

# 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Thank you for your support of Columbia College. **As members of the Alumnae Legacy Circle, your leadership at our school and investment in our students is inspirational.** I am grateful for your efforts to bring together and elevate women in all that you do.

I hope you enjoy this annual report and take pride in the collective generosity and impact of the ALC. Thank you for strengthening the College through your support and commitment to this community.

Josef Sorett  
Dean of Columbia College  
Vice President for Undergraduate Education  
Columbia College



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

Thank you for being a part of the ALC! Our community includes **151 women** from Boston to California and around the world.

Engagement is so important, and we were fortunate to bring together ALC members through six exclusive events this year. Each gathering offered opportunities to meet new people and learn from one another. **Thank you to our hosts, featured speakers and guests for helping foster deep connections and opportunities for growth and understanding.**

This year, the ALC expanded its leadership to include **15 alumnae**, whose time, leadership and dedication were essential to the success of this community. Thank you to them and all the women of the ALC. We are so grateful to you.

Kelley Badishkanian CC'98, BUS'08  
Germaine Choe CC'95  
Diana Greenwald CC'11  
2024-25 Co-chairs, Alumnae Legacy Circle



# LEADERSHIP

Thank you to the members of the Alumnae Legacy Circle for sharing your time, energy and resources to advance Columbia’s work to support students and alumni.

## 2024–25 ALC LEADERS

### ALC CO-CHAIRS

Kelley Badishkanian CC’98, BUS’08  
 Germaine Choe CC’95  
 Diana Greenwald CC’11

### 1754 SOCIETY AMBASSADOR

Daria Ibn-Tamas CC’96

### ALC GLOBAL VICE CHAIRS

Yahphen Chang CC’87, P: CC’24  
 Mary Dunn CC’98

### ALC VICE CHAIRS

#### Boston

Emily Miles Terry CC’89

#### Los Angeles

Gail Katz CC’97

Nina Hong CC’93, LAW’96

Tiffani Shin CC’95

#### New York, New Jersey, Connecticut

Shaziya Keswani CC’04, VPS’08

Grace Hyun Lang CC’93, P: CC’28

Danielle Lee CC’97, BUS’04

#### San Francisco

Cynthia Chen CC’04, GSAS’14

Emily Hu CC’95, VPS’00

## LEADERS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY

6  
 Benefactors  
 of Columbia  
 University

2  
 Board of  
 Trustees

14  
 Board of  
 Visitors

25  
 College Walk  
 Society

14  
 CCAA Board  
 of Directors

5  
 CCW Board  
 of Directors

13  
 1754  
 Society

3  
 International  
 Leadership  
 Society

9  
 Fund  
 Development  
 Council

22  
 Parent  
 Leadership  
 Council

19  
 Young  
 Leaders  
 Council

## CONGRATULATIONS!



**Claire Shipman CC’86, SIPA’94**  
 was appointed Acting President of  
 Columbia University in March 2025.



**Germaine Choe CC’95 and Jenny  
 Fan Raj CC’00** joined the Columbia  
 College Board of Visitors in July 2024.



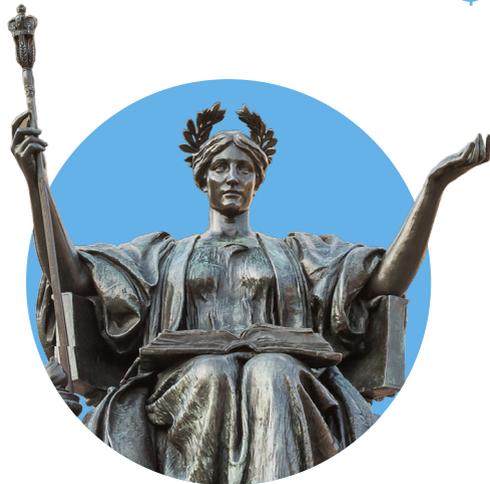
**Mary Kuo CC’92, P: CC’20, CC’21,  
 CC’25** received a CAA Alumni Medal at  
 University Commencement in May 2025.

# FUNDRAISING TOTALS

Thank you to the members of the Alumnae Legacy Circle supporting Columbia College and reinforcing its commitment to offering the best possible undergraduate experience to students. ALC members contributed more than **\$4 million** to Columbia College during the 2024–25 Fiscal Year.

This extraordinary generosity makes a difference throughout Morningside Heights, bolstering financial aid, advancing the Core Curriculum, enhancing student wellness and community, investing in real-world experiences outside of the classroom and strengthening support for all students.

## \$2.3 MILLION TO THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE FUND



### UNRESTRICTED \$1.15M

Unrestricted gifts provide resources where they are needed most, supporting the Core Curriculum, financial aid, internships and research, and student life.

### FINANCIAL AID \$975k

Financial aid provides students with access to a world-renowned education, regardless of their financial circumstances. Need-blind admissions and full-need financial aid policies enable the College to attract and invest in the brightest students.

