

YOUNG
LEADERS
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT



2021-22

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

Dear Young Leaders Council members,

We are pleased to share the 2021–22 Young Leaders Council Annual Report. This report recognizes and celebrates the remarkable contributions of the YLC to the Columbia College community. We are so excited to share all the highs from the year with you!

As we look back at 2021–22, we want to thank you for your generosity, commitment and dedication to the College. Your investment in the Columbia College Fund makes a difference in the lives of students and ensures that they can take part in the same remarkable undergraduate experience that we did.

The YLC ended the year with 180 members, including 20 new members joining the Council and 1 new member joining the Board. It has been a joy to watch this group grow over the last year, especially as we saw a return of in-person events and opportunities to continue old friendships and begin new ones face-to-face. The support and camaraderie among YLC members cannot be overstated, and we thank each and every one of you.

Special thanks to our YLC leaders in the Class of 2002 who rolled off at the end of the year. It was bittersweet to say goodbye to these eight members, who contributed so much to our community.

Thank you all again for your dedication and commitment to the College and for actively working to ensure the success of the YLC.

With gratitude,

Lauren Accordino CC'09
Maya Ho CC'18
*Co-chairs,
Young Leaders Council*



2021–22 COLUMBIA COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Along with inviting students to return to campus full-time during the academic year, the College brought back many signature events, including:

- **Homecoming**, Oct 15–16, 2021
- **Class Day**, May 17, 2022
- **Commencement**, May 18, 2022
- **Reunion**, June 9–12, 2022



CLASS OF 2020 AND 2021 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

This special event on May 19, 2022, provided graduates with an opportunity to celebrate their **historic achievements** in-person.



A CELEBRATION OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE WOMEN

On June 12, 2022, the College honored the 35th anniversary of the graduation of its first fully-coeducational class.

Tiffany N. Bryant CC'08, president of Columbia College Women and member of the YLC, was instrumental in planning. The day included an interactive storytelling workshop, a luncheon and a panel of trailblazing women.



CORE TO COMMENCEMENT

This monumental campaign ended on the last day of June, with the College raising **more than \$750 million** to support financial aid, student research and global experiences, endowed professorships, the Core Curriculum, and much more.

The YLC's support was instrumental to the success of *Core to Commencement*, with members giving more than \$2.6 million to the Columbia College Fund.



ADMISSIONS

Columbia had a fantastic admissions year, with an incredible number of applicants for the Class of 2026. **With over sixty-thousand applications, the admission rate was 3.73 percent.** The class hails from all 50 states and from 86 countries. Over half of the admitted students were offered need-based financial aid — clearly demonstrating how vital YLC donations are to students at the College.

- Columbia's **test-optional policy**, in place since June 2020, was extended through 2023–24.
- **116** in-person on-campus tours were offered in Fall 2021.

DEAN JOSEF SORETT

In May, President Lee C. Bollinger appointed **Josef Sorett** to serve as dean of Columbia College and vice president of undergraduate education. He is a professor of religion and African American and African diaspora studies, chair of the Department of Religion, and director of the Center on African-American Religion, Sexual Politics and Social Justice. He received his B.S. in health and exercise science from Oral Roberts University, his M.Div. in religion and literature from Boston University, and his Ph.D. in African American studies from Harvard University.



2021–22 EVENTS

The reintroduction of in-person events was a highlight of the year. The Young Leaders Council was given access to exclusive intellectual programming and special opportunities to connect and reconnect.



Oct. 14, 2021
Central Park Picnic
 Hosted by: **Venkat K. Kausik CC'13**
 Location: The Pond, Central Park

Nov. 4, 2021
An Intimate Conversation with Amol R. Sarva CC'98
 Moderated by: **Zachary W. Ali CC'11**



Dec. 8, 2021
Conversation with Kim Y. Lew, President and CEO of the Columbia Investment Management Company
 Hosted by: **Jonathan S. Lavine CC'88, P: CC'16, CC'18**, Co-chair of the Columbia University Board of Trustees



Dec. 9, 2021
A Virtual Conversation with Mayor Eric M. Garcetti CC'92, SIPA'95
 Moderated by: **David A. Javdan CC'90**, Fund Development Council West Co-chair, and **James C. Stone CC'90, BUS'96, P: CC'25**, Fund Development Council West Vice Chair



