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Today 

Summer 2018

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OUR FIRST YEAR OF
ORIGINAL ONLINE CONTENT

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SUSANNA FOGEL '02 DIRECTS
A SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER

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WE WELCOME THE
CLASS OF 2018 INTO
THE ALUMNI CIRCLE

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ERIC H. HOLDER JR. '73
IS LEADING THE
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COLUMBIA COLLEGE



Nearly 100 years ago, Columbia College altered the landscape of American higher education with a pioneering experiment now known as the Core Curriculum.

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The Core at 100



Wellness and
Community



Beyond the
Classroom



Teaching and
Mentoring



Access and
Support

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THE LATEST

TAKE FIVE | APRIL 20

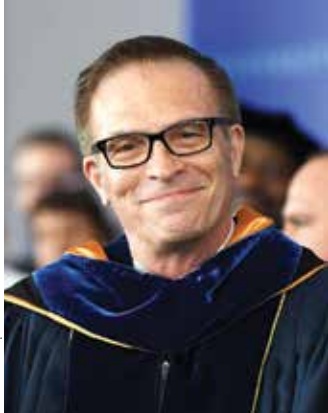
"Anyone who met me in the first few weeks will tell you that I was agonizingly loud and annoying. ... Thankfully it didn't take me too long to recognize that at Columbia everyone had something marvelously interesting to share about themselves, and that I would gain a lot more by just shutting up and listening."

— Aspiring attorney **Ankeet Ball '16**

THINK TANK | MAY 31

"I was working at McDonald's in my hometown of Needham, Mass. I wanted to be an intern at the *Needham Times*. I cold-called the editor-in-chief, and she said no. Then I just walked into her office and handed her my clips from *Spectator*. She said no. ... I visited her a second time. This time she said yes. She said she always did that with job applicants — said no before she said yes — because tenacity is an important trait for journalists. She was right!"

— CNN correspondent **Elizabeth Schwartz Cohen '87**, from "What Do You Remember Most About Your First Summer Job?"



Message from the Dean

In Pursuit of “Eudaimonia”

At Class Day on May 15, I spoke about My Columbia College Journey, a recently introduced framework for students to reflect on their growth and experiences during their time at the College. [Read more about the Journey on page 8.] What follows is an abridged version of my speech. To our most recent graduates, who now receive Columbia College Today, congratulations again, and welcome to the community of more than 51,000 Columbia College alumni.

I said to you at Convocation 2014 that what you did from that day forward would define your Columbia College experience and bring you here to Class Day. Each of you brought a special personal story, a story of the path by which you arrived at Columbia. You were then at the beginning of your Columbia College journey.

I am sure you have had days of jubilation — perhaps not as great as today — but still, days of triumph. But I am also sure you have experienced setbacks, and you have had to pivot in response. And you have found that the path may not always be straight and predictable, but that it can lead to success in ways that, though not at all predictable, are no less satisfying.

During these days at Columbia College you not only gained knowledge, but also developed critical thinking and research abilities; refined your written and oral communication skills; improved your quantitative, information and technological literacy; engaged in teamwork and collaboration; expanded your creativity and innovation; took on civic and individual responsibility; participated in community engagement and inclusion; built global awareness; and encouraged all of us to foster a sense of wellness and resilience. In short, you developed your Core Competencies, even before you knew that phrase or could name its components.

While the narrative of “My Columbia College Journey” was introduced to you only a month ago, you were on your very own individual Columbia College Journey from the moment you arrived here, without realizing it. What has changed is the self-awareness of that journey, a self-awareness that you will have many years to benefit from.

The word “journey” derives from the Latin *diurnus*, meaning day by day or daily. And though you are graduating, it is still your Columbia College journey, because Columbia College is now a fundamental part of you, and your experience here will forever influence your path. The road goes on, paved with Pantone 292 and all that that color represents.

“Jubilation” derives from Latin as well, and refers to a very vocal kind of joy, with wild and loud shouting of great enthusiasm, loud shouting I am certain I am going to hear at this ceremony. Every day, however, can’t be like this one; every day can’t be cause for loud shouting of great joy. But, every day can be a source of satisfaction and fulfillment and meaning. You will notice I did not say “happiness.” I did not, because happiness is not the object to pursue. You know that,



PHOTOS BY EILEEN BARROSO

and you know what is to be pursued, because it is part of the Core Curriculum experience of every student. It is eudaimonia.

Eudaimonia is to be found when you plot your own trajectory, when you build on what you have learned here to be active and engaged citizens, responsible and valuable members of the many communities — personal and professional, large and small — of which you will be part.

Eudaimonia means much more than simply faring well or being successful, the outcomes with which “happiness” is associated. Eudaimonia is the essence of My Columbia College Journey: a personal, individual, unique path to flourishing, substance and meaning in life.

Many things will interfere with, even preclude, the simple thing called “happiness” — events you can’t influence and people you can’t persuade. But the eudaimonia of your journey is indeed yours, so focus on it.

We admitted you to Columbia College based on our belief that you were the applicants who could best profit from and contribute to Columbia College. I hope you have profited from your experience at the College. I know you have contributed to it, in classrooms, arenas, laboratories, residence halls and even on Low Beach. For all of that I thank you. All of us at Columbia College thank you.

James J. Valentini
Dean

CCT Print Extras

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



BARNEY EDMONDS GS'67, SOA'69

An Overdue Apology

For whatever it is worth so many years later, *CCT* readers might be interested to know that I was given an apology from a NYPD official regarding police behavior in clearing the “occupied” campus areas and buildings that haunting night in 1968.

As a student back then in search of statistics to support an expository writing assignment about the 1968 Columbia riots, for Professor Michael Rosenthal GSAS'67's English class, I went downtown to police headquarters. I was directed to the private office of Benjamin Ward. I do not recall his rank, but he was “brass.” He looked serious. He asked me to close the door and be seated. What he said has stayed with me ever since:

“I do not usually speak with undergraduates,” he began, “but no one else from Columbia has come to me about this matter.” He went on to apologize for the actions of the police that horrible night. He knew they had been needlessly brutal, beating unconscious and bleeding students. I never mentioned that I was a witness (not a protestor), standing only a few feet away from the harrowing confrontation on College Walk. He asked me to take his message back to campus. He wanted Columbia to know of his contrition and apology on behalf of the NYPD, and in particular its TPF [Tactical Police Force], who had taped over or removed their shields to conceal their identities and used brass knuckles and weighted clubs to beat dozens of unarmed students.

I left in stunned silence with the statistics I requested. My paper was due the next day. Then there were final exams. Then there was moving out at the end of the academic year. I had intended to go to *Spectator*'s office and share my story, but I never did. Time got away. And then I rationalized that it was all water under the bridge anyhow.

Ward has since died. I looked him up recently. Evidently, he was well respected in the NYPD. In light of *CCT*'s 50th anniversary articles on the subject, I thought his memory and his apology ought to be recognized, even if a half-century late.

John Kantor '71
Westport, Conn.

Left of Center

Paul Starr '70, in his piece “How the '68 Uprising Looks Today” [Spring 2018], concludes rightly that the University needs to be an open forum, facilitating, as he puts it, more “antagonistic confrontation,” which may come at the expense of “safe space.” But I take issue with at least one of his statements in arriving at that conclusion. Starr suggests that liberalism was under attack from the left in '68 and now is from the right. I fail to see how liberalism is now under attack from the right when that is precisely the people whose voices are being suppressed on campus. Rather, a more fundamental and relevant change is that the “center,” if you will — the establishment of the academy — has itself shifted far left since '68 and more closely aligned with its students. As a result, I would suggest liberalism, and in turn the University, is now most under attack from itself.

The '68 uprising might have been a catalyst for embracing certain substantive messages of the activists of '68, but it was perhaps also a catalyst for shifting the center of the University further left. In so doing, the academy has not only shifted the spectrum of viewpoints to be found on campus but has tolerated both an intolerance of other viewpoints, and the disobedience targeting those expressing them, in ways that Martin Luther King Jr. would not have tolerated. This silencing is attributable to the University itself, failing students who are left unprepared for a world that doesn't always have safe spaces.

Joshua Tenzer '01
Englewood, N.J.

“Liberation Classes”

CCT's coverage of the 50th anniversary of the 1968 protests (Spring 2018, “50 Years Later”) neglected to mention something important: During the student strike, classes went on. Columbia professors and their students kept on meeting to read, think and talk. My classmate Alan Sullivan '69 gives a good description of one of these “liberation classes” in the 1969 Class Notes in the same issue, and I remember meeting in Professor Howard Porter's apartment to read Lucretius with Professor Steele Com-mager. Bulletin boards near the Sundial announced times and locations.

For perhaps the last time since the Middle Ages, the *universitas* — the corporate

body of students and teachers — removed itself from administrative control and migrated in a body to carry on its essential work. Do today's students and their professors have the same sense that reading and thinking about Matthew Arnold or Lucretius can be as important and radical as protests and petitions?

Lee T. Percy '69
Merion Station, Pa.

First Impressions

Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80's article in the Spring 2018 issue on the events of the Spring '68 student uprising at Columbia ["A Tinderbox, Poised To Ignite"] was well written and very informative. I was unaware of the extent of the role of the Students' Afro-American Society and its disciplined confrontation of the University administration, especially with respect to the proposed gym to be built on part of Morningside Park.

Reading the details of the gym opposition reminded me of an experience I had during Freshman Week in fall 1952. When I arrived on campus, the first classmate I met that day, during the initial freshman processing activity, was Gordon Osmond '56. After finishing the process, he and I decided to explore the campus and walked to the president's residence on Morningside Drive to look around. As we arrived, University President Dwight D. Eisenhower's wife, Mamie, came out of the house to enter her limousine. She saw us, and graciously said hello and welcomed us to Columbia.

After the limo drove away, we decided to cross the street and look at Morningside Park. After gazing across the park to West Harlem, we looked down at the park at the bottom of the cliff. There we saw a black man, spread-eagled, facing the stone wall of the cliff, while being searched by a white NYC policeman.

Welcome to Morningside Heights.

Jerome Breslow '56
Potomac, Md.

'68's Collateral Damage

You cannot report accurately on the impact of the 1968 riots at Columbia without underscoring their impact on hundreds of Columbia students who lost their educational opportunities because of the short-

sighted, irresponsible acts of those rioters who took over the campus and seized the president's office. It was the symbol of ultimate arrogance when *The New York Times* featured on page 1 a photo of Mark Rudd '69 sitting behind President Grayson Kirk's desk, smoking one of his expensive cigars.

In the wake of all that happened, Columbia eliminated 80 full, four-year NROTC scholarships that provided tuition, room, board, uniforms, an allowance for meals and a Navy commission upon graduation. From then on hundreds of students were denied a Columbia education.

Without NROTC, I would have had no way of obtaining a college education. My scholarship and a superb Columbia liberal arts education changed my life. Commissioned in 1956, I served mostly in the Pacific, returned to California and began my career in the newspaper business. In late 1968, I was tapped by then-Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird to serve as deputy assistant secretary of defense on the Laird-Packard team. One of our first acts was to eliminate NROTC programs at universities like Columbia that could not assure protection of academic freedoms for those who chose to follow the NROTC program. We simply took the ROTC scholarship business elsewhere, to areas of the country where the program was welcomed, nurtured and served as the source of outstanding, well-educated leaders for our nation.

Everyone lost because of damage done by the rioters and by a University administration that lacked the courage to stand up for the rights of all.

Dick Capen '56
La Jolla, Calif.

Editor's note: The NROTC program is again in operation at Columbia, having been reinstated under an agreement signed in May 2011; see college.columbia.edu/cct/archive/fall11/around_the_quads3.

Thank You for the Music

I just finished reading, with great pleasure and fondness, "Here's to You, Mr. Garfunkel" ["Columbia Forum"] in the Spring 2018 issue; it included an excerpt from Art Garfunkel '65's new autobiography, *What Is It All but Luminous: Notes from an Underground Man*. I was a schoolmate of Art's at the College, but unfortunately I never met him.

