

# CCT

Columbia  
College  
Today 

Winter 2016–17

## OBAMA'S LEGACY

PROFESSOR ROBERT Y.  
SHAPIRO CONSIDERS THE  
PRESIDENT'S TIME IN OFFICE

## THE TRANS LIST

SELECTIONS FROM PORTRAIT  
PHOTOGRAPHER TIMOTHY  
GREENFIELD-SANDERS '74

## HOMECOMING VICTORY

LIONS SMACK DOWN  
DARTMOUTH 9–7

# THE

# EXPERTS

ALUMNI IN THE KNOW OFFER  
FUN, PRACTICAL HOW-TOs



# 30 YEARS OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE WOMEN



On May 13, 1987, Columbia College graduated its first coeducational class, and the College was forever changed. Join us, 30 years later, for a one-day symposium as we reflect on how women have transformed the College experience, ways College women are shaping the world and why coeducation and gender equality remain topics of great importance to us all.

## Save the Date

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

Learn more: [college.columbia.edu/alumni/ccw30years](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/ccw30years)



**COLUMBIA  
COLLEGE  
WOMEN**

**Registration opens in February.**

To join the Host Committee, email [ccwomen@columbia.edu](mailto:ccwomen@columbia.edu).



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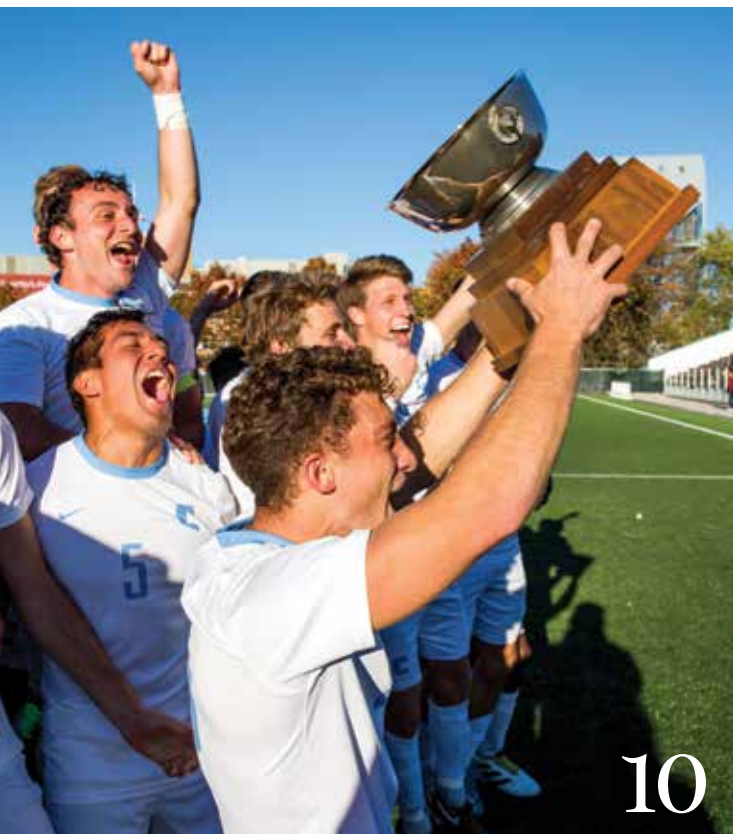
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## *Within the Family*

# The Long Goodbye

**W**hen I was hired in April 1998 as the editor in chief of *Columbia College Today*, I was tasked with publishing this magazine on a more regular basis as the cornerstone of a new College communications effort. College leadership, both professional and volunteer, recognized that to increase alumni participation in the life of the school, there was a need to communicate with alumni on a regular basis — and in ways beyond asking for money. A magazine that reflected the best of the College's liberal arts tradition and whose content strengthened the bond among alumni themselves and between alumni and the College was to be the flagship of that effort, and that continues to this day.

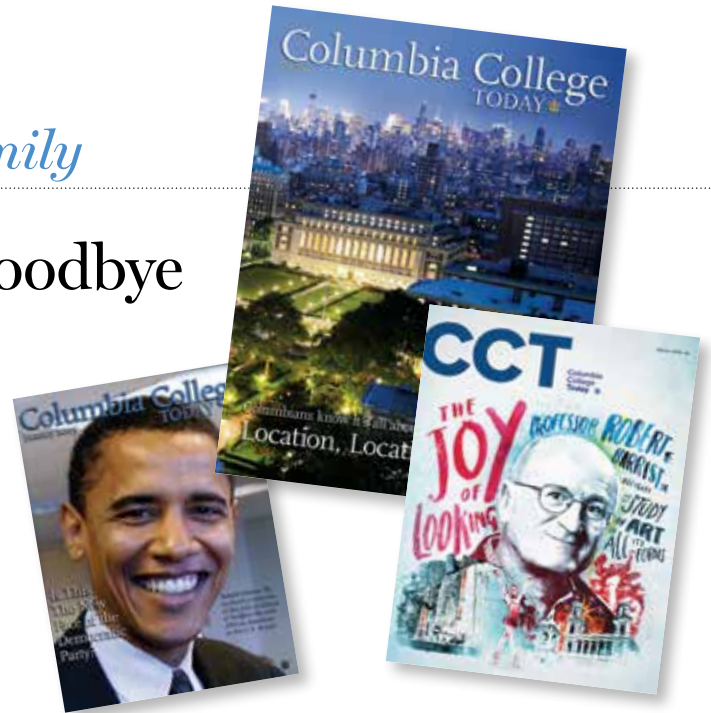
In my first “Within the Family” column, I wrote, “Our goal is to present *CCT*'s traditionally high quality editorial content in a more attractive and inviting package.” The key to that package was a switch to four-color printing from the black-and-white style that had given the magazine the look of a literary journal — a fine, scholarly journal, to be sure, but a journal, not a magazine. *CCT*'s design has steadily evolved since then and continues to evolve; a total redesign in 2015 gave us a fresher, more contemporary look that appeals to alumni of all ages.

I've always been proud of the magazine's content. Our Class Notes section, authored by a stellar group of volunteer class correspondents, is among the most robust in the nation. Our “Around the Quads” section keeps readers abreast of what's going on at Columbia College today, our “Lions” profiles spotlight some of the amazing members of the CC family and we introduce readers to at least one noteworthy student and one distinguished faculty member in each issue. Departments like “Columbia Forum,” “Bookshelf” and “Roar, Lion, Roar” add breadth to every issue. We've also mixed in an occasional themed issue. In the past few years we've covered “Coeducation,” “The *Varsity Show*,” “Global Columbia,” “Location, Location, Location,” “Food, Glorious Food” and in this issue, we offer our first “Experts” guide.

We've always tried to stay ahead of the curve by profiling alumni on the rise. Never were we more prescient than with our cover story in January 2005, when we featured a young alumnus who had just been elected to the U.S. Senate from Illinois and we asked, “Is This The New Face of the Democratic Party?” He sure was — less than four years later, Barack Obama '83 was elected the 44th President of the United States, the only College alum to have occupied the Oval Office.

**T**his is my final issue as editor in chief of *CCT*. After nearly 19 years at Columbia and 87 issues of this magazine, I am retiring effective December 31. It has been an honor to serve as the steward of our alumni magazine, and I plan to remain involved as a contributing writer. (Despite my best efforts, Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80's record of 25 years with the magazine and 24 years as editor remains intact.)

As anyone in publishing can tell you, a magazine is a collaborative effort, and I've been blessed to work with a host of talented team members through the years, including writer-editors Shira Boss '93,



JRN'97, SIPA'98; Timothy P. Cross GSAS'98; Donna Satow GS'65; Laura Butchy SOA'04; Lisa Palladino; Rose Kernochan BC'82; Ethan Rouen JRN'04, BUS'17; Alexis Bony SOA'11 (née Tonti; more on her later); Elena Hecht BC'09; Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09; and Jill Shomer; designers Linda Gates, J.C. Soares (now deceased) and Eson Chan; and University Photographer Eileen Barroso. We've also been aided by many talented work-study students, some of whom stayed with us for several years: Jonathan Lemire '01, Peter Kang '05, Carmen Jo Ponce '08, Grace Laidlaw '11, Karl Daum '15 and Aiyana White '18.

Thank you to Austin Quigley, dean of the College from 1995 to 2009, who recognized the value of a high-quality magazine to communicate with alumni and committed the financial resources needed to publish an upgraded *CCT* on a regular schedule. Also, a shout out to two members of his senior staff, now retired, for their support and guidance as I transitioned from sports writing/administration to the unique world of academia: Kathryn Yatrakis GSAS'81, dean of academic affairs, and Sue Mescher, dean of administration. Special thanks to Derek Wittner '65, LAW'68, who hired me and was an ideal boss. His formula: Hire good people; set clear goals, expectations and accountability; provide the resources and support needed for success; and then let people do the job they were hired to do.

Finally, I am extremely pleased that Alexis Bony is returning to *CCT* as my successor. Alexis joined *CCT* as managing editor shortly after graduating from SOA and proved to be one of my best hires. She is a tireless worker with an eye for both the big picture and the smallest detail. We are fortunate to be able to welcome Alexis back into the fold as *CCT*'s first female editor in chief beginning in February. I am thrilled that the magazine will be in such good hands, and I look forward to seeing it in my mailbox.

*Alex Sachare*

**Alex Sachare '71**  
*Editor in Chief*





## Message from the Dean

# The Need to Preserve Human Values

In this issue, Robert Y. Shapiro, the Wallace S. Sayre Professor of Government, writes about a presidential election when “virtually every major issue divided the parties” and “political emotions were running high.” Shapiro, whose research focuses on partisan polarization, ideological politics, public opinion and policymaking, is describing 2008, the year Barack Obama ’83 was elected. But any of us would be excused for assuming that it is 2016 to which his assessment refers. Indeed, as Shapiro says, the 2016 election “was the most conflict-ridden and personal presidential campaign of modern times.”

At Columbia College, we provide students with tools to analyze and interpret the present using knowledge of the past. Our Core Curriculum, the common experience of a College education, gives students an understanding of how society has grappled with the fundamental issues of human existence — our relationships, our obligations, our responsibilities, our rights — and how society has developed and refined systems that honor rights and recognize responsibilities. The goal is not only to transfer knowledge, but also to raise fundamental questions about human existence, to ask what we know and how we know it and to consider all opinions, all ideas and all possibilities.

This is why, especially with all of the discord and polarization in the country and the world today, the Core is so important. It is vital that we engage students with perspectives and ideas that are different from their own, perspectives and ideas they may not be comfortable with, perspectives and ideas about which they may have been unaware. It is in this way that students learn about themselves, learn about others and develop as human beings and as citizens of the world. President Lee C. Bollinger reaffirmed this in November at the College’s annual Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner when he mandated that we should “teach the Core Curriculum with more fervor and passion than it has ever been taught before.”

For nearly 100 years, the Core has given College students more than an education — it has given them a foundation in ethics, morals and citizenship. That has not, and will not, change. Indeed, one of our goals with Core to Commencement, the campaign we launched last year to build the greatest undergraduate experience, is to endow this foundational program, to enhance it, to enrich it, to ensure the continuing vitality of this one experience shared by all students and alumni.

Today I am proud that we are not only teaching the Core with fervor and passion, but also that we are encouraging others to do so. For the past few summers, Roosevelt Montás ’95, GSAS’04, director of the Center for the Core Curriculum, has been meeting with faculty members from institutions around the world as part of the “Tradition and Innovation” seminar, an intense reading and discussion of texts from the Core at Columbia and at Chicago — organized in partnership with the Association for Core Texts and Courses and funded by the Teagle Foundation — which gives faculty leaders a core-text seminar

experience and helps them develop core curricula to implement at their own institutions.

This past year, Montás and our Center for the Core Curriculum also helped Adolfo Ibañez University in Santiago launch its own Core Curriculum, which began this year with a Spanish-language version of Contemporary Civilization ([www.uai.cl/la-universidad/core-curriculum-uai/que-es-el-core-curriculum-uai](http://www.uai.cl/la-universidad/core-curriculum-uai/que-es-el-core-curriculum-uai)). We also recently partnered with Hostos Community College in the South Bronx to launch a Core initiative, which included a revision of its first-year English requirement along the lines of our Core. As part of this initiative, Columbia faculty have conducted workshops for faculty at Hostos on teaching Core texts and Hostos faculty have attended some of our Core faculty meetings ([commons.hostos.cuny.edu/columbiacommoncoreathostos](http://commons.hostos.cuny.edu/columbiacommoncoreathostos)).

In a letter to the University community in late fall, Provost John Coatsworth reiterated “how important it is to protect all who study and teach in our community and to defend the institution and the values it embodies.” This includes not only our commitment to helping students acquire knowledge and develop understanding and insight, but also our unwavering commitment to tolerance, inclusion and diversity. Civil discourse remains of the utmost importance within our intellectual community, and freedom of speech and expression are paramount, even when we do not agree.

Our role is to continue to provide a place for conversations about individual rights, benefits and responsibilities; about how we express that we value one another; and about the society we create based on our fundamental values. Our role is to teach students to keep an open mind, to be respectful of differences, to approach all they do with a thoughtfulness about whom they affect and how, and to encourage them to learn, grow and contribute to building a community, a nation and a world where the fundamental human values we espouse are ever more evident.

**James J. Valentini**  
Dean



EL MERCURIO

Roosevelt Montás ’95, GSAS’04, director of the Center for the Core Curriculum, with students at Adolfo Ibañez University in Santiago.

## John Jay Awards Dinner Honors Alumni, Supports Exceptional Students

**T**he John Jay Awards Dinner is held annually to honor Columbia College alumni for distinguished professional achievement and raises money for the John Jay National Scholars Program. On Wednesday, March 1, the 39th annual dinner will honor David B. Barry '87, president, Ironstate Development Co.; Joseph A. Cabrera '82, vice-chair – Eastern Region, Colliers International; Toomas Hendrik Ilves '76, former president, Republic of Estonia; Jenji Kohan '91, executive producer and screenwriter; and William A. Von Mueffling '90, BUS'95, president and CEO, Cantillon Capital Management.

The award, which has been given to 205 honorees since 1978, is named for Founding Father John Jay (Class of 1764), a student of classics and the law and a leading proponent of the principles of the American constitution. Among many other prominent roles, Jay was the first chief justice of New York State and later of the

United States. The dinner, which will be held at Cipriani 42nd Street, provides resources for the John Jay National Scholars Program, ensuring financial support and academic programming for the John Jay Scholars, select first-year College students who distinguish themselves through the originality and independence of their thinking, their rich and varied record of accomplishments and their potential to contribute to society in a meaningful way.

This special academic enhancement program is designed to promote intellectual growth, leadership development and global awareness. It is centered on panels, discussions and presentations by leading professors, professionals and individuals from a variety of fields who serve as exemplars of commitment, creativity and courage.

*To read more about the honorees and the dinner, go to [college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/2017-john-jay-awards-dinner](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/2017-john-jay-awards-dinner).*

## Financial Aid Policy Adjusted for Undocumented Students

**Undocumented students** applying to Columbia College and Engineering will be eligible for the same need-blind admissions and financial aid policies as U.S. citizens and permanent residents, beginning with the Fall 2017 semester.

Columbia provides full-need financial aid to all first-year and transfer students pursuing their first degree and has provided need-blind admissions for U.S. citizens, permanent residents and eligible non-citizens for many years. With this change, Columbia becomes one of the few schools that will offer need-blind admissions and full-need financial aid to undocumented applicants.

“We hope this landmark change will make it clear that the voices, experiences and contributions of undocumented students are welcomed and valued here at Columbia,” says Jessica Marinaccio, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid. “Undocumented students are already making an impact in our community in countless ways, and we are pleased to be lifting the barrier of need-aware admission for future undocumented students.”

Prior to this change, undocumented students had been considered international applicants, meaning they received full-need financial aid, but how much financial aid a student required was taken into consideration when rendering an admissions decision.

Approximately half of Columbia’s undergraduates receive need-based financial aid, including approximately 30 percent of international students. Columbia financial aid is offered in the form of grants and student work, rather than loans. More than \$140 million in grants and scholarships are awarded annually to undergraduates at the College and at Engineering.

## Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend



DAVID DINI SIPA '14

Alumni volunteers gathered on campus October 7–8 for the 12th annual Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend. Sponsored by the Columbia Alumni Association, it featured interactive sessions for volunteers from across all schools, an Alumni Leaders Luncheon and the annual Alumni Medalists Gala. Sheena Wright '90, LAW'94, president and CEO of United Way of New York City (pictured), gave the keynote speech, and three College alumni — Dr. Paul J. Maddon '81, GSAS'88, PS'88; Rita Pietropinto-Kitt '93, SOA'96; and Mozelle W. Thompson '76, SIPA'79, LAW'81 — were among the 10 medalists honored at the gala.

*View the full list: [calw.alumni.columbia.edu/meet\\_the\\_2016\\_alumni\\_medalists](http://calw.alumni.columbia.edu/meet_the_2016_alumni_medalists). More weekend photos: [flickr.com/photos/columbiaalumni/sets/72157675020959386](https://www.flickr.com/photos/columbiaalumni/sets/72157675020959386).*



### MORE CCT ONLINE!

Check out CCT online ([college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct)) for original content: fitness tips from SoulCycle instructor Andrew Stinger '06; a profile of screenwriter Jason Fuchs '09; video of cartoonist Dr. Ben Schwartz '03, PS'08, juggler Roy Pomerantz '83 and mixologist Rina Haverly '07; a recipe from Christopher Kimball '73; a crossword from Finn Vigeland '14; and photos from Homecoming and the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner.



## College Earns Top Spot on Giving Day

On October 26, Columbia College participated in Columbia Giving Day, a 24-hour University-wide online fundraising event. The College earned the top spot on the leaderboard for the fifth consecutive year. Gifts to the College support financial aid, student services, stipends for internships and the Core Curriculum.

**\$14,560,943**

Total raised University-wide

**14,269**

Total number of gifts to the University

**\$3,468,299**

Total raised by the College

**3,308**

Total number of College-affiliated donors

**37**

Percent of total University-wide funds given by College-affiliated donors

**\$58,244**

Total matching funds from University trustees

## Elbaum Elected to Board of Trustees

**Abigail Black Elbaum '92, BUS'94** has been elected to the University Board of Trustees. Her six-year term began on September 6.

Elbaum is a co-founder and principal of Ogden CAP Properties, a real estate management, development and investment firm with assets in New York and Washington, D.C. She began her career at JP-Morgan Chase in its Private Bank. Elbaum's board affiliations include the New York City Police Foundation, the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, the Mount Vernon Triangle CID and the Lincoln Square BID, where she is on the Executive Committee. She is a governor of the Real Estate Board of New York. Elbaum is also active in a variety of capacities at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, including the Sloane Hospital for Women Advisory Committee and the Heart Center Steering Committee.

A former chair of the Alumni Trustee Nominating Committee, Elbaum is currently on the Steering Committee of the College's Core to Commencement Campaign. She is a past member of the



TESS STEINKOLK OF BROWN DOG PRODUCTIONS

College's Board of Visitors and in 2002 received the Columbia College Young Alumni Achievement Award. In 2015 she was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.

"We are very fortunate at Columbia to have a group of highly accomplished individuals who generously give their time, energy and considerable wisdom to the governance of the University by serving on its board as trustees," said Trustees Chair Jonathan Schiller '69, LAW'73.

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# the Essentials

## Caterina Pizzigoni

When Associate Professor of History Caterina Pizzigoni was studying political science as an undergraduate at the University of Milan in Italy, she took a class in Latin American history that changed her life. Her passion for the subject led her to Nicaragua as a student volunteer, then to the University of London to get an M.A. and eventually to London's King's College to get a Ph.D. in Latin American studies. Pizzigoni focused on the archives of Mexico's indigenous people and researched her dissertation in Mexico City while also learning the Aztec language Nahuatl. Pizzigoni came to Columbia — and New York City — for the first time as an assistant professor in 2006; she received a Columbia Mentoring Initiative Award in 2008 and a Lenfest Distinguished Columbia Faculty Award in 2012. Pizzigoni spoke enthusiastically to *CCT* about her background, her students and her multilingual household one November afternoon in Fayerweather.



JILL SHOMER

**SHE GREW UP** in a small town in the Lombardy region, north of Milan. Her mother had grown up there, and Pizzigoni enjoyed being part of a tight community.

**SHE STUDIED** accounting at a local vocational school and planned to work at a bank, but decided instead to continue her education in Milan. She and her younger brother were the first members of their family to go to college.

**HER FIRST VISIT** to Latin America came when she was a summer community-development volunteer in Nicaragua. She worked alongside people who were very poor, yet were warm and welcoming. “I got into their lives; they were so generous to let me in,” she says. That first encounter shaped her thoughts about she wanted to do with her life. She was completely taken by the landscape, culture, colors and crafts. “I was won over by everything I saw and wanted to get to know it better,” she says.

**AFTER COMPLETING** her undergraduate thesis about Nicaragua in the 18th century, she realized her passion for history. “I thought it was fascinating to get in touch with people who lived before us, these voices from the past that lay somewhere there, and it’s up to you to rescue them and tell their stories,” she says. Pizzigoni cared especially about Nicaragua’s native people: “I was trying to get to the voices of people we don’t

normally hear from, whose stories are not told because they don’t count in the political equation.”

**SHE WAS STUDYING** the cultures of Nicaragua for an M.A. but found her research impeded because that population had mainly oral traditions and didn’t leave written documents. After being accepted to the Ph.D. program at King’s College, she shifted her focus to the colonial archives of Mexico. She went to Mexico City to do research and liked the city so much she stayed for two years, from 1999 to 2001.

**SHE LEARNED** Nahuatl during two months of intensive training at Yale. Her grandmother had left her a small inheritance, which allowed her to attend the program taught by James Lockhart, the prominent scholar of colonial Latin America and professor emeritus at UCLA. She showed Lockhart copies of the archival documents she was studying and he was stunned: “Nobody had worked on these testaments before,” she says. Lockhart became a second adviser for her dissertation, which she completed traveling between Mexico City and London.

**SHE WAS TEACHING** in London when she interviewed at Columbia to be a professor of Latin American colonial history. She had never worked in the United States and so she was happily

shocked when she got the job. “I never thought I would end up in a place like this,” she says. “That’s why I feel so committed to teaching.”

**SHE BELIEVES** strongly in mentorship. “Mentors can change your life. I would never be here if it weren’t for the teachers who helped me,” she says. “I see so much potential in my students; they have so many ideas, who knows who they might turn out to be?”

**HER FAVORITE CLASS** to teach is “Latin American Civilization I,” a large lecture where she meets students from all paths of College life and is able to transmit some of her subject’s universal lessons. “History is a discipline in which we can learn empathy, points of view of other people and cultures,” she says. “The ‘here and now’ becomes so relative, and that perspective lifts a weight off.”

**SHE MET HER HUSBAND**, Gergely Baics, an assistant professor of history and urban studies at Barnard, at a Columbia history department dinner. They have an infant daughter, Emma, who hears Italian, Hungarian, English and Spanish in their home. Pizzigoni is glad her daughter will have an easier time learning languages than she has had as an adult: “My in-laws don’t speak English, and Hungarian has been more difficult to learn than Nahuatl!”

— Jill C. Shomer

## Mendelson Family Gifts Student Business Center

The Mendelson family, whose association with Columbia spans four generations, is making a \$10 million gift to establish the Mendelson Center for Undergraduate Business Initiatives. The joint program between Columbia College and the Business School was announced in November. The center will foster an ongoing business education program for select Columbia undergraduates.

The Mendelson Center ([gsb.columbia.edu/mendelson](http://gsb.columbia.edu/mendelson)) makes permanent Columbia's special concentration in business management, through which undergraduates enroll in specially designed courses with Business School faculty. These courses connect business skills with elements of Columbia's liberal arts education — for example, how finance is connected to principles of economics and how marketing concepts depend on psychology.

"The Mendelson Center for Undergraduate Business Initiatives gives our students an unparalleled opportunity to combine the values and skills honed in our Core Curriculum and through our more than 100 liberal arts majors and concentrations, with the experience of studying with world-class faculty at Columbia Business School," said Dean James J. Valentini. "Our students are very enthusiastic about creating, organizing, and managing enterprises, so we are grateful for this gift."

"This extraordinary gift will have a lasting impact on business education at Columbia, bridging theory and practice and encouraging the exchange of ideas both within the University community and beyond," said Glenn Hubbard, Business School dean, the Russell L. Carson Professor of Finance and professor of economics. "The Mendelson family's generosity will enhance the special concentration in business management's existing activities and enable it to reach more students and even greater heights."

For the Mendelsons, Columbia is a family tradition dating back to Samuel Mendelson (Class of 1906). This gift was made by Mendelson family members Arlene H. and Laurans A. "Larry" Mendelson '60, BUS'61 and their daughters-in-law and sons, Kimberly and Eric Mendelson '87, BUS'89, parents of Hayley '17, David '19 and Daniel; and Lisa and Victor Mendelson '89, parents of Lindsey '18, Nicole '20 and Alexander.

"My time at Columbia College and Columbia Business School was transformative," said Larry Mendelson. "I hope the Mendelson Center will provide Columbia undergraduates with opportunities like the ones I had. There is nothing better than participating in intellectual exploration while gaining practical ability in business, navigating easily between the realms of ideas and action."

Mendelson, chairman of the board of HEICO Corp., was a University trustee from 1995 to 2001, as well as chairman of the Trustees' Audit Committee. He was a member of the College's Board of Visitors from 1984 to 1989. His sons, co-presidents of HEICO, are current BOV members; Victor is chair.

The family's philanthropy at Columbia includes the establishment of the Samuel and Blanche Mendelson Memorial Scholarship Fund and the endowment the Mendelson Professorship in Economics and the Mendelson Family Professorship in American Studies.



EILEEN BARROSO

## Did You Know?



### Carman Hall Went Unnamed for Nearly Six Years

While Carman Hall is now a well-known first-year residence hall, housing roughly 40 percent of Columbia's first-year class, its early years were spent in name limbo as "New Hall." Columbia secured a loan from the then-named Federal Housing Agency to build the residence hall and it remained unnamed. *Spectator* articles from the time claim that Columbia held off naming in hopes that a generous donor would cover the loan in exchange for naming rights. When the building opened in September 1959, *Spectator* sponsored an informal naming contest that month. The "Serious" category winner suggested Hawkes Hall, after Herbert E. Hawkes, dean from 1918 to 1943; the "Humorous" winner suggested Aaron Burr Hall as a counterpoint to Hamilton Hall. However, neither name was endorsed by the University administration and the building continued to be known as New Hall.

In early 1965, *Spectator* published an editorial suggesting that the building be named in honor of Harry J. Carman, dean of the College from 1943 to 1950, who had died in December 1964. The name was approved by the Trustees and on April 29, 1965, the building was christened Carman Hall.



# Show Your Love for Columbia!



## REPRESENT COLUMBIA COLLEGE WHEREVER YOU ARE

Help ensure all applicants have a chance to meet at least one College alumnus/a to learn about the Columbia experience. With over 30,000 applicants each year, our need for alumni interviewers has increased greatly.

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### Questions?

Contact Claire Gumus, Alumni Relations:  
[claire.gumus@columbia.edu](mailto:claire.gumus@columbia.edu) or 212-853-1358





# ROAR, LION, ROAR

## Lions Win at Homecoming



MIKE McLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Lions' ferocious defense halts Dartmouth.

Neither rain nor cold nor wind could stop Columbia from ending its 15-game Homecoming losing streak as Oren Milstein '20 kicked three field goals and the Lions' defense shut down Dartmouth in a 9-7 victory on October 22. Columbia's last Homecoming win came in 2000.

Milstein kicked field goals of 31, 20 and 33 yards through the inclement weather at Robert K. Kraft Field, to the delight of the vast majority of the crowd of 8,946 as well as coach Al Bagnoli, who said, "I couldn't be happier for our kids, our alumni base and the entire Columbia football community. It was an awesome win; nobody left early considering the suspense of it."

Indeed, spectators saw a 47-yard field goal try by Dartmouth's David Smith fall just short with 27 seconds left in the game. Columbia's defense, led by linebacker Gianmarco Rea '17,

came up with big plays all day, stopping the Big Green on 16-of-17 third-down conversion attempts. Rea led the Lions with 11 tackles against Dartmouth and had 108 for the season, tops in the Ivy League.

The Lions finished the season with a 3-7 record, with five of their losses coming by eight points or fewer, and a 2-5 mark in Ivy play. They defeated Wagner 15-13 in a game in which Milstein accounted for all of Columbia's points with a school-record five field goals, and they closed out the season with a 31-13 win at Brown. Rea and Milstein both were voted to the All-Ivy first team by the conference coaches.



### CCT Web Extras

To view a Homecoming photo album, go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

## Men's Soccer Wins 10th Ivy Title

Led by high scorer Arthur Bosua '18 and goaltender Dylan Castanheira '19, Columbia men's soccer compiled a 5-1-1 conference record to earn its 10th Ivy League Championship and its first since 1993. The Lions, who finished 13-3-1 overall, tied Dartmouth for the league crown. It was the first championship for head coach Kevin Anderson, who said the Lions "truly had a team-first mentality."

The title was up for grabs after first-place Harvard imposed sanctions on its team in midseason, making it ineligible for the championship. Columbia bounced back handily from a 1-0 home loss to Dartmouth on October 22 and won its last five games of the season, capping the streak with a 4-0 victory over Cornell on November 13 that gave the Lions their share of the Ivy crown.

Bosua scored eight goals and had four assists and was named the Ivy League Offensive Player of the Year, the first Columbian to win that award since Rikki Dadason '96 in 1993. Bosua had three goals and an assist in the title-clinching win over Cornell.

Castanheira posted seven shutouts en route to a 9-1 record in the Columbia net. He finished first in the NCAA with a goals-against average of .290 and a save percentage of .903. The latter was the best in Columbia history, breaking the school mark of .894 set by Gary Escher SEAS'84, SEAS'86 in 1983.

Bosua was named to the All-Ivy First Team along with Alex Bangerl '18 and Andrew Tinari '17, while Castanheira and Vana Markarian '20 made the Second Team. Markarian, who helped the Lions' defense to a league-low .71 goals against average, was named the Ivy League Rookie of the Year, and Anderson was selected as Coach of the Year.

MIKE McLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS



## Fencing Seeks To Three-Peat

**Can Columbia fencing** make it three in a row? Says coach Michael Aufrechtig, “As the defending NCAA champions, we look forward to the journey that lies ahead of us.”

Columbia was the dominant team in college fencing last season, winning its second consecutive NCAA Championship and the 15th national title in school history. The Lions also won both the men’s and women’s Ivy League Championships (the two squads compete together for one NCAA crown).

Columbia will seek to become the first team to win three consecutive NCAA titles since Penn State won six in a row from 1995 to 2000. Columbia won three straight NCAA men’s titles from 1987 to 1989, before the championships became a coeducational competition the following year.

The 2017 NCAA Championships will be held in Indianapolis March 23–26. But before that the Lions will have their sights set on adding to their collection of 37 men’s and 10 women’s conference titles when they compete in the Ivy League Championships in Philadelphia February 11–12.

The Lions lost several stars to graduation, notably two-time NCAA champion épéist Jake Hoyle ’16 and Jackie Dubrovich ’16, who was runner-up in foil at last year’s NAAs. But Columbia has numerous experienced fencers, including defending USA national champion Margaret Lu ’17 and five 2016 All-Americans: Mason Speta ’17 (first team), Sara Taffel BC’17 (second team), Lena Johnson BC’18, Porter Hesselgrave ’18 and Calvin Liang ’19 (honorable mention).

Columbia won all but one match during the fall semester, with the women’s team losing to Princeton 16–11 at the Penn Elite Tournament on November 5. The Lions were an overall 10–1 at that event, went 6–0 at the Columbia Invitational on November 18 and posted 14–13 (men) and 25–2 (women) victories over NYU on November 22 in an old-school dual meet. The Lions will gear up for the round-robin Ivy League Championships by facing some of the strongest teams in the nation in the Penn State Invitational on January 15, the St. John’s Super Cup on January 21 and the NYU Invitational on January 22.



For the latest news on Columbia athletics, visit [gocolumbialions.com](http://gocolumbialions.com).

## Engles, Griffith Lead Lions Basketball

**Two familiar faces have taken the helm** of Columbia’s men’s and women’s basketball programs this season. Jim Engles, who was an assistant coach at Columbia from 2003 to 2008 before achieving success in eight years as the head coach at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), takes over a men’s team that won a school-record 25 games and the CIT Championship last season but lost key players to graduation. Meanwhile, Megan Griffith ’07, who captained the Lions for three seasons before playing pro ball in Europe and being an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Princeton, is the new head coach of the women’s team.

The men’s team, which finished third in the Ivy League last season with a 10–4 record, will begin conference play at Cornell on January 14. The Lions went 4–5 at the start of their non-conference schedule, with veterans Luke Petrask ’17 and Nate Hickman ’18 and newcomer Mike Smith ’20 leading the scoring.

Engles, who played basketball at Dickinson, was an assistant coach for 13 seasons at Wagner and Rider before coming to Columbia in 2003 and helping head coach Joe Jones build the Lions into a consistent competitor in both league and non-conference play. He left in 2008 to become the head coach at NJIT and steadily built the Highlanders, who had only competed at the Division I level for two seasons prior to his arrival, into a team that won 15 games in 2012–13. He was the Metropolitan and Mid-Major Coach of the Year in 2014–15 after leading NJIT to the first of two 20-win seasons.

Griffith helped Princeton win five Ivy League championships and hopes to build a comparable winning culture at Columbia, where she was an All-Ivy League player in 2005–06 and 2006–07. When she was introduced as coach of the Lions last spring, she described herself as “a builder and a worker” and said “progress within our process” will be her mantra. As for being back on Morningside Heights, she said, “It just feels right. I know this is where I need to be and where I want to be.”

Griffith’s team got off to the best start in school history by winning eight of its first 10 games behind Camille Zimmerman ’18 and Tori Oliver ’17, the two leading scorers and rebounders from a year ago. Like the men, the women will begin Ivy competition at Cornell on January 14.



Jim Engles and Megan Griffith '07

### SCOREBOARD

5

Field goals by Oren Milstein ’20, a school record, in football’s 15–13 win over Wagner

468

Digs by volleyball’s Cassie Wes ’17, the Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive year

.903

Save percentage by men’s soccer goalie Dylan Castanheira ’19, a school record and the best in the NCAA

108

Tackles by linebacker Gianmarco Rea ’17 in the 2016 football season, tops in the Ivy League

4

Teams that will qualify for the Ivy League’s new postseason tournaments for men’s and women’s basketball

THE

# EXPERTS

ALUMNI IN THE KNOW OFFER  
FUN, PRACTICAL HOW-TOs

INTERVIEWS BY

ALEXIS BONCY SOA '11  
SHIRA BOSS '93, JRN '97, SIPA '98  
ANNE-RYAN HEATWOLE JRN '09  
KIM MARTINEAU JRN '97, SPS '14  
JILL C. SHOMER  
YELENA SHUSTER '09  
LAUREN STEUSSY

COLUMBIA COLLEGE ALUMNI  
POSSESS A RANGE OF KNOWLEDGE  
THANKS IN PART TO THE CORE,  
BUT THEIR EXPERTISE EXTENDS  
WELL BEYOND THE CLASSICS.  
FROM PLANNING THE PERFECT  
DINNER PARTY TO RUNNING  
A RACE TO IDENTIFYING  
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## Step Up Your Crossword Game

Finn Vigeland '14, crossword contributor to *The New York Times*

## Brew a Perfect Cup of Coffee

Jon White '85, EVP, White Coffee Corp.

**What should a coffee newbie look for in different roasts?**

**How do the roasts affect the coffee's taste?**

Coffee becomes “dark” by increasing the roasting time and temperature. As the roast gets progressively darker, the coffee bean oils are brought to the bean's surface and the taste profile becomes stronger. More subtle flavors often found in lighter roasts are diminished in darker roasts; some people find dark roasts to be bitter. There are a variety of potential roast shades, but at the end of the day, it is very much a matter of taste.

**How do the beans' country of origin influence the flavor?**

Each coffee-growing region in the world has unique characteristics — different soil conditions, elevations, rainfall and cultivation methods. All of these create unique flavor profiles. For example, coffee from Sumatra, in Indonesia, has a full-bodied mouthfeel; coffees from Ethiopia, such as from the Sidamo or Yirgacheffe regions, are well known for winy, thinner-bodied flavors; coffees from Colombia offer a nice balance of body and acidity — they give you a sort of tingly feeling on the tip of your tongue. Coffee has been grown for centuries, but now more countries have become larger “players.” For example, Vietnam was a non-factor 20 years ago; today it's the second largest global exporter!

**How do you make coffee at home? Walk us step by step through your process.**

Ideally you should grind the beans right before you brew them — this results in maximum freshness. The only challenge is that a small home grinder may not yield consistent grind results, so you can get inconsistent brew. I pre-grind for only a few days' worth of use and store it in an airtight container. Many people store it in the refrigerator — that's fine — but beware of creating moisture on the coffee — that and oxygen will quickly deteriorate the flavor. Use good filtered water if you can. As for brewing methods, I use a basic, high-quality drip coffeemaker; most of them do a fine job. I don't recommend percolators — they force water over the coffee repeatedly, bringing out less desirable flavor elements. Single cup systems are convenient but can vary in result. I often use a French press, which allows for the grinds to sit in the water and extract the flavor profile. Get an insulated one to maintain temperature.

**What should coffee lovers try in a café that they might not make at home?**

Coffee by the cup is an affordable luxury. Try something exotic that you would not normally have. A special, high-quality single origin, like certain African or Central American coffees, is often a good place to start. When I visit a new café I usually try its signature blend — it should represent the essence and highest quality of the brand and would be unique to that location.

— Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09

**LOOK UP WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW.** Daily crosswords typically get increasingly harder as the week goes on. You won't make it to Tuesday if you don't check your answers from Monday. The first time I competed in a crossword tournament, “SST” (supersonic transport) was an answer in the first puzzle. I didn't know what it was, so I asked my neighbor before the second puzzle started. Sure enough, SST was an answer in the next puzzle, but I was ready for it that time.

**CROSSWORDS RARELY INCLUDE OBSCURE TRIVIA.** Usually, a hard-seeming clue on a challenging late-week puzzle is just an obscure way of cluing a more well-known answer. Once you learn that Mel Ott is crossword's favorite baseball player because of the great combination of letters in his last name, you'll recognize that you don't have to be a sports fanatic to get the clue “First National Leaguer with 500 home runs.” Three letters, baseball player? Ninety percent chance it's OTT. Three letters, hockey player? Probably Bobby ORR. Three letters, musician? Your best friends are Brian ENO and Yoko ONO.

**BE READY FOR THE REBUS.** Intermediate solvers looking to conquer mid-week puzzles are often stymied when they get to a rebus puzzle: a puzzle where you have to put multiple letters into one square. Be on the lookout for wordplay suggesting a rebus rationale. An easy, elegant rebus puzzle might have the title “Jack in the Box” and fit the word HIJACK into three squares (H, I and JACK) and FLAPJACK into five.

**JOIN THE CROSSWORD COMMUNITY!** Follow some of the robust blog commentary from prominent figures in “crossworld,” as we call it. *The New York Times* has an official column, “Wordplay,” and you can read commentary on puzzles at “Rex Parker Does the NYT Crossword Puzzle,” “Diary of a Crossword Fiend” and “XWord Info.” You can retain more knowledge and pick up tips from the pros who run these sites, and if you chime in in the comments, you might make a few friends. If you want to take it to the next level, register for the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament (the next one is March 24–26 in Stamford, Conn.). Only a few people are there to win — most go because of the fun people you meet and the chance to nerd out over puzzles, whether you're a speed-solver or a novice.

— Jill C. Shomer



Work on a Core crossword created exclusively for CCT by Vigeland



## Take a Better Portrait

*George S. Zimbel '51,  
documentary photographer*

“**M**ove in close. Watch the eyes. Keep it simple. Now that everything is automatic, shoot a lot of photographs. In *Zimbelism*, the 2015 documentary about my work, I call that ‘digital diarrhea,’ but that need not be a bad thing — if you are careful going over the shoot and eliminating all but the best shots. Then, do it again and do it again until you are down to three shots that satisfy you. Then make prints of those three, look again and pick the one that truly says what you want to say about the person. For pleasure shooters, it helps if you like your subject.”

Mark Van Doren GSAS'21, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and legendary faculty member, in 1952. Portrait by George S. Zimbel '51.

## Make Your Art Feel at Home

Mel Dogan '75, LAW'78, owner of C24 Gallery, New York City

Bought a piece of art you love? You're going to see it every day, so make the most of it. Mel Dogan '75, LAW'78 offers these tips:

- Some works don't need frames, like large oil paintings and murals. If you are framing, don't get something flimsy; consider thicker wood or material that has more architecture to it to lend grandeur to even a simple print.
- If framing, consider your walls. Heavier frames should have a stable metal or wood bracket to hang on. If you've spent a good amount of money on a piece, you may want to have it hung by a professional. If it's not properly hung it could fall and become damaged. I like to cover art with Plexiglas instead of regular glass because if there is breakage you don't want any shards to cut into the work. Museum-quality Plexiglas will also eliminate any reflection.
- A lot of people make the mistake of buying art that is too big, and it can overpower the room. Larger pieces require higher ceilings, at least 12 ft. tall for a 4-x-6 ft. piece.
- If you have a really colorful piece, consider painting the wall behind it gray. The bit of black adds contrast that will bring out the intensity better than white.
- Hang your art so the center of the work is at eye level.
- Keep oil paintings away from direct sunlight and heat. Sunlight will dull the colors over time, and both sun and heat can cause cracking.
- Lighting is important. Too much creates too much reflection; it detracts from the viewing and you could also lose quality. There are special bulbs that don't emanate the kind of heat that can cause damage. Fluorescent bulbs are too strong; halogen and LED alternatives are best. If you want maximum attention on a piece, try pinpoint or track lighting with halogen bulbs; it will direct the eye directly to the work and help it stand out.

— Lauren Steussy





# Appreciate the Night Sky

Marcel Agüeros '96, associate professor of astronomy

**A**stronomer Marcel Agüeros '96 was overwhelmed when he saw the Milky Way directly overhead — with his eyes, not a telescope — at Las Campanas Observatory in Chile. Alas, most people will never make it to the Southern Hemisphere to take in that view. But Agüeros has suggestions for checking out stars and planets closer to home.

**GO TO THE DARK SIDE.** Light pollution is the enemy of stargazing, Agüeros says. “Get as far away as possible from any source of light,” he says, particularly if you are in a city. Go to a backyard or into the middle of a park or anywhere there isn’t bright light in your eyes. If you’re serious about finding dark, Agüeros recommends visiting any of several parks and communities in the United States that have been declared International Dark Sky Places; go to [darksky.org](http://darksky.org).

**DRIER IS BETTER.** Clouds obstruct stars, so the drier the climate, the better the view. In many regions, winter stargazing is more interesting because the skies are clearer; desert climates will have great views year-round.

**MAP OR APP.** You can find a monthly map of the constellations in an issue of *Sky & Telescope* magazine or check out the weekly “Sky at a Glance” feature on [skyandtelescope.com](http://skyandtelescope.com). Sky-charting apps such as StarWalk 2, SkyView and Sky Guide use your GPS coordinates to give you a view of constellations and planets in real time or direct you toward something specific you’d like to see. All you need to do is hold up your phone or tablet toward the night sky.

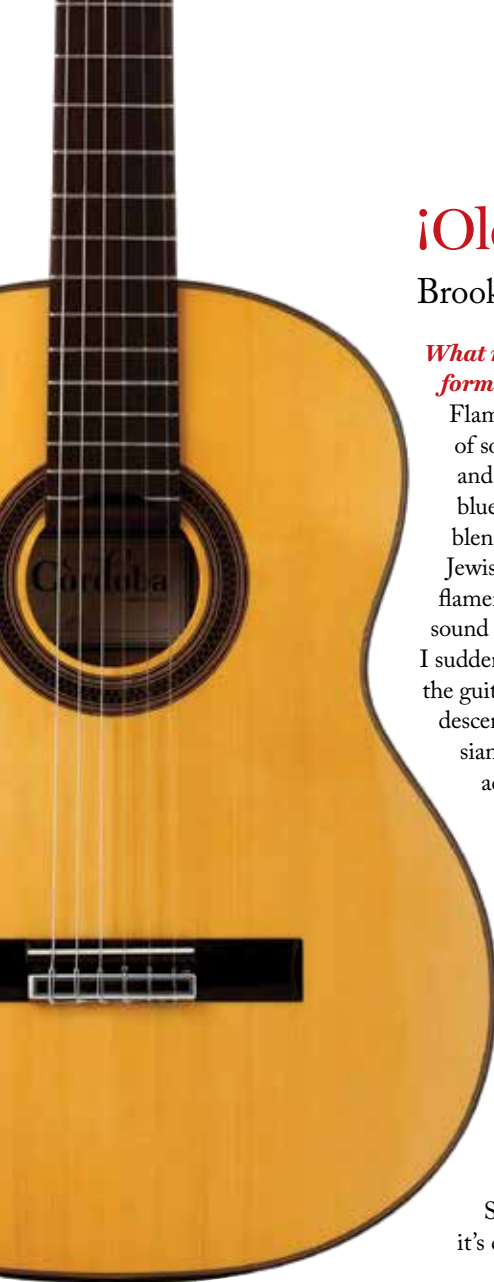
**START HERE.** Where should a novice astronomer look first? “I’d look at the moon,” Agüeros says. But not the full

moon: “That’s blinding, and it’s difficult to see the craters and maria [dark regions].” The noticeable redness of Mars is another cool thing to look out for. While they’re not essential for stargazing, Agüeros says a good pair of binoculars will enhance your view. He also notes that a telescope is not necessary unless you’re trying to see details, like the moons of Jupiter.

**HEADS UP.** The most exciting upcoming celestial event is the full solar eclipse in August 2017, viewable from a swath of 14 states from Oregon to South Carolina. “A total solar eclipse is a unique experience — if you can see one, you should,” Agüeros says. Usually they are visible only from remote locations, most recently the North Pole and off the coast of West Africa, but “this one is coming to our doorstep.”

— *Shira Boss '93, JRN'97, SIPA'98*





## ¡Olé! Get Familiar with Flamenco

Brook Zern '63, flamenco guitar player and historian



### **What makes flamenco a pre-eminent art form? And how did you get interested in it?**

Flamenco is the emblematic performance art of southern Spain; it has a singular power and intensity in the way of the American blues tradition. The art arose from the unique blend of cultures in the region: Moorish, Jewish, Gypsy and Iberian. My father played flamenco guitar in the 1940s. Growing up, the sound annoyed me, but when I got to Columbia I suddenly missed it — I've been struggling with the guitar ever since. Flamenco music features a descending chord sequence called the Andalusian Cadence. It's a 12-beat rhythm with five accents: on 3, 6, 8, 10 and 12.

### **In addition to playing guitar, you write a lot about flamenco singing. Tell us about that.**

The dance has universal appeal as a staged spectacle and the flamenco guitar is admired everywhere, but the singing is something of an acquired taste. That's a shame, because that's where the art's deepest mysteries and most profound answers can be found. I attribute the most intense flamenco forms to Spain's *gitanos*, or gypsies, but nowadays it's considered bad form to single out that

ethnic group. I actually prefer the funkier forms — the deep *siguiriyas*, *soleares* and *martinete* and the uptempo *bulerías*.

### **Spain's King Juan Carlos knighted you for raising America's awareness of Spanish culture through flamenco. How did that happen?**

Damned if I know! But I've spoken and written about flamenco for 50 years and helped preserve rare tape recordings and films. In 2008, I learned by email I'd been knighted. I thought it was a hoax until Spain's ambassador in Washington, D.C., gave me the medal.

### **How can we learn more?**

If you're able to get to Spain, Jerez is the last bastion of *cante jondo*, or deep song, flamenco's darkest style. Seville and Granada are also hotbeds. Otherwise, go to YouTube and search for "flamenco"; also try "Agujetas," "El Chocolate," "Fernanda" and "La Piriñaca." For superb modern guitar, try Paco de Lucía. For traditional dance, try Farruquito and Manuela Carrasco, and then see rule-smashers Israel Galván and Rocío Molina. You can also check out [deflamenco.com](http://deflamenco.com) or my website, [flamencoexperience.com/blog](http://flamencoexperience.com/blog).

— Kim Martineau JRN'97, SPS'14



## TRAIN FOR A RACE

Dave Obelkevich '65 // Holds the record for most consecutive completed NYC Marathons

### **You've run the last 41 NYC marathons, with a best time of 2:40 in 1982. How did the obsession start?**

I hopped in during the 1973 NYC Marathon and ran a six-mile loop around Central Park. I caught marathon fever and ran the following year with a number.

### **What's the most common mistake first-time racers make?**

Going out too fast. If you burn 90 percent of your energy in the first half, you won't have anything left for the finish.

### **Any other mistakes?**

Thinking you have to run the whole race. I like the Galloway Run Walk Run method: Run for 15 minutes, walk for 30 seconds, run

one mile, walk one minute, and so on. There's no shame in that. Not only is it easier to finish the race but also you recover so much faster.

### **Can you suggest a motivational book?**

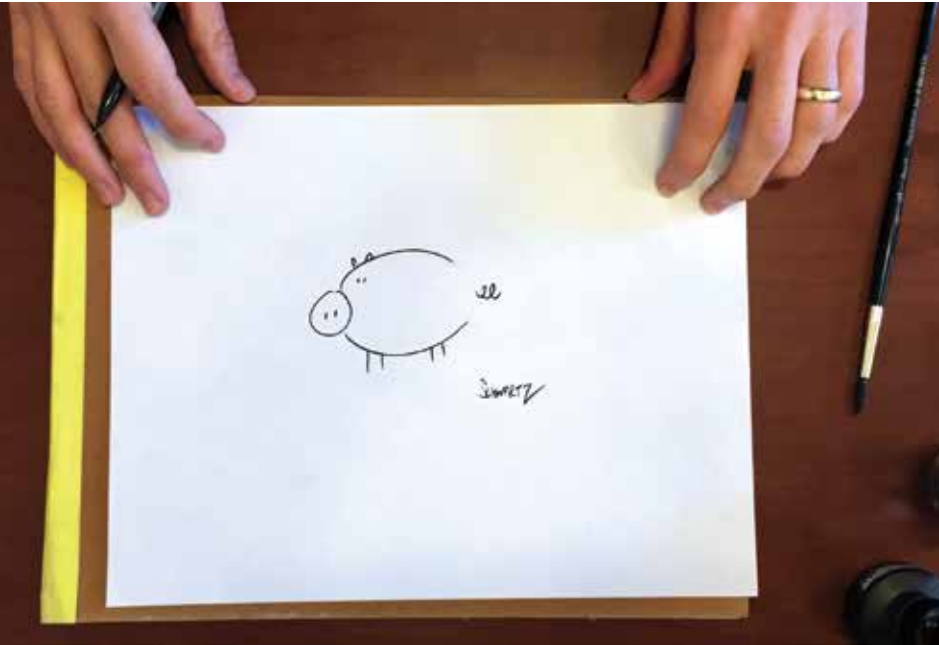
*A Race Like No Other: 26.2 Miles Through the Streets of New York*, by Liz Robbins. It has 26.2 chapters. I tell my friends to start at Chapter 18 — "Kings of Quirk" — I'm featured there with Tucker Anderson. At that point we had each run 32 consecutive years.