Mar. 14, 2022
Inside: Exclusive Briefing on the War in Ukraine
 Hosted by: **Claire C. Shipman CC'86, SIPA'94**, Vice Chair of the Columbia University Board of Trustees, and **Jeh C. Johnson LAW'82**, Former Secretary of Homeland Security and member of Columbia University Board of Trustees



Mar. 15, 2022
A Decade of Leadership, Los Angeles
 Hosted by: **Andy Barth CC'83, BUS'85, P: CC'16, BUS'23**
 Location: Spring Place, Beverly Hills

PANELISTS

- **Peter A. Clement**, Adjunct Professor at SIPA, Senior Research Fellow at the Harriman Institute for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies and the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies
- **Timothy M. Frye SIPA'91, GSAS'92, SIPA'92, GSAS'97**, Marshall D. Shulman Professor of Post-Soviet Foreign Policy
- **Kimberly Marten**, Professor of Political Science at Barnard College
- **Richard Nephew**, Senior Research Scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy, Adjunct Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs
- **Stephen Sestanovich**, Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Professor of International Diplomacy
- **Keren Yarhi-Milo GS'03**, Director of the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of War and Peace Studies

A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP

Columbia College celebrated **Dean James J. Valentini** with three special events. These occasions brought together alumni, parents, faculty and staff to thank him for his service. The event at Gotham Hall raised more than \$16.3 million in honor of the dean, including gifts for the Valentini Endowment Fund for the Columbia College Journey, which supports his commitment to holistic student development funding experiences beyond the classroom.



Mar. 21, 2022

**Columbia Inside:
Exclusive Discussion
on Energy and the
War in Ukraine**

Hosted by: **Mark Gallogly BUS'86**, Vice Chair of the Columbia University Board of Trustees

Mar. 16, 2022

**A Decade of
Leadership, San
Francisco**

Hosted by: **Borah** and **Sang Kim CC'92, P: CC'25** and **Audrey Chen Mohan CC'01** and **Vijay Mohan CC'01**

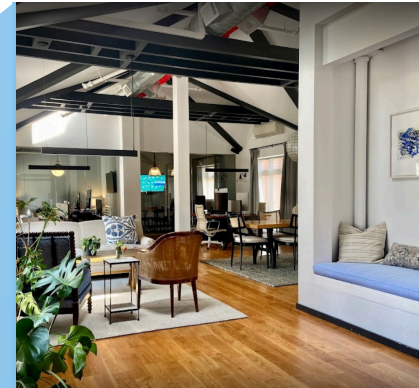
Location: SHACK15, Embarcadero



Apr. 27, 2022

**A Decade of
Leadership,
New York City**

Location: Gotham Hall, New York City

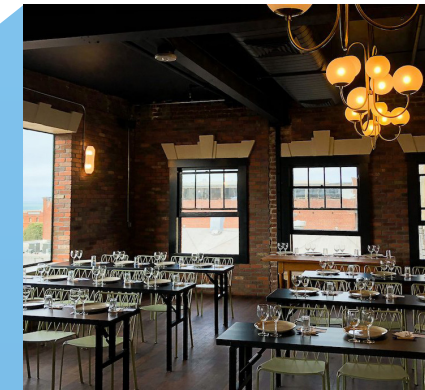


May 11, 2022

YLC Happy Hour

Hosted by: **Michael Brown CC'06**

Location: Bowery Capital, New York City



June 15, 2022

**YLC Bay Area
Happy Hour**

Hosted by: **Ari Freisinger CC'08**

Location: True Laurel, San Francisco



June 16, 2022

**YLC Los Angeles
Happy Hour**

Hosted by: **Lauren Accordino CC'09**

Location: The Penthouse, Santa Monica

MODERATOR

- **Jason Bordoff**, Co-Founding Dean of the Columbia Climate School, Founding Director of the Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP), and Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs

