a couple of years after graduation, I've made my living writing about rock music. I've published a couple of well-known books, *Come As You Are: The Story of Nirvana* and *Our Band Could Be Your Life: The American Indie Underground 1981-1991*, and have written for most of the major music magazines, as well as the *New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. I've also been the editor of a couple of acclaimed music websites and have enjoyed working with some incredible musicians on their own books. Right now, I'm consulting on the startup of a new national print (!) magazine about food, the fine arts and music. I'm also working on an illustrated humor book, *Rock Critic Law*, a compendium of 101 rock critic clichés, to be published later this year. And I'm busily writing liner notes for reissues, speaking at conferences and appearing on television and in documentaries, and seeing a whole lot of music every week.

"I'm in touch with Marc Capelle '86, **Rennie Childress**, Kim Conner BC'85, Jamie Kitman '79 and **Bill Spiegelberger**. It's been a kick to get to know musicians who have graduated from Columbia, including members of Vampire Weekend, Hospitality, and Fleet Foxes, among many others. I often have the pleasure of crossing paths with old friends Mark Satlof '86 and Michael Krumper '85, both of whom have found great success in the music biz, no mean feat. I hope, one day, to play a reunion show with my bandmates in TMB.

"I'll take this opportunity to single out one of my favorite Latin professors, the late Steele Commager, who was the personification of the witty and urbane gentleman, and is a role model for me to this day. And I'm so incredibly thrilled that Columbia writing professor Hilton Als, an acquaintance from my days working at Burgess-Carpenter, has

won a richly deserved Pulitzer Prize for criticism. I do the Twitter thing at @michaelazerrad."

Hillel Bryk: "Roy, I always tell people that you taught me how to juggle on the 14th floor of John Jay. Of course, I only use three balls and you used six on a unicycle, but who's counting? I am basically an NYU School of Medicine lifer: medical school, radiology residency and interventional radiology fellowship. I specialize in interventional radiology. I'm an associate professor at NYU and am director of interventional radiology at Bellevue Hospital, which NYU runs. I've been married for 30-plus years to Tammy, a graduate of the NYU College of Dentistry, now a retired orthodontist. We have four kids (three boys, 29, 26 and 24, and one girl, 21) — all of whom went to NYU undergrad. Our oldest son went to NYU medical school, too; he is married and [as of this writing] we are becoming grandparents (G-d willing) in about seven weeks. That's my basics. So glad you reached out to me. It's been a long time!"

I had a great call with **Mark Warner** BUS'87, the managing director of Risk & Quantitative Analysis for Black Rock. Mark started with Black Rock in 1993 when it only had 130 employees. Son Ben graduated from Occidental College; son Adam is attending Vassar College. Mark's wife is Julia Segal BC'84, BUS'90. Mark is in touch with **Tai Park** (lawyer), **Brad Gluck** (radiologist), **Richard Pressman** (lawyer), **Daniel Dean** (in private equity), **Joseph Sullivan** (retired) and **Tony Solomons** (entrepreneur).

Gil Aronow was the Marching Band manager. He took over from Harlan Simon '81 and handed the baton to Dennis Klainberg '84. Gil is EVP, business and legal affairs at Sony Music where, in addition to negotiating deals with artists and labels, he oversees the Sony Music archive (which includes a recording of the Marching Band from 1932!). He has been there 14 years; before that he was at MTV Networks in international business affairs, including a five-year stint in London in the mid-'90s. Gil's older son attends Hampshire College and his second son is in high school at Saint Ann's in Brooklyn Heights. He is in touch with many former Marching Band members,



Langham Gleason '84 (left) caught up with Neel Lane '84 in Corpus Christi, Texas, during Lane's recent trip.

including Steve Greenfield '82 and Jim Reinish SEAS'82. Gil's brother, Richard Avery Aronow '75, died in the World Trade Center on 9-11. He was deputy chief of the Port Authority's law department.

Margo and **Adam Bayroff** got a new puppy (yellow Lab). I'm sending him some Animal Planet and Humane Society toys.

Joe Cabrera '82 was presented a John Jay Award in March. Mike Schmidtberger '82's daughters, Calee and Mollie, published a photo of him and Joe dressed in tuxes with the backdrop of Columbia's campus. They wrote, "Our Mom says, 'Dad had no personality before he roomed with you.' Probably fair to say we wouldn't be here if it weren't for you — so thanks."

Hoping to see you this fall at Homecoming on Saturday, October 14. Looking forward to back-to-back Homecoming wins!

1984

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Mazel Tov to my daughter, Emma Klainberg, a proud graduate of Binghamton University — or, in our household, SUNY Binghamton, also alma mater to my wife, Dana. A leader in her a cappella group, the Treblemakers, and destined for a career in higher education, Emma is now a student at Teachers College.

Yours truly will be stepping up his visitations to Ol' Blue, even if for just a bite. Tom's, Koronet, UFM, V&T, Symposium, Amir's, The Hungarian Pastry Shop — they're all still there, so where do we begin?

Congratulations to **Richard Lin's** son, Winston '17, now an alumnus! Richard is a physician and professor of physiology and biophysics and medicine at Stony Brook University.

Evan Kingsley and his wife, Dara Meyers-Kingsley BC'83, were back on campus on May 17 to cheer the graduation of their daughter, Ava BC'17, who earned a B.A. in economics with honors. She begins a career with Audi USA, making the car-loving father of this car-loving young woman exceedingly proud.

Kudos to **Philip Segal**, who is once again on the lam. "I'm traveling all over the country talking about my book *The Art of Fact Investigation: Creative Thinking in the Age of Information Overload*. Made my first trip to Nashville recently to talk to the Tennessee State Bar, and in October I'll give the opening plenary talk to the family law section of the America Bar Association in Beaver Creek Mountain, Colo. The book is ruminating on a number of current themes, including the need for law firms to be more innovative and the challenges of managing artificial intelligence in the years ahead."

In the spring column, **Neel Lane** was in Africa; this column ... where in the world is he now? According to **Langham Gleason**: "Had a great time recently catching up with Neel and meeting his wonderful fiancée, Jennifer, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Neel was in town for his daughter's competitive soccer game."

Another long-distance traveler, **David Cole**, is on his second full year as a financial analyst at Takeda Pharmaceuticals in Deerfield, Ill. "I commute from the city via Metra, the commuter train system, but the job makes the three-hour commute worthwhile. Great company with a great patient focus. I've been in Chicago for 17 years and still love it. I renewed my C.P.A. licensure in 2007. I enjoy accounting ... HA!"

Says **Louis Vlahos**: "We must be getting old. My daughter Christina '14 is engaged to James Profestas SIPA'14. My daughter Maryann '12 is beginning a residency in orthodontics after graduating from Harvard's School of Dental Medicine. And my daughter Demetra is a freshman, rowing for the University of Miami."

Thanks to an email bounceback, I learned that in 2015 **Joshua Wayser** LAW'88, managing partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman's Los Angeles office and member of the litigation and dispute resolution practice, was appointed a judge for the Los Angeles County Superior Court by Gov. Jerry Brown (D-Calif).

Adam Belanoff, a TV writer and producer of such shows as *Murphy Brown*, *Wings*, *Cosby*, *The Closer* and *Major Crimes* (and, most importantly, husband of super-wife Alison and proud papa of super-sweet Stella), was back on campus for the 2017 *Varsity Show* reunion.

P.S.A.: If you are not getting my frantic, last-minute e-blasts begging for dirt, that means I don't have the right email address for you, so please

advise. Also please let the Alumni Office know if you have a new email address: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info.

P.S.A. P.S.: You don't have to await my request. Happy to hear from you anytime. How about ... the moment after you read this column? Send notes to dennis@berklay.com!

Roar, Lion, Roar!

1985

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Things have changed a wee bit since we applied to the College and since we first walked on the Morningside campus 36 years ago. In case you didn't catch the statistics, the College accepted 2,185 out of 37,389 applicants, according to *Business Insider* quoting a school representative. The admissions rate for the Class of 2021 was 5.8 percent, making Columbia the second-most selective Ivy (after Harvard). Last year, Columbia accepted 2,193 students out of 36,292 applications, a 6.04 percent acceptance rate.

The neighborhood has changed quite a bit too. Saw a picture of Morningside Park (thanks, **John Phelan**) that bore no resemblance whatsoever to the Morningside Park of our days. And the northern campus expansion is rapidly proceeding on West 125th Street and Broadway.

Unfortunately, we have just one update this time: **Glenn Cross** says, "I thought I'd emerge from the shadows at least once every 32 years or so."

I hope he becomes a trendsetter for many of you who would like to join him to let us know what you've been up to these past 32 years!

Glenn's book on the Rhodesian use of chemical and biological weapons during the late 1970s was published in March. The book is the first comprehensive, behind-the-scenes look at what was a top-secret program to defeat African insurgents. Check out *Dirty War: Rhodesia and Chemical and Biological Warfare 1975-1980* at amazon.com/dp/1911512129.

Here's a little background from the jacket blurb: "*Dirty War* is the first comprehensive look at the Rho-

desia's top secret use of chemical and biological weapons (CBW) during their long counterinsurgency against native African nationalists.

"Having declared its independence from Great Britain in 1965, the government — made up of European settlers and their descendants — almost immediately faced a growing threat from native African nationalists. In the midst of this long and terrible conflict, Rhodesia resorted to chemical and biological weapons against an elusive guerrilla adversary. A small team made up of a few scientists and their students [met] at a remote Rhodesian fort to produce lethal agents for use. Cloaked in the strictest secrecy, these efforts were overseen by a battle-hardened and ruthless officer of Rhodesia's Special Branch and his select team of policemen. Answerable only to the head of Rhodesian intelligence and the Prime Minister, these men, working alongside Rhodesia's elite counterinsurgency military unit, the Selous Scouts, developed the ingenious means to deploy their poisons against the insurgents.

"The effect of the poisons and disease agents devastated the insurgent groups both inside Rhodesia and at their base camps in neighboring countries. At times in the conflict, the Rhodesians thought that their poisons' effort would bring the decisive blow against the guerrillas. For months at a time, the Rhodesian use of CBW accounted for higher casualty rates than conventional weapons. In the end, however, neither CBW use nor conventional battlefield successes could turn the tide. Lacking international political or economic support, Rhodesia's fate from the outset was doomed. Eventually the conflict was settled by the ballot box and Rhodesia became independent Zimbabwe in April 1980.

"*Dirty War* is the culmination of nearly two decades of painstaking research and interviews with dozens of former Rhodesian officers who either participated [in] or were knowledgeable about the top secret development and use of CBW. The book also draws on the handful of remaining classified Rhodesian documents that tell the story of the CBW program. *Dirty War* combines all of the available evidence to provide a compelling account of how a small group of men prepared and used CBW to devastating effect

against a largely unprepared and unwitting enemy.

"Looking at the use of CBW in the context of the Rhodesian conflict, *Dirty War* provides unique insights into the motivation behind CBW development and use by states, especially by states combating internal insurgencies. As the norms against CBW use have seemingly eroded with CW use evident in Iraq and most recently in Syria, the lessons of the Rhodesian experience are all the more valid and timely."

Let us know what Columbia things you are doing — alumni interviewing? Participating with one of your club/team alumni groups? Attending an on-campus or regional event? Visit our class Facebook group and "Like" what you see. If you travel around the world, let us know about your sojourns and any advice you can offer, or if you're available to catch up with a classmate. Please reach out to me with your update. But in case you're counting, it's just three years until our 35th reunion — so start thinking about what you'd like to see!

1986

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Congrats to **Eric Pomert** on his recent marriage! In his words: "I married my sweetheart of seven years, Kristin Burke (a UC Berkeley grad from Sacramento and a Montessori public school teacher) on April 29. We share a love of poetry, good food, storytelling and childhood development. We'll be honeymooning in Brittany and Wales this summer to soak up the Merlin-esque Celtic vibe.

"The switch to becoming an independent creative film editor was hairy for a few years after leaving New York in 2009, but things are hoping for me in the Bay Area. I have several short-term projects and three feature-length storytelling films: A documentary about female hunters in Michigan; a musical animated presentation of a former Beatle's life (confidential); and a fascinating story of two London performing arts masters at the National Theater who are in their 80s, busy passing



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on the essence of *commedia dell'arte* and movement-based storytelling. Most of these projects will ripen next year, so I hope to be at some festivals then. Given the rocky terrain of life in corporate America, I'm glad to be working for myself and sharing some skills and insights with the next generation of creative film editors."