I "met" him a few years later, in 1968, when I went to the Jayhawk Theatre in Topeka, Kans., the town where I grew up, to see *The Graduate*. I remember exactly where I sat alone in the balcony. I could not help but identify with Dustin Hoffman's character, and I became engrossed in his dilemma. But while watching the movie, something happened to me that had never happened before, nor was to happen to me again: I slowly became mesmerized by the movie's music. The songs were transcendent: "The Sound of Silence," "Mrs. Robinson," "Scarborough Fair," "April Come She Will." I had never heard songs that beautiful, and though I will soon be 74, I don't think I have ever since heard songs more beautiful.

I had danced to the sound of The Beatles in front of Ferris Booth Hall, but in time, and forever after, I came to the realization that no other musical group could ever equal Simon and Garfunkel. The tragedy, of course, is that Paul and Art broke up in 1970. I still listen to their famous 1983 Central Park reunion concert, which drew half a million fans.

Thank you, Art, for making my world forever beautiful with your singing.

Tod Howard Hawks '66
Boulder, Colo.

Correction

Due to an editing error, the wrong Bob Reiss was referenced in "Remembering All the Champions," in the Spring 2018 "Letters to the Editor." Rather than the late Bob Reiss '51, PS'59, it was in fact Bob Reiss '52 who played on the excellent 1950–51 basketball team — and he's alive and well (and in good humor about the mix-up). CCT apologizes for the error.

Contact Us

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

the **BigPicture**

REUNION REVELRY

Lion spirits were high at this year's Starlight Celebration on June 2, as 2,500 alumni and guests enjoyed the festivities bathed in Butler's blue glow. Find party pics, class photos and more Reunion 2018 snaps at [facebook.com/alumnicc/photos](https://www.facebook.com/alumnicc/photos).

SCOTT RUDD





Around the Quads

Dinner and discussion at the My Columbia College Journey launch on April 9.



MARYAM HASSAN '20

“My Columbia College Journey” Encourages Holistic View of Students’ Development

From Dante’s travels through the afterlife to Odysseus’ post-war wanderings, Columbia College students are no strangers to contemplating the journeys that take place in literature’s essential works.

Now they’re being asked to consider one closer to home: their own.

That’s the goal of My Columbia College Journey, a new initiative that encourages undergraduates to reflect on their life at the College — and beyond — in real time. It advocates taking a holistic view of personal development rather than defining oneself in academic terms. This more rounded view encompasses what’s learned in the classroom (while deemphasizing grades and transcripts, or the urge to overly identify with a major), taking into account the lessons and influences of extracurriculars, residential life, internships, research, community engagement and more.

Ultimately the Journey aims to help students be more aware of their skills, their

interests and how they want to grow; make thoughtful decisions about their academic and co-curricular life; and understand and articulate the many ways the College shapes them.

“The Journey encourages you to see the interconnectedness of your experiences for the very first time, to examine all the possibilities your mind can envision and to ask yourself questions that will focus on the process — not just the outcome,” Dean James J. Valentini said to the nearly 300 students who attended the Journey launch on April 9. Held in Low Rotunda, it featured discussion and a family-style dinner with staff and faculty members.

The Journey has been more than three years in the making, having grown out of faculty conversations by the Committee on Instruction during the 2015–16 academic year. It is grounded in a set of 13 “Core Competencies,” which are focal points for reflection and provide a shared language for the entire Col-

lege community to talk about their journeys. The competencies are civic and individual responsibility; community engagement and inclusion; creativity and innovation; critical thinking; global awareness; information and technological literacy; knowledge; oral communication; teamwork and collaboration; research; quantitative literacy; wellness and resilience; and written communication.

While the initiative does not have any required elements, students are encouraged to share their stories on the My Columbia College Journey website (college.columbia.edu/journey), which offers questions to promote reflection about each of the competencies and helps students find an advisor to help with the process.

“Not all of what you learn is in class,” said Dustin Rubenstein, associate professor of ecology, evolution and environmental biology, at the launch. “It’s important for you to challenge yourself and get outside your comfort zone.”

College Expands Core to Commencement Campaign

Columbia College has announced the expansion of Core to Commencement, the first-ever fundraising and engagement campaign dedicated exclusively to the College. The next phase embraces five priority areas for support — including teaching and mentoring, and wellness and community — with an increased total goal of \$750 million.

More than 35,000 donors have contributed \$422 million since the campaign launched in November 2015 with an original goal of \$400 million. In the two and a half years since, the campaign helped establish the Mendelson Center for Undergraduate Business Initiatives and the Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights. The former has made business concentrations available to undergraduates; the latter creates a distinctive undergraduate experience that allows students to address issues of inequity and injustice (see cover story, page 16).

In addition, \$130 million of the contributions have gone to financial aid, 14 endowed professorships have been established and 1,000 funded experiences for students — from summer intern-

ships to humanities fellowships and science experiences — have been secured.

Looking ahead, the priority areas for the next phase of Core to Commencement are:

- **The Core at 100:** ensuring the Core Curriculum's continued relevance with a focus on faculty engagement, interdisciplinary programming and contributions to the public domain to establish the College as a leader in liberal arts education;
- **Beyond the Classroom:** giving students hands-on experiences that expand their skills, worldviews and leadership abilities;
- **Wellness and Community:** supporting and challenging students to develop life skills, well-being and resilience;
- **Teaching and Mentoring:** attracting the best faculty and involving them in students' lives while supporting their scholarly research; and
- **Access and Support:** creating access for students most able to fully enjoy the potential of a College education and creating a vibrant and diverse student culture

For more information, go to college.columbia.edu/campaign.



Silver Stars!

Our Fall 2017 cover story, “Star Power,” by Yelena Shuster '09, won a Silver Award for feature writing from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Reporting on Brandon Victor Dixon '03's whirlwind of political fame impressed CASE judges: “... that unexpected twist elevated this story beyond a run-of-the-mill profile.”

The CASE Circle of Excellence awards honor outstanding work in advancement services, alumni relations, communications, fundraising and marketing at colleges, universities, independent schools and affiliated nonprofits. This year, almost 350 awards were given to more than 190 institutions. Read the winning feature now at college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall17.



LIFETOUCH / DENIS GOSTEV

A Toast to the Class of 2018

On May 1, nearly 900 members of CC'18 enjoyed dinner under a tent on South Lawn to mark their transition from students to alumni. Hosted by the Columbia College Alumni Association, the annual Columbia College Senior Dinner is a beloved tradition for seniors on their last day of classes. The event featured a welcome from Columbia College Student Council President Nathan Rosin '18, as well as remarks from Dean James J. Valentini, Senior Class President John Philippe Avendano '18 and Senior Dinner Co-chairs Vik Kapur '18, Starly Sofia Santos '18 and Charlotte Silk '18.

Carnoy and Lavine Elected Trustee Co-Chairs

On April 18, Lisa Carnoy '89 and Jonathan Lavine '88 were elected as the new co-chairs of the University Board of Trustees. Both come from a finance background and have a long history of service to the College and the University. The two have been friends since they were RAs in Carman.

Carnoy is a leader in global finance and capital markets; she spent 23 years at Bank of America Merrill Lynch and is now the chief financial officer at Alix Partners. She has received a John Jay Award for professional achievement, the College's Alumna Achievement Award and the

University's Alumni Medal. Lavine is co-managing partner of investment firm Bain Capital. He has also received a John Jay Award for professional achievement, as well as the Alexander Hamilton Medal, and is chairman emeritus of the Columbia College Board of Visitors.

Says Carnoy, "I could not have a greater honor than to lead Columbia's Board of Trustees, and to do so together with my longtime College friend and dedicated fellow alum Jonathan." Lavine adds, "I could not be prouder to serve as co-chair with my friend Lisa, and to have another



Lisa Carnoy '89



Jonathan Lavine '88

unique opportunity to give back to this remarkable institution."

The two will take over in September from outgoing chair Jonathan Schiller '69, LAW'73, who has held the role since 2013.

DidYouKnow?

The Pylons Flanking the 116th Street Gates Were Going To Be a Set of Four

On June 2, 1915, the Class of 1890 presented a gift to the University to mark the occasion of its 25th reunion: the pylon named *Letters* that now graces the right side of the 116th Street Gates at

Broadway. From a 1915 issue of *Spectator*: "[Sculptor Charles Keck] has represented *Letters* in the form of a woman holding an open book. ... The first page contains the inscription 'Hic Labor,' while the second page read 'Haec Quies.' When freely translated this means: 'Letters should be the employment of our serious hours as well as of our hours of leisure.'"

The article continues, "This is the first of a series of four similar pylons, to be placed on the four corners of 116th street between

Broadway and Amsterdam. Across the street from *Letters* it is planned to place *Science* to accompany the group of Engineering buildings situated there. On the Hamilton Hall corner *Arts* will be erected, while *Philosophy* will occupy the remaining space. Each of these pylons will cost about \$9,000 and will be presented by different classes for their twenty-fifth anniversary gift."

In 1925, the Class of 1900 donated money for *Science* to join *Letters* on Broadway; however, future classes lost interest in completing the quartet (possibly due to the Great Depression and then WWII) and the Amsterdam pylons were never completed.



SCOTT RUDD

Faculty Honored for Teaching, Writing

On June 2, the Society of Columbia Graduates and the deans of Columbia College and Columbia Engineering bestowed the annual Great Teacher Awards on Associate Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology **Dustin R. Rubenstein** and Professor of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics **Andrew Smyth**.

The Academic Awards Committee of Columbia College celebrated the student-nominated recipients of the 2018 Lionel Trilling Book Award and Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching at a ceremony on May 2. **Gareth Williams**, the Violin Family Professor of Classics and chair, Department of Classics, was honored with the 43rd annual Lionel Trilling Book Award for his recent book, *Pietro Bembo on Etna: The Ascent of a Venetian Humanist*, chosen by the committee for bringing "illuminating new perspective to another work of literature." **Gauri Viswanathan TC'85**, the Class of 1933 Professor of English and Comparative Literature and director, the South Asia Institute, was honored with the 57th annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching "for the unmistakably global scale of her thinking."

On April 11, eight faculty members were honored with Lenfest Awards for exceptional instruction and scholarship. The 2018 recipients are Professor of Religion **Courtney Bender**; Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature **Eleanor Johnson**; the Frank Gallipoli Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art **Branden W. Joseph**; Professor of Biological Sciences and Systems Biology **Molly Przeworski**; Senior Lecturer in the American Language Program **Shelley A. Saltzman BC'79, TC'97**; Associate Professor of History **Neslihan Şenocak**; Associate Professor of Religion **Josef Soretz**; and Professor of History **Marc Van De Mieroop**. Each honoree receives a stipend of \$25,000 a year for three years.

the Essentials

Kevin Fellezs

Associate Professor of Music Kevin Fellezs says his path to academia began unintentionally. “I just wanted a steady income so I could play jazz at night,” he says. While getting his master’s in humanities at San Francisco State, Fellezs, who has a joint appointment in the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, “got a taste for scholarship.” “I wanted to challenge the way music was taught, particularly music by black Americans,” he says. Fellezs, who joined the Columbia faculty in 2012, now teaches frequently wait-listed undergraduate classes including “African-American Music” and “Popular Music and Protest Movements.” In early spring, he spoke to *CCT* about defining ethnomusicology, collecting vinyl and his Ph.D. advisor: political activist, academic and author Angela Davis.



JORG MEYER

FELLEZS GREW UP in a black, working-class neighborhood in San Francisco. “Hayes Valley is now very gentrified, but it used to be projects,” he says. His father, a native Hawaiian, was a singer and huge jazz fan; his mother is Japanese. Fellezs started piano lessons at an early age and accompanied his father when he sang. “If you had asked me when I was 5 or 6 who my favorite musician was, I would have yelled: ‘Duke Ellington!’ So I’ve been into jazz for a long time.”

HE PURSUED BEING a musician and wasn’t sure whether he should bother with college. “It was a matter of maturing and realizing that unless you ‘make it’ as a musician, it’s going to be a hard life,” he says. “I didn’t want to be a bitter old guy, so I went back to school.” As an undergrad at San Francisco State, teaching music theory was the extent of his ambitions until he was inspired by a class called “Comparative Cultures in China and Japan.” “Instead of the mechanics of music, I wanted to think about the *meaning* of music,” he says.