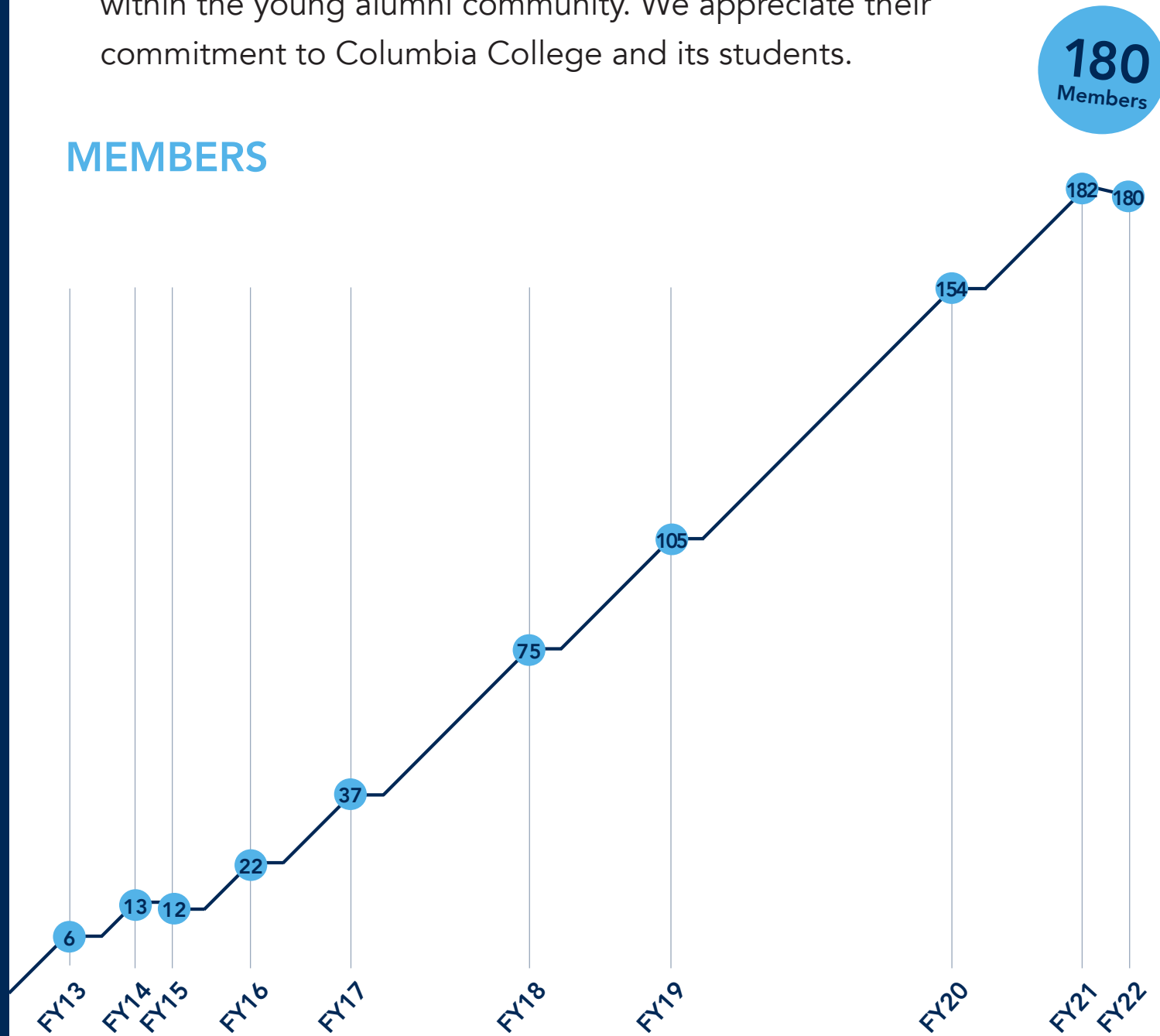
PANELISTS

- **Anne-Sophie Corbeau**, Global Research Scholar at CGEP
- **Tatiana Mitrova**, Non-Resident Fellow at CGEP
- **Richard Nephew**, Senior Research Scholar at CGEP, Adjunct Professor, School of International and Public Affairs