Meryl Rosofsky has a lot on her plate: "I was pleased to attend the recent celebration, '30 Years of Columbia College Women,' together with my senior-year roommate **Meghan Cronin**, though for us of course it's been not 30 but 31 years! It was inspiring to hear great talks by pioneering alumnae such as **Claire Shipman** SIPA'94 and **Linda Mischel Eisner** '87, and to meet so many vibrant, impressive young women from the current crop of students.

"I teach graduate courses in food studies at NYU, wrapped up last semester's course on food and social justice in New Orleans and was honored to receive the NYU Steinhart Teaching Excellence Award in 2015. I'm pursuing a research project on the social and cultural history of ballerina Tanaquil Le Clercq's 1966 *The Ballet Cook Book* and a culinary biography of choreographer George Balanchine, which I initiated as a fellow at the Center for Ballet and the Arts last fall. And I'm honored to serve on several rewarding nonprofit boards and advisory committees, among them The Joyce Theater Foundation, the Jerome Robbins Dance Division at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts and the Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute at Mount Sinai (where a special interest of mine is how to harness the power of food to comfort and connect people, as part of the palliative care experience for both patients and caregivers). My husband, Stuart, and I recently celebrated our second wedding anniversary and are very much enjoying married life!"

From **Steven Klotz**: "I was excited to attend the graduation of my daughter **Alyxandra** from NYU (Columbia's loss) as she charges into the world of international policy and law. She was given the prestigious NYU Founders Award. I am equally thrilled by my son **Daniel's** continued success in collegiate lacrosse. After being named academic athlete of the year for 2016, he stunned the region by starting this year with several goals (unusual for a long pole defender). I continue to practice

psychiatry and to scuba dive. I recently completed a great white shark cage dive off Guadeloupe Island, and I'm off to Indonesia for several weeks of diving on the forbidden islands and then Bali."

Congrats to **Peter Dilorio** on his daughter **Sophia** '21's acceptance to the College. His wife, **Maria**, and other daughters, **Sarah** and **Sabrina**, are excited for **Sophia**. "I even found my dusty copies of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* in case she wants to get a jump start on her Core reading," Peter says.

Peter has been general counsel for **Allen & Co.**, a New York-based investment bank, for the last 10 years, after moving from private practice.

From **Kevin Quinn**: "Since retiring after 21 years at Goldman Sachs in 2012, I have been an active investor in early-stage startups — fascinating but unclear if profitable. I am the chair of The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence and would welcome any support or ideas in how to make this a safer country (kquinn@bradymail.org)."

Mark Goldstein had two trips in May: "First heading to D.C. to the Anti-Defamation League conference, seeking tools to handle increased anti-Jewish and anti-immigrant sentiments in our local community. Then to Barcelona for an international trademark conference and to celebrate 20 years of marriage."

1987

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I know all of you are waiting for stories about our 30th reunion. Your patience will be rewarded in the Fall issue!

In the meantime, there are a few bits of news to tide us all over until then. First, a hearty congratulations to **Jonathan Wald**, who was recently hired as SVP of programming and development at MSNBC, where he will be responsible for developing some long-form content and special events, as well as have some oversight over the network's primetime programming. This is a return to NBC Universal for **Jonathan**, who had previously worked for *Today* and *NBC Nightly News*. Most recently, he had been an executive producer of *CNN Tonight*.

Jonathan, we promise to watch!



A group of CC'88 friends met in Phoenix and enjoyed a day hike. Left to right: Geoff Hoffman, Scott Marantz, Shep Long, Don King, Brad Mitchell and Steve Silverstein.

Margaret McCarthy LAW'89 is the executive director of the Collaboration for Research Transparency and Integrity at Yale. CRIT is a joint project of the law school, medical school and public health school focused on improving the evidence base for medical products regulated by the FDA. Margaret said, "I am excited to return to issues that I worked on while a Columbia student and AIDS activist."

She added that her daughter **Rebecca** recently finished high school, and her daughter **Hannah** graduated from SUNY Albany. Margaret said she is enjoying life in New Haven and eager to connect with Columbia friends in the area.

Cathy Webster sent a note that her husband, **Bill Dycus**, recently ran the Boston Marathon, and that **Kate Dawson** (née Tkatch) and her husband, **Dick Dawson**, hosted them at their home in Westwood, Mass. Cathy wrote, "Dick has trained as a professional chef, so he fed us right, and Kate sherpa-ed us all over the greater Boston area on race day. We had plenty of time to reminisce, cheer on our favorite professional teams (OKC Thunder and Boston Bruins), and make some wonderful memories. A weekend to treasure!"

From **Tim Kennelly**: "I'm the new chief projectionist at the Television Academy's Wolf Theater in North Hollywood, Calif. The theater is a newly built, state-of-the-art cinema featuring Dolby Vision laser projectors and Dolby ATMOS sound, making it one of the best cinemas in the world. The theater does studio premieres as well

as functions for the Television Academy, producer of the Emmys.

"I live in Los Angeles and have spent the last 25 years installing, operating and selling specialty projection systems for movie studios, theme park attractions, film festivals and private screening rooms. Highlights include multiple years at Sundance and Dubai Film Festivals; showing all the dailies for *Ratatouille*, *WALL-E* and *Up* at Pixar Animation Studios; installing 70mm projectors for 3D rides at Universal Islands of Adventure and Tokyo Disney Seas; running the 70mm Roadshow release of *Tarantino's Hateful 8*; and putting projection systems in home theaters of Washington Redskins owner **Daniel Snyder** and film director **David Lynch**.

"My free time is spent surfing and playing drums in a grunge rock band.

"A busy Emmy nomination season at the TV Academy sadly prevented me from attending the Class of 1987 30th reunion. But I would love to hear from any alumni! My email is kennelly.tim@gmail.com."

Watch this space! All the reunion news that is fit to print will be here soon!

1988

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The Class of '88 figured prominently at the "Celebrating 30 Years of Columbia College Women" symposium, held on Morningside

Heights on April 22. **Leslie Gittess Brodsky**, who heads the media advisory firm Blue Sky Media NYC, moderated a “Women in the News” panel that featured, among other media representatives, Yahoo!’s **Alexandra Wallace Creed** and *PBS NewsHour*’s **Sara Just**.

Eve Jordan Combemale writes, “I live in Sag Harbor, N.Y., and sell real estate with Sotheby’s International Realty in the Hamptons. I have three children (19, 21 and 23, all of whom currently attend or graduated from NYU ... eek!). Looking forward to our 30th next year!”

Steve Silverstein gets together regularly with classmates. “A group of us met for a biannual trip,” he writes. “This year it was Phoenix; we hiked up Squaw Peak. A couple of the guys were not sure if I was going to make it, but I did. The trip was a blast, with plenty of great college stories.”

Steve’s hiking buddies were **Geoff Hoffman**, **Scott Marantz**, **Shep Long**, **Don King** and **Brad Mitchell**.

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to hearing from you at ericfusfield@bigfoot.com.

1989

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As usual our class has been quite busy in our many respective realms this year. At the end of April, I attended the Columbia College Women celebration and daylong symposium held at Faculty House. A number of classmates were featured panelists and attendees, including **Andrea Miller**, founder of the Center for Reproductive Rights and president of the National Institute of Reproductive Health and its action fund. Andrea works on the state and local level to change public policy on abortion and contraception, and she spoke passionately about women’s rights and her hopes for further advances in equality.

Andrea says of the conference, “The symposium was truly inspiring. The opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet so many women from across the three decades reminded me of what a wonderful community and strong foundation

Columbia provides us all, while the tremendous talents — alumnae and students alike — give me hope for the future.”

Wanda M. Holland Greene TC’91 traveled with her family from the Bay Area, where she is in her ninth year as head of The Hamlin School. Wanda led, along with Claire Shipman ’86, SIPA’94, a lively and personal discussion, “Girls Who Thrive.”

Lisa Landau Carnoy, Northeast Division executive for U.S. Trust, the private bank within Bank of America, was, as ever, generous with her knowledge; she shared her thoughts, challenges, successes and vision for women in leadership.

During the conference, as we traversed from Low Library to Faculty House, I ran into Mojdeh Khaghan ’88, LAW’91, who entered with our class. Mojdeh has three boys and has lived in Miami for 22 years, working most recently in the areas of public health and public housing. Also in attendance were **Kim Neuhaus**, **Julie Trelstad**, **Samantha Jacobs Jouin** and **Jennifer Ryan**.

I recently connected with **Debra Laefer** SEAS’91, who not long ago moved from Dublin back to New York City to take up a professorship at NYU’s new Center for Urban Science and Progress. The center specializes in big urban data sets, which is perfect for Debra, as her research focuses on harnessing aerial remote sensing for city-scale modeling, in part to protect historic structures. Her passion for protecting older buildings is a direct result of her efforts to help protect St. Paul’s Chapel from utility line excavation in 1987. For a sneak preview of her demonstration project for NYC, see her previous efforts in Dublin online at bit.ly/2r27EiM. Debra is in touch with **Nancy Dallal** and spent Passover in Washington, D.C., with **Elisabeth Moss** and Elisabeth’s husband, Aron Newman SEAS’90.

I also connected **Tom Kamber** — if you knew him at Columbia, you won’t be surprised to hear that he is the founder and executive director of Older Adults Technology Services, the nation’s largest technology program for older adults. I’m sure my own teenagers think I could personally benefit from OATS, though I believe many of us have parents and older relatives who could benefit from a free class with OATS to learn basics like email or how to manage online

medical information. OATS is in 100 locations across New York City and in nine other states outside New York and has received multiple local, state and national awards. Tom lives on a 55-ft. sailboat in the Hudson River and is the co-founder of the Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance, which supports Afro-Latin jazz performance, education and musical preservation and development. The alliance is the institutional home of Arturo O’Farrill’s Grammy-winning Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, and supports jazz education in New York City public schools. Tom also gets back to campus regularly as an adjunct professor of urban studies at Barnard, where he teaches a course on social entrepreneurship and philanthropy to undergraduates at Barnard and Columbia in the same classroom he took classes in.

If you haven’t yet connected to our Class of 1989 Facebook group, please be sure to look it up. And if you are doing something special for our uncomfortably large number birthday, please send an update.

1990

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Congratulations to **Blondel Pinnock**, SVP, chief lending officer of Carver Federal Savings Bank, on being honored in March at the 19th Annual 25 Influential Black Women in Business Awards, hosted by *The Network Journal* at the New York Marriott Marquis.

Noreen Whysel reports that her financial wellness app, Decision Fish, has been accepted into NYU Steinhart’s StartEd incubator. Noreen has been Decision Fish COO since May 2016. She is also working on an archive of 9-11 geographic artifacts for the NYC Center for Geospatial Innovation, where she leads the Coalition of Geospatial Information and Technology Organizations.

Vera Scanlon reports: “**Eric Haxthausen** and I had a great catch-up dinner in Washington, D.C., a few weeks ago — we talked about **Paul Barnes** and **Sally Graham**’s great romance. Congratulations on CC love!”

Speaking of that, Paul and Sally tied the knot on March 25

at Hot Springs National Park, Ark., with great officiating by **Robert Giannasca**.

In October, **Jill Mazza Olson** SIPA’95 left her position as VP of policy and legislative affairs at the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems to become executive director of the VNAs of Vermont, the 10-member association of nonprofit home health and hospice agencies serving Vermonters; see vermontbiz.com.

Please enjoy this exciting news from Columbia’s Department of Sociology website about **Jennifer Lee** GSAS’98: “The Department of Sociology and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race (CSER) are delighted to welcome Professor Jennifer Lee, who will join the faculty in the fall of 2017. A renowned scholar of immigration, race/ethnicity, and inequality, Professor Lee returns to her alma mater as Professor of Sociology and as a Core Faculty Member of CSER.

“Professor Lee has been uniquely successful in placing the study of Asian Americans as a central research problematic in the discipline of sociology,” says Department Chair Gil Eyal, “she is considered to be the most prominent sociologist researching and writing about Asian Americans today. She has made seminal contributions to multiple literatures, including the study of race relations in the US and the study of immigration. ...