### **What about running shoes?**

Bring a pair of used running shoes to a specialty running store so they can see where the soles have worn. Be prepared to spend

# Win at Pictionary

Dr. Ben Schwartz '03, PS'08,  
*New Yorker* cartoonist



**1. Be comfortable with your drawing skills,** no matter the level. In some ways, I think drawing ability might hurt you as a Pictionary player, because then you start to worry about, “Oh, I have to draw a pig and I have to make it look like a pig.” But really you just have to draw a circle with a snout on it.

**2. Know the right things to draw.** You don't have to get caught up in making a complete picture — you just need the elements that will instantly be recognized.

**3. Plan your approach.** Take a few seconds to think about what you want to draw and then go from there. It's probably a fair tradeoff to try to draw clearly rather than frantically. The problem some people run into is they scribble quickly just to get something out there, and then the other players spend their time saying, “What is that? Is that a face?”

**4. Know your teammates.** Sometimes it just comes down to how well you can read people's minds.

— Alexis Boncy SOA'11



Schwartz creates a cartoon for CCT on the spot — check out the video



at least \$100. It's cheaper to get good shoes than pay for a doctor if you get injured. Replace them every 300–400 miles and buy a second pair so you can alternate them.

## Do you suggest using a training plan?

There's no magic plan. Generally, you shouldn't increase your mileage more than 10 percent each week.

## During a race, do you eat? Listen to music?

If you're 150 lbs. you're burning 100 calories each mile; water won't give you fuel. Try Gatorade, PowerBars and gels, but test them out first. Don't try something new if you're running a marathon. As for music, New York Road Runners discourages

headphones. It's easy to get wrapped up in the music and ignore your body. You can push too hard and get hurt. If you really need it, keep the volume down.

## Any more tips for finishing?

Tell your friends to come out for the last few miles. One part of your brain will say “Stop!” The other part will say, “But Dave, you'll miss all your friends!”

## How do you recover?

For the first few days after the race, walk down the stairs backward. It's 50 percent less painful.

— K.M.





## Transform Five Blah Foods Into Winning Dishes

Christopher Kimball '73, founder of Milk Street Kitchen,  
formerly of *America's Test Kitchen*

**Grated carrots:** The French do this every day. Shred carrots and toss with a dressing made of tarragon, shallot, a touch of honey and a dash of cayenne, plus extra virgin olive oil and white balsamic vinegar. Add lots of chopped parsley.

**Coleslaw:** Reinvent coleslaw using Thai flavors like coconut milk, fish sauce and lime juice.

**Scrambled eggs:** Use extra virgin olive oil, not butter, for fluffier eggs — it has surfactants, which help to trap the steam. And oil heats faster than butter because butter contains water.

**Brussels sprouts:** Cook in a hot cast iron skillet to produce a rich, slightly sweet char. Top with honey, garlic, anchovies, red pepper flakes and lemon juice.

**Fruit salad:** Make a quick caramel sauce (use orange juice instead of water and either a cinnamon stick or star anise) and pour over peeled, sliced, seedless oranges. Chill. Serve with Greek yogurt and toasted pistachios.

— L.S.



Orange and caramel, yum!  
We have the recipe from  
Kimball's Milk Street Kitchen



## Crush Your Next Trivia Night

Buzzy Cohen '07, nine-time *Jeopardy!* champ

When Buzzy Cohen '07 was young he suffered from insomnia and would stay up all night reading the encyclopedia. "Then I just never stopped trying to learn everything about everything," he says. "Plus I have a photographic memory." For those who are not so genetically gifted but still enjoy Trivia Night at a local pub, try Cohen's tips to get a higher score:

- **Build a well-rounded team.** Most pub trivia tends to quiz on general knowledge, so cover as many areas as possible. Know what you know, find other people who know what they know and make sure it's all complementary.
- **Learn the host's style.** Regular hosts tend to have favorite subjects or a certain style of asking questions. It's helpful to be able to think like them, so pay attention.
- **Use context** to triangulate your way to the best answer. Let's say the question is about an American motor company that went under in such-and-such year in the late '60s. You may not know the exact year, but if you run through defunct car companies like Studebaker or Packard you can make a good guess.
- **Go with your gut.** Usually the first thing that comes to your mind is right — don't waste time overthinking it. Same goes for your teammates. If they're confident in an answer — even if it's not their area of expertise — go with it. When it comes to things outside people's knowledge base, they tend to hold onto that little piece of information they do have.
- **There's always bribery ...** Ply the quiz master with drinks!

— A.B.



## Easy Ways You Can Combat Climate Change

*Michael Gerrard '72, the Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at the Law School and director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law*

- Change all your lightbulbs to LED. They cut lighting energy use by more than 80 percent.
- Eat less beef. Beef production has a high ratio of greenhouse gas production to pound of food.
- Walk, bicycle or use mass transit. If you must drive, use an electric or hybrid car.
  - Use refillable water bottles. Never buy brands of bottled water that have been shipped across an ocean, such as Fiji or Evian.

— S.B.

## How a Diplomat Learns a Foreign Language

Ray Burghardt '67, U.S. ambassador

Throughout his 46-year career in diplomacy, Ray Burghardt '67 has learned several languages: He speaks Vietnamese, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish, and has some knowledge of French and Korean. But he's not a born linguist. Burghardt struggled with learning Spanish in high school and at Columbia, until he spent a summer in Spain. Immersed in the language, he picked it up quickly. Once he entered the Foreign Service, learning languages came more easily. "Language teaching is a real strength of the State Department," he says. Its method: **first learn to speak, then learn to read.** While Burghardt speaks several languages fluently, he writes well only in Spanish. "We don't worry about how to write — diplomats don't need that," he says.



What worked well for Burghardt using the Foreign Service Institute's method was focusing on everyday dialogues. "Start with 'Good morning! It's raining!' and progress to being at a store or post office," he says. In his State Department classes, pictures were flashed and the students had to describe what was happening. He also found it helpful to listen to colloquial speech in foreign-language TV shows and movies.

Burghardt points out one benefit of learning any foreign language: "It enormously enhances your understanding of English."

— S.B.



# JUGGLING 101

Roy Pomerantz '83, 40-plus-year member of the International Jugglers Association

For beginners, Pomerantz says there's nothing better to start with than a new sleeve of tennis balls.

- The cascade is the building block for all juggling moves. Place one ball in your stronger hand and throw it in an arc, slightly over your head, into your weaker hand. Keep the ball on an even plane. Don't reach to catch the ball; just let gravity drop it into your hand.
- When you have perfected this move, switch hands so that you are tossing from your weaker hand to your stronger hand.
- Once you have mastered throwing and catching in both directions, place two balls in your dominant hand and one ball in your weaker hand.
- Toss one of the dominant hand balls in an arc to the weaker hand. As soon as the ball starts to descend, throw the ball from the weaker hand along the same path, underneath the oncoming ball. The weaker hand will need to catch the oncoming ball.
- Repeat the same process with the dominant hand, then continue throwing the balls from hand to hand along the same path. Congratulations! You are now performing the cascade.

Pomerantz recommends committed, short (10–20 minutes) “trial and error” practice sessions at least five days a week.

— A.R.H.

## BREAK INTO SCREENWRITING

Jason Fuchs '09, co-writer of *Ice Age: Continental Drift*

### WRITE THE SCRIPT

If you have a brilliant idea but you don't have credits or samples of your work, you need to write a “spec” (speculative screenplay). You should have something concrete to send out.



### LEARN THE LANDSCAPE

It's virtually impossible to sell a pitch or a screenplay without representation. Studios and producers want to get something through a credible representative. Subscribe to IMDB Pro, look up your favorite writers and check who they're repped by. The major agencies are CAA, WME, ICM and UTA; the next tier, size-wise, includes Gersch and Innovative. Seeing who represents writers you like and respect will give you a sense of who you should target as you begin to seek representation.

### GET AN AGENT OR LITERARY MANAGER

If you don't have connections or contacts, there are a few ways to get some. One is to enter a script festival. Most film festivals have script festivals, which are essentially contests where producers and agencies judge your script. If it's well received, your script begins to get noticed and you get meetings with potential agents. Final Draft, the app I use to write screenplays, also holds a competition. Another way to get on people's radars is through the website The Black List, a subscription site where you submit your screenplay and essentially pay for feedback and critique. Readers will rate your screenplay; highly rated screenplays then get distributed to production companies, lit agencies and so on.

### STUDY YOUR GENRE

If you are trying to sell your work, you need to be smart about the kind of spec that you're writing and try to understand where it's going to fit into the marketplace, or if it even has a place in the marketplace. Does it have potential to be a blockbuster like *Avatar*, with merchandising tie-in? Is it an independent film for art audiences? This will help you finesse your sales pitch.

### NAIL THE PITCH

If you are lucky enough to get time with someone with the ability to buy your script, your pitch should be 15 minutes and you should have a clear sense of what your story is and a few main plot points so people understand what it will feel like to watch your film.

### DON'T ADVERTISE YOUR IDEA

Ideas are not copyrightable. You can copyright a screenplay, but when you have just an idea, it's never a good plan to share it with too many people, because that is very hard to protect. Other than your mom, your S.O., your team, the one smart confidante who gives you good input, and whoever you think wants to buy it, you should be cautious.

— Yelena Shuster '09



Got the cascade down? Watch Pomerantz demonstrate more advanced moves



Read our profile to learn how Fuchs got started



# Pack Your Bag for Adventure

Kasey Koopmans '11 hiked the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada in five months

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## **RULE NO. 1: BE PREPARED**

Know the type of terrain you're most likely to encounter and follow the weather closely over the days leading up to your trip — it's important to make sure that you have the supplies necessary to cope if and when conditions turn south. "Ten Essentials" is a packing concept that's been around for a long time, and for good reason. It covers your survival basics:

1. navigation (maps, compass and/or a navigation app);
2. sun protection (sunglasses and sunscreen);
3. insulation (extra clothing);
4. illumination (headlamp/flashlight);
5. first-aid supplies;
6. fire (waterproof matches/lighter);
7. repair kit and tools;
8. nutrition (extra food);
9. hydration (extra water and/or a purification system); and
10. shelter.

## **RULE NO. 2: GO LIGHT**

I am a strong proponent of ultra-light packing. To best maximize space, first and foremost, pack less. Yes, that means you will smell, but such is life in the backcountry. It's OK to wear the same outfit two days in a row — I wore the same outfit every day for five months on the Pacific Coast Trail. Bring less than you think you need, *way* less. As the outdoors adage goes: "The fun goes up when the pack weight comes down!"

## **RULE NO. 3: FIND YOUR BALANCE**

Without a pack, your center of gravity is roughly right below your sternum. Wearing a loaded pack shifts the center of gravity backward, forcing you to lean forward to find balance. The heavier your pack is, the more you'll have to lean. But there are some simple ways to pack your essentials smarter to mitigate this effect:

1. place heavy and dense items closest to your back;
2. pack lightweight and high-volume items in the bottom of your pack — like your sleeping bag and extra clothes — then stack heavier items on top;
3. try not to attach too many items to the outside of your pack. Hanging items can mess with your balance and are more likely to get lost (they also make you look like a rookie); and
4. keep water and snacks accessible.

## **RULE NO. 4: DON'T LET INCLEMENT WEATHER RUIN YOUR DAY**

Line the inside of your pack with a trash bag; it's a cheap and lightweight way to waterproof your things. Keep rain gear and an insulating layer close to the top of your pack so they are accessible.

## **OTHER HELPFUL TIPS**

1. The panacea for all blister woes is Leukotape; it's perfect for keeping raw skin covered and clean.
2. Stash high-use items — sunscreen, your navigation tool, snacks, camera, bug spray, etc. — in your hip belt pockets.
3. Keep duct tape around your water bottle for emergency use; I've used it to fix sleeping pads, tents, shoes — even humans.

— A.R.H.





# Create Cocktail Perfection

Rina Haverly '07, bartender and owner of The Bad Old Days bar in Ridgewood (Queens), N.Y.

## 1. Get yourself a set of jiggers.

When you start experimenting with cocktail recipes, you'll notice most provide proportions in ounces. A jigger will have measurements down to a 1/4-oz. notched in the metal, so even the less-experienced bartender will find them easy to use. Any cocktail that uses only spirits gets stirred; anything that has citrus juice should be shaken.

## 2. Buy yourself a nice metal shaker set.

A shaker you like to look at is a shaker you'll feel good about putting on display, and it's one you'll be much more likely to use. The novelty shakers you see at places like Urban Outfitters that have drink recipes/measurements printed on the side of the mixing glass are convenient but not sophisticated, and the recipes aren't always correct or practical. Cocktails aren't just a novelty anymore — these days you can find more and more interesting liqueurs and high-quality spirits at your local liquor store, and we all deserve a proper Sidecar without having to stare at some lowbrow Long Island Iced Tea recipe while we shake it.

## 3. Treat yourself to glassware that you love.

If you're a whiskey drinker, get some heavy-bottomed rocks glasses with a nice bevel. You'll feel fancy. They look great and the heft of the glass is pleasing in your hand — you may decide to splurge on that smoking jacket you've always wanted, too. If you prefer bubbly, get a set of flutes or coupe glasses that suit your decor. It elevates your hosting prowess when you serve your guests with quality glassware. If cabinet space allows, it's always nice to have some Cabernet wine glasses as well.

## 4. Grab yourself some bitters.

It's amazing how a couple of dashes of orange bitters or Angostura bitters can change the quality of a drink.

You use so little at a time that it's a small investment that goes a long way, and it opens the door to a new dimension of flavor. Angostura in a gin and soda is wonderful; orange bitters in a vodka martini shed some light on the situation. There are a multitude of tinctures and flavored bitters available at liquor stores and specialty kitchen and grocery stores, so you can really have fun with it. Black walnut bitters in a glass of whiskey with a scant amount of sugar provides cozy liquid warmth in the winter.

## 5. Buy yourself a few quality spirits you've never tried.

Your home bar should have (at least!) one bourbon, one gin and one fun, different liqueur. We all have our go-to order when we're at the bar, but the next time you go to the liquor store, explore! There is a burgeoning market of small and independently owned distilleries creating really interesting and delicious products and it's worth a few extra dollars to try something new. I often google brands I haven't heard of to learn the history of the distillery and its methods; I love to find new producers who are making an effort to buy local grains in order to make something innovative and interesting.

## Bonus: Now put it all together!

Like most people, my cocktail preferences vary season to season, but one drink I enjoy year-round is the Boulevardier. The Rye whiskey version of a Negroni, it's dark and spicy but also mildly bitter and sweet. My favorite version is made with 1 oz. of Willett Rye Whiskey, .75 oz. of Campari and .75 oz. of Dolin Rouge sweet vermouth. Stir it with ice and then pour over one big cube (king cube ice molds are available at nearly every kitchen/cooking store); twist an orange peel over the top to release the citrus oils into the cocktail.

— A.R.H.



Haverly prepares a Boulevardier at the Bad Old Days bar — we have the video

# Throw a Great Dinner Party (That Includes a Great Playlist)

Featuring Stephanie Nass '13, founder/chef at Victory Club, and Ben Ratliff '90, music writer

## Let's Get This Party Started

Every successful dinner party starts with careful planning. Nass, who describes herself as a “pattern-happy cake artist,” sets the table ahead of time and makes place cards to avoid awkwardness about who sits where. She advises a cooking “drill” — try out the recipes before the party to avoid unwelcome surprises. Also consider choosing courses that can be made ahead of time, like soup as an appetizer. Avoid anything that needs extra work before serving: “If I’m sweating over the stove, I can’t be attentive to the company,” Nass says. Opt for oven-made dishes that are easy to take out quickly.

The same care should go for your party’s music options: Consider the right genre for your guests, not just what’s popular. “Assume that if you’re having a dinner party you are an adult, and you want to hear music for adults,” says Ratliff. “I love music for teenagers, but that’s for another time.”

**Playlist Prospect:** Ratliff likes to start with bossa nova: “When people are coming in and sitting down and having a drink, they’ve

traveled, maybe they’ve been on the subway, they’re stressed or hot or cold or whatever so you want them to calm down and feel welcome,” he says. And not just any bossa nova will do. “It has to be Brazilian. It can’t be a bossa nova made in America.” He suggests João Gilberto’s *Chega de Saudade*, Nara Leão’s *Nara* or Maysa’s *O Barquinho*.

## Main Course

Once guests are seated to eat, Nass advises serving a combination of plated and family style: “I so believe in food looking great. You eat with your eyes first.” But you also want your guests to eat as much as they’re hungry for. “Serve a protein, but put sides like vegetables and potatoes in the middle of the table for people to pass around,” she says. Nass also usually opens several bottles of wine and leaves them on the table for guests to serve themselves.

The host should have a conversation topic or two in mind in case the table talk goes flat. “At Victory Club events, guests arrive, there’s an art talk or lecture or some-

thing cultural, and then they sit down for food inspired by the arts. People talk about the food, how it relates to the art and that, in and of itself, is food for thought,” Nass says. Another way to spur conversation is to replace a flower centerpiece with a little sculpture — “because the guests will talk about it. It’s different and outside of the day-to-day life.” Nass hand-paints or prints her menus, and will sometimes include quotations to trigger conversations.

While guests are eating, your music playlist should pick up speed — “music that makes peoples’ thoughts fizzier,” Ratliff says.

**Playlist Prospect:** “Small Bebop jazz groups from the ’40s and ’50s — not big or large ensemble bands,” he adds, suggesting artists like Sonny Clark, Bud Powell, Charlie Parker or Thelonious Monk. Ratliff also suggests baroque music: Choose from Bach, or Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber. “If it’s played on period instruments, all the better.”

## The Grand Finale

A great dinner tells a story, so consider dessert an opportunity for a dramatic ending. Buy or make something ahead of time that will look and taste special. Nass is known for her edible sheets that adorn cakes (Chefanie Sheets; [chefanienass.com/shop](http://chefanienass.com/shop)); not surprisingly, these are her go-to choices.

Music-wise, Ratliff says, “when the meal is done and you’re sitting around in the kind of nether-zone, just eating dessert or having coffee or more drinks,” go for something surprising.

**Playlist Prospect:** An Internet radio station like NTS.live will keep guests on their toes without a lot of mic breaks. “By that time guests will be feeling pretty loose and you’ll want to let the DJ take over.” And when you’re just about ready for guests to leave, segue them toward the door with Brian Eno’s first ambient record, Ratliff says with a laugh. “It’s very beautiful but some people hate it.”

— L.S.







President Barack Obama '83 walks to his desk in between meetings in the Oval Office, October 20, 2009.





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# THE UNCERTAIN LEGACY OF BARACK OBAMA '83

BY ROBERT Y. SHAPIRO

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**O**n January 20, 2009, Barack Obama '83 (his graduation coincided with my first year teaching at Columbia) became the 44th President of the United States and the nation's first black President. He will leave office in January 2017 having served two full terms. While Obama's election was an historic event, filled with high hopes, his accomplishments and legacy are controversial and will be debated for years.

When Democratic Party candidate Obama defeated Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) in 2008, George W. Bush's presidency was ending at a low point, directly related to both the military quagmire that occurred after the United States' invasion of Iraq in 2003 and to the financial crisis at that time. The nation was entering into a Great Recession. Dealing with this posed a great challenge, but expectations were high — indeed too high. Working in Obama's favor was his strong electoral showing: 53 percent to 46 percent in the popular vote and a 365–173 rout in the Electoral College. The Democrats won a large majority in the House of Representatives and for a brief period in 2009 had a 60–40 filibuster-proof Senate majority. Working against Obama was an enormous (and still growing) partisan divide among Democratic Party and Republican Party leaders and voters. Widely written about by political scientists (myself included), this ideologically-driven partisan divide emerged in the 1970s and took off by the 1990s; Bush — who aspired to be a “uniter” not a “divider” — had hoped to end it but failed.

It's important to consider the history here. The two major parties had been ideologically mixed after being realigned in the 1930s. Southern Democrats who were conservative on racial and labor issues countered the northern liberal wing of the party; moderate Republicans who were liberal on civil rights and other issues countered their party's economic conservatism. The balance slowly unraveled with the ascendancy of northern Democrats in tandem with the Civil Rights movement, which led the Democrats, spurred by President Lyndon Johnson, to become the more liberal party on racial issues with the passage of landmark civil rights and voting rights legislation in 1964 and 1965. Over time, southern conservative Democrats left the party and the Republicans began to

pick them up as part of Republican President Richard Nixon's “southern strategy” in 1968. As new issues arose, intra-party competition led the parties to divide ideologically, with Democrats as liberals and Republicans as conservatives on economic and regulatory issues as well as on individual rights and liberties, with moderates slowly disappearing from both parties, especially the GOP.

By 2008, virtually every major issue divided the parties. Political emotions were running high, and there was a widening rift in national security and foreign policy as the Democrats and Republicans came to differ on the use of diplomacy versus the unilateral use of military force. Adding to the conflict was the fact that with the 1980 Senate and 1994 House elections, the parties became evenly matched for control of all branches of government. This increased the stakes in national elections, and it explains why Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said in October 2010, “The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president.”

McConnell's statement summarizes the opposition that Obama faced in crafting policies to address the nation's problems. Furthermore, partisan conflict affected how both political leaders and the public would perceive Obama's accomplishments. The number and scope of the Obama administration's actions and the changes that have occurred on Obama's watch have been enormous by any reasonable metric applied to American Presidents. If these accomplishments were largely viewed as positive, as his Democratic Party supporters saw them, Obama would be considered one of the greatest American Presidents. If mainly negative, as Republicans viewed them, he would be one of the worst. A fair answer, however, is that the jury is still out how his overall actions will play out in the long term. This is disappointing to those who hoped that his presidency would be seen as an unequivocally bright period in American history.

**S**ome of Obama's least controversial domestic initiatives were punched through soon after he took office: the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program to cover more

children in need; the elimination of restrictions on embryonic stem cell research; and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, encompassing crimes related to gender, sexual orientation and disability. Obama also later filled two Supreme Court openings with women: Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, the latter the first Latina Supreme Court justice.

Much more controversial was Obama's health care reform. The Affordable Care Act was historic — on the order of the establishment of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. The ACA expanded substantially the number of people insured by requiring everyone to have health insurance and helping to provide it. It imposed regulations to make medical coverage — with no limits due to preexisting conditions — available to all through the expansion of Medicaid (optional for states) and state or federal insurance exchanges, and provided subsidies to help individuals pay for insurance. Democrats hailed it as a landmark breakthrough. Republicans saw it as Big Government intrusion at its worst and as a policy that worsened the health care system. The ACA's implementation has had problems, including some costs and providing sufficient insurance options to individuals not covered through their employers or Medicaid. The future of the ACA will depend on Obama's successor, and there is some doubt at this writing that Donald Trump, the newly elected President, and the Republican Congress will immediately pass and sign legislation that will do away with "Obamacare."

Disagreement has remained over the \$787 billion Economic Stimulus Act, created to get the country out of the Great Recession. Unemployment benefits and payroll tax cuts were later extended. The national economy recovered — more jobs and economic growth, with low interest rates and low inflation — especially compared to other countries that adopted more austere measures. Democrats praised these actions but lamented that had added government spending not been thwarted by Republicans, economic growth and wages would have recovered further. Republicans criticized Obama for not cutting taxes and government regulations that could have enabled the market to produce a stronger and lasting recovery to benefit the middle class. The same debate ensued early in Obama's second term, when the Democrats successfully opposed restoring tax cuts for the very wealthy.

Also highly controversial, and with open questions about the long-term impact, was Wall Street reform legislation (Dodd-Frank and the Consumer Protection Act) to reregulate the financial industry, and the administration's actions to provide funds to recapitalize banks (which the government later recovered). Partisan critics disagree on whether this regulation or intervention was too little or too much — or even necessary.

And there was more disagreement: Exceeding the initiative taken by George W. Bush, the Obama administration injected more than \$60 billion into the auto industry to save it from bankruptcy and succeeded in turning it around. Democrats praised this for sparing jobs and boosting manufacturing, while Republicans were less supportive of the level of government involvement.

Republicans criticized Obama's increases in government regulation, for example around issues of food quality and especially around actions that expanded wilderness and watershed protections. His administration aimed to double fuel economy standards for cars and trucks by 2025 and created restrictions on toxic pollution that led to the closing of the nation's oldest and dirtiest coal-fired power plants and increased pressure to close coal mines. Republican leaders especially complained about the use of executive orders to impose new regulations.



PETE SOUZA

Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and senior staff react in the Roosevelt Room of the White House as the House passes the health care reform bill, March 21, 2010.

The politics of international relations that Obama specialized in while a Columbia political science major changed dramatically after the end of the Cold War. His foreign and national security policies have led to heated debates that perhaps began when he was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize, not long after he took office, for his ongoing emphasis on diplomacy. He also created controversy by reaching out to the Muslim world, and with his concerns about nuclear proliferation and climate change.

Obama ended U.S. combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, which resulted in debate over the number of U.S. troops that should be left to provide assistance. A high point was when he successfully ordered the Navy Seals mission that found and killed Osama bin Laden in retaliation for the 9-11 terrorist attacks. But warfare in that region continued, and critics claim Obama's policies created a power void that gave rise to ISIS terrorist groups and prolonged the civil war in Syria that has resulted in millions of refugees fleeing that country. Obama stood fast, emphasizing the need for a political solution in the region based on the American experience in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was severely criticized for not providing sufficient arms to the Syrian rebels whom the U.S. supported and not using U.S. air power to protect civilians in places where the Assad regime and its Russian allies attacked civilian targets and prevented humanitarian aid. The administration succeeded in helping topple — leading to the killing of — Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, but this produced conflict and instability in Libya, where U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens was later killed and where ISIS made inroads. At this writing, two months before Obama leaves office, his administration has continued assisting in the onslaught on ISIS in Iraq and Syria, providing support for the attacks on ISIS' major strongholds in Mosul and Raqqa.

Equally — if not more — controversial was the agreement the administration reached on Iran's nuclear program. There was vehement, and especially partisan, disagreement over the ending of tight and effective sanctions against Iran and the freeing of Iranian funds held by the U.S. The agreement, which was angrily opposed by Israel and other allies threatened by Iran, appears to have stopped Iran's nuclear program in the short term, but long-term effects are uncertain.

Less controversial was the Obama administration's effort toward the 2016 Paris Agreement on global climate change, which has

been hailed as a breakthrough in international cooperation. The administration had also earlier achieved a new START treaty on nuclear arms with Russia.

Finally, the Obama administration's diplomatic recognition of Cuba's government is historic. Obama was criticized in Republican Party circles and by some Democrats for this action, but a majority of the public quickly supported it as did the international community, especially Latin American countries for whom this was long overdue and for whom the United States' treatment of Cuba had hampered diplomatic relations.

There were other major developments during Obama's time in office. Most noteworthy were the major advancements in gay rights: first the ending of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military, then the further legalization of gay marriage in the states, which led quickly to the Supreme Court ruling that legalized it nationally.

U.S. oil and natural gas production took off during the Obama years, making the country increasingly energy self-sufficient. The U.S. became a greater international energy producer, which contributed to the economic recovery and especially benefitted certain states. Consumers also benefitted greatly from a sharp drop in the price of gasoline. On the other hand, this development on the energy front led to further partisan debates about environmental protection regulation — including conflict over the use of hydraulic fracking, which had greatly expanded production.

Memorably, and painfully, ironic is that the expected progress during an Obama presidency toward a "post-racial" America did not occur. Rather, there was a return of racial conflict reminiscent of the 1960s, including violent protests after a number of shootings of blacks by police officers and subsequent killings of police. This amplified debates over racial profiling and "stop and frisk" policies. There were also new racial and ethnic-related tensions over immigration, the threat of radical Islamic terrorism and the U.S. taking in refugees from the Mideast. Racial resentment that had earlier divided the two parties resurfaced. Obama was criticized on both sides, by his opponents for the disruptions and for not adequately backing law enforcement, and by his supporters for not defending racial justice more directly and loudly. This partisan conflict may have had racial underpinnings as well, as suggested by continued Republican accusations that he was not born in the U.S. or that he was a Muslim, and in a stunning instance of political incivility early on when he was heckled ("You lie!") by a Republican congressman during a major, nationally televised speech to a joint session of Congress.

Where does this leave us? What can we definitively say about Obama's eight years in office? As to his place in history, it is too early to tell; for example, how health care reform and international agreements and conflicts play out remains to be seen. Where does he stand compared with other Presidents as they left office? We have some initial evidence from the President's popularity ratings provided by Gallup and other opinion polls. By these measures Obama fares very well, an average of more than 50 percent approving his performance as President in the month before the 2016 election. This puts him at the same level as Ronald Reagan during the same month, and higher than all Presidents since Harry Truman except for Dwight Eisenhower and Bill Clinton, whose approval was five points or more greater than Obama's.

Given the controversy over his accomplishments, we can understand why Obama's approval rating is not higher — and why it might have been much lower. He has expressed regret that he did not do more to lessen the partisan conflict and that his administration had not thought through the consequences of U.S. action in Libya. But

why is his rating as high as it is? Is it that the economy has clearly improved since he took office? That certainly has not held him down, but there are several other relevant factors. One is that due to the partisan divide, he gets very high ratings from fellow Democrats. More important, U.S. casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan were greatly reduced, to near zero, whereas ongoing casualties in these conflicts had adversely affected evaluations of George W. Bush as he neared the end of his presidency (his rating was 20 points lower than Obama's).

Another reason Obama rates highly is that his administration has been strikingly free of scandals. His inspirational personal qualities still bolster his support, especially when compared with the 2016 major party presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Trump, who had record-high unfavorable ratings for candidates in what was the most conflict-ridden and personal presidential campaign of modern times. These qualities are further bolstered by First Lady Michelle Obama and their daughters. The Obamas have strengthened their connection to the American people through their concern for veterans and military families, and Michelle Obama's initiatives on education and childhood obesity. In addition to the Obama administration's double-digit increase

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## THE LEGACY OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE'S FIRST ALUMNUS/A TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL LARGELY DEPEND ON FORCES BEYOND HIS CONTROL.

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in the Department of Veterans' Affairs budget, new GI Bill provisions for substantial tuition assistance across the next decade and multiple tax credits encouraging businesses to hire veterans, Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden's wife, Jill Biden Ph.D., launched the national Joint Forces "initiative to mobilize all sectors of society to give our service members and families the opportunities and support they have earned."

There is a strong Columbia connection here. The atmosphere and dialogue for this began (as I was reminded by civil-military expert Army Lt. Col. Jason Dempsey GSAS'08 (Ret.), a former White House Fellow who worked with Michelle Obama on military family issues) when Obama and McCain participated in an armed services forum at Columbia during the 2008 election campaign. Columbia itself, only fittingly, has since become a national leader in its outreach and programs for veterans.

In the end, the legacy of Columbia College's first alumnus/a to become President of the United States will largely depend on forces beyond his control: his being followed by someone with radically different ideas, as certainly appears to be the case with Trump, and the Republican Party's control of both the Senate and House of Representatives. Trump and the Republicans are expected to seek to void much of what Obama has attempted to achieve. Time is likely to tell us soon about what can be undone easily by executive orders and by legislation that is at the ready, particularly in the case of the ACA. The consequences of Obama's other major accomplishments that Trump has threatened, notably the landmark global climate and Iran nuclear agreements, will be known later.

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# Columbia | Forum



# The Trans List

Photographer/filmmaker Timothy Greenfield-Sanders '74 exhibits his "Identity" portraits, including his most recent series on transgender Americans

This past September, "Identity: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, The List Portraits," an exhibition of 151 photographic portraits, opened at the Annenberg Space for Photography in Los Angeles. The large-format images, shot on an antique Deardorff view camera against a simple gray background, portrayed accomplished members of society's more marginalized communities: women, Latinos, blacks, gays and trans subjects. Shot during a period of more than 10 years, the sets known as the List Portraits are now being shown en masse for the first time. Yet the artist — as the *Los Angeles Times* was quick to point out — was a "straight white male" who would fit on none of his own lists: celebrated portraitist Timothy Greenfield-Sanders '74.

For the Annenberg exhibition, Greenfield-Sanders also produced a book of all 40 transgender subjects that includes his large-format master portraits, behind-the-scenes images and personal interviews. *The Trans List* is excerpted in the four pages that follow. As he did for his previous "List" projects, Greenfield-Sanders chose subjects he felt could inspire and appeal to mainstream audiences while also challenging their assumptions. *The Trans List* includes energetic activists, tattooed soldiers, and dedicated lawyers and students, as well as celebrities Laverne Cox and Caitlyn Jenner.

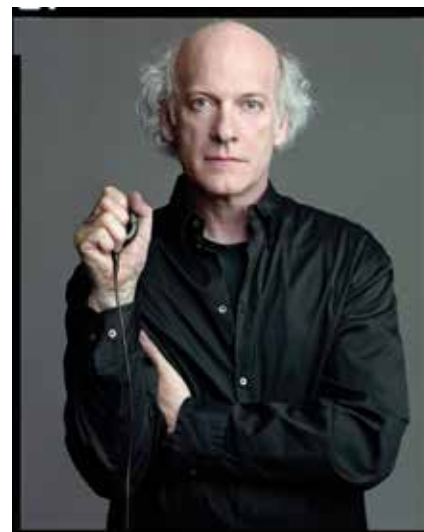
Long known as one of America's most accomplished photographers, Greenfield-Sanders added "filmmaker" to his resume with his 1998 Grammy award-winning

documentary, *Lou Reed: Rock and Roll Heart*. Now, 12 films later, his HBO and PBS' American Masters documentaries include *Thinking XXX*, and multiple versions of *The Black List* and *The Latino List*, as well as *The Out List*, *The Women's List*, *The Boomer List* and *About Face: Supermodels Then and Now*.

For the HBO documentary, which Greenfield-Sanders produced and directed, 11 of the 40 trans subjects were filmed and interviewed by trans activist Janet Mock. "I consider the 'List' style films to be talking portraits, my portraiture come to life. Same backdrop, single light source and direct to camera stare. It's always about the subject, never about fancy lighting or about me," he says.

Greenfield-Sanders first became recognized for his portraits of artists and the art world. Full sets of his 1999 exhibition of 700 artists, dealers, critics, collectors and curators are now in the collections of MOMA and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. But his interest in marginalized groups dates to his childhood in segregated Miami, and included his Columbia years. For many CC students in the downbeat '70s, the flamboyant underground scene — drag queens and disco, punks and artists — was a source of fascination. Greenfield-Sanders had a smoother intro to the scene than most: A local friend, actress Tally Brown, took him straight to downtown's white-hot epicenter. "I called Tally to say hello and to let her know I was now at Columbia. I also mentioned I had a car." ... She said, 'Babe ... pick me up at 11 p.m. and we'll go to some parties!' That first night I met Andy Warhol, Lou Reed, Candy Darling, Holly Woodlawn and Viva [Hoffman] at the Chelsea Hotel. I quickly shifted my morning classes to the afternoon," he says.

"Warhol is my great influence," Greenfield-Sanders said years later, in a KCRW radio interview. He talked about admiring



Timothy Greenfield-Sanders '74 | Self-Portrait

Warhol's early screen tests films and about the then-novel idea of "letting people be themselves." Now, he'll watch his subjects, always searching for ways to get them to become relaxed as he works with them in his studio. "I always try to find something in common with the sitter. Sometimes it's art, or music, or even politics." Greenfield-Sanders says he studiously stays away from strange poses or gimmickry. "It's all very neutral and Warholian. Simple camera, simple light ... there's not much to it." Except when there is. Against the gray backdrops, in diffused lighting, his subjects — trans or cis, famous or unknown — glow with that "celebrity shine" Warhol gave everyone.

— Rose Kernochan BC'82

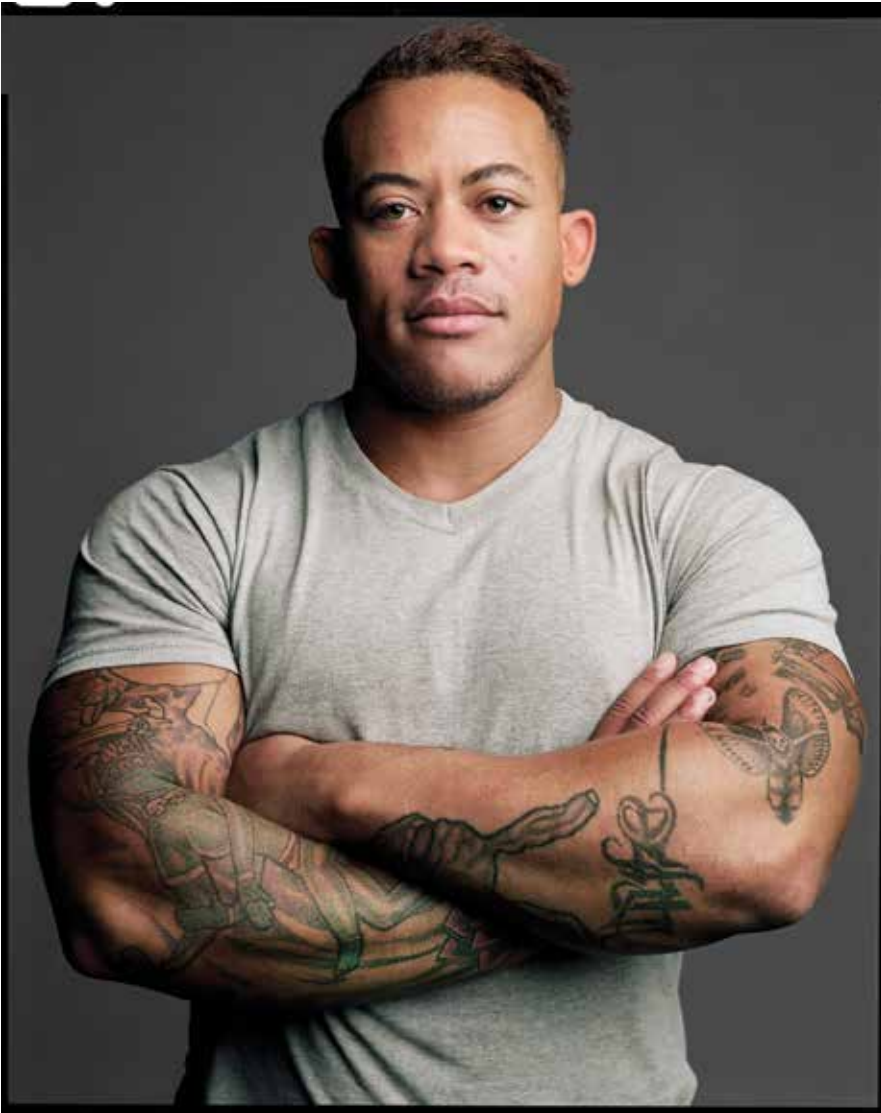
"IDENTITY: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, *The List Portraits*" is at the Annenberg Space for Photography, Los Angeles, until February 26, 2017. The *Trans List* premiered as an HBO documentary film on December 5, 2016.

Opposite page:

CAITLYN JENNER  
TV PERSONALITY | OLYMPIAN  
PRONOUN SHE

"For the first time in my life ... I don't have any more secrets stored up in my soul."





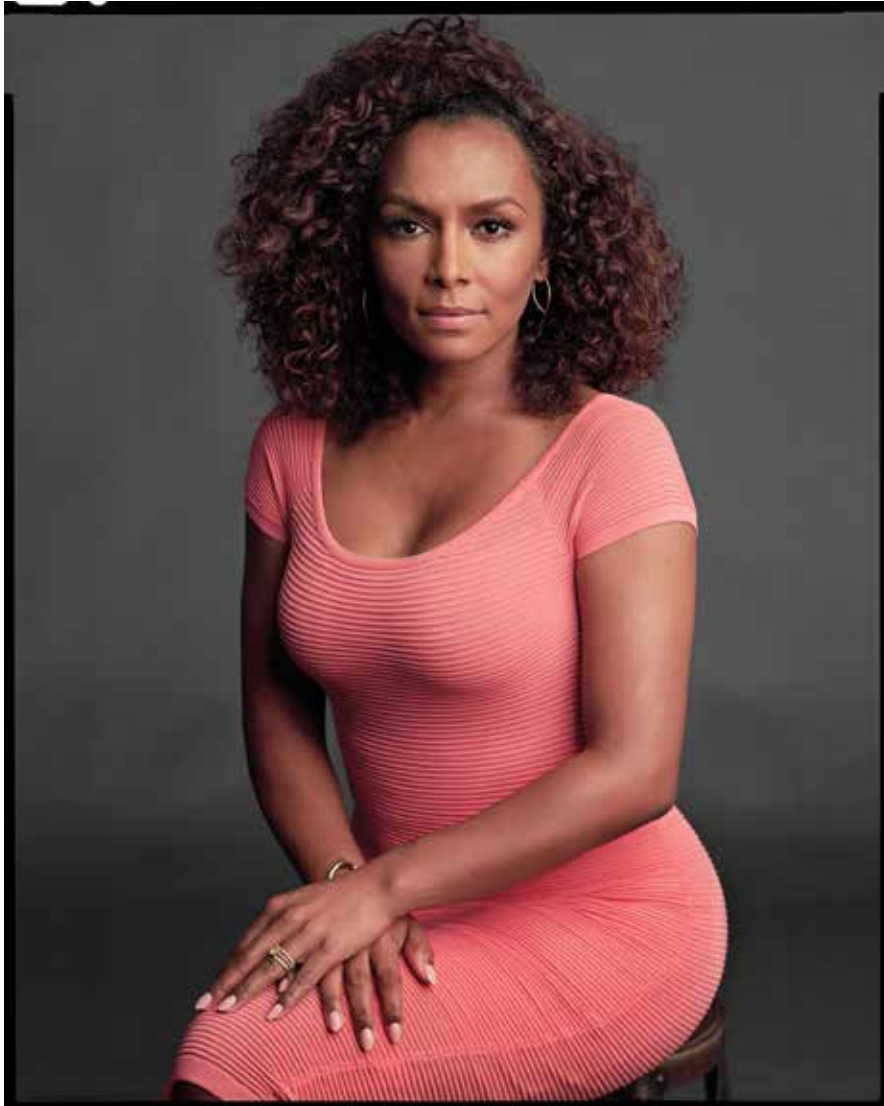
**SHANE ORTEGA**  
**U.S. ARMY SERGEANT**  
PRONOUN **HE**

"That dude's awesome at his job.  
That dude's a chick."



**MISS MAJOR GRIFFIN-GRACY**  
**ACTIVIST**  
PRONOUN **SHE**

"I don't need your acceptance. I just  
need your respect."



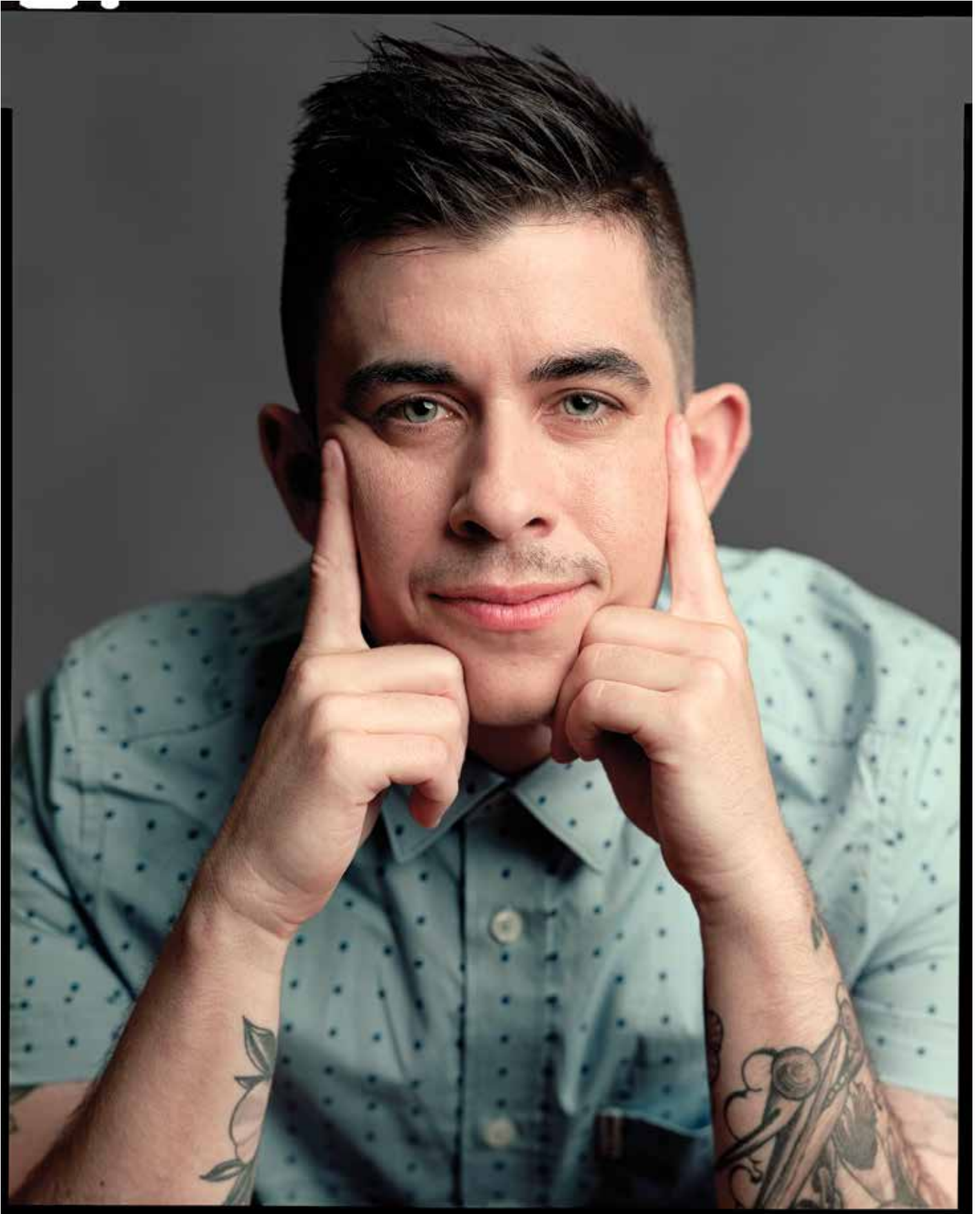
**JANET MOCK**  
**WRITER | TV HOST**  
**PRONOUN SHE**

“We are at an evolutionary moment, one that pushes us to confront how we define ourselves and know one another. We’ve outgrown categories and definitions that once held us. Man, woman, girl, boy, masculine, feminine no longer reflect us all. We’ve made way for something new.”



**LEON ELIAS WU**  
**FOUNDER**  
**SHARPE SUITING**  
**PRONOUN HE**

“I hope to influence positive change and diversity through content.”





Opposite page:

**CHASE STRANGIO**  
**ATTORNEY, AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION**  
PRONOUN **HE | THEY**

“It’s a struggle to navigate the hostile systems that relentlessly harm the people I care about, particularly the many trans women of color whom I work to support and take guidance from.”

**KYLAR BROADUS**  
**LAWYER**  
PRONOUN **HE**

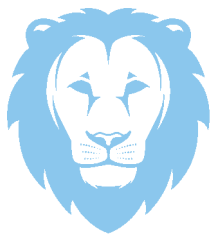
“I knew that my body and my mind didn’t conform.”



**DEJA SMITH**  
**MAKEUP ARTIST | DANCER**  
PRONOUN **SHE**

“I’m alive and successful, in spite of a world that doesn’t want me here.”

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# alumni news

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## STUDYING IN LOW

Low Memorial Library, designed by Charles McKim of the famed architectural firm McKim, Mead & White, was completed in 1895. Then-President Seth Low (Class of 1870) self-funded the building and named it after his father, Abiel Abbot Low. Until Butler Library opened in 1934, Low was the University's main library; after Butler opened, Low became an administrative building. Named a New York City landmark in 1967, Low was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. This 1904 photo shows desks in the Rotunda's reading room during the building's use as a library.



**Cyrus Habib '03** was elected lieutenant governor of Washington state. The Democrat is now the nation's highest-ranking Iranian-American elected official, after defeating Republican Marty McClendon in the November general election. President **Barack Obama '83** endorsed Habib, saying, "Cyrus' intelligence, track record and proven commitment to Washington State set him apart."

Columbians were winners in September at the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards: The popular Netflix documentary series *Making a Murderer*, created by **Moira Demos '96, SOA'08** and Laura Ricciardi SOA'07, won four Emmys, in the categories of Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series, Outstanding Writing for a Nonfiction Program, Outstanding Directing for a Nonfiction Program and Outstanding Picture Editing for a Nonfiction Program. **Kate McKinnon '06** took home the Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her work on *Saturday Night Live*.

Lions are making big waves in the film industry: **Jim Jarmusch '75's** *Gimme Danger*, a documentary retrospective on the punk band The Stooges, was released on October 28. An AP article, "Iggy Pop: Jarmusch was first, only choice for Stooges doc," quotes Stooges frontman Iggy Pop saying "[Jarmusch] knew all about the group and he had been coming to our shows anyway for no reason except to come to the show. ... I thought, well, this would be a great opportunity, it would elevate the group to have someone of this stature see whatever

they see and share that with people. And I knew he had the ability." On October 22, **Dante Alencastre '83** premiered his documentary, *Raising Zoey*, about a transgender teen described as "one of Los Angeles' bravest, and youngest, trans rights activists." **Shanna Belott '91** and **Lara Stolman '91** premiered the documentary *Swim Team* this fall. It follows a competitive New Jersey swim team of teens on the autism spectrum. *Barry*, a Netflix original film that debuted on December 16, follows President **Barack Obama '83** as he arrives in New York City in 1981 for his junior year at Columbia. The film was a highly anticipated look at the President's college days from director **Vikram Gandhi '00**, with the screenplay by **Adam Mansbach '98, SOA'00**. And **Bill Condon '76's** live-action remake of the classic musical *Beauty and the Beast* (set for a March 2017 release) has been receiving significant coverage in anticipation of the film, including from *Entertainment Weekly* and *Good Morning America*.