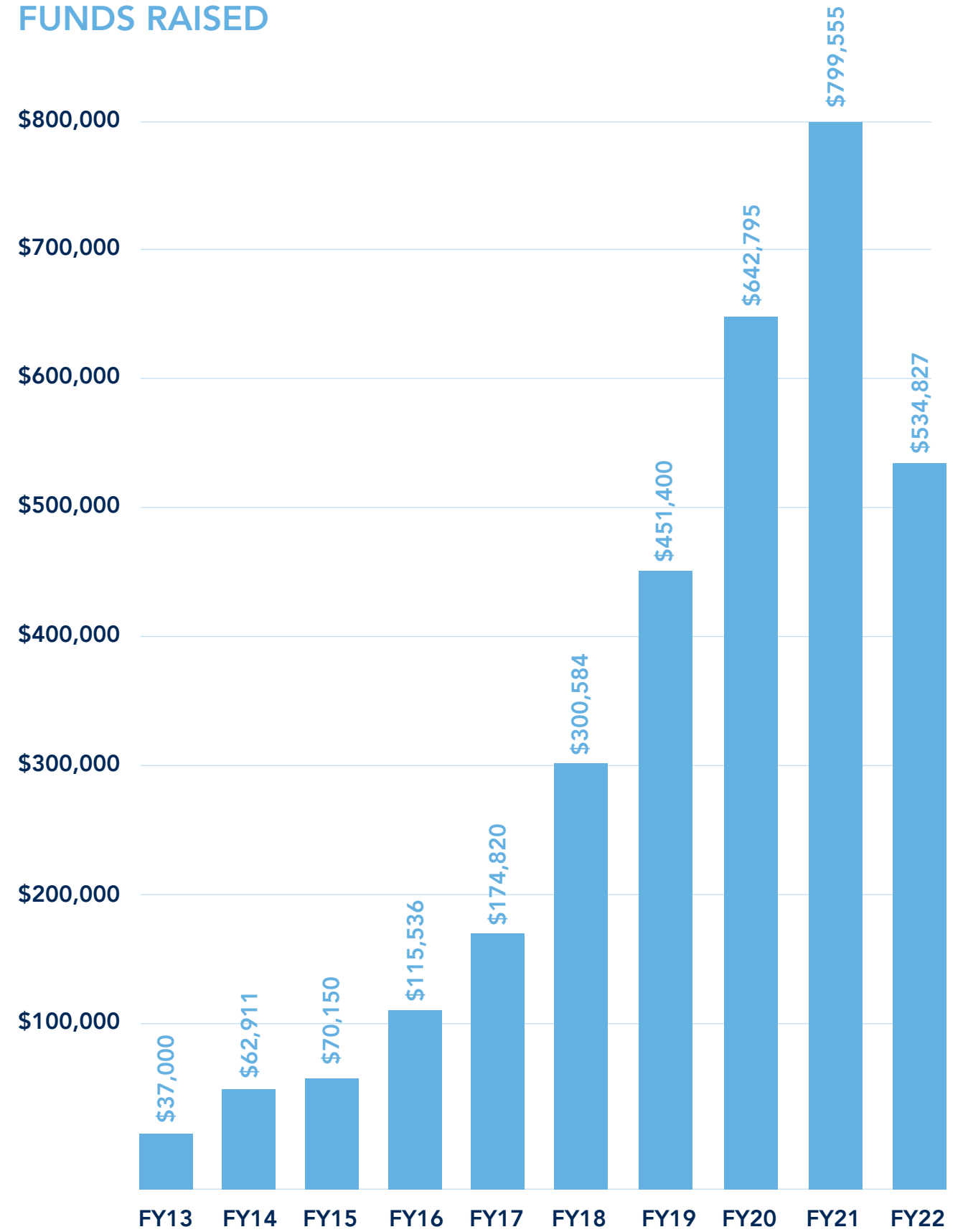
2021-22 OVERVIEW

The Young Leaders Council continues to welcome new members and invest in the College Fund. **With 21 new members beginning their journey**, the YLC provides a way to showcase their leadership within the young alumni community. We appreciate their commitment to Columbia College and its students.

MEMBERS



FUNDS RAISED



At the end of 2020-21, many of the founding members of the YLC from the Class of 2001 rolled off. This impacted both membership and fundraising totals for 2021-22. For more information, please contact Kavya Kumar, senior associate director of recent alumni for the Columbia College Fund.