A FAVORITE PROFESSOR, Mary Scott, convinced him to work toward an advanced degree. After he earned his M.A., Scott recommended a Ph.D. program, *The History of Consciousness*, at UC Santa Cruz. Shortly after he applied, Fellezs met widely published UCSC sociology professor Herman Gray at a

conference. Fellezs introduced himself, and after the two discussed jazz and collecting vinyl, they spent the afternoon record shopping. “That was all I thought it was, just ‘Nice meeting you,’” he says.

THEN HE GOT AN EMAIL from Angela Davis, asking to meet for coffee. “I was like — is someone spoofing me?! But it was real!” They met in Berkeley, where Davis told him she’d heard he’d connected with Gray. “She said, ‘He wants to work with you, and if you came to Santa Cruz, I’d be your advisor,’” Fellezs says. “And that was that.”

DAVIS BECAME A ROLE MODEL for Fellezs. “She taught me a lot of ethnic and feminist theory,” he says. “And the first time I lectured as a TA for her, she gave me a check. I couldn’t believe it. I had done it for other professors and they never paid me — it was always for the experience,” he says. “She said to me, ‘I’m not other professors.’ So now I do the same, and I get the same reaction. It’s how you show someone’s labor is of value. That was the sort of the thing she would teach by example.” Fellezs will teach a master’s class on Davis this fall.

FELLEZS IS INTERESTED in ethnomusicology, which derives from anthropology. “It’s about spending time with people and getting a sense of a space in which music is made,” he says. Fellezs completed

a program this year with anthropologists from Columbia and Barnard, *Pacific Climate Circuits*, which looked at cultural responses to global climate change through interviews with indigenous activists, artists, musicians, filmmakers and poets.

AS A TEACHER, Fellezs says he wants his undergraduate students to appreciate music and music culture as something more than just entertainment or diversion. “Important things are expressed and articulated through music — even popular music. It’s not simply about spectacle or celebrity,” he says. Next year he will revive a dormant course, “Contemporary Native American Music,” and plans to include native Hawaiian music in the syllabus.

HIS BOOK *Birds of Fire: Jazz, Rock, Funk and the Creation of Fusion* (Duke University Press) won the 2012 Woody Guthrie Book Award. He recently finished the manuscript for his next book, about Hawaiian slack-key guitar.

FELLEZS HAS AROUND 8,000 vinyl records in his collection. “I used to be more eclectic, but now it’s mostly jazz and jazz fusion. I have a big Hawaiian section and a Japanese pop section,” he says. But he’s not a snob: “I don’t even look for the best versions — I have plenty that I picked up for 50 cents. Sadly, there aren’t many record stores anymore!”

— Jill C. Shomer

In Memoriam: Edward W. “Ted” Tayler, Beloved Shakespeare Scholar

Edward W. “Ted” Tayler, the Lionel Trilling Professor Emeritus and special lecturer in English and comparative literature, whose transformative lectures on Shakespeare and Milton inspired thousands of students and earned him the University’s highest honors, died on April 23, 2018. He was 87.

Tayler’s courses included Lit Hum; *The New Yorker* film critic David Denby ’65, JRN’66, who studied 17th-century metaphysical poetry with Tayler in 1962, featured him, and Lit Hum, in his 1997 book *Great Books: My Adventures with Homer, Rousseau, Woolf, and Other Indestructible Writers of*

(1979); and *Donne’s Idea of a Woman* (1991). “I had, after all, always maintained that publication must come second and ought ideally to be constrained by Horace’s nine-year period of incubation,” Tayler said in 1989, when he was named an “Honored Scholar” by the Milton Society. Teaching, he continued, “must come first and ought to be considered the noblest of endeavors. ... To read Homer, Virgil and Milton with young people vitally concerned with such authors as these — now *that*, I thought, must be a thing worth doing.”

Upon retiring in 1999, Tayler was Columbia’s most decorated teacher. He received a Great Teacher Award from the Society of Columbia Graduates in 1985, the Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching in 1986 and the University’s Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1996. Upon receiving the last, the following citation was delivered: “An educational innovator, revered classroom teacher, and devoted mentor to both undergraduate and graduate students. Your students call you magical, learned and passionate, tough yet tender, witty, humane, wholly unique. Many report that you have changed their lives.”

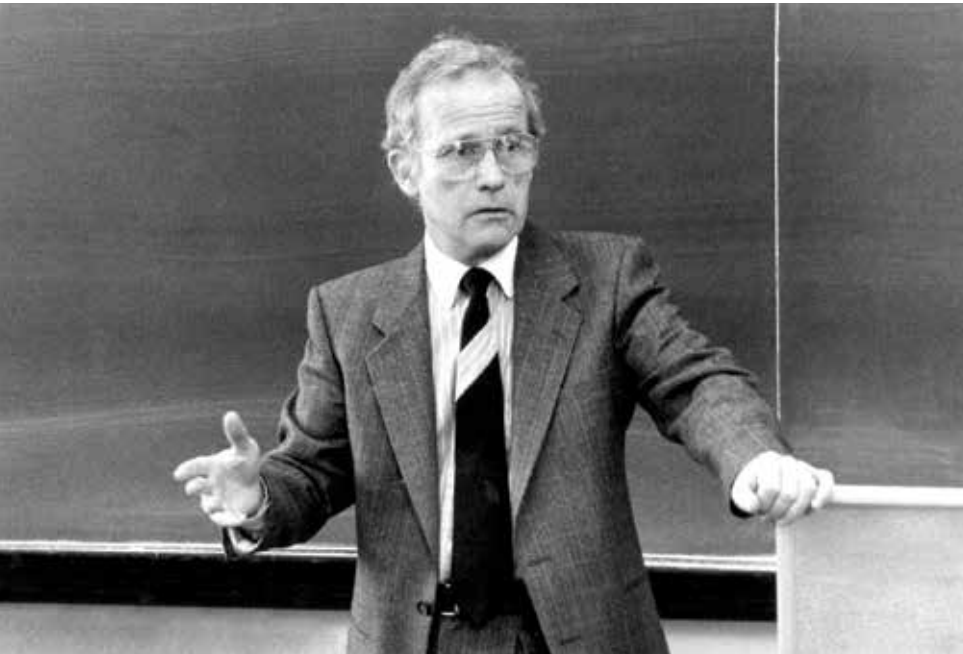
He was also honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship and two National Endowment for the Humanities-Huntington Grants. Colleagues published two collections of Renaissance essays in his honor.

In spring 1968, Tayler was scuffed up by police while protesting alongside students against Columbia’s perceived racism and support for the Vietnam War. But he eschewed the protesters’ takeover of campus buildings, cautioning them that “you can’t remove the chains of oppression by putting them on classroom doors.”

Tayler was an avid Norton Commando rider and squash player who liked his martinis bone-dry, with a twist.

Survivors include his third wife, Christina Lee Moustakis; children, William, David and Letta BC’80, from his first marriage, to Stanley Craig Tayler; Edward and Jesse from his second marriage, to Irene Smith Tayler; and four grandchildren.

Read more about Tayler in CCT’s May 2004 cover story: college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/may04/cover.html.



JESSICA RAIMI

Tayler was born in Berlin in 1931 to William R. Tayler, an engineer, and Violetta Klavin-Zeiden, a Latvian emigrée, and raised in Westfield, N.J. He earned a B.A. from Amherst in 1954 and a Ph.D. in English from Stanford in 1960, joining Columbia’s faculty weeks later. He also taught at Stanford, Princeton and the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College.

At Columbia, Tayler taught 16th- and 17th-century poetry and prose and other canonical works for nearly four decades and was known for astonishing his students into literary epiphany.

While some students called Tayler theatrical, many others called him life changing. Dramatist Tony Kushner ’78, author of *Angels in America*, credited Tayler’s Shakespeare lectures with inspiring him to become a playwright. “I thought I was going to faint, I was so overwhelmed ... it made the world look different,” Kushner said.

the Western World. Denby described him as “brilliant,” a “hipster wit” who helped students “feel like they are reading literature for the first time.”

The Core Curriculum writing course that Tayler created in 1983, “Logic and Rhetoric,” now known as “University Writing,” earned him a Distinguished Service to the Core Curriculum Award in 1998. “Ted Tayler was trying to get away from the cookie-cutter and formulaic writing, which ultimately shuts down thinking,” said Sandra Pierson Prior, head of the Logic and Rhetoric/Composition program from 1982 to 2002. “Logic and Rhetoric’ was designed to develop analytical thinking, so students could learn to approach any intellectual problem and deal with it logically.”

Tayler wrote four books — *Nature and Art in Renaissance Literature* (1964); *Literary Criticism of 17th-Century England* (1967); *Milton’s Poetry: Its Development in Time*

ROAR, LION, ROAR

Columbia Fencing: The Dynasty Is Back

By Alex Sachare '71

With two NCAA Championships in the last four years and a pair of 2018 Ivy League crowns raising Columbia's total to 50 — by far the most in the Ancient Eight — the Lions have reclaimed their place among the nation's elite fencing programs.

Or, as Coach Michael Aufrichtig succinctly puts it: “The dynasty is back!”

The secret to Columbia's success? A renewed commitment to placing the team ahead of the individual, as well as making the most of that real estate mantra: location, location, location.

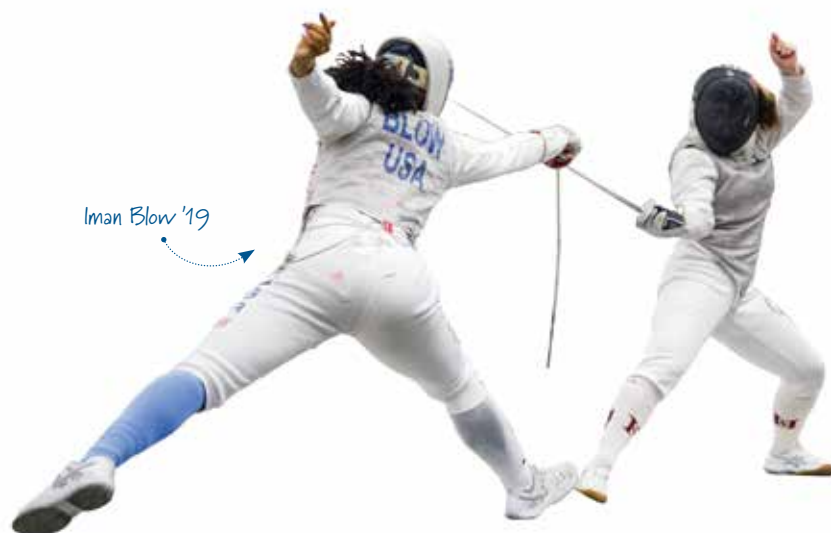
“We really focus on team in our program,” says Aufrichtig. “Fencing is an individual sport — it's only you out there — but each of your bouts adds up toward the team scoring. Our team realizes that it's much more fun when the team wins.”

Meanwhile, Columbia's location in New York City places it in the middle of the greatest concentration of fencing clubs, coaches and competitors in the country. And the Lion fencers take full advantage, practicing not only in Morningside Heights, but also at the Fencers Club and the New York Athletic Club, which have hosted world-class fencers for more than a century.

It's a formula that has worked for decades. “Promising fencers come to Columbia because they know that in addition to the great coaches here, they will have the opportunity to train with the coaches at the surrounding clubs,” says Steve Buchman '59, LAW'62, a two-time All-American in épée.

Columbia's fencing program was among the nation's finest from the 1950s through the 1990s, but went through a dry spell

MIKE McLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS



until Aufrichtig assumed the helm in 2011. And there's no doubt about it — the Lions are back. The Class of 2018 graduated with two NCAA Championships, a second- and a third-place finish; the men graduated with four Ivy League Championships and the women with three.

“Columbia has more than a century of tradition in fencing, going back to the 1912 Olympics. [It's] a tradition that would stand up against any sport in any country,” says Jeff Kestler '68, an All-American and two-time All-Ivy in foil. “The fact that Michael and his assistant coaches have been able to take hold of that and extend it is incredible.”