“A prolific writer, Professor Lee is the author or co-author of four award-winning books: *Civility in the City* (2002); *Asian American Youth: Culture, Identity and Ethnicity* (2004); *The Diversity Paradox: Immigration and the Color Line in Twenty-First Century America* (2010); and *The Asian American Achievement Paradox* (2015). Her most recent book, co-authored with Min Zhou, garnered an astonishing four book awards. Three awards come from the American Sociological Association: the Pierre Bourdieu Book Award from the Sociology of Education Section; the Best Book Award from the Asia and Asian America Section of the American Sociological Association; and the Thomas and Znaniecki Distinguished Book Award from the International Migration Section. The fourth book award is bestowed by the Association for Asian American Studies,

which hailed it as the Best Book in the Social Sciences. Her articles have appeared in the discipline's top journals, including *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"Professor Lee has recently begun a collaboration on a new project involving a national survey of Asian Americans on political and civic engagement, identity, inter-group attitudes, and perceptions of discrimination. For this project, she, together with her co-PIs won a \$507,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct the 2016 National Asian American Survey.

"Strongly committed to public engagement, Professor Lee has written opinion pieces for *The New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Seattle Times*, *CNN*, *The Guardian*, *TIME*, and *Los Angeles Magazine*, and has done radio and television interviews for NPR, CBS News, Fusion TV and Tavis Smiley. In

and across the University to help bring pressing and timely conversations about immigration, race and ethnicity, and inequality to the Columbia community. To do so in the vibrancy of New York makes this an ideal homecoming."

1991

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In April, as I write these notes, I have just returned from a Columbia-filled weekend in NYC. First on the agenda was the inaugural gathering of the Columbia College Alumnae Legacy Circle. Dean James J. Valentini hosted a reception celebrating the collective power of female-driven philanthropy and its impact on the College. Founding members from CC'91 include **Beth Shubin Stein**, **Elana Drell Szyfer**

from CC'91. Aside from the alums already mentioned, **Elise Scheck Bonwitt**, **Julie Levy**, **Annie Giaratano Della Pietra**, **Melanie Seidner**, **Jodi Williams Bienenfeld** and **Laurel Abbruzzese** were also in attendance (apologies to those I missed). As an aside, Julie brought her daughter, Katie '21 — congrats to Katie on her acceptance to the College!

One last fun thing I did at Columbia with Elise and Julie was stop by the Kappa Alpha Theta house. Theta and other sororities like Alpha Chi Omega and Delta Gamma have townhouses on West 113th and 114th now. We've come a long way from the suite we had in East Campus!

Now, for a few updates on our CC'91 guys! **John Evans** lives in Pennsylvania and is in his 15th year at a commercial insurer as an underwriter specializing in workers compensation captives. His twin children, John and Emma (15), will start high school next year. John gets together with **Michael Gitman** and his family on Long Island and stays in touch with **Sam Trotzky** and **Bruce Mayhew**.

Chris Kotes sent in this update: "My wife, Lori, and I started our own business to kick off 2017: carbuyingstressfree.com. We assist buyers much like a real estate agent would assist in buying a house by researching options on different brands and models and then, most importantly, with the price negotiation. Our boys (6 and 8) keep us busy with baseball and hockey, both floor and ice. We recently completed the Philadelphia sports trifecta, attending a Phillies, Flyers and Sixers game in a two-day period! My oldest son was lucky enough to get a stick from one of the Flyers — one of those life moments he will never forget. **Ken Cavazzoni** opened a sports facility in Farmingdale, N.J. I know it keeps him busy, but it beats the day-to-day grind of corporate life. I also talk with **Jim Coppola**, as his kids are also active in sports. He gives me hitting tips for my sons and I try to pass back some pitching tips for his. We both might have future Columbia stars! My family and **John Vomvolakis's** family — my two boys and his three boys — try to attend a sports event annually. We've made it to Princeton for a football game and back home

at Columbia for basketball."

Mike Socolow and his wife, **Connie McVey**, live in Bangor, Maine, where Connie is a psychotherapist at Acadia Hospital and Mike teaches at the University of Maine. Mike's book, *Six Minutes in Berlin: Broadcast Spectacle and Rowing Gold at the Nazi Olympics*, was published last winter [see "Bookshelf"], and Connie recently attended a conference in Washington, D.C., where she visited with **Evan Schultz**, his wife, Jen, and their adorable son, Jay.

Hope you have a great summer! Until next time, cheers!

1992

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Hello, fellow CC'92ers! At this writing I was looking forward to seeing many of you at Reunion 2017 — and maybe even at my panel on the news media in the age of President Trump, "The Future of News in the Trump Administration." I led it with Michael Ricci '02.

Rich Rosivach — who has probably forgotten that he generously gave me half a pack of NoDoz to pull an all-nighter in spring '89 — paid a state visit to Washington, D.C., during which he, Josh Levy '94 and I grabbed a drink. Rich came to town to receive the NEA Award for Teaching Excellence. The award recognizes teachers for contributions to teaching, leadership, promoting equity and public advocacy. Rich was selected to represent Minnesota's more than 65,000 teachers this year and will participate in the NEA Foundation's Global Learning Fellowship as part of the award. Rich was planning to be at reunion.

Erin Hussein LAW'95 is running for NYC City Council, District 2, "basically the East Side on Manhattan from Grand Street up to East 35th." She also planned to be at reunion.

Steven Greenberg '93 also planned to be at reunion, "at least to see the elusive Dae Levine BC'92 after 25 years." He also reported a major life event: he got married in January in Islamorada, Fla., to Isabelle Jung, "a woman in my French practice group." Steven noted that

Erin Hussein '92 is running for NYC City Council, District 2, "basically the East Side from Grand Street up to East 35th."

addition, her research has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *NBC News*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Economist*, *Slate*, *Buzzfeed* and a number of other national and international media outlets. She is one of few sociologists who very successfully engages the public through multiple types of media.

"In accepting the position at Columbia, Professor Lee says, 'I am enormously humbled, honored, and excited to join Columbia's Department of Sociology and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. To have the opportunity to return to one's alma mater as a faculty member, and to give back to an institution from which I have gained so much is a unique privilege. Moreover, to join at a time when Columbia is at the vanguard of social science research is especially fortuitous. I look forward to working with my brilliant new colleagues and students in Sociology, CSER,

and **Michelle Jacobson Goldberg**. Beth is an associate professor of orthopedic surgery at Weill Medical College and is in her 15th year with the Hospital for Special Surgery, in NYC, where she resides with her husband, Chris Ahmad SEAS'90, and their three children. Elana is the CEO of Laura Geller Cosmetics and lives in New Jersey with her husband and three children. Michelle is a partner at Ignition Partners, a venture capital firm in Seattle, where she lives with her husband and two children.

The next day was spent on campus at the Columbia College Women symposium, which commemorated the 30th anniversary of the graduation of the first fully coeducational class. We enjoyed several dynamic speakers, who shared their journeys and experiences, and participated in breakout sessions throughout the day. More than 300 women from all classes attended, and we had great representation

his wife's "claim to fame is litigating *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town* to the Supreme Court and wresting the rights from EMI back to the descendants of the original author."

The happy event drew Joe Del Toro '93, as well as Adam Ginsburg SEAS'90 and Stephanie Ginsburg BC'90, who have been married more than 20 years. It also drew 40 of Isabelle's Parisian relatives to the Florida Keys for the first time.

Steven writes, "We now have a crazy-ass family life in Palm Beach County, Fla., (and part time in Maine) with my sons, Michael and Jimmy, our retired racing greyhound, Zapp, and his trusty muttish sidekick, Meatball."

One note: Your class correspondent goofed in his spring column. **Brian Farran** and his wife were married in 2000, not 2005. Your class correspondent regrets the error. (Brian planned to be at reunion.)

1993

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Greetings, classmates. I hope you are enjoying the summer! I was in New York City in April to participate in the celebration of 30 years of Columbia College Women. It was great to be in the city for a long weekend hanging out with old friends, without kids or significant others — just like the old days! I was fortunate to spend time with

Yumi Koh (who lives in Brooklyn and works for a hedge fund), **Patti Lee**, **Jenny Hoffman** and **Robyn Tuerk**. I also caught up with Kathryn Hudacek Harlow '94, who lives in New Hampshire with her husband, John; is restoring an old farmhouse; and is an organic farmer! Kathryn and I went to high school together in New Jersey and were missing fellow Kent Place/Columbia alumnae **Emily Fischbein** and **Kemba Dunham** '94. Kathryn and Jenny organized a women's crew reunion that got us to the Dodge Physical Fitness Center, where a great group gathered in the Lou Gehrig Lounge to catch up on old times and to see how strong the team is now.

During the weekend, there was also a women's soccer alumnae game, which was attended by **Julie Davidson Hassan**, **Ali Towle**, **Joan Campion** '92 and **Deirdre Flynn** '92. We all spent time together the night before in midtown, where I also saw **Lisa Rutkoske**. Lisa had been a CFO in the private sector, but five-plus years ago decided to relocate to Long Island, where she was the assistant superintendent for business in the Valley Stream public schools and now is the assistant superintendent for business for Herricks Public Schools.

Celebrating coeducation wasn't just for women, and on Friday night we were joined by **Kevin Connolly** and **Neil Turitz**. Kevin has a pool services business in Hampton Bays, N.Y., and lives in his hometown of Garden City with his wife, Laura, and children, Clarabel and Beckett. Neil has some projects in the works, but was rather cagey (his word, not mine). He told me a lot off the record that he won't let me share ... yet ... but I can tell you it is really cool and exciting; we'll just all have to stay tuned.

It was wonderful to spend so much time with old friends in between reunions. As Robyn said when we toasted one another one evening, "To seasoned friends, and long may we reign!"

Ken Ehrenberg GSAS'05 sent a note: "For the past five years, I've lived in Birmingham, Ala., with my wife, Hanako, and, more recently, our children, Sara (3) and Shira (10 months). We recently made the decision to move to London — which we will do in June — for me to take up a job as reader in law and philosophy at the University of Surrey Law School.

The university is just southwest of London, but we'll live in Golders Green in the northwestern part of the city. I'd love to be in touch with any CC people in London who could show me the ropes once we alight."

We are now less than a year away from our 25th reunion and planning is beginning in earnest! Contact Director of College Alumni Relations Eric Shea at eric.shea@columbia.edu if you want to be involved in the planning.

1994

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No news, CC'94? Send us tales of your summer travels and adventures, or anything else that's going on in your lives, and we will share it here in the fall. Be well, and please do take a few minutes to send a note to me through CCT's Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, or email me at lak6@columbia.edu. Happy summer!

1995

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It's not often we get to include Alexander Hamilton (Class of 1778) in a Class Notes column! An update from **La Vaughn Belle** describes their similar circumstances in St. Croix, where they were both raised, that helped bring them to Columbia. "Writing about a devastating hurricane played a part in both our studying at Columbia University," she writes.

In 1772, Hamilton wrote about the hurricane that garnered him the attention of supporters to send him to boarding school in the British Colonies in North America. After a year, he entered King's College, which became Columbia.

La Vaughn wrote her admission essay about the devastation of Hurricane Hugo on the Caribbean island in 1989. "When the admissions officer called me at my

high school to give me the news, he mentioned my essay," she writes.

He asked about the recovery and if her family was still sleeping in the living room, the only part of their house with a roof. "When I answered 'yes,' he said 'Well, when you get here you can have your own room,'" she writes. "That was how he told me I was accepted."

La Vaughn, who is back in St. Croix, has a lot going on in 2017, which marks 100 years since the island's transfer from Denmark to the United States. "For several years my work as a visual artist has responded to the questions surrounding the colonialism of the Virgin Islands, both in its present relationship to the United States and its past one to Denmark," she writes.

This year, La Vaughn is busy with exhibitions and projects, including a solo exhibition in March in Copenhagen and group shows throughout the year. During her time in Denmark, she participated in several public events, artist talks, panel discussions and a seminar at the University of Copenhagen, "Decolonizing Design." This summer, she is working on a commission project at the Flensburg Maritime Museum in Germany, as that part of Germany belonged to Denmark during the colonial time and was an integral part of the trans-Atlantic trade.

Congratulations, La Vaughn! Thanks to **Allyson Baker** and **Juliet Bellow**, both in Washington, D.C., for answering my call for updates. Allyson lives in the Cleveland Park neighborhood with her husband, David Kligerman, and their son, Benjamin (4). "Life is really busy and also really fun these days," Allyson writes.

Allyson works in the financial services and litigation practices at Venable and her husband is general counsel at the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which oversees Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, among other entities. "When I am not working and parenting, which seems to take up about 110 percent of my time, I find time to work on local political campaigns and with some local nonprofits and pro bono causes," Allyson writes. "All in all, things are really good and I feel blessed to have kept in touch with so many amazing fellow Columbians over the years."

Juliet, my suitemate on Carman 10, is a professor of art history at

**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.

American University. She earned tenure a year ago; in 2013 she published her first book, *Modernism on Stage: The Ballets Russes and the Parisian Avant-Garde*, which analyzes set and costume designs by Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Sonia Delaunay and Giorgio de Chirico for Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes troupe.