GLOBAL REACH

The YLC hails from **15 states and 5 countries!** From California to Hong Kong, this network of recent alumni demonstrates a commitment to engagement and philanthropy.



2021–22 AREAS OF SUPPORT

SUPPORT OF THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE FUND

The Young Leaders Council gave an extraordinary \$534,827 to the Columbia College Fund this year — which is 41 percent of the total support of the recent alumni community. Gifts to the College Fund are current-use, meaning they are immediately available to meet the priorities of Columbia College — including the Core Curriculum, financial aid, internships and student life.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE FUND



\$207,000+

Unrestricted, to meet the needs of the College

CORE CURRICULUM



\$123,000+

To strengthen and enhance Core offerings

FINANCIAL AID



\$196,000+

To provide full-need financial aid

Nearly \$70,000 was directed to the College Fund Scholarships.

RECOGNIZING MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENTS

Multi-year commitments are leadership pledges of support to the College that are paid over three to five years. These commitments offer the College a promise of future support. **More than 10 members of the YLC made multi-year commitments this year.** We are grateful for their continued and valued support of these members of our community.

- Christian X. Capasso CC'07, BUS'14
- Megan Carley CC'12
- Andrew Heinrich CC'13
- Ren P. McKnight CC'12, BUS'20
- Heather Moylan Meyerdirk CC'06
- Andrew T. O'Connor CC'07
- Olivia Santoro CC'13
- Genevieve M. Thornton CC'02, BUS'09
- Mitchell C. Zhang CC'17
- Kenneth (Kaijie) Zhu CC'17

In honor of his 15th reunion, **Keith Hernandez CC'07** matched \$15,000 in donations for the LAACU scholarship.

“Through this match, we doubled donations to this fund — better supporting current-use scholarships and encouraging others to give back.” –Keith Hernandez CC'07

COLLEGE WALK SOCIETY

The College Walk Society (CWS) 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 the College's most generous and loyal financial aid donors who share the belief that the opportunity to pursue knowledge should not be constrained by a student's background or ability to pay. **Below are the YLC members who joined the CWS.**

**Heather
Meyerdirk CC'06**

*The Moylan-
Meyerdirk
Family
Scholarship*

**Andrew
O'Connor CC'07**

*The Andrew
O'Connor
Scholarship*

**Mitchell
Zhang CC'17**

*The Mitchell
Zhang
Scholarship*

The CWS was launched in 2021 as part of the College's Financial Aid Initiative and its goal of raising \$500 million by 2025.

1754 SOCIETY

The 1754 Society is a giving society for alumni, parents and friends who make plans for the University through trust, estate or other future gifts. Membership includes special recognition and access to unique speakers and experiences.

Nine members of the YLC are in the 1754 Society.



Carlos A. Cuevas CC'05, SIPA'12, PH'12 accepted the role of 1754 Society Chair for the Mailman School Public Health, serving as school-based lead volunteer for the 1754 Society Participation Drive.