Columbia, which has won 15 NCAA Championships dating back to 1951, finished second to Notre Dame at this year's NAAs in April. Iman Blow '19 won the women's foil championship, defeating Ivy League titlist and fellow All-American Sylvie Binder '21 in the semifinals, to become the 36th NCAA individual champion in Columbia history.

Columbia fencers are making their mark on a global scale, as well. Columbia had seven competitors in the Junior (under age 20) World Fencing Championships in Verona, Italy, in April, the most of any NCAA program. Binder led Team USA to the gold medal in women's foil and Sidarth Kumbra

'21 came home with individual and team bronze medals in men's foil.

Last summer, at the Senior World Fencing Championships in Germany, Margaret Lu '17, Nzingha Prescod '15 and Nicole Ross '13 helped the United States win a silver medal in foil, the best result ever for the U.S. women at the Senior Worlds. They, along with Jake Hoyle '16 and Jackie Dubrovich '16, are candidates for berths on Team USA at the 2020 Olympics. And Aufrichtig noted that current fencers like Binder and Blow might take a year off to try to qualify for the team.

Columbia has had many outstanding fencing coaches including James Murray, Jose Velarde, Irv DeKoff, Lou Bankuti, George Kolombatovich, Aladar Kogler and now Aufrichtig, who has revived the program by stressing a team-first attitude where the fencers are part of a family that also includes coaches, trainers, parents and alumni.

Blow, for example, is quick to share credit for her NCAA individual championship, where her teammates swarmed onto the mat to celebrate with her after the final point. “It was a test of my own ability to perform, and also it was a test of our entire team's ability to support and to cheer and to be there for one another,” she says.



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

ROAR, LION, ROAR

Binder had a similar comment when she was named Columbia's Female Rookie of the Year for all sports at the annual Varsity C Celebration on May 1: "As much as going to the Ivy League Championships and getting to compete at the NAAs was amazing — and I hope I can do that again — I think that just showing up to practice every day and spending time with my teammates was the best part of my year."

As for the benefits of being in New York City, it may well mean more in fencing than any other sport.

"The top fencers in the country, including more than half the Olympic team, come from the tri-state area," Aufrechtig says. And while other schools with top programs, like Notre Dame, Penn State and Ohio State, might offer athletics scholarships to lure those fencers, Columbia can counter with the appeal of the New York club fencing scene; the city boasts mainstays like the Fencers Club and New York AC, and others are constantly sprouting up.

To maximize this resource, Aufrechtig holds two team practices a week at Columbia and then has his fencers travel to the various New York clubs to learn from their coaches and compete against other elite fencers. Often they split up by weapon, since a particular club might specialize in one of the three that make up the sport — foil, épée or sabre — and Aufrechtig and his assistants stay on top of which clubs are attracting the top fencers in which weapon. "Wherever the best fencers are, that's where we go," he says.

Lu, an All-Ivy First Team selection in each of her four years at Columbia and an All-American as a senior, was one of many recent graduates who took advantage. "The access to multiple strong fencing clubs results in an unrivaled caliber and variety of available sparring partners," she says, noting that some teammates visited up to five different clubs in a week.

And while there are many schools in the New York area that can and do take advantage of this resource, there is only one Columbia. "It's an opportunity to get

an Ivy League education, which can open many doors," says Dr. Tony Kestler '71, the 1969 NCAA individual foil champion, a two-time All-American and Jeff's brother.

Supporting the team effort are the fencing alumni advisory committee and the Rusty Blades, an informal group of alumni, including Buchman and the Kestlers, who have supported the program for decades; they cheer the Lions at meets and return to campus for the annual Spring Fencing Banquet, where they mingle with members of the current team and incoming fencers. Being welcomed into the multi-generational community impresses upon the younger fencers that they are joining a program rich in tradition.

"Success breeds success," Buchman says. "It's a winning culture and you can't minimize that. People want to come to a program that has been and continues to be successful."

Alex Sachare '71 covered two NCAA Championship fencing teams as sports editor of Spectator and is a former editor-in-chief of CCT.

Lightweight Crew Wins National Title

Lightweight crew won its second Intercollegiate Rowing Association National Collegiate Championship in three years on June 3, defeating Princeton by four seats on Mercer Lake in West Windsor, N.J., to cap a highly successful season.

The Lions swept all of their regular season cup races for the first time since 2000 and lost only once, at Harvard on April 8. They avenged that loss by winning the Eastern Sprints — again for the first time since 2000, with Princeton second followed by Penn and then Harvard — and the IRAs, where Harvard finished third.

The final of the IRAs was held in extremely windy conditions, with the crews facing heavy headwinds for the first part of the race. Columbia got off to a rough start but quickly righted itself and took an early lead, with Princeton and Harvard close behind. "We definitely didn't get off to the start we wanted. It was pretty rocky, a lot of waves. I'd say we got it back in our middle thousand," captain Ben Landis '18 told row2K.com. The Lions stayed in front throughout the race and held off a late charge by Princeton to win.



MIKE MCLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Shortly after they crossed the finish, Landis spotted his father, John, who lives in Germany, among the spectators watching the race from the shore. Rather than wait till the boat returned to the boatyard, Landis jumped overboard and swam to shore to meet him. "He flew all the way from Germany to see me, so I wanted to see him," said Landis. "He was really happy we won."

It was just the fourth varsity eight national championship since 1928 for any of the three Columbia crews. Landis and

Jenson Carlgren '19 are the first Lion lightweights to earn two gold medals at the IRAs, since both were in the varsity eight in 2016.

Meanwhile, Columbia's second lightweight varsity eight enjoyed an undefeated season, sweeping its regular-season races, the Eastern Sprints and the IRAs. "Two guys who won the IRAs as sophomores are now in the second varsity," said John Maloney '18. "This is just a reflection of how much better our team has gotten this year."

HEADLINERS

MEN'S TENNIS earned a share of the 2018 Ivy League crown with Dartmouth, led by Ivy Player of the Year Victor Pham '19 and the doubles team of Jack Lin '21 and William Matheson '19. Columbia



then beat Monmouth and Virginia in the first two rounds of the NCAA Championships before bowing to top-seeded Wake Forest in the Sweet Sixteen.

The Lions have won or shared the Ivy title in each of the last five years and 15 times overall, including 13 since Coach Bid Goswami, the longest-tenured coach at Columbia, took over the program in 1982. Columbia was ranked as high as fifth in the nation during the season, before finishing at number 16, which earned it the right to host the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament. And in beating Virginia on May 12, the Lions knocked out the team that had worn the NCAA crown each of the last three seasons.

BASEBALL swept Yale in the Ivy League Championship Series (ILCS) to earn a share of the conference's 2018 title along with the Bulldogs, who won the regular season. The Lions earned their fourth NCAA Tournament bid in the last six years but were defeated by the University of Florida and Florida Atlantic University in the double-elimination regional.

Yale had the home-field advantage for the ILCS, but that proved to be no problem for the Lions. Harrisen Egly SEAS'18 pitched seven shutout innings and Ty Wiest '18 retired all six batters he faced as Columbia blanked Yale 4-0 in the opener of the best-of-3 series on May 22, then the two teams battled for 15 innings the next day before Joe Engel '19's sacrifice fly gave the Lions a 2-1 victory in the longest game in Columbia history.

TAYLOR TROUT '18 was named the Ivy League Player of the Year as voted by the league's eight head softball coaches, the first Columbia player to receive the honor in the program's 19-year history. A second baseman, Trout led the Ivy League and set Columbia single-season records in batting average (.455), on-base percentage (.507) and slugging percentage (.797). She also had 56 hits, 15 doubles, nine home runs and 36 RBIs, all of which also led the Ivy League. Her batting average ranks seventh in Ivy League history.

KYRA TIRANA BARRY '87 (soccer) and **JOHN VASKE '88** (basketball, track & field) received the Athletics Alumni Awards at the 97th Varsity C Celebration at Roone Arledge Auditorium on May 1. Among the student honors, the Connie S. Maniatty Outstanding Senior Student-Athlete Awards went to **OSAMA KHALIFA '18** (squash) and co-winners **CAMILLE ZIMMERMAN '18** (basketball) and **SARAH HARDIE '18** (cross-country, track & field); the William V. Campbell Performer of the Year Awards were presented to **ARTHUR BOSUA '18** (soccer) and **IMAN BLOW '19** (fencing); and the Rookie of the Year Awards went to **JONATHAN SUCKOW '21** (diving) and **SYLVIE BINDER '21** (fencing).

ARCHERY won its second consecutive national championship in the compound division at the 2018 U.S. National Outdoor Collegiate Championships on May 19 in Newberry, Fla. The Lions, who edged Michigan State 218-216, were led by All-American Sophia Strachan '20, who won the silver medal in the individual competition for the second year in a row.



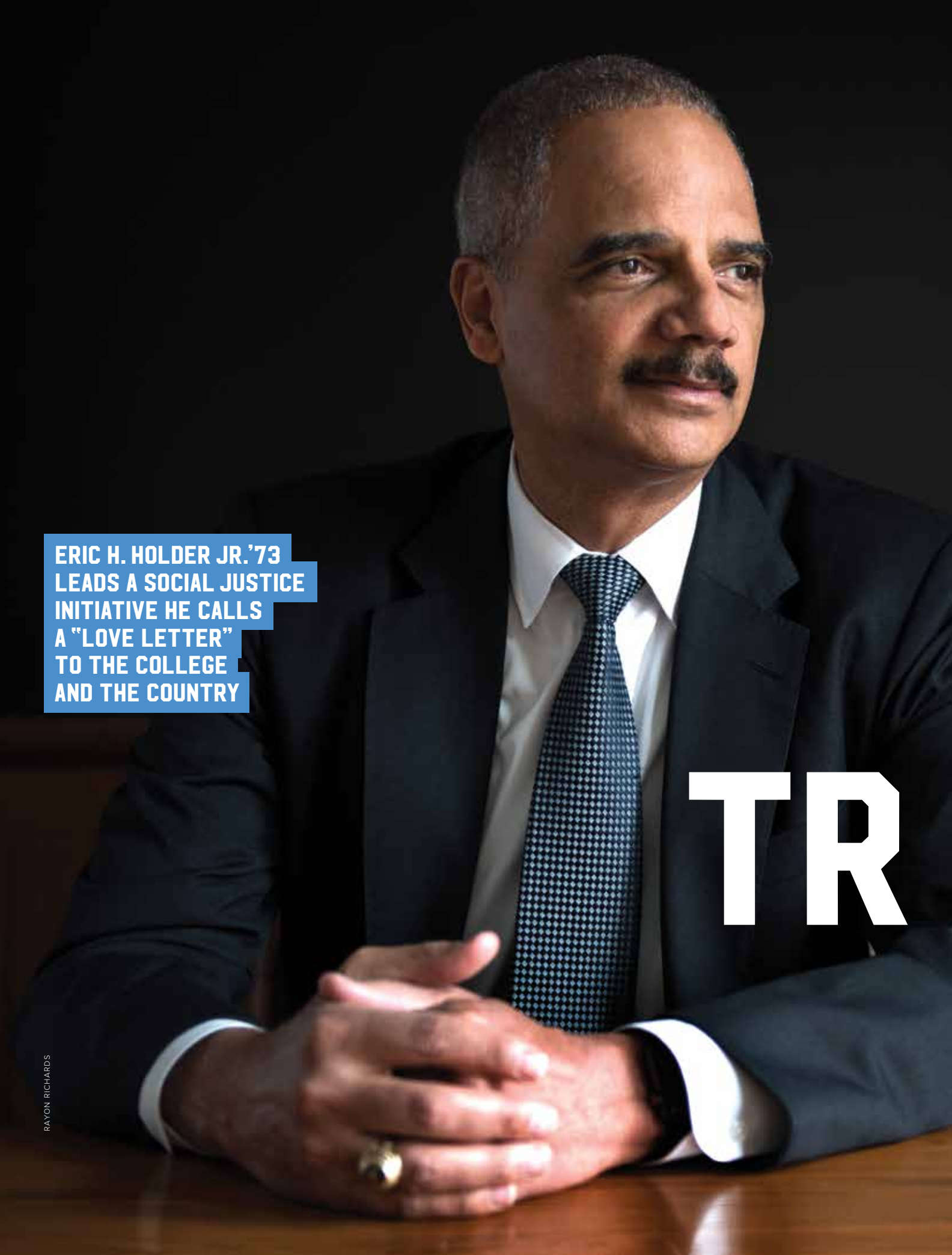
LINDSEY EWERTSEN '19 became the first player in Columbia lacrosse history to be selected as the Ivy League Midfielder of the Year. Ewertsen is Columbia's career leader in caused turnovers and set a program single-season record with 75 draw controls this year, including a single-game record 15 in the Lions' home finale against Princeton. She recorded 26 goals and 15



assists in helping to lead the Lions to the most conference wins in a season and first berth into the Ivy League Tournament.