### CORE CURRICULUM \$167k

The Core consists of five courses taught in discussion-style seminars. A defining feature of the Columbia College experience, it helps students develop intellectual tools that they will use long after graduation.

### OTHER STUDENT SUPPORT \$8k

Wellness initiatives, community programming and other resources assist students on their journeys, helping students grow personally, as well as academically and professionally.

# FUNDRAISING TOTALS

## \$1.75 MILLION TO OTHER AREAS OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE



### ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS \$851k

Gifts to endowed scholarships help ensure the College's financial aid policies into the future. Contributions also fund \$2,000 start-up grants to ease the transition to college for first-year students from low-income families.



### AWARD DINNERS \$488k

Proceeds from the Hamilton Award and John Jay Awards Dinners provide resources throughout the College, including for financial aid, student life and community, as well as funds for the John Jay Scholars Program.



### OTHER STUDENT SUPPORT \$165k

These gifts support a range of projects and priorities at the College.



### JAMES T. MCMENAMIN VISITOR CENTER \$160k

These contributions enable the College to invest in spaces that help foster community and enhance the day-to-day experience of students.



### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM \$90k

Donor support provides funding for students to pursue enriching internships, research, volunteer work and summer opportunities, enhancing the broader undergraduate experience.

# NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

During the 2024–25 academic year, **45 Alumnae Legacy Circle members** funded **46 current-use and endowed Named Scholarships**. Scholarships like these are fundamental to the College’s need-based financial aid program, and provided integral support to **55 students**. Students are able to make the most of their time at Columbia thanks to this generosity.

## RECIPIENTS FROM

**24**  
States and Territories

**3**  
Countries



## RECIPIENT STATS



**9**  
**AREAS OF STUDY**

- Architecture
- Biology
- Computer Science
- Drama and Theatre Arts
- History
- Neuroscience and Behavior
- Political Science
- Pre-Law
- Pre-Medical



**5**  
**STUDENT ATHLETES**

- Men’s Indoor Track
- Men’s Outdoor Track
- Men’s Swimming and Diving
- Men’s Football
- Men’s Wrestling



**31**  
**FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS**



**4**  
**SCHOLARS**

- 1** I.I. Rabi Scholar
- 3** John Jay Scholars

# COLLEGE WALK SOCIETY

The **College Walk Society** is a leadership giving society for alumni, parents and friends who make a meaningful contribution in support of financial aid at the College. Members are among the most generous financial aid donors. The College is proud to have more than **180 members**, which includes **25 ALC members**.

**“Receiving financial aid has given me the opportunity to grow as a student at Columbia. Without it, I wouldn’t be able to attend Columbia and experience it like others have. With financial aid, I’ve been given the gift of learning.**



My favorite experience so far is participating in extracurriculars, allowing me to network with others and grow as a person as I am introduced to different cultures, experiences and ways of thinking.

After college, I envision attending law school to further my passion for intellectual property law in the emergence of AI. This means studying how to patent AI and whether copyright exists on documents produced by AI, in addition to melding the beauty of science with the complex thought of the law and our philosophy of whether technology, outside of our own body, can be considered equal to us. By going through Columbia’s blended curriculum, with a STEM focus in computer science and the humanities focus of the Core Curriculum, I can build my understanding of the world and IP law from this two-strand set of classes and intertwine them into my own studies.”

— **Andrew Chung CC’27, Recipient of the LCR Scholarship**

**Sungmee Kim CC’97**, a member of the ALC since 2020, joined the College Walk Society in 2023 by establishing the LCR Scholarship, a current-use scholarship.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

Alumnae Legacy Circle members receive invitations to events and programs that are curated especially for the alumnae community.

## ALC MEMBER-HOSTED EVENTS

ALC members play a critical role in fostering community by hosting social events. These regional gatherings bring members together and strengthen connections.

### ALC Member Mixer in NYC

Nov. 19, 2024

Allure Restaurant and Lounge,  
New York

Hosted by ALC Vice-chairs

**Shaziya Assur Keswani CC'04, VPS'08, Grace Hyun Lang CC'93, P: CC'28 and Danielle Lee CC'97, BUS'04**



### ALC Member Event in NYC

Feb. 13, 2025

New York Athletic Club, New York

Hosted by ALC members **Grace Wu SEAS'00 and Christina Ying CC'89**



### ALC Member Event in San Francisco

March 19, 2025

House Bar at the Battery, San Francisco

Hosted by ALC Vice-chair **Emily Hu CC'95, VPS'00**

"It is a pleasure to host ALC events! It's such a fun group of women, and we always have a great time connecting and reminiscing about CC days! It's a fantastic opportunity to catch up with other lions and also to meet new ones.

**The West Coast community is robust but needs these in-person gatherings for connection and growth. CC alums are delighted to find others, and these gatherings help!**

I was on the phone with ALC folks when I heard that the West Coast Honors was being held at Bain in San Francisco. I said, 'Yes, let's do an ALC pre-gathering a few blocks away!' Six of us met up at the Battery with Dean Sorrett and ALC staff. Always a fun time for drinks and bites."