Juliet and her husband have been married for 15 years and have a daughter, Nora (9).

Upon the 30th anniversary of the graduation of the first fully coeducational class at Columbia College, I'm happy to include these updates of three women who have thrived.

Please keep the news coming to jrf10@columbia.edu.

1996

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Greetings, classmates! The big news I have this time around is a report from the Columbia College Women symposium that was held on April 22 and celebrated 30 years since the graduation of the first fully coeducational class from the College. It was a fantastic event, attended by more than 300 alumnae and current students. The day was filled with interesting panels and speeches given by women not only from the historic Class of 1987, but also from alumnae from other classes and from a variety of professions. They spoke on topics such as why coeducation matters, women's rights, the entrepreneurial spirit of women and women in the news, among many others.

Jodi Kantor, author and *New York Times* journalist, and Kiancy Miller, author and pastry chef, were among the impressive roster of panelists who spoke. In addition, I had the pleasure of sharing the day with Whitney Chiate (née Berkholtz), Erica Bens (née Sulkowski), Britta Jacobson (who came all the way from London, where she lives with her husband and two daughters), Moha Desai, Mila Tuttle (who was on the planning committee for the symposium), Rose Kob and Rhonda Moore. It was also great to see Bernice Tsai, the College's associate dean of alumni relations and communications, who was instrumental in pulling off such a successful event.

I have no doubt it was an inspirational day for current students to see how much Columbia helped to shape the successful and varied professions of so many alumnae, and it was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to meet and reconnect with alumnae from different years.

And speaking of alumnae doing interesting things around the globe, Mirella Cheeseman, who lives and works in Rome, works on television and film development for the Italian production company Wildside, producers of Paolo's Sorrentino's acclaimed HBO series *The Young Pope* and the upcoming serial adaptation of Elena Ferrante's *Neapolitan Novels*.

That's all for now — please send notes!

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

—Atticus Finch
(*To Kill a Mockingbird*)

1997

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Zaharah Markoe is now with the firm of Meland Russin & Budwick in Miami.

Vivian Elwell and her husband, Nigel, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Charlotte, on March 4. The family lives in London, where the couple practices neurosurgery.

Sabra Gandhi is the managing broker of Nest Seekers International in Beverly Hills, a luxury real estate brokerage. She lives in Santa Monica with her husband, Parker Sellers, and their two kids, and was about to start construction on a new home.

Marisa Goldstein SIPA'99 is still at the World Trade Organization in Geneva after 10 years. She is a counselor in the legal affairs division, helping to settle disputes between members. She writes that anyone wishing to ski the Swiss Alps should get in touch!

Kerensa Harrell is adjusting to living year-round in Florida since moving there in 2015 to be a homemaker. After having lived in NYC for 22 years, it's a big change in the pace of life, she says, but she has

tried to keep herself busy by joining a few social clubs, such as the Sarasota Columbia Alumni Club, the Sarasota Phi Beta Kappa Club and the Central Florida Chapter of Mensa. And then, once her baby arrived last October, her focus shifted entirely to being a mother. She is happy to report that Amara has reached her half birthday and is doing great.

John Dean Alfone recently interviewed up-and-coming New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Fest ("JazzFest") performer Boyfriend: wheremat.com/a-conversation-with-rapper-songwriter. John also directed his first music video, for Richard Bates' single "After Mardi Gras" from the *Urban Legends* EP, featuring George Porter Jr. of the Meters: vimeo.com/213765716.

1998

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Happy summer, Class of '98. Just one more year until our 20th reunion!

One of our class' many successful entrepreneurs, Amol Sarva, writes: "This year is my second year teaching at the College. 'Venturing to Change the World' is the first class about entrepreneurship at CC, covering the mindset, intellectual origins and problem-solving frameworks of commercial or social founders who seek to build organizations; for example, to make history versus to write history.

"I started Halo Neuroscience a few years ago. The company makes a gadget that boosts brain function; our first product focuses on elite military and athletes — NBA, MLB, Olympic and others — who are using it to shoot better, run faster and jump higher.

"Also, I run Knotel, which now operates 15 buildings around the city and soon dozens more. We run headquarters for companies as a service, with the scalability of an Internet service in the fully branded physical space you thought could only happen by signing a lease.

"My older daughter is now only seven years away from her college applications. The two sisters go to school here in Queens at a school founded by Francis Mechner '52,

GSAS'57, the Queens Paideia School, where I have also offered my occasional 'Philosophy for Kids' course."

Author Adam Mansbach SOA'00 (*Go the F—k to Sleep*) is back with a new book, co-writing the middle-grade, middle-school-themed book *Jake the Fake Keeps It Real* with actor-comedian Craig Robinson (from *The Office* and *Hot Tub Time Machine*) and with illustrations by Keith Knight. The book, which is the first in a proposed series, is based on Robinson's experiences going to Chicago's first arts-based magnet school. If you have middle-grade readers in the house, check out *Jake the Fake* — my third-grader and I loved it.

1999

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Spring has brought marvelous news from Ingrid Matias, whose feature film *H.O.M.E.* (homeacronymfilm.com) will bring Columbians back to alma mater by way of the streets, internationalism and even the NYC subways. *H.O.M.E.* has been making its mark on the festival circuit, from San Diego, to Chicago, to Cuba, to many other places. The film won the Best Narrative Feature Award at the Queens World Film Festival, the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature at Cine Las Americas International Film Festival and the New York Showcase Award at the Harlem Film Festival.

Ingrid, who produced the film, tells us: "Through the lens of a city in constant motion, *H.O.M.E.* explores communication and meaningful encounters despite cultural, language and emotional barriers. As Danny (Jeremy Ray Valdez), a runaway with Asperger's Syndrome, wanders the subway's labyrinth unnoticed by three million riders, a Chinese mother (Angela Lin) — desperate to arrive home — convinces Gabriel, an Ecuadorian taxi driver (Jesus Ochoa), to help her navigate the streets of New York."

That's all the news this time, but do write to us at the addresses at the top of this column with any and all updates. We're eager to hear from you!

2000

Prisca Bae
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No news this time, but *CCT* wants to hear from you so that we can have a full Fall issue column! Email me at pb134@columbia.edu to share news about travel, jobs, hobbies, family or favorite Columbia memories. This is your space to share what's happening with you. Have a great summer!

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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Hi all! I hope everyone's summer is off to a great start!

Jill Cohen BC'01 (née Markowitz) shared a lovely photo from a Martin Luther King Day weekend trip to Rhinebeck, N.Y. It was an alum-filled trip, including the next generation of matriculating Columbia and Barnard students!

Amy Weiss released her debut novel, *Crescendo*, on May 2. Here's a brief description: "How do we find meaning in life after loss? Can a soul ever really die? In this spiritual parable, the debut novel of Amy Weiss, a tragedy propels Aria on a metaphysical adventure that explores

the nature of the universe and our place within it."

Congratulations to Amy on this achievement!

I know many of you are planning amazing summer trips, which might include visits with alumni. Please share details from your travels with me at jrg53@columbia.edu — everyone would love to hear from you.

Enjoy the summer!

2002

Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani
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Hi classmates! We had our 15-year reunion in June. I hope many of you were able to make it!

Lots of lovely updates from all over the globe this time around. Please keep them coming to soniah57@gmail.com. Thanks!

Rick Hip-Flores was the music supervisor and conductor for *In Transit*, Broadway's first a cappella musical.

Goutom Basu SEAS'02, based in Hong Kong, has been with Citi Hong Kong for 13 years. Last year, he did short stints in Tokyo and Jakarta, which were amazing experiences for him, he says. He has a son, Aditya Keigo (5), and a daughter, Kareena Arisa (2).

Richard Mammana is parish clerk at Trinity Church on the Green in New Haven, Conn. His daughters, Emilia and Elisabeth, are losing teeth and tying shoelaces.

Patricia Winchester (née Marinoff) announces the birth of Logan



Brian House '02 married Lucia Monge on January 17 in Lucia's hometown of Lima, Peru. Left to right: Ben Howell '02, Abby Walthausen BC'06, Alex Farrill '03, Veronica Liu BC'04, the bride, the groom and Jesse Shapins '02.

Sam Winchester on November 27. He was 7 lbs., 8 oz. and 20 inches long. His father is Patricia's husband, Stuart Winchester JRN'08.

Genevieve "Vivi" Ko Takizawa writes: "My husband, Bayan, and I welcomed Ken Anthony Takizawa, our first baby, on December 4. It is such a joy seeing him grow! I'm hoping he will become the third generation of proud Columbia College graduates! My father is Chun-Min 'Tony' Kao '68."

Brian House got married on January 17 to artist Lucia Monge in her hometown of Lima.

Have a wonderful summer!

2003

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Attorney **Maxim Mayer-Cesiano** was recently promoted to partner at Skadden. Max also passed along that he and his wife, Kate, recently welcomed son Theodore "Teddy" Emmett Mayer-Cesiano, born on February 14 and weighing 7 lbs., 8 oz.

Congrats, Maxim!

CC'03, let's get more news in this space! Shoot me an email at mjn29@columbia.edu or use *CCT*'s Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, to share all your exciting adventures and updates.

2004

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Marina Severinovsky BUS'09 writes: "I recently celebrated seven years with my firm, Schroders, where I am an investment strategist, and 20 years with my husband, whom I

started dating in April 1997, when I was a high school freshman! We live in the suburbs, about a five-minute drive from his parents and mine.

Our son is 6 and our daughter is 2.

"One update I am most excited to share is that this summer we will host a child through the Fresh Air Fund, a 140-year-old organization that places NYC children aged 7–12 living in poverty with suburban, small-town or rural families for a week or two in the summer to allow those children to experience life outside the city and to allow your family a valuable cultural exchange. We are looking forward to sharing some summer activities (swimming, bike riding, BBQ) with our FAF child! This is a wonderful organization and I encourage everyone to take a look at what it does and to consider participating. It doesn't cost much to welcome a child into your home for a few weeks each summer but it can be a life-changing experience for them and for your children/family as well!"

Jesse Stowell wrote from Austin, Texas, with a host of updates: "**Pam Pradachith-Demler** and her husband, Brett Demler, will move from the San Francisco Bay area to the lower Hudson Bay area in July with their son, Westin, born on October 28, 2015.

"**Britney Williams** and **Dan Jacobs** welcomed son Theo on March 30, 2016.

"**Jaclyn Duran** relocated to Los Angeles, where she works in human resources for Aecom and enjoys the weather.

"I moved to Austin in November 2015 and started my own entertainment and lifestyle PR agency, Parker Phoenix PR, and was recently honored with a 40 Under 40 nomination. I regularly see **Andrew Smith SEAS'05**, who works for **Rogers-O'Brien**, a leading developer and construction company in town."



VERONICA SILVA

Several College and Barnard alumni (and their kids!) met up for a trip to Rhinebeck, N.Y., during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend. Front row, left to right: Madeline Eule, Lucy Cohen, Henry Cohen, Chloe Hensel and Matthew Hensel; and back row, left to right: Sylvie Eule, Alex Eule '01, Michelle Eule BC'01 (née Kann), Jill Cohen BC'01 (née Markowitz), Maxine Hensel, Raphael Cohen '01 and Jeff Hensel '01.

Finally, Sam Rosenthal '09, GSAS'21 reached out because he is interested in speaking with CC'04 grads as part of his work as a sociology graduate student at Columbia. He is working on a project regarding life paths of liberal arts graduates and how those paths were influenced by the Great Recession. This project aims to contribute to a larger longitudinal study that will unfold over the next decade or so. Please reach out to Sam if you are interested in participating: sar2131@columbia.edu.

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 you also can share about trips you might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. Send updates either via the email address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thanks to those who wrote in! If you'd like to share your news in this space (or if you would like to be the Class of 2005 correspondent), please email cct@columbia.edu. Your classmates want to hear from you!

From **Dan Binder**: "My wife, Alyssa Farmer (Texas A&M), and I welcomed our daughter Livia Claire Binder into the world on March 19. My two-week leave from work was a good start, but I really look forward to spending the summer having daddy-daughter adventures! (I work at Episcopal H.S. in Houston, so summer vacations are still a thing for me.)"

From **John Zaro**: My wife, Natalie Zaro (née Leggio) BC'04, and I welcomed our second son into the world on April 13. Gabriel Blake Zaro was 7 lbs., 10 oz., and is happy and healthy. Big brother Adrian was excited for his Easter basket and, after much discussion, was looking forward to his brother's arrival home for Easter!"