**Henry Billingsley '75** has been named to the list of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2017; he specializes in admiralty and maritime law with Tucker Ellis in Cleveland.

**Tareq Abuissa '14** and **Pat Blute '12**, both *Varsity Show* alumni, premiered a tech parody musical, *South of Market: The Musical*, in October in San Francisco. The show sold out its preview run in 48 hours; *VentureBeat* says it "perfectly mocks tech industry egos," while tech writer Melissa Eisenberg described the show in the *San Francisco Examiner* as "music, lights and a complete and utter satire of my life as a techie."

**Princess Francois '11** was selected as a National 30 Under 30 Caribbean-American Emerging Leaders and Changemakers Honoree and was invited to the White House on October 3 to attend the first South by South Lawn Festival, "a festival of ideas, art, and action where changemakers, activists, and artists came together ... to share how they're changing their communities."

**Joanne Kwong '97** recently became president of New York's iconic Asian imports store Pearl River Mart, which closed in 2016, after 45 years in business, due to an astronomical rent increase. Kwong reopened the store on November 17 with a pop-up at 395 Broadway in TriBeCa and plans to officially relaunch in May 2017 following renovations. Kwong told *CCT*: "I want to continue the store's original mission of serving as a 'friendship store,' one that encouraged cross-cultural joy in NYC for almost five decades. In this day and age, Asian culture no longer needs to be 'introduced' to New Yorkers, but Pearl River still has the ability to serve as a platform for Asian and Asian-American innovation, design and tradition in the form of capsule collections and collaborations with a variety of established and emerging Asian-American designers and artists, compelling content that explains cultural history and traditions, and a regular program of curated events, performances and exhibitions."

— Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09



Tareq Abuissa '14

Pat Blute '12

Joanne Kwong '97







ANDERS KRUSBERG

## Jason Wachob '98 Spreads the “Wellth”

By Yelena Shuster '09

In 2009, **Jason Wachob '98** could barely walk. Two extruded vertebral discs pressed on his sciatic nerve, causing excruciating lower back pain. Multiple doctors told the former varsity basketball player he needed surgery. Six months later, he was healed — by yoga.

Back then, “wellness” was not the buzzword and multi-billion-dollar industry it is now, but Wachob knew his experience could change lives. That same year he launched [mindbodygreen.com](http://mindbodygreen.com) to explain the links between mental health, physical strength and toxin-free living.

“The reason ‘mbg’ is one word is because it’s all connected,” Wachob says. “If you’re reading all the self-help books but you’re eating [poorly], you’re not going to be happy. And if you’re medi-

tating and doing yoga all day, but you’re throwing toxins into your body and home, you’re not going to be happy.”

The content — new-age-Oprah meets The Huffington Post — features self-help inspiration and expert-based advice separated into five pillars: Eat, Move, Live, Breathe and Love.

Building a media company with no media background was far from easy. The former Wall Street trader told his wife — and founding partner — Colleen, who was supporting them at the time, that profitability should take only six months. It took three years.

“We didn’t know then how hard it is to grow traffic or ramp up advertising,” says Colleen, now chief branding officer. “These were definitely hard conversations. We couldn’t have gotten through it without my corporate job and its benefits. We were just extremely

passionate about wellness and realized that no one was making these ideas accessible to a more mainstream audience. Remember, this was before the world of green juice and yoga took over the zeitgeist. It seemed like a big opportunity.”

Their hunch paid off. The website currently has 12 million monthly unique visitors, revenue in the eight figures and almost \$5 million in raised capital (thanks to new lead investor Lew Frankfort BUS’69).

“Jason lives the values of his brand,” says Frankfort. “He is authentic, transparent, curious and determined. He demonstrates a willingness and desire to be better, and he displays a humility and vulnerability that motivates others to work with him.”

The website even inspired a book. *Wellth: How I Learned to Build a Life, Not a Résumé* is based on Wachob’s viral blog post “39 Life Lessons I’ve Learned in 39 Years.” “Wellth” stands for a new kind of currency representing happiness, health and purpose — not money.

Part self-help, part memoir, the book features easily digestible pieces of advice, from inspirational quotes to expert advice by mbg contributors like integrative medicine specialist Dr. Frank Lipman and couples therapist Sue Johnson Ph.D. Wachob addresses everything from poor nutrition (modify your diet based on different stages of your life) to work burnout (stress becomes physical and can ravage your body). The Long Island native does not hesitate to show vulnerability: He describes first loves, family deaths and even financial failures.

Though he is successful now, Wachob needed 10 years to find his calling. Hoping to pay off student loans, he spent the first five years out of college in equity trading. One year he earned \$800,000, but the high-roller lifestyle didn’t bring him happiness, especially in the soul-searching months after 9-11, so he decided to work for himself. He was an investor at a Washington, D.C.-based healthcare company that folded; a founder of a low-carb, low-sugar cheesecake business that couldn’t grow; and the CEO of a cookie company that was undercapitalized in the recession.

Despite three failed start-ups, Wachob never gave up. “I don’t think everyone’s made to be an entrepreneur,” he says. “Can you

work all the time? Would you do this for nothing? It’s amazing. I love it. But it’s all-consuming. For me, there’s no separation between work and life.”

The former athlete attributes coaching from former Lions coach Armond Hill (currently assistant coach of the LA Clippers) for teaching him perseverance on the court and in the start-up world.

“I learned that it’s easy to win but hard to lose. It’s easy to point fingers when you lose, but it’s a lot harder to stay together and get through it. When you start losing, you can get demoralized and become complacent. And he wouldn’t allow us to do that.”

Wachob was so inspired by Columbia that he gave \$25,000 to the basketball program as soon as he made money on Wall Street. Hill

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*“Wellth” stands for a new kind of currency representing happiness, health and purpose — not money.*

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honored the donation by creating the Jason Wachob Award, which goes to the player who never gave up on his teammates or himself.

To this day, helping others drives Wachob forward through his 70-hour work weeks. He keeps every handwritten letter he receives from readers about mbg changing their lives.

“I was envious of people who were clearly passionate about what they were doing,” he says. “I went on this 10-year search for that and finally found it with mindbodygreen.”

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*Yelena Shuster ’09 has written for The New York Times, InStyle, The Moscow Times and more. She runs TheAdmissionsGuru.com, where she edits admissions essays for high school, college and master’s program applications.*

## Ashley Walker Green ’05 Has the Moves on the Ice

By Nathalie Alonso ’08

Figure skating coach **Ashley Walker Green ’05** can pinpoint the exact moment she became captivated by her sport: The year was 1988 and she was watching gold medalist Katerina Witt perform at the Winter Olympics to music from the opera *Carmen*. “I saw her red *Carmen* dress and I thought, ‘I want to do that,’” she says.

Green, just 4 at the time, took her first steps on the ice soon after and has been gliding and twirling — and teaching others to do the same — ever since. The Wilton, Conn., native is the founder and head coach of Central Park Ice, the largest synchronized skating youth program in New York City, which has four teams comprising some 60 skaters, ages 8–18, who compete throughout the Big Apple and the northeastern United States. Green directs a staff of five assistant coaches and choreographers all programs, which in

synchronized skating consist of a group of skaters moving as one unit, in various formations.

“I never thought it was going to grow into a big organization,” Green says of Central Park Ice, which started in 2007 and reached new heights of success in 2016, when its Open Juvenile and Pre-Juvenile earned gold and pewter (fourth-place) medals, respectively, at the U.S. Figure Skating Eastern Sectional Championships.

“It was the most amazing thing because a lot of these skaters have been together for years,” says Green, adding that instead of focusing on external accolades, she emphasizes internal goals, such as “staying focused on the day-to-day, on what we can do better and how we can make something look better and feel better for each skater.”

Green joined her first synchronized skating team in fourth grade. As an incoming first-year at the College, she worked with

the Columbia University Figure Skating Club to organize the now-defunct Columbia University/NYC Intercollegiate Synchronized Skating Team, which she helped lead to the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships in each of its three years of existence, from 2002 to 2004. The team practiced at Riverbank Skating Rink in Harlem.

Green, who lives in West New York, N.J., with her husband and two young sons, majored in dance and twice performed in the *Varsity Show*. She also took dance lessons off-campus and danced with small companies in New York City. The summer after her first year, she interned with Ice Theater of New York, a figure skating production company. She was a sophomore when she landed her first coaching job, at Riverbank. During her junior and senior years, Green taught on weekends at Wollman Rink, where she was a coach until 2014.

It was at Wollman that Green founded Central Park Ice, which began as a class of five students. The organization is now based out of Chelsea Piers, an indoor rink, where Green has been coaching since 2012 — the same year she became a U.S. Figure Skating gold medalist, a designation awarded to skaters who have passed one of the senior tests offered by the sport's national governing body.

Amateur skater and recent Wesleyan graduate Hannah Ryan was 8 when she began taking lessons with Green. Ryan eventually became captain of her Central Park Ice team and competed with the organization until she started college. She is now a member of an adult skating team and credits Green, whom she describes as “very patient,” with her decision to stay involved with the sport. “When I took lessons with her, ‘one more time’ never actually meant ‘one more time,’” says Ryan. “She gets you to believe it so you’ll do it a million more times.”

For Green, the most fulfilling aspect of Central Park Ice is giving skaters, some of whom are not willing or able to keep up with the rigors of individual skating, an opportunity to practice the sport in a competitive setting, experience the camaraderie of a team and pick up some life skills along the way.

“[In life,] you’ve got to be able to work with people and adjust your flow for other people and that’s something that we certainly do on the ice,” says Green. “To me, coaching is more than just



JILL SHOWER

teaching skating skills. It’s about creating an environment where [the skaters] can succeed and grow and find out things about themselves that maybe they didn’t realize they were capable of.”

**Nathalie Alonso '08**, from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for *LasMayores.com*, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish language website. She also writes “Student Spotlight” for CCT.

## Peter Thall '64's Advice Is Music to the Industry's Ears

By Lauren Steussy

It was on attorney **Peter Thall '64**'s living room floor that Daryl Hall and John Oates hashed out the song “Had I Known You Better Than.” Oates strummed away as Thall made the budding rock stars dinner — steak and peas, Thall recalled. His attentiveness to musicians like Hall and Oates also is evident in the recently released, third edition of his book, *What They'll Never Tell You About The Music Business*. In the book, and across his 40-year career representing creators from The Cars to Barry Manilow to ABBA, Thall provides the kind of nourishing wisdom that allows artists to focus on the creativity their work requires.

“From the beginning, I began to care about my clients not only as a lawyer, but also as someone who could train them to understand the complexities forced upon them by the music business,” he says. “It is a privilege for me to help them accomplish this.”

Thall's near-paternal concern for the artists he represents is seeded in personal experience. Before even graduating from high school, the Connecticut native had written a hit — and been sued for copyright infringement. It was a musical of the Gettysburg Address, performed by members of the local Coast Guard. But Thall was sued by a man who claimed he held the rights to Lincoln's words and that Thall's



song was an infringement. To anyone else, the suit might have been an ugly foray into the adult world. But Thall was fascinated. His civics class attended the trial. While he was a College student, the case had already made its way into the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. He won the case, and with it, a direction for his life.

“I wanted to be a lawyer, and I found an area of law that combined my interest in music and law — and copyright, by that point,” he says. “So that’s how I became interested in representing creators.”

At Columbia, Thall studied American government. In 1967, he graduated from The George Washington University Law School, one of the few law schools at that time with a copyright specialty. Upon graduating, he worked with the general counsel at the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, then with small firms throughout his 20s, helping represent musicians like Paul Simon, Art Garfunkel ’65 and Miles Davis. In 1977, he formed his own firm, Levine & Thall, in New York City. Thall specialized in music law while his partner took on theater law; others at the firm handled publishing, film and television. “We represented all aspects of entertainment law,” Thall says. “There was a lot of synergy.”



VINCENT LAFORET

One day, while Thall’s partner dealt with a client’s Broadway plays, Thall handled the same client’s negotiations with Disney and Dreamworks for his soundtracks to *Pocahontas* and *The Prince of Egypt*. The client happened to be in the office when an opportunity arose to showcase material to a London director and producer. The client presented his musical on Thall’s in-office Steinway. “I will never forget the sounds from the piano ringing throughout the law firm even as a new and exciting matter requiring legal services was actually being created down the hall,” he says.

Thall maintained relationships with his musician clients. He continues to sing and compose songs, sometimes with clients. He co-wrote a James Bond theme with a successful lyricist, but jokes, “Alas, they preferred Sheryl Crow’s offering to mine. So disappointing.”

Thall takes a proactive approach to the music business, always trying to teach musicians to fend for themselves and to know the

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*Thall co-wrote a James Bond theme with a successful lyricist, but jokes, “Alas, they preferred Sheryl Crow’s offering to mine. So disappointing.”*

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laws that could help or hurt them. While the presumption is that his readers are professionals who can afford managers, accountants and attorneys, he hopes the book serves as some less expensive expert advice.

And the industry agrees. David Renzer, who once oversaw the largest music publishing company in the world, Universal Music Group, and now chairs Spirit Music Group, says Thall’s experience gives him a unique perspective on the business. “He has seen our industry evolve through being on the front lines of the digital revolution and its impact on both artists and companies.”

Thall’s book closes with a speech he gave at the University of Hamburg in 2011, around the time when the music industry was grappling with a new wave of piracy. He compared the situation to the myth of Medea, which he studied at the College. Medea is driven by passion to kill her children. Likewise, those who downloaded music illegally were driven by a passion for the music that defined their culture, Thall said. Understanding industry phenomena with the help of things like classic Greek mythology are one of the ways Thall has been able to adapt his knowledge to the current climate in the music world.

“Nothing brings out passion more than music. And the industry executives, many of whom are not musicians ... had no understanding of the emotions and the character of their audience,” he says. “Functioning in my industry, I pretty much had to select a side, if you will. And the side that I chose was that of the creator.”

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**Lauren Steussy** is a reporter based in Brooklyn. Her last CCT profile was on music critic Ben Ratliff ’90 (Summer 2016). Steussy’s work has also appeared in *Marie Claire*, *the Staten Island Advance* and *the Columbia Journalism Review*, and on *Cosmopolitan.com*.

# bookshelf

## Table for One, Please

By Jill C. Shomer

Being a singleton is definitely on trend. The number of people living alone in the United States is on the rise, and hey, they get hungry! And even if you're coupled, sometimes you want to spend a little quality time with yourself. In her new cookbook, *Cooking Solo: The Fun of Cooking for Yourself* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$19.99), **Klancy Miller '96** offers simple dining solutions while also saluting the pleasures of cooking just for you.

*Cooking Solo's* recipes cover the three main meals, dessert and entertaining, with everything from smoothies to sweet and savory variations on one of Miller's favorite brunch foods, waffles. Her prose is upbeat and genuinely funny, and the recipes are easy to follow — most can be put together in 30 minutes or less, perfect for those nights when you want something a little nicer than takeout.

Miller, who grew up in Atlanta, first came to Columbia as a high school student enrolled in a summer Journalism School workshop. To

her, New York City was a place of “monstrous adventures,” so different from her hometown. She knew she wanted to come back, and when she applied to colleges, Columbia was her first choice. She majored in history, and also studied French, Arabic and film studies. In Miller's mind, pursuing several topics she was interested in felt like the point of a liberal arts education. “You have to have a little self-awareness to go to a school like Columbia,” she says. “Being in New York City, as a student, at Columbia — you've kind of hit the jackpot. Why not learn what really resonates with you?”

Miller says she “lapped it all up,” including her Core

classes: “The Core increases your vocabulary in terms of understanding what the essence of something is. The experience gave me this vocabulary that I don't think I would have gotten anywhere else.”

Her first food-related job was at the College, as a first-year doing work-study at the cafeteria in Wien. Miller was a stir-fry cook,

sautéing meat and veggies in a wok to be served at lunch. “At the time it didn't feel like a cool job, but in retrospect, it was,” she says. “The uniform wasn't cool, but the actual preparation of food was.”

After graduation, Miller dabbled in nonprofit jobs while figuring out what she wanted to do, ending up in Philadelphia at an NGO, the American Friends Service Committee. She took a variety of classes in the evenings and on weekends, and cooking classes were the most enjoyable. She started considering culinary school and got a part-time job in a restaurant to get more exposure. The chef suggested that school wasn't necessary to be a chef, but if Miller was interested in pastry, school was a good idea. She had spent a semester at Reid Hall (“we read a lot of poetry out loud; recipe writing has a similar economy of words”), and returning to Paris in 2000 to study at Le Cordon Bleu set her on a culinary career course.

Miller stayed in Paris for four years, learning about pastry, apprenticing in a bakery, working in a three-star Michelin restaurant and cooking for herself regularly. Kitchen work proved exhausting, so she got a job doing recipe development at Le Cordon Bleu and started writing about food on a freelance basis. She interviewed chef and restaurateur Marcus Samuelsson for a profile and he became a great mentor. They worked together on several projects, and he introduced her to a number of valuable writing contacts and helped her get an agent.

After years of writing with Samuelsson, Miller wanted to write a book in her own voice. She intended to write a food memoir — her idea for a cooking-for-one guide, inspired by her life in New York City where she knew many single people, was originally a Plan B. But sociologist Eric Klinenberg's 2012 book, *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone*, about the sharp increase of single-person households in America — came out around the same time she was pitching ideas, and provided a timely hook that her publisher leaped on.

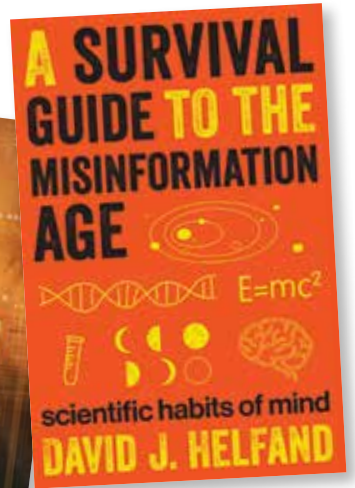
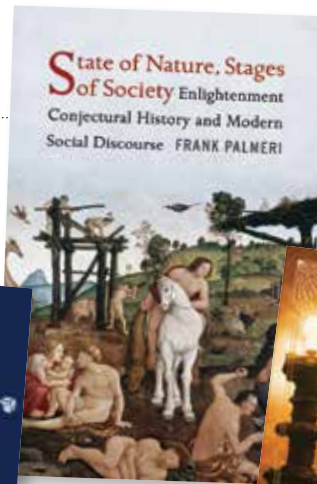
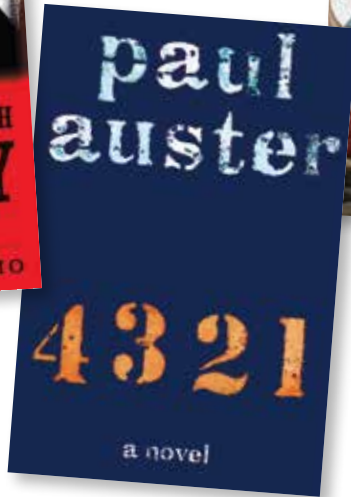
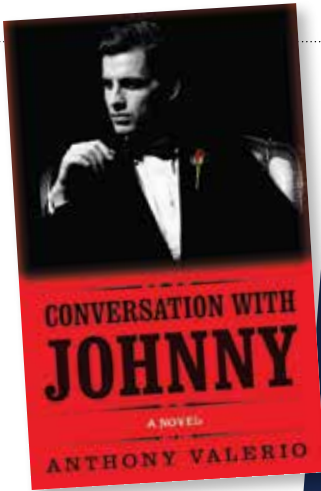
Creating the cookbook took Miller four years, from completing the manuscript to production with a creative team that included a photographer, food and prop stylists, and media and promotion. “This experience showed me how one tiny portion of the world works, how your piece fits into the whole piece, and then into the larger world — it's been especially fascinating as a history student — how the pieces fit together.”

*Cooking Solo* is meant not only to be a cookbook, but also a frame of mind: “I've started to see the positive side of being single,” Miller says. “I have time for passion projects, taking different directions and seeing things through that are important to me.” She firmly believes the freedom to pursue creativity and spend quality time with yourself is an indulgence that should be celebrated — preferably with waffles.



JILL SHOMER





**Avid Reader: A Life** by Robert Gottlieb '52. Esteemed writer and editor Gottlieb chronicles his life through a series of literary inspirations — from the books that enthralled him as a child to editing at *The New Yorker*, the author's passion for words prevails. For the art of writing he maintains a reverence in good times and in bad, reflecting, "I couldn't know that, as would be the case my entire life, it was work that would save me" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$28).

**Conversation with Johnny: A Novel** by Anthony Valerio '62. Valerio redefines Italian-American mob stereotypes in this novel about Nicholas and Johnny — a lover and a fighter — who engage in therapeutic, quasi-philosophical dialogue. Originally published in 1997, the new Kindle edition provides a chance to discover Valerio's comic twist on an old premise (Tempi Irregolari, \$6.99; Kindle edition).

**The Case Against Free Will: What a Quiet Revolution in Psychology has Revealed about How Behaviour is Determined** by David A. Lieberman '65. Could the actions of human beings be predictable? In this analytical book, Lieberman sets forth an argument outlining the probability for determinism, without associating inevitability with doom (Palgrave Macmillan, \$79).

**When Movies Were Theater: Architecture, Exhibition, and the Evolution of American Film** by William Paul '66. The histories of theater, architecture and motion pictures converge as the author explores the ways in which one's experience of a movie is influenced by the setting in which it is viewed. What is the significance of the relationship when one now has the ability to experience film anywhere, on a smartphone or other digital device (Columbia University Press, \$40)?

**4 3 2 1: A Novel** by Paul Auster '69. Auster's first novel in seven years tackles ideas of identity, following Archibald Isaac Ferguson from birth, as this singular life takes four synchronous but different paths. Same person, same body, four different loves and lives (Henry Holt & Co., \$32).

**State of Nature, Stages of Society: Enlightenment Conjectural History and Modern Social Discourse** by Frank Palmeri '74. When it comes to the social sciences, certainty may not be the most useful tool. Palmeri studies various Enlightenment philosophers who "changed the intellectual paradigm" with their use of conjectural history, providing the basis for modern-day study and understanding of the early world (Columbia University Press, \$70).

**Black Deutschland** by Darryl Pinckney '88. The author's sophomore novel follows Jed, a young man marginalized in America for his sexuality

and his race who is seeking escape. Newly sober in Berlin, a city roused by political turmoil, Jed encounters both salvation and the lure of self-destruction. Which of these forces will take control: despair or hope (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$26)?

**Questioning Return** by Beth Kissileff '90. In this novel, graduate student Wendy Goldberg spends a year in Jerusalem aiming to uncover the motivations of American Jews who return physically and spiritually to religious tradition. Very quickly, however, she finds her objectivism has become twisted and wonders whether immersion causes more problems than it solves (Mandel Vilar Press, \$19.95).

**Victor in the Rubble** by Alex Finley '94. What do a U.S. foreign intelligence agency and an international terrorist organization have in common? Heavy-handed bureaucracy. This satirical novel follows a global terrorist on the run and the American officer responsible for catching him. Finley draws upon her experience in the CIA to put a comedic spin on a serious theme (Smiling Hippo Press, \$14.99).

**For the Love of Money: A Memoir** by Sam Polk '01. Polk details his journey from greed to generosity as he left the wealth-obsessed culture of Wall Street for the nonprofit world. He learned how to extract his feelings of self-worth from his staggering need for constant achievement (Simon & Schuster, \$24).

**The Last Days of Night: A Novel** by Graham Moore '03. Based on true events, screenwriter Moore's second book follows Paul Cravath, a young lawyer hired to defend a man being sued by Thomas Edison over the rights to and powers of electricity. In a world where hidden motives are ever-present, who will emerge victorious, and to what lengths will they go in order to do so (Random House, \$28)?

**Cracking the Cube: Going Slow to Go Fast and Other Unexpected Turns in the World of Competitive Rubik's Cube Solving** by Ian Scheffler '12. From a conversation with Erno Rubik to tricks and tips from other cubers, Scheffler learns not only about skill but also about life, using the cube as a metaphor for the modern world: "It's hard to solve. It doesn't submit easy answers. And once you solve it, you have to start all over again" (Touchstone, \$26).

**A Survival Guide to the Misinformation Age: Scientific Habits of Mind** by David J. Helfand, professor of astronomy. An "antidote to the misinformation glut," this book works to navigate a world in which information is infinite but accuracy is scarce. Hailing rational analysis as the skill that all need but many lack, Helfand urges the reader to push past the search for so-called "truth" to get to what will take the human species furthest: understanding (Columbia University Press, \$29.95).

— Aiyana K. White '18

# classnotes



COURTESY WILL CSAPLAR '57, BUS '58

An early 20th-century view looking north from West 116th Street. Note the various modes of transportation: subway, trolley, car and horse-drawn cart.

## 1941

**Robert Zucker**  
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Floral Park, NY 11005  
robert.zucker@aol.com

Members of the Class of '41, have a healthy and happy 2017! Please take a few moments in the New Year to reach out to share memories of your Columbia days and to let us know how you are. You can write to either of the addresses at the top of the column, or to the *CCT* editors at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu). We would all be happy to hear from you.

## 1942

**Melvin Hershkowitz**  
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DrMelvin23@gmail.com

On July 28 I received a card from **Paul Hauck** announcing his entry

to a retirement home in Naples, Fla. His new address is 1000 Lely Palms Dr., Apt. E-126, Naples, FL 34113. Paul is also maintaining his former residence at 796 102nd Ave. North, Naples, FL 34108. In 2015, with 70 other WWII veterans, Paul participated in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., visiting the new National WWII Memorial and other significant landmarks as part of a 22-hour day. Paul said it was a great experience but hard on his 95-year-old body.

At Columbia, Paul majored in economics, was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and earned an M.A. from the then-named Graduate Faculties, now GSAS. He studied at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and in 1964 completed M.B.A. studies at The George Washington University.

Paul was (and is) one of the most brilliant members of our highly accomplished Class of 1942. He had a long career as a consultant to the Navy and Department of Defense, where he was a program manager for special projects. Upon

his official retirement, Paul became an administrator at a Montessori school in Frederick, Md., before moving to Florida. Along with his exceptional intellectual accomplishments, Paul remains a loyal Lion fan of our football and other teams and is an attentive reader of Class Notes in *CCT*. We pay tribute to Paul and send good wishes for the years ahead.

By the time this issue of *CCT* reaches you, the Ivy League football season will be over. We lost our opening game versus St. Francis (Pa.), 13-9. Harvard scored 41 points in defeating URI, and Yale gave up 55 points (a shocker) in a loss to Colgate. Harvard looks like the best team in the Ivy League

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.



under veteran head coach Tim Murphy. A few years ago I heard that every year Harvard receives unsolicited applications from 200 high school football captains, giving coach Murphy a head start on his recruiting efforts.

I have also been thinking of our famous fight song, *Roar, Lion, Roar*, which our class heard during the 1938–41 games at the old Baker Field. In those years, Columbia defeated VMI, Army, Navy, Virginia, Georgia and Wisconsin, and lost to Michigan and Tulane. One of Columbia's most famous alumni, Tom Merton '38 (now deceased), who became a Trappist monk and wrote a world-famous book, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, composed a phonetic version of *Roar Lion, Roar*, as follows:

*Raw lie unraw,  
In wack the beakis uv the hot sin varw lee,  
Much under fig tree have her more,  
Wiley sins uv nick her back her really run  
Coal un behaw,  
Coal un be haw haw,  
Chow tinker name farw have her,  
Raw lie unraw  
Farw elmer mudder on the hot sin sbaw.*

I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this version, so corrections from readers will be welcome. This writer met Merton, introduced by my friends Edward Rice '40 and Robert Lax '38, both now deceased. Ed was a talented cartoonist and *Jester* editor, later a writer and founding editor of *Jubilee Magazine*, devoted to Catholic life and culture. Bob was a poet who retired to the isolation of the Greek islands.

I was pleased to note that the September 2016 *Princeton Review* ranked the *Columbia Daily Spectator* as the best college newspaper in the nation, ahead of UVA's *The Cavalier Daily* and Brown's *Brown Daily Herald*. This writer's sophomore-year roommate and lifelong friend, the late Dr. **Herbert Mark**, was a managing editor of *Spec*. He introduced me to several other *Spec* editors, including **Mark Kahn** and **Edward "Bud" Caulfield**.

This correspondent wrote several columns for *Spec*, mostly about Columbia sports, while also writing for *Jester* and *Review*. Through the years, *Spec* has thrived and earned national attention, while *Jester* and *Review* have been less prominent, despite producing several famous

alumni including artist Ad Reinhardt '35, cartoonist Chuck Saxon '40, historian and magazine editor Edward Rice '40, poet Robert Lax '38, author and political activist Ralph de Tolendano '38 and another lifelong friend, the late **Gerald Green**.

Congratulations to *Spec* and long may it reign.

With great sadness and regret, I saw the September 25 *New York Times* obituary notice for our distinguished classmate and my friend Judge **Leonard Garth**, who died at 95 on September 21, 2016. Len served for 44 years as a senior judge on the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. In a ceremony on June 24, 2011, Len was honored when his name was inscribed on the atrium entrance to the building. In attendance were Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito and Third Circuit Judge Maryanne Trump Barry. Both commented on Len's exceptional 40-year career on the Federal Court, while more than 170 guests attended the proceeding to honor Len.

On January 6, 2014, Len called me to report that the federal government, in recognition of his many years of service as a senior judge, had extended the funding of his private chambers at his residence in North Branford, Conn. At 93, Len was uncertain but optimistic about his future work. My last contact with Len was on March 5, 2015, when he called me with great anguish and mourning to report the sudden death of his beloved wife, Sarah, at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Len and Sarah had been married for 72 years.

After Army service in WWII, during which Len was a first lieutenant and fought in North Africa, he graduated from Harvard Law and entered private practice in New Jersey. He became a leading trial and transactional lawyer before his appointment to the District Court, where he presided over many landmark cases, including the Three Mile Island disaster. Len mentored more than 100 law clerks during his long career, adding to his extraordinary legacy as a judge.

As an undergraduate, Len was Debate Council president, a member of the Arthur W. Riley Society and won Gold Crown and Silver Crown Awards. He was a loyal Lion, coming to Homecoming games with Sarah and maintaining lifelong friendships with this writer and Dr. **Herbert Mark**.

## COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

We say good-bye to Len and send condolences to his family, including his daughter, Tobie Garth Meisel; son-in-law, Michael Meisel; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Finally, best wishes to Dr. **Gerald Klingon**, who celebrated his 96th birthday on September 22 while recuperating from surgery for a fractured hip. Gerry remains alert, articulate and a source of Columbiana history, with many reminiscences of his years as the first baseman on our baseball team and his friendships with teammates and coaches. Gerry is a candidate, along with **Robert J. Kaufman**, to become the first known centenarian in our great Class of 1942.

Contact me with your news at the addresses at the top of the column or at 413-586-1517.

## 1943

**G.J. D'Angio**  
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My whole family — nine adults and two babies — arrived on July 4 for our annual get-together week. The accommodations could hardly be more convenient: There was a one-bedroom, furnished guest apartment available in

our building and that accommodated five adults and two babies. Our guest room took another two adults; cozy, all under the same roof.

As this note was being written, we were packing to leave for the United Kingdom for two weeks to attend a wedding in the Cambridge area and the christening of my wife Audrey's "grand-goddaughter's" baby in the Highlands.

The M.H. Wittenborg memorial lecture, which I endowed, was delivered in October at the Boston Children's Hospital. The lecturer was one of our distinguished Penn trainees, Dr. Surbhi Grover. She has devoted her professional life to helping developing countries confront their radiation oncology problems. Grover's experiences in India and Botswana formed the bases of her oration.

The death of my sister-in-law, a Vassar alumna, was reported in this column in the Spring 2016 issue along with a comment that her allegiance to Vassar had flagged when it became coeducational. Her family wishes it known that her loyalty to her school was fully restored. She remained a staunch Vassar supporter for decades, until her death.

A Columbia nugget: Columbia College on East 47th Street was the setting of a series of demonstrations and lectures presented by electrical engineering genius and inventor



Nikola Tesla. The first lecture in 1888 was titled “A New System of Alternating Current Motors.” It was the first salvo of the battle between Tesla and T.A. Edison, who adamantly supported direct current for the transmission of power.

From **Bernie Weisberger**: “Hello, fellow sages of the Class of ’43. Remember that back in olden times, even before ours, the general opinion of society was that increasing wisdom came with age. Without further investigation or discussion, I’m sticking with that.

“I start this letter with a reminiscence of my Army training at Arlington Hall in 1942. There was a mimeographed post ‘newspaper’ produced at intervals by and for the enlisted men under the name of *The Barracks Bag*. I was part of the editorial staff and our editor (Sgt. Fishel) was, in civilian life, a newspaperman. Often when there wasn’t much news to report and we had space to fill, I would elaborate at length on some wholly insignificant trifle, hoping that style would cover the lack of substance. The first time I did this, Sgt. Fishel complimented me on being a good ‘pull it out of your neck’ writer. That was his term for exactly what I was doing and it could be useful when faced with a deadline and a sheet of paper as blank as your mind.

“So, after a tranquil summer that included my 94th birthday, I am pulling this one out of my neck. I traveled nowhere but did have the pleasure, along with my wife, Rita, of receiving a number of visits from friends and kinfolk near and

far — one from her daughter and son-in-law, who now live permanently in Israel but make frequent visits to the United States, where they have grandchildren. Rita was planning to reciprocate in December with a visit to Israel for a couple of weeks. Another visit was from my granddaughter, who is doing graduate work in Harvard’s history department; always a happy occasion for us. One more was from a former academic colleague at the University of Rochester. In the 1990s we used to take walking trips in alternate years in the U.K. or in Italy — as many as 16 miles a day with backpacks, though we gave ourselves the luxury of B&Bs every night rather than camping out. It was a great way to cement a friendship and the friendship has endured, which can’t be said any longer about the hikes.

“Examining what else is in my neck I find that I’m still in the writing game, working on another article for an economics journal with a young economist friend. Also, in July I was a panelist on an after-show discussion of a one-man, one-act play, *A Jewish Joke*, about the plight of a Hollywood writer trapped in the coils of the House Un-American Activities Committee during the McCarthy era. My function was to verify for the audience the accuracy (very good) of the history and fill in the background. But my qualification for the assignment by the director, a friend, wasn’t merely my academic degree but the fact that I had lived through that period (as have all of us members of CC’43) and could offer personal testimony — very useful for an audience almost all of whose members, from what I could observe, were not youthful but not much older than in their 70s.

“Any other highlights of my summer? Well, one, sort of. I attended my only Cubs game of this season of glorious sunshine for them, along with my Chicago-based granddaughter. As it happened, we had to stand in line in a sudden drenching rainstorm just before the gates opened and, once inside, dried off during an hour’s postponement until the field was fit for play again. And alas, that was a night the Cubs lost — fortunately a rare occurrence.

“By now you’ll suspect me of having a neck as long as a giraffe’s, so I’ll quit. But I would really love to hear more from some of you —

especially with your thoughts and memories about the big changes in our lives brought about by the political, intellectual and technological revolutions of our time. It’s the historian in me asking but you might find it an interesting exercise to rummage through your memories and see where personal experiences fit into a bigger picture. I’ve never believed that we are part of a ‘greatest’ generation but we surely are one of the most eventful. So come on, Dan D. is waiting for you.”

## 1944

**Columbia College Today**  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
**622 W. 113th St., MC 4530**  
**New York, NY 10025**  
**cct@columbia.edu**

Dr. **John Keith Spitznagel** PS’46 shares, “In my 93rd year I am living happily at The Cedars of Chapel Hill in North Carolina. I sketch, watercolor and play the flute with a trio. I think of CC every morning as I drink my coffee and read *The New York Times*. My wife, Anne Sirch BC’44, NRS’47, died in 2012 and I miss her. My best wishes to all Columbians.”

**Paul Sandhaus** writes, “Recently returned from Santa Fe home to my NYC apartment and glad to report my wife, Helen, and I are still above ground. Celebrated our 70th anniversary on October 22 with son Richard and daughter Ellen and their spouses, Kathy Spahn and David Rimmer.”

Dr. **Alfred Hamady** sent *CCT* a hard-copy note: “A while back I sent a letter to **Bill Friedman**, not knowing that he had passed away. He had asked to hear from graduates from the Class of ’44, as there had been a dearth of word from any of us. So, for what it’s worth, here I go again.

“After Columbia I served in the Navy’s psychiatric division during the war, then medical school at SUNY Downstate, followed by pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. By a series of coincidences I wound up practicing in Battle Creek, where I have remained, along with my lovely wife, Pauline, for 63 years. During that time we had a wonderful son and I was accorded the opportunity to serve in various capacities — president of the Western Michigan Pediatric Society, medical

director of the Physician Assistant Program at Western Michigan University and president of the Calhoun County Community Council, which ushered in the local chapters of the Urban League and the Community Action Agency during the civil rights turmoil of the ’60s. Currently I am director of continuing medical education in the Bronson Healthcare System, even at 92. Two years ago I was elected to the Bronson Physicians’ Hall of Fame.

“I remain a devoted reader of subjects having to do with history, which I taught for a number of years at our local community college and at a neighbor elementary school, which was great fun. It has been a great turn except for that elusive hole-in-one-at-the golf course — not even close.

“One more thing — congratulations to Dr. Henry Shinefield ’45, PS’48 on a brilliant career in medicine.” [Editor’s note: See Fall 2016, Class of 1945 Class Notes.

*CCT* and your classmates would love to hear from more of you. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column.

## 1945

**Columbia College Today**  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
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**New York, NY 10025**  
**cct@columbia.edu**

**Charles Gilman** shared a memory: “The Class of 1945 is remembered as the four-month peacetime class. Because we received our degrees over so many different years, we never kept the cohesiveness with which we started. Our fall as freshmen was the greatest experience for most of us. Seventy-five years, and it seems like yesterday ...

“As I recall, the Pearl Harbor attack was on a Sunday. Many of us had been out-of-towners most weekends that fall. What a weekend to pick to study! We had no idea what was to come, and that was a worry. Most of us wondered about our personal survival. The worst part was the Navy called its college training program V-12. That was really scary.



## Contact CCT

Update your contact information; submit a Class Note, Class Note photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click “Contact Us” at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

“We had a tight-knit group of guys. We sang our song (‘Hardly a man is now alive who remembers the Class of ’45!’) after too many beers at The West End. We got quite political about the class officers election. Then a candidate was actually kidnapped! A telephone number was discovered. Somebody recalled the number was in Rockland County (as I remember). We obtained a telephone book, ripped it into segments and got a match in Purdy Station. Two autos were acquired and we set off to free our classmate. We succeeded and shocked a few people. Teamwork! Case closed. That was my first and best political episode! Regards to all.”

*CCT* and your classmates would enjoy hearing from more of you. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column.

## 1946

**Bernard Sunshine**  
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You will find them on the tennis courts at Baker Athletics Complex ... **Herbert Hendin** and **Irwin Nydick**. Forehands and backhands look good. A conversation with Irwin about the succession of Columbia University presidents our class experienced brought to mind Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882) in his last year as Columbia president. Butler had lost his eyesight and, when he walked with an aide, she gently nudged him when he passed students and he tipped his derby. I heard his last Commencement address and, without a script, he didn't drop a comma.

Butler was followed by Frank Fackenthal (acting president), Dwight Eisenhower and Grayson Kirk. In our 10th anniversary year I met Kirk in his office when anniversary year class presidents presented monetary gifts to the university. CC'46 was the youngest class and ours was the (very) smallest contribution. Kirk was as gracious and appreciative receiving our modest gift as he was for substantially larger

amounts from other classes and University schools. He had been a State Department diplomat for a short stint and showed his skill.

**Leonard Moss** sent insightful reflections on aging. His correspondence included the following: "... I am concerned about the impact of aging on cognition. A very kind expert has speculated that 'senior moments' occur in older folks because they have a long lifetime of information in their brains that crowds out everything new."

This one sentence does not do justice to his letter but I report it thinking classmates may want to share their thoughts on a subject relevant to us.

Several years ago Len addressed the American Psychiatric Association and when at lunch sat with six psychiatrists from Pakistan. Len told them he had presented his first paper on suicide at the 1955 APA meeting. He said to them, "That was probably before you were born," and they all nodded, "Yes." (We can all relate to similar experiences.)

At latest count, our classmates number 66.

The column closes by asking everyone to send a bit of news or interesting experience that will be reported here. Also, you may want to reconnect with a classmate and usually we can help with that. Send your updates to me at either of the addresses at the top of this column.

## 1947

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

**Dr. Nicholas Giosa's** 230-page book of collected poems, *This Sliding Light of Day*, published by Antrim House in 2015, was a 2016 category finalist for the Eric Hoffer Award as part of the Eric Hoffer Book Award for the Small, Academic & Independent Press. He says, "It has been generously reviewed in the current issue of *Connecticut River Review*, the Connecticut Poetry Society's annual publication."

**Alan Steinberg** sends news of a wonderful cross-generational Columbia connection. He received the following note: "My name is Danny Lee. I was Class of '95 and

a recipient of your scholarship. I am sorry that it has taken me so long but I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to you for your generosity in helping students like me who didn't have the financial resources when we needed it the most. I was a poor immigrant who didn't speak a word of English when I arrived in New York and it was my parents' sacrifice and the generosity of donors like you who gave me the opportunity for a better life. I have done OK for myself so far but I have not forgotten those who helped me along the way. I have just set up an endowed scholarship for the College

been living in Rye Brook, N.Y., for 61 years, and my wife, Iris, and I recently celebrated our 64th anniversary. Two of our three children are involved on Broadway — as musical director of several shows and company manager of *Wicked* for 15 years. Our third progeny is legal counsel at the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Washington, D.C. Three grandchildren are pursuing their post-graduate college careers in North Carolina and Maryland. It's always a pleasure to receive news of our school and its graduates."

**Dr. Alvin Eden:** "I am happy to report that my seventh book on

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*Dr. John Keith Spitznagel '44, PS'46 says,*  
*"In my 93rd year ... I sketch, watercolor and play*  
*the flute with a trio."*

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aiming to help international students who have a need for financial aid. I believe the best form of flattery is imitation and I want to give back, just like you did. Thank you for making a difference in my life and I hope to carry on and pay it forward. If possible, I would like to drop by and thank you in person next time I am in Florida."

Alan adds, "My family and I did indeed meet with Danny for the better part of an afternoon when he was in Florida. He is a delightful and sincere (and successful) young man. What a good feeling it was to receive this note."

*CCT* and your classmates would be pleased to hear from more of you. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column.

## 1948

**Columbia College Today**  
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**David Sampliner** BUS'50 writes: "I am retired and still actively dreaming of a winning football year. I've

childcare, *Obesity Prevention for Children: Before It's Too Late: A Program for Toddlers & Preschoolers*, was published in September. The other big news in my life is that I have given up tennis singles and now only play doubles."

**John C. Cooper** sent *CCT* a hard-copy note: "I was interested in the Fall 2016 issue's comments from **Thomas Weyr**, who said, 'As for my adult life, it was spent mostly as a writer.' So was mine, although I earned most of my living as a lawyer. Thomas also said, 'I was a Viennese refugee who made it out in time.' Of my WWII memories (I flew a bomber tour out of England) the one that haunts me the most occurred after the war in Europe was over (but not for all the refugees). What follows is an excerpt from my autobiographical story collection *Kinder, Gentler Wars* that describes that experience. The introduction explains how I happened to go to Columbia after reading a Lionel Trilling '25, GSAS'38 story in a convoy ship during the war and the debt I have always felt to the College for putting up with me. That follows after the introduction. While an undergraduate I lived downtown and commuted, so I met very few classmates, though I did share a white rat in applied psych with **Allen Ginsberg**. I have a novel, *Rest Quietly, Colonel Briscoe*, available in Kindle format and hope

to have my story collection printed there next year.

"Here is the excerpt from the introduction: "... when I was discharged in late 1945 I applied to Columbia as a transfer student and was accepted. I've felt grateful to Columbia for doing so ever since, because my career there must have tried its patience. Not only did the College let me withdraw without prejudice when my novel *The Gesture* was accepted by Harper two weeks before my final exams (which I would have flunked, not having set foot on campus in a month) but allowed me to reenter a year later and eventually graduate. When *Time* magazine gave my book a full-page review with photo, I asked the dean how I could keep a low profile on campus, to which he responded, smiling, that I was probably just one of a dozen classmates (Jack Kerouac '44 having been one) with the same ambitions and that I was just lucky to have gotten printed first.

"And this is from the story collection:

"Paul

*"We were up in the north of France. Germany had just surrendered, and we were hell-bent to get to Paris, but everything that had wheels had been commandeered, and we had no priority. However, the captain who lived with the stationmaster's daughter said that a train would come through the next day at ten, slow enough to jump. Sure enough we saw it in the distance, like boxcars out of World War I or an American Legion act. We had our parachutes and rations for the black market and when we climbed in, we didn't even notice them at first. They lay on straw matting and looked like medical illustrations of some sort. Most of them were from Buchenwald, but some of them had been released from Auschwitz. At each stop French peasants would toss them flowers and some tried to hand up bread and wine. They gave it to us, of course, because they couldn't even smoke our cigarettes. We left them at the Gare du Nord, waiting to be greeted by someone. France wouldn't accept them all and they were scared to go back to Red-controlled land.*

*"But that was in the bad old war. Never, never, never again.?"*

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your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column.

## 1949

**John Weaver**  
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Brooklyn, NY 11235  
wudchpr@gmail.com

Friends, your correspondent is hard-pressed to fill more space in the Class Notes section of CCT. I am certain you all have been engaged in lives of active participation in this challenging year, both personal and public. But without your notes we cannot share. We are genuinely interested. So, please, as the sun sets early in these winter months, take the time to send a few words to enliven and enlighten our lengthening days as spring approaches. You can reach me at either of the addresses at the top of this column.

## 1950

**Columbia College Today**  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
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New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

CCT wishes the Class of 1950 a healthy and happy 2017! Please send news to either of the addresses above for inclusion in our Spring 2017 issue.

From **Arthur L. Thomas**:  
"In June 1947, I was asked as a lightweight frosh oarsman to go to the Columbia boathouse at Krum Elbow, across the Hudson from Poughkeepsie. My function was that of a substitute oarsman. As it turned out, there was illness among the oarsmen and I rowed bow in the JV boat in the three-mile race at the June 21 regatta. The stroke of that boat was William H. Hayes '47, also a lightweight; it so happened we both were sons of Columbia faculty members. The following day, *The New York Times* reported the race results but someone else (who was not at Krum Elbow) was reported as having rowed bow. The only other source of information I have been able to find is that from the

Columbia sports archives, in which the crew manager correctly wrote down my name among the oarsmen in the Columbia shell in the JV race. I would hope that the sports archives at Columbia will someday be digitized, if they have not yet been digitized, so all can read them. *Spectator* has been digitized and I, for one, greatly appreciate this.

"Why do I recall this? I had practiced from September to May, day after day (in the tank in the winter) and rowed diligently in the crew races in May 1947. I had diligently traveled from the campus to the boathouse in Spuyten Duyvil to practice there after class and before returning to 116th Street for evening study. Among the races I rowed for Columbia was the frosh lightweight race at Princeton in early May 1947, in which the members of the Columbia crew were not reported anywhere, and a varsity lightweight race in November 1948 in which the Dartmouth crew was cited in the Dartmouth student newspaper but the Columbia crew seems not to have been mentioned anywhere. Ty Buckelew '94 found the June 1947 crew manager's report in the archives. Thank you greatly, Ty."

**David Berger** reports: "These days, I sometimes wear my letter sweater. My wife, who hates football but loves me, wears it from time to time. The white wool cardigan with the blue C puts me in touch with my youth, full of wonder, desire and learning. And it puts me in mind of Phil Bucklew SIPA'48, who understood me and taught me to understand myself.

"Phil was professor of naval science, a Ph.D. candidate I believe, and an assistant football coach at Columbia in the late 1940s. He was military and I was not. But in 1952, I was an infantry lieutenant in an Army regiment on temporary duty at Little Creek, Va., for amphibious-warfare training. There were my ex-teammates, Howie Hansen '52 and Vern Wynott '52, on the Navy base football team — and there was Phil. He was at Little Creek as a (if not *the*) founder of the Navy SEALs and he was also the football coach.

"In WWII, as I later learned, Phil had been a beach-master for Allied assaults in Europe and a scout for landing zones in Japanese-occupied China. The SEALs training center in Coronado, Calif., is named after Phil

(The United States Phil Bucklew Naval Special Warfare Center), but to me in 1952 he was just this good guy. 'Want to play for us Saturday?' he asked me. 'Yes,' I said, 'but I'm already in trouble with our colonel for playing touch football with enlisted men,' so that didn't happen. Instead I had lunch with Phil and his wife in their quarters and sat on the bench with Phil at the game.

"That Saturday in Virginia, Phil told me what he had seen at Columbia: That I had 'wanted to play more than any other boy' he had ever known, I had committed so strongly to making the football team and playing in the games. This was news. It had never occurred to me before that I was particularly 'stick-to-ative,' that I was someone who could do what he decided to do. The mentoring I needed and never got at Columbia I got that Saturday at Little Creek, although my wife says you can't call one day mentoring.

"But I look back now and see that this insight, this gift of Phil's — whether you call it mentoring or not — lighted my way for the rest of my life. Thanks, Phil."

From **Glenn Lubash**: "After working for 19 years at three medical schools, being senior partner in a private nephrology practice in Albuquerque for 17 years, working in several other nephrology offices and in primary care, and ending up for nine years with a local Veterans Affairs clinic and hospital, I retired on December 31, 2016. I retired twice before, once for three years after my first wife, Jean, died in 1997, and another time for 18



## Stay in Touch

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



months after my second wife, Geri, and I moved to North Carolina. The upcoming retirement will be my third and final one.

“Geri and I have lived in Davidson, N.C., a small college town about 20 miles north of Charlotte, for the past 15 years. We enjoy our location very much, with its wonderful view of Lake Davidson, a smaller version of neighboring Lake Norman. Geri is a retired RN and is certified as a practitioner/instructor in Brain Gym and Energy Medicine, which keeps her occupied. She now challenges me to find something to keep me busy after retirement. I’ll try to write something about medical experiences, but with the reservation that I may turn out to have little literary talent. Despite enjoying relatively good health, we both find travel to be too hectic and exhausting, and mostly choose to stay at home. If any classmates pass by Davidson, I’d be very happy to get together.”