SARAH HARDIE '18 won the 1,500m run in a time of 4:21.94 at the 2018 Ivy League Heptagonal Outdoor Track & Field Championships for the sixth Heps title of her Columbia career. **NELL CROSBY '18** (3,000m steeplechase), **BRIAN ZABILSKI '19** (10,000m) and **RYAN THOMAS '18** (5,000m) also won their races, as did the 4x800 men's relay team of **JACKSON STOREY '21**, **SAM RITZ '19**, **ALEK SAUER '19** and **JOSIAH LANGSTAFF '19**.

LLOYD EMANUEL '71 was inducted into the United States Tennis Association Eastern's Tennis Hall of Fame on April 28 at the historic New York Athletic Club. Emanuel won the Eastern College Athletic Conference doubles championship in 1970 while competing for Columbia and went on to found the Eastern Master Grand Prix Circuit, a sanctioned adult tournament series that was played on grass, clay, hard and indoor surfaces in the New York metropolitan area 1985-2003 and drew hundreds of players annually. He is now the head tennis professional at the Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, Conn.

A professional portrait of Eric H. Holder Jr. He is a middle-aged man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is seated at a wooden table with his hands clasped. The background is dark and out of focus.

**ERIC H. HOLDER JR. '73
LEADS A SOCIAL JUSTICE
INITIATIVE HE CALLS
A "LOVE LETTER"
TO THE COLLEGE
AND THE COUNTRY**

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ERIC H. HOLDER JR. '73, LAW'76 LOVES COLUMBIA. And Columbia loves him back — the former U.S. Attorney General has been a University trustee and a Class Day and Dean's Day speaker (in 2009 and 2013, respectively); was a 1996 recipient of a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement; and was the 2015 recipient of the Alexander Hamilton Medal, the highest honor bestowed to a member of the Columbia College community.

In November, the College launched the Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights; the Initiative will sponsor courses, public events, student internships and fellowships to amplify the Core Curriculum's discourse on justice and civil and political rights. Discouraging retreat into what Holder calls "the quiet prejudice of inaction," it will encourage students to "live the Core" by supporting their civic action on and beyond campus. The Initiative kicked off in January by hosting The American Voter Project, a five-part series that explored the state of voting in the United States. A new course, "Power, Rights, and Social Change: Achieving Justice," which bridges the Core and contemporary issues of social justice, was taught in the spring semester.

Holder's commitment to just societies extends beyond the Gates. As the chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, he is fighting for fairly drawn district lines to be mapped after the census in 2020. In October he called on Congress to impose changes that could reduce mass incarceration. And he was a lead consultant for Starbucks' racial bias awareness training, which was administered to more than 175,000 employees nationally on May 29, in response to an incident in which two black men were arrested while waiting for a business meeting to start at a Philadelphia store.

Columbia College Today spoke with Holder in late April about how the Initiative got started, his hopes for our country and how the College continues to influence his life. >>

BLUE

BY JILL C. SHOMER

Q: You have said that the College “generated a real desire [in you] to explore the underlying truths” about human rights issues. Was there a particular experience that led you to that?

A: I think the initial desire was sparked by Contemporary Civilization, in my first year. Studying the great thinkers and the fundamental questions they raised about how people interact with one another: What are people like in the state of nature? How do people interact when there are more formal governance structures in place? And then expanding on that — how have people used power and abused power? It sparked in me something that I didn’t necessarily expect to have happen — an interest in human rights and the relationship of the individual to governing authorities. I’d always been interested in history, and this kind of honed that interest, made it more specific.

Q: You were certainly on campus at an interesting time.

A: It *was* an interesting time! I got here the year after the 1968 event. We were on the other side of it but the echoes were still very much there.

Q: Were there any professors who especially made an impression?

A: I think about Hollis Lynch, Dwight Miner [’26, GSAS’40] ... Eric Foner [’63, GSAS’69], obviously. I remember sitting in Foner’s class, maybe it was “America After the Civil War,” and he said, “The history of

America in the 19th century is the history of the black man.” *Whoa*. He was teaching Reconstruction history in a way that’s more generally accepted now, but at the time it was groundbreaking. He was asking questions that people had not asked up until that point and finding what I think are hard truths. He was a real pioneer and a real influence.

Q: What inspired you to spearhead the Initiative with Dean [James J.] Valentini?

A: What I thought was, I got the best liberal arts education you could possibly get here at the College — both in terms of what I learned in the classroom and also being at Columbia at that time. It was a very activist period, we protested a variety of things — the war in Vietnam, Kent State. I was in class learning these very interesting philosophical things and then there was the world as it existed in which I lived, and it always seemed to me that there was a bit of a disconnect. There was a need for some connective tissue between that which I learned in the classroom and that which I experienced in the real world. And I thought the Initiative would be a way in which we might be able to do that: If we can help students take some of what they have learned and the questions that have been generated by their studies, and apply them to the issues they’ll face. For example, what Kant, Hume or Aristotle would say about politics, about human nature, about government — let’s see how that impacts the student’s view of contemporary society. Let’s apply it to the 21st century and see what that’s like. We prepare Columbia students so well with what they learn here in the classrooms; we can augment that with real-world experience and take the best and brightest and make them ready to lead this nation.

Q: It feels like 2018 is an ideal time for this. Can you elaborate on how the Initiative’s tenets are so necessary and urgent for College students today?

A: We’re at the beginnings of what I’ve come to call “a period of American engagement.” In some ways, the silver lining to what I feel is a very disturbing period is to see the reaction of the American people. Almost immediately after the inauguration was the [first] Women’s March; more recently, the march of young people to protest the lack of action when it comes to dealing in a sane, logical way with gun violence. And a whole range of issues and involvement in between. I think one of

the things we’re going to see come out of this period is a revitalized interest in our civic life and the notion that you have to participate. And this is what the Initiative is really all about — if you are going to be a good citizen, you have to be a participant. You can’t merely be an observer. You need to be knowledge based, you need to have a grounding for the ideas and theories you want to expound, and you need to take the abilities that are polished here at Columbia and use them in the real world, for good.

Q: And for the long haul.

A: Exactly. This isn’t a “for now” thing, this is a lifetime thing. Someone gave me a button recently that says STAY WOKE. It doesn’t matter what your age is, as long as you are an American citizen and you care, you need to be involved.

Q: In what way do you think civil and political rights are most threatened right now?

A: The thing that worries me most is that a lot of the norms that govern our society are being either challenged or discarded. I think our legal system is holding, and I think people will ultimately be held accountable for any crimes they may have committed. But there are norms being broken that

THERE WAS A NEED FOR SOME CONNECTIVE TISSUE BETWEEN THAT WHICH I LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM AND THAT WHICH I EXPERIENCED IN THE REAL WORLD.

worry me a great deal; for instance, the ways in which the White House interacts with the Justice Department. There is nothing written that says a President should not direct an Attorney General to do something or take a particular action, but that is a norm that has always been followed. And when it’s not been followed, it has resulted in negative consequences. Another norm is having a healthy respect for the press and the function of the media. If you’re in public life, sometimes you don’t agree with things



ASHOK SINHA

ERIC FONER ’63, GSAS’69 MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPRESSION ON HOLDER AS AN UNDERGRAD.

that are written about you, or sometimes things are wrong. I've been upset by articles, but I never questioned the value of the press — to attack the press is something that I think is unique to this administration, something we've not seen in the United States. But alarmingly, it's something we've seen in other places and at other times. I think we do ourselves a great disservice and put our democracy at risk if we don't understand that as entrenched as it seems, our democracy is still a fragile thing. And it depends on vigilance, involvement and principled opposition when that's appropriate. Unless we do those kinds of things we can end up in a country that's fundamentally different from the one we've had for more than 200 years and that we too often take for granted. There are still a whole range of issues in this imperfect nation, but in a lot of ways this initiative is almost like a love letter to this institution and this country, a means by which I can play a small part in ensuring that those people who are best qualified have the greatest opportunity to lead.

Q: So you are hopeful?

A: I'm an optimistic person. I'm as optimistic now as when I walked up College Walk for the first time. I also believe in the possibility of positive change, but positive change doesn't just *happen*. You have to make it happen. Change happens because people focus on an issue, identify a wrong and then commit themselves to righting that wrong. Doing all the things that are necessary: protesting, challenging an unjust status quo. The easiest thing is to go along. I've been extremely lucky in my life; I suppose I could just go along and go to my job and go home, but that's not what Columbia people do. That's not why you come to this place.

Q: Speaking of positive change, let's talk about Starbucks. How did that come about?

A: I got a call after the incident in Philadelphia; [Starbucks CEO] Kevin Johnson asked me to be on a panel to deal with the notion of unconscious bias. What I liked about Starbucks was that early on, from the highest levels, it was made clear that what happened there was wrong, without trying to sugarcoat it. We want to find a way in which to make sure it doesn't happen again.

But I also think that we as a nation should not find comfort in the notion that this is a Starbucks problem. This is way



HOLDER AT THE INITIATIVE LAUNCH IN NOVEMBER 2017.

bigger than an iconic American company. The whole question of unconscious bias is something that impacts all of us.

Q: Do you think the training will be effective?

A: I hope in the Starbucks context it will be useful for their employees, but it's also something that we as a nation should somehow engage in. I think about the relationship between communities of color and the valiant men and women who serve in law enforcement. If I could shape the training that people in law enforcement went through, I think I'd have modules: one would be about unconscious bias and the use of force, and how you protect yourself when it comes to violent encounters; and then with regard to people in these communities of color, [to create] a greater understanding of how difficult it is to be a person in law enforcement. You could build up the necessary trust that I think has eroded over the years and make those relationships better.

I think that in some ways, there's a line from that Starbucks in Philadelphia to these larger societal questions. I think the training can be effective, and I think it's a start. If it's successful, if we can come up with a metric and make a determination that this effort has been successful, why not expand it? Let's have other companies do this training, governmental agencies

do the same thing. If we can take a more widespread examination of the question of unconscious bias, the experience those two young men had to deal with in Philadelphia might actually be worth it.

Q: What is your long-term vision for the Initiative? Is it something you'd like to see become a national program?

A: My dream at this point is for this initiative to become an integral part of the Columbia experience, and imbue it with a flexibility so that it has the capacity to deal with whatever the civil and political rights issues will be 50 years from now, or 100 years from now. My hope would be in the same way that Contemporary Civilization has lasted for so long, that maybe this initiative will last as long.

I'd like to think this might extend to something larger in other places, but my particular concern is with the institution to which I owe so much and that I love so much, so I want it to be here. There are very few things that I care about having my name on — this is one thing that matters to me. That this becomes part of the Columbia DNA. Long after I'm gone, people might think about The Holder Initiative and in some ways associate me with what I think will be a great launching pad for social change, for justice. As long as Columbia is in the lead, I'm happy.

“THE LATEST” TURNS ONE!

Selections from our first year of original digital content

IN MAY 2017, CCT debuted original digital content on our website in a section we call “The Latest.” Our mission was to keep you connected to CCT and the College between quarterly issues, and to bring you more timely news about your fellow alumni. We hoped you would respond and boy, did you ever! “Take Five” — in which we ask alums five questions about their College experience — took off like a rocket, and we’ve been astounded by the range of personal stories and details you’ve shared. We’ve gone on to feature alumni voices from the Class of 1934 (writer Herman Wouk, who put out a book at 102!) to the Class of 2017 (CCT class correspondent Carl Yin) — in their own words, conversations, essays and even cartoon panels. (Ariel Schrag ’03’s graphic column, “Pregnant on the Subway,” was so popular it got thousands of pageviews!) It’s been a blast working on this, so to commemorate our first Latest anniversary we’re sharing excerpts from some of our favorite posts. You can find the stories in full and more at college.columbia.edu/cct/latest. — *Jill C. Shomer*

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

Take Five

This quickly became our best-read section, and the responses have been incredible. Here are some we especially loved:

What were you like when you arrived at Columbia?