2006

Michelle Oh Sing
mo2057@columbia.edu

Let's see more news here! Send me your updates right away, big and small, and they'll be in the Fall issue. Can't wait to hear from you at mo2057@columbia.edu!

2007

David D. Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

By the time these Class Notes publish, we'll have celebrated our

10-year reunion! Very exciting. Here are some updates from classmates:

While at the Business School in 2013, **Kat Vorotova** BUS'14 launched her own company (Try The World, covered in CCT's Spring 2015 issue) to bring the best foods from around the globe to people's doorsteps with a click of a mouse. By 2016 the company had imported more than five million products from 30 countries and had grown to 25 employees; Try The World recently completed an acquisition of Hamp-ton Lane, a competitor. Kat says she feels that she is living her dream as an entrepreneur and foodie traveler.

Julia Kite writes, "In late December I appeared on *Jeopardy*, where I become the second person in the history of the show to go into Final Jeopardy with more than \$23,500, to get every Daily Double ... and still lose. I was up against Cindy Stowell, who sadly passed away from cancer before the show could air. Her loved ones generously donated her winnings — which totaled more than \$100,000 after six episodes — to cancer research, and I'm happy I could play a role in her epic run.

"In March, I signed a book deal for my debut novel, *The Hope and Anchor*. It will be published by Unbound, a U.K. imprint launched in 2011. Unbound is unique in that it crowdfunds through pre-orders before formally launching a book, which addresses one of the main issues debut authors of literary fiction face in traditional publishing: Proving that you, as a total unknown, will be able to sell enough copies to make it worth a publisher's effort in an increasingly difficult business landscape. I turned down representation by a traditional literary agent because I like Unbound's track record with attention to new authors. I'm looking forward to having *The Hope and Anchor* on shelves in early 2018."

David Greenhouse and his wife, Emily Jordan '09, have some terrific news: "We are excited to introduce our little boy Wilbur, born on March 15."

Maria Chavez Santos writes, "I [was scheduled to] graduate from residency at Hunterdon Medical Center in June. After three challenging years, including a year as chief resident, I am excited to enter the next phase of my professional life as a family physician. I am grateful to Columbia and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine for

the exceptional education I have received and to my family and loved ones for their support."

Ahead of Reunion 2017, **Eric Bondarsky** reminisces, "Was it the reunion before the reunion? Or was it simply Jeffrey Feder SEAS'07, SEAS'08 imparting investment knowledge onto his two former East Campus suitemates, **Matt Kondub** and **Eric Bondarsky**? Of course, both of their wives were along for the ride as the knowledge was imparted over delicious central Asian delicacies in an obscure Forest Hills restaurant, Ganey Orly, on a wintry March evening. Yes, while gestating into weeks 35 and 36, their wives enjoyed *samsa*, *manty* and *bakhsb* along with delicious skewers of beef and chicken with a side of garlic fries. To many more good times together!"

Mary Rutledge and **Craig Rodwogin** celebrated their marriage in Wilmington, N.C., on June 18, 2016. In their wedding party were **Sarah Fisher**; **Amy Cass**; **Marty Moore**; Max Grossman '05, GSAS'07; **Adam Brickman**; and **Chris Simi**. **Kristina George** did a reading at the ceremony. Mary and Craig were joined by many more Columbia alumni and concluded the reception with a rousing rendition of *Roar*, *Lion*, *Roar*.

2008

Neda Navab
nn2126@columbia.edu

I hope everyone is off having exciting summer adventures! Please share your news in CCT by emailing me at the address above.

We do have one great update! **Lauren Bell** (née Arnold) PS'17, PH'17 earned an M.D./M.P.H. and will start her residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh this summer. She says, "I would love to reconnect with CC alums in the Pittsburgh area!"

2009

Alidad Damoei
damoei@gmail.com

Sarah Ishman (now Sarah Hope), married King's College London alumnus Matthew Hope on April 11 in New York City. They



Mary Rutledge '07 married Craig Rodwogin '07 in Wilmington, N.C., on June 18, 2016. Left to right: Craig Hormann SEAS'08, Adam Brickman '07, Elizabeth Reeve '08, Kristina George '07, David Koetz SEAS'07, Chris Simi '07, Marisa Weldon '08 (née Doyle), Ramie Merrill '07, Marty Moore '07, Cody Steele '09, Andrea Steele '07 (née Derricks), Mary McCue '07, Kelly McConnell '07, Amy Cass '07, Sarah Fisher '07, Miriam Datskovsky BC'07 and Kate Bennett BC'07 (née Rector).

celebrated with close friends and family and plan to honeymoon in Mallorca (where there is excellent cycling!) in January.

Sarah and Matt met in New York in 2015 while Matt was on *secondment* to the New York office of Latham & Watkins. The couple bonded over a love of cycling, skiing and, after some coaxing by Sarah, triathlon. Sarah and Matt have since relocated back to Matt's home in London, where they look forward to many more adventures together.

Share your news in this space — your classmates want to hear from you! Shoot me an email at damooei@gmail.com to be featured in the Fall issue.

2010

Julia Feldberg
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

Hi 2010, and thank you for sharing your updates. We have a great lineup this issue!

Buck Ellison lives in Los Angeles. He earned an M.F.A. from the Academy of Fine Arts, Frankfurt (Städelschule) in 2014. In 2016, he exhibited his work at Galerie Balice Hertling, Paris; Index – The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation; Weiss Berlin; and the Columbus Museum of Art. He's looking forward to exploring Laos this summer with **James DeWille** and Holly Stanton '11.

James DeWille also lives in Los Angeles. He earned an M.F.A. from USC's School of Cinematic Arts and writes for the CW's *Riverdale*, which was renewed for a second season. He recently went on a ski trip to Lake Tahoe with **Buck Ellison**, **Kate Abrams** and Holly Stanton '11.

Derek Jancisin writes: "I'm proud to announce I've been named to *On Wall Street's* 'Top 40 Advisors Under 40' in 2017. *On Wall Street* is a national publication serving the wealth management industry and retail brokers working in the employee channel for wirehouses and regional broker-dealers. In January, *On Wall Street* published online 'The Top 40 Under' list, compiled using data solicited from the advisers' employers. Individual trailing 12-month production for each adviser was the primary ranking criterion."

Pierce Stanley won a yearlong Ford Foundation/Media Democracy Fund fellowship. After attending the

Internet Freedom Festival in Valencia, Spain, Pierce began his fellowship working with Demand Progress, a national grassroots organization with two million affiliated activists fighting for digital rights. As part of his fellowship, Pierce will focus on technology and policy matters related to open internet, privacy and net neutrality.

Deysy Ordonez-Arreola GSAS'14 writes, "Inspired by our personal health struggles, Marlaina Headley '09 and I decided to tackle the lack of resources underserved communities have to live healthy lives. Together, we combined our love of all things healthy and engaging the community and, in 2015, founded Clothing Hope, Inc., to empower underserved communities to be health-conscious, to enhance the lives of those living with diabetes in such communities and be active supporters of health and medical research. This year we are striving to open our first Clothing Hope, Inc., community center in New York City!"

Irena Ossola shares: "I continued running competitively in Italy but then, in 2012, I transitioned to cycling. I have been a professional cyclist since and am on the Canada-based team SAS-MACOGEP. This year I will race all over the world and be based mostly out of France. I am working hard toward my dream to be an Olympic athlete and top female cyclist in the world. My goal is Tokyo 2020."

Lauren Ko recently got engaged to her med-school sweetheart, Mike Milligan. The two met during their first year at Harvard Medical School and they'll be tying the knot in June 2018 on Lake Sebago in Maine.

Adam Valen Levinson says, "Glad to say that my first book, *The Abu Dhabi Bar Mitzvah: Fear and Love in the Middle East*, is coming out in November. Best part: The first chapter is set in the lineup for our graduation in '10. So, like, you're all in it!"

"I am a fellow at Yale researching cultural sociology, with a TV show in development building on my book's main argument: Less fear. More falafel.

"But seriously, I always imagined I was writing these stories for the people I went to school with, and learned about the world with, and would love more than anything to hear what you think."

Daniel D'Addario married **Jacob Schneider** on October 9 in Tarrytown, N.Y.

And last but not least, our regular installment from **Chris Yim**: "Kon'nichiwa from Japan! I'm here with none other than the guy I can't seem to get rid of, Varun Gulati SEAS'10. We have been on the road for the last 18 days, visiting Northern Vietnam and a few areas in Japan. We got to hang out with Eunice Kang '13 in Hanoi for a day and had some really wicked bubble tea.

"I'm ready to get back to the States and buckle down with some new endeavors that I want to take on. The last four months have been a foray into new interests. My pursuits in ceramics, yoga and improv, the last of which I have been studying for nearly a year, have taught me a lot about how I like to learn and the importance of stepping back once in a while to be critical of how you build knowledge. I have to admit that I wish I had been more aware of this earlier during my time at Columbia, but better late than never.

"Someone recently asked me if I'm prone to nostalgia. While I am enjoying my life at the present moment, I do think quite often about the formative years that I spent at Columbia. I reminisce about good times with old friends, wonder about the person that I used to be before I had 'real-life experience' and the feelings that come with being carefree. I wish that I had studied abroad. I wish that I had taken a year off before college so I could have had better management of my time and resources. I wish that I embraced my anxieties better and had been more aware of the learning opportunities that I had while I was there. It's not too late now, and I feel quite lucky to have been in that environment. To this day, many of my closest friends and the people I love most are from those four years in Morningside Heights.

"Another theme that has risen in the past four months while I've been tackling these hobbies has been this notion of engaging in the process. As an Asian-American, I grew up being conditioned to care so much about outcome and results. It's no wonder why I am an impatient person and feel like I lack resilience when things get boring or difficult. Through my yoga practice, I've been taught to be present and to breathe (which is something that I often forget to do), and it has been in these lessons that I find content-

ment with what I am doing in that very moment, in spite of the pain or challenge. This same sort of thing has happened with ceramics. I was so humbled by how bad I was that I had no choice but to keep at it, and bear the desert until I could get the basics right. I listened to political podcasts and tried to be OK with the fact that I was going to suck for a while. Had I not found any enjoyment in this process, it would have been torture, but I recognized that when you start something — anything — new, you're going to stink at it for a while. However, inching forward each day is progress and, if you can celebrate the inches, greater measures will come.

"My life updates don't include much. My wife, Grace, and I moved to a new home in March that we really like. We went from one roommate to two roommates, as a married couple. I've started seeing a therapist to chat through my neuroses and this trip to Asia was super rad. More and more, I am cognizant of my privilege and am figuring out how to do something constructive with it. I urge you to keep me accountable to this. I can report that I am coming up to two years of marriage and I am very happy with this life choice. While I recognize it is not for everyone, and it's not always peachy, I have learned more about myself (and my own humanity) through it than any other life experience so far. It's been humbling. This is another thing that's also about the process.

"In February, I went to Tahoe with Grace, Nidhi Hebbbar '12 and Geoff Charles SEAS'12. We got caught in a terrible snowstorm and had to abandon our car to get help. Nidhi and Grace bravely walked three miles through snow up to their knees while I stayed back supervising Geoff on how to correctly put snow chains on. He got so cold and tired that I had to provide him warmth and share my many layers of clothing and extra pair of gloves. After nearly three hours since our significant others had left us, Geoff started to fear the worst. I told him that their phones had likely died and that if we directed our focus to getting the car going again, we would be reunited with them sooner. Inside, I was hoping that they had found a warm fireplace somewhere. With the chains now on the tires

of my Toyota Prius, all we had to do was get the engine started (the battery had died).

"We tried and tried, but to no avail. At this point, I saw a nervousness in Geoff's eyes. I was worried for him. I had generously given him our last bag of chips and we were now wearing every single article of clothing from our suitcases. This was getting bad. I suggested that we sit inside my car and share stories of our time on campus, swapping memories like we would on the Low Steps. I was falling asleep and thought that this could be it ... until I saw a faint light in the distance. The light was traveling toward us and getting brighter. I didn't come to until I heard honking. I woke Geoff up, who had curled into a ball like a baby. I said, 'Geoff, look!' And we stepped out of the car. When we got outside, we saw none other than Nidhi and Grace at the helm of a pickup truck. They had procured a vehicle to drag us out of the deep rut we were in, and they jumpstarted my car. Nearly seven hours since they had left us to find help, they returned.