## 1951

**Columbia College Today**  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
**622 W. 113th St., MC 4530**  
**New York, NY 10025**  
**cct@columbia.edu**

A thoughtful note from **Richard Wiener**: “I attended the College as a veteran and hence was a bit older than most of my classmates. As an immigrant and child survivor of the Holocaust, I could not have afforded Columbia but for the GI Bill of Rights, and had to live with my parents in Borough Park and work 16 hours a week (during the school year) after school as a soda jerk at Whelan’s Drug Store in order to pay expenses. During summers I hitchhiked around the West and worked on a Northern Pacific track gang, as a smelterman at the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. in Montana, with Mexican fruit pickers on an orchard farm north of San Francisco, as a short-order cook in Chicago and so on. I am 89, with two kids and two grandkids, and have lived a rich, eventful life, much of which is recounted in my autobiography, *Survivor’s Odyssey... from oppression to reconciliation*. My first poetry collection, *Sense of Time*, was published in 2010, and a second, *Sense of Age*, is nearing completion.

“While at Columbia, one of my short stories and a chapter from my

first novel were published in *The Columbia Review*. I had parts in two plays (*Coriolanus* and *Murder in The Cathedral*) and was social chairman of my fraternity, Beta Sigma Rho. Four of us were members of Professor Fred Dupree’s Writer’s Lab. We used to meet at his home on Morningside Drive to read from our novels in progress (mine was a finalist in the Dodd Mead Intercollegiate Literary Fellowship competition, but remained unpublished), and I will recall his advice that I lock myself in a room with a bottle of whiskey, presumably to loosen up my style.

“During my freshman year, I realized that engineering was not my strong suit, so I switched to a largely social science curriculum. My career goal — to become a novelist — soon proved to be unrealistic. Many years later, I attended NYU Law and ultimately became an international patent lawyer, a profession that enabled me to travel widely.

“After the fall of the Berlin Wall, I began returning to my German hometown, Wittenberg, where I was made an honorary citizen for my work on forgiveness and reconciliation, subjects on which I speak widely to school, church and college groups. I am also head elder of the Mid-Atlantic Region of The ManKind Project, an international organization that runs transformational trainings for men on four continents. I am blessed to be able to share my childhood experience as the only Jewish student in a school of Hitler Youths, as an illustration of my favorite aphorism: ‘Sweet are the uses of adversity.’ Even at this age, I consider each day a gift. And I will be eternally grateful for the education I received at Columbia.”

**David Zinman JRN’52** writes, “Today (October 6) is my 86th birthday and I write from Chautauqua, a summer cultural center in Upstate New York where I live with my partner, Kay Kramer. Most mornings, I swim, then play duplicate bridge or work on plays written after I retired. This past summer, comedian Mark Russell starred in my one-acter, *The Reporter*. It’s a comedy about a guy who tries to make a citizen’s arrest when he spots the D.A. speeding. It’s based a true story that happened when I worked for *Newsday*. It ran under the head ‘Investigation of a Public Citizen Above Suspicion.’ The paper included it among 50 articles picked as the best stories in its first 50 years.”



On October 20, Howard Hansen '52 was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. Left to right: Jim Mooney '56, Hansen and Ed Botwinick '56 outside the black-tie affair, which was held in Low Rotunda.

CCT and your classmates would enjoy hearing from more of you. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column.

## 1952

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
**JUNE 1-4, 2017**

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REUNION 2017

**Columbia College Today**  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
**622 W. 113th St., MC 4530**  
**New York, NY 10025**  
**cct@columbia.edu**

From **John R. Benfield**: “My wife and I met at the University of Chicago during the 13 years I spent there after Columbia. After losing her to an aggressive thyroid cancer in 2003, Mary Ann Shaw and I have been fortunate enough to enjoy life together.

“I have three successful children and seven grandchildren, all in California. They graciously hosted my 85th birthday party in June in Ojai. After the festivities, Mary Ann and I visited the Big Island of Hawaii, our favorite family vacation spot for more than 45 years.

“I still enjoy teaching as professor of surgery emeritus in the David

Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, but after 43 years in the operating room, I retired in 1998 from actively caring for patients. Last year I taught a class in Loyola Marymount University’s (LMU) Jewish Studies program. The students and I discussed Jerzy Kosinski’s book *Steps*, and Columbia’s Associate Professor of Writing in the School of the Arts Gary Shteyngart’s *The Russian Debutante’s Handbook*. Kosinski, Shteyngart and I had in common that we were refugees from totalitarianism, fortunate enough to have succeeded in the United States.

“The students told their LMU professor that they found value in our discussion. That led to my being invited to contribute a chapter to a textbook for Jewish Studies, *The Literature of Exile and Displacement*; my chapter is ‘Adaptation, Refuge and the Quest to Belong.’ Thereafter, I wrote my memoirs, *Vienna Roots: Refuge and Adaptation*, to tell the story of my origins in Austria and my family’s escape after Hitler’s Anschluss in 1938. I expressed my gratitude to the United States for our safety and for the opportunities I have had (including attending Columbia) in our country. Part of the story is about my return to Vienna in 2011 to swim with one of my sons as part of Team USA in the 13th European Maccabi Games (the Jewish version of the Olympics, open to all age groups).

“Finally, I am delighted that our oldest grandson, entirely on his own after an extensive evaluation of colleges in the U.S. and Europe, has decided to make Columbia his first choice.”

From **Philippe Stoclet** BUS'54: "I am still around if that is what you are trying to find out! Healthy, mobile, happy and active managing my affairs. I have fond memories of my years both at the College and the Business School. Some 30 years ago I was president of Columbia's Belgian alumni group for one or two terms. However, though I am always interested to receive *CCT*, I do not participate in Columbia events at home or abroad anymore. All the best!"

**John Laszlo** reports: "Time marches on! I was delighted that my wife, Pat, and I were able to take our 14 children and grandchildren on a Danube cruise this past summer. One highlight for me was a day in Vienna, where I was able to find the childhood apartment building where I lived with my parents until age 7. From the second-floor window I witnessed the day the Nazis annexed Austria and tanks, armored cars and motorcycles passed noisily beneath. It was not a happy memory for me but important for the family to see where it all began for our little family, which was fortunate enough to escape to the U.S.

"After I moved to the U.S., I began another life, which passed through Columbia, Harvard Medical School and then to a career at Duke and the American Cancer Society in oncology, cancer research and administration. One ironic twist from the trip to Vienna was that we found that the nearby university hospital (where my doctor parents had worked) had a sign on the front of the building that said, in English, 'Comprehensive Cancer Center of Vienna.' While at Duke we

established the first Comprehensive Cancer Center in the U.S. (probably in the world) and here is one in Vienna. Of no consequence to anyone else, but it was a real surprise to me.

"I still play tennis but on a much slower pace than when we were at Columbia. I saw a picture [in the Fall 2016 *CCT*] of **Eric Javits**, who was also on our team, and he looks as though he can still run. My best to all old school friends of the Class of '52!"

From **Howard Hansen**: "In late October, my wife, Dianne, my son, Eric, and I boarded Ed Botwinick '56, SEAS'58's private jet in Stuart, Fla., at 9 a.m. The Botwinicks spend their summers at Grandfather Mountain in western North Carolina and Ed's friendly two pilots flew us to an airport in Tennessee, where we picked up the boss (Ed) and continued our flight north.

"The weather was perfect and we flew mostly at 41,000 ft. at 450-475 mph. It didn't take long to reach our destination: Teterboro Airport, N.J. I've come to learn that Ed and Jim Mooney '56 are precise planners, so it was no surprise that while getting off the plane, who should be taking our pictures but none other than Jim, standing about 30 yards away! Ed went on his way to Manhattan and the Hansens were chauffeured to Jim and his wife Doris' magnificent residence in Pennsylvania, where we were spoiled for four days.

"On October 20, the evening's black-tie dinner function at Low Library for my induction into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame was a once-in-a-lifetime athletic experience for me. A full house (350), plus a waiting list. Coming off the stage during the induction ceremony, with my magnificent award in hand, my eyes were tearing up with gratefulness and excitement. Athletics did a most impressive job in preparation and execution.

"For historical purposes, a total of 22 football players have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since its inception in 2006. In the last go-around, in 2014, Al Barabas '36 (a wonderful person of Rose Bowl and KF-79 fame) was the sole football player chosen. This year, Paul Kaliades '73 and Johnathan Reese '02 — impressive gentlemen — joined me. Interestingly, our class set a record with three inducted, as **Bob Hartman** (All-American wrestler) and **Roone Arledge** (of

*ABC Sports*, who was inducted in a special category), qualified. Sadly, both are deceased. Bob, who passed away in late April, also was inducted posthumously into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

"For our 'free day,' Jim planned to take a trip to West Point for an impressive tour. Upon arriving on October 21, we couldn't find a parking spot, as it was Homecoming and Hall of Fame weekend at Army as well. I had mixed emotions, as my previous visit to West Point was also its Homecoming, when we played them in 1951. I was carried off the field during the first quarter with an Achilles heel problem after going for the goal line from six yards out! **Tony Misho**, my backup, had a big day rushing for more than 100 yards. As a team we totaled 324 yards rushing and were 10 times within the 10-yard line; we lost 14-9 with the ball on Army's two-inch line as time ran out. **Frank Toner** had scored to win but was flagged for offside. I sat out the next game against Cornell recuperating.

"Sadly, we only played eight games in 1951, as two of our teammates came down with polio during preseason practice and our opening game was canceled because of quarantine. Upon his retirement in 1956, coach Lou Little was interviewed on national television one evening by a cigarette-smoking Edward R. Murrow. Murrow asked Little what his greatest disappointment was, and Little replied, '1951 at Army!' I swallowed hard!

"October 22 was Columbia's Homecoming and we went to the game, which was against Dartmouth. The pregame was a marvelous brunch at The Campbell Sports Center, followed by a 9-7 victory during very difficult weather. All of us old-timers are impressed with coach Al Bagnoli and what the future holds, and are also impressed with Director of Athletics Peter Pilling.

"On October 23, our chauffeur, Jim, was probably relieved to wind up the Hansen visit with another drive to Teterboro, where Ed and his two pilots were ready at 11 a.m. to take off.

"My supporters, I thank you, including among them **Bill Wallace**, **Bob Wallace** '53, **Stephen Reich** '53, **Mel Sautter**, **Tom Federowicz**, **Thomas Powers** '51, **Gene Rossides** '49, **Stanley Maratos** '53 and **Daniel Seemann**, and I wouldn't be writ-

ing this note without the help of basketball team Hall of Famer **Bob Reiss!**"

## 1953

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Greetings, Class of 1953. As we enter the New Year, please take a moment to share a note about your life with your fellow alumni. Retirement, family news, travel, favorite Columbia memories — everything is welcome in *CCT*! You can write to either of the addresses at the top of the column, or to the *CCT* editors at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu).

## 1954

**Bernd Brecher**  
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O, Ye Princes of Columbia, you Men of the Class of Destiny, is there no end of the feats or to the accomplishments that you report for me to share in these notes? Matter of fact, I get a special kick when at Columbia alumni functions there is often a member not in our class who says he reads our notes and looks forward to doing so in every new issue of *CCT*. So-o-o-o, you guys, keep the info coming. And, note that while we have perennials, annuals and repeats aplenty, there is often news from or about a classmate we haven't seen or heard from since the middle of the last century. To these prodigal sons, a very special welcome and please stay a while.

You may be interested in a recently-issued directory, *Best Global Universities Rankings*, which covers 1,000 institutions in more than 60 countries. Alma mater is ranked among the top 10 along with two in Cambridge, Mass., one other Ivy, four schools in California and two in the United Kingdom. For details, including the 12 indicators used, google *U.S. News & World Report*, while the rankings and analyses are focused on assisting potential students, we old-timers may get some new perspectives as well.

My wife, Helen, and I, on family visits, her high school reunions,



## Send in Your News

Share what's happening in your life with classmates. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct), or email or mail to the address at the top of your column.



COURTESY WILL CSAPLAR '57, BUS'58

LIVINGSTON AND HARTLEY HALLS, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, N.Y. CITY.

conferences and other events, when visiting Washington, D.C., have regularly spent delightful evenings dining with **David Bardin LAW'56** and his wife, Livia. David had long held government positions in New Jersey and later moved to and became active in political issues in our nation's capital. Among his longstanding causes is statehood for the District of Columbia, a challenge not for the faint of heart. In May, *The Washington Post* published a letter to the editor from him, where he wrote (in response to an article on D.C. statehood): "My friends in Wyoming, population approaching 590,000, vote for two senators who participate in advising and consenting (or not) to appointment of Supreme Court justices and in the other functions of the Senate. We in the District, population '672,000 (and climbing),' vote for no senators. Most of our fellow Americans would agree that denial of representation is not fair or just or righteous as a policy for America — if they knew about it."

The day after our October dinner, the *Post* published a second letter from David. (Keep the faith!)

**Edward Raab** reports on an adventurous and fulfilling life. He practiced pediatric ophthalmology for more than 40 years, but also completed law school and was admitted to the bar in New York and Connecticut in 1995. He is

now a member of the Board of Governors and Advisory Council of the American College of Surgeons and previously was on the Advisory Council of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. "I have completed 11 missions as a volunteer faculty member in ophthalmology and surgery: six in India, three in China, one in Uganda and one in Uzbekistan. My wife, Rosanne, joined me on several trips, which gave us a wonderful chance to share in unusual experiences."

Ed says he has "presented the honor lecture in my specialty for the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus in Vancouver, and gave similar honor lectures at the American Academy of Ophthalmology, in 2005 and 2011. Rosanne and I continue spending summers at our vacation home on Deer Isle, Maine (the state's biggest lobstering town). We, our three children and four grandchildren are all doing well."

Fraternity brother **Frank Wald's** "memories of Columbia College were recently rekindled by a communication stating that the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2016 would have a black-tie dinner and induction ceremony in Low Library on October 20. The event highlighted 20 individuals, as well as teams from nine sports programs. Each sports field that was recognized was

celebrated with still shots and video clips. Every recipient was awarded a plaque, as well as a commemorative medal that he/she proudly wore throughout the event. I was lucky to be part of the Heritage Era (1867 to 1953–54) fencing team. I remember those days, as our 1954 team was undefeated at all levels; some of our teammates went on to the U.S. Olympic fencing team."

Frank's deserved pride in his and our fencing team has always been part of his psyche. He adds: "I received an M.D. from NYU in 1958 and completed a radiology residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. I served as a U.S. Navy Reserve physician (1960–62) at NH Bremerton (Wash.). After practicing in Westchester County, N.Y., I relocated to New Jersey, where I practiced for 40-plus years at JFK Medical Center. Post-retirement, I enjoyed *locum tenens* stints at a trauma hospital in Yuma, Ariz."

Frank has been married for 33 years; he and his wife, Margaret Elizabeth, have raised six children, "who are each successful in their own endeavors, and they have given us five wonderful grandchildren. They are located on the four corners of the map, so we keep the airlines busy! Retirement life here in Warren, N.J., is great! Maggie and I travel extensively throughout the United States and more recently have taken to seeing Europe from a riverboat's perspective. I have an elaborate

woodworking shop where I tinker and take on some challenging projects."

Frank says, "Maggie has written a wonderful cookbook and delights me with great meals. We are very busy in our daily activities, the highlight of which includes sunrise walks in the park with Miss Charlotte, our yellow Lab. *Life is good.*"

**Fred Schlereth SEAS'56** writes: "Heidi and I are both well. I received a patent for a sensor that I have been working on for several years. Check it out by googling 'sensor for sensing substances in an environment.' Explosives detection is an important application, but there are many others. Now comes the task of 'monetizing' it. I feel fortunate to have the support of Syracuse University; lab space, office, technicians and materials. It's a great way to spend retirement. Three of us 80-plus running guys got together to win the National Masters 5k Team Championship. But, we don't mention the number of teams that were competing."

No, this is not a set-up — as I was finishing this quarterly column, the following arrived in my inbox from Lawrence Merrion '57: "I received my Fall 2016 issue of *CCT* today and your column caught my eye with the item by **Jim Burger**. I am a Sigma Chi fraternity brother of Jim's and I wish to correspond with him, as he requested. We shared time together at the College, and we had a mutual fraternity brother in **Bob Reynolds**. Thank you for writing the column, as it is always interesting."

I blush; the check is in the mail; so are Jim's vitals.

Thanks, Lawrence. As my classmates know, I love mash notes.

Here comes a special message from **Paul Wilson PS'61**, with an attachment (see below) that can entertain for an evening and enlighten all of us in '54. Paul writes: "I'm mailing you a copy of a little memoir I recently wrote for my grandchildren and a few friends. I'm sending it along for two reasons: 1) It's got some perhaps-reportable pieces about my experiences at Columbia and afterward, and 2) It's an example (cited by *The New York Times*, I hasten to add!) of a kind of quick, not-worth-publishing, mostly-for-family memoirs that many people find easy and fascinating to write (... especially if they can honor the fact that the memoir



is just their memories [which don't demand the kind of fact-checking and historical explanations that biographies do]). I personally found it to be a surprisingly clarifying exercise, particularly for examining and understanding the big-picture patterns of my life. Better than my three-year analysis."

Paul advises, "For anyone interested in writing one, I strongly recommend doing it with at least one other person with whom to compare notes, give feedback, correct typos, exchange enthusiastic encouragements and help stick to some kind of schedule. I was lucky enough to have four writing buddies, who were part of an adult-education memoir class.

"Thanks for your always-interesting reports."

To request an email copy of Paul's 31-page memoir, email him at paultylervilson@aol.com; you will not regret it. His project hits me close to home, as I am at the start of my own 'five-year venture'

**Larry Kobrin LAW'57**, in looking at the big picture, makes "a suggestion that emerged from a meeting I had with a Columbia development person relating to the Urban New York Fund that our class established when we graduated ... this fund appears to have grown quite nicely. Online reports show that it is up and running and provides a variety of tickets for Columbia College students. My suggestion is that (members of our class) be given an annual report of what the fund was used for during each year. Specifics would not be necessary but something like xx number of Broadway show tickets, yy number of concert tickets, etc., would be good. Quite possibly, this might stimulate interest and prompt some contributions."

Larry mentioned that **Arnie Kisch** provided funds to endow ongoing purchases of Metropolitan Opera tickets for students. "Others might do similar things," he says.

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*A concert composed by Elliott Schwartz '57  
was held on September 21 in NYC to celebrate his  
80th birth year.*

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to research, write and edit my own memoirs. I will share more about that in future issues and meanwhile hope to call on him for some advice and encouragement.

Judge **Alvin Hellerstein LAW'56** continues to represent our class in the pages of *The New York Times*, this time with a September 9 story and photo spread dealing with the compensation settlement of the 96 cases involving the families of the 9-11 terror attack. "Each of the 96 victims' cases filed in Federal District Court in Manhattan was settled confidentially under the direction of Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein, who oversaw all the cases," the *Times* reported. The headline read, "Judge in 9/11 Suits Feels No Regret That None Ever Went to Trial." The subhead summed it up: "Balancing a 'Loss of Information' to the Public Against a Goal of Compensating Victims' Families." You can google the full story.

All of us are justifiably proud of Judge Al and his ongoing service to our nation and the law.

On another matter, he suggested we note that when people are cleaning out their attics or garages (as many do at our age), if they find vintage material from our College years that they consider sending it to the Columbia University Archives. "I found a whole batch of letters from the deans and from various professors and sent them to the archivist, who was quite glad to receive them."

Thanks, Larry, for your thoughts.

And a last note, to thank Alex Sachare '71 for his 18-plus years of dedicated and determined service as editor in chief of *CCT*.

Good show, Alex, and best wishes in your next endeavors.

That's it for this winter, folks. As I wrote these notes, my thoughts were as much on the two-weeks-away national election as on just '54. I hoped that you went to church, to synagogue, to the top of your mountain, to your own Core CC and Humanities archives, or wherever and however you contemplate and communicate in the hopes of some

personal insights about the world we live in and that we are leaving for all our children and grandchildren.

As always, be well, do good, write often. Excelsior!

## 1955

**Gerald Sherwin**  
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There is always something happening at Columbia, whether it's on Morningside Heights, at the Medical Center or at the Manhattanville campus — excitement abounds with the opening of the new buildings on West 125th Street.

Three professors were honored on November 17 at the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner: Ronald Breslow, Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 and Kenneth T. Jackson were treated to much applause before a crowd in Low Rotunda. In addition, Assistant Professor of Astronomy Marcel Agüeros '96 received the 2016 Presidential Early Career Award for scientists and engineers.

Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend, October 7–8, was a success. Alumni from all over the world gathered to hear speeches and updates, including a conversation between President Lee C. Bollinger and Trustees Chair Jonathan Schiller '69, LAW'73.

At a moving ceremony on September 16, more than 600 friends, alumni, students, trustees and others honored the late Bill Campbell '62, TC'64 in the Roone Arledge Auditorium in Alfred Lerner Hall.

In late summer, College and Engineering admissions hosted the second annual Alumni Representative Committee Appreciation Event to thank ARC members for their work during the past year.

Your classmates continue to do exciting things. **Bill Kronick** in Los Angeles is working on a new and improved movie to be released shortly. **Ben Kaplan** (coach Rollie Rourke's favorite ball player) has been traveling with **Jerry Catuzzi** throughout the world (East and West). Others in our class who played for Rollie were **Tony Paladino**, **Jack Freeman**, **Tom Brennan**, **Jud Maze** and Hawaii's own **Walter Deptula**. **Ted Baker**

(in Maine) has been trying to track down the Ford Scholars in our class; **Bernie Kirtman** (in California) and **Bill Epstein** (in Manhattan) have been helpful in this regard. To reach Ted, email him at lizied@earthlink.net or call him at 207-967-5258. Ford Scholars we know about are **Gerry Pomper**, **Herb Cohen**, **Tom Cheyer**, **Dan Zwanziger**, **Jerry Plasse**, **Don Pugatch**, **Bernie Chasan**, **Ed Goldberg** and **Mike Vaughn**. Back to the West Coast, **Jack Stupp** had an artist reception in Petaluma, Calif., called *Past Tense/Present Tense*.

We heard from **Roland Plottel**, who was interested in being brought up to date on what was happening on the Morningside Campus, especially with Manhattanville.

We are fortunate to have a devoted photographer in our class: A whole series of pictures from our 60th reunion was taken by **Law Sternfels** (who says lawyers aren't creative?).

**Don Laufer** and **Alfred Gollomp** put together the September dinner for classmates at Calle Ocho in Manhattan (in **Anthony Viscusi's** neighborhood).

A bit of sad news to report — the passing of **Al Momjian LAW'57**. Word reached us through Mark Momjian '83, LAW'86, Al's son. Condolences to Mark and the whole family. [Editor's note: See Obituaries, Fall 2016.]

**Dan Wakefield**, our prolific writer, gave a brief but interesting synopsis of what he has been doing over the past few years and with whom he has been in touch.

My wondrous fellow classmates.

Be all you can be.

And wake the echoes of the Hudson Valley.

The 65th is right around the proverbial corner.

Love to all! Everywhere!

## 1956

**Robert Siroty**  
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Writing my first Class Notes column brings back memories of writing my first article for *Spec*, in 1952. Thank you and *au revoir* to **Stephen Easton** and his wife, Elke — who are retiring to Southport, N.C. —

for Steve's labors as president of the Class of '56. I hope to continue in his footsteps.

**Jack Raskin**, in Bellevue, Wash., landed there after serving as a physician in Vietnam. He practiced child psychiatry and now plays tennis. Jack sends his regards to **Robert Cabat**.

**Robert "Buz" Paaswell** is one of eight people selected for a Port Authority of New York and New Jersey panel to evaluate proposals for replacing the bus terminal in midtown Manhattan. Buz was the only member of the eight-person jury from an eastern university.

I'm sad to report the passing of Fred Hovasapian '57, reported by Merrill Ring '55. Fred was an outstanding football and baseball player at Columbia.

Start working on our 65th reunion. Snowbirds: We are planning a luncheon in February in Boynton Beach, Fla. I hope you will keep us all up to date by sending your Class Notes to me: [siroty56cc@gmail.com](mailto:siroty56cc@gmail.com).

## 1957

REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 1-4, 2017

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REUNION 2017

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A concert composed by **Elliott Schwartz** was held on September 21 at the Symphony Space/Leonard Nimoy Thalia Theatre on West 95th Street and Broadway, in New York City, to celebrate Elliott's 80th birth year. It was sponsored by the American Composers Alliance.

Alumni may remember the place as the Thalia Theatre movie house. It has since been transformed into a recital hall. Elliott's 80th was celebrated in England as well; his recently completed *String Quartet No. 3* premiered at the University of Cambridge on November 3, with a London premiere to follow early in 2017.

Classmates, please write to either of the addresses at the top of this

column — let us know what you are looking forward to in 2017 or what happened during 2016.

## 1958

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**William Reichel**, another classmate we haven't heard from in a long while, sent the following: "My career has been in internal medicine, family medicine, geriatrics and bioethics. I served 13 years on the Board of Directors of the American Geriatrics Society, one year as president and two as chair of the board. I was recently named one of five 'Pioneers in Geriatric Medicine' in *Caring for the Ages*, the official newspaper of AMDA (The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine). In the first year that family medicine became a specialty, I was hired to start one of the first family medicine residencies in the country. After 18 years, I spent [the next] several years starting family medicine residencies in Boston and also consulting internationally in family medicine and geriatrics for the first three family medicine residencies in Spain and also for Russia, Jordan, Japan and China. Since 1998, I have been an affiliated scholar at the Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University Medical Center, in Washington, D.C.

"In August, the seventh edition of *Reichel's Care of the Elderly* was released. It is a fully updated edition of the pioneering text for health professionals interested in the unique problems of an increasing elderly population. The text, designed as a practical and useful guide for all health professionals, emphasizes clinical management of elderly patient problems that range from simple to complex. Compassion and caring for the patient have been highlighted through all seven editions. Updated and reorganized chapters reflect a clinical approach to aging, describing a clinical approach to the management of older adults, reviewing common geriatric syndromes and an organ-based review of care, addressing principles of care, including psychosocial aspects of our aging society, organization of

care and ethical decision-making in the care of the elderly. Particular emphasis is placed on cost-effective, patient-centered care."

In other medical-related news, **Jerry Keusch** expanded on his previous appearances in this column, which related to his service as head of the Fogarty International Center at NIH during the George W. Bush administration; his comments had described his disgust with the politicization of its science programs. He wrote, "My 2004 comments were the sad and true description of the ideological constraints being imposed on scientific curiosity, which must be intellectually unconstrained in order to seek fuller and better understanding of any issue. If not, what you get is Lysenko-style genetics. Lysenkoism is still alive and well. To the point, look at an article by Peter Ferrara in the April 28, 2013, issue of *Forbes* (search for 'Lysenkoism' on the *Forbes* site). As a reminder for our non-scientist classmates, Trofim Lysenko was a Stalin-era Soviet agrobiologist who, for political reasons, rejected Mendel's theory of genetics and Darwinism in favor of the pseudoscientific idea that traits acquired by an individual organism during its lifetime could be passed on as is to the next generation. He also did not believe that genes or DNA existed."

Jerry is a professor of medicine and international health and associate director, National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories, at the Boston University School of Medicine.

**George Jochowitz** writes: "Herman Wouk '34 finished a book at 100. He is now 101. I found the book, read it and reviewed it. Read the review by going to [algemeiner.com](http://algemeiner.com) and searching 'Herman Wouk Looks Back.'"

**Howard Winell** reports that his family's musical tradition continues. Howard was a member — along with **Bob Hanning** and **Steve Paul**, as well as **Buzz Covey** (now deceased) — of the Blue Notes, the quartet that furnished the soundtrack for our College years. Howard's youngest son, Jonathan, is an internationally known opera singer who has performed tenor roles throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. In 2016, he sang primarily in Germany. He was the second-prize winner of the 2015 Leyla Gencer Voice Competition in

Istanbul and has placed in numerous international competitions. He made his Lincoln Center debut in 2012 in Wagner's *Rienzi* with the Opera Orchestra of New York.

And now, sports fans, an update from **Peter Gruenberger** on his grandson, Ethan Abrams '19, who became a starting pitcher for the Lions as a freshman. As Peter describes it, in 2009, Ethan made a strange bet with his friend Mickey Moniak (an outfielder), who is one year younger: If Mickey was ever picked among the first 10 players chosen in the MLB draft, then Ethan would get Mickey's name tattooed on his butt and vice versa. They went on to play on the same high school team (La Costa Canyon H.S. in Carlsbad, Calif.). Fast forward to June 2016: Ethan, having chosen to attend Columbia, won't be eligible for the MLB draft until 2018. But Mickey, as a high school senior, became eligible prior to his June 2016 graduation. Whaddya know? The Phillies used the first pick to choose Mickey (as a junior he hit .462). During his nationally televised interview, Mickey described the bet and Ethan, in his follow-up interview, confirmed that his tattoo would be applied during the fall term at Columbia. We're guessing it will show up on YouTube.

The class lunch is held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Columbia University Club of New York's Grill Room, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31 per person). Email Art Radin if you plan to attend, up to the day before: [arthur.radin@janoverllc.com](mailto:arthur.radin@janoverllc.com).

## 1959

**Norman Gelfand**  
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I am sorry to report the deaths of **Mike Bromberg** on August 12, 2016, and **Bob Eisenstein** on August 16, 2016.

I apologize to those who have written me and did not get a response. My daughter and her family moved back to Chicago and while her husband is in Florida training to become an airline pilot and she is trying to find work, my wife and I have been looking after

their 2-year-old daughter. It was easier when I was younger.

**Kenneth Scheffel** writes: “The past year proved a difficult one for me. Last July, I suffered a heart attack. Open heart surgery followed, with six bypasses and insertion of a pacemaker. Recovery has taken a long time. While I’ll never be what I once was, I am determined to be as good as I can be. So I follow a regular exercise regimen and as heart-healthy a diet as my limited culinary skills will permit.

“Seven months after my heart attack, I had recovered sufficiently to make a Road Scholar (Elderhostel) trip to Cuba. We were part of a people-to-people cultural exchange program, on which both the United States and Cuban governments had agreed. Comprised largely of retired educators approved for visas by the Cuban government, we avoided touristy activities — the only beach we saw was the Bay of Pigs. Our program included lectures by Cuban scholars, tours of art facilities and historic sites, and performances by various cultural groups, adult and youth. Our American group leader was a former aide to Henry Kissinger and our Cuban guide came from a peasant family that benefited from the Cuban revolution.

“We spent four days in Havana and four in the southern part of the island in Santa Clara, Cienfuegos and Trinidad. It proved an interesting experience, which I would recommend. In many respects, it represented a trip back in time. The country has seen little major construction since the revolution in 1959. Buildings are poorly maintained and the Cubans drive the same cars as we drove in the ’50s. Despite the run-down appearance, Cuba has a quaint, old-fashioned charm. Outside Havana, it becomes even more archaic. Cars largely disappear and are replaced with many horse-drawn vehicles, while some farmers still till their fields with oxen.

“Like the rest of the Caribbean, such as the U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Cuba is terribly poor. It doesn’t have much to offer in terms of natural resources other than sugar and tobacco, neither of which is doing well in today’s world, and the U.S. embargo doesn’t help. The country is desperate for hard currency. You’re forced to exchange your U.S. dollars for Cuban Convertible

Pesos at a 13 percent discount and any you have left suffer a further 3 percent reduction upon reconversion. Basic food supplies are rationed using the same coupon books with stamps as we knew in WWII, although they can now be supplemented with purchases from private vendors. Electric power is limited, so Havana isn’t a very bright city after dark.

“Basic amenities are often lacking, especially outside Havana. Public restrooms are particularly primitive. If you want toilet paper or soap, you’d better bring your own or prepare to pay an attendant, who often ‘flushes’ the toilet with a bucket of water. The restrooms at the Havana airport were particularly gross. It reminded me of the summers I used to spend on my aunt and uncle’s farm when I was a kid. I hope President Barack Obama ’83 was able to use the facilities on Air Force One before disembarking in Havana. The Cubans banned photographs in only three places: the Havana airport, the fine arts museum and the Che Guevara Mausoleum. On seeing the Havana airport, we were tempted to reboard our plane and return to the States.

“But we were glad we stayed. The Cuban people are great. They look and act happy and they certainly know how to have a good time. On Saturday nights, they block off the town plazas to vehicular traffic for music, dancing and socializing. The music is foot-tapping (even chamber music is played with a distinctively Cuban beat). Though heavily salted and sugared, Cuban food is delicious (particularly if you avoid the government restaurants for the increasingly popular private *paladares*). In eight days, I gained five lbs. — all of which I lost in a single day upon returning to the States and taking a diuretic. No one drinks the tap water (even the Cubans boil it) and bottled water can be difficult to obtain, particularly in Havana, where the demand is greatest. But the rum is intoxicating (and cheap). The Cuban people look quite different from the exile community in the States. They present a greater variety of hues (more like the Cuban baseball players who defect than the old Spanish elite who now reside in Miami, Houston and San Juan). By the way, I saw far more soccer played in Cuba than baseball, I suspect because it’s cheaper — all you need is a ball.



Joel P. Rosenfeld '59 (left) and Frank Wilson '59 recently visited the Chicago Botanical Garden with Wilson's sister, Julie Massey.

“In Cuba, unlike most of Latin America and much of the United States, I felt absolutely safe wherever I went. Police presence is at a minimum, mainly confined to public markets and town plazas — I suspect to discourage petty theft and currency trading. And you never see any military personnel. When a member of our group asked our Cuban guide about drugs, he responded that whoever is caught with them goes immediately to jail, which I gather is not a pleasant place to go.

“Everyone in Cuba has a job but that doesn’t mean everyone works. Service can be very slow. I was unsure whether it reflected the system, or the Latin temperament, or a combination. When I asked our Cuban guide about the requirements for membership in the Communist Party, he emphasized ‘being a good worker.’ I left Cuba convinced of the superiority of our system until Delta Air Lines left me stranded overnight at LaGuardia after canceling four straight flights on which I’d been booked.

“Despite the current regime’s liabilities (and they are many), it has brought major improvements to Cuba. Illiteracy has been virtually eliminated — our Cuban guide said his mother, a servant girl, only learned to read after the revolution. Public education is free to all but, other than seminaries to train clergy, only state schools are permitted. And health care ranks on a par with the U.S. in many respects and in some respects better: If you believe the World Health Organization,

Cuba has a lower infant mortality rate than my home state of Ohio.

“Cubans, according to our history lecturer, have strong feelings of nationalism. They dislike the Spanish, including the old elite who dominated Cuban society until the revolution and they’re not very fond of the U.S., particularly our Platt Amendment declaration of the right to intervene in Cuba’s internal affairs and our occupation of Cuban territory (Guantanamo). Reflecting more recent developments, our Cuban guide expressed pride that his father had joined the ‘volunteers’ to repel the ‘foreign-backed’ invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

“Nationalism, as our lecturer on Cuban religion emphasized, also helps explain why so few Cubans practice their faith. Although nominally Catholic (many revolutionary leaders were Jesuit-educated), the church was on the ‘wrong side’ in the movement for independence and the revolution for social change. Catholicism is identified with foreigners, especially the old Spanish elite. Even today, 55 percent of the Catholic clergy are foreign born. Only some 3 percent of Cuban Catholics attend Mass regularly and, on a given Sunday, more Protestants (largely evangelicals and Pentecostals) may be attending services in Cuba than Catholics. While we saw lots of churches, we found only two that were open: the cathedral in Old Havana (where Columbus’ remains rested until they were returned to Spain) and a post-WWII edifice near our Havana hotel in the once-affluent



Miramar district (where many foreign embassies are located). Yet you see lots of religious statues and monuments and many Cubans wear crosses and religious medals, including our lecturer on Cuban religion. The Santeria, who combine Christianity with African Yoruba religion, were particularly evident throughout Havana in their distinctive all white attire. While only 1,000 Jews are left in all of Cuba, the main synagogue in Havana remains functional.

“Cuba wants improved relations with the U.S. (and so do we). Our University of Havana lecturer, who is involved in the negotiations, emphasized that Cuba realizes it must change if it wants to improve economically. Cuba has few friends left. The Soviet Union is gone and Russia has other interests closer to home, while Venezuela (you see lots of pictures of Hugo Chávez throughout the island), on which Cuba depends for oil, is in sad shape. The old Cuban leadership is retiring and dying and the newer generation — even Fidel’s brother Raúl — are embracing change. The Cuban public doesn’t even know Fidel’s location (although I missed him this trip, I did see him when he came to New York to address the United Nations during our senior year).”

To be continued in the next Class Notes ...

From **Jim Thomas** we hear: “I retired on January 1, 2015. I’m playing lots of golf, taking care of prize-winning flower gardens, spending January on Sanibel Island and going overseas to exciting places. We have visited 54 countries so far and plan to add the Azores to our list in September. So far (knock on wood) my health is good — I can’t walk 18 holes but I can do 13 — and my three kids are doing well, as are my grand- and great-grand kids. All of the adults are working and advancing in their professions, so that is good.”

**Bill Frye** writes, “I last reported about a year ago and things continue, on the whole, to be going fairly well. I continue with my law firm on a reduced basis, looking ahead to complete retirement one of these days. My wife, Sandy, and I are doing a bit more traveling and I expect in November to be one of the Florida Democrat lawyers on Election Day, as I have been on many elections.

“I have some residual limitations arising out of the February 2015 ski-

ing accident I reported on in a previous Class Notes column. I continue to work through the limitations on a regular basis and am showing some improvement. However, it is a slow process — although I expect age has a great deal to do with it.

“I expect to be an Alumni Representative Committee interviewer once again and, as I have said on a number of occasions, it is something I enjoy doing and come away with a feeling of optimism about the future. The students I see on behalf of Columbia are — to a person — outstanding, and I must confess that the selection process is somewhat hard to understand, as so many of the applicants I see would make wonderful Columbia students.

“Our children and grandchildren are doing well and are very busy. Jill, our oldest, has completed her second documentary film (the first about menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay was an award winner), and Tory ’91 (our youngest), has joined the faculty of the CUNY School of Medicine at City College. As many people have remarked, your children are always surprising you. Our oldest grandson is a junior in college, his brother is gearing up for his senior year in high school and the two youngest grandsons are doing well in the city. They may be Columbia-bound, but you never know.

“Sandy and I went to All-Class Reunion (formerly known as Dean’s Day) in 2016 and really enjoyed it. We saw some old friends and may have learned something in the process. All in all, all is well and as always, we are in the phone book and would enjoy hearing from you should you get down this way.”

Two quick notes: I was listening to *The Moth* on NPR one day and was delighted to hear **Roald Hoffman** recount his experiences in WWII. **Stephen Trachtenberg** has been active in publishing articles and fishing.

## 1960

**Robert A. Machleder**  
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**Frank Tuerkheimer** has had a distinguished career in the law. Now in private practice, Frank is an emeritus

professor of law at the University of Wisconsin Law School; had been an assistant United States attorney for the Southern District of New York, where he was chief of the Securities and Financial Fraud Unit; was an associate special prosecutor with the Watergate Special Prosecution Force; and served as the United States attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin from 1977 to 1981.

Frank is co-author of *Forgotten Trials of the Holocaust* (2014). He tells us what inspired the book and to bring us up-to-date on another matter of signal importance in his professional activities: “About 20 years ago, upset at the intensity of the Holocaust denial movement, I put together a course, ‘Trials of the Holocaust,’ which I taught to both undergraduates and law students. The idea was to present the facts of these trials (the main Nuremberg trial; the later Nuremberg trial against the Einsatzgruppen defendants — the S. S. men who followed the German army eastward

satzgruppen trial. I’ve also conducted a lengthy interview of the surviving prosecutor from the Eichmann trial, Gabi Bach ([cargocollective.com/eichmannprosecutorinterview](http://cargocollective.com/eichmannprosecutorinterview)).”

I am impelled to interject two observations. First, Frank’s comment on the reception of the book is entirely too modest and hardly does it justice. The following appraisal by Robert Morgenthau, the long-serving former district attorney for New York County, exemplifies the many laudatory reviews heralding the book’s outstanding contributions on the subject: “Brings to the reader important trials that have fallen beneath the general public’s radar. The authors, as both academics and practicing lawyers, bring a fresh and incisive approach to these trials, dissecting the strategies of the trial lawyers as well as the decision-making by the presiding judges. They manage, in each of these trials, to focus on the defendants, the victims, and the players in the courtroom

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*Frank Tuerkheimer ’60 has had a distinguished law career. Now in private practice, he is also a professor emeritus at Wisconsin Law.*

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in Russia and killed 1,250,000 Jews, mainly by shooting; the Eichmann trial; and a Treblinka trial in the format of a denaturalization proceeding against a Treblinka guard) to the students to arm them with sufficient detail so that they could deal with Holocaust denial in the future. For several years I also taught the course to German students in Giessen, most recently this past May.

“I’ve also given talks all over the place on one or more of these trials. Six or seven years ago, someone suggested a book on the topic of lesser-known Holocaust trials. My co-author and I then each picked five trials beneath the general public’s radar and wrote about them. The main Nuremberg trial and the Eichmann trial were not included. *Forgotten Trials of the Holocaust* has done pretty well — it was reviewed favorably in the *New York Review of Books*. For the last two years I have given continuing legal education lectures at law firms in Madison, Wis., and New York, focusing on the Ein-

scene. They present a vivid picture of the Holocaust in operation, an essential undertaking as the survivor generation decreases in number. This book is worth reading for anyone interested in trials and for anyone interested in the Holocaust, and it is compelling reading for anyone interested in both.”

Second, I strongly encourage all to watch a most moving and penetrating interview with Frank at [youtube.com/watch?v=w6io0u2oQQc](http://youtube.com/watch?v=w6io0u2oQQc).

Frank continues: “Since 1997, I have represented an indigent defendant on death row in Alabama. I’ve done this with the help of two lawyers in Madison and, for several years, worked with law students from the University of Wisconsin Law School in what was essentially an in-house clinical program. Each of the students, at some point, visited the client on death row in Alabama. The case is presently before the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals and, like most of these cases, deals with the ineffectiveness

of trial counsel. It's actually not easy to travel 1,200 miles and have to tell the local judiciary that the local lawyers were constitutionally defective. The case was initially handled by the Equal Justice Initiative, a group headed by Bryan Stevenson. One of the pluses of all this has been getting to know Bryan.

"So that's pretty much it professionally. I won't get started on the great joys of grandparenthood. We are fortunate that all of our grandsons live in Evanston, Ill., which is 2½ hours from Madison. It's a little more remote when we are in New York City, where we go every year from mid-December to early June."

Those of us who are year-round New Yorkers are familiar with "snowbirds" — who leave New York for the south after Thanksgiving and return on or around Mother's Day — would regard the Tuerkheimers as "reverse snowbirds."

**Irwin Sollinger** and his wife, *Liz*, are approaching their golden anniversary and live an active life, typically taking to ski in winter. However, that was not to be this past winter, as *Liz* was placed on temporary injured reserve while recovering from a knee replacement. That, *Irwin* advises, required that he devise an alternative itinerary that could keep him moving. And devise one he did: "New York City has a plethora of museums and historical societies," he says. "Why not visit as many of them, enjoying the exhibits, as one could frequent? It seemed like an idea, perhaps a good one. The standard Met, MoMA, Frick, Morgan, Guggenheim, Cooper Hewitt and Brooklyn Museum were all easy to navigate. The Museum of Arts and Design, the New Museum and the American Folk Art Museum were all available and accessible. The challenge was discovering the vast treasures of the city in venues less well-known.

"Each week I mapped out a plan for my quest. Some were obscure and unknown to me before the gambit; others were exciting finds. There were many highlights. Colleges and universities, from Pratt to Cooper Union, Columbia, NYU and FIT, were on the list. They were a resource I did not entertain before I began. When asked by friends what I discovered on this adventure, I would have to mention the Civil War battlefield photographs at the Staten Island Museum, the Ramones

exhibit at the Queens Museum, the wondrous Bronx Museum and the serenity of the Japan Society. Each venue reflected the care and intelligence that collectors and curators and board members have given to us. I won't tell you how many I visited but if you guessed close to 48 I would agree. *Liz* is recovered and we are active again."

Thank you, *Irwin*, for presenting an itinerary that all New Yorkers can enjoy.

Those who attended our 50th reunion will recall the exquisite exhibition of the works of prominent artist classmates. Among the works on display were the landscapes of **Robert Berlind**, which have been described by art critics as "possessing deceptive simplicity" and "regal elegance." I'm sad to report *Bob* died in December 2015 after a long affliction with cancer.

*Bob* earned a B.F.A. and M.F.A. from the Yale University School of Art. He painted prolifically and his works are collected by museums throughout the country. He wrote about artists (contributing nearly 100 reviews to art magazines) and taught art. At the time of his death he was professor emeritus at the School of Art and Design, Purchase College, SUNY.

*Bob* was intrigued by the shapes and space of night and water, and landscapes filled his canvases. He was quoted describing his subject matter: "I singled out water, nighttime and trees. I would love to be out at night, in the country especially, and I always felt I must have been a nocturnal animal at some point. Everything is so much clearer. You didn't see too much. You walk out at noon and you just see everything. It's not a painting idea. At night a few shapes define themselves and they're perfect. And there's the space between you and whatever that is. How to articulate that is the question."

As for water, *Bob* said: "For years, I looked at water surfaces, meditating on them, without thinking they were paintable or drawable. But I would look at the water and it kept changing and moving and I could lose myself in that. You forget what you're looking at and you forget who you are and you're just there. It's a pure meditational state. It's wonderful."

*Bob* was the recipient of the American Academy and Institute of

Arts and Letters Award in Painting and the B. Altman Award in Painting at the National Academy, as well as grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. In 2013, he received an Arts Writers Grant from the Andy Warhol Foundation in association with Creative Capital.

The class sends its deepest condolences to his wife, *Mary Lucier*; sons, *Alexey* and *Gabriel*; colleagues; friends; the many students he mentored; and to all who were drawn into and found themselves at peace in his beautiful paintings.

## 1961

**Michael Hausig**  
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**Aaron Michelson** and his wife, *Rona*, recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. They lead kosher tours to China; Vietnam and Cambodia; Ecuador, the Galapagos and Peru; and Tibet, and have recently added India and Japan tours. In addition, they travel for pleasure. They recently visited Lapland, in Finland, where they drove a dog sled, a snowmobile and a reindeer sledge as well as hiked in snowshoes. They also watched ice hockey and ski jumping. Unfortunately, someone had turned off the Northern Lights. A month later they visited Georgia, where they saw some of the countryside and stopped in the capital city Tbilisi for the national day festivities.

**Jack Kirik** and his wife, *Sue*, dropped by to visit **Don Savini** and his wife at their farm just outside State College, Pa. They say they had a great time catching up. *Don* is playing lots of golf these days. He has a five handicap — he says it's because this ball doesn't curve or sink!

In September, **Ted Stanley** was the 2016 History of Anesthesia speaker for the department of anesthesiology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. His talk was titled "The Story of Fentanyl." *Ted* also had dinner at the Carlyle Hotel with members of the department and the widow of E.M. Papper '35. Papper was the founder of and former chairman of CUMC's department of anesthesiology as well as the former dean and VP of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

**Charles Wuorinen** was commissioned by *James Levine*, music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, to create several major musical works. In 2005, *Wuorinen's Fourth Piano Concerto* (written for the BSO, *Levine* and longtime *Wuorinen* collaborator *Peter Serkin*) was one of the first of the BSO commissions *Levine* conducted with the orchestra. This was followed two years later by the *Eighth Symphony (Theologoumena)*, a BSO 125th anniversary commission, which premiered under *Levine's* direction in 2007. Spectacular recordings document the premiere performances of both of these works and are now available on Bridge Records; go to [bridgerecords.com/search](http://bridgerecords.com/search) and enter "Charles Wuorinen."



Left to right: Jack Kirik '61, Dave Schwartz '61 and Mickey Greenblatt '61 donned their freshman beanies at the Wine Tasting on Low Plaza during Reunion Weekend 2016.

SCOTT RUDD

**Arnold Klipstein** and his brother Robert Klipstein '57, LAW'60 spent September 11 in New York City to celebrate Robert's 80th birthday.

Robert practices law full-time. Arnold "retired" in 2012 after a 41-year private practice in gastroenterology but has continued to work as *locum tenens* physician about two weeks a month. He has spent time in various areas of the United States, including Spokane, Wash.; Newport News, Va.; and Springfield, Ill.; and is next headed to Manchester, N.H. These jobs are part time until full time staff is hired. Between jobs, Arnold spends time with friends and family and travels both locally and abroad. Keeping up with gastroenterology challenges his mind and his fiancée Bonnie keeps him young.

Arnold was concerned about being in New York City on 9-11 but went anyway. After leaving Grand Central, he and Robert went to the theater district and were surprised at how few policemen they saw. The trip was uneventful.

For those who possess a rudimentary knowledge of French, **Joel Kasow** was featured in a two-page interview in *L'As de Trèfle*, the publication of the French Bridge Federation. Without being an ace at the game, Joel is in the top 10 percent of French bridge players (in addition to leading a sedentary retirement). The interviewer also asked about Joel's interests outside of his favorite card game: music and dance. He lives in Valence, an hour south of Lyons but only two hours on the high speed train to Paris, which gave him a good base from which to "operate" when he went to the opera all over France. The interview explains why he no longer operates and while what is available on television and DVD only comforts his decision. For the brave souls who want to read the original article, go to <https://cdn.ffbridge.fr/cms/magazine/0001/02/7a508e10cf1a29e39c03cc1cf8e3670c2aa7c288.pdf>.

My wife JB's and my summer travels to get away from the San Antonio heat included a month in Frisco, Colo., in August, hiking and generally enjoying the cooler weather, which included some snow at 12,000 ft. We caught up with **John Drake** and his wife, Linda, who summer in nearby Silverthorne, Colo. We also see them during the ski season. On the drive home, we

stopped in Colorado Springs, Colo., for a nice lunch with **Bob Rennick** and his wife, Lisa.

## 1962

REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 1-4, 2017

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REUNION2017

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**Jeff Milstein** became the grandfather to his ninth granddaughter! He has no grandsons — must be some sort of record!

Otherwise there is no reported news. Please write even a couple sentences to me at [jf@bicyclevt.com](mailto:jf@bicyclevt.com) — your classmates want to hear from you!

## 1963

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I sent an email in September asking for news and the response was spectacular. Thanks! I fit as much as I could in this issue but some of your news will have to wait for the Spring 2017 issue. Apologies.

**David Rubinson** writes, "I had a long and fruitful life in the music business — produced lots of great records and film music and was incredibly blessed to have met and collaborated with amazing creative icons. In parallel, I spent many days and nights doing political resistance work, thus was in jail now and again. Bush 2004 finally tipped me over the edge and I

worked hard for a few years (with Cindy Sheehan, among others) and, with what I could easily see was the coming debacle of FauxBama in 2008, I quit the United States in 2009. I have lived in France ever since — now in a delightful quiet village perché about 30 kilometers north of Cannes, where I practice permaculture and produce tomatoes, broccoli, aubergines, quinoa and so on ... in a fairly successful process toward achieving self-sufficiency and autonomy (unlike musicians or film producers, broccoli rarely call me at home at 2 a.m.)."