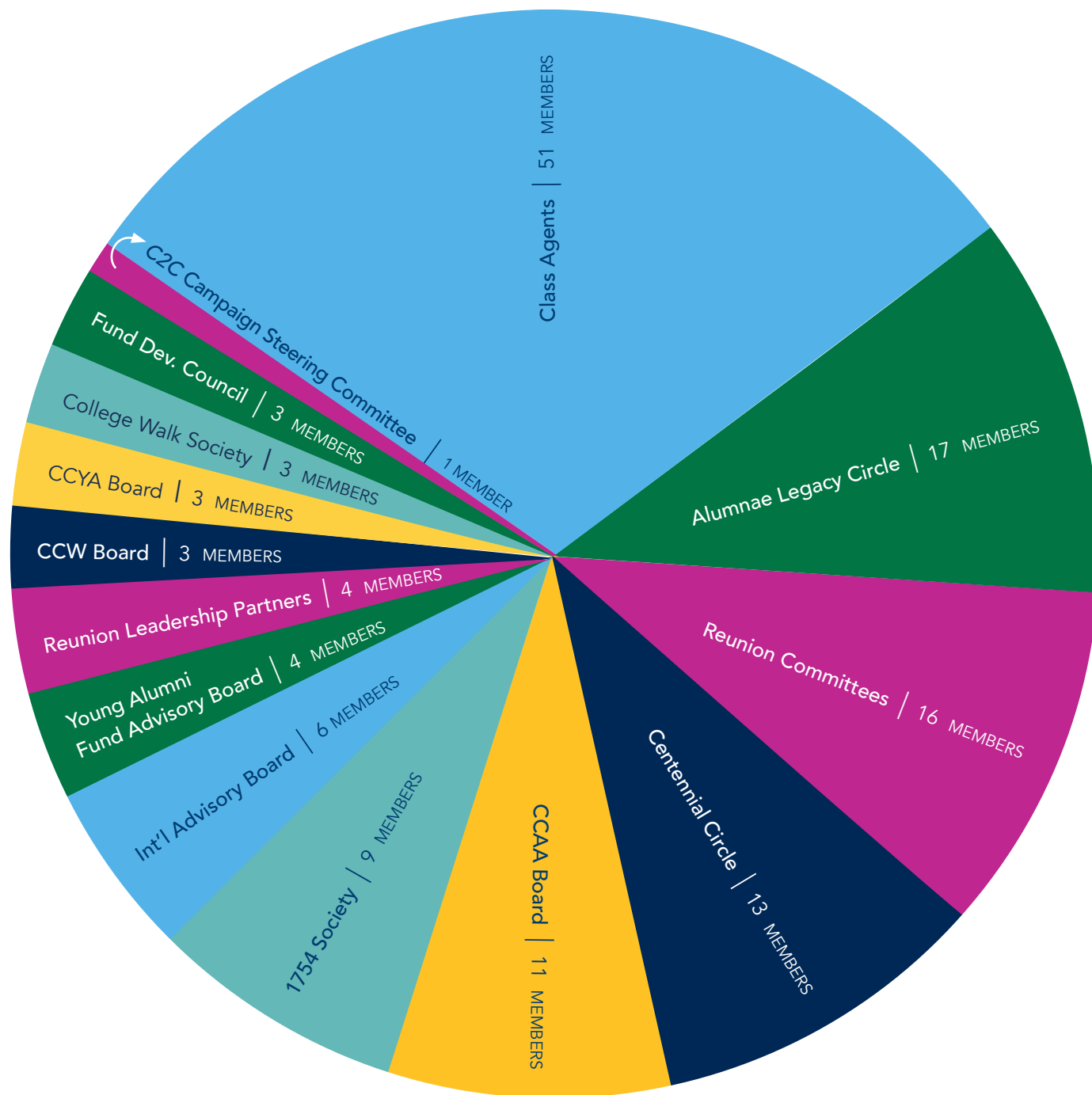
Genevieve M. Thornton CC'02, BUS'09

served as 1754 Society Ambassador for her 20th reunion, helping educate classmates about the benefits of planned giving to donors and the University.



2021–22 LEADERS AT COLUMBIA

The members of the Young Leaders Council are inspirations to our community. They strengthen the College by serving as volunteers and leadership donors.



2021–22 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Members of the Young Leaders Council are found throughout the world and provide essential support to the Columbia College Fund. Through their efforts, the College is able to better invest in the needs of its students and elevate the student experience to new levels. **Check out some of the alumni who make up the YLC!**

“Columbia changed my life — it introduced me to new and diverse people, perspectives and experiences that I would not have encountered had I not attended Columbia as a student athlete. **Columbia provided me with experiences that heavily shaped me into the person and leader that I am today.** Now I train and develop leaders, and I believe there are always future leaders within our Columbia gates. I contribute to the College Fund to invest in those future generations in the hopes that they can be shaped for the better the same way that I was, thanks to Columbia College.

– **Megan Carley CC'12, Illinois**



2021 was the 10th anniversary of my graduation — I have to admit that the world has changed dramatically since then. Many of us have faced challenges during the global pandemic, and some of us are still struggling through it. **I believe it is unprecedentedly important for us to stay closer together within the Columbia community, to get more involved and to contribute in any possible ways.** I believe that being a member of YLC will be an exciting start.

– **Cathy Chen CC'11**, China



My four years of undergraduate study at Columbia were the most influential and important years of my life. And I would like to contribute, even if the smallest, as a return of my gratitude to Columbia.