"They had apparently found a fireplace in a hotel cabin, where they warmed up and devised a game plan. There were truckers lurking who had gotten stuck in Tahoe for the evening. They got to talking, and the girls shared their situation and how their significant others were stuck three miles away. A burly man offered his truck, but because of

his gambling tendencies, he could only give it to them if they engaged in a card game. Grace pulled out Monopoly Deal from her bag and they proceeded to play. The winner would get to use the pickup truck out front. Lo and behold, Grace won and they got to save our butts from the snow. I could hardly believe the tale after I heard it.

"This submission must come to an end, but I have more thoughts and have been continuing to pontificate on religion and faith. I will share this soon. If you're in San Francisco and can say hi, please do!"

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
 nurielm@gmail.com
 sean.udell@gmail.com

A classmate reminded your class correspondents that we have now known one another for 10 years. That's cray. But another classmate, who wishes to stay anonymous, wanted us to know that he "was a transfer student, so only nine years for him (BOO HOO!)."

A sincere "boo hoo" to you, too. Looking forward to celebrating 10 years with you next year.

Looking on the bright side of things, one of your correspondents has a nice announcement: **Nuriel Moghavem** matched into

a residency program in neurology at Stanford. He will begin that program in June 2018 after a year of internal medicine at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, the safety-net hospital for one of America's largest immigrant communities. He's also excited for a pre-residency trip on the Trans-Siberian Railroad with **Jan Hendrik Van Zoelen Cortés**.

And he's not the only one graduating: **Ola Jacunski** GSAS'16 graduated from Columbia with a Ph.D. in computational biology and will start a job with Boston Consulting Group in August! **Kerry Morrison** PS'17 graduated from P&S as a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. She matched to her first choice for residency in March and will start at NYU in plastic and reconstructive surgery this summer.

Daniel Gentile graduated from the American Film Institute Conservatory in Los Angeles and optioned his M.F.A. thesis script, *DTF*. One of your correspondents is from L.A., and therefore knows that optioning a script means to sell it to a producer, who will most likely make it into something that you can actually show your loved ones. Daniel looks forward to showing off *DTF* to his parents and grandparents.

We look forward to finding out what *DTF* stands for!

Speaking of family-building, during the holidays, **Mary Martha Douglas** GSAS'12 got engaged to George Stasinopoulos, her Yale Bulldog boyfriend of three years. They will tie the knot in June 2018 not once, but twice! They will say "I do" on Centre Island in New York before flying the party to George's hometown of Athens, Greece, to continue the celebrations on the beach with some ouzo. They live on the Upper East Side with their dog (and flower-girl-in-training), Aggie.

Julian Seek married Fan Fan SEAS'13 on March 11 at St. Paul's Chapel in front of family and friends. The two met at Columbia when Fan was a freshman and Julian was a junior. They were friends initially and didn't start dating until Julian's senior year; their first date was on Valentine's Day 2011 and they have been together since. They've been working in New York City at various places since their respective graduations and have lived together since 2013. They live not too far from Columbia, near Central Park

at 109th Street and 5th Avenue. They go to Community and Le Monde occasionally for weekend brunch.

Anthony "Ace" Patterson has been balancing work as a consultant during the day with making music after hours. He released his debut hip-hop project, *Misinterpretations*, at the end of 2016 under the moniker "Call Me Ace," and he's continuing to develop his music catalog this year. In other news, his one-year marriage anniversary was at the end of May. He and his wife, Roza Essaw Patterson, couldn't be more excited.

We're incredibly excited for them, too.

After spending several years in the art market — holding positions in business development at Sotheby's and Phillips — **Lauren Zanedis** is pursuing an M.B.A. at Wharton this fall. That's where **Dhruv Vasishtha** is now, and they'll need people like Lauren to rebuild their image.

Congrats to both you and Wharton's PR department!

Prentis Robinson recently moved to Chicago to further his education. He is a first-year in the J.D.-M.B.A. program at the Kellogg School of Management.

After spending a couple of years teaching English in Istanbul, visiting friends and couch-surfing in Europe, **Jessica L. Johnson** has settled in Philadelphia. She is the visitor services coordinator at the Institute of Contemporary Art at Penn and works a stone's throw away from Alex Klein '01, the Dorothy and Stephen R. Weber Curator. As visitor services coordinator, Jessica collaborates with colleagues in the Department of Public Engagement to devise ways of welcoming visitors of all kinds to the space and helping them to build connections to the work.

Jessica has also had the privilege of further exploring the intersections of art and social justice in connecting with artists, activists and educators through Philadelphia Theatre of the Oppressed. She continues to write poetry, delights in Turkish soap operas and is working on a memoir about her experiences living abroad — feeling into whether that will manifest best through prose, poetry, performance or some combination of all three. She encourages you to "drop a line if the spirit moves you!"

Since moving to Milano in 2016, **Kurt Kanazawa** has become fluent in



Julian Seek '11 married Fan Fan SEAS'13 on March 11 at St. Paul's Chapel. Back row, left to right: Daniel Gutsche '12, Nic Villalobos SEAS'13, Dwayne Wang SEAS'12, Stephanie Yang SEAS'16, Kevin Cho '15 and Long Phan SEAS'11; front row, left to right: Nicole Estevez '13, Rachel Bodzy '13, Jin Fan, the bride, the groom, Justin Seek '14 and Jeff Chou SEAS'10.

two languages: Italian, and SWIFT, after a graduate university experience programming iPhone applications with the University of Salento in Lecce in the far south of Italy. Kurt has also been an actor in Milano and Rome on TV and in commercials. His website, kurtkanazawa.com, was designed by his sister Madeleine Sanchez Kanazawa (Skidmore College, 2013). Kurt is moving back to Los Angeles to begin working for the Nobu Ryokan in Malibu. He will miss Italian food, he says, so please contact him if you are in town to explore the Italian cuisine of L.A., or to just stop by his home to share some wine.

Kurt informs the community that **Jan Hendrik Van Zoelen Cortés** recently inherited a 95-ft. yacht from an anonymous foreign businessman or woman and has invited everyone to join him on his 145-days-around-the-world jaunt porting in Honolulu, skippered by **Diana Greenwald** and her co-skipper, **Kyle Boots** and **Shane Ferro**, as well as head coach **Timothy Nesmith**, who has virtually designed the team's rigorous daily dietary and physical regimens. The 360-camera work and interactive video journalism will be shot by **Lucas Shaw** for *The New York Times*, under the photographic direction of **Nico McCormick**, with the assistance of you, the public of Columbia University. Kurt hopes you will join them during their Facebook Live streams, and keep track of their positions and mental health on Uber Yachts. #gothedistance #roar #fakeneews

Lastly, three years ago, **Evan Biederstedt** let your class correspondents know that he didn't want to hear from us "at least for the next, oh, eight decades or so." Somehow, we keep screwing this up and have developed a ritual where he finds new, entertaining ways to ask to be removed from the mailing list. He asked politely this time, so we obliged.

Bye, Evan.

2012

Sarah Chai
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Friends, as I write, I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the Steps in June for reunion! Here's the latest and greatest from classmates:

Cornelia Brandfield-Harvey is in Houston. She writes: "I [was scheduled to] graduate from the University of Houston Law Center in May, attend the Class of 2012 reunion in June, sit for the Texas Bar Exam in July (on my birthday!) and then join Kane Russell Coleman & Logan in Houston in its litigation group. Excited for this next chapter in my life as a lawyer! I hope to transfer the competitiveness and determination I excused on the fencing strip as a varsity épée fencer into the courtroom as a trial attorney. GO LIONS AND GO COOGS! ROAR!"

Caitlin Burk was excited to graduate from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in May and to begin her residency in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC in June. She is a little afraid of all the snow and the big hills, but is ready to become an avid Steelers/Pirates/Penguins fan!

Jenn Leyva "is teaching high school chemistry in Brooklyn and is working to overthrow racial capitalism."

Gillian Rhodes sent an update from Seoul: "In March, I spoke on the panel 'Art Without Boundaries' at the School of Tomorrow conference in Islamabad, Pakistan. The conference was a two-day event with more than 140 speakers focusing on the future of Pakistan and the world."

Sam Rosenthal '09, GSAS'21 is a Columbia graduate student in sociology working on a project regarding life paths of liberal arts graduates and how those paths were influenced by the Great Recession. This project aims to contribute to a larger longitudinal study that will unfold over the next decade or so. Sam is interested in speaking with members of our class. If you'd like to take part, contact Sam: sar2131@columbia.edu.

Hope to hear from more of you, as I know there are exciting things going on. Please drop me a note at sarahbchai@gmail.com!

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

No news, CC'13? Let's all make the most out of summer so that we can

share our adventures in the Fall issue! Shoot me an email at talaakhavan@gmail.com or send a note to me through CCT's Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Have a great summer, and get excited that our five-year reunion is only a year away!

2014

Rebecca Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

Congratulations to **Patrick Salazar**, a Success Academy Charter Schools Excellence Award winner! Patrick graduated with a degree in English and Italian literature and teaches fifth-grade English at Success Academy Bed-Stuy Middle School. Success Academy is the largest and highest achieving charter network in New York City.

Let's fill this column with all the exciting life adventures the Class of '14 is experiencing — a quick email to me at rsf2121@columbia.edu gets your news here!

2015

Kareem Carryl
kdc2122@columbia.edu

Sad news to report: Paul Johannet, brother of **Catherine Johannet**, sent in the following: "With tremendous sadness, we write to inform the Columbia University community that Catherine Medalia Johannet passed away on February 2, 2017. She was 23.

"Catherine was born on December 16, 1993, in New York City and grew up in the suburb Edgemont, N.Y. She ... majored in comparative literature and society, specifically focusing on the narratives of individuals with disabilities as conveyed through English, French and Portuguese literatures. Fluent in both French and Portuguese, she studied abroad in France, Portugal and Brazil. She graduated with honors from the College ...

"After graduation, she moved to Hanoi, Vietnam, where she taught English literature to aspiring college students for 18 months. At her young age, she was deeply committed to teaching, disability studies and environmental protection efforts. She

was equally enthusiastic to travel, to learn and to share what she learned with others. Catherine is survived by her sister, Laura Medalia Johannet; brother, Paul Medalia Johannet; father, Christopher Johannet PS'86; and mother, Alice Medalia (a professor at CUMC).

"We will forever miss our Cat and your Columbia lion."

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
lliukrason@gmail.com

Hi 2016! To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the graduation of the College's first fully coeducational class, many CC women, including **Sarah Yee**, **Eyvana Bengochea**, **Sharon Liao**, **Stephanie Lee '17**, **Amy Li**, **Alexys Leija**, **Kelly Echavarría** and me, attended the Columbia College Women symposium on April 22. It was a very inspirational day!

As always, please send your updates to lliukrason@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you! :)

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Hi everyone! My name is **Carl Yin**. You might remember me as the guy inviting you to countless alumni-related events or giving out free Southern Tide swag and massive amounts of 5-Hour Energy. I'm traveling and spending time at home this summer, but will be back in the city this fall, where I will work for Strategy&.

I am your CCT class correspondent, so every few months, I will reach out to our entire class via email asking for updates on your lives. These can be anything: a new job, an engagement, a child, travel plans, hobbies and crazy stories (or even mundane ones)! Send me anything and everything you think would be worth sharing with classmates in these pages.

Please send updates to carl.yin@columbia.edu, no matter how seemingly small, because our classmates and I want to hear them! Until then, I hope everyone has a great summer. I look forward to hearing from you, and will be in touch soon.

obituaries

1947

Byron Dobell, artist, New York City, on January 21, 2017. Dobell entered Columbia in 1944 from the High School of Music & Art and became



Byron Dobell '47 (right) with Professor Henry Graff GSAS'49.

a devoted student of Jacques Barzun '27, GSAS'32; Lionel Trilling '25, GSAS'38; Mark Van Doren GSAS 1921; and Raymond Weaver. Dobell was an editor at *Esquire* and *American Heritage* and held senior editorial posts at *Life* and *New York* magazines. He played a crucial role in the careers of many writers, including Tom Wolfe and Mario Puzo. Dobell led *American Heritage* to three National Magazine Awards and in 1998 was inducted into the American Society of Magazine Editors' Hall of Fame. He also wrote essays and poems that were published in *The American Scholar*, *The Nation* and *The Southampton Review*. Dobell became a full-time painter in 1990. Several of his portraits are in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. He also had numerous solo shows in New York City galleries of his landscapes, life studies and still lifes. In 2011, he painted the portrait of Professor Henry Graff GSAS'49 that hangs in Fayerweather Hall. Dobell is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth, and a grandson.