David, sounds like a good move. But think of all the fun you missed in this last election (written in trepidation long before the date).

**Harley Frankel** sent in news about his nonprofit, College Match, which has had an extraordinary year helping bright, low-income kids get into great colleges. He reports that 114 of the 2015 and 2016 College Match seniors (75 percent) were admitted into a Top 25 college or university, as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*. He says, "We believe that these results are better than those achieved by many private high schools and comparable to some of the best. In addition, 97 percent of our 2016 seniors were admitted into at least one Top 50 college or university and 100 percent of our seniors were admitted into a four-year institution of higher learning. Moreover, 11 of our seniors are undocumented and all 11 have been admitted to at least one top-ranked school; nine of them have been admitted into a Top 25 college or university. All 11 of these students received a \$25,000 TheDream.US scholarship and will have sufficient financial assistance to attend one of the best colleges in the country."

Harley, this is a remarkable record.

**Peter Broido** writes, "Last year my wife and I moved from Chicago to Baltimore. I had some misgivings (as we had lived in Chicago for 46 years and, as older retired people, we might find it harder to make new friends) but having four grandchildren (two in Baltimore and two in Arlington, Va.) compelled us to move. It has been wonderful to be closer to our grandchildren and slowly we are making new friends. We have also seen several old friends as well, including **Lowell Curtis** and **Gary Rachelefsky** — both are doing very

well. Baltimore is also a much easier trip to NYC and I have now attended several class lunches as well."

**Lee Lowenfish** continues to follow his baseball passion far and wide. He interviewed veteran Cuban baseball personages in Havana at the start of 2016. He followed Columbia's fine baseball program again during the 2016 season; they came up a little short in the their quest for a remarkable Ivy League four-peat as league champion but finished with a winning league record. Lee had a most pleasurable experience during the summer teaching "Baseball and American Culture" at the adult education paradise known as the Chautauqua Institution in western New York State. Lee's essay, "Orange and Black Forever: How A New Yorker Fell in Love with Earl Weaver's Baltimore Orioles," was published in the anthology *Baltimore Sports*.

**Farhad Idjadi** writes, "I retired from private practice of general surgery in 2006 and practiced *locum tenens* surgery throughout the United States for four years. I am fully retired since 2011. I enjoy spending time with our two grandchildren, following my long passion in photography, traveling and reading. For the last three years, I have been doing volunteer work in a clinic and find it quite rewarding."

**Don Margolis** writes, "[At the time of writing] I am looking forward to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony on October 20 when my brother, James Margolis '58, will be inducted. He is most deserving, having entered Columbia without ever having fenced and having won the NCAA épée championship as a junior. After graduating, Jim was a member of the U.S. world championship team, two Pan American Games and the 1960 Olympic team."

**Joe McPhee** writes, "Many of my memories of the College and its campus have faded a bit. Living in North Carolina further created a sense of distance to those memories. But then my wife of many years, a nurse educator, decided that she wanted to pursue a doctorate at Teachers College. So, in fall 2015, we found ourselves living two blocks from the College campus.

"Suddenly enveloped by nostalgia, I took many walks through the campus and its environs, trying to find



some concrete relics of all my fading memories. I was pleasantly surprised. The main campus has hardly changed and when I wandered into Havemeyer, I found the lecture hall was locked in a time vortex and (except for the replacement of the desks that had been battered and carved-upon even in 1959) looked exactly the same. I was a zoology major and had worked in the zoology library in Schermerhorn, so I was hoping to revisit that place as well. But regrettably that library has disappeared, to be replaced by an unrecognizable (and I must say, less memorable) space. The West End has disappeared and Mama Joy's (the best sandwiches) can no longer be found. My fraternity house passed away years ago but I was shocked to see Sigma Chi, that paragon of fraternities in our day, had departed its impressive Georgian Colonial house and moved down the street to much less impressive digs. I was, however, cheered to find that V&T is still going strong (although not in its original location). I am planning to go there for a steak pizzaiola, that paragon of Italian cuisine that got me through finals week. But the best of all my flashback experiences was taking my wife to *Alma Mater* and letting her find the owl. It is still a beautiful campus and I think we all can feel justly proud of having, if even for a short time, gotten to experience it."

Alexis Levitin writes, "I teach at SUNY Plattsburgh and translate poetry from Ecuador, Brazil and Portugal. In 2015, I had five books come out: *Destruction in the Afternoon* by Santiago Vizcaino (from Ecuador), *Exemplary Tales* by Sophia de Mello Breyner Andresen (from Portugal), *28 Portuguese Poets: A Bilingual Anthology* (with Richard Zenith), *Fado and the Portuguese Soul* by Fernando Pessoa, published in Portugal, and *Tiger Fur* by Salgado Maranhao (from Brazil).

"This past spring I did a bilingual poetry reading tour with Salgado Maranhao, reading on the West Coast at various venues (including Mills College, the University of Oregon, Evergreen State College and the University of Washington), in the Midwest (Northwestern, the University of Chicago and the University of Missouri) and in the East (Cornell, Princeton and Brown, among others). My next book, which was scheduled to be released in December 2016, will be *Cattle of the*

*Lord: Poems* by Portugal's Rosa Alice Branco. She and I will do a tour next spring, mostly in the Northeast.

"I also had the good fortune to become a grandfather. Hannah Simone was born on January 9, 2016, in Berkeley. I visited her in April and planned to see her again in October. I will retire soon and the question is: Should I give up the East Coast and move to California? Meanwhile, I continue to travel as much as possible; in the last nine months I've been to Quito, Banhos, Guayaquil, the Galápagos, around the U.S. and then on to Portugal to visit Lisbon, Porto and Sagres. I write just after returning from a three-day trip to Tadoussac, Canada — it's almost three hours beyond Quebec City, where the Saguenay River flows into the St. Lawrence and one can watch whales (including the all-white beluga) cruise their rich feeding grounds."

Steve Langfelder writes, "In June my wife, Ruth, and I attended a combination 75th birthday party and celebratory retirement party for my former roommate, Don Putnoi. Don spent 50 years as an ophthalmologist and eye surgeon in the Boston area, and the party was well-attended by friends, family and professional associates. In addition to rooming together for four years in Livingston Hall, Don and I were best men at each other's weddings in 1964. I introduced him to a family friend, Fran, who has been his spouse for 52 years. Fran returned the favor, introducing me to her college friend, Ruth, with whom I celebrated 52 years on October 3.

"Ruth and I have two married daughters and six grandchildren. One daughter and her husband live in Israel and we try to visit them at least annually, otherwise paying the import tax to get them here. We recently moved to Wanaque Reserve, a 55-plus community that can best be described as 'camp for big kids,' with classes, clubs, trips and a social life that can be as much or as little as one wants.

"I retired 15 years ago from a career in taxes, first in public accounting and then as a tax director in corporate America. It was fun and satisfying and I'm glad to look back at it. These days I'm up to my ears in genealogy, having located more than 500 relatives. I keep in mind this saying of a prominent genealogist: 'Your family tree is not complete until, with one click of the mouse,

you're back at the Garden of Eden.' Maybe not in this life, but I'm working on it. Until then, I can also contemplate that under that theory, you, I and all of our classmates are in fact related — we just need a little more documentation!"

Sy Moskowitz has retired from classroom teaching and is now senior research professor at Valparaiso University Law School. He and his wife, Linda, live in Chicago. Sy taught in Cambridge, England, last summer and is an avid hiker and climber. He would love to connect with classmates in the Chicago area.

Bob Schlaer writes, "Since I took up the bagpipes I have been involved in events and celebrations (memorials, funerals weddings, parades and so on) with which I previously had only marginal contact. The accepting culture of pipers and piping has brought unexpected rewards into my life and experiences that I never imagined existed.

"In July we spent two weeks in New Zealand visiting our son, daughter-in-law and grandson. A most beautiful place with a very agreeable culture. After our November elections the most certain way to be allowed in as a permanent resident is to be an experienced shepherd with a trained sheepdog — not part of the Core Curriculum, I am afraid."

Bob sent many pictures of the various events he has taken part in, which you can view at cc63ers.com. He writes, "Because I am now so involved in piping, the stories of my recent life are best illustrated photographically."

We are saddened by the loss of another classmate. D. Keith Mano died in September and his obit in *The New York Times* brought back many memories. He led a full and interesting life. Henry Black remembered, "The first time I saw Keith was in a Columbia student production of *Richard III*. I have yet to see anyone do it better. His voice was electrifying and his body language perfect for the role. Many years later, we became friends at the old Baker Field, where he hosted a tailgate at every home game. When Columbia played Yale in New Haven, Conn., we would go to Pepe's Pizzeria together. Anyone who went to Columbia football games during Keith's 200-plus consecutive game attendance streak will always recall being forcefully

encouraged to be 'up for the kickoff.' I certainly will. We remained friends with Keith and his wife, Laurie, over the ensuing years, even after the onset of his illness. I will miss him and never forget him."

*Requiescat in pace*, Keith.

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 next lunches — January 12 and February 9 — it's always the second Thursday. Check cc63ers.com for details (if you're lucky, I will have updated it).

## 1964

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I am happy to report our classmates are busy. Gene Meyer writes from Washington, D.C.: "This past spring, I was proud to receive some awards for my journalistic efforts. I won a first-place award from The American Society of Journalists and Authors in the profile category for a piece I wrote for *Bethesda Magazine* about a rogue gun dealer. Then, the National Association of Real Estate Editors gave me the gold award for 'Best Collection of Work by an Individual Covering Commercial Real Estate' for three *New York Times* stories and also a bronze 'President's Award, Best Freelance Collection' for the same stories.

"Otherwise, I have continued to serve on the board of the online nonprofit Washington Independent Review of Books and I play a major role in organizing and recruiting panels for our annual spring conference. At the last one, I was privileged to introduce the keynote speaker, my friend and former colleague at *The Washington Post*, Bob Woodward.

"In addition to editing the quarterly *B'nai B'rith Magazine*, going on seven years, I am researching and writing a book on the five African-Americans who were with John Brown at Harpers Ferry in 1859. Tip of my Columbia cap to Professor Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54, who furthered my love of history and the Civil War era; he also suggested I become a journalist because I was 'more interested in history as it affects the present.'

“I am also grateful for my family: My wonderful wife, Sandy Pearlman, and my three sons. Eric is a computer jock and jazz musician in Durham, N.C., David is a Brooklynite and a reporter for Streetsblog.org and Aaron is a senior at Clark and recently spent a semester abroad studying Arabic in Amman.”

**Norman Kagan**, in New York City, is also a busy writer. He is the author of six books on film, the most recent of which, *Romance Film: Passion Strategies in Film and Life*, is a critical history of significant romance films through the decades from Hollywood and abroad. Norman has taught cinema and essay writing at CUNY and elsewhere, and for seven years he produced programs for the United States Information Agency, which were shown on 600 television stations in 110 nations.

**Bernard Catalinotto** and his wife, Roberta, in New York from California, joined us for the September class lunch at the Columbia University Club of New York.

Bernard reports that **Richard Waldinger** received the Herbrand Award for Distinguished Contributions to Automated Reasoning from the Conference on Automated Deduction. The Herbrand is one of the most coveted awards in the field of artificial intelligence. Since 1969 Richard has worked at the SRI International's Artificial Intelligence Center in Menlo Park, Calif. He is a consulting professor of computer science at Stanford and co-author of several textbooks on the relationship between logic and computer science.

**Beril Lapson** spent a week in Normandy visiting the beaches of the 1944 invasion. He found it “moving” and “dramatic,” and says, “I couldn't imagine being one of those guys.”

After 42 years, **Matt Heller** has retired from his rheumatology practice in Peabody, Mass. “I was fortunate to have met many wonderful people during my years in practice as well as serve on the FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee, co-authoring a textbook on clinical research, and bringing to the forefront the incidence of musculoskeletal problems among musicians. I hope to travel with my wife, Sharon, learn to play the banjo and perhaps write a medical novel. I really enjoyed getting together with my buddies at the 50th reunion — **Chet Salomon, Steve Solomon,**

**Allan Levine, Don Feiner, Steve Hochschuler and Steve Fallis.”**

We all wish you well, Matt.

Send in a note. Your classmates want to hear from you.

## 1965

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**Leslie Brisman** (leslie.brisman@yale.edu) is the Karl Young Professor of English at Yale. He sent two great notes: “In the past year, I've published two essays that may be the most important of my academic career and it's a wonderful tribute to our Columbia College experience that I can trace both these meditations back to conversations over dinner in John Jay 54 years ago. Both my conversants were members of the Class of '65 (who went on to far more distinguished careers than my own) and both were conversations outside the fields that became their special expertise.

“My conversation with **Norman Christ**, now the Ephraim Gildor Professor of Computational Theoretical Physics at Columbia, was about the ‘Suffering Servant’ passage of Isaiah, which Norman challenged me to interpret without reference to what Christians have made of it. If he challenges his physics graduate students as he challenged me then, I hope it does not take them the 50 years it has taken me to come up with an answer!

“The other conversation was with **Richard Taruskin**, now Emeritus Professor of Music Scholarship at UC Berkeley, and opened my eyes to ‘historicism’ and false historicisms in music interpretation — which, through the years, I have applied and reapplied to the study of English literature. That was not yet the Richard Taruskin who has written the extraordinary six-volume *Oxford History of Western Music*; but it was already a Richard Taruskin who knew the folly of bowing in unthinking homage to original instrument recordings of compositions that sound ever-so-much better on modern instruments. It's not just that Richard taught me that it's OK to prefer my piano to my clavichord; it's that he taught me it's OK not to be an Antonin Scalia-like ‘original constructionist’ when interpreting

literature — especially literature, like Shakespeare, written by someone who would have relished the changes that make a contemporary production closer to the spirit of the original than one retaining all the lines.

“I value my Columbia classes more and more each year that I teach, but I look back still more fondly on those conversations with wonderful classmates who helped me break through the barriers of my youthful parochialism.”

I responded to Leslie, asking for more information about his two essays and recalling the classmate who introduced us. He replied: “Though I am always grateful for your column, I haven't previously thought to contribute to it because I don't like tooting my own horn. For that reason, my preference is not to name my own articles. I simply wanted to call attention to one of the things that made those undergraduate years at Columbia so rich — those dinner conversations with

that there was no protest at the deportation of desperate refugees from Honduras, no protest at our failure to lead the world in opening our borders to Syrian refugees — or even just keeping our commitments to the translators who worked for the Army and had been promised asylum in the United States. This difference surely has probably more to do with the difference between our times and those times rather than the difference between Yale and Columbia. But even though support on campus for Bernie Sanders might call to mind support for Eugene McCarthy in the '60s, I just don't see the passion about important things that I saw then. A number of years ago, I joined a group of students who managed to persuade Yale to buy only fair-trade coffee. But if the college students of today were willing to put their purchasing power behind fair trade in all things — clothing, for example — there would still be a clothing industry in

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*Gene Meyer '64 won a first-place award from the American Society of Journalists for a piece in Bethesda Magazine about a rogue gun dealer.*

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friends whose intellectual interests extended far beyond what we were doing in the classroom.

“Is it really possible that **Gary Engelberg** introduced us? My memory is that we were both on the sixth floor of Livingston Hall and, if it was Gary (who lived in Carman [New Hall]) who introduced us, then that adds to my shame at being such a bad neighbor that it took an outsider ...

“I have had the great good fortune of teaching at Yale for 47 years and I often have lunch with my students. Sometimes we talk about literature, sometimes about their lives. But on the whole, the students of today seem to me much less political and much more parochial than the fellow students I so much admired in my undergraduate days. I was, for example, really disheartened the day last fall that most of my ‘Bible as Literature’ students absented themselves to participate in a protest about Halloween costumes and racial profiling on campus. What bothered me was

the United States and there would be decent hours and wages in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

“I couldn't attend the 50th reunion because my wife is declining with Alzheimer's and I felt I couldn't leave her and couldn't take her. But at the one big-number reunion I did attend, I was so pleased to take the elevator in what was in our time Livingston Hall, now Wallach Hall, and find myself in the midst of a coed suite on the sixth floor. I sure have no nostalgia for the single sex, no sex years of yore!”

**Mike Fischetti** (drpesto@hotmail.com) wrote: “As I read the alumni news I am most interested in what classmates have done with their lives, their interests and how they value their education. I thought about the most important educational experiences I had at Columbia after high school in the Bronx — some of the most influential and lasting learning occurred outside the classroom. Foremost was awareness of civil rights issues and Vietnam. The

societal ramifications and the need to stand for your beliefs have informed my life. Today I am writing about my most-valued lifelong educational experience — learning from how a friend lived his life. He was recently ill and I decided to publicly laud him: After graduation, **Steve Strobach SEAS'66** worked at Ciba-Geigy as an engineer, then shifted to human resources, then joined the Peace Corps and met his wife, Natividad 'Naty,' in Colombia. They are happily married and are retired there. His life was one of service worldwide, especially in Latin America, working to empower the poor and disadvantaged in towns, cities and the countryside. He and his wife are true partners. They brought conviction, empathy, determination and joy to their work. They taught me that not to take a stand is to take a stand for the status quo; that borders and race and socioeconomic status are not determinants of the value of a human being; that money is secondary; that community is essential for lifelong happiness; and that you are most fortunate if you and your partner have similar interests and values. Over many years and visits this relationship has enriched my life. It has been my life blessing to know, admire and love Steve and Naty."

**David Rassin** (drassin@utmb.edu) also sent a note: "Many thanks for *The Reunion Book*, it was a masterful job given the difficulty of getting responses for this type of material. I can sympathize, as I spent more than 10 years as associate dean and director of the continuing medical education offices for the University of Texas Medical Branch and the University of Texas McGovern Medical School at Houston and getting materials to appropriately present and accredit our hundreds of conferences was a never-ending challenge. I now work in semi-retirement as professor of pediatrics, primarily mentoring pediatric faculty for academic progress and pediatric residents in a successful program to prepare scholarly projects (I received a teaching award for the development and support of this program on its 25th anniversary).

"My wife, Glenda, and I married at the end of my senior year at Columbia, so we will soon be celebrating our 52nd anniversary. Now we are on a mission to travel the world (we have visited all seven

continents) and to expose our five grandchildren to the wonders of travel (this has included individual visits with four of them to London/Paris, the Galápagos, Tanzania and Iceland/Greenland). I also do a lot of bird photography, for which I have been fortunate enough to win a couple of awards. My years at Columbia were wonderful and, though I don't get to New York very often, it is still very dear to me."

I heard from **Walter Reich** (wreich@gwu.edu). Walter is the Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Professor of International Affairs, and the Ethics and Human Behavior Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs. He writes: "Did you know that I'm related, by marriage, to **Steve Steinig**? Steve is the father of Debbie Steinig, who is married to Jason Eisner, who is the brother of Amy Eisner, who is the wife of my (and wife Tova's) son Daniel Reich. I saw Steve and wife Renee two weekends ago at the bat mitzvah of Josie, the daughter of Danny and Amy. Steve and I are very proud of Josie!"

I also heard from **Leon Rosenstein** (rosenst1@mail.sdsu.edu): "Glad to hear all is well with you and I must again thank you for all the effort you (and **Michael Schlanger**) put into the creation of *The Reunion Book*, which I believe was as great a success as anything of its kind can be.

"I must admit that, as to my own contribution, it was entirely fortuitous. When you first made the call for submissions I really thought, 'No way would I do such a thing.' But a few days later, while sitting at my desk waiting for an important email, just to pass the time I thought, 'Just for the hell of it, if I *were* really to compose such a thing, what would it be like?' And before long and without much serious effort or contemplation I realized I had already written most of it. (The awaited email did not arrive until the next day.) And — perhaps it's a bad habit of most writers — having written it I just couldn't delete it. And so you got my unanticipated response. I do wonder if any other contributors had the same experience.

"To be brief with the particulars of my life since my last contribution: I've done several foreign tours mostly by car (a few new places but mainly revisits — these times, fortu-

nately, not guiding a tour group but with my wife or friends) to Scotland, France, Spain and St. Petersburg, Russia. Our antiques business has suddenly been doing extraordinarily well these past few months; I can't take any credit because I have no idea why — I wish I did! We're about to do some house remodeling. I've gotten nowhere on the publication of the collection of my philosophy articles for my book, *Art and Existence*; the manuscript is all done and set for print and has been for more than a year but I've been too distracted or lazy to deal with copyright issues and such and deal with the details of printing.

"By the way, you got this response in pretty much the same way as my *Reunion Book* contribution. I began it during a blissful San Diego afternoon while sitting on a bench in the main quad of the university where I have not taught (or even visited) for several years — there at the request of a junior former colleague and good friend to give the first of several lectures to his graduate class on the art theories of Aristotle, Kant and Hegel — and, having arrived earlier than necessary to find a parking spot, first encountered your email request for Class Notes. So now, here again, a fortuitous empty time *en attente* became the occasion for this unanticipated response, a response which (with my best wishes and thanks for your efforts) you may print all, any or no part of for the Notes."

I've printed it all!

From **Noah Robbins** (nrobbins@montefiore.org): "I spent a wonderful evening with **Bob Kronley** in Philadelphia on May 18 (I was in town for a National Board of Medical Examiners meeting) in which we discussed friends and experiences from Erasmus Hall H.S. (Brooklyn) and Columbia. We were particularly distressed to learn that Richard Steingesser '66 had passed away. I recalled that a contingent from Erasmus (me, Bob, Richard, **Barry Herman** and **Larry Strenger**, if memory serves me) wandered through the Barnard dormitories during Freshman Week in 1961. Richard removed a sign that read "Men Not Allowed" and stuck it under his T-shirt. Unfortunately, the glue side faced the skin, and he had to go to the St. Luke's Emergency Department to get it removed.

"I thought that *The Reunion Book* was fantastic!"

As I have written in previous columns, **Michael Schlanger** (mschlanger@zuckerman.com) worked tirelessly and generously putting together our *Reunion Book*. F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote, "There are no second acts in American lives." As if to prove that statement wrong, Michael recently sent an announcement to many of his friends and colleagues, which I want to share with you here: "In 1965, I had to choose between pursuing a career as a lawyer or pursuing a career as a psychotherapist. I am happy that I chose the law. Whatever could be accomplished between then and now, I hope I have accomplished. After more than 50 years, I am pleased that I have the opportunity to embark on an 'encore career,' this time as a psychotherapist. In September 2017, I am returning to school, full-time, to obtain a master's of social work and thereafter to maintain a private practice, with a focus on helping lawyers. To ease the transition, I am retiring from Zuckerman Spaeder and from trial work. I will maintain a consulting practice, under the name "Schlanger Litigation Consulting, LLC." My email address will be michael@schlanger-consulting.com. My website will be schlanger-consulting.com.

"Whatever I have accomplished in the law was made possible by the kindness, the generosity and the tireless assistance of my law firm mentors, partners, associates and staff members, and by my clients, who entrusted to me matters of great importance to their enterprises. To all of you countless individuals across many generations, I say 'thank you.'"

## 1966

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Aftershocks generated by the 50th reunion continue to rattle the memories of our class and we are seeing some debate among ourselves. Good! It makes for a more interesting column. Take a look at **Victor Kayfetz's** plea regarding being included on a long email string: "The 50th reunion was fun. This is not. Can someone remove my email address from this conversation? Please? (Vacationing in Chania, Crete.)"



Victor, we don't feel sorry for anyone who vacations in Crete, except maybe Theseus. ;-)

And here is a solution, from Neil Smith '65, SEAS'66: "Following the wonderful reunion, there has been a plethora of good conversation as we have 'replied all,' with good reasons — raising money and also sharing memories of our departed members. But some don't have the time or place for this on their late-in-life email programs or iPhones, so I suggest a solution: In order to fulfill the need to communicate with others in the class who want to be communicated with, I have created a LinkedIn group, Columbia College Class of 1966. I urge everyone to sign up for LinkedIn if they haven't yet (it costs nothing to join: [linkedin.com/groups/7062149](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7062149)).

More from Neil: "Two years ago, I was appointed an administrative law judge for the United States Patent and Trademark Office branch, then coming to Silicon

stage slowly, hands tucked into the pockets of his black pants. The rest of the band followed behind. He was handed the mic. The keyboard let out the first few and fast notes of 'At the Hop.' Cooper turned, smiled, began bouncing his feet and snapping his fingers and then raised the microphone to his lips."

"They say you can't go back again, but we did," Cooper said a few weeks later when Neill asked him about the performance, "It was just a magical night."

In October, Neill reminisced a bit further: "[I'm] on the way to the city of my birth, Chicago, and am reflecting on 1962 when I took my first plane ride from ORD to LGA to visit Columbia — wow! Springtime, fair winds blowing my tie, a very special city campus and meeting a lot of guys like me, whose parents could not afford a Columbia price tag but cherished the notion that a kid of theirs may be the first college kid in the clan,

**Robert Meyerson** described his own plaints: "As to what I've been doing since last June's 'graduation,' namely still sittin' in *yaya* barking, maybe growling, at anything that passes by my Windows window. Thanks for the precis, Neil and Neill. My recollection is a little different from yours: Sha Na Na may have been (not 'may have been' but for sure 'were') great at Woodstock, but they were awful at reunion, except maybe for the one skinny guy. I usually avoid has-beens like the plague; artists need to move on, not dwell on their greatest hits — as do we all. The only thing has-beens may have going (this time I will let 'may have going' stand) for themselves, if that, is their lyric lip memory. As a member of the audience I enjoyed pretending, but only for a moment before it became embarrassing. It only served to prove Fitzgerald right: 'there are no second acts in American lives' (except maybe in electoral politics)."

Bob is also not fond of requests here for funding. I can understand, except for [helpforzaniout.org](http://helpforzaniout.org), a great cause and in desperate need of your support.

Sadly, from Jeff Colen '02: "My uncle, **Michael Colen**, passed away in 2015. He is survived by his two adult children and wife. Our whole family misses him very much."

**Neal Hurwitz**: "Looking forward to [Columbia] football ... still bummed by John Wellington '57's death — great Columbia man! — and the loss of others on faculty, Alan F. Westin, Allan Silver, Sidney Morgenbesser, Carl Hovde '50, Terry Hopkins, Robert Belknap SIPA'57, GSAS'59 et al.

"I live next door to the Kraft Family Center for Jewish Student Life (Hillel) and recently saw **Joe Brown** at Bernheim & Schwartz, which used to be The West End. **Kenny Ascher** lives down the block, which is the next best thing to being close to one of our greats, quarterback **Thomas Harrold**! Our reunion dinner at Low Rotunda was strong and fun!

"I now have my first grandchild, as well as 315 cholesterol (it was 415 for years). I do not like what I read about the statins and there is edema in my left ankle. I still coach/play softball (since the '70s) at Heckscher Fields in Central Park. The worst/craziest thing is that I still smoke

cigs (my Barnard girlfriend got me hooked in 1965)! A divorce in 2013 has left me bare ... and with a stepson about to enter college it's back to work after a year off (following 18 years with the Stuyvesant H.S. endowment fund). Hope you are all still fine! On reflection, I wonder about **William Abrashkin**, **Michael Drosnin**, **Billy Karp**, **Howard Machtinger** and **Sasha Zill**.

"I heard that **Mike Colen** died — sad — and I found **Jimmy Smolev**, who was in 1001B New Hall with me, **Phil Cohen** and Arne Jensen '67! Putting Arne in with Jimmy, Phil and me was quite a leap! I am active on Facebook as Neal H. Hurwitz and Neal Hugh Hurwitz. I'm happy some of you are on there too.

"My daughter Sam graduated from Chicago's Columbia College and is working with The Second City improv comedy group. She should be on Broadway, of course! My other daughter, Sofia, is at the University of Vermont.

"I was feeling 20 until I turned 71 in January, then a bunch of friends and colleagues died suddenly. Cancers — aggressive and terrible. So yes, we are all fortunate to be here."

**David Matthew** wrote: "Guys, I'm excited to be working on a new set of clinical trials to combat Alzheimer's. This is a terrible condition that has likely affected all of us, at least in terms of family and friends. I've created a blog ([defeatalz.org](http://defeatalz.org)) to exchange information about the current state of affairs in research and treatment. Please visit and add your posts. We are preparing a crowdfunding effort to raise money for clinical trial scholarships; you can help us get ready right now on the blog if you wish. All contributions are fully U.S. tax-deductible through the Quietmind Foundation and you'll get a receipt."

Sad news from **Gene Leff**: "I retired from New York state government in June after 33 years and moved to Philadelphia, where my partner of 16 years teaches French literature. I'm taking the first steps in dealing with Lou Gehrig's disease, which I learned I had in May. I am nearly entirely dependent on Android and iPad apps to communicate, since my voice and throat were the first areas affected. I've enjoyed the leisure time to read, even returning to Sophocles from Literature Humanities."

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*David Matthew '66 is working on a new set of clinical trials to combat Alzheimer's and has created the blog [defeatalz.org](http://defeatalz.org).*

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Valley. Unfortunately, I resigned my appointment there when it moved to Menlo Park, which was too much of a daily commute for me from my home far east of San Francisco. If you are interested in the full story, go to [siliconbeat.com](http://siliconbeat.com) and search 'Judge Neil Smith.' I'm doing some arbitration and mediation and high-level intellectual property consulting, and joined Schwegman, Lundberg and Woessner's San Jose office. SLW is one of the strongest IP/patent firms in the country. If I retired, I would think like a retired person, which is depressing."

**Neill Brownstein** writes, first regarding the Sha Na Na concert at reunion: "Shortly after 8 p.m., the original members were introduced. First, there was bassist Bruce Clarke '74, then guitarist Henry Gross. Finally, Alan Cooper '71's name was called. He was wearing sunglasses and the same outfit he wore to Woodstock — a cabbie hat and gold vest, only this time he had a shirt on underneath. He strolled onto the

and at a damn fine school to boot. Which meant a little bit of scholarship, a little bit of part-time work during school and lots of money to be made in the summer — which brings me to Wrigley Field, where I sold popcorn, peanuts, Cokes and Frosty Malts (and watched the Chicago Cubs year, after year, after year, after year). Hustling as fast as I could helped — I recall we earned 20 percent commission, maybe 25 percent — and that covered the cash I needed each semester.

"So, at this point the sports fans are thinking that I am returning to Wrigley Field, the scene of that golden medina! But, no. One of my best childhood friends, Irwin, is just too darn frail to deal with the crowds. So, I travel to Chi-Town to take a first row seat behind his living room TV, just above the dugout with Irwin and his wife telling stories, eating dogs and burgers and sipping beer and pausing to imagine our lives taking any other turns than the lucky ones we rode."

**Jay Goldsamt** wrote: “I failed to make it to the reunion due to an appointment but I have been reading your emails — the recent work in Alzheimer’s is most promising. I am a survivor of a rare cancer called GIST. I discovered I was ill seven years ago and my local oncologist indicated I should get my affairs in order. To make a long story short, with excellent care at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and a new designer drug, Gleeverc, which attacks the tumor directly, I remain with no evidence of disease. The American Cancer Society and other cancer charities are able to raise money for well-known, more common cancers while the rare ones have difficulty obtaining research money. Two charities that made a difference in funding research for my rare cancer are liferaftgroup.com and GIST Cancer Research Fund; if you can find a few dollars for one or both, it will definitely be appreciated.”

Speaking of research, **Daniel Gardner** and **Barry Collier** — our noted medical experts who put on a much-admired reunion seminar on aging — are in discussions regarding a possible joint project concerning Alzheimer’s/dementia and prostate issues. Since these are commonly linked with later years, they wish to determine if there is a correlation between hand-eye coordination for urination and the possible deterioration of mental faculties.

**Kenneth Fox**: “My big news is that we are almost finished rebuilding the kitchen of our historic house, built around 1840, after the kitchen foundation partially collapsed.”

**Tom Chorba** reports that his Fire Island, N.Y., summer home has finally been raised 13 ft. above the flood stage and now has a commanding view of the ocean, at a mere cost of \$10,000 per foot. He also mentions a wonderful summer 2016 weekend he spent with **Bill Corcoran** and their respective wives, along with **Rich Postupak**, who stopped by on his way to an extended visit with **Rich Stanhewicz**.

**Steven Handel**: “I accepted a visiting professorship at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design to take over its required ecology class for the grad students in landscape architecture. We are trying to get ecological structure and function into the design of public spaces, as a complement to other landscape criteria. I will also build links between the Harvard Organismic Biology group and the Design School to involve more skills into the work of the designers. I agreed to do this for two years, then we’ll see if I want to continue the schlep. It’s been stimulating; hope I can handle the infamous Boston winters.”

**Mark Amsterdam**: “This summer my daughter, LJ ’07, GSAS’12, helped organize the wall that activists built in Cleveland around the Republican National Convention to wall out Trump and hate. She also worked with Iraq Veterans Against the War and helped support the Native Americans at Standing Rock, much of this work with the Ruckus Society. My son, Matt ’10, LAW’13, works for Marcus & Millichap in New York, focusing on commercial finance. He’s on the Columbia College Young Alumni and the Columbia Law School Association boards and is a member of the Harlan Fiske Stone Society. I spent the summer enjoying myself in Kent, Conn., and am very proud of what my kids are doing.”

We learn that **Michael Garrett** has been dealt an unexpected blow. Our beloved Lion mascot, who worked so hard at our games, was recently informed by the administration that even though he performed the role admirably, he for some unknown reason was never officially approved by Grayson Kirk. As a result, he had to return all the Lion minutia he collected over the past 52 years. As his wife said, “Granted, the place is now pretty threadbare, but at least I can see the walls.”

**Rich Forzani**: “Finally, in the spirit of full disclosure, I recently

learned that I have cancer, thus joining a number of us with life-threatening illnesses. By the time this is published I should know whether the chemo treatments are effective. If so, I hope to have a decent number of years left. If not, I intend to party rather intensely. My bucket list is complete (except for an Ivy football title), having been determined and proactive in its fulfillment from an early age. Plus, once you pass 70, you are in the bonus round. I’ll maintain the column as long as it meets with your approval and enjoyment. As the bard said, ‘Golden lads and girls all must, as chimney-sweepers, come to dust.’”

## 1967

### REUNION WEEKEND JUNE 1–4, 2017

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REUNION2017

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The mailbox was full this issue! **David Rubin** wrote, “I am retiring from the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse in December and moving to Summerville, S.C., outside Charleston. I intend to play the piano (again), raise puppies (Shelties), volunteer for the South Carolina chapter of the ACLU and write.”

David was dean of the school from 1990 to 2008 and has remained a full-time faculty member, teaching about 200 students a year. In 2013, he was voted “Teacher of the Year” by the graduating class. As dean, he established an office of external relations that developed a successful career center, an alumni relations operation that now involves more than 5,000 graduates and a development program that significantly increased annual fund giving.

**Bruce Pindyck** LAW’70, BUS’71, wrote, “I have been blessed in so many ways. In the best move of my life, I have been married for almost 50 years to Vassar grad Candy

Pindyck LAW’73, GSAPP’75. I spent almost nine years at Columbia. I have run a mid-sized manufacturing company for more than 30 years, with plants in several states. I work more than full time. We have three children, including Eben ’03, JRN’15; two grandchildren; and three dogs. I have stayed active with all three Columbia schools that I was privileged to attend. I have lived in Wisconsin most of my professional life. We live in a small village and spend as much time ‘up north’ as we can. My sons are excellent fly fishermen and bird hunters, a much different upbringing from mine. I feel indebted to Columbia for the education that I received and feel obligated to give back to the institution.”

**Allen Spiegel** wrote, “In an effort to help relieve the drought of Class Notes, here is a brief update: After a 33-year career at the National Institutes of Health (the last six as the director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases), I returned to NYC in 2006 to become dean of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. A year ago, the College of Medicine became a component of the Montefiore Health System, which serves the Bronx, the poorest urban county in the United States, and has expanded to include Westchester and the Hudson Valley. For now, I continue as Einstein dean and Montefiore chief academic officer, but I may retire. If so, I will have the time to write a memoir for which I already have a title that might resonate, given current events: *Immigrant Mentality: From Displaced Person to Dean*. I look forward at our upcoming 50th reunion to seeing classmates whose friendship was an integral part of my Columbia experience. Sadly, some, such as **David Koffler**, have died, but are not forgotten.”

**Don Shapiro** wrote, “Can’t believe it’s been 50 years ... and I’m sure that’s true for all of us! After practicing medicine and raising a family in the Philadelphia area, my wife, Karlyn, and I have been dividing our time between Juno Beach, Fla., and Aspen, Colo. (summers and winters). Our son is Adam Shapiro ’03.

**Stan Adelman** shared, “Next month, as we start our 50th class reunion year, I will have the honor of conducting the Columbia Marching Band at halftime of the homecoming game. Fayetteville, Ark., is now home,



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where I became an ‘instant grandpa’ six years ago when I married my wife, Pat. Life has been and remains quite an adventure. Through the years, one side of my brain has been given over to law and criminal justice: a job as a New York State parole officer, a career in Massachusetts state government highlighted by a brief stint as acting secretary of public safety, then a career in law teaching at six law schools around the country. The journey has taken me to Arkansas, Tulsa, Charlotte, Albuquerque and other tour stops, and it’s been quite a ride! The other side of the brain has kept me active in music, playing in big bands, blues horn sections, concert bands, symphonies and show orchestras. Not sure whether to say I’m presently retired, semi-retired or just unemployed, but I remain available for gigs and visiting professorships. Have trombone and syllabi and will travel!”

**Jonathan Howland** wrote, “I am a professor and director of a research center at the Department of Emergency Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine. I live in Marion, Mass., with my wife, Elizabeth, a fiber artist. Our twins, Jonathan and Rachael, live in the area and recently turned 40. Our grandchildren, Coco and Tavie, visit often and are fabulous. All’s well.”

**Ken Settel** wrote, “I am a psychiatrist physician in a number of clinical and organizational directions. I consult to organizations and their leaders around managing their organizations, assisting in transitions in leadership and working with boards on organizational management. I also work with physicians and their organizations facilitating supportive environments for physicians, trying to prevent burnout and developing organizations that enhance the roles of physicians in providing for their patients. I have been married for 30 years and have had the pleasure of watching my three sons move out into their own professional roles in the business world of finance and start-up companies. Most recently, I visited Columbia as the father of my youngest son, William ’15, moving into the same floor of the same dorm. I was thrilled to see him fully participate in the richness of the College experience. During our free time, my wife and I enjoy biking, hiking, exploring food and the arts, often including our dogs and children, with their various partners and friends.

**Marty Goldstein** writes, “I teach media studies at Santa Monica College, and am contemplating but not ready for retirement. I am delighted that my three grown children have all settled in California and are doing well. My eldest son is a dean at a Los Angeles community college and father of a lively little girl. My middle child, a daughter, is a bilingual kindergarten teacher in Humboldt County, Calif., photographer, and mother of two of my grandkids. And my younger son is in his second year of residency in family practice at Ventura County Medical Center. I’m not complaining.”

**Herbert Broderick GSAS’78** summed up 50 years, “I received a Ph.D. in art history from Columbia. I am a professor of art history at Lehman College/CUNY, where I have taught, among other things, Art Humanities for 38 years. My wife, Masette, is a professor at NYU, where she teaches architectural history. We have a daughter, Camilla (27). We live in Manhattan and have a house in Oyster Bay, Long Island. I have a book that was scheduled to come out in the fall, *Moses the Egyptian in the Illustrated Old English Hexateuch*. Not too long ago I was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.”

**Richard Glaser** shared, “Into the wind-down. After two residencies (internal medicine, anesthesia), a fellowship (epidemiology) and eight years on the staff at UCSF, I met my soulmate, married, went into private practice, had two amazing daughters (one a Duke ophthalmology resident, one a second-year student at UCSF med) and retired two years ago. Ann, my wife, retired last year as director of the joint medical program for UC Berkeley-UCSF. We are a 100 percent UCSF family so we get to play a lot together. Now I’m trying to slip gracefully into the next stage: Studying Italian, making wine and furniture, and taking it slow. Much thanks to Old Light Blue for greasing the way.”

**Arthur Guffanti GSAS’75** sent an update, “After graduation and a stint in the Army, I returned to Columbia in 1971 and earned a Ph.D. From there I went to Mount Sinai Medical Center, where I ultimately was an associate research professor in bacterial bioenergetics. The research was rewarding and I traveled extensively to present my

findings. After 30 years at Mount Sinai I officially retired but am active on the medical school admissions committee. I have served on the committee for more than three decades and Mount Sinai has twice honored me with awards for my work on the committee.

“I have a lovely country house in Dutchess County, N.Y., where I go just about every weekend. It is only a little more than an hour drive from my home in Scarsdale, N.Y., where I have lived for almost 65 years. The country house has become a wonderful gathering place for family and friends. As an avid gardener I spend as much time as possible growing all sorts of vegetables and fruits, which my visitors help me eat. My other two passions are my Labrador, Hilde, and opera. I often think back to my days at Columbia College with great fondness. In Humanities I was particularly lucky to have poet Kenneth Koch, now deceased, as my professor. One of the best things about attending Columbia is the lifelong friendship I developed with my roommate in my junior and senior years, James Purvis ’68. All my best wishes to the members of The Cleverest Class in the World!”

**Charles Siegel** shared, “As a hobby, I have started a small publishing business, Omo Press, publishing my writing and new editions of classics. I wrote and published a book, *The Humanists versus the Reactionary Avant Garde: Clashing Visions for Today’s Architecture*, which architect Andrés Duany said is the best book he has read on the subject. I am finally living up to the education in the classics that I got during my freshman year at Columbia by editing and publishing a three-volume collection of works by Hellenistic philosophers. These works were buried in the dialogues of Cicero, used as the discourses of noble Romans and interspersed with irrelevant material. Their real authors were known only to a handful of classical scholars who studied Cicero’s sources. Now, they are available to the general public for the first time, and some definitely deserve to be better-known.

“Among other books, I also published a reconstruction of Aeschylus’ Prometheus trilogy. It includes Thoreau’s translation of *Prometheus Bound*, originally published in *The Dial Magazine* and now available for

the first time in reasonably priced book form, with the surviving fragments of the other two plays in the trilogy and my theory of how they all hold together. I was intrigued and puzzled by *Prometheus Bound* when I first read it in my freshman Humanities class and, 50 years later, I have finally figured it out to my own satisfaction.”

**Tom Hauser**, author of many books and biographer of Muhammad Ali, wrote, “My first day of college, I met **Mark Schlesinger**. Several months ago, I got a telephone call from Khalilah Ali, Muhammad Ali’s second wife. I know Khalilah from the years that I spent with Ali, first as his biographer and then as his friend. Khalilah told me, ‘I’m here with someone who says that you and his father were friends 50 years ago.’ It was Mark’s son, Peter. And so life’s journey goes on. After college and law school, I spent seven years as a practicing lawyer, then I turned to writing: I feel like I haven’t worked for the past 40 years; just played hard.”

I hope many of us can also say that we played hard for these past 50 years.

## 1968

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No news?! CC’68, make it a 2017 resolution to take five minutes and send in a note — let your classmates know what you are doing! Jobs, family, retirement, thoughts on our Homecoming win, travels or your favorite CC memories are all game for this column. You can send your notes to either of the addresses at the top of this column or use CCT’s Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 1969

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**Neal Flomenbaum** shared with me the story of his “med graduate school doubleheader.” On May 25



he was honored at two NYC medical school graduations. First, at the Weill Cornell Medical College commencement, Neal helped present the Neal Flomenbaum, M.D., Prize for Excellence in Emergency Medicine, an award endowed by donors to that medical school. Later, he received the Albert Einstein College of Medicine 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award, for his “extraordinary career in emergency medicine and ... many contributions to the health and welfare of underserved communities and all populations in New York City.” Neal was from 1996 to 2016 emergency physician-in-chief and, since 1996, as emergency medical services medical director, at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. He also was professor of clinical medicine at Weill Cornell and is editor in chief of *Emergency Medicine*. Neal added that his older son, Adam '10 is living on the Upper West Side (where else?), pursuing a career in marketing and social media.

From **David Rosen**: “I am sad to report the death of **Charles ‘Chuck’ Skoro** on March 31, 2016. Chuck was a professor of economics at Boise State from 1982 until 2000. He then served as campus minister for St. Paul’s Catholic Student Center on the Boise State campus until 2014. In 2001 he was ordained as a deacon in the Catholic Church. At Columbia, where he was one of the famed ‘Boise Boys’ recruited by Gideon Oppenheimer '47, Chuck was a devoted member of the *Spectator* staff, serving as 1968–69 managing editor. Upon learning of his death, his colleagues on the *Spec* Managing Board decided to convene to celebrate Chuck’s exemplary life, to reminisce about the thousands of hours we spent together putting out *Spec* five days a week, and to renew acquaintances.

“Editor in Chief **Rob Friedman**, Executive Editor **Oren Root**, Sports Editor **Andy Crane**, Business Manager **Nick Garaufis** and I (features editor and former sports editor) spent a very enjoyable evening in early September at a restaurant on New York’s Upper East Side. Supplements Editor **Jerry Avorn** was a last-minute cancellation due to illness. Rob, Oren and Nick still live in the city. Andy came from Boston and I drove from Connecticut. Some of us had not seen one another since graduation. We made it through the evening without dissent (unlike in 1968–69, when the line ‘David Rosen dissents from this

editorial’ was a fixture). Here are brief notes on what we’ve all been up to during the past 47 years:

“Robert is a senior editor at Bloomberg News and a former editor at *Fortune*, *Life*, *New York Newsday* and the *Village Voice*. Oren has headed the Center on Immigration and Justice at the Vera Institute of Justice since 2007. One of the principal activities of the center is to oversee national networks of legal services providers that provide legal information and representation to detained adults and children facing deportation. Andy was a sports writer at *Newsday* and the *New York Post*, a public defender and then defender general in Vermont, executive director of the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission and founding program director of Tenacity, a Boston based nonprofit serving at-risk urban youth. Nick is a senior district judge on the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York (Brooklyn). He is also assigned cases as a visiting judge in Montgomery, Ala., and New Orleans. Jerry is a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and chief of the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics in the Department of Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. I am happily 95 percent retired. My last honest day’s work was as EVP and CFO of BlueRock Media. After 45 years of living and working in Manhattan, my wife, Susan, and I sold our Manhattan apartment a couple of years ago. We now split our time between Newtown, Conn., and Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Fla.”

Nick shared this extra news: “In April, I became a proud grandfather, to Aristaeus Francis Garaufis (Ari), son of Jamie Garaufis and Hollynn Francis. You may recall that in Greek mythology, Aristaeus was a son of Apollo and grandson of Zeus!”

**Pal Maleter** has been working with The Memory Project, a visual archive of Hungarian-Americans who immigrated to the United States after WWII and the Revolution of 1956. For the 60th anniversary of the revolution, in-depth interviews with subjects in cities throughout the United States are being made public in both Hungarian and English. The project began in early 2015 with the generous funding of the Hungary Initiatives Foundation, and is ongoing. Pal’s father, Gen. Pal Maleter,



The 1968–69 *Spectator* editorial board met in honor of the late Chuck Skoro '69. Left to right: Robert Friedman '69, Nicholas Garaufis '69, Oren Root '69, Andrew Crane '69 and David Rosen '69.

was minister of defense in the revolutionary government of Imre Nagy. He and Nagy were executed for their role on June 16, 1958, and given a proper burial on June 16, 1989, as part of the fall of communism. Here is a link to an interview with Pal: [vimeo.com/174388881](https://vimeo.com/174388881).

**Henry Jackson** writes: “I particularly remember how beautiful the campus was in spring, due in no small measure to the iris beds. I also remember reading somewhere, *Spectator* perhaps, that it was decided to discontinue caring for those iris beds to save money, so it’s probably a memory Columbians after us won’t have. What a shame!”

**David Ucko** reports: “Always interested in chemistry, I knew it was to be my major from day one. As a sophomore, I was offered a fateful choice of two work-study jobs: working in the stockroom or in the lab of recently hired Assistant Professor Steve Lippard. The choice was clear and led to several publications and a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship. I then received my Ph.D. at MIT under Lippard’s former adviser, thinking I would follow a similar chemistry research-oriented path. It was not to be. I found my grad student research less engaging and decided to focus on teaching, first on the faculty of CUNY and then at Antioch. After back-to-back bankruptcies (NYC and the college), I left academia and chemistry, taking a position at Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry. That led to a career in museums, including a presidential

appointment and creation of a new science center in Kansas City, Mo., followed by a stint as a government official at the National Science Foundation and my current role as a consultant (under the name Museums+more). I recently concluded co-chairing the Committee on Communicating Chemistry in Informal Settings for the National Academy of Sciences. The report and guide can be downloaded at [nap.edu](http://nap.edu). That role unexpectedly bookended my chemistry experience as an undergraduate.”

From **Michael Rosenblatt**: “On June 30, I finished my second ‘tour of duty’ at Merck. Serving as its chief medical officer for nearly seven years was a wonderful experience. It was a real view into the practice of medicine and health policy around the globe. In September I started in a newly created position as chief medical officer for Flagship Ventures in Cambridge, Mass. I believe this is the first time that a life sciences venture firm has created such a position. I will be a resource for the young biotech companies that the firm has started or invested in. There are currently more than 40 companies in the portfolio and more than 45 clinical trials under way. I will also focus on the biotech start-ups as they form, especially when the team has a first-time CEO or R&D team. While many of the concepts that form the basis of the start-ups arise in academia, the firm also has its own venture laboratory that generates ideas and companies. I am excited by this career

opportunity. Even though I have spent my career in both academia and industry, this will be my first time working in the biotech sector. I am looking forward to being close to the innovation that forms the basis of the new companies and the entrepreneurship of the leadership. Particularly important will be bringing the voice of the patient into R&D strategy and enhancing the interface with academia and pharmaceutical companies in order to form effective partnerships. I will also resume being involved in some programs at Harvard Medical School and boards of nonprofit and professional societies.

“Between the former job and starting the new one, I took the summer off — for the first time since middle school! My wife, Patty, and I took our daughter, son, their spouses and all five grandchildren (the entire Rosenblatt biomass!) to Iceland. It’s a magical place that I recommend for a family vacation. We then ‘unplugged’ by the sea on Cape Ann in Massachusetts and then ended the summer with a trip to the Dolomites and Lake District in Italy. Batteries recharged, it’s on to the next phase.”

**Mark Brodin** writes: “I am in my 33rd year on the faculty at Boston College Law School, still enjoying teaching the next generation of litigators (if there are any, given the disappearance of jury trials!). I publish in the areas of evidence, civil and criminal procedure, employment discrimination and occasionally (once) a biography. We have three grandsons, 4 months to 4½ years, and rely on them when we have technology issues with our iPhone.”