— ALC Vice-chair **Emily Hu CC'95, VPS'00**

### Cocktails and Museum Tour

May 15, 2025

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum,  
Boston

Led by ALC Co-chair **Diana Greenwald CC'11**



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## ALC CONVERSATIONS

Community conversations are a priority for the Alumnae Legacy Circle. These events focus on sharing experiences and expertise, as well as hearing from influential leaders at Columbia and beyond.



### Real Conversations: Navigating Career Changes with Erin Hussein and Ritu Mukerji

Sept. 30, 2024

Conversation featuring ALC members **Erin Hussein CC'92, LAW'95** and **Ritu Mukerji CC'94**



### Exclusive ALC Conversation

Jan. 16, 2025

Columbia Alumni Center, New York

Conversation featuring **Dean Josef Sorett**



### Real Conversation on Higher Education

Feb. 27, 2025

Conversation featuring **Jaye Jennifer Fenderson CC'00**, award-winning producer and director; **Karen Chung Lee CC'92**, chancellor, Honolulu Community College; and **Larry Jackson**, associate dean of academic affairs and director of the Center for the Core Curriculum, Columbia College

## HIGHLIGHTING ALC MEMBERS

Alumnae Legacy Circle members are leaders at Columbia, honored for their achievements and recognized as experts in their fields.



### John Jay Awards Dinner

March 5, 2025

Cipriani 42nd Street, New York

ALC member **Katharina Otto-Bernstein CC'86, SOA'92** was honored with the John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.



### Columbia College West Coast Honors

March 19–20, 2025

Bain Capital, San Francisco and Spring Place, Beverly Hills

ALC Members **Wah Chen CC'92** and **Wanda M. Holland Greene CC'89, TC'91, TC'21** were honored with the Trailblazer Award for pioneering and distinguished service or volunteerism to the College.



### CCW Signature Event | A View From the Top: Women Navigating Leadership and Change

April 17, 2025

Columbia University Faculty House, New York

Panel discussion featuring ALC member **Joyce Chang CC'86**

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## ALC MEMBER-HOSTED SUMMER SEND-OFFS AND WELCOME RECEPTIONS

Summer Send-offs and Welcome Receptions are opportunities for alumni to connect with future Columbians and their families. With nearly **50** Summer Send-offs in 2024, these gatherings helped alumni welcome the Class of 2028 to the Columbia community. More than **30** Welcome Receptions took place in 2025, enabling alumni to celebrate receiving an admission offer for the Class of 2029. ALC members and their families hosted five of these gatherings in 2024–25.

### Summer Send-off in Chicago

July 28, 2024

Hosted by ALC member **Sandy Wang CC'92 P: CC'24 CC'28** and **Christopher J. McGowan CC'92 P: CC'24**

"It is an honor to share our academic and social Columbia experiences and those of our children. **And it is a joy to see the excitement of the incoming students and their families!** We marvel at how far some travel to attend the Sendoff, and toast the crowd good wishes in beginning many lifelong friendships that day!"

— ALC member **Sandy Wang CC'92 P: CC'24 CC'28** and **Christopher J. McGowan CC'92 P: CC'24**



### Toronto Welcome Reception

April 5, 2025

Hosted by ALC member **Yahphen Y. Chang CC'87, P: CC'24** and **John Manning P: CC'24**



"We have hosted the Toronto-area Welcome Reception many times. **It's one of our favorite ways to support Columbia College because of how proud the parents and families of admitted students are and how thrilled they are to interact with Columbia College parents and alumni.** The admitted students at the event are often shy at first, but soon warm up and bond over their shared excitement about attending Columbia." — ALC member **Yahphen Y. Chang CC'87, P: CC'24** and **John Manning P: CC'24**

### Honolulu Welcome Reception

April 6, 2025

Hosted by ALC member **Karen Lee CC'92**

### St. Louis Welcome Reception

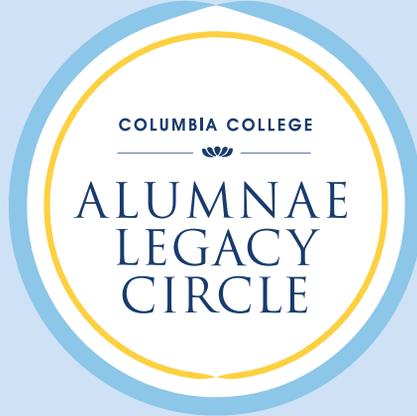
April 27, 2025

Hosted by ALC member **Mary Corley Dunn CC'98**

### Atlanta Welcome Reception

April 27, 2025

Hosted by ALC member **Jennifer S. Hsia CC'06**



The Alumnae Legacy Circle is a leadership giving society that recognizes some of Columbia College's most generous alumnae.

Special thanks to members for their dedication to the College and commitment to elevating and inspiring fellow alumnae.

To see a list of members, visit [college.columbia.edu/alumni/alc](https://college.columbia.edu/alumni/alc)

**TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:**

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