1948

Richard J. Calame, retired ob/gyn, Vero Beach, Fla., on January 31, 2017. Calame was born in Manhattan on August 18, 1926. He grew up in

Queens and, following service in the Navy near the end of WWII, graduated from the College. He earned an M.D. at New York Medical College and trained on Long Island and in Brooklyn. After a surgical fellowship at Johns Hopkins, Calame returned to New York and practiced at several hospitals in Brooklyn and on Long Island. He retired in 1996, having most recently chaired the Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology at Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center. Calame enjoyed opera, art, reading, golf, bridge, travel and a good joke. He was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Joan; brothers Sonny and Robert; and sisters Jeanne and Mary. He is survived by his children, David, Sally and Richard; daughter-in-law, Mara; five grandchildren; and one great-grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to John's Island Foundation, 6001 Hwy A1A, PMB#8323, Indian River Shores, FL 32963.

Joseph E. Egyed, retired teacher, Lexington, Va., on March 24, 2017. Born on November 8, 1923, the son of Hungarian immigrants, Egyed's College years were interrupted by Army service during WWII. He served in Europe in 1943 in the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion as a rifleman with the Infantry before transferring to the combat engineers, participating in the battles of the Rhur Pocket and in Central Europe. Egyed met the woman who would become his wife of nearly 70 years, Suzanne, in France. After the war, Egyed studied at Shrivenham American University and did postgraduate study of French language and civilization at the Sorbonne. After a stint as a purchase agent for Sperry Gyroscope, he became a teacher in the White Plains, N.Y., school district, teaching geography, history and civics, and was a high school guidance counselor. After retirement in 1986, Egyed and his wife moved to Lexington, where Egyed started volunteering with Meals on Wheels. He played the violin for the Rockbridge Symphony and the Washington and Lee University Orchestra, and also enjoyed bridge. Egyed is survived by his wife; son, Mark Joseph Elting; daughter, Lorraine Fayet; sister,

Margaret Vorosmarty, and her husband, Charles; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Meals on Wheels of Lexington.

Theodore Melnechuk, polymath, writer and organizer, Amherst, Mass., on March 1, 2017. Born on January 7, 1928, in New York City, Melnechuk and his wife, Anna Krilovitch, moved to Brookline, Mass., in 1963 and to San Diego in 1972, then retired to Amherst in 1991. Melnechuk worked in science communications at MIT, Boston University and UC San Diego. His lifelong avocation was writing poetry. At the College, he was art and poetry editor of both *Jester* and *The Columbia Review*, which published both his light and serious poetry. The latter included poems that won him prizes shared with Allen Ginsberg '48 and John Hollander '50, GSAS'52, in contests judged by W.H. Auden, Stephen Spender and Mark Van Doren GSAS 1921. Melnechuk's later poems were published mostly in scientific journals and books, except for his translations of Lithuanian poems in *The Green Oak* (1962) and *The Green Linden* (1964). Melnechuk was predeceased by his wife in November 2006 and is survived by his children, Eve, Andy, Dan and Vera; and a grandson. See melnechuk.com for a more extensive obituary. Memorial contributions may be made to Bowery Arts and Science at melnechuk.com/in-memory-of.

1949

Richard C. Kandel, retired business executive, New York City, on November 23, 2016. Kandel served with the Navy during WWII. He produced fundraising telethons, and after his father's death became president of Craftsweld Equipment Corp. Kandel retired in 1999. He was an active board member for Opera Index and the usher chair for Central Synagogue. He was a world traveler and loved theater, even chauffeuring friends who were Broadway grande dames. Kandel is survived by his brother, Robert; sister-in-law, Evelyn; a niece; two nephews; and four grand-nephews.

1950

Mario A. Palmieri, retired editor, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., on September 23, 2016. Palmieri was born on February 21, 1925, in Eastchester, N.Y. Two days after graduating from Eastchester H.S., in 1943, he joined the Navy to fight in WWII; he saw combat in the Philippines and elsewhere in South Asia. Palmieri was honorably discharged in 1945. He matriculated at the College, earning a B.A., and was active within the alumni community until his death. Palmieri was CCT's class correspondent for the CC'50 Class Notes for several decades. He worked most of his adult life for Irving Trust



Mario A. Palmieri '50

bank, where he was the editor of its magazine. After retirement, Palmieri became an avid skier and was a proud member of the Over-80 Ski Club. He also had a great love for astronomy and was a longtime member and one-time president of Westchester Amateur Astronomers. Palmieri is survived by his wife of 60 years, Gertrude; sons, Steven, and Charles and his wife, Kim; two grandchildren; many nieces; and a nephew. He was predeceased by his brothers August "Dr. D." Deagustinis and Aldo Palmieri '49.

1951

Stanley I. Schachter, attorney, Boynton Beach, Fla., on January 25, 2017. Schachter was from Brooklyn, N.Y., and a graduate of James Madison H.S. At the College, he

was a leader of TEP fraternity. He earned a degree from Brooklyn Law. Schachter is survived by his wife, Ann; son, John, and his wife, Lori Klein; sister, Charlotte; son-in-law, John Lentine; two grandchildren; and dozens of cousins, nephews, nieces and friends. A daughter, Debra, predeceased him in 2015.

1952

Melvin Tresser, retired physician, Winter Park, Fla., on January 17, 2017. Tresser was born on October 31, 1931, and grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. He earned an M.D. at NYU and completed an internship in New York, then spent two years in Selma, Ala., as an Air Force doctor. Tresser returned to New York for his residency. He moved to Orlando in 1961 to begin a practice in internal medicine and gastroenterology. Following retirement, he traveled the world with his wife, Bella, visiting more than 100 countries. They were married for 60 years; she passed away in 2015. Tresser is survived by three children and eight grandchildren.

1954

Richard G. Hobart, optometrist, Binghamton, N.Y., on March 5, 2017. Hobart was a 1957 graduate of the Pacific University's College of Optometry. He practiced optometry for 52 years in the Binghamton area and owned Hobart Stone Dealers, a company he started when he was 14, and Finger Lakes Stone Co. Hobart also enjoyed offshore power boat racing and wooden boats, and social activities at the Binghamton Club. He sat on the Binghamton planning board and was past president of AVRE, the New York Sail & Power Squadron, the South Central Optometric Society, the American Optometric Society (which awarded him Optometrist of the Year) and the Binghamton Lions Club. Hobart is survived by his wife of 57 years, Margaret (Marge) O'Loughlin; children, Meg, Bridgette Hobart Janeczko and her husband, Bob, and James and his wife, Kimberly Collins; two grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, John and Joanne O'Loughlin; and niece and nephews Mary Eileen, Kevin and Joseph O'Loughlin. He was predeceased by a brother, James.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Living Care Fund, Good Shepherd-Fairview Home, 80 Fairview Ave., Binghamton, NY 13904; or Binghamton Lions Club, PO Box 776, Binghamton NY 13902.

Alfred Toborg, retired college professor, deacon, Lyndonville, Vt., on March 20, 2017. Born on November 9, 1932, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Toborg earned an M.A. from Xavier and in 1965 a Ph.D. from GSAS. He taught history and German at Lyndon State College from 1960 until his retirement in 1999. In 1990, he was ordained as a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Burlington and served for the remainder of his life. Toborg is survived by his wife of 53 years, Linda; daughters, Katie Franko, Louise Merrigan and Mary Beth Boe; son, William '90; and eight grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to either the "Dr. Alfred Toborg Scholarship Fund," Attn.: Jenny Harris, Institutional Advancement, Lyndon State College, PO Box 919, Lyndonville, VT 05851; or to Good Shepherd Catholic School, 121 Maple St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.

1956

William A. Schaffer, retired attorney, consultant and author, San Jose, Calif., on February 5, 2017. At Columbia, Schaffer had access to the Russian Institute and spent his junior year at Sciences Po in Paris, where he earned his diploma. Schaffer graduated from Harvard Law in 1959, and that led to his working for Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.). Schaffer's perfect French served him well. He was in the translating pool at the State Department, where he translated for President Kennedy and where he helped set up the Peace Corps in French-speaking Africa. Schaffer's career included work with International Rescue Committee in Hong Kong, jobs in Indonesia and Buenos Aires, and a year at Harvard as a visiting scholar. He was an international consultant, living near Boston, and then consulted for DEC before moving to Los Gatos, Calif., for a job in international sales with Sun Microsystems, from which he retired. He wrote four books: a novel; two versions of *Hi-Tech Careers for Lo-Tech People*; and *ErgoSense: A Personal Guide to Making Your Workspace Comfortable and Safe*. Schaffer was married for 52

years to Gesine Grunzig Schaffer, and they had two sons — Paul, married to Amy Gardner, and Harry. He is also survived by twin grandsons.

1959

Richard Dobrin, retired professor, founder and director of healthcare group, Santa Fe, N.M., on January

12, 2016. Dobrin was born in and grew up in New York City, for which he retained a great love. After earning a Ph.D. in physics, he had an exciting and satisfying career, first in college teaching and later as founder and director of International Healthcare Group, a groundbreaking radiological services company operating throughout Europe. Dobrin leaves his wife, Patricia; daughter, Alessandra Khalsa,

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that *CCT* receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear.

1944 **Albert L. Seligmann**, retired Foreign Service officer, Alexandria, Va., on April 5, 2017.

1945 **Anthony Vasilas**, physician, Manhasset, N.Y., on April 7, 2017.

1948 **Raymond G. Auwarter**, retired business executive, Chapel Hill, N.C., on April 9, 2017.

1949 **Chester A. "Chet" Nedwitek Jr.**, retired engineer, Pollocksville, N.C., on May 18, 2017.

1950 **Edwin W. Peters**, retired insurance broker, Sarasota, Fla., on October 12, 2016.

1951 **Harvey M. Krueger**, attorney, financial executive, New York City, on April 23, 2017.

1953 **Frank McCauley Jr.**, retired financial executive, Vero Beach, Fla., and Surry, Maine, on March 20, 2017.

1954 **Richard E. Wagner**, wooden boat expert and educator, Seattle, on April 20, 2017.

1956 **Louis H. Hemmerdinger**, Melville, N.Y., on March 27, 2017.

1957 **Sam R. Brice**, retired construction business owner, Fairbanks, Alaska, on May 27, 2017.

William R. Schwartzman, retired physician, San Francisco, on April 25, 2017.

1959 **Patrick Mullins**, Bumpass, Va., on May 28, 2017.

1960 **Justin M. Spring**, editor and CEO, Sarasota, Fla., on March 17, 2017.

1962 **Charles C. Rohrs**, New York City, on June 14, 2016.

1965 **Paul J. Novograd**, horseback riding academy owner, New York City, on March 24, 2017.

1969 **Barry A. Hamilton**, retired judge, Rockville, Md., on May 24, 2017.

Alan L. Mintz, Hebrew literature scholar, New York City, on May 20, 2017.

1981 **Charles W. Murphy**, hedge fund executive, New York City, on March 27, 2017.

1993 **Christine Staco**, professor, Flushing, N.Y., on March 28, 2017.

and her husband, Ditta; son, Jeremy, and his wife, Ivona; sisters Lynne Sindelar and Marilyn Broman; and two granddaughters.

1960

Richard E. "Dick" Kerber, cardiologist, Iowa City, Iowa, on November 8, 2016. Kerber was born on May 10, 1939, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He graduated from Forest Hills H.S., Queens, N.Y., in 1956. He married Linda Kaufman, now an emerita professor of history, in 1960, and graduated from NYU School of Medicine in 1964. After an internship at Bellevue, he served as a captain in the Army Medical Corps, earning the Bronze Star in 1968. After completing medical training at Stanford University hospital, Kerber joined the University of Iowa's medical faculty in 1971, becoming director of echocardiography, heading a fellowship program and being interim chief of cardiology. Kerber pursued research on cardiac defibrillation and resuscitation to treat cardiac arrest, or heart attacks. He authored more than 250 articles, two books and more than 330 abstracts. Kerber was a devoted clarinetist and cyclist, and a member of Agudas Achim Congregation in Iowa City. He is survived by his wife, Linda; sons, Ross and his wife, Nancy, and Justin '91 and his wife, Hope; four grandchildren; and brother, Melvyn, and his wife, Cheryl.