**Jonathan Adelman** GSAS’76 reports: “I recently became the president of the Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, an anti-BDS group (combating the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement in Europe) that works with faculty in the United States and abroad. I also write op-eds, now 98 in the last four years, for the Huffington Post (blog), *Jerusalem Post* (regular monthly columnist), History News Network, Fox News and *Forbes*, among others. I am a professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, who spent 11 happy years at Columbia getting four degrees.”

From **Fredric Fastow**: “Our oldest daughter, Ramona, lives in

South Korea, where her husband, Chad (a career Army officer), is assigned. Ramona, who graduated from West Point in 2005, is retired from the Army and is a mother of two cute little boys. Our middle daughter, Hélène, is engaged to be married in July to Seth Alexander. Hélène has been working in the fashion industry and is now easing into a fashion teaching assignment at BOCES Long Island. Sara, our youngest, recently ended a long run in the classic dance show *Jubilee!* at Bally’s Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Sara continues to pick up dance and convention gigs and has also been working the Las Vegas territory for the educational software and computing company Amplify.

“My wife, Judith, divides her time between caring for her mom (who moved into the house next door), substitute teaching in several Nassau County school districts and teaching at Temple Sinai, Roslyn. I work at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. We’ve moved to One World Trade Center; we were de facto evicted from the original WTC on September 11, 2001. I still run, bicycle and play guitar.”

That’s it for now. But I ask that just as you finish this column, you sit down and email me some news. We are a class community, and it takes input from many to make this an interesting read.

## 1970

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I received some fascinating updates, mostly about books, from a terrific group of classmates. My friend **Dov Zakheim** reported he published a book on “something completely different,” a political biography of a biblical figure: *Nehemiah: Statesman and Sage*. Dov offers contemporary political and military perspectives on Nehemiah’s career, initially as a senior official in the Persian government and then as governor of the province of Judea.

**David Lehman** writes: “The paperback edition of my book *Simatra’s Century: One Hundred Notes on the Man and His World* was

released this past fall. My next book of poetry, *Poems in the Manner Of*, is coming in March. As the title implies, each poem in the book is in the style of a different author or period — from Catullus and Li Po on through Wordsworth, Keats, Rimbaud, Rilke, Neruda, Auden, et al., right up to the present. There’s a poem in the manner of my Columbia professor Kenneth Koch, as well as a poem in the manner of a jazz standard. On another note, I have been accompanying Alan Ziegler, a Columbia professor and director of pedagogy in the Faculty of the Arts, to Columbia basketball games.”

**Michael Aeschliman** is professor of Anglophone culture at the University of Lugano. He presented one of the major papers at a September 2015 conference at Cambridge University on F.R. Leavis and it recently was published as “Three Great Critics: F.R. Leavis, T.S. Eliot, and C.S. Lewis” in the 2016 issue of *The Literary Criterion*. His essay/review on Eliot, “Beyond the Language of the Living,” was published in *National Review* on June 13, and his essay, “Trumpery and Social Darwinism,” appeared on *National Review Online* on August 9. He gave an address, “Communication of Sacred Heritage,” in a doctoral summer school on cultural tourism and UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Armeno (Novara), Italy, on September 8, and in October gave an address to faculty and senior students at the International School of Geneva, the oldest and largest international school in Europe. Michael is on The American School in Switzerland Foundation Board and the search committee for a new headmaster for TESIS; he has been associated with the school since 1971.

My freshman week roommate, Professor **Samuel Estreicher**, reported that he gave two keynote addresses at the Ono Academic College in Israel in July — one at a conference on equality, “Achieving Antidiscrimination Objectives through ‘Safe Harbor’ Rules,” and one at a conference on integration of Israeli Arab citizens, “The Great Domestic Challenge for Israel: Normalization of the Situation of Israeli Arab Citizens.” Sam’s book *Beyond Elite Law: Access to Civil Justice in America* was published in March.

Another old friend, **Dan Feld-**

**man**, says: “Earlier in 2016, my sixth book, *Administrative Law: The Sources and Limits of Government Agency Power*, was published. After publishing three books in six years, I think I need at least a decade off from book authorship. In June, I had the pleasure of returning to Beijing to present a paper on our Inspector General Systems at the eighth Sino–United States International Conference for Public Administration, followed by a couple of days in Xi’an to see the terra-cotta warriors, visit the ancient and thriving Chinese Muslim community there and sample the superb and unusual food.

“Having taken several courses as a non-matriculated student at the CUNY Graduate Center, I am now officially pursuing a master’s in philosophy there. Thus, I am both a professor (of public management) and a student.”

I hope that you are all as proud of these distinguished classmates as I am!

## 1971

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Our 45th reunion was June 2–5. Plan to attend our 50th-year reunion in 2021!

**CCT** editor in chief **Alex Sachare** is retiring; it seems fitting to devote this column to him. We worked together on the staff of the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, where he became sports editor. And, as class correspondent, I have worked with him during his entire tenure at **CCT**: I have admired his talent and humanity always.

Alex writes: “After 18 years and nine months as editor of *Columbia College Today*, I am retiring effective January 1. It’s time. The last several years have been challenging, with my wife Lori’s cancer diagnosis in 2010, five-year battle and passing in 2015; five major surgeries and replacements to assorted body parts; and a heart attack that left me with a stent and a pile of pills.

“Work has been a blessing, keeping me busy and involved, but it’s time to slow down and smell what remains of the roses. I have been fortunate to have enjoyed four careers

— 10 years as a sports writer at AP, 15 years heading the NBA's editorial/publications department and 18-plus years editing *CCT*, which has allowed me the wonderful opportunity to connect and reconnect with so many classmates and other Columbians, plus a freelance career that has seen me write, edit or contribute to more than 20 books plus assorted magazines and websites.

"More than any of that, I'm fortunate to have had a true soulmate for nearly 30 years in Lori, and a daughter, Deborah BC'14, who has grown into a remarkable young woman.

"It's been a great run, and I hope to continue to contribute to *CCT* and other publications on a freelance basis, so you likely haven't read the last of me just yet."

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

## 1972

REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 1-4, 2017

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REUNION2017

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Every now and then, walking through the halls at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, I run into **Emilio Carrillo**, its president for community health. Emilio recently gave in to my importuning and sent this note: "My love for community and population health continues. You may recall the community organizing work my friend **Mariano Rey** and I did in the early 1970s with the Morningside squatters, across from the cathedral. My days at Columbia laid the roadmap for the rest of my life ... My community-based efforts have migrated north from Manhattan Valley to Washington Heights-Inwood, where we established the NewYork-Presbyterian Regional

Health Collaborative. This work has shown that a poor, Latino immigrant population can achieve measurably better health outcomes. The outcomes were published in the journal *Health Affairs* and in 2014 we received the Association of American Medical Colleges' award for outstanding community service. Last year I was also proud to be awarded the American Medical Association's Excellence in Medicine Award."

Emilio precepts medical residents every Friday afternoon and treats a small panel of patients at Weill Cornell, where he is an associate professor in clinical medicine. Of the home front, he says, "My family has grown and fills me each day with joy and love. My special and darling wife, Yvette Ortiz, with whom I live in Park Slope, Brooklyn, is also an internist and has practiced medicine for close to 20 years in the front lines in the South Bronx and is now medical director at the Charles B. Rangel Community Health Center in West Harlem. She is on the faculty of P&S.

"My children are unique, sweet, talented and doing amazing things. Yuisa Montañez BC'94, LAW'98, who was born when I was a senior at the College, is a partner at Loeb, Block & Partners in corporate, international business and is the star mom of two amazing children, Violet and Sebastian. Clarisa is an accomplished dancer and studies at Fiorello H. LaGuardia H.S. of Music Art and Performing Arts.

The youngest, Elisa, loves math and science and plays a mean libero in her volleyball club. Alejandro 'Alex' graduated from Yale and is an electrical engineer at SpaceX in Los Angeles. When he was a freshman he took a class on Latino struggles in the United States and saw a picture in the textbook that made him wonder. He asked me if the guy in the beard and black beret with the raised fist and the sign saying 'the struggle in Viet Nam is the struggle in our communities' was me. I blushed and almost shed a tear."

Not long ago, I was pleased to see a LinkedIn invitation from **Doug VanderHoof** in my inbox. (Hint: LinkedIn is great way to stay in touch with your class correspondent.) For 32 years, Doug has been an independent media producer and consultant. Most recently, he was a full-time producer/editor on the CBS news/history series *Through the Decades*, hosted

by Bill Kurtis. Doug has produced videos for litigation, studio visit videos for artists, video portraits of executives and even an Emmy-nominated music video. As he characterizes his career: "I've created thousands of hours of video to document, to teach, to persuade, to entertain — remembering it's rude to be boring."

**Larry Boorstein** SEAS'78, BUS'88 retired in April as an AECOM certified project manager. "AECOM is the world's No. 1 ranked engineering firm by revenues in *Engineering News-Record*, with 90,000 employees. I earned an M.S. in civil engineering in 1974, a civil engineering degree in 1978 and an M.B.A. in finance in 1988. I was project manager on projects with consulting revenues of \$6 million and construction costs of \$6.4 billion and deputy project manager on projects with revenues of \$1.5 million and construction costs of \$7.0 billion. My 40-year career encompassed projects in 29 countries in the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. My biography appears in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in Finance and Business*, *Who's Who in Science and Engineering* and *Who's Who in the World*."

Best wishes for retirement to Larry. Classmates, share your news by writing to the addresses at the top of this column or by submitting a note through *CCT*'s Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 1973

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**Bob Sacavage** writes in for the first time "in decades." After the College he returned to Pennsylvania for law school and built a career in county court as a prosecutor, then as a judge, until his retirement in 2014. Bob has three daughters and recently became a grandfather. He says he "hopes his grandson will be in the Class of '38 and a member of the wrestling team."

Bob writes that Columbia ties are "with me always;" for the past 35 years he's hosted a gathering of Columbians at a mountain retreat in the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon.

That's all he wrote, fellas. Stroke 'em if you've got 'em, please! Need more fodder, grandfodders. You can send in notes to either of the addresses at the top of the column, or use *CCT*'s Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 1974

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With my daughter, Katie, being a high school senior, I probably pay a lot more attention to the college rankings than most of you. You may be pleasantly surprised — and proud — to learn how Columbia has been assessed against its peers in recently published reports. Each analysis uses a different methodology for this subjective effort. The most widely publicized is the *U.S. News & World Report* listing, which emphasizes data such as the class rank of applicants, SAT scores and the percent of applicants accepted. It rates Columbia as No. 5 among "Best Colleges in National Universities" (tied with Stanford). Not too bad, but wait until you see what others say!

Last fall the *Wall Street Journal* teamed up with the *Times Higher Education* magazine to create their own rankings of United States colleges, which included a survey of 100,000 current students to evaluate how engaged students are with their studies, their interaction with teachers and their overall satisfaction with their college experience (among other criteria). Their conclusion: Columbia is ranked No. 3 in the United States — ahead of all of the other Ivy schools — and No. 15 among all universities in the world! Oxford and Cambridge, watch out! We're coming for you!

While reading a recent issue of *Columbia* magazine, I saw that **Andrew Burstein** was quoted as saying, "Hamilton's stock hasn't really risen" following the publicity from the blockbuster Broadway musical. I was surprised at first, until I learned that the Louisiana State University professor is an authority on Thomas Jefferson. Looking deeper into Andrew's past reveals another amazing career transforma-



tion. For 15 years after graduation from the College, he took part in Chinese trade, first working for a Wall Street import firm and later as an independent consultant helping U.S. firms establish relationships with Chinese factories. After 1990, Andrew traded Chinese commerce for academia, earning a Ph.D. in history from UVA (perhaps where he became interested in Jefferson — or was his interest in Jefferson what led him to UVA?). He spent four years at Northern Iowa and eight more at Tulsa. Since 2008 he has been lecturing and penning many books while at Louisiana State.

Not sure what it is all about yet, but serial-entrepreneur **Will Willis** (Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.) has claimed several times to be retiring, however, he recently sent a missive where he appears to have started a new venture. The signature block contained “President, Plastic Surgery Innovations,” and the email was seeking a vote for his “skLN3 anti-aging with DermaTriPlex technology” in the 2016 Global Beauty Awards. I bet a number of classmates (and their wives) will be anxious to hear more details!

Popping up on Facebook was a note from **Jon Mangana** (Baltimore). He says his son, Adam, was named the chief diversity officer at Jackson Prep School in Mississippi. He reports: “Proud of my oldest. He’s got his work cut out for him, though. The irony is that Jackson Prep was the first school formed in Mississippi by the segregationists to countermand the desegregation of schools.” Jon is an adjunct professor at the Community College of Baltimore County and also works with a group in Baltimore assisting adults in getting their GEDs and attending college.

I got word of a trio of grandsons — all born in September — joining our Class of ’74 family. Dr. **Burt Rochelson**’s son, David (a lawyer in Manhattan), gave him Jack Hudson Rochelson. Burt is the director of ob/gyn at North Shore University Hospital and chief of maternal-fetal medicine at Northwell Health, both in Manhasset, Long Island.

**Jon Cuneo** (founding partner of the Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca law firm in Washington, D.C.) tells us that his daughter, Lucy (an accomplished international wedding photographer in Charleston, S.C.), gave birth to Rory Sarsfield.

And **Scott Kunst** (in Ann Arbor, Mich.) relates that his son, David, had a son, Benjamin John Kunst. David lives in San Francisco and is a manager at the Lyft ride sharing start-up. Scott is the founder of Old House Gardens, a retailer of heirloom bulbs, and plans to retire this spring after a 24-year career in the historic gardening field. What does he plan to do? “I’ll finally have time to return to my own gardens instead of running a business!”

It is with great sadness that I report that another one of our classmates has passed: **Ralph Coti BUS’77, LAW’77** yielded to complications of a brain tumor. Ralph was one of the few remaining generalist attorneys working in Manhattan (he was involved in everything from real estate to corporate transactions to trust and estate work). If you followed his frequent Facebook postings, you knew he was a staunch conservative who also had a love of history, art and literature. He was a loyal member of the Class of ’74, helping with fundraising and planning of reunions. Ralph is survived by his wife, Mary Alice, and son, Peter.

There you have it: New careers, new businesses, new grandchildren and, unfortunately, some sadness. I guess we need to expect it all as we enter our 43rd year after graduating from the College. Be sure to send in an email about what’s happening in your life and that of your family. Your old buddies of almost half a century want to know!

## 1975

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C24 Gallery was established in New York in 2011 by Lions **Mel Dogan LAW’78** and Emre Kurttepel SEAS’90. C24 is committed to showing groundbreaking contemporary art and provides a platform for artists who have achieved critical acclaim in diverse locales. It is rapidly growing and last year the gallery moved to a space in a stunning new residential building on West 24th Street, just west of its original location and perfectly positioned to capitalize on the energy at the heart

of the Chelsea gallery district. Mel labels the gallery as his “night job,” which balances his hectic day job (at Dogan & Associates, his NYC law firm) quite nicely.

Mel, we could so have used you last year when planning and producing Sam Steinberg 2015 for our 40th reunion.

Mel has two daughters, Melodi BC’05 (a graduate of New York Law School and an attorney in NYC) and Erin (a graduate of Boston University with a master’s from Fordham in education, and a teacher at a private school in Manhattan). He has enjoyed sailing around Shelter Island for many years.

[Editor’s note: See the feature “The Experts” for tips from Dogan on how to display artwork in your home.]

**Jim Dolan** doesn’t stay in one place. If he and his wife, Yasmin, are not on a trip to some exotic locale —

he pointed out to someone that the much-hated invader Napoleon wasn’t exactly a Spaniard but to no avail. He added “Strange grudges, no particular reasons, just learn to share the damn Iberian Peninsula, won’t you? What a world, *nest pas?*” But he also added that it’s “a beautiful country, funny language aside.”

We won’t even get into the discussion that he was having with **Fernando Castro** about whether, where, when and why David would walk on his knees.

The Hon. **Albert J. Mrozik** has been appointed a member of the Newark LGBTQ Community Center’s Board of Directors. In May, he was elected a trustee of the Municipal Court Practice Committee for the New Jersey State Bar Association and in August he attended the International Association of LGBT Judges annual meeting. Albert’s

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*Andrew Burstein ’74, a Louisiana State University professor since 2008, is an authority on Thomas Jefferson.*

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even just a walk across the Benjamin Franklin Bridge in his hometown of Philadelphia on their way for brats and beer at Oktoberfest — they’re dining at a fabulous place or having an exquisite meal at home. In August, Jim was in Annapolis, Md., where he sailed on the schooner *America 2.0*, a replica of the original America’s Cup victor from 1851, which was at the National Sailing Hall of Fame and will head to Bermuda for the America’s Cup in ’17. In September, Jim headed to Nashville (Twang Town) to represent his digital start up, Enradius, to his radio kin at the NAB Radio Show. He says had a great time reconnecting with radio pals and helping to drag them kicking and screaming into the digital age.

Instead of heading south of the border, this year **David Gawarecki** and his wife, Martha Hayes, spent part of the summer in Oporto, Portugal. David shared that since no one would speak to him in Spanish, he was forced to communicate in English or French. He also reported that they had just gotten smashed at a sidewalk café, so who knows what language he was really speaking? David said

been a member of the association for 23 years. Also in August, he and his partner, Michael, attended the “Meet Me in New Hope” car club rally of the Lambda Car Club DelVal region, but haven’t had any other vacations because “all the money goes to the house.”

I know what that’s like — I recently had a concrete floor poured in my basement and now have to have new molding installed, the room painted and all that jazz.

**Robert Reilly** used a speaking engagement as the impetus for a family trip to Australia. In September, he delivered the keynote address to a joint conference of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand, held this year in Melbourne. His wife, Janet BC’75, daughter Ashley BC’06 and son Brandon (two of their three adult children) traveled along. As a parting gift, the institute gave Robert a Crocodile Dundee-style rabbit fur hat, apparently quite a style item in Aussie-land.

Maybe he shouldn’t wear it often at home, at the risk of being attacked by a PETA person.

Following the conference, the family flew to Sydney, where Robert and Janet enjoyed several plays and operas at the Sydney Opera House. Ashley visited museums throughout the trip; the Hellenic Museum of Melbourne was one of her favorites. Brandon pursued more athletic activities, especially enjoying scuba diving off Manly Beach near Sydney. After receiving many compliments following the conference, Janet mentioned that Robert's head was going to swell so much that his new hat would no longer fit, but his ego returned to normal size when he was humbled on the way home. On both legs of their return flight (Sydney to Los Angeles to Chicago), the pilot asked for doctors on board to assist in a medical emergency. Internist Janet attended to both distressed passengers. Robert said that seeing his wife possibly save lives during those two flights, he was reminded of the relative importance of having an M.D. versus a C.P.A. after one's name. While he flies frequently he said, "I have never been on a plane where the pilot asked for any C.P.A.s on board to identify themselves and assist in an accounting emergency."

You go, Janet!

Robert has been the managing director of valuation and forensic consulting firm Willamette Management Associates for more than 25 years. Janet and Robert say they enjoyed seeing so many classmates at last year's 40th reunion.

**Bob Schneider** and his wife, Regina Mullahy BC'75, spent three weeks in Texas this summer, visiting their daughter, Meg, and doting on their granddaughters while visiting their son, John Schneider '07, and his wife, Stephanie Pahler BC'06. Bob and Regina are empty-nesters now, with Meg spending her final year of graduate school as an M.B.A. candidate at Rice. In September, they traveled to Green Bay, Wis., for a wedding, with the reception at Lambeau Field. Bob found the long stretches of open highway in Wisconsin's rolling hills preferable to the freeways and high-speed traffic in Houston.

**Jason Turner** is working on a national campaign to slow the adoption of state-legalized marijuana. He says that THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) levels today are on average 10 to 15 times higher than 30 years ago and that heavy users of marijuana

exhibit an eight-point IQ decline by 38, as compared to controls.

Hmm, does that explain why the stoners of our generation are not all senile already — pot just wasn't as potent back then? My attempt to add humor aside, Jason believes that legalized marijuana is extremely detrimental to students, workers and society in general.

On the home front, Jason's twin boys returned home for the summer after their freshman college year and he and his wife, Jennifer, learned they must book a week in advance in order to have a family dinner. Always close to the political scene, Jason recently said, "What a crazy convention and election! Even Paul Ryan must look out in his primary for an ambush from an unknown political stalker. I'm going back into my hole!"

I'm ready to join him. Whatever the outcome, by the time you read this the election will be over — hooray!

Good travels and new ventures — how exciting! Let me hear from more of you, classmates, and I'll share whatever you send.

## 1976

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On October 8, a group of CC'76ers attended the Columbia Alumni Association Alumni Leaders Gala, where **Mozelle Thompson SIPA'79, LAW'81** was honored as one of 10 alumni to receive the 2016 Alumni Medal. Mozelle also has a graduate degree from Princeton (a small New Jersey university).

Mozelle has served on our Reunion Committees for many years and is a tireless volunteer for Columbia in many areas. He always has time and a willingness to share his caring, knowledge and experience. He is a member of the Columbia College Board of Visitors and also serves on the Dean's Technology Advisory Committee at SIPA.

Mozelle received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2014. His business career crosses the United States, from New York and Washington, D.C., to Silicon Valley — with consulting clients for his business situated many places in between.

Joining me at the gala were **Dan Gottlieb, Mark Abbott, Ken Tamashiro** and **Rob Erlanger**.

I have attended Alumni Leaders Weekend for a number of years; this year was the 12th edition. The weekend began with a Friday evening reception at Casa Italiana. The Saturday schedule included morning and afternoon discussion sessions for the attendees, who were alumni leaders from across the University and the world. I attended a panel discussion, led by Mozelle, about leadership in volunteer organizations and then, in the afternoon, I attended an interesting student leader panel about current student organizational challenges.

In addition to the Saturday night gala, another highlight for me was the Saturday luncheon, which featured a conversation between President Lee C. Bollinger and University Trustees Chair Jonathan Schiller '69, LAW'73. Their discussion touched on the University expansion and, most interestingly, the future of university education.

Please send updates to [kenhowitt76@gmail.com](mailto:kenhowitt76@gmail.com) or through CCT's Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Talk about career, family, children, grandchildren or memories. All stories are welcome! Also, if you are making a trip to NYC, please get in touch. Hoboken is only an eight-minute boat ride from Manhattan; it would be great to see all of you!

## 1977

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
JUNE 1-4, 2017

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REUNION2017

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Well, it's coming. Our 40th class reunion is scheduled for Thursday, June 1—Sunday, June 4. It goes without saying that it would be great if as many members of our class as possi-

ble could make it. I attended the 30th, not really knowing what to expect, and was pleasantly surprised. You certainly won't regret making the effort. More information, I expect, will come in the Spring issue's column but for the moment you might consider saving the date. As you're probably starting to notice — as people do who are our age (ahem) — time is picking up speed. Really picking up speed. So June 1 is practically tomorrow.

As it seems with all things Columbia, a committee has been formed. I know that because I'm on it. As of September, the Reunion Committee also includes **Efrain Agosto, Craig Brod, Mark Goldberger, Bill Gray, Jon Lukomnik, Brent Rosenthal** and **Dan Sang**. New recruits are most welcome.

The reunion has been on the mind of **Gairy Hall**: "I recently met up with old friends and fraternity brothers at the Barnard-Columbia Jam, hosted by the Black Alumni Council, on Barnard's campus. I'm currently at the Atlanta Veterans Affairs regional office; I've been in Atlanta for ages now with my wife and daughter, an Auburn grad. My son, Gairy Hall Jr. '11, BUS'16, is the CCYA president. I can't believe that next year is the 40th reunion — are we getting young or what?"

Note: CCYA stands for Columbia College Young Alumni. I don't suppose Gairy Jr. could join our Reunion Committee?

I also heard from **Simon Luk**, who is partner and chair of Asian Practice at Winston & Strawn, an international law firm. He has recently published a book, *Private Mergers and Acquisitions in Hong Kong*, as well as an enlarged edition of a previous book, *Private Equity in Hong Kong and China*, both with LexisNexis.

Get excited for Reunion Weekend 2017 and send me an update in the meantime! You can use either of the addresses at the top of this column or submit a note through CCT's Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 1978

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By the time you read this our new President will be well into the pro-

cess of picking his new Cabinet and I am hopeful that a few sensible but right-leaning folks from the class or from Columbia will be connected to the administration as conservative New Yorkers. We certainly learned in CC and Hum that Hobbes had to be considered along with Locke.

I will say that, given the role the Russians seemed to have played behind the scenes, I am a little disappointed that none of our 38-year inventory of class columns and communications have been featured in any WikiLeaks. Such a breach would at least have been a sign of respect for all of you and the powerful connections and ideas you have wielded for the last third of a century as disconnected elites.

Still, in memory of Hillary and what almost was, please remember that in our emails the capital letter “C” after a name or phrase still only refers to “who owns New York...” and not CLASSI ... oh never mind.

What a new world ... New York now has to share even baseball glory with Chicago and when we pass alma mater driving down the West Side Highway we now have a stretch of road adopted by the President ... go figure.

Trying to bring art and perspective to the insanity around us, **Paul Phillips**, the music guy at Brown in Providence, R.I., noted that in October “the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra premiered *Brass Knuckles*, my latest composition. Written in August and subtitled ‘Pugilistic Prelude in Rondo Form for Large Orchestra,’ it’s a topical work inspired by the barefisted brawling of the 2016 election.

“Earlier this year, Naxos Records released two recordings I conducted and produced with the Brown University Orchestra: *Manhattan Intermezzo*, with pianist Jeffrey Biegel; and *Anthony Burgess: Orchestral Music*. Both recordings have received excellent reviews, with *Manhattan Intermezzo* topping the classical charts in March as the best-selling Naxos CD worldwide.”

Congratulations, Paul, on your success. I’m not sure if that means a gold record but it sounds impressive.

Paul says that his apartment at 504 W. 110th St. was his favorite; he lived there for eight years after school as well.

Another talented classmate is **Henry Aronson**, who writes: “*Loveless Texas*, the musical I wrote with

my wife, Cailín Heffernan, was given a successful reading in May by Boomerang Theatre Company, which will be mounting a full production in NYC for fall 2017. Something to consider as side trip perhaps for Reunion Weekend 2018 — celebrating our 40th!”

Staying in the arts and heading out to the “left coast,” **Peter Samis** is changing his role out west: “I’ve scaled back to part-time at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, after passing the torch of interpretive media to the capable hands of the next generation and participating in the opening of SFMOMA’s expansion.

“After five years of research and writing with my fellow author, Mimi Michaelson, our book, *Creating the Visitor-Centered Museum*, was scheduled to be released the day after Thanksgiving! It’s been a long time coming. I see this as the capstone to my museum career.

“Next I’ll be heading to Beijing with a league of extraordinary American art museum educators to meet with our Chinese counterparts and will give a keynote at that gathering. Beyond all that, I’m looking forward to devoting some of my newfound free time — when I find it! — to extending the research I began when I was an undergrad at Columbia, at Berkeley and in Paris junior year. It centers on world views; how they develop and shape our lives. There might just be another book there!”

By the way, Peter’s Columbia housing inspiration for these great museums was 629 Furnal!

**Joseph Schachner**, who works at Teledyne LeCroy, the maker of complex scientific equipment, noted in his message to your humble scribe the shocking reality that many of us have recently experienced as he turned 60: “I became a grandpa!”

The question of the column this time was “What was your favorite place where you lived while at Columbia?” and Joe said in his case it was Beit Ephraim (also called “the Bayit,” which means “the house”).

**Steve Zaris**, of McCarthy Duffy in Park Ridge, Ill., has family news: “I’m excited to report that my son, John Zaris ’20, resides on 8 John Jay. Son Nick is a sophomore at Denison and daughter Penelope is a high school sophomore. This year marks 35 years practicing law in Chicago. Our common trade has recently

served to put me back in touch with **Dave Margules**, which has been a great pleasure. My favorite place to live was 13 Carman, of course.”

To Steve and all you Carman fans out there — that is true old-school Columbia!

A bit farther ahead on the multi-generation plan is **Jeffrey Moerdler**, of Mintz Levin, who reports: “This has been a big year for the Moerdler family! Our son, Eric GSAPP’14, married Yaffa Jarashow. His twin, Jonathan, and Jonathan’s wife, Kayla Frielich Moerdler BC’13, had our first grandchild, Zachary. Finally, our son, Scott, and Scott’s wife, Shira Konski, had our second grandchild, Celia Rose.”

And while I still see cute little 18-year olds with beanies when my mental Facebook kicks into gear about all of you, comments like “Nothing new to report except that my grandson is 8 months old and is the cutest baby ever!” from **Marvin Siegfried** put it all back into harsh perspective!

**Peter Triandafilou** works at the Huber Resources Corp. in Orono, Maine, and notes that he is still a professional forester — probably one of very few who were in our (or any other) class at Columbia. The irony is he really is a city boy and was a commuter when he was at school.

At the other end of the environmental world (just kidding) is **Thomas Reuter** at General Electric in the authentic original GE town of Schenectady, N.Y. Tom notes that his favorite room at school was on 4 Furnal, which he says had a “just barely river view.”

A snippet of river adds \$1 million to any coop on Riverside Drive, so cherish those memories, Tom.

Tom believes his room is now the women’s bathroom. I can’t believe all bathrooms on campus aren’t unisex and all-gender now ...

Another lawyer, **Paul Feldman**, of Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth in Arlington, Va., writes to say that the only place to live on campus in the day was Hartley!

And finally, at least someone is staying up late making sure we are all safe and that would be **Jeff Canfield** of the Department of Defense, who says he is “moving to a new position as deputy director of the Middle East and Africa regional center.” (Which sounds right out of *Homeland* Season 6.) Jeff’s favorite digs near campus was “541 W. 113th St.,

the best off-campus CU apartment living experience.”

Please send me a present of more notes for the New Year!

## 1979

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**James Gershfield** reports on his recent work with the Alumni Representative Committee (ARC), which he joined last year: “I interviewed a couple of College applicants. It was a great experience. I am looking forward to participating again this year and interviewing more students than I did last year. ARC can use all the help it can get (most applicants are not interviewed due to a dearth of interviewers). I encourage fellow alumni to join the committee and get involved.

“I’m a senior software engineer at Thomson Reuters in midtown Manhattan working on Big Data projects. It’s been 37 years since I graduated from the College as a computing science major, and I have worked in the computer software field since then. It is amazing how the field has developed, in terms of software tools and technologies, computing theory and algorithms. I am especially interested in connecting with others who majored in computing science at the College in the 1970s and 1980s and finding out how their careers have developed through the years. Please contact Robert for my email address if you would like to get in touch.”

After a seven-year stint as a head of unit in the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Translation, based in Brussels, in 2010 **Xavier Huguet** became a senior translator and reviser. In January 2015, Huguet married Franco-Trinidadian choreographer Nadine Ganase.

**Ethan Heisler** updates us with the news that he “retired from Citigroup on May 27 after 22 years and launched a consultancy under the banner “The Bank Treasury Newsletter.” I am currently seeking board seats on banks.”

**Robert C. Klapper**: Without stating the obvious, your belly is slightly bigger, your hair is no longer dark and there is a solar panel on top of your head. Mother Nature is all



around us, but it is Father Time who is inside us. We are aging. We are closer to the end than the beginning. These are the times where you get to reflect on the top 10 moments of your life — perhaps one of them was crossing Broadway in the middle of the night, experiencing the best of Barnard; the birth of your children; or marriage. From a food perspective, at this point many of us have traveled to the places we just read about while taking art history and making that class come to life. The top 10 meals of all time is a thought that I enjoy contemplating, which brings me to my Columbia memory for this issue.

Here is a list that perhaps some of you share: 1. Biting into a slice of eggplant pizza at V&T, where the chewiness of the dough is like the greatest bialy you've ever eaten. 2. Taking a bite of a croissant from The Hungarian Pastry Shop, where I have added to the bite additional butter and apricot jam for the sweetest and most flavorful culinary experience, washed down with the greatest pre-Starbucks cappuccino I've ever had. 3. Sitting on Low Steps in the springtime, unwrapping the white paper that contains my Mama Joy's roast beef hero. I didn't know roast beef could taste so buttery.

Four years in the life of a 60-year-old is about 5 percent of the time we've been on this planet, but for some reason many of those top 10 food moments still come from Morningside Heights.

Hope this triggers some of your memories. Roar, lion, roar!

## 1980

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Winter is a wonderful time to be in NYC. The holidays seem to bring out the best in people, and we are blessed with a great family and friends.

I had the honor of attending a memorial service for William V. Campbell '62, TC '64 on campus on September 16. With heartfelt words by classmates, friends and trustees, "Coach" had a tremendous sendoff. The Class of '80 was also represented by **Mario Biaggi, Shawn FitzGerald, Brian O'Hagan** and **A.J. Sabatelle**,

all of whom had the good fortune to have played for Coach and were touched by his influence through the years. He will be sorely missed by me and all of the Columbia family.

The financial services industry held its annual charity dinner, and I ran into **Charles LaRocca**. He is the chief investment officer at LCJ Associates, a financial planning and wealth management firm. Charlie lives in the Dyker Heights section of Brooklyn with his wife, Theresa, and their two children.

On October 20, the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame inducted a new class, which included former baseball coach Paul Fernandes. **Eric Blattman, Shawn FitzGerald** and I were honored to be among some of the all-time great athletes, as well as coach Paul, who is doing well and spends time in South Florida near his grandchildren.

It was great to see many of you at Homecoming on October 22, where the day was highlighted with a come-from-behind victory. Football is challenging but there are some bright spots in the recent recruiting class.

Congratulations to **Joe Ciulla** on the marriage of his daughter, Brittany, to Matthew Mitchell. The newlyweds will live in San Diego.

Many of us celebrated our 40th-year high school reunions this year. It never ceases to amaze me how you can go so long without seeing childhood friends and you pick up right where you left off.

Best wishes on a happy and healthy holiday season, and please write: mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

## 1981

**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
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New York, NY 10025  
cct@columbia.edu

CCT thanks **Mike Kinsella** for his two years of service as a class correspondent. If you are interested in taking over the CC'81 Class Notes reins, please reach out to cct@columbia.edu. Being a class correspondent is a great way to stay connected with the College and with classmates. In the interim, while we search for a new correspondent, please send your updates to cct@columbia.edu.

**Oscar Shamamian** GSAPP'85 is closing in on 30 years as a founding partner of Ferguson & Shamamian Architects, which is widely recognized for traditional and classical residential design. He writes, "Walking past Low Library every day, I couldn't help but be inspired by classical forms, proportion and detail."

Oscar is currently at work on architectural projects in Los Angeles, Aspen and Martha's Vineyard, as well as in the Bahamas and Canada. A monograph of his firm's work, *New Traditional Architecture: Ferguson & Shamamian Architects: City and Country Residences* was published in 2011 and he is hard at work on Vol. II. Oscar resides in New York City with his wife and two daughters.

**Richard W. Hayes** writes that he received his fifth fellowship to the MacDowell Colony and his second fellowship to Yaddo, where he is writing a book, *Housing New York: The Recent Past*. His research was funded by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts ([www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk/news/23-08-2016/richard-hayes-awarded-nysca-grant](http://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk/news/23-08-2016/richard-hayes-awarded-nysca-grant)). He was also named a life member of Clare Hall, Cambridge.

From **Enrique Josephs**: "My son, Enrique Jr., has been blessed with the position of narrator for Showtime's weekly *Inside the NFL*. EJ has been a producer for NFL Films and was the first to narrate the New York Giants' highlights since Giants Hall of Famer Frank Gifford started doing it 40 years ago. EJ has narrated the Jets, Cowboys and Lions highlights and the popular *Top 100 Players of 2016* countdown (seen by 25 million viewers weekly). He wrote, directed and produced the Colts' highlight piece, *Next Man Up*. His first major project was the voiceover of *NFL Presents: Super Bowl 50*. He accomplished all of these projects since his start with the company in December 2015."

From **Joshua Friedman**: "My firm, Friedman & Houlding, is working on an interesting case. We represent a class of women truck drivers who have been sexually harassed or assaulted working at a long haul firm. I thought my classmates might be interested in reading about the problems women face in non-traditional employment. There is a good article on the problem, published in a new, online magazine, *Mary Review: maryreview.com/trucking*."

**Seth Haberman** reports: "I sold my latest company to Comcast and now have a job for the first time in 30 years."

Thanks to all who wrote in. Have a great start to 2017!

## 1982

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
JUNE 1-4, 2017

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REUNION 2017

**Andrew Weisman**  
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Greetings, gentlemen. As I write this, autumn closes in and I have completed my preparations for the election. I have duly registered to vote — as I'm sure you all have — and I will not allow Francis Underwood to miss out on a second term. As for the real election, I leave that to the rest of you.

Checking in this quarter, for the first time, is the esteemed doctor **Bob Diamond**. I must admit that I am impressed with Bob's accomplishments, but more so with his daughter Ruth '20. As many of you may have heard, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* recently released their college rankings. Accordingly, the University came in third nationally and at the top of the heap in the Ivies! It's now statistically impossible to gain admission to the College, so I'm guessing Ruth is an exceptional young lady! Bob wrote that he is "happy to report Ruth is 'carrying the torch.'"

Bob's friends, family and colleagues have noticed he has acquired a shade of green from envy over Ruth's dorm room — a campus-side single in Furnald. For those of you not aware, the refurbished Furnald (at least they left the lobby intact!) is now a first-year dorm. Even with a great housing lottery number, the best Bob could get as a senior was a street-side single in Furnald. Times do change, although as Bob notes, "The campus still mostly looks identical. If I blinked, I could be back in 1978."

Bob is a physician-scientist/pharmaceutical executive, lives in suburban Philadelphia (Penn Valley, Pa.) with his wife, Martha Ortiz (Harvard '83), and their other potential Lion, Ethan (14). Bob can be contacted at [bobdiamondmd@gmail.com](mailto:bobdiamondmd@gmail.com)."

Thanks for checking in, Bob!

On a personal note, yours truly helped to host the annual Great Teacher Awards ceremony at Low Rotunda, held on June 4 this year and given by the Society of Columbia Graduates. The event coincides with All-Class Reunion (formerly known as Dean's Day). For those of you who are unfamiliar with the society, it is Columbia's oldest alumni-run organization. It's been around since 1909 and has as its primary mission to celebrate great undergraduate teaching at the College and Engineering. This year marked the 68th annual presentation of the award. The 2016 winners were Professor Adam Cannon from SEAS and Professor Julie Crawford from the College, both exceptionally talented teachers! Yours truly is currently president of the society.

I have two photos from the event. One, here in the magazine, features fellow society Board of Directors member **David Filosa** and I helping to lead the celebration's attendees in the singing of *Sans Souci*. Another, [columbia.edu/cct](http://columbia.edu/cct) in the Class Notes section for this issue, features Cannon and Crawford with fellow board member Glenn Silbert SEAS'75, PS'79 and me.

On a happy related note, Michael McCarthy '83 and **Alex Moon** were

both admitted to the society for their outstanding commitment to the College.

Let's keep those notes coming in! Send them to the addresses at the top of this column or through CCT's Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 1983

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On August 29, Dean James J. Valenti welcomed the Class of 2020 at Convocation. He gave the following inspirational speech: "I am sure a lot of people have congratulated you on your admission to Columbia. I will also, but not just for the achievement. Rather, I am congratulating you on your good fortune in being presented with an opportunity — an opportunity to profit from and contribute to the special experience that a Columbia education offers. That special experience is fundamentally an endeavor to find knowledge, to develop understanding, and to gain insight. To engage in finding something, the first step is to accept that you do NOT already have it. We admitted you NOT because we thought you had mastered your knowledge, understanding and insight, but because we thought you were the applicants best able to develop that knowledge, understanding and insight here.

And, equally important, we thought you were the applicants best able to help others develop their knowledge, understanding and insight at the same time. Essential to your success in this endeavor will be learning perspectives and ideas that are different from your own — perspectives and ideas that may challenge you, perspectives and ideas that may cause you to question equally your own beliefs and those of others. There is a method that can guide you on how to do this. It is called 'Beginner's Mind.'

"To have 'Beginner's Mind' means engaging with the world—the world of ideas and the world of people—without preconceptions, with an openness to consider all opinions, all ideas, all possibilities. Shunryū Suzuki writes, 'In the Beginner's Mind there are many possibilities; in the expert's mind there are few.' The 'expert' Suzuki refers to is someone who is convinced that he or she already knows and understands, someone who believes he or she already has all the necessary insight — someone who thinks nothing more need be considered. Being that kind of expert negates all the opportunity of being at Columbia. Beginner's Mind is important in your academic work, which is why I have presented it in the first lecture of every chemistry course I have taught for many years, and now at Convocation for several years. Beginner's Mind is the prerequisite for scientific discovery. It is the prerequisite for all intellectual discovery. It is at the heart of the Core Curriculum, the central component of a Columbia College education, which many of you will begin tomorrow with your first Literature Humanities class. Beginner's Mind is the essence of what it means to be a thinking person. And our world needs thinking people — especially today, when there are so many unwavering opinions and so little understanding."

**Jon Ross:** "When a natural disaster strikes somewhere in the world, like the recent earthquakes in Italy and in Myanmar, people often ask, 'What can I do to help?' Here at Micro-Aid, we have the answer: Rebuild people's homes and get them back to their normal lives! I am happy to report that the Micro-Aid house for our beneficiary family in Nepal is complete. The

Balram family lost their home in the Gorkha earthquake in April 2015. While the Nepalese government has not rebuilt a single home, and has made it almost impossible for the other big NGOs to help, Micro-Aid has provided a permanent, comfortable and safe home for this family for generations to come."

**Gideon Besson:** "I live in North Carolina and have been in private medical practice since 1997, specializing in pulmonary disease, internal medicine and sleep disorders. Two kids and a dog. I keep in close touch with a few classmates."

**Elliot Quint:** "Roy, thank you for the good work you do as CCT's CC'83 point man. No doubt it is difficult to get anything out of some of the more reclusive classmates, like me.

"My wife, Janice, and I retired to Laguna Beach, Calif., three years ago. Though we miss Boston, we have enjoyed meeting people and creating a community for ourselves. We have even attended a few CAA of SoCal events; there is an active group here. During the past few years I have spent time trying to raise funds, and more importantly awareness, for suicide prevention. My daughter, Rebecca, my only child, took her own life in 2010. Since then I have supported The Samaritans and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, most recently walking with thousands of others through the night in the Out of the Darkness Walk.

"I remain close to Sam Park SEAS'83 and have had sporadic but really great meet-ups with a few other classmates in Chicago and elsewhere the past couple of years."

**Wayne Allyn Root:** "The reality TV show I created, *Las Vegas Law*, was recently renewed by Investigation Discovery for 2017. I am creator and executive producer. I have a new reality TV show on the way, with the pilot filmed recently, about rookie police officers on the streets of Las Vegas. I am co-creator and executive producer. My other TV show, *Ghost Adventures*, is still the No. 1 highest-rated show on Travel Channel for the 12th straight season. I am producer.

"My radio show, *WAR Now with Wayne Allyn Root*, replaced Mark Levin in the afternoon drive time slot in Las Vegas (3–6 p.m. daily). It's quite an honor to be the guy two million Las Vegans listen to on their



On June 4, during Reunion Weekend 2016, the Society of Columbia Graduates awarded the 68th annual Great Teacher Awards to Engineering Professor Adam Cannon and College Professor Julie Crawford. David Filosa '82 (left) and Andrew Weisman '82 led attendees in the singing of "Sans Souci" at the ceremony.

way home from work. I was recently given the premier political column in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, the largest newspaper in the state of Nevada. My column appears twice per week. The newspaper calls me "The Conservative Voice of Nevada."

**Ed Joyce:** "So how is it, you ask, that my wife, Linda Joyce BC'83, and I (and our amazing eight teammates) will take 10 days off from our crazy work schedules, fly nearly 6,000 miles to Israel and cycle in the five-day, 300-mile Wheels of Love bike ride for ALYN Hospital? After you watch this amazing two-minute video, you will understand, how can we not?: [youtube.com/watch?v=fr1U92-bO5s&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fr1U92-bO5s&feature=youtu.be).

"Our journey began on November 6. The wonderful Jewish, Arab and Christian children of ALYN Hospital thank all of you who will graciously support Linda, me and our team (Grumpy Roadsters) in this incredible, heartfelt endeavor ([wolusa.org/goto/grumpyroadsters](http://wolusa.org/goto/grumpyroadsters)). Wishing a Shana Tova ('Happy New Year') to each of you and your families!"

**Kevin Berkowitz:** "I live in Thessaloniki, Greece, with my family, though [as I write this] I am in the United States for a few months. Greeks like to enjoy the basic human pleasures of life despite what goes on around

them. Don't you remember that from your Contemporary Civilization and Literature Humanities courses? What, you didn't read those books? Well, never mind. After almost 14 years in Southeast Europe and Greece, I have a unique and detailed view of the crises within the European Union. Like any large-animal veterinarian will tell you, the best way to determine a horse's health is not by looking at its teeth, but by examining it from the rear end. Problems that are not apparent at the horse's mouth in Brussels or Luxembourg are much more clear at the rear end, in Greece. That is why most Greeks are not surprised by or disapproving of the so-called Brexit vote. Who would not jump from a sinking ship, or one that is structurally failing? For details and analyses on these questions, my fellow alumni can contact me via email. The present situation involving the E.U., Greece and others is related to Contemporary Civilization and Lit Hum courses. Remember your reading of Homer's *Odyssey* and other books: What were the praiseworthy traits of Odysseus and other heroes? Is there an American character who embodies those same traits? Yes — Bugs Bunny. Now would you admit Bugs Bunny and his nation into your political and currency union? If you did, how wise would you be? How long do you think your union would last?"

**Kevin Chapman** has published his second novel. *A Legacy of One* is the story of fictional Sen. Jonathan Prescott III '93, whose destiny and political future reaches a critical crossroads after Jonathan attends the celebration of his 20th Columbia College class reunion. A substantial portion of the story takes place at Columbia during Jonathan's college years, where his experiences and friends influence the politician he will become. Columbia alumni will recognize the setting and many of the experiences, and I hope will relate to the personal journey that is Jonathan's life. The book is available in trade paperback and Kindle ebook formats from Amazon. Search for Kevin G. Chapman or visit Kevin's author page at [amazon.com/Kevin-G.-Chapman/e/B00J1GJZNM](http://amazon.com/Kevin-G.-Chapman/e/B00J1GJZNM). Kevin says he would love it if classmates would write reviews on Amazon. Don't worry, no real secrets are revealed and all the names have been changed to protect the innocent among us.

**George Wilson** attended Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend in early October. He spent time with David Filosa '82, Donna MacPhee '89, Leslie Zahm '99 and Steven Kane '80, LAW'83. I also attended and sat with **Ed Joyce** and Ken Howitt '76 at the luncheon. I also spoke briefly with **Andrew Barth** BUS'85. Andrew is a University trustee, chair of Capital Guardian Trust Co. and a director of Capital Group International. He competed for four years on Columbia's wrestling team, was part of three Ivy-League Championship teams and was named an All-Ivy wrestler. In 2011, he received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement from the College.

George, **Gary McCready**, **Kevin Chapman** and I participated in a Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors Serve Committee call. The Serve Committee exists to determine appropriate thanks for all College volunteers based on volunteer roles. This year, we are focused on thanking Alumni Representative Committee volunteers. Only 30 percent of applicants to Columbia are interviewed by alumni through ARC, which puts us far behind our peer institutions. Anyone who is interested in doing interviews this year should contact me. The yield is higher for admitted students who

are interviewed. Please volunteer for this important committee.

**Mark Kerman** SEAS'83, BUS'87 is assistant VP at Columbia Facilities in charge of residential and commercial operations. He oversees eight million sq. ft. of residential space. As a student, Mark was president of ZBT Interfraternity Council. He and his wife live near Columbia. Their daughter, Emily '19, was a graduate of the first class of the Columbia Secondary School for Math, Science & Engineering. Mark's other daughter, Jenna, is a senior at this high school.

Mark is in touch with **Frank Karpicki**, **Joe Mataloni**, Glen Meyers '84 and **Kurt Lundgren** (Columbia baseball legend). Kurt is tied for third in Columbia career wins (18) and is first in strikeouts (270). After graduating from Columbia, Kurt pitched in the Mets' minor league system. He also pitched for various semi-pro leagues. He spent five years in the Mets organization, the last three for Class AA Jackson in Mississippi. His best year was 1985, when he went 8-4 with a 3.21 ERA to earn "Pitcher of the Year" honors for the Jackson Mets. From the Nanuet H.S. Hall of Fame link: "My time in the minors was awesome. Most of the stars on the Mets roster through the '80s came up with me or I with them," Kurt says, citing players like Darryl Strawberry, Dwight Gooden, Lenny Dykstra, Dave Magadan, Kevin Elster, Randy Myers and Rick Aguilera, the latter two being his roommates at various times."

Unfortunately, after rotator cuff surgery in 1986, Kurt's fastball plummeted from the low 90-mph range to the low 80s. Kurt is an attorney and partner in Thwaites & Lundgren, a commercial litigation firm in Elmsford, N.Y. He lives in Nanuet with his wife, Teresa, and sons, Christopher and Alec.

Looking forward to seeing you at some Columbia events in the New Year!

## 1984

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Super sleuth **Philip Segal** has written a new book, *The Art of Fact Investiga-*



Columbia's Homecoming win against Dartmouth on October 22 was a treat for longtime Lions football fans. In the stands were, back row: Steve Coleman '83 and Brian Krisberg '81; middle row: Steve Barcan '63 and Lee Lowenfish '63; standing, at left: Roy Pomerantz '83, and front row: Stanley Mandel '61 and Barry Mandel '88.



tion: *Creative Thinking in the Age of Information Overload*. He says, “I’m a lawyer with a small firm that does fact-finding, mostly for other lawyers. I wrote the book because of the misconception that with a person’s Social Security number and a few databases, it’s easy to find out lots of information about an individual. If that were true, our clients would get those databases and they wouldn’t need us. Investigation is as much an art as it is a science. Instead of logical deduction, a good fact finder needs to use intuition and creativity, as nobody has the time or the budget to look everywhere. The book is aimed at lawyers, journalists (I was one for 19 years before going to law school) or anyone else who is faced with a fact-finding problem and asks, “Where do I start?”

Mazel Tov, **Bruce Skyer!** “I’m happy to say that I’ve joined the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism as its chief financial and operations officer. USCJ is the umbrella organization for approximately 600 conservative congregations in North America. Interestingly, my journey through the nonprofit sector began at my own synagogue, so it is personally meaningful to have an impact on an organization so vital to American Jewry.”