– **FeiFei Zheng CC'09**, China



The YLC is a great platform to engage with smart and dynamic individuals who share the Columbia experience. I have a lot of great memories of my time competing on Robert K. Kraft Field, studying in Butler Library and exploring Manhattan. **I've always appreciated how Columbia provided for me an environment that fosters curiosity, independence and high-level thinking.** It's helped me tremendously with my career in professional sports and I'm excited to reconnect, support and stay involved.

– **Joshua A. Williams CC'10**, California

I left the U.S. to work in Hong Kong and mainland China after graduation and have lived in four different cities over the past few years. **Everywhere I went, Columbia alumni have provided great support and friendship.** Welcoming alumni communities across different parts of the world could be very meaningful to the Columbians who are or will be exploring their futures abroad.

– **Kenneth (Kaijie) Zhu CC'17**, China



2021–22 MEMBERS

The members of Young Leaders Council are leaders at the College, providing resources for the Columbia College Fund and engaging the young alumni community. Thank you for your dedication and support.

CO-CHAIRS

Lauren Accordino CC'09
Maya Ho CC'18

Andrew T. O'Connor CC'07
Caitlin Prendergast Brodie
CC'06

CHAIRS EMERITI

Tyler R. Boyd CC'06, BUS'16
Michael Brown CC'06
Kevin G. Galligan CC'05
Tom Meister CC'09

Emily L. Rosin CC'18
Lisa H. Scolnik CC'06, BUS'12
Michelle Tan CC'16
Cecilia C. Wang CC'09, LAW'12
Iain Wood CC'03
Alex C. Zhang CC'20

BOARD MEMBERS

Randy W. Berkowitz CC'04
Ganesh H. Betanabhatla CC'06
Francesca Bodini CC'06, BUS'09
Christian X. Capasso CC'07,
BUS'14
Cynthia Chen CC'04, GSAS'14
Carlos A. Cuevas CC'05,
SIPA'12, PH'12
Zecki A. Dossal CC'02, BUS'13
Beatrice M. Edmonds CC'19
Andrew Heinrich CC'13
Christopher L. Jones CC'07
Allan Kang CC'14
Venkat K. Kausik CC'13
Sabrina I. Korman CC'14
Begumhan Kurdoglu CC'20
Megan M. Lundy CC'08
Heather Moylan Meyerdirk
CC'06

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michael A. Accordino CC'07
Zila R. Acosta-Grimes CC'11,
LAW'15
Tala T. Akhavan CC'13
Zachary W. Ali CC'11
Jeremy E. Banon CC'13
Jennifer M. Baskin CC'03
Iyobosa O. Bello-Asemota
CC'19
Diana Benton Schechter CC'05
Katie D. Benvenuto CC'03,
BUS'12
Sulman A. Bhatti CC'06, LAW'10
Nathan S. Bram CC'14
Tiffany N. Bryant CC'08
Theodore R. Buchsbaum CC'14
Alexandra L. Carieri CC'15
Megan Carley CC'12
Cathy Chen CC'11

Stephanie H. Chin CC'06
David Cho CC'20, SEAS'22
Christopher S. Chu CC'17
Kevin Chu CC'19
Katherine E. Chung CC'13
Jordan R. Cline CC'19
Sarah R. Coleman CC'15, BUS'22
Andrew D. Colvin CC'10,
BUS'16, LAW'16
Leigh E. Colvin CC'14, TC'18,
TC'19
Eleanor L. Coufos CC'03, BUS'11
Marcello E. Cricco-Lizza CC'11,
GSAS'16
Evan H. Daar CC'09
Stephanie J. Davis CC'09
Elizabeth M. DeLuise CC'14
Adrian P. Demko CC'07
Ravi R. Desai CC'05
Luke A. Donatelli CC'04
Erica D. Dorfman CC'11
Mariele K. Dunn CC'11
Kathryn V. Ebner CC'05
Thomas J. Enright III CC'03
Michael A. Exter CC'14, BUS'23
Elizabeth C. Fallon CC'20
Christina Fang CC'07
Samantha Feingold-Criss CC'07
Thomas E. Flynn CC'15
Ari S. Freisinger CC'08