1964

Steven J. Grossman, businessman, Selma, Ala., on April 3, 2017. Grossman was born in Waterbury, Conn., on December 17, 1942. He earned an M.I.A. in 1967 from SIPA and an M.B.A. in 1968 from the Business School, as well as a certificate of African studies. Grossman was a management consultant and an investment banker in Rome, Madrid, London and New York City. In the 1990s, he became the co-owner of the American Candy Co., in Selma. After he split with partners over company strategy, he formed a snack food company, Microwave Roasters, also in Selma. Grossman was prominent in the Selma community for his work in the arts and as a leader in Selma's Jewish community. He is survived by his wife, Laura (née Wallace); children, Jeremiah and his wife, Jennifer, Xena-

Shira and her husband, Juan, and Erik Diamond and his wife, Fernanda; brother, Peter '70, SOA'72 and his wife, Pauline; four grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

1967

Harold S. Wechsler, professor and author, Rochester, N.Y., on February 17, 2017. Wechsler earned an M.A. and a Ph.D., both in history and both from GSAS, in 1969 and 1974, respectively. He was a beloved professor, author and colleague, most recently at the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. In 1969, Wechsler was selected by the New York Mets organization as the World's Greatest Fan. He was the husband of the late Lynn D. Gordon; father of Abigail Bock and Samuel; grandfather of one granddaughter; brother of Robert; uncle of Adam and Diana Wechsler; and brother-in-law of Carol Gordon and the late Margaret Gordon. Wechsler is also survived by his devoted companion, Homer, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. Memorial contributions may be made to Friends of Karen (friendsofkaren.org).

1969

Pál Maléter, retired hospital architect, Louisa, Va., and Washington, D.C., on January 4, 2017. Maléter was born in Szege, Hungary, in 1946 and raised in Budapest. He left Hungary at 10 in the aftermath of the Hungarian Revolution and the arrest of his father, the minister of defense, who was later executed for his role in the revolution. After living briefly in Austria, Germany and Canada, Maléter immigrated to the United States thanks to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and attended The Harvey School, The Hotchkiss School and Columbia, where he earned a B.A. in fine arts and, in 1976, an M.A. in architecture and an M.S. in health services planning and design, both from GSAPP. Maléter served in the Marine Corps Reserves 1965-71 and retired after a career designing, planning and building hospitals for the Department of Veterans Affairs and The Johns Hopkins medical institutions. In retirement, Maléter and his wife, Andrea, pursued a variety of artistic

endeavors and volunteered with the IRC in Charlottesville, Va.

1971

Mark A. Allen, scientist, Glendale, Calif., on October 22, 2016. Allen was born in New York City and was an Eagle Scout. At the College, he spent four years on the Ferris Booth Hall Board of Managers, for which he was president in his senior year; and was a member of the Senior Society of Schems and Sigma Xi. He graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa and in 1976 earned a Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology ("Caltech"). Allen then returned to New York for a two-year fellowship at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Afterward, Allen returned to Caltech, where he remained for 37 years, and was a principal scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and visiting research faculty on the Caltech campus in Pasadena, Calif. An astrochemist, he developed a chemical model to study the atmospheres of the earth, planets, comets, interstellar space and exoplanets. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Emily Bergman; children, Boh and Philip; daughter-in-law, Andrea; mother, Lucille; and sister, Barbara Peterson. Memorial contributions may be made to Columbia College (college.columbia.edu/alumni/give) or Caltech.

2007

Analisa R. Smith-Perez, attorney, Jamaica Plain, Mass., on November 27, 2016. Smith-Perez was an alumna of Boston Latin School and Suffolk University Law School. She was an attorney for Northeast Legal Aid in Lynn, Mass., representing unaccompanied minors in immigration proceedings, and most recently as an immigration lawyer at Araujo & Fisher. Her passion was giving voice to the voiceless, and she was active in the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the Hispanic Bar Association. Smith-Perez is survived by her parents, Vivian Perez and Dana Smith; siblings, Alex and Adam; and her extended family. Memorial contributions may be made to the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, 105 Chauncey St., #901, Boston, MA 02111.

Obituary Submission Guidelines

Columbia College Today welcomes obituaries for College alumni. Deaths are noted in the next available issue in the "Other Deaths Reported" box. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at the editors' discretion. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct, or mail materials to Obituaries Editor, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10025.

2015

Catherine M. Johannet, teacher, Scarsdale, N.Y., on February 2, 2017. Johannet was born on December 16, 1993, in New York City and grew up in Edgemont, N.Y. At the College, she majored in comparative literature and society, focusing on the narratives of individuals with disabilities as conveyed through English, French and Portuguese literature. Fluent in both French and Portuguese, she studied abroad in France, Portugal and Brazil. Johannet



Catherine M. Johannet '15

graduated with honors and moved to Hanoi, Vietnam, where she taught English literature to aspiring college students for 18 months. She was deeply committed to teaching, disability studies and environmental protection efforts, and was equally enthusiastic about traveling, learning and sharing what she learned with others. Johannet is survived by her sister, Laura; brother, Paul; father, Christopher PS'86; and mother, Alice Medalia.

— Lisa Palladino

Reflections Upon a 50th Reunion

By Thomas Hauser '67

My first impression on arriving at Columbia was that the campus was magnificent.

Butler Library and Low Library gave it an aura of historical elegance. Fourteen massive columns rose to the Butler facade where eight names were chiseled in stone: "Homer. Herodotus. Sophocles. Plato. Aristotle. Demosthenes. Cicero. Virgil." Low was just as inspiring with a facade that told of Columbia's founding as King's College in 1754.

Freshman Orientation began in Wollman Auditorium and lasted for 11 days. The orientation booklet advised, "Freshmen are reminded that coat and tie is required dress for every event listed in this program except athletic field day."

John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, two months after the Class of 1967 arrived on campus. The first bulletin of shots being fired in Dallas came while I was listening to the radio in my dorm room. I went to the TV room in the basement of what was later named Carman Hall and watched until Walter Cronkite told us that the President had died.

Two and a half months later, the Beatles invaded America and the TV room was jammed with students seeing John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr for the first time on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Sixteen days after that, Cassius Clay upset Sonny Liston to claim the heavyweight championship of the world.

Regardless of what the calendar says, those three months were when "The Sixties" began.

Some of what I was taught in Columbia classrooms seemed useless to me then, and remains useless to this day. But Contemporary Civilization and Humanities started me on a journey of analytical thinking that has served me well through the years.

I fell in love for the first time when I was in college, in keeping with the third of Shakespeare's seven ages of man: "And then the lover, sighing like furnace with a woeful ballad made to his mistress's eyebrow." (*As You Like It*, Act II, Scene 7)

Given the existence of the Vietnam War, I hoped to avoid Shakespeare's fourth age: "A soldier, full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard."

I did some things that I'm proud of during my college years and others that I wish I hadn't done because I can see now that they were foolish and hurtful.

The Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement and Lyndon Johnson's effort to build a "Great Society" were hallmarks of our college years. It would have been considered ludicrous then to suggest that, 50 years later, we'd be enmeshed in a national debate over whether children should be taught evolution or creationism in school. But it was equally improbable that the United States would elect a black President or that gay marriage would become law.

One day before we graduated, the Six-Day War broke out in the Middle East. None of us could have known then the extent to which religious hatred would endanger the world in our lifetime.

But through the years, I've reflected often on something that Professor Warner Schilling said to us on the final day of his course in American foreign policy: "The past was far more confused, the present is far more complex and the future is far more contingent than we care to realize."

We're now closer to the end than the beginning of Jaques' Shakespearean soliloquy: "The sixth age shifts into the lean and slipper'd pantaloone with spectacles on nose and pouch on side."

And we're uncomfortably near the seventh age: "Last scene of all that ends this strange eventful history is second childishness and mere oblivion, sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything."

Those of us who made our way to Morningside Heights in June for our 50th reunion stepped into a world where memory and reality intermingled.

V&T and Tom's Restaurant (made famous in later years by *Seinfeld*) still exist. The West End, The Gold Rail and New Moon are long gone. Fifty-one percent of today's 4,600 College students are women (there were 2,800 College students in our day, all of them men).

Butler and Low have retained their exterior grandeur. Butler's polished floors, interior artwork and first-floor library are remarkably similar to the way they were 50 years ago.

Ferris Booth Hall was torn down at the close of the last millennium and replaced by Alfred Lerner Hall. Wollman Auditorium is no more. There's a carpeted lounge in the basement of Carman where the TV room used to be, but no television. The communications revolution has rendered that need obsolete.

The students look very young. They're the same age that we were a half-century ago. In their eyes, we're old.

Some campus landmarks look as they did decades ago. One can stand at the bottom of the steps in front of Hamilton Hall, gaze upward at the statue of Alexander Hamilton (Class of 1778) and see what we saw during our college years. Hamilton was a son of Columbia centuries before Lin-Manuel Miranda discovered him.

Low Plaza also looks the same. I remember throwing a Frisbee there with an agile, very pretty, young woman. She died from ALS 10 years ago. When the disease was in its final stages, I sent her a card quoting Shakespeare's 104th sonnet:

"To me, fair friend, you never can be old,
For as you were, when first your eye I ey'd,
Such seems your beauty still."

As Columbia alumni, we moved on with our lives long ago. But as classmates, we're held together by a common bond: We shared the same world when we were young.

Thomas Hauser '67 can be reached at thauser@rcn.com.



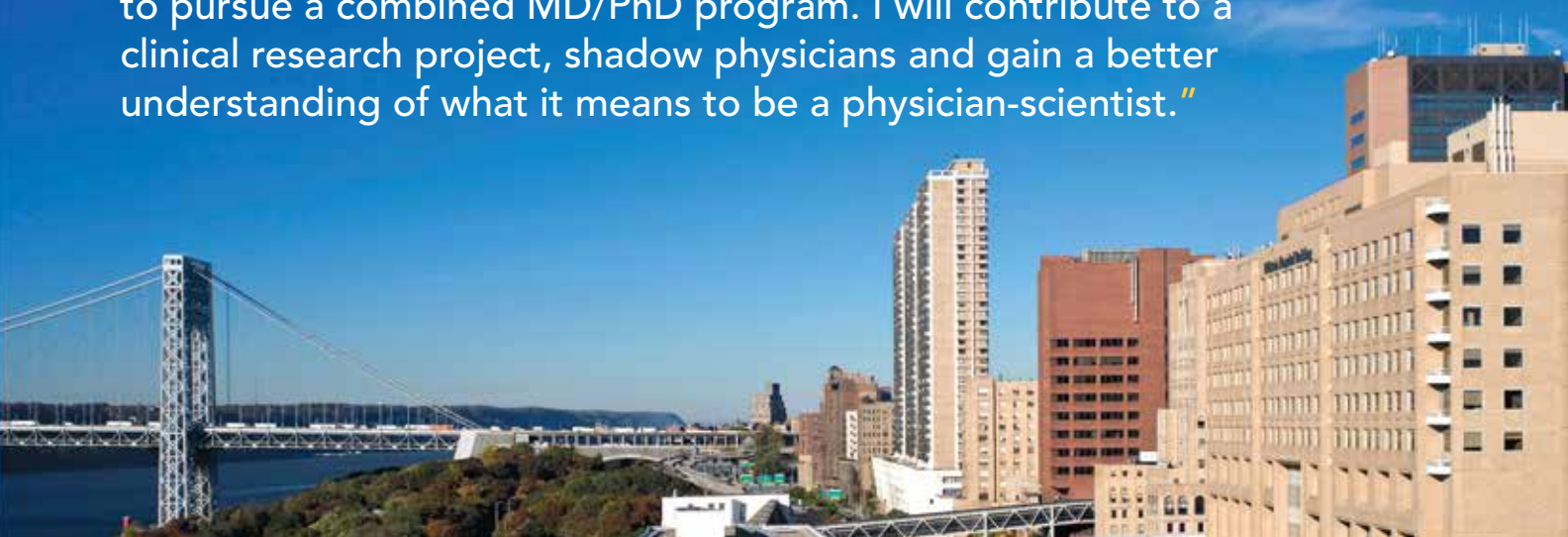
A ticket to Class Day 1967 and the cover of the Class of 1967 Freshman Week booklet.

COURTESY THOMAS HAUSER '67



Jacky Cheung CC'18

"Summer funding made it possible to accept an unpaid internship that will help determine my career goals and test my resolve to pursue a combined MD/PhD program. I will contribute to a clinical research project, shadow physicians and gain a better understanding of what it means to be a physician-scientist."



Gifts to the Columbia College Fund are supporting Jacky's pursuit of this summer internship, which will give him the opportunity to work alongside a gastroenterologist at Columbia University Medical Center and a professor in the Systems Biology department.

In addition to internship stipends for students like Jacky, the Columbia College Fund supports financial aid, student services and the Core Curriculum.

To make a gift, visit www.college.columbia.edu/cct/give



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