Lapsed Great Necker **David Lewinter** is having a banner year. “Life is great. My wife, Linda BC’85, LAW’88 (née Friedman) and I have three wonderful kids. My eldest, Rebecca, is married and works in PR for Havas. Ben ’16 works for Accenture as a management consultant in the digital media group. My youngest, Jessica, began at Maryland. I retired from law (SVP, general counsel of Dun & Bradstreet) in 2008. A few years later I started my wealth management firm, Lewinter Wealth Advisors. The firm has been growing quite rapidly and I love the work. The firm was originally set up as a pro bono exercise to help young couples get off on the right track financially in life but has morphed into a for-profit venture.”

From **Steven Waldman** — journalist and entrepreneur, who in 1999 founded Beliefnet.com (which became the Internet’s largest multi-faith spirituality website) — now comes LifePosts. As stated on the website: “LifePosts’ mission is to ensure that every person’s life story can be beautifully told, vividly celebrated, and preserved.”

From Class President **Larry Kane**, by day a top-notch attorney, by night a wrestling coach to disadvantaged youth in Northern California and at all times a dutiful and super-proud father: “Two of my daughters, Charlotte (12) and Caitlin (10), and a few of their friends have organized the First Annual Noe Valley Girls Film Festival. See this nice article about the festival in a June issue of *Time For Kids* magazine: [timeforkids.com/news/calling-female-filmmakers/432216](http://timeforkids.com/news/calling-female-filmmakers/432216)

Congratulations to **Alfredo Brillembourg Sr.**, **Pravin Dugel** and **Paul Schwarzbbaum**, whose children, Alfredo, Tara and Ezra, respectively, joined the Class of 2020.

**Todd Sussman** had a great summer. He writes, “I had the good fortune to work on not one but two official Barbra Streisand projects. I am listed as the Liner Notes Editor for her new hit album, *Encore: Movie Partners Sing Broadway*, and I have the same credit listed in the gorgeous souvenir program for her latest concert tour, *The Music... The Memories... The Magic!* Both projects were true labors of love and called upon my knowledge of her career and music, as well as my creative writing experience. Interestingly, my first published pieces about Barbra appeared in *Spectator* 1981–84. This was the summer of a lifetime.”

Many thanks to all for your condolences on the passing of my father and special thanks to my dear friends and CCT Class Notes colleagues, Roy Pomerantz ’83 and Jon White ’85, as well as neighbor Adam Bayroff ’83 and his wonderful wife, Margo, for visiting my mother’s home during the Shiva period.

## 1985

**Jon White**  
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**Judah Cohen** has exciting news: “the acceptance of our twin sons, Jordan and Jonathon, to the College. Probably most excited is our eldest daughter, Gabriella BC’18, who is looking forward to having her baby brothers join her on campus. They are spending a gap year in Israel but will return next year to join the Class of 2021.

“I am sure many readers saw this already, but the Winter 2015–16

issue of *CCT* highlighted my long-range weather forecast success (college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/winter15; go to the ‘Lions’ section).”

**Tom Vinciguerra**’s most recent op-ed piece in *The New York Times*, “Who Stole My ‘Star Trek?’” was published in September in honor of the recent 50th anniversary of *Star Trek*’s debut.

At my high school reunion, I ran into **Rob Ripin**, who is a partner at the New York law firm Hogan Lovells. Rob has advised on cutting-edge capital markets and other finance transactions and focuses on cross-border capital raising.

**John Phelan** ably represented our class at Alumni Leaders Weekend, October 7–8, reporting that it “just gets better and better. Good speakers, all focused on helping to build skills in fundraising and networking, and developing one’s personal brand. We heard from students who are club presidents. So impressive! As a past Alumni Representative Committee regional chair, I participated in the admissions review and enjoyed meeting other ARC chairs. Columbia regional clubs are alive and thriving, and France won the award for best club. It has more than 2,000 members. I had the pleasure of sitting next to one of its board members, who is from Long Island and works in Paris. So all good. Good cross pollination from all the schools, including Barnard.”

Congratulations to **Matt Bartels**, **Jay Barth**, **David Feldman**, **James Hagani**, **Dennis Hirsch**, **Jeffrey Lautin**, **Ashok Nayyar** and **Martin Tell**. They are proud parents, as their children entered the College with the Class of 2020. Our class is tied (with the Class of ’81) for having the most legacy students in the Class of 2020!

Of course, as our kids go off to college, that leaves us with more time to rediscover long-lost pastimes. Please share what you are doing now, or what you hope to be doing. On the Columbia front, please consider joining ARC. I have found it to be a rewarding experience. We want as many potential applicants as possible to meet members of the Columbia community.

After 25 years of regular vocal inactivity, I have finally reawakened my cords by singing on a regular basis. I rejoined the New York Cho-

ral Society; this season’s concerts include performances in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, St. Patrick’s Cathedral and St. Bart’s Church. I even participated in a small backup group for a recording with Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary fame). And best of all, at a recent rehearsal I caught up with Glee Club legend Eric Hanson ’82.

Looking forward to hearing from you! Shoot me an email at [jw@whitecoffee.com](mailto:jw@whitecoffee.com)!

## 1986

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Hope you’re well and that you had an enjoyable winter holiday season. I’d love to hear from you with any news or thoughts you’d like to share with classmates. Drop me a line in 2017! You can write to either of the addresses at the top of the column, or use *CCT*’s Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct-submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct-submit_class_note).

## 1987

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
JUNE 1–4, 2017

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REUNION 2017

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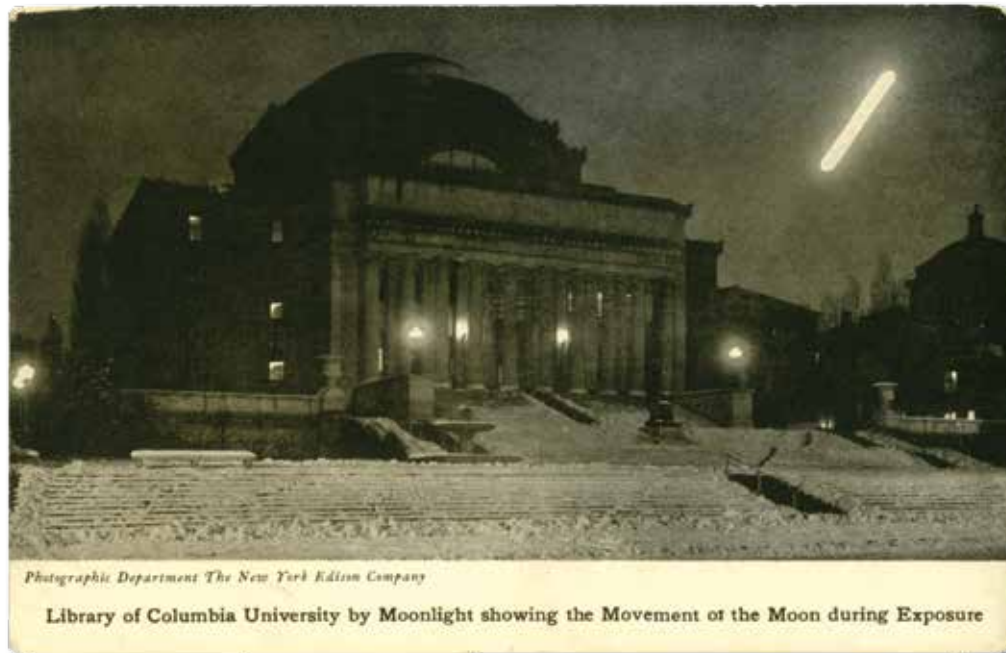
Plans are under way for our 30th (yes, 30th — no way to escape that number) reunion, Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4. **Ron Burton** and **Bruce Furukawa** are co-chairing the Reunion Committee. Members (and the list is growing daily, so apologies to anyone who joined after this went to press) are **Laura Adams**, **Steve Amitay**, **Sandy Asirvatham**, **Kyra Tirana Barry**, **Joey Bernstein**, **Jon Bram**, **Doug Cifu**, **Sean Couch**, **Michelle Estilo Kaiser**, **Greg Fondran**, **Nancy Friedman**, **Gerri Gold**,

Greg Gonzalez, Ed Ho SEAS'87, Ed Hoffman, Lee Ilan, Dora Kim Baer, Ilene Weinstein Lederman, Joe Liu, Christina Musrey, Richard D. Simonds, George Stone, John Sun, Jonathan Wald and yours truly.

Ilene already wrote to talk about the wonderful planning luncheon she had in San Francisco with committee members Kyra and Bruce, as well as **Randy Bessolo**. Join our Facebook group, Columbia College Class of 1987, or check [college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/reunion-weekend-2017](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/reunion-weekend-2017) for updates.

As a preview of things to come, **Lee Ilan** sent the following: "I attended All-Class Reunion last June. In addition to (of course) participating in our upcoming 30th, I highly recommend going to a reunion in a year that's not your own. I had some nice conversations with friends from CC'86 (like fellow Glee Clubbers Dan Chenok '86 and Rich Goodstein '86), but I also went to an astrophysics lecture by the still-brilliant-and-going-strong Professor David Helfand and met current members of the Marching Band. Not trying to catch up with classmates allows you to tour the campus and take in all the other reunion activities, which was terrific. And my 5-year-old loved the Camp Columbia activities — she proudly shows off the pirate-themed picture frame she decorated.

"Moving on to our reunion, I am excited to catch up with classmates. Even though I'm not a large donor, I agreed to co-chair the fundraising committee to emphasize that everyone's involvement is welcome and encouraged. Your participation is not contingent on how much or whether you give financially. Many of us also contribute by interviewing prospective students, mentoring current students, organizing and attending alumni activities (e.g., Columbia College Women, athletics alumni events, regional gatherings, etc.), and keeping us all connected (thank you, **Sarah Kass!**). All of these efforts enhance the vibrancy of our class, the reputation of Columbia and the experience for current students. We all are grateful for the contributions of our John Jay Associates-level and major gift donors. Their support provides significant resources for financial aid, the Core Curriculum, student activities and stipends for internships. But the strength of our donor pool is that



COURTESY WILL CSAPLAR '57, BUS'58

all our donations — of amounts large and small — add up to show broad support for these activities. I've been contributing fairly small amounts for 30 years and feel very much a part of the class. My intention is that all of us will feel welcome and appreciated in that role.

"I went to the Columbia College Fund volunteer kickoff meeting in September. In addition to getting tips on overcoming the fear of talking to classmates (who knew we were such an intimidating bunch?), we got updates on the development of the Manhattanville campus and some fascinating history on the development of the Core Curriculum. I learned that the Business School will move out of Uris, freeing up space for Arts and Sciences. And my appreciation for the Core increased — the small classes, discussion format, the teachers' preparation, and attending concerts and art exhibits with classmates.

"So please open your hearts and your ears when your classmate calls. Give them a few moments to talk about how you can be part of our class gift. Our many donations add up to be transformative to current students' experience. Thanks for listening."

Remember, too, that we want YOU at reunion and as important as the class gift may be, YOUR PRESENCE is what really matters! Your classmates want to see you. And as is the case around every reunion, I'm

reminded of how many beautiful Class of '87 connections I've made after graduation, at reunions and other alumni events. Some of my dearest friends from our class I didn't even know as a student (that's what happens when you live in the *Spectator* offices for four years!). So give yourself the gift of not only reconnecting with old friends but making new ones!

Back to the news. **Eli Kavon** is beginning his second full year as rabbi of Congregation Anshei Shalom in West Palm Beach, Fla. He writes blog posts for *The Jerusalem Post* website ([jpost.com](http://jpost.com)) at "Past Imperfect: Confronting Jewish History." Eli is also writing a biography of his father — a WWII veteran, nightclub singer and cantor — as well as collecting essays of his own from the past decade to be published.

**Dora Kim Baer** writes that after 31 years of living and working in NYC, she moved to South Florida in February 2015 to join AVM, a hedge fund based in Boca Raton. She says, "It has been a great experience so far and it was a good change for me. Regulatory reform has greatly changed the banking/financing industry, so it was nice to make the transition to the private buy side. I live in West Palm Beach across the Intracoastal Waterway from Trump's Mar-a-Lago, of all things. The weather has been easy to adjust to, especially when I know it's freezing up north. I have

survived my second Florida summer (this was the hottest summer ever — even the native Floridians said so) and it was not so bad. I have not endured a hurricane, but ...

"Florida, at least where I am, is surprisingly age-diverse. It is not just a bunch of retirees anymore, although the snowbirds start coming down in late October and stay until May. The only thing that isn't so great is commuting on I-95 here, where you have 20-year-olds doing 80 mph and 80-year-olds doing 20 mph.

"Sadly, my husband, Theodore Baer Jr. GS'54, passed away this past February. We had a great 23 years; I just wish he had had more time to enjoy living in Florida full time.

"I travel back and forth to NYC about once a month for personal and work reasons, so I still get my New York fix. The flights between Palm Beach International to the New York area are frequent and convenient. If anyone is visiting in the Palm Beach area let me know. I'd be glad to show you around."

Dora, I believe I can safely speak for all of us when I say we send our deepest condolences on your loss.

**Garth Stein** reports that his oldest son, Caleb (20), is at Berklee College of Music, while his second son, Eamon (17), is being recruited for Division III soccer. Garth's youngest son, Dashiell (9), is, according to his dad, "just happy to be in the fourth grade." Garth's third

children's book, *Enzo's Very Scary Halloween*, was recently published and his fourth is scheduled for publication next spring. He said he is hard at work on a new novel, but writes, "And no, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is not a movie yet."

Soon, we hope!

Garth also recounted the following tale: "I was wearing my Columbia T-shirt in the gym and a young woman said, 'Did you go to Columbia? So did I!' I asked what year. She said 2012. I felt old. But then I said, 'I was in the first coed graduating class!' Because if I'm going to be old, at least I can stand for something!"

**Suze Kim-Villano** sent in what she called her "one-year update." She says, "I left teaching and am working as the administrative director of the Sacred Music Academy of Notre Dame ([sma.nd.edu](http://sma.nd.edu) and [facebook.com/notredamechildrenschoir](https://www.facebook.com/notredamechildrenschoir)) and director of the Lyric Choir for children with special needs. This mixed-ability choir focuses on singing and musical instruction through sacred music in a safe and respectful environment. We are a mixed-ability group, joined by other members of the Notre Dame Children's Choir. I love working with this organization — just in its fourth year — including children from diverse social,

**Richard Simonds** says, "I enjoy practicing law at Alston & Bird in New York, where I am a partner in the finance group. I recently spoke about FinTech at a conference in Tel Aviv, which was my first visit to Israel."

"My wife, Julia, and I live in Scarsdale, N.Y., although I'm not sure where we will go when we become empty-nesters. My eldest son, Richard, is a sophomore in college, thinking about majoring in physics or philosophy, and my other sons, Charles and Henry, are a junior and freshman, respectively, at Scarsdale H.S."

"I've been reading a lot of classics lately, including rereading Lit Hum books such as Cervantes' *Don Quixote* and Rabelais' *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, as part of a project. I've discovered the social media site Goodreads to be a good place to share my book thoughts."

A few other tidbits come from **Farah Chandu**, who said that while her own children did not want to go to Columbia, her nephew/godson has started a doctoral program in chemistry at Columbia. Farah wrote that he "is busy torturing undergrads as a T.A."

Ah, happy days!

**Cathy Webster** had a reunion lunch with **Ed Hoffman** this past summer in Los Angeles. She said

Divya was doing a year abroad at Edinburgh), our outings are filled with excitement and star power. Patti Smith showed up for lunch at the little hole-in-the-wall restaurant where Divya and I were, a place I've been going to since my freshman roommate, **Lisa Hertzberg Long**, introduced me to it some 30-plus years ago, after it was featured in a little-known 1980s movie.

Congratulations to **Ilene Weinstein Lederman** on the bar mitzvah of her son, Max, in July in San Francisco. Once again she and I (and our dads, Ed Weinstein '57 and Alvin Kass '57) had parallel milestones as my nephew, Judah, celebrated his bar mitzvah in August. Judah's dad is my brother, Danny Kass '95. Can we get Judah and Max to make it three generations?

No pressure, guys. No pressure.

## 1988

**Eric Fusfield**  
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**Shep Long** notes that his former Carman Hall roommate, **John Vaske**, has reached a career milestone. Goldman Sachs recently announced John's retirement after 28 years with the firm; John was a co-chairman of the investment bank's mergers and acquisition team. "Over the course of his career, John has enhanced our client franchise by building meaningful and longstanding relationships with numerous clients, has led a number of significant transactions, and has played a central role in growing our natural resources business across regions," senior Goldman officials wrote in a memo shared with *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

**Jennifer Hirsh Overton** writes, "After five years in Nairobi, Kenya, I have taken up a position at Catholic Relief Services as the regional director for West Africa. I relocated to Baltimore last year, where I am lucky to see **Nancy Kauder** and **Marty Schreiber** '87 regularly, as we live in the same neighborhood. We keep in touch with **Sharon Moshavi**. My first daughter recently started her second year at Haverford College; I hope daughter No. 2, a rising junior in high school, will end up at 116th Street."

After 21 years at Emory, in Atlanta, as assistant and then associate professor of history and African-American studies, this fall **Leslie Harris** moved to Northwestern as professor of history. She and her partner, Pam Xami Hall, "are enjoying Chicago and Evanston!" Leslie says she "will continue writing and teaching African-American history, particularly slavery and urban history." Leslie's time at Columbia "was critical to [my] development as a historian, particularly classes with the late James Shenton '49 and mentoring from Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69."

Leslie says she was honored to be in conversation with Professor Foner in February 2015 about his book *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad*, which discusses the travails of formerly enslaved African Americans in New York City, at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. A video of the evening program is available at [livestream.com/schomburgcenter/events/3691823](http://livestream.com/schomburgcenter/events/3691823). **Elizabeth DuPont Spencer** and **Susie Marples** were in the audience.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2017 (our next reunion will be just one year away then) and look forward to receiving more updates in the upcoming year. Send them to the addresses at the top of the column or use the CCT Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 1989

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I was happy to hear from **Liz Pleshette**, who wrote in about her summer: "I was lucky enough to spend a whole week in Atlanta with the amazing **Wanda Marie Holland Greene**. She was leading professional development for school administrators and I was one of the lucky recipients of her talent and wisdom. Also, **Dan Javitch** popped in [in Chicago] for a visit this summer before heading off to his whirlwind sabbatical adventures."

I found Dan, with a little help from Facebook, in Laos. Of his travels, Dan writes, "I am on sabbatical

### *Jennifer Hirsh Overton '88 is Catholic Relief*

*Services' regional director for West Africa and recently relocated to Baltimore from Nairobi.*

economic and ethnic groups in Northern Indiana in seven choirs from birth to 17.

"I recently sang in another Sacred Music graduate recital and I sing at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in the Basilica Schola. I perform a cappella Renaissance choral music with Collegium Musicum and I cantor Masses at my church. My four kids are not too far away and we try to get together on breaks during the summer.

"My sister invited me to Vietnam to visit a ChildFund site and, while in Vietnam, we cruised Ha Long Bay. My family later joined me in Korea, and then I celebrated my father's 80th birthday with all of my family in Seoul. My 50th year has been the best so far!"

they swapped theme park stories and reminisced over Peruvian food. Good times!

Last but certainly not least, my dear Carman 5 friend, the incomparable **Divya Singh**, recently met me in New York City for lunch on her way home to Seattle following a one-month stint in Malawi. Divya has given up her medical practice on the West Coast to travel the world and teach orthopedic medicine and surgery in developing countries. Myanmar, China and Tibet are all on the itinerary. To hear about Divya's adventures, check out [divasingh.blogspot.com](http://divasingh.blogspot.com).

As is always the case with Divya (with whom I traveled through Europe during junior year while



for this school year. I am nearing 20 years of teaching high school English and ESL in San Francisco. For the past five years, I've taught at a small, public school, the Academy. I have been eligible for a sabbatical year for more than 10 and finally stopped putting it off (maybe because of the impending 50-year-old doom). I have been traveling around Southeast Asia and connected with Steve Briones '88, who lives in Bangkok and is doing well. I also reconnected with **Liz Pleshette** in Chicago during the summer; she remains the same wonderfully irreverent person I remember from Carman 12.

"I planned to be back in the Bay Area in November and then on the East Coast for a few months at the start of 2017 before heading to Sri Lanka, where I've spent several summers working in educational policy consulting and curriculum development, for the spring."

**Joanna Usher Silver** recently started in real estate sales at Corcoran in New York. Of her new direction Joanna says, "After several years working in sales for luxury media brands at Condé Nast, I made the transition to residential sales in the city from the white-hot High Line Park/Chelsea area to the Upper Upper East Side (Harlem!) to everywhere in between and around. Remember when we first got to Columbia and we were warned never to go to Morningside Park? Well, now they sell multi-million dollar condos next door! My husband, David Silver, and I celebrated 23

years and our three girls are super — mile-a-minute craziness and laughs. We recently added a mini Australian Labradoodle to the family fun."

Last summer I ran into **Anne Pfitzer** at an Upper West Side gathering. She was going to Kenya the next day; Anne is family planning team leader for USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program, supporting women's health programs. She often travels for Jhpiego, an international nonprofit affiliated with The Johns Hopkins University that works with health experts, governments and community leaders to provide high-quality health care.

## 1990

**Rachel Cowan Jacobs**  
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**German Gomez** reports that after five years at the U.S. Department of Justice he returned to private practice and now works at Hogan Lovells in Washington, D.C., in the general counsel's office. German and his wife, Libby, and their children, Ava (11), Lola (9) and Felix (7), live in Arlington, Va. German says everyone is doing great in school. He enjoys spending Saturdays pacing the sidelines while coaching his kids' soccer teams.

German also reports that his twin, **Diego Gomez**, and his wife, Jeanne Haney, welcomed daughter Lila

Catherine in 2015. Lila is a precocious toddler who keeps the first-time parents busy. Diego works in The Bank of Nova Scotia's New York office as VP, chief compliance officer and regulatory counsel. Diego, Jeanne and Lila live in New York City.

In August, Mariana and **Pete Neisuler** packed up their sons, Alex (12) and Martin (10), and house and moved to Amman, Jordan to begin their next post with the Department of State. Before they left, friends came from far and wide to Washington, D.C., to give them a merry July weekend send-off. I traveled the shortest distance from my suburban Maryland home to the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, where we officially kicked off our good-bye party for Pete. Those in attendance — honestly, I'm surprised we didn't get kicked out for having too good of a time — included **Judy Shampianier** and **Dan Sackrowitz**, who traveled from Westchester County, N.Y., and were pleased to discover their Amtrak car was next to the bar car; **Colin Campbell** from Piscataway, N.J.; and **Joel Tranter** from Berkeley, Calif., after a layover of a few days in Denver to visit **Brian Timoney**. Why the Portrait Gallery, you ask? Colin was itching to see an exhibit on some all-time great professional athletes, which we eventually found — but what turned out to be an even greater draw for some of us was the number of Pokémon that Dan was able to capture.

During the weekend, we were joined by **Sharon Rogers** and **Steve Winick**, so it really turned into a nice 26th mini-reunion. News from this crew: Dan is the president of yourhearing.com, a Danish company that sells hearing aids. Wait, what did you say? He was as surprised as anyone that a career in the mattress industry could lead to a job in audiology. Steve continues to be an expert in folklore and Renaissance music. Did anyone catch him talking about the Easter Bunny on *CBS This Morning* in April? Joel is busy being an attorney, and a dad to 4-year-old Ellison, and Colin is still showing up to teach economics at Rutgers. As for me, my younger daughter started kindergarten in the fall, and I, too, finally get to experience a life where both children are in the same place during the school day and follow the same academic calendar. Time flying has its perks!

## 1991

**Margie Kim**  
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**Jacqueline Harounian**, a partner in the AV-rated (the highest rating a law firm can receive in peer reviews) matrimonial firm Wisselman, Harounian & Associates in Great Neck, N.Y., published her first book, *Divorce Reality Check: Smart Split Solutions for Civility, Clarity and Common Sense*. It is available in major book stores and online. In addition, this past fall Jacqueline presented at national conferences for the Association of Divorce Financial Planners and at the Long Island Tax Professionals Symposium.

**Warren St. John** is editor-in-chief of Patch, a community-specific news, information and engagement network. He is the author of the national bestsellers *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Road Trip into the Heart of Fan Mania* and *Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference*. A former reporter for *The New York Times*, Warren has also written extensively for *The New Yorker*, *New York Observer* and *Wired*.

**Betsy Kalin** has been busy traveling the country with her award-winning documentary (10 awards!), *East LA Interchange*, which chronicles the story of Boyle Heights, Calif., one of America's great places of activism, social change and diversity. Betsy was happy to catch up with **Bob Kolker** and Vera Scanlon '90 at a March screening in NYC; at the time of writing she was looking forward to seeing more Columbia friends on October 30, when her film was scheduled to be screened as the Best of Festival Award Winner at the Arlington International Film Festival in Arlington, Mass. She has also been doing a campus screening tour from UCLA to Northwestern to Dartmouth and hopes to bring the film to Columbia soon.

In December 2015, Betsy was profiled by CAA Arts Access. Go to [alumniarts.columbia.edu](http://alumniarts.columbia.edu) and search "Betsy Kalin." For more information about the film, visit [eastlainterchange.com](http://eastlainterchange.com).

Hope you are staying warm this winter! I would love to hear from



In July, several members of the Class of 1990 gathered at Rachel Cowan Jacobs' home in Silver Spring, Md. Back row, left to right: Dan Sackrowitz, Pete Neisuler, Judy Shampianier and Sharon Rogers; and front row, left to right: Colin Campbell, Joel Tranter, Jacobs and Steve Winick.

more of you at my email address at the top of this column. Until next time, cheers!

## 1992

REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 1-4, 2017

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Keep the Class Notes coming, folks! Don't make me have to start making things up here!

I first heard from **Brad Randleman**. Sorry, I mean doctor and professor Brad Randleman! "I'd like to report a job change!" he announced.

Brad and his wife and family have made a big cross-country move. After 18 years in Atlanta, including 17 at Emory and holding the Hughes Professorship in Ophthalmology there, Brad is going to be professor of ophthalmology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and director of the Cornea, External Disease and Refractive Surgery Service at the USC Roski Eye Institute in Los Angeles. "Fight on!" he says.

I also received a long, lovely note from **Will Jackson**, a first-time Class Notes submitter. He and his wife, Arwen, live in Pearland, Texas, with their children. Son Mitchell is a senior in high school and is gearing up to leave his parents and younger sisters (Madison, Taylor and Riley) behind for college.

Will writes: "I came to a realization last year that my 20-plus-year journey in the corporate world was no longer fulfilling my dreams. So, as countless Lions have done before me, I grabbed the nearest parachute and jumped out of the plane ... at least I hope that was a parachute!"

The parachute? A technology start-up called MyFamilyPlan. Rather than butcher his prose, I'll let Will describe what he's doing: "Our Family Effectiveness Solutions will allow the entire family (mom, dad and kids) to collaborate in a private,

online environment around life's most important topics." The goal is to "make life a little more effective for mom and dad, while preparing the next generation of digital citizens to be even more effective than we are," he says.

You can find them on "all the standard social media," Will says. "And, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly to catch up. Columbia, and many of my fellow Lions, comprise many of my fondest memories and enduring friendships. I look forward to hearing from you!"

Obviously, Will is wrong here. If you write to anyone to share an update from your life, you're writing to me (olivier.knox@gmail.com).

## 1993

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Hello, CC'93! The column took a hiatus for this issue but will be back in 2017. Let's start the New Year off right by taking a few minutes to send in a note. What are your plans for the New Year? Keep your classmates up to date by writing to either of the addresses at the top of the column or by using CCT's Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 1994

**Leyla Kokmen**  
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Plenty of news this time around, so let's dive right in. **Anna Ivey** launched a software product, inli.ne, a digital tool to help students with their online college applications. "I'm based out of Los Angeles, and we have some nice alumni events here," she writes. "Always happy to see other Columbia people in SoCal."

**Orly Mishan** sent a note that she's lived in Newton, Mass., for 13 years with her kids, Abe (7) and Tamara (12), and her husband, Tim Crawford GSAS'01, an international relations professor at Boston Col-

lege. "The kids are old enough that we're starting to do more interesting travel," Orly writes. "Enjoyed a mother/daughter trip to London in June. We arrived the morning of the Brexit returns, which made for some interesting discussions. I reconnected with old friends, attended a Clinton fundraiser hosted by Leslie Vinjamuri GSAS'01 (who is at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London) and saw the city like a tourist for the first time since I was my daughter's age.

"My daughter gave me a historical tour of the National Portrait Gallery. Her favorite thing was the day at Hampton Court, which is run as a living history museum — very interactive and fun for kids. Unfortunately she's not yet old enough to shop with — particularly sad given the great exchange rates post-Brexit!"

Also in London during the summer was **Kim Yao**, who reports that she's had a number of fun travels with family to various destinations including London, Iceland, Venice, Maine, Oregon, Rhode Island and Maryland. Kim lives and works in lower Manhattan as a principal for her firm, Architecture Research Office. She taught a historic preservation studio at GSAPP this past fall and planned to join the board of AIANY (the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects) in 2017 as VP of public outreach. Her kids, Maximo (7) and Sarabeth (10), attend PS-IS 276 and her husband, Paul Lewis, is an architect with the firm LTL Architects and is on the faculty at Princeton.

**Negar Nabavinejad LAW'97** sent a few highlights: "Married with three kids, practicing law at Goldman Sachs and involved with Columbia College via the Alumni Representative Committee." She adds that she most often sees **Russ Sacks, Shawn Landres** and **Shahzad Bhatti**.

**Karthik Ramanathan** was named to the advisory board of the *Journal of Portfolio Management*. He works for Fidelity Investments and notes that he and his wife, Innessa Manning BC'94, live in Lexington, Mass., and look forward to attending the annual Columbia/Harvard football game each year with their boys.

Change is afoot for a few of our classmates. **Ocean MacAdams** writes that in August, after 26 years in New York, he and his wife decided to "head back to where it all began."

"We packed our bags and moved to San Francisco. It's a bit of a homecoming for us, since we grew up together in the Bay Area," Ocean writes. "I recently joined GoPro, where I oversee the media division (the folks who make all the crazy videos you see everywhere), and our three kids are quickly becoming Golden State Warriors fans. I'd love to hear from any '94 folks here."

Sounds like there will be at least one more classmate out there soon: **Mark Robilotti** says he is joining private equity firm TPG as managing director and deputy general counsel of TPG Growth, its venture capital and middle market buyout fund. "After commencing work in New York, the family will relocate to San Francisco in 2017," he writes.

And **Tom Lecky** reports that after 17 years at Christie's, he stepped down as head of the books and manuscripts department and took over as proprietor of Riverrun Books & Manuscripts in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. "I will continue to specialize in rare, antiquarian and unusual books, and will continue to appear on *Antiques Roadshow*, which I have done since 1999," he writes. The business concentrates not only on buying and selling material but also on consultancy and appraising. Tom and his wife, Amanda Lecky BC'94, have two sons, John (15) and Wyatt (12).

Thanks for all the updates! Keep 'em coming.

## 1995

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Thanks to **Ryan Poscablo, Hilton Romanski, Jessica Zimmerman** and **Emily Hu** for answering my call for updates. I urge others to take a few minutes and drop me an email at jrf10@columbia.edu.

**Jessica Zimmerman** became senior rabbi of Congregation Sherith Israel in San Francisco last July and spent her first two months of the job on maternity leave following the birth of her son, Zachary. Says Jessica: "The best part of my hospital stay after delivery was the visit of the physician covering the obstetrical service — Dr. **Emily Hu** PS'00!"

Zachary and sister Arielle (2) have been keeping Jessica and her husband busy.

Jessica's news gave me a great reason to get in touch with Emily, an old friend from Carman. She lives in San Francisco with her husband, John Tang LAW'96, and their boys, Derek (6) and Morgan (4).

"Amazingly, I am still at the same job I've had since finishing my residency at Stanford," Emily writes. She moved to the Bay Area after graduating from P&S and is in her 12th year of private ob/gyn group practice. She delivers babies at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco and also has a full-time office practice of ob/gyn. "Life is pretty busy but I feel lucky to have a healthy family and a job that I enjoy so much," Emily writes.

Also in the Bay Area is **Hilton Romanski**. Upon Cisco's CEO transition in spring 2015, Hilton was appointed Cisco's chief strategy officer by the company's CEO and Hilton's boss, Chuck Robbins. "We've managed to increase the price of the company's stock more than 30 percent since last year and I am having fun with my responsibilities for Cisco's corporate strategy, M&A, equity investments, alliance partnerships and innovation centers," Hilton writes. "It's been a wild, sometimes tough, ride, but a really great one."

Hilton has been active in trying to bring more women and people of color into tech. He recently received All Star Code's Visionary Award in East Hampton, N.Y. All Star Code is dedicated to the mission of helping young men of color learn how to

program and code. "I'm still passionate about surfing and motorcycles, but spend less time on boards and bikes than I would like," he writes. "Overall, life is good."

Hilton's wife, Emily Meyer, continues to dominate the world of children's clothes with Tea Collection. I can attest — they are popular on the Upper West Side, and my daughter and I are big fans! Emily founded the company 14 years ago; it's an independent, profitable, female-run company "that continues to kick ass," Hilton says.

Hilton and Emily's son, Clement (8), and daughter, Georgia (6), are having fun growing up in Palo Alto, Calif., where he's a climber and she's a dancer and artist.

**Ryan Poscablo** was for six years a federal prosecutor in Manhattan, conducting investigations into bank, wire, mortgage and tax fraud, as well as identity theft, cybersecurity and money laundering. He also led investigations that led to convictions for racketeering, terrorism and violent crime. He is now in private practice and opened the New York office of litigation firm Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila. His practice centers on civil litigation, white-collar criminal defense and regulatory compliance.

Ryan met his wife, Christine Schessler Poscablo, in law school. They live in Brooklyn with their two sons and daughter. Ryan earned a master's in public policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

## 1996

**Ana S. Salper**  
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Greetings, classmates! Alas, after all of the reunion news, I only have a meager report this time around. Thanks to all of you who wrote in!

**Chris Holst** is an intellectual property attorney with his own practice in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He also serves clients throughout the United States and abroad; his field of expertise is in copyright and trademark law. **Catherine Miller** is assistant dean for administration at Florida State University College of Law.

It was great seeing both Catherine and Chris at reunion last year.

**Jen Abreu** (née Banks) writes that she lived in Lisbon, Portugal, for five years, where her husband is from and where her son, Fergus (3), was born. Jen and her family then moved to Washington, D.C., where Jen was a fundraiser for the Brookings Institution. The family recently relocated to Boston, where Jen launched a nonprofit and fundraising consultancy, Banks Grants. Jen writes that she had a great time at reunion seeing **Julia Lyon** (with whom she roomed in Carman for the weekend — apparently, sleeping in those twin beds was a stark reminder that we are no longer 18), **Caitlin McElroy**, **Dulcie Lin**, **Nadia Kihiczak**, **Jun Lee**, **Juan Tinoco** and **Pavel Vaynshtok SEAS'96**, among others. Reunion inspired her and **Kate Cronk SEAS'96**, **Mike Lee** and **Pam Garas** to have a Boston-based mini-reunion with their families. Jen describes watching their children play together as "surreal and delightful."

If there are any other Boston '96ers out there, feel free to look Jen up to join other mini-reunions she may organize.

**Klancy Miller** writes that she, too, had a wonderful time at reunion. [Editor's note: Read more about Miller in "Bookshelf."] She saw **Alison Hills**, who recently moved from London to Texas for work. She also enjoyed seeing **Stacie Hoffmeister** (née Sumter), **Rose Kob** and **Frank Wang SEAS'96**, among others. Klancy attended the Class of 1996 panel, which discussed the creation of Columbia's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race; while there she saw her good friend and former roommate **Robin Shulman**, whose husband, **Marcel Agüeros**, was one of the panelists.

Klancy recently saw **Lauren Klein** in Paris. They studied together at Reid Hall during junior year (when I was there too!). Lauren has been living in Paris for 18 years but is relocating to Barcelona. In addition, Klancy sat next to **Vivien Labaton BC'96** at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Vivien was there with her colleagues from Make It Work, an organization she co-founded and co-directs that works to advance economic security for women and families.

That's it for now. Please keep sending in notes to ana.salper@nyumc.org! Having attended five of Bruce's shows on the E Street

Band's River Tour this year, I feel compelled to leave you with this:

"The great challenge of adulthood is holding on to your idealism after you lose your innocence."

— Bruce Springsteen

## 1997

REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 1-4, 2017

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REUNION2017

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CC'97, where is the love? Not much news reported by all of you this round, so I hope you are saving it all to share with us at our 20th reunion! Hope you will join us Thursday, June 1-Sunday, June 4. To learn more, go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/reunion-weekend-2017. And in the meantime, please send me your updates so that I can share them in the Spring 2017 issue of *CCT*: srk12@columbia.edu.

I do have one exciting update: **Erich Anderer** was appointed chief of neurosurgery at NYU Lutheran Medical Center in June. He has been a clinical assistant professor at NYU Langone Medical Center in Manhattan since July 2010. Erich simultaneously is an attending physician in the division of neurological surgery and in the department of orthopedic surgery at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, most recently as its director of neurotrauma.

## 1998

**Sandie Angulo Chen**  
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I hope you all had a wonderful 2016.

Congratulations are in order for **Dan Kellner**, who was awarded the Order of Ikkos by the United States Olympic Committee this past summer because one of his foil students

Columbia  
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facebook.com/alumnicc

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more.



earned a bronze medal at the 2016 Olympic Games. Established just before the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the Order of Ikkos gives each U.S. Olympic or Paralympic medalist the opportunity to recognize one individual for his or her role in helping the medalist achieve his/her Olympic dreams. Each awardee received a medal uniquely designed to represent the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Dan received his award from Race Imboden, the bronze medalist for the men's team foil (the first team to bring home the bronze medal since the 1932 games).

Great work, Dan, on your amazing coaching success!

**Daniel Jean-Baptiste** announced that in September he launched Grid-NY, a guide for those looking for fun new dining, shopping and entertainment experiences in New York City. "We don't list everything, just what we think you'll really enjoy," he says. His site also highlights "featured New Yorkers" and covers not only Manhattan but also the other boroughs.

Congratulations, Daniel!

**Annie Rawlings Chechitelli SEAS'98** shared on Facebook that she moved from the Washington D.C., area to Seattle to start a job in Amazon's education group. Her family of five is nicely settled and happy in Mercer Island, which is surrounded by Lake Washington. "We all have Seahawks gear and KEEN shoes," she says.

Hope your 2017 is starting off great! Please send in a note to either of the addresses at the top of the page or through CCT's Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.



Michael Saarinen '00 and Karen Rosenberg were married on June 25 at the Larchmont (N.Y.) Yacht Club. At the reception, left to right: Eric Czepycha '00, the groom and Tara Gangadhar '00.

## 1999

**Adrienne Carter and Jenna Johnson**  
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With the holiday season just behind us, we have a couple of glad tidings from our intrepid classmates.

**Sahil Godiwala** took the suburban leap, moving to Montclair, N.J., in 2013, after years in Brooklyn and San Francisco. "There is no greater joy in this world than commuting to/from Manhattan. None," he writes. Luckily he found a silver lining: "At least we have space to store the back issues of *The New Yorker* we haven't gotten to yet."

Naturally, there is also more space for Sahil's expanding brood. His son, Thomas, was born in April 2015, joining his daughter, Margot, who was born in December 2010. Sahil's wife, Sarah, is a psychotherapist with her own practice in the city. Sahil left the Federal Reserve Bank of New York at the end of 2013 after about five years in the legal function, where he was an officer and counsel in the enforcement/litigation/investigations group; he also did some crisis-related policy work. He joined the Bank of New York Mellon in January 2014 as the global head of the supervisory and regulatory practice group within the legal department. "We're all doing well," Sahil writes. "It's been fun catching up with people at weddings, reunions, on Facebook and so on."

**Jason Scherer SEAS'10** brings us news from the wilds of Gramercy, where he has an extremely long commute across town to Google. A single dad to a daughter, Jason is a software engineer on Google Play Music, a streaming service similar to Spotify. Marketing plug from Jason: "Everyone should try it out!" In his spare time, Jason makes electronic music. He also decided one Columbia degree simply wasn't enough so he earned an M.S. from SEAS, where he worked with professors Eitan Grinspun, Al Aho and Dan Ellis. In another fun Columbia connection, Dan now works at Google, too.

Make it a 2017 goal to send in a Class Note! You can write to



Several members of the Class of 2000 gathered in the Black Hills of South Dakota for a July 4, 2015, post-wedding barbecue. Front row, left to right: Doug Marvin '00, groom Dan Keane '00, bride Jennifer Tomscha and Evan Hutchison '00; and back row, left to right: Jonathan Ryan '00, James Renovitch '00, Brendan Colthurst '00, Bill Russell '00 and Alex MacFarlane '00.

us at adeliz@gmail.com or jennajohnson@gmail.com, or use the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 2000

**Prisca Bae**  
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**Dan Keane** and Jennifer Tomscha were married in the Black Hills of South Dakota on July 3, 2015. Dan reports: "Jenny and I live in Shanghai, where Jenny's the associate director of the writing program at NYU Shanghai. I teach writing there, too. Our son, Wilder, was born there in April. Life is good."

**Michael Saarinen** and Karen Rosenberg were married on June 25 at the Larchmont (N.Y.) Yacht Club.

Since 2012, **Ben Strauss** has been living in Pittsfield, Mass., with his wife, Jessie Fried, and sons, Morrie Fried (8) and Ruben Fried (6). After being senior counsel for the Americas region at Saudi Basic Industries Corp., a global leader in the petrochemicals industry, Ben accepted a position as VP, associate general counsel, of Berkshire Bank in May. Ben is proud to be a part of "America's Most Exciting Bank" because of its focus on helping people and serving local communities. Ben and his family love the Berkshires and invite everyone to visit.

Congrats to **Kimberlyn Silverman** (née Trotter), who was named the

2015 DUII Prosecutor of the Year by the Oregon DUII Multi-Disciplinary Training Task Force on April 28.

Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column, or by using CCT's Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 2001

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**Sam Polk** wrote that his memoir, *For The Love of Money*, was released on July 19; on July 30, he and a co-founder launched a social enterprise, Everytable, that makes healthful food affordable for everyone. Sam's other big news is that his son, Jude Vere Polk, was born in August.

Congratulations to Sam!

**Jasper Cooper** and his wife, Josiejing, welcomed their son, Zed Tang Cooper, on August 3, weighing in at 6 lbs., 5 oz. Zed joins a sister.

Congratulations to Jasper and Josiejing!

**Michelle Grzan Bass** and her husband, Joel Bass, welcomed Emilia Ivana Bass on August 4. Emilia ("Mila") joins sister Zara.

Congratulations to Michelle and Joel!

**Stephen Luk** wrote that **Brian Gum** married Hannah Kim on

July 30 in Claremont, Calif. **Stephen Luk**, **Kevin Yao SEAS'01**, **Evan Sidarto SEAS'01**, **Cho-Nan Tsai SEAS'01**, **Lani Park**, **Ashran Jen** and **Cindy Chen SEAS'01** were in attendance.

Congratulations to **Brian** and **Hannah!**

**Ronen Landa** and his wife, **Yael**, welcomed their second child, son **Idan Erez Landa**, on September 6. **Idan** joins sister **Adi**.

Congratulations to **Yael** and **Ronen!**

Make it a New Year's resolution to send in a Class Note. I'm at [jrg53@columbia.edu](mailto:jrg53@columbia.edu) or you can use CCT's Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

Best wishes for a wonderful 2017 to all!

## 2002

### REUNION WEEKEND JUNE 1-4, 2017

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REUNION 2017

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Hi, all! Please send updates to [soniah57@gmail.com](mailto:soniah57@gmail.com). I would love to hear from more of you!

**Richard Mammana** was elected as a member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, the third-oldest learned society in the United States. The Connecticut Academy sponsors eight lectures during the academic year, publishes monographs and several academic series, and supports research through grants.

**Liana Coya** has a new job at Better Mortgage. She is its chief valuation officer and received her Senior Residential Appraiser designation from the Appraisal Institute.

**Pooja Agarwal** finished her LL.M. from Penn Law in May while continuing her work as associate general counsel for Penn.

**Anna Martinez** writes, "I'm a busy mom of a 2-year-old, and I have landed the job of my dreams. I am the supervising attorney of the

Spanish-speaking client division of **Franklin D. Azar & Associates**, a large personal injury practice in Denver. I lead a team of five bilingual attorneys who serve Spanish-speaking clients. We are the only law firm with a specialty division of bilingual lawyers — not just bilingual staff."

## 2003

**Michael Novielli**  
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I was back on campus in early October for Alumni Leaders Weekend, my first one in the seven years since I left New York. It was exciting to connect with fellow Columbians from around the world and to see firsthand how far both the College and the University have advanced in key areas such as alumni engagement and renovation to our campus. I hope that I'll be able to see many of you at our 15th reunion in two years, if not sooner!

While in town I caught up with **Daniel Dykema** and **Nikki "Ashleigh" Thompson BC'03**, who just recently gave birth to a daughter, **Naomi Emilia Dykema**. **Nikki** updated me on **Shelly Mittal's** wedding which she, **Daniel** and a number of other Columbians attended, including **Michelle Hodara**, **Jessica Berenyi**, **Dana Zullo**, **William Hu**, **Gaurav Shah**, **Raheleh Hatami**, **Jessica Meksavan BC'05**, **Rebecca Capua BC'03**, **Archana Pinnapureddy BC'03**, **Kanchana Pinnapureddy BC'03**, **Joyce Chang Anderson '02**, **Melissa Nguyen BC'04** and **Ilene Weintraub '02**.

I also caught up with **Eaton Lin**, who is an assistant professor at Weill Cornell Medical College and assistant attending radiologist at the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. **Steven Chao** is also at NewYork Presbyterian/Queens as a colorectal surgeon and an assistant professor of surgery at Weill Cornell Medical Center. **Lorraine Liang** recently graduated from residency at Rochester and started a job at Good Samaritan Hospital as a urologist with the Suffolk Urology Associates.

**Charlotte Will** (née Evans) writes, "My husband, **Tyler**, and I welcomed our son, **Arthur Livingston Cutting**



HOUSE OF TALENT STUDIO

**Shelly Mittal '03** married **Prashant Ranyal** on May 29. In attendance were (left to right) **Chris Anderson**, **Joyce Chang Anderson '02**, **Michelle Hodara '03**, **Curtis Saueressig**, **Melissa Nguyen BC'04**, **Ilene Weintraub '02**, the groom, the bride, **Jessica Berenyi '03**, **Dana Zullo '03**, **William Hu '03**, **Jessica Meksavan BC'05**, **Gaurav Shah '03** and **Raheleh Hatami '03**.

**Will**, to the world on April 16. I recently returned to Google after a 5½-month maternity leave. After being a die-hard New Yorker, I haven't quite yet accepted that my son will be a California kid, but we're still enjoying life in San Francisco, where we get to see **Christina Mather** and **Henry Pruitt**."

**Lindsay Shrier Bourkoff** writes, "After being a financial adviser since graduating, last year I pursued the next stage in my professional development and became a certified financial planner. I practice at my firm, **Shrier Wealth Management**. I enjoy my career and have found advising clients on all stages of their financial life to be fun, challenging and stimulating. Additionally, I'm treasurer of **Beth Jacob Congregation** and provide pro bono financial advice to recently divorced individuals through **The Jewish Divorce Assistance Center** of Los Angeles. On the home front, **Natan Bourkoff** and I live in Los Angeles and are raising three 'tween kids! Our oldest son is only eight years away from college — ahhhh!"

**Adam Kushner** and his wife, **Maria Simon**, welcomed their son, **Felix Parks Kushner**, to the world — nine months to the day after their wedding. **Adam** writes: "Felix is named partly for various luminaries (**Mendelssohn**, **Frankfurter**) but mostly for the luck and joy we feel in having him. **Parks** is for **Rosa Parks**. **Big brother Jack** (5) loves the baby and always wants to hold him."

## 2004

**Jaydip Mahida**  
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Hello CC'04! **Mark Wood** recently graduated from an oral/maxillofacial surgery program at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He is an oral surgeon in private practice in Los Angeles.

Please send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun but please also reach out to 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.

You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or the CCT Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 2005

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**David Lehman**: "This year I started a 501c3 foundation dedicated to teaching children from slum areas hard and soft skills through photography. We are currently in Kenya and Haiti, with



almost 400 students. We use photography as a vehicle to teach highly translatable, yet basic, skills — typing, English and computer usage all are required with digital photography. Check us out at [photostart.org](http://photostart.org).

During the summer, **Emily Schwarz** moved to San Francisco and works at Stanford. She is looking forward to connecting more with Columbians on the West Coast!

From **Jacob Shell**: “I started my fifth year as an assistant professor of geography and urban studies at Temple in Philadelphia. In 2015 I published a book, *Transportation and Revolt: Pigeons, Mules, Canals and the Vanishing Geographies of Subversive Mobility*. I am working on a second book project, about the use of trained elephants for transportation in the Indian-Burmese borderlands.”

**Martina Sherman** (née Brendel) is pleased to announce that she was recently named a partner at DeBofsky, Sherman & Casciari (formerly DeBofsky & Associates), a Chicago law firm specializing in plaintiff-side employee benefits litigation.

**Jeremiah Boswell**: “As of November I accepted a role with the NBA to develop a curriculum and content for youth basketball.”

From **Marisa Marconi**: “I am excited to share that after 10 years as a project manager, I ventured out on my own this past summer and started my own business plan writing and consulting firm. I specialize in writing business plans that accompany immigration petitions for immigrant and non-immigrant

investors and workers. I live in Portland, Ore., with my wife and our son (2), who already knows the Columbia fight song word for word.”

From **Kate Lane Shaw**: “In March 2016 my husband, Blake Shaw SEAS’05, SEAS’11, and I welcomed our son, William. We’re thrilled to report that he is a happy and healthy baby and loves spending time with his friends Winfield (son of **Jessica Fjeld**), Miles (son of **Nate Bliss** and **Amira Ibrahim Bliss** BC’05), Mirele (daughter of **Mike Ciccarone**), Aviv (son of **Honora Burnett** BC’05) and **Eloise** (daughter of **Anya Cherneff** and **Bennett Cohen**). Will looks forward to joining them all in the Class of 2038.”

From **Jenny Madden** (née Korcek): “My husband, **Greg Madden**, and I are happy to announce that we gave birth to a son last year and recently celebrated his first birthday with a number of fellow alums. We live in Jersey City, N.J.; I own an interior design firm, **Jenny Madden Design**, and **Greg** works for **JPMorgan Chase**.”