“All I know is that we’ve gotta get it. We’ve gotta make it on our own.”

— *On Our Own*
(Bobby Brown, 1989)

“On the morning of move-in day, I boarded the 2 train at the Beverly Road stop in Brooklyn with most of my belongings and all of my dreams. I was then and am now a loud and proud New Yorker, a huge Knicks fan, a lover of music and poetry, and a passionate scholar. As an alumna of The Chapin School, an all-girls independent school in Manhattan, I felt confident, academically prepared and tremendously excited to be a part of the third wave of Columbia College women to arrive on the Morningside Heights campus.

“My mother, a registered nurse and by then a nursing home administrator, had taken the day off from work to accompany me to Carman Hall. As the daughter of working-class parents, I knew that her daytime presence was a big deal. (My father, a welder, needed to go to work.)



I knew for sure that I had my parents’ love and unflinching support, yet I remember thinking, ‘Wanda, you’re on your own now.’ My mother handed me \$1,000 in cash that she had borrowed from her older brother. ‘This is all I have, and it’s not even mine,’ she said to me with tears and prayers in her eyes.

“When I arrived at Columbia, I was smart, strong and poor — traits that had made me both resourceful and resilient. I paid for my own education with loans, grants and earned wages.”

— **Wanda M. Holland Greene ’89, TC’91**,
head of school at The Hamlin School
in San Francisco

What class do you most remember and why?

“Andrew Chiappe ’33, GSAS’39’s Shakespeare class and his seminar on *King Lear*. They were each life-changing in their way. In the first we read the plays chronologically, which was a radical concept in its day. All my Ivy League friends were reading the plays by category: comedies, histories, tragedies. We studied Shakespeare as he developed as a thinker and writer. We found the connections between *Lear* and *The Tempest*; we knew he had to write a spotty play in order to write a great one. We studied

his growth and development as an artist instead of focusing on his greatest hits. I still have my Pelican Shakespeares with my notes written in the margins. To this day, I study the works of any artist I admire and want to know more about chronologically instead of only staying with their masterpieces.

“As for the *King Lear* seminar, we weren’t even halfway through the play when the spring semester ended. We parsed every word; we argued about every interpretation. I’m still at it. *King Lear* remains, for me,

the greatest achievement of the human mind. I would not trade it for all of Mozart, Michelangelo or Chekhov. I thank Professor Chiappe and my fellow seminarians (I believe there were eight of us) for teaching me that a great work of art is worth a lifetime of study and the ultimate acknowledgement that it is finally unknowable. It is there for us all our lives to ponder and engage with. The Class of 2060 will be doing the same — and probably with no better results.”

— Playwright **Terrence McNally ’60**



What do you remember about your first-year living situation?

“It’s difficult to forget your first-year living situation when it’s a Furnald double. I met my roommate for the first time with a rehearsed ‘hello,’ an open mind and a hint of trepidation. Whoever matched us perhaps saw we were both from California and thought that would be enough common ground to carry us through the year. For the most part they got it right,

with one small exception — we had wildly disparate definitions of what constitutes a hygienic living environment. I’ve routinely been described as ‘intense,’ and naturally I projected my anal-retentive personality onto my half of the walls around me. Piles of clothes, scattered suitcases and at times an unplugged refrigerator would split our dimly lit double (it certainly didn’t help that the

door was on his side of the obstacle course). In retrospect, it might have been his way of suggesting I spend less time organizing the room and more time enjoying my first year of college — a valuable message to hear, but a challenging one to live with.”

— **Ryan Bubinski ’11**, co-founder of Codecademy, a leading online education company

What, if anything, about your College experience would you do over?

“I’ve thought about this periodically over the years. Naturally I wish I’d participated more in class. I wasn’t the best student to graduate from Columbia, but I didn’t really exploit the full breadth of academic life because I was so cowed by it. I never did office hours, never connected with a single professor. That’s a profound regret of mine. I also wish I’d stepped off campus more — seen more plays, explored more random subway stops, that sort of thing. But there were moments when glimmers of my bold, bad-ass self started to take shape, like the time I ran into the crew

team cutie with the Elvis Costello glasses just outside Koronet the night before winter break my senior year. He was off to study abroad the next semester — this was it, probably the last time we’d see each other. We said our goodbyes, hugged and went our separate ways. Then I turned around, ran back into his arms and gave him a long, passionate kiss. Passersby stopped to gawk. It was cinematic. That’s my Columbia. And I wish I could do it over. Again and again.”

— **Lea Goldman ’98**, editor-in-chief of Lifetime Television

Did you have a favorite spot on campus, and what did you like about it?

“I have a soft spot for Earl Hall, the stately McKim, Mead & White building, which not only housed the offices of chaplains and religious groups, but also hosted a monthly gay dance on its top floor with a starry dome (as I remember it, at least). Those dances were advertised downtown and come spring lots of men from the West Village and other points a #1 IRT subway ride away would show up. You could lie on the lawn in front of the building and engage in conversations with them. At that point anyone with a ‘real job,’ not a student, was a figure of fascination to me. I had no idea why they would want to travel to a student dance when they might go to far wilder venues downtown. Having grown up in the repressive 1950s in America, I had never danced with a boy. I did so, for the first time, to ‘Ain’t No Mountain High Enough’ at Earl Hall.”

— Poet, novelist and biographer
Brad Gooch '73, GSAS'86



Like Minds

A few times this past year we put alumni together for conversation on a subject that matters to them. In this case, CCT connected art curators **Tim Griffin '92**, director of the experimental Chelsea space The Kitchen and the former editor of *Artforum* magazine, and **Peter Currie '07**, director of the New York location of Galerie Buchholz, a Germany-based contemporary art gallery. Their three-hour lunch conversation was chronicled in a [September 2017 post](#):



Can you talk about communicating sophisticated ideas to a broad audience and making your art accessible?

CURRIE: “I feel sometimes like that’s my job, and I’m not always good at it. Sometimes I have the feeling like I can’t stand in front of an artwork and open it up to people with various degrees of interest.”

“That being said, art is art, and I kind of like that it’s hard for me. I don’t necessarily have a native fluency with it. There’s a lot that’s unknown that you come to slowly and in roundabout ways. I think it’s OK for art to be challenging or to have hurdles that you have to jump to be able to hold conflicting or complicated or vague ideas in your head. I don’t fight against that.”

GRIFFIN: “I feel like it’s possible to speak in a way that makes art accessible without sacrificing sophistication. If you put the two of us together we’re inevitably going to go to a kind of specialist language that moves the conversation along; it’s a kind of shorthand. There’s nothing wrong with that. As a writer and editor, I feel like there is often an unnecessary fear that people won’t understand what they’re reading or hearing about. I think the public is a lot more sophisticated than the press, especially the art press, gives them credit for.”

Think Tank

Alumni in the know offered insights on newsworthy topics ranging from football-related brain injury:

“I would submit that the medical research is in early innings; how the safety issue will be resolved remains to be seen. I loved playing the game but have also lost teammates who suffered dearly and died from CTE [chronic traumatic encephalopathy]. Making a decision to let a child play at an early age would be very difficult.”

— **Martin Domres '69**, record-setting Lions quarterback and former NFL pro, inducted into both the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame and the Columbia Football All-Century Team

... to climate change:

“We have chosen a future where we, and our children, will have to adapt. Where plants — living organisms that make up our food

source, and the ecosystems that support them — will be challenged by new conditions. Where our water sources might be threatened. Let's be clear: We are choosing to adapt to these changes because we refuse to adopt modest lifestyle changes right now, changes that some might consider part of progress. I'm a climate scientist and I'm scared.”

— Oceanographer **Meghan F. Cronin '86**

... to Oscar-nominated films:

“My favorite film of 2017 remains *Blade Runner 2049*, months after I first saw it. From a place of tone, mood and attention to detail, nothing holds a candle. The best movies don't just stick with you in the moment; they linger over time. I'll be hearing the roaring sound of those flying trucks rolling by for many years to come.”

— **Justin Marks '02**, screenwriter; credits include *Counterpart* (2018) and *The Jungle Book* (2016)

Where Are They Now?

Do you ever wonder what happens next in the lives of the alums CCT profiles? We do, and this section allows us to check in. We recently caught up with **Robby Mook '02**, who was Hillary Clinton's campaign manager in the 2016 election. He's now a visiting fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, working to develop strategies, tools and technology to protect democratic processes from cyber and information attacks:



“[I think] the greatest challenge moving ahead for campaigns is how to really understand what voters are hearing and how they are feeling — I don't think we have a good grasp of that right now. ... If anything, I've learned that campaign managers need to operate in an environment of tremendous uncertainty, volatility and change. ... I think we got blindsided a bit in 2016, and still haven't figured out how to understand — of everything that's out there — what voters are paying attention to and what information is actually getting through to them.”

“... [My current role] help[s] me to understand not just cyber-security in particular, but also more about how technology is influencing our security — the way we talk to one another, the way people engage in our democracy ... [I think] the biggest thing I've learned over the last few years is how campaign management is no longer a set of best practices that evolve in two-year cycles; it's now an incredibly dynamic space. Managers have to learn to anticipate the unexpected and have to look at a campaign not as it is in the present, but where it could be.”



We also like to hear alumni stories that aren't related to the College! Personal essays of all stripes get posted each month; **Adam Mansbach '98, SOA'00**, author of more than a dozen books, including *The New York Times* bestseller *Go the F**k to Sleep*, shared his hilarious take on training for childbirth in "Birthing Class, Twice." Here is an excerpt from that post:

"The retired midwife who ran the class employed a pedagogical structure I'd characterize as 'Introduce a terrifying thing

that can happen during pregnancy, then reassure everyone that it's very rare and not even worth thinking about, then tell a 15-minute story about the one time she saw it happen and BOY WAS IT GRUESOME.'

"The highlight of the class was when she tricked the women into drawing pictures like a bunch of third-graders as a pretext to lure the men out into the hallway and ask us how we were 'really doing,' away from all the macho posturing that can go on in a room covered in advertisements for in-home breastfeeding assistance.

"The answer was: Not well. One dude, who always showed up to the class in full biking regalia like he was fitting this in between stages of the Tour de France, said he was afraid his wife would die in childbirth. Not to be outdone, this other dude who was a professional Ultimate Frisbee coach said he couldn't stop imagining the doctor coming into the waiting room and telling him that either his wife or his son was going to die and *he had to pick which one*.

"Obviously, these guys were completely unhinged. I mean, come on — *waiting room?* There's no waiting room anymore."



Susanna Fogel '02 flanked by Kate McKinnon '06 (left) and Mila Kunis on set.

HOPPER STONE / SMPSP



In the Director's Chair

**Susanna Fogel '02 makes a
summer blockbuster her way**

It's 2 p.m. on a Friday at the Café Tropical in the Silver Lake section of Los Angeles. Susanna Fogel '02 sits in the same off-beat bohemian Cuban coffee shop that's seen her through hundreds of script-writing sessions, along with the creative highs (scripts sold) and lows (but never produced) that characterized much of her early career.

This time is different, though. Fogel hasn't brought her laptop. She's wearing jeans and a T-shirt with a watermelon on it, and she's just here to get her favorite café con leche before going roller skating. Why not enjoy the day when you've just directed one of the summer's most anticipated movies?

That movie is *The Spy Who Dumped Me*, starring Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon '06, and set for release August 3. Fogel, who also co-wrote the film, describes the plot as "Broad City meets Bourne" — an action comedy that follows two friends as they stumble unwittingly into an international conspiracy. Producers are hoping it'll be this year's *Trainwreck* or *Girls Trip*, which — if you missed them — were R-rated, female-driven summer comedy hits.