Zuzanna Z. Fuchs CC'13
Adriana C. Garcia Ceja CC'13
Austin T. Glover CC'14
Aryeh M. Goldstein CC'15,
BUS'20
Jesse W. Golomb CC'02
Thomas E. Gorman CC'04
Brian Grimes Jr. CC'11
Emily A. Gruber CC'19
Erin O. Gun CC'15
Gairy C. Hall Jr. CC'11, BUS'16
Halle G. Hammond CC'06
Eric S. Han CC'13
Ken M. Harada CC'05
Stephanie Hart CC'12, GS'15
Keith Hernandez CC'07
Sonia Hirdaramani CC'02
Gillian Ho CC'20
Adria C. Hou CC'02
Katherine G. Howitt CC'13
Robert Hung CC'10
Ian A. Jay CC'05, LAW'11
Mallory A. Jensen CC'05,
LAW'12
Maggie Johnson CC'11, SPS'14
Arvind S. Kadaba CC'07
Justin A. Kahn CC'13
Daniel O. Kanak CC'10
David H. Kang CC'15
Arjun Kapoor CC'09
Jonathan T. Keehner CC'00
John B. Kenney CC'13, LAW'16
Michelle A. Klein CC'02
Rishi Kodali CC'12
Kristin E. Kramer CC'09
Kara M. Kupferberg CC'18,
SIPA'19
James A. Lake CC'13
Sadia Latifi CC'09
Richard J. Lee CC'16

Ivan A. Leniski CC'16
Stephanie Y. Lung CC'04
Franco Maddalena CC'17
Ren P. McKnight CC'12, BUS'20
Alexander D. Meshel CC'18
Robert L. Meyerhoff CC'06
Jacob Miller CC'11
Meredith Milstein Polivy CC'09,
BUS'17
Solomon Moshkevich CC'04
Daniel S. Moss CC'03
Jose O. Negrette CC'05
Brendan F. O'Hearn CC'13
Michael E. Paranac CC'10,
BUS'19
Ishaan Patel CC'11
Adam Pencz CC'13
Susan Phan CC'12
Preston M. Pohl CC'09
Azhar Quader CC'02, BUS'12
Sumana Rao CC'08
Michael B. Roberts CC'09,
BUS'20
Elisse J. Roche CC'14
Nathan D. Rosin CC'18
Adam A. Rozencwajg CC'06
Sara R. Sakowitz CC'18, PH'21
Olivia C. Santoro CC'13, BUS'20
Laura T. Schnaidt CC'06
Sarah Schragger Gitlin CC'13
David A. Seidman CC'06
Lauren S. Seidman CC'08
Daniel J. Shapiro CC'07
Dara M. Shapiro CC'14
Eric J. Shapiro CC'13
David L. Simons CC'06
Terrance L. Smith CC'08, BUS'13
Jason Sun CC'12
Max W. Taffel CC'08
Tao Tan CC'07, BUS'11

Brandon C. Thompson CC'12
Genevieve M. Thornton CC'02,
BUS'09
Paul H. Tietz Jr. CC'08
Maxwell C. Tobin CC'09,
BUS'18, LAW'18
Miljan N. Todorovic CC'16,
SPS'20
David Toledano CC'05
Michael I. Topol CC'10, LAW'21
Brian L. Trippe CC'16
Jonathan P. Truppman CC'07
Miklos C. Vasarhelyi CC'04,
BUS'12
Paul R. Wang CC'12
Scott Shu Wang CC'10
Andrew D. West CC'13
Courtney L. Wilkins CC'07
Charlotte Will CC'03
Joshua A. Williams CC'10
Gregory S. Winchell CC'06
Andrew W. Wood CC'14
Eric B. Xu CC'18
Lauren S. Yagoda CC'20
Michelle Yan CC'20
Sharon Yang CC'08
Sue Yang CC'10
Mary Ye SEAS'12, SEAS'13
Sandra Yin CC'18
John A. Zaro CC'05
Jessica W. Zen CC'07
Kevin Zhang CC'14
Feifei Zheng CC'09
Kaijie Zhu CC'17
Anonymous (2)



COLUMBIA COLLEGE
YOUNG LEADERS COUNCIL

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