From **Alexandra “Xan” Nowakowski**: “Hello from my new house in Orlando! As I write this, we are feeling the first impacts of Hurricane Matthew and are expected to receive a direct hit later tonight. I still wouldn’t be anywhere else if I could! In July I was promoted to assistant professor with the departments of geriatrics and behavioral sciences and social medicine at FSU College of Medicine, where I have been faculty since January 2014. I then transferred in September to our Orlando

Medical School Regional Campus — a move I’d been eagerly looking forward to for quite some time — to forge community partnerships in life course health research and to help build out our clinical research network. I’ve dreamed of living in Orlando since I was a teenager, so this move has been a huge upgrade, even with the hurricane taking aim at my neighborhood!

“This summer brought exciting changes in other ways as well. I guess the first of those is that I married my amazing colleague and life partner of five years, **J Sumerau**, on June 25! We had a tiny and entirely self-planned wedding at my parents’ home in Tallahassee and enjoyed every minute of our special day. Because of my move to Orlando, my spouse and I now spend most of our time here instead of driving 4½ hours back and forth between Tallahassee and Tampa. We also still have our little apartment in Tampa, as **J** remains on the faculty at University of Tampa and loves it there. Our next big, exciting change will be submitting the full manuscript package for our edited volume on trauma-informed health research, which will likely come out in late 2017. Overall it has been a great year for us and we’re looking forward to many more together in life and in scholarship!”

From **Jennie Magiera** (née Cho): “I recently wrote a book, *Courageous Adventures: Navigating Obstacles to Discover Classroom Innovation*. It’s based on my TEDx talk, ‘Power to the Pupil.’ It explores how educators can find the courage to take risks in school and create opportunities for their students.”

From **Kunal Gupta**: “I began a startup to make a smart community organizing assistant for social movements at <https://better.space>. I also enjoyed returning to the Columbia campus to hear [journalist and activist] **Shaun King** speak in October.”

From **Natasha Shapiro**: “I’m an attending neonatologist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens and have moved to Forest Hills, Queens, with my husband, and girls **Ellie** (almost 4) and **Evie** (almost 2). Would love to get together with anyone else in the area! My email is [ns2020@gmail.com](mailto:ns2020@gmail.com).”

**Jonathan Treitel** recently joined **CenterSquare Investment Management**, an investment firm that has

specialized in real-asset investment management since 1987. He is the energy sector leader on the listed-infrastructure team. **Jonathan** recently revisited **Morningside Heights** while in town for a conference and was very happy that **Max Soha** is still in operation. His wife, **Stephanie Feldman** BC’05, recently celebrated her first year as a professor at **Arcadia** in its M.F.A. program. She is working on her second novel after the recent publication of *The Angel of Losses* in paperback. **Jonathan** and **Stephanie** live in the Philadelphia suburbs with their two daughters.

**Andrew Rios** reports: “On September 16 I married **Puja Patel** (whom I met in grad school at UC Berkeley) in Sonoma, Calif., surrounded by our closest friends and family.”

From **Jeffrey Schwartz**: “I earned a master’s in addiction counseling in 2015 and became a licensed associate substance abuse counselor in Arizona not long ago. I provide group and individual counseling for drug and alcohol addiction and am undergoing training to treat problem and compulsive gambling. My website is [SchwartzSubstanceAbuseTherapy.com](http://SchwartzSubstanceAbuseTherapy.com) and I can also be found on [psychologytoday.com](http://psychologytoday.com). I’m planning to start a Ph.D. program in the next year or two and I am looking forward to returning to CU for a visit — the first since 2005!”

**Katie Herman** and **Mike Noble** welcomed their son, **August “Gus” Herbert Herman Noble**, on January 4, 2016. **Keri Wachter** and her husband, **Brendan Norwood** PS’09, welcomed their first child, **Estelle**, in July.

**Stuart Weinstock** SOA’09 and **Aliza Weinstock** BC’05 are proud to welcome their first legacy applicant, **David Benjamin**, born on September 8. **Stuart** is an adjunct professor of film studies at Columbia and is the film programmer for Columbia’s Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies. **Aliza** teaches second grade at the **Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan**. **David** is hard at work on tummy time.

From **Mallory Jensen** LAW’12: “My husband, **Brian Crist**, and I welcomed our daughter, **Amalthea**, into this world on August 24. We live in San Francisco, where **Brian** is a lawyer for **Uber** and I am a lawyer with **O’Melveny & Myers**. We can’t wait to bring **Amalthea** to New York and to Columbia for her first stroll down **College Walk**!”



Several members of the Class of '05 met with friends and their future Lions. Left to right: **Mike Ciccarone '05** with daughter **Mirele** and wife, **Sophie**; **Jeff Engler '05**; **Jessica Fjeld '05** with son **Winfield** and husband, **Ben**; **Kate Lane Shaw '05** with son **William** and husband, **Blake Shaw SEAS'05**; and **Amira Ibrahim Bliss BC'05** with husband, **Nate Bliss '05**, and son **Miles**.



Thanks to all who wrote in! CCT wishes the Class of 2005 a happy and healthy start to 2017. If you would like to take on the class correspondent role — a great way to stay connected to the College and your classmates — please reach out to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu).

## 2006

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I hope you had a joyous holiday season and a great start to 2017! Thanks, as always, for your submissions and for checking out this column.

**Lindsay Granger** married Michael Weaver Jr. on July 2 in Park City, Utah, and was surrounded by Columbia College love. **Jeanine Edwards**, **Francesca Black** (née Eugene), **Danielle Satterwhite**, **Alicia Harper**, **Rebecca Phipps** and **Namrata Khimani** were bridesmaids, with **John-Michael Grzan**, **Carly Baratt** and **Josh Rodriguez '05** in attendance. In addition, the whole affair was captured beautifully by **Molly Condit**. Shout out to the Columbia Admissions staff, circa fall 2001, for admitting these amazing people, who have become lifelong friends!

**Jonathan Ward** writes, “At Oxford, I recently submitted my

Ph.D. thesis on China-India relations and followed that by spending a month in Washington, D.C., as a visiting fellow at the Center for a New American Security working on China-India related projects and also doing some public speaking.”

After nine years with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, **Emily Hawkins** recently accepted a position with Macy’s as director of media relations. She plans to continue blogging Broadway reviews at [To See Or Not To See \(tsontsnyc.com\)](http://To See Or Not To See (tsontsnyc.com)) and to keep close ties with the arts community.

**Beth Katz** writes, “It was an exciting year! After finishing my Ph.D. in policy analysis at the Pardee RAND Graduate School, I began working in institutional research, with a focus on student equity, at a community college in Los Angeles. My son, Hayden, was born just in time to attend Reunion Weekend 2016 with my husband, Andrew Hemingway, and me. Hayden went to his first Columbia lecture at 19 days and slept through the whole thing! I so enjoyed seeing many old (but not that old) faces at reunion and I would love to reunite with classmates in the L.A. area. I know you’re out there!”

**Jaime A. Madell** and **Negisa Balluku SEAS'06** are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Luna Balluku Madell. Jaime is a derivatives attorney at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, and Negisa is a bankruptcy and restructuring attorney at Kaye Scholer.



CAT PENNINGA

Sean Wilkes '06 (center) recently was married in Sarasota, Fla., accompanied by groomsmen Bob Wray '06 (left) and best man Brian Wagner '06.

**Michael DiBiasio** released his first feature film, *The Videoblogs*, about mental health in the age of tech. The film is available on iTunes, Verizon Fios, Amazon Video and other platforms.

**Sean Wilkes** writes, “I recently was married to the lovely Moira Fischman in Sarasota, Fla., and very much enjoyed and appreciated the company of my groomsmen **Bob Wray** and best man **Brian Wagner**. Moira and I have since moved to Honolulu, where I am completing my residency in psychiatry at Tripler Army Medical Center.”

Until next time! Send updates to [mo2057@columbia.edu](mailto:mo2057@columbia.edu) or through CCT’s Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

**Kasia Nikhamina** shares, “Red-beard Bikes is celebrating four years in business! We recently expanded our service department and set up a dedicated fit studio across the street. Our fleet of bikes includes Parlee, Mosaic, Seven, Brompton, Giant/Liv, Specialized, Gunnar and All-City. My husband, Ilya, and I invite you to DUMBO to say hi, check out the shop and try out some bikes if you’re inclined! If your bike gives you pain, get in touch to book a fitting ([kasia@redbeardbikes.com](mailto:kasia@redbeardbikes.com)).”

**Edward Hambleton** writes, “The Texas Chili Queens food truck is going strong after a successful first year! It’s the world’s only drag queen food truck and is owned and operated by yours truly.”

Earlier this year, **Earnest Sweat** was appointed the first investor-in-residence at Backstage Capital. He says, “I’m responsible for leading the investment team’s due diligence process and providing portfolio companies with sales and growth strategy. If you know any interesting, early-stage startup teams please have them contact me on Twitter at @earnestsweat!” Earnest also continues to share his insights as a venture capitalist to first-time founders through his blog, *The Importance of Reading Earnest*.

I hope you all had a great 2016. Share your news for the new year by emailing me at [david.donner.chait@gmail.com](mailto:david.donner.chait@gmail.com).

## 2007

REUNION WEEKEND  
JUNE 1–4, 2017

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REUNION2017

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Thank you everyone (as always) for the updates; it’s so exciting to hear what our classmates are up to. **Liz Miller** (née Epstein) writes, “**Jonathan Miller** and I have some exciting news to share! We welcomed our second son, Zachary Levi, on September 11. He joins Nathaniel (14 months). We are overjoyed with happiness.”

**Simeon Siegel** welcomed his third son, Micah, in July.

Congratulations, all! Business is also booming for many of our classmates ...

## 2008

**Neda Navab**  
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**Neda Navab** married her best friend, Andrew ElBardissi, in an intimate ceremony in Vallery, France, on July 22. The couple met in 2011 while attending Harvard Business School. Three Columbia alumnae were in the



SHAUN ROBY, OF SUNSET PHOTOS

Lindsay Granger '06 married Michael Weaver Jr. on July 2 in Park City, Utah, surrounded by Columbia College friends. Left to right: Joshua Rodriguez '05, Jeanine Edwards '06, Francesca Black '06 (née Eugene), Danielle Satterwhite '06, Alicia Harper '06, Lindsay Granger '06, Rebecca Phipps '06, Molly Condit '06, Namrata Khimani '06, John-Michael Grzan '06 and Carly Baratt '06.

bridal party, including Neda's sister and maid of honor, Negin Navab '12, as well as Neda's undergraduate roommates, **Amanda Rosencrans** and **Lauren Abbott**. Also in attendance were **Danielle Slutzky**, **Vania Herdoon**, **Daniel Rumennik '07** and **Wayne Ting '06**.

In other wedding news, **Max Zeiberg SEAS'08** married Meng Zhou at Bridal Veil Lakes in Portland, Ore. In attendance were **Danny Zuffante**, **Ben Hansen**, **Hans Sahni**, **Jessica Lee-Hansen**, **Paula Navratil**, **Artia Moghbel SEAS'08**, **Jessica Shynn BC'08** and **Leon Levy**.

Keeping the happy wedding announcements going is **Andre Burey**, a psychiatry resident at NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell, who married Laura Galinko (Tufts '11), an anesthesiology resident at NYP Weill Cornell, in a traditional Jewish ceremony on September 4 in Garrison, N.Y. Many College alumni were in attendance: **Daniel Camacho**, **Laura Cole**, **Christopher Haas**, **JoAnn Kintz**, **Lucas Martin**, **Jivaji More**, **Mona Soliman '11**, **Eve Torres**, **Kimberly Traube** and **Sarah Wansley** (newly married to Tommy Crawford, an '09 Yale grad).

**Elizabeth Smith** writes, "This has been an exciting year for me. In January, I received my black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu from Renzo Gracie after more than a decade of practice. It was incredibly humbling and overwhelming! On the career front, I left American Express to

pursue my passion in wine. After an amazing 10 weeks at the International Culinary Center, I passed my Court of Master Sommeliers certified exam in September. I'll be a wine consultant at Astor Wines & Spirits starting in October — come by and see me any time!"

**Rachel Belt** left Haiti after five years and has moved to Switzerland to take a job with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, an international organization that brings together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries. Congrats, Rachel!

**Cara Radzins** (née Seabury) and her husband welcomed a son, **Nathan David Radzins**, on July 28.

Share your news with classmates by writing to the addresses at the top of this column or by submitting a note through CCT's Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 2009

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**Kaitlyn Busler '10** and **Ralph DeBernardo** were married in Ocean City, N.J., on June 4, surrounded



by family and friends. **Kaitlyn** and **Ralph** met in the Athletics training room in 2006, when Kaitlyn was a freshman on the field hockey team and Ralph was a sophomore on the football team. The couple officially started dating in August 2008 and got engaged in May 2014. Columbia alumni at the wedding were best man **Gene Kaskiw**; groomsmen **Clark Koury**, **Gary Mesko** and **Tyler Duffy**; and bridesmaids **Jackie Klatsky**, **Megan Donovan '10** and **Jane Gartland '10**. Many other alumni friends are pictured.

com or use CCT's Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

com or use CCT's Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 2010

**Julia Feldberg**  
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Hello, 2010. **Raph Graybill** recently moved to Seattle, where he is an attorney with Susman Godfrey. After graduating from Yale Law in 2015, Raph spent the past year in Montana clerking for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Seattle is also home to Raph's sophomore-year roommate, **Jon Hollander**. Substantial amounts of skiing in the Northwest are planned.

**Valerie Sapozhnikova** graduated from Harvard Law in May. She spent the summer traveling and visiting exciting new places — Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Azerbaijan — and spent time with family in Moscow. In October, she put aside the luxury of traveling and being a student and started as an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore. As awesome as traveling is, Valerie says she is happy to be back home in New York and looks forward to catching up with classmates.

**Kevin McKenna** started teaching in the history department at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore., while he finishes his dissertation at the University of Washington.



**Neda Navab '08** married **Andrew ElBardissi** in Vallery, France, on July 22. Left to right: bridesmaids **Lauren Abbott '08**, **Amanda Rosencrans '08** and **Negin Navab '12**, and the bride.

This past summer, **Jenny Lam** independently curated an interactive exhibition, LEXICON, and officially launched her artist representation business, both of which have been successes so far. She was also recently selected as the first-prize winner in the National Park Service's Centennial Project, has begun taking illustration commissions, has been writing for *Time Out Chicago* and recently returned to New York for a weekend to celebrate **Julia Alekseyeva '10's** wedding.

Know someone who needs admissions essay help? **Yelena Shuster** beat out 40,000 students to win the Campbell's Tomato Soup \$100,000 American Dreams Contest in 2005. Now, she's giving eighth-graders (and up) the competitive edge at TheAdmissionsGuru.com. And for every paid essay she edits, she donates one to an underprivileged student.

Happy 2017! Send in a note for the New Year to [damooei@gmail.com](mailto:damooei@gmail.com).



**Kaitlyn Busler** and Ralph DeBernardo '09 were married in Ocean City, N.J., on June 4, surrounded by family and friends. Kaitlyn and Ralph met in the Columbia Athletics training room in 2006, when Kaitlyn was a freshman on the field hockey team and Ralph was a sophomore on the football team. The couple started dating in August 2008 and got engaged in May 2014. Columbia alumni in the wedding party were best man Gene Kaskiw '09; groomsmen Clark Koury '09, Gary Mesko '09 and Tyler Duffy '09; and bridesmaids Jackie Klatsky '09, **Megan Donovan** and **Jane Gartland**. There were many alumni guests at the wedding as well. The couple resides in the San Francisco Bay Area.

From **Jessica Guo**: "Hello there! This year (2016) marked the first time since graduation that all of my senior year suitemates reunited: **Angela Heberder** (formerly Zhen Lu), **Lien Hoang**, **Katherine Vance** (née Poulsen), **Claire Zukowski**, **Lisa Kawamoto** and me. All six of us, plus Aaron Hsieh '09 (our sophomore year RA), met up in Flagstaff, Ariz., for my wedding, which took place in a meadow just outside Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument. I was delighted that all could join from far-flung places, especially **Lien Hoang**, who is based in Vietnam. Those of us who could stick around visited the Grand Canyon the next day, hiked down part of the Hermit Trail and drove back via the Navajo Nation. I will be in Flagstaff for two more years finishing my Ph.D. in plant ecology. I welcome more visitors to this beautiful part of the country."

And, of course, from **Chris Yim**: "On a rare sunny day in San Francisco, I was standing at my bus stop, heading to work, when a drone flew overhead. I gave it the finger and it proceeded to take photo after photo of me dressed in my Versace suit. I hated it in that moment. I was looking at the disease of technology staring right back at me.

"When I got onto the bus, a lady sat down next to me and started telling me about her childhood in Iowa. She offered me a plum, which I politely refused because I am on a low-carb diet. We exchanged many pleasantries before she invited me to a yoga retreat that upcoming weekend. After texting with my wife, Grace, we decided that we would attend Sacha's retreat in Calistoga.

"Never ever have I experienced a weekend so therapeutic and cathartic. I spoke in tongues for the first time and opened up many pathways for chakra to start flowing. I had lucid dreams where Varun Gulati SEAS'10 and I strapped ourselves into a drone that took us to a distant moon. As we colonized this new place, we instituted that every child meditate and eat cacao in their early development.

"I awoke from that dream and the rest that was the retreat with a new perspective on humanity, life and my path for achieving life serenity. I didn't think that I would find it so early, but I have rolled away the stone that covers my intention for life and search for Truth. This may scare some and leave others uncomfortable, but I am no longer the man that I once was, the one that left Columbia in 2010. I have been freed.

"I bid you adieu, beloved one."

## 2011

**Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell**  
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We know 2011 was a weird year for most of us, but we think it's easy to say 2016 has been the weirdest since then. We hope the world is intact by the time this is set to publish, since we're writing in October and it genuinely feels day-to-day right now. That being said, some pretty awesome stuff happened to our class in 2016 and we're happy to share the news with you now. As always, it's great to get your updates all year! Feel free to drop us a line at nurielm@gmail.com and sean.udell@gmail.com.

Like most years before it in human history, 2016 was a year in which weddings and engagements took place. **Julie DeVries** married Dieter Brommer on August 7 in an art gallery in Washington, D.C., where they both have extended family. Dieter and Julie met at a middle school dance in the seventh grade. They lost touch in college but ran into each other on the street when they were both living in Boston post-college, and started dating. He proposed on a walk in the woods in Exeter, N.H., on the trails they ran together on the cross country team in high school. They live in Berkeley, Calif., where Dieter is a mechanical engineer specializing in concrete and Julie is in her third year at UC Berkeley Law.

**Matt Pruznick** JRN'14 got engaged to his girlfriend of four years, Missy Sohigian, while on vacation in Italy this summer. They will be having a surprise wedding — in which neither knows the destination until arrival at the airport — sometime in 2018. Matt lives in the East Village and is an editor for two trade news magazines covering the AV industry. He and Missy met on New Year's Eve 2012 on a party boat on the Hudson River.

**Dhruv Vasishtha**, who has a serious update for once, proposed to his better half and the love of his life, Molly Spector BC'11, in July. They're now both fending off requests from friends in their respec-

tive business schools angling to get invites to their first Indian wedding.

**Samantha Glover** married Diego de Lima Ferreira on August 6 in Connecticut. The couple met in Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana neighborhood while Samantha was studying in Brazil during her third year of law school. They knew right away that it was forever and they spent the next couple of years in an inter-continental relationship. In attendance at their wedding were some of Samantha's friends from John Jay 5. Shortly after getting married, the couple moved to São Paulo, Brazil, where Samantha does capital markets work at Shearman & Sterling. If you find yourself in São Paulo or Rio de Janeiro, let her know!

Many of our classmates are also in new jobs doing exciting work. **Princess Francois** started an assistant principal position at MESA Charter H.S. in her home borough of Brooklyn this summer after teaching for five years. She was selected as a National 30-Under-30 Caribbean-American Emerging Leaders and Changemakers Honoree. In addition, she was invited to the White House to attend the South by South Lawn Festival.

**Jan van Zoelen** recently moved to Donetsk, Ukraine, to work as a Russian-speaking delegate for the International Committee of the Red Cross. He visits conflict-related prisoners, helps restore family links, tries to find the whereabouts of missing people and tries to convince (always confidentially) the armed forces to follow international humanitarian law, i.e., the Geneva Conventions.



Jessica Guo '10 married Ian Keirse on June 24 in Flagstaff, Ariz. Left to right: Angela Heberder '10 (née Zhen Angela Lu), Lien Hoang '10, Katherine Vance '10 (née Poulsen), the groom, the bride, Aaron Hsieh '09, Claire Zukowski '10 and Lisa Kawamoto '10.

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COURTESY WILL CSAPLAR '57, BUS'58



In other words: All those long hours spent in the Slavic languages department are finally being put to good use. It was a long road there for Jan. After graduation, he was for a year a paralegal at Cleary Gottlieb in Paris, then studied Russian for six months at the Odessa National Polytechnic University, then finished a two-year master's in economic and social history at Oxford (alongside EC townhouse 805 roommate **Diana Greenwald**) and then taught in Moscow for six months before moving to Ukraine. He encourages you to find out more about the important work done by the ICRC in Ukraine and in other conflict areas.

**Eric G. Rosenberg**, after completing a one-year post-law school fellowship in cybercrime and identity theft at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office in October 2015, has been working at boutique cyber and intellectual property law firm DeVore & DeMarco. In March, Eric helped draft an *amicus curiae* ("friend of the court") brief on behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the National Sheriffs' Association that was filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California as part of the litigation between Apple and the United States concerning the iPhone's encryption. As an associate, Eric has been counseling clients on

e-commerce, information security and privacy, trade secret theft, data breaches, internal investigations and referrals to law enforcement.

**Michael Egley** is back in his hometown, training, teaching and refereeing jiu-jitsu out of Renzo Gracie Pittsburgh. He's an active competitor in the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation circuit, medaling at World and Pan American Championships in gi and no-gi jiu-jitsu. He heard about jiu-jitsu from a podcast, gave it a try and fell in love with it. You can follow him on Instagram at @born2grapple.

## 2012

### REUNION WEEKEND JUNE 1-4, 2017

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The Class of 2012 continues to accomplish some very cool things!

Producer **Pat Blute** and musical director Tareq Abuissa '14 came together to produce a "Varsity Show for Silicon Valley" in the form of *South of Market: The Musical* (somamusical.com), which played in San Francisco October 20-23. The musical also starred Varun Gulati SEAS'10!

**Jessica Greenberg**, a medical student at Yale, and Oren Brecher '11, an anesthesiology resident at Yale New Haven Hospital, got engaged in January 2016.

Congratulations!

**Derek Turner** says hello from northern California: "As my graduation from Stanford Graduate School of Business approaches, I'm planning to move back to my beloved home state of Arizona to search for and acquire an established, profitable business from a retiring owner. It's a way to gain leadership in (and ownership of) a growing organization without the startup headaches of finding product-market fit. It's been a blast living in Palo Alto, including reconnecting with **Chuck Roberts** and **Ryan Gallagher SEAS'12**, but it's time to put my over-education to work. If you're around Stanford before June, reach out! Otherwise, you'll find me in the Grand Canyon State, wandering the desert in search of an acquisition target."

**Nettra Pan** sent an update from Switzerland: "I spent the summer completing field work for one of the papers in my dissertation, then

manically 'coding' my data (matching qualitative data to a numeric code, which designates its meaning). In between staring at text and Excel files, I slipped in a few dips in the beautiful Lac Léman (that's Lake Geneva, for non-locals) and enjoyed a few EuroCup games. Highlights of the summer include **Kimberly Rubin's** visit (we were randomly assigned to each other as roommates freshman year!), a California road trip and the chance to present my research on early venture evolution at the Academy of Management's annual meeting. Lesson learned — the next time nerves hit (I was speaking alongside cool scholars), I must channel Amy Cuddy's Wonder Woman vibes! Hope to see more Columbians on this side of the world soon!"

Congratulations to **Kimberly Rubin** for being accepted into and deciding to attend Chicago Law. Nettra wishes her the best of luck in her first year!

Speaking of starting classes, **Hannah D'Apice** started pursuing an M.A. at Stanford this past fall and lives in Menlo Park, Calif. She says she would love to get in touch with alums in the Bay Area. **Thomas Shay Hill** also began pursuing a degree this past fall, a Ph.D. in urban planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

We wish you the best of luck, Hannah and Tommy!

Thanks to all those who sent in updates. I encourage everyone else to drop me a line, as we'd love to hear from you — sarahbchai@gmail.com!

## 2013

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Class of '13, let's start 2017 by sending in some notes; your classmates want to hear from you! For now, here is a note from **Jacki Karsh** (née Bryk) JRN'14: "Armed with her master's, Jacki, a native New Yorker, moved to Los Angeles, where she spent several months in a prestigious fellowship at NBC Nightly News' West Coast outpost. Jacki pursued her on-camera news career and landed a job as a reporter for the L.A.

County Channel, LA36. In this role, Jacki has interviewed countless leading figures that shape the future of L.A. County — the most populous county in the United States.

"Jacki covers a wide range of topics for the show *LA Now*, including political developments, social issues impacting communities, advances in healthcare, education reform and transformative infrastructure. Jacki also is a web correspondent for the entertainment digital entity 'Young Hollywood,' is the host of *Westside TV* on westsidetoday.com and was a moderator of and anchor for *MontyTV* at the annual Montgomery Summit in Santa Monica.

"The Columbia Alumni Association of Southern California invited Jacki to join its board and she now chairs the Membership Committee. Jacki was an ambassador for the CAA of Southern California at this year's Alumni Leaders Weekend in early October. In September 2015, Jacki married Jeff Karsh. Together they enjoy hiking all around the United States and long-distance biking."

## 2014

Rebecca Fattell  
c/o CCT

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George T. Phillips is a third-year at the Georgetown University Law Center and will clerk for the United

States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 2017.

Back on the campaign trail, **Alexandra Svokos** got Rudy Giuliani's spit on her face while covering the presidential debates for *Elite Daily*. She is looking forward to the release of the next issue of *CCT*, when the election will be over. Please send help to [asvokos@gmail.com](mailto:asvokos@gmail.com).

**Tareq Abuissa** and Pat Blute '12 wrote a musical in San Francisco that sold out the entire preview run in 48 hours. It's a tech parody called *South of Market: The Musical*. *SOMAMusical* covers topics including founder FOMO, women in tech, the downsides of the on-demand economy, venture capitalists and even tech media. The show premiered October 20 at Z Space in San Francisco. Tareq and Pat are *Varsity Show* alumni and the project was inspired by that experience. The show promises to "change the world," they say, with a fresh take on the tech industry. The team is a mix of professional San Francisco-based performers from shows such as *Beach Blanket Babylon* and tech employees from Dropbox, Emergence Capital, Silicon Valley Bank and more.

**Chris Zombik** has been working for an education startup in Shanghai since June 2015. He says he is having an amazing time learning Mandarin while exploring a hyper-dynamic city that is uniquely Chinese and cosmopolitan.

**Kate Eberstadt** recently returned to the United States after founding and directing The Hutto Project, a

choral music program for displaced children within an emergency refugee camp in Berlin. The Columbia community was instrumental in this project's development, from spreading the word to support and advisement to volunteering in the classroom. This fall, Kate planned to write and record music with her sister, Izzi Eberstadt BC'16. They will also join French filmmaker Brune Charvin in residence at The Watermill Center this winter to co-produce and soundtrack a short documentary on their work in Berlin.

Stay tuned!

**Stephanie Osahenrunmwene Odiase** is in graduate school at the University of Oxford, completing a one-year M.S. in evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation. In addition to her schoolwork, she is planning a few trips around Europe and the Mediterranean. After graduation she plans to return to New York City.

Classmates, please send updates to [rsf2121@columbia.edu](mailto:rsf2121@columbia.edu) or use *CCT's* Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). We want to hear from you!

## 2015

Kareem Carryl  
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I hope you had a great time at Homecoming on October 22! For me, it's always a great time when members of our class are able to get together, even if it's only for a day. If you have photos, stories or memorable moments from the event, feel free to send them to me.

Here are two updates from our class: **Angela Song** writes, "**Robert 'Bob' Lou** and I are excited to have started our first year of medical school together at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine!"

Congrats, Angela and Bob!

Doreen Mohammed '17 wrote in to give a great update on **Fatimatou Diallo**. She writes "Check out how one of our young alumnae is making such strides in her career and professional goals by becoming MyCareer-Hacker's CFO less than two years after graduating from the College."

A LinkedIn article of Fatimatou's new role explains, "MCH is dedicated to helping unemployed, underemployed, and/or professionally dissatisfied individuals and communities hack their careers and gain employment suitable to their needs, goals and desires."

Congrats, Fatimatou!

Please continue submitting updates to [kdc2122@columbia.edu](mailto:kdc2122@columbia.edu) or via the *CCT* Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 2016

REUNION WEEKEND  
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Lily Liu-Krason  
c/o CCT

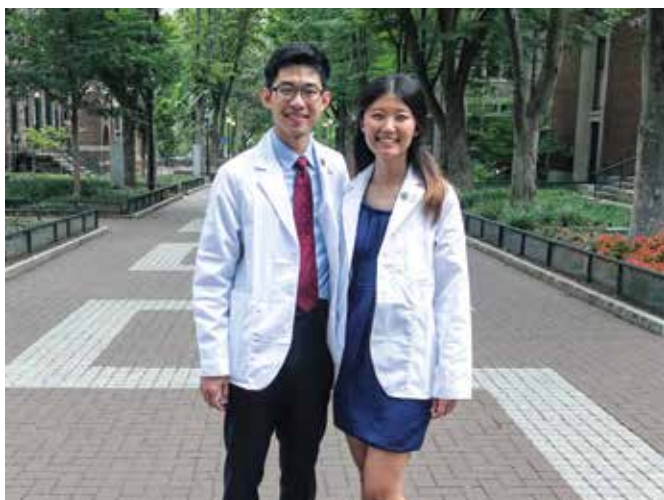
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Hi everyone! I'm Lily Liu-Krason, your new class correspondent. I studied math and creative writing at CC and recently finished a three-month backpacking trip doing social science research. I'm currently based in San Francisco and would love to hear from you and grow our Class Notes, so email me what's new with you: [lliukrason@gmail.com](mailto:lliukrason@gmail.com).

**Jessica Geddes** works at a community health nonprofit in Greensboro, Ala., where she recently went to an Auburn football game ... but we know she misses the Columbia football games more! Speaking of which, Homecoming was October 22 — hope you made it!

**Jackson Fisher** works at David Black Literary Agency in New York and says, "If any fellow Lions are sitting on great book proposals, they can send them my way!"

**Aram Balian** is an outreach chair for our Reunion Committee so contact him if you want to get involved. It's never too early to save the date for our first Columbia reunion, which will be Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4!



Robert "Bob" Lou '15 and Angela Song '15 marked the start of their clinical health studies at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine at their White Coat Ceremony.

# obituaries

## 1942

**Wesley W. Lang Sr.**, retired business executive, Stamford, Conn., on April 11, 2016. Lang was born on March 17, 1921, in New York. He served in the Army Air Forces in WWII and earned an M.B.A. from NYU. Thereafter, he was employed by A.D. Juilliard, Pfizer, Schrafft's and B. Altman & Co., where he was CFO and a member of the

Board of Directors. Lang is survived by his wife of 69 years, Marion; daughter, Nancy; sons, Wesley Jr. and his wife, Mary Margaret, and Kenneth and his wife, Deborah; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

**Thomas W. Stewart**, retired anesthesiologist, Lynchburg, Va., on March 27, 2016. Stewart was

born on June 14, 1921, in Pelham, N.Y. He earned a degree from P&S in 1945 and began his career with the Medical Corps of the U.S. Navy 1942–50, with his Foreign Service taking place at Guam N.H. in the Marianas Islands. He later was an anesthesiologist at Lynchburg Memorial Hospital, Centra Lynchburg General Hospital, Centra Virginia Baptist Hospital and Bedford Memorial Hospital, from which he

retired. Stewart connected with other medical professionals through the Virginia Society of Anesthesiologists, Medical Society of Virginia and American Board of Anesthesiology and was also a member of Court Street United Methodist Church, the American Legion and the Bedford Country Club. He is survived by his wife, Selene Carson Stewart, whom he married in 1954; daughter, Martha Stewart Doolittle; sons, William and

## Jack Greenberg '45, LAW'48, Former Dean of the College, Law School Professor and Civil Rights Attorney

**Jack Greenberg '45, LAW'48**, an emeritus dean of the College, emeritus Law School professor, influential civil rights attorney and former leader of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), died on October 12, 2016, in New York City. He was 91.

Greenberg was born on December 22, 1924, to Jewish parents from Poland and Romania. He grew up in Brooklyn and the Bronx and, as he recounted in his 1994 memoir, *Crusaders in the Courts: How a Dedicated Band of Lawyers Fought for the Civil Rights Revolution*, early in his life developed an acute awareness of disadvantage and inequality.

Greenberg entered the College intending to become an accountant, like his father, but said that his absorption in his Core and Humanities classes steered him toward human rights work. He entered the Navy in 1941 and recalled being disturbed by the brazen racial prejudice he witnessed. His time in the military included in 1945 serving as a deck officer aboard a tank landing ship in the Pacific Ocean theater and fighting in the battles of Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Iheya Jima.

After the war, Greenberg enrolled in the Law School and was particularly affected by Walter Gellhorn LAW'31's "Legal Survey" course, which offered students the opportunity to gain work experience with civil rights organizations. During his four semesters in the course,

Greenberg worked for the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Jewish Congress and the LDF, writing briefs and other legal papers.

After graduating from the Law School as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, Greenberg was recommended by Gellhorn to Thurgood Marshall for a position at the LDF; 11 days before his 28th birthday, Greenberg was arguing one of the key cases under *Brown v. Board of Education* before the Supreme Court. Marshall, who had joined the federal bench in 1961, appointed Greenberg that same year to succeed him as director-counsel of the LDF, causing friction in both the African-American and Jewish communities. Greenberg litigated the 1961 case that resulted in James Meredith's integration of the University of Mississippi, and 1972's *Furman v. Georgia*, in which the high court put in place a de facto moratorium on capital punishment in the United States. All told, Greenberg argued 40 cases in front of the Supreme Court, as well as hundreds of similar cases in the lower courts, fighting for many rights previously denied to black Americans, including voting rights, equal pay for equal work and fair housing. He co-founded the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, drafted a New York City law that denied tax exemptions to private clubs that discriminated on the basis of race or gender and founded the Earl Warren Legal Training Program.

In 1984, Columbia presented Greenberg the honorary Doctor of

Laws degree for his efforts toward "furthering social equality." Later in life, he worked on global issues, particularly on the discriminated Roma population in Europe.

Greenberg left the LDF in 1984 and joined the Law School, where he had been an adjunct starting in 1970, as a professor and vice dean. He became the Alphonse Fletcher, Jr. Professor of Law and taught courses in constitutional law, civil rights and human rights law, as well as a class on civil procedure and a seminar called "Kafka and the Law." He created the school's Human Rights Internship Program, which has placed more than 1,500 students at organizations around the world.

Greenberg was dean of the College 1989–93. He maintained his passion and devotion to civil rights on campus, spearheading a mission to increase diversity within the College faculty and student population. He stepped down as dean in 1993 in a University shake-up but remained a professor at the Law School until retiring last year.

His books include *Race Relations and American Law* (1959), *Judicial Process and Social Change: Constitutional Litigation* (1985), *Crusaders in the Courts: How a Dedicated Band of Lawyers Fought for the Civil Rights Revolution* (1994) and even a cookbook, co-authored with former Harvard Law dean James Vorenberg, *Dean Cuisine or the Liberated Man's Guide to Fine Cooking* (1990). He



DAN POLLARD

also published articles in the *Columbia Law Review*, *Harvard Law Review*, *Yale Law Journal*, *NYU Law Review* and *Michigan Law Review*.

In 2001, Greenberg was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by President Clinton, who deemed him "a crusader for freedom and equality." Greenberg remained hopeful, writing in his memoir, "... while we should seek justice for its own sake, those for whom that is not reason enough should understand that without justice there will be no peace."

Greenberg's marriage to Sema Ann Tanzer ended in divorce in 1970. Greenberg is survived by his wife of 46 years, Deborah M. Greenberg LAW'57 (née Cole); children from his first marriage, David, Sarah GSAS'86 and Ezra; his wife's children, Suzanne Greenberg and William Cole '84, whom he adopted; brother, Daniel; and five grandchildren. He was predeceased in 2011 by a son, Josiah LAW'81.

—Lisa Palladino and  
Aiyana K. White '18



his wife, Carol Welstead Stewart, and Robert and his wife, Cleo Sander Stewart; six grandchildren; and three nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Samuel, and son, Thomas W. Jr. Memorial contributions may be made to Red Bird Mission.

## 1948

**Joseph J. Fusco**, retired physician, Hillsdale, N.Y., on June 16, 2016. Fusco was born on August 3, 1928, in Harlem and grew up in the Bronx. He earned an M.D. at NYU Bellevue College of Medicine, interned at Cincinnati General Hospital and was a resident at Philadelphia General Hospital. During the Korean War, he was a captain in the Air Force Medical Corps and was stationed in France, where he met his wife, Isabell. Fusco finished his residency with Dr. Paul Beeson, an infectious disease specialist at Yale. Following training at Hartford and Grace-New Haven hospitals, Fusco joined the Rip Van Winkle Clinic in Hudson, N.Y., as an internist and was appointed to Columbia Memorial Hospital's Department of Medicine in 1958. After the clinic's dissolution in 1964, he continued in private practice in Hillsdale and joined Prime Columbia Greene Medical Associates in Hudson. He completed his career on staff at the Pine Haven Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Philmont, N.Y. Fusco is survived by his wife of 60 years; children, Joseph and his wife, Karen Parker, Joan and her husband, Gerard Walshe, John and Frances; a grandson; a niece; and four nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to The Community Hospice of Columbia - Greene, 47 Liberty St., Catskill, NY 12414 or The Roeliff Jansen Community Library, 9091 Route 22, Hillsdale, NY 12529.

**Monteagle "Monty" Stearns**, retired ambassador, professor, Cambridge, Mass., on May 14, 2016. Stearns grew up in Carmel, Calif., and New England. In 1943, while at Stanford, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, completed Officer Candidate School and was assigned to the *U.S.S. West Virginia*. Following WWII, he graduated from the College with a degree in English. A Foreign Service officer for more than 40 years, Stearns' assignments included Turkey, the

Congo, the United Kingdom, Laos, U.S. Ambassador to the Ivory Coast and three tours in Greece, the last also as U.S. ambassador. In Washington, D.C., he served as deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs and as VP of the National Defense University. After retiring, Stearns held the Warburg Chair for International Relations at Simmons College, also publishing two books and numerous articles on U.S. foreign policy. In 2014, he was made Grand Commander of the Order of the Phoenix by the president of the Hellenic Republic. Stearns is survived by his wife of 57 years, Antonia Stearns (née Riddleberger); sister, Mary Lou Stearns Roppoli; children, Joanne, Pamela Pollack and her husband, Fred, Christopher, Jonathan and his wife, Barbara, David and his wife, Virginie, and Emily Stearns Fertik and her husband, Elliot; and eight grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training or to Doctors Without Borders.

## 1949

**Neil Warner**, music arranger and conductor, New York City, on August 30, 2016. Born Warner Neil Shilkret, Warner graduated from the College magna cum laude at 19 and was a Korean War veteran. He had a prolific musical career in TV, advertising (he won several Clio Awards) and on Broadway as an arranger and the original conductor of *Man of La Mancha*. He is survived by his wife, Naomi; children, Julie and James; daughter-in-law, Kim; sister, Marilyn; and one grandson.

## 1952

**C. Donald "Don" Mohr**, retired attorney, Washington, D.C., on July 14, 2016. Born in Hackensack, N.J., on August 7, 1930, Mohr lived most of his adult life in Manhattan. He earned a degree from the Law School in 1955 and worked at Schieffelin & Co., Moët Hennessy and LVMH, from which he retired in 1994. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mariavittoria Serafini Mohr; children, Christopher, and Chantal Mohr O'Rourke GS'97; and three grandchildren.

## 1955

**Abraham Ashkenasi**, retired professor of political science, Berlin, Germany, on March 27, 2016. Born on May 14, 1934, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Ashkenasi earned a master's in international relations from Johns Hopkins in 1956. He conducted his doctoral residency at Columbia. After four years in the Air Force stationed in West Germany, joining the reserve as a captain, Ashkenasi taught at the University of Maryland overseas while conducting his doctoral research at the Otto Suhr Institute of the Free University Berlin, earning a Ph.D. in public law and government in 1964 from GSAS. After a year teaching at Hofstra, he accepted a teaching position at the Free University, becoming a tenured professor in 1971. Ashkenasi focused on minority and refugee issues worldwide, with a special focus on Israel and the Occupied Territories.



Abraham Ashkenasi '55

His career included guest professorships at UCLA and UC Berkeley, a visiting fellowship at Haifa University, Israel, and a research fellowship at Hebrew University, Jerusalem. His many major publications include writing *Modern German Nationalism* (1976) and *Palestinian Identities and Preferences* (1992), as well as editing *The Worldwide Refugee Crisis* (1988) and *The Future of Jerusalem* (1999).

## 1957

**H. Douglas Eldridge**, reporter and author, East Orange, N.J., on April 11, 2016. Eldridge was *Spectator* editor-in-chief and later a reporter for the *Newark News* and the *Hudson Reporter* and the deputy editor for the *Montclair Times*. He authored

### 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.

*The Rise and Fall of the Newark News: A Personal Retrospection* and edited and wrote the preface for William M. Ashby's *Tales Without Hate*. In March 1968, Eldridge marched with and interviewed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during King's visit to Newark. He also interviewed President Nixon on television. An advocate for civil rights and civil liberties, Eldridge won numerous awards from the NAACP, the American Jewish Committee and Jewish Council for Public Affairs, among others. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Newark Public Information Office in 1970 and served as a special aide and adviser to Newark Mayors Kenneth A. Gibson and Sharpe James. Eldridge was president and executive director of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee; in 2014, it presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award for 40 years of service. Eldridge's wife, Marjorie, predeceased him on September 30, 2015; they had been married since June 15, 1957. Eldridge is survived by their sons, Martin and Frederick; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

## 1961

**Bernard Miller**, electrical engineer and real estate entrepreneur, Brooklyn, N.Y., on July 20, 2016. Miller was born on June 20, 1939, in New York City and grew up on the Lower East Side and in Rockaway, N.Y. He earned All-City honors as a basketball player at Hebrew Institute of Long Island. Following

his graduation Phi Beta Kappa from the College, Miller earned a B.S., an M.S. and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering, all from Engineering. He worked in cutting-edge aviation and aerospace projects for Hughes Aircraft in Culver City, Calif., in the 1960s. In the early 1970s Miller co-founded Unigon Industries, where he developed Doppler ultrasound technology. Miller entered the real estate industry in NYC in the 1980s. At the time of his death he was a significant real estate owner in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Miller was a noted philanthropist; an avid runner, having completed four NYC marathons; and a Talmudic scholar. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Margareta (née Hirsch); children, Eric LAW'95, George '93 and Lea Miller Kronenberg '99; and 15 grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to BINA Stroke and Brain Injury Assistance, 2511 Avenue I, Brooklyn, NY 11210.

**John J. Tsucalás**, financial analyst, investment banker and writer, Philadelphia, on September 21, 2016. Tsucalás earned a B.A. in economics and was elected by classmates as a permanent class officer and a member of Sigma Chi and the Varsity C Club. As president of the Columbia Club of Philadelphia, he was presented an Alumni Medal in 1986. Tsucalás earned an M.B.A. in finance from Wharton. He was deputy

auditor general of Pennsylvania and received commendations from the State Senate and House. Tsucalás was a C.F.A. and principal of John James Tsucalás & Co.; VP of leveraged buyouts and private placements for Butcher & Singer in Philadelphia; and investment officer for John Hancock in Boston. His writings appeared in city, national and international publications, and he was a guest speaker on economic, financial and political analyses regarding developments in the United States and the Middle East and was a volunteer adviser to the DOD on economic development. Tsucalás was a first lieutenant in the USAF and received the Air Force Commendation Medal for "Meritorious Service" and the National Defense Service Medal awarded during the Vietnam War; he developed a screenplay about the day-to-day living, loves and losses of injured female veterans. Memorial contributions may be made to Columbia University with memo "Crew Shell in memory of John Tsucalás." Tsucalás is survived by his wife of 23 years, Joanne, among others.

## 1963

**Alan P. Jacobs**, film professor and producer, entertainment executive, Chapel Hill, N.C., on February 22, 2016. Born and raised in Manhattan, Jacobs was a lifelong New Yorker

in his heart. He started making documentary films in the late '60s supporting the Civil Rights, Anti-War and Feminist Movements and was directly involved in the emerging wave of independent film and video as a founding member of Newsreel, co-owner of Odeon Films and executive director of the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers. Jacobs was a founding trustee of the Sundance Institute and board member of the American Film Institute, the Independent Feature Project and the Southern Documentary Fund. In Los Angeles, he produced narrative television films for The Film Foundry, his own production company and others including Mirage Enterprises, CBS and Hallmark Hall of Fame. He held executive positions at Trans-Lux Corp. and Hallmark Entertainment. Jacobs taught for five years at California State University - Long Beach. He earned an M.F.A. in film in 2004 from SOA. Jacobs is survived by his wife of 31 years, Lynn Goodpasture; daughter, Keelia; brother, Jim; and cousin, Howard Muscott.

## 1964

**Malcolm B. Sargent**, financial executive, Assonet, Mass., on June 26, 2015. Born in St. Louis, Sargent lived most of his life in Westfield, N.J., New York City and Assonet, Mass. He earned an M.B.A. in

1966 from the Business School and embarked on a career in finance, joining Chase Manhattan Bank in its Special Development Program. He ultimately pursued private business interests. Sargent was an avid automobile and sports fan and steadfast friend to many, including his Phi Gamma Delta fraternity brothers. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Susan Deane Sargent; brother, Bruce, and his wife, Janet; and one nephew.

## 1978

**John C. Ohman**, attorney, New York City, on March 7, 2016. Ohman earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1981 and a degree from the Law School in 1992. He was an acknowledged classical music expert, one of his passions; another was the New York Yankees. Ohman was a successful attorney in New York as a partner at Brown Raysman Millstein Felder & Steiner, remaining as partner after its merger with Thelen Reid, and subsequently as a partner at Vandenberg and Felieu. He had recently joined McGlinchey Stafford, where he concentrated his practice on complex commercial, business and technology litigation. He is survived by his mother; two sisters; wife; and two daughters and their mother.

— Lisa Palladino

## 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.

- 1941 **Charles M. Plotz**, retired rheumatologist, Brooklyn, N.Y., on November 20, 2016.
- 1944 **Bruce Mazlish**, historian, author and professor emeritus, Cambridge, Mass., on November 27, 2016.
- 1942 **Leonard I. Garth**, federal judge, North Branford, Conn., on September 22, 2016.  
**Robert J. Kaufman**, retired corporate attorney, Scarsdale, N.Y., on October 30, 2016.
- 1943 **Felix E. Demartini**, retired physician, Vero Beach, Fla., on November 7, 2016.
- 1945 **Melvin M. Grumbach**, pediatric endocrinologist, San Francisco, on October 4, 2016.
- 1949 **Robert B. Goldberg**, retired business executive, Manhasset, N.Y., on April 2, 2016.  
**Richard C. Kandel**, New York City, on November 23, 2016.
- 1953 **Mitchell Price**, retired fire department personnel director, Hudson, Fla., on January 8, 2016.
- 1956 **John M. Easton**, San Diego, on August 31, 2016.
- 1957 **Denis B. Frind**, attorney, Portland, Ore., on October 6, 2016.
- 1963 **D. Keith Mano**, writer, New York City, on September 14, 2016.
- 1966 **Richard H. Steingesser**, Providence, R.I., on August 31, 2015.
- 1971 **Mark A. Allen**, scientist, Glendale, Calif., on October 22, 2016.
- 1974 **Ralph C. Coti**, attorney, Hawthorne, N.Y., on September 14, 2016.
- 2000 **Anoop Nagwani**, Berkeley, Calif., on December 3, 2016.
- 2006 **Layla Hall**, West Newton, Mass., on November 8, 2016.
- 2007 **Analisa R. Smith-Perez**, attorney, Jamaica Plain, Mass., on November 27, 2016.

## “The Lilac Bush,” annotated

PJ Sauerteig '15 analyzes the literary references in a song from his latest album, *The Ascension of Slow Dakota*

Performing under the name Slow Dakota, PJ Sauerteig '15 blurs the lines among music, literature and art; his third album, *The Ascension of Slow Dakota*, is an exploration of musical styles and literary allusions that defies easy categorization. Reviewer Andrew Keipe of *PopMatters* wrote, “*The Ascension* reads like a mini encyclopedia of the Western canon,” while *Observer's* Justin Joffe wrote, “*The Ascension of Slow Dakota* packs itself so full of theological, literary and poetic references so as to almost laugh in the face of the three-minute hit singles and tight, 30-minute garage records.”

The 19-track album, released July 22, references T.S. Eliot, William Blake, Walt Whitman, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and many other literary legends. Six of the tracks feature narrative voice-overs performed by Columbia faculty: Philip Kitcher, the John Dewey Professor of Philosophy; Margaret Vandenburg GSAS'96, a senior lecturer in English at Barnard; and Joseph Fasano SOA'08, an adjunct assistant professor of writing in the Faculty of the Arts.

Sauerteig, a double major in creative writing and psychology at the College, now attends NYU Law. Below, he shares an annotated lyric from “The Lilac Bush,” breaking it down Lit Hum-style.

**“The Lilac Bush”**

*A depiction of suicide by hanging*

One day I came close  
To giving up my ghost:

*Traditionally, a symbol of redemption, mercy? the ever-elusive Holy Ghost. At his Baptism, Christ “saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on him” (Matthew 3:16)*

I put my chin inside  
A mouth of knotted rope!

But instead of stopping,  
My heart began to fly.

*Bird imagery dominates this song. It seems the speaker's suicide attempt has failed!*

A dove perched on my shoulder,  
And whispered in my ear:

*On a personal note, I fondly remember—as a child—watching my father cut and gather lilacs to bring home to my mom every spring, often at dusk.*

“Each day God comes home  
With lilacs from His bush:  
He picks them all for you;  
His chosen darkling thrush!”

*An image from Whitman's great elegy to Lincoln: “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd” Lilacs, here, symbolize both a country's mourning and new life.*

*The thrush also plays a significant role in Whitman's “When Last”—a herald on the fine line between life and death.*

*Recall Thomas Hardy's poem of the same name: which cooed to a bird's cheerful melody as strange redemption in an otherwise bleak landscape.*

*“Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost” (Matthew 27:50)*





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