In many ways, *The Spy Who Dumped Me* is a quintessential Fogel production. Relationships figure prominently in much of her work, dating back to her first short film, *For Real*, which

By Phil Wallace '04

was about three teenage girls who purport to be best friends, but talk trash and conspire against each other whenever one of them leaves the room; the film landed a spot in the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival when Fogel was just 14. More recently, her big-screen directorial debut, 2014's *Life Partners*, was loosely based on her real-life relationship with close friend and writing partner Joni Lefkowitz.

"There are so many relationships that matter in our lives that aren't just romantic. And it's become important for me to show those," Fogel says. "That is, to me, more universal these days than finding people who are happily married. One thing that every woman I know has is a best friend, and I'm more interested in those relationships than the fairytale about meeting the perfect guy."

Fogel's road to the big screen started in Providence, R.I., where her parents were both on the

defining" experience that she says helped her to enjoy the collaborative production process.

Fogel moved to Los Angeles the day of her graduation. She held a series of "demeaning temp jobs" and wrote scripts virtually every night, often with Lefkowitz, whom she befriended at a writing class shortly after the move. By 2006, the pair had a manager who helped get several of their scripts purchased. It was the beginning of a string of nearly a dozen almost-produced projects, including a few with big names attached (Evan Rachel Wood, Sigourney Weaver, Sarah Jessica Parker).

For a while, supporting herself as a writer created an illusion of success, Fogel says. "But if you're a filmmaker who really wants to see things come together, it starts to gnaw at your soul that you write these things and then a studio owns them. The whims of their business dictate whether your movie gets made."

Then came *Life Partners*; before it was a movie, it was a one-act play that she and Lefkowitz wrote "just because we were sick of not getting to do anything." "We were like, 'We just have to get a theater, and then we're gonna do it ourselves.' I have noticed that every time I've done that, it has led to great things. Every time you get to rock bottom and have nothing to lose, you make an investment of time that feels like it makes no sense, but you pour your heart into it. That always gets me further than the more prescribed things that are supposed to advance your career."

The Spy Who Dumped Me came on the heels of a similar rock-bottom moment, when another script was sold only to languish in a company's vault. "I felt really powerless and frustrated, and the whole system felt really broken to me. My friend David [Iserson] was also feeling that way about his writing and producing career," Fogel says. "We decided to write an action movie with women. It started as somewhat of a cynical exercise of, 'Well, we're not going to make our little heartfelt movies; we're going to write a big movie with car chases.'"

Along the way, they became attached. "Because we had just written it in this burst of inspiration, we felt empowered and energized by that, and decided that only we were going to make it happen. We weren't going to sell it. We were only going to partner with somebody who basically committed to making it, which is approaching deal making from a position of power that we maybe didn't have any right to have, and had never exercised before."

Fogel ultimately connected with Ron Howard and Brian Grazer from Imagine Entertainment, and earned distribution by Lionsgate. She signed up editor Jonathan Schwartz '03 and landed



ATTILIA SZVACSEK

HOPPER STONE / SMPSP

Fogel with Justin Theroux, who also stars in the film, on set.

faculty at Brown. Her father, Dr. Barry Fogel, is a neuropsychiatrist and professor and her mother, Margaret Selkin Fogel Ph.D. BC'68, is a psychologist. Fogel spent the summer before her senior year at the College as a researcher for screenwriter James Schamus while he produced and wrote the Ang Lee-directed *Hulk*. (She recalls reading Core books in Butler to help connect western philosophy with Lee's eastern philosophical roots.) She also helmed the Varsity Show in 2001, a "life-



McKinnon as "Morgan" and Kunis as "Audrey."

Saturday Night Live star McKinnon, who'd had a small role in *Life Partners*.

"Susanna is so many things that make a great director," McKinnon says. "She is blisteringly smart and funny. She has such a clear vision about tone, and she is guided by a strong personal mission about what she wants to express. ... I think she's going to emerge as a really important voice in film."

Fogel is mindful that her voice is one of a small cohort. Despite the success of films like Patty Jenkins' *Wonder Woman* or Greta Gerwig BC'06's *Lady Bird*, only two of the nearly 50 films scheduled for wide release this summer are directed by women. Fogel offers a nuanced take on how gender might have influenced her career and ability to get pictures produced.

"In some ways, it's not as simple as just not being given the opportunity. I also think that it's a chicken-and-egg thing where the skepticism I was met with 10 years ago trying to do this job led to me having insecurities, that led to me not presenting myself as competent, which led to me not getting jobs," Fogel says. "So it's much about how the gendered stuff that we deal with our whole lives affects our confidence level, and then, how that confidence level affects our hireability."

"Walking into Lionsgate in a really confident way, and then directing the movie with confi-

dence, I did not feel aware of gender bias on the set of the movie at all. I never felt like these action guys treated me differently. And I wonder if five years before, I just wouldn't have projected that. So I might've gotten more pushback about directing the movie then."

For Fogel, that confidence has put her in a position to make more films that differ from traditional rom-coms.

"When I was little, I was so far from having those issues in my own life that I didn't notice how narrowly they defined happiness for a woman. And now that I'm well into my 30s, and my life and my friends' lives look so different from those traditional romantic comedies, I think what I want is just more representation of different kinds of stories for women in general," Fogel says. "I don't think it's anti-feminist to make a movie about a woman who wants to get married and have babies. There should just be enough other movies about other types of women so they're not saying that's the one model that we have. We just need to have enough voices and stories, really."

Phil Wallace '04 is VP of business development for *Reigning Champs* and NCSA Next College Student Athlete. He is also the founder of the entertainment website *ScreenPicks.com*.

"There are so many relationships that matter in our lives that aren't just romantic. And it's become important for me to show those."



CLASS OF 2018, “EMBRACE YOUR



More than 1,200 students joined the ranks of alumni at Class Day 2018, celebrating with all the pomp (plus tears and joy!) the circumstance called for. The ceremony, which took place on May 15, opened with the 15th annual Alumni Parade of Classes and featured remarks from Dean James J. Valentini (see page 3) and keynote speaker Dede Gardner '90, an Academy Award-winning producer and the co-president of Plan B Entertainment.

Gardner took the podium for a moving speech about the power of empathy. “We’re going to do this a little differently than perhaps is common,” she said, explaining that she’d emailed the graduating class in advance to ask them to share their deepest fears. She then read them aloud — a lengthy list that ranged from lovelessness and loneliness to not making a difference or selling out; racism, bigotry, misogyny and violence; disappointing yourself and others around you; living a life of “should” and not “wish.”

“They are fears that belong to all of us,” she said. “I give this commonality to you as your first state of awareness as graduates, because I have lived long enough to know that it is from this understanding that anything is possible.”

Of the people we meet, she concluded: “Presume very little in your life, but of this I am sure: If they are human, if they breathe and churn and rage and dance and stomp and mourn and honor; know that they, too, are walking this mad human experiment and know that they, too, are scared. No matter how alien this may seem to you, I believe it is here that you will find the kindest reflection and, in this gleam, your leap.”

The University-wide Commencement took place the following day, with President Lee C. Bollinger delivering his annual address. Shazi Visram '99, BUS'04 received the University Medal for Excellence, and John C. Connell '76; James P. Gerkis '80, LAW'83; Teresa Saputo-Crerend '87, BUS'92; and Michael J. Schmidtberger '82, LAW'85 were among the 10 recipients of Alumni Medals for distinguished service to the University of 10 years or more.

Photographs by Eileen Barroso and Chris Taggart



FEARS”



“YOUR STORY IS YOUR LEGACY, NO MATTER WHEN OR HOW OR IF IT GETS TOLD.”

— CLASS DAY SPEAKER DEDE GARDNER '90



CCT Print Extras

Hear Gardner's full remarks and other Class Day speeches at college.columbia.edu/cct. You also can view more photos from Class Day and Commencement, plus a list of Academic Awards and Prizes winners.

BINDU BANSINATH

MAJOR: English

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'm going to do an M.F.A. in fiction at Columbia."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "I learned to question everything and to humble yourself. Every day was a challenge and a reward."



Bindu



Kaitlin

KAITLIN HICKEY

MAJOR: French and Francophone Studies, and History

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'm doing a Fulbright in Paris, teaching English."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Columbia taught me how to think critically, and I want to use that to become the best version of myself as a global citizen."

POMPQUIZ

WE PUT 10 GRADUATES ON THE SPOT AT COMMENCEMENT TO GET THEIR LAST WORDS ON LEAVING THE COLLEGE

CONNOR YOCKUS

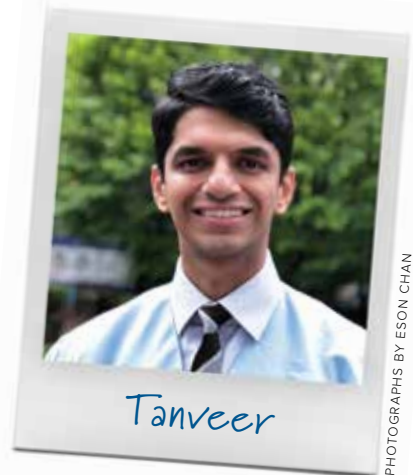
MAJOR: Dance, with a Special Concentration in Business Management

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'm working in tech after graduation and I hope, long term, in arts administration and arts management."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Letting my interests and passions lead where they lead me — not having a linear path set out, just following what my heart desires in the moment."



Connor



Tanveer

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ESON CHAN

TANVEER SINGH

MAJOR: Financial Economics and Political Science

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'll be consulting at McKinsey."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "The diversity of the people I met, how people expressed their beliefs and learned to synthesize that with the things they've learned here, and also tried to open up their identity to others — that was powerful for me. I visited the homes and cultures of a lot of people on campus through events and through multicultural organizations. Being part of that community gave me a global perspective on issues, and I hope to keep that in mind as I move into my career."

XIOMARA BOVELL

MAJOR: Comparative Literature and Society, with a Special Concentration in Business Management

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'm going to work at Facebook in San Francisco."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "The breadth of learning. I've taken a class in pretty much every department, so trying different ways of thinking and writing and applying those learnings to life."



Xiomara



Christin

CHRISTIN HONG

MAJOR: Biochemistry

WHAT'S NEXT: "Medical school at Robert Wood Johnson at Rutgers, in New Jersey."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "The friendships, and being able to serve in my community. I was a resident advisor and being able to work with a multitude of people and in such different ways — not only to organize events, but also to just be there and develop camaraderie on my floor — that felt like the biggest skill and experience."



Gurnoor

GURNOOR TUCKER

MAJOR: Financial Economics and History

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'll be working in finance and infrastructure investing at Macquarie Infrastructure."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Learning how to work hard and working under pressure, but also thinking at a higher level. The Core Curriculum does an excellent job exposing you to some of the most eminent texts in Western literature and political philosophy, and it contextualized a lot of the beliefs that I had in politics and society. I'm looking forward to taking that into the real world and bringing a sharp mind to the workplace and wherever I go after that."



Natasha

NATASHA URBANY

MAJOR: Political Science

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'll be moving back to D.C. to work as a consultant for Deloitte."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "The people and the way in which my professors, the Core, everything about New York City, all pushed me to try something different every semester — to take a different kind of class, take a semester abroad, try sustainable development. It's all going to push me to move forward!"



Liam

LIAM McDERMOTT

MAJOR: Environmental Biology

WHAT'S NEXT: "I want to mainly travel."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "A more in-depth perspective on social issues and ways to approach social issues in the world using my education. I would like to try to use an interdisciplinary approach to help people and the environment at the same time."



Kristine

KRISTINE DUNN

MAJOR: English

WHAT'S NEXT: "Not sure yet! Going back to my parents' house in New Jersey to figure it out. I'd love to do something where I can get outdoors, maybe with art."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "I really like how people here are motivated to change their surroundings. I like that we're able to mobilize around issues and work toward making the world a better place!"

EXTRA CREDIT

You can read the rest of our graduate interviews on July 17: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras.

Intensity in 10 Stories

Daniel Alarcón '99's latest work explores gritty themes

When *CCT* last featured **Daniel Alarcón '99** in “Columbia Forum,” in 2010, he was a first-time novelist. Though still in the early stages of his literary career, the Peruvian-born Alarcón had nonetheless achieved an unusual degree of success. His first short story collection, *War by Candlelight* (2005), was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award; his novel, *Lost City Radio* (2007), had been named a Best Novel of the Year by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Washington Post*. In 2010, *The New Yorker* named him to its list of the young fiction writers who were “key to their generation.”

Alarcón's fictions are always a seductively unusual hybrid: personal stories saturated with the kind of economic and political awareness that is second nature to a journalist. In his story “City of Clowns” — darkly rendered as a graphic novel by Peruvian artist Sheila Alvarado — the hero, a reporter named

Chino, roams Lima's rough alleys and squares as he wrestles with his father's death and the legacy of growing up poor in a rough, corrupt capital city. Alarcón may acknowledge the power of politics, but his work's driving force is a journalist's basic inquisitiveness. “I write what I'm curious about,” he told *Kirkus Reviews* in 2017.

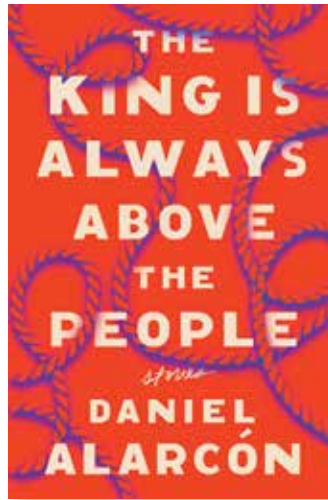
So it's not a surprise that — while continuing to write well-received fiction — Alarcón has also become a force in the field of reportage. (He currently is an assistant professor of broadcast journalism at the Journalism School.) While his stories have appeared in prestigious print venues (*Granta*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times Magazine*), Alarcón's most important contribution has been made in public radio. In 2012, he co-founded NPR's “Radio Ambulante,” a Spanish-language podcast devoted to telling Latin American stories. “Latin America is a continent of narrators, and for us it was obvious to put such oral tradition together with radio,” Alarcón told the online publication NiemanLab. Reminiscences about the 1980s' “friki” Cuban metal music scene mingle with reports from Venezuelan prison life; *Mother Jones* describes it as “*This American Life* en Español.”

In his latest book of short stories, *The King Is Always Above the People* (Riverhead Books, \$27), Alarcón continues to cover the themes that weave through today's grim headlines: migration, poverty, dislocation. The first story, “The Thousands,” set in a nameless city, is a rousing account of a destitute community that builds itself a place to live from society's refuse. (“In a place like Lima there's a neighborhood like The Thousands in every direction,” Alarcón told *Kirkus*.) This opening salvo is what he calls “an invocation,” summoning up both a sense of place and his characters' disenfranchised yet hopeful state of mind. Excerpted here, the story is brief but intense, like a shot of *pisco*.

— Rose Kernochan BC'82



HUGO ROLD



THE THOUSANDS

THERE WAS NO MOON that first night, and we spent it as we spent our days: your fathers and your mothers have always worked with their hands. We came in trucks, and cleared the land of rock and debris, working in the pale yellow glow of the headlights, deciding by touch and smell and taste that the land was good. We would raise our children here. Make a life here. Understand that not so long ago, this was nowhere. The land had no owner, and it had not yet been named. That first night, the darkness that surrounded us seemed infinite, and it would be false to say we were not afraid. Some had tried this before and failed — in other districts, on other fallow land. Some of us sang to stay awake. Others prayed for strength. It was a race, and we all knew it. The law was very clear: while these sorts of things were not technically legal, the government was not allowed to bulldoze homes.

We had until morning to build them.

The hours passed, and by dawn, the progress was undeniable, and with a little imagination one could see the bare outlines of the place this would become. There were tents made of tarps and sticks. There were mats of woven reeds topped with sewn-together rice sacks, and sheets of pressboard leaning against the scavenged hoods of old cars. Everything the city discarded we'd been saving for months in preparation for this first night. And we worked and we worked, and for good measure spent the last hours of that long night drawing roads on the earth, just lines of chalk then, but *think of it, just think* . . . We could see them—the avenues they would be — even if no one else could. By morning, it was all there, this ramshackle collection of odds and ends, and we couldn't help but feel pride. When we finally stopped to rest, we

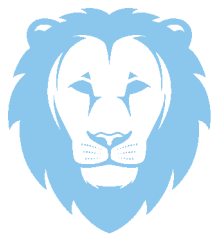
realized we were cold, and on the soft slope of the hill, dozens of small fires were built, and we warmed ourselves, each taking comfort in it, in our numbers, in this land we had chosen. The morning dawned pale, the sky scoured clean and cloudless. "It's pretty," we said, and yes, the mountains were beautiful that morning.

They still are. The government arrived before noon and didn't know what to do. The bulldozers came, and we stood arm in arm, encircling what we had built, and did not move. "These are our homes," we said, and the government scratched its febrile head. It had never seen houses like ours — our constructions of wire and aluminum, of quilts and driftwood, of plastic tarps and rubber tires. It came down off its machines to inspect these works of art. We showed the government the places we'd made, and eventually it left. "You can have this land," it said. "We don't want it anyway."

The newspapers wondered where the thousands had come from. How we had done it. And the radio asked as well, and the television sent cameras, and little by little we told our story. But not all of it. We saved much for ourselves, like the words of the songs we sang, or the content of our prayers. One day, the government decided to count us, but it didn't take long before someone decided the task was impossible, and so new maps were drawn, and on the empty space that had existed on the northeastern edge of the city, the cartographers now wrote *The Thousands*. And we liked the name because numbers are all we ever had.

Of course, we are many more than that now.

From *THE KING IS ALWAYS ABOVE THE PEOPLE* by Daniel Alarcón, published by Riverhead Books, an imprint of Penguin Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House, LLC. Copyright © 2017 by Daniel Alarcón.



*alumni*news





LEON WU '20

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LIFE'S A BEACH!

Forget Coney Island and the Rockaways — when the weather gets warm, students seeking some rays turn the Steps into the affectionately nicknamed “Low Beach.” It’s the perfect place to soak up the sun while hanging out with classmates — beach towel not required!

Connections Make a Community

By Michael Behringer '89

At this year's Class Day ceremony, I had the privilege of addressing graduating seniors on behalf of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA). I shared with them a motto of my fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta: "Not for college days alone." It's a similar sentiment to that made by Dean James J. Valentini when he observed in his own remarks that while we are students for just four years, we will be alumni for the rest of our lives.

Both express a comparable insight. Our Columbia College experience is not limited to the time we spent on campus. It develops and unfolds over the course of many years, and grows to include not only classmates and friends we encountered during our studies, but also the worldwide alumni community.

As a student, I welcomed the chance to meet alumni and, as an alumnus, I'm equally excited to meet students. Fostering these student-alumni connections is one of the CCAA's top goals. These relationships not only strengthen our College community, but also extend the College experience well beyond our days on campus.

The Student-Alumni Journey Committee, chaired by **Dan Tamkin '81** and **Neda Navab '08**, strives to bring alumni and students together at targeted programming and events throughout the year. Partnering with the Alumni Office, the committee hosted and supported a number of well-attended events this past year including Bagel Breaks, Sundaes on Tuesday, and several student-alumni lunches and dinners.

CCAA Board of Directors members, and alumni, were a visible presence this spring at the Senior Dinner, the Senior Toast for graduating women and the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day. Each of these events afforded an opportunity for alumni to meet Class of 2018 members and officially welcome them to the ranks of alumni.

As for the College's newest alumni, their journey began even before they arrived on campus four years ago. Each year, the CCAA supports the Summer Send-Off series, whereby alumni host — at their home or office — receptions at which incoming Columbia College and Columbia Engineering students and their families can meet other local incoming classmates, current students and alumni. These popular gatherings (more than 20 are held worldwide) are an opportunity for the students and their families to mingle with other Columbians where they live, and ask questions and compare notes, all in a casual social environment. For many, these receptions are their first introduction to the larger College community and provide an opportunity to make connections before move-in day.



EILEEN BARROSO

This summer, in our town of Greenwich, Conn., my wife and I hosted students and alumni for pizza and cupcakes at our home. This was our second year hosting a send-off. It was especially enjoyable to personally welcome the children of classmates, friends and neighbors to the Columbia family.

At these receptions, and at the many other student-alumni events I take part in, I'm always struck by how interested students are in meeting alumni. Whether to discuss studies, hear about an alum's journey after Columbia or just to learn what Columbia was like back in the day, there is a real desire to connect with earlier generations and to be part of the larger College community. At our reception, I noticed how many alumni exchanged contact info with students, parents and one another.

I thank all the alumni who were ambassadors for the College by hosting or attending these send-offs. And there are still a few remaining this summer. Please consider attending one in your area or hosting one next year (cc-seas.columbia.edu/sendoff).

Looking ahead, Convocation is scheduled for August 26. President Lee C. Bollinger, Valentini and the CCAA will welcome the Class of 2022 at this inspiring ceremony, which is the culmination of Orientation. All alumni are invited to participate in the proceedings and to march in the Alumni Procession (college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/event/alumni-procession-convocation-2018).

For more information on these events, or other ways to connect with students, feel free to contact me at mpbehringer@gmail.com or Eric Shea, director, Columbia College alumni relations, at eric.shea@columbia.edu.

I hope to see you soon.

ROAR!

Welcoming Emily Lavine '18 to the ranks of alumni.



JORG MEYER

A Champion for Community Journalism

By Lambeth Hochwald

Steven Waldman '84 is bringing back small-town journalism. The veteran reporter and entrepreneur watched for years as community newspapers struggled and shrank and folded. In 2009, he authored a landmark report for the Federal Communications Commission about the implications of their collapse. "When you don't have enough good local journalists, there's no accountability for elected officials and people who might have polluted drinking water without even knowing it," Waldman says. "It's disaster on a local level and on a democracy level."

Enter Report for America, Waldman's nonprofit — launched shortly after the 2016 presidential election — that aims to reverse the damage. Modeled after AmeriCorps, RFA is a fellowship

program framed as a call to public service. The goal is to install 1,000 journalists in understaffed newsrooms by 2022.

Waldman's role as co-founder has a College connection. As an editor of *Spectator*, his goal was always to emphasize reporting on hyperlocal topics. "I felt that we really had to cover Columbia as a community," Waldman says. "From fire violations to curriculum changes, we were right there with our reporters, because if we didn't do that, no one else would."

That job also taught Waldman the power of journalism.

"We very much viewed our jobs as holding the administration accountable in a respectful but firm way," he says. "I remember doing a package on wasteful administrative spending, meeting with

the president and having him accuse us of Nixonian tactics. He probably didn't realize we were post-Nixon so that insult didn't scar us as much as it would have an earlier generation."

Waldman's relationship with the University began as a youngster growing up on Long Island — his mother graduated from the Journalism School and subscribed to the *Columbia Journalism Review*. In high school, he was an editor at his school newspaper and headed to Morningside Heights every year to attend the Columbia Scholastic Press Association conference. Those visits — and a desire to work for *Spectator* — sealed his interest in the College. "I might

"I might be one of the few people who decided to go to Columbia because of the school paper."

be one of the few people who decided to go to Columbia because of the school paper," he says. Waldman ended his *Spectator* career as the editor-in-chief and publisher. "The paper was my life," says Waldman, who is now on *Spectator's* Board of Trustees.

After graduation, Waldman worked at *U.S. News* and *Newsweek*, and certain observations from those days led to him founding his first company, Beliefnet, a website that focused on faith and spirituality, in 1999. "Every time we put religion on a *Newsweek* cover, sales would go up," he says. "I thought that was fascinating. I'm in an interfaith marriage — I'm Jewish and my wife is Protestant — so around 1997, 1998, I was really thinking a lot about religion, personally and professionally."

In 2007, Waldman sold Beliefnet — by then the largest multi-faith spirituality website — to News Corp. He stayed at the site for a few years until Julius Genachowski '85, an old friend from his *Spectator* days, became Barack Obama '83's first FCC chair, in 2009. Soon after, Genachowski asked Waldman to serve as a senior advisor.

Waldman spent two years at the FCC before creating his next two businesses: In addition to RFA, he launched LifePosts, a site that aims to preserve life stories digitally (whether via an online memorial, obituary or tribute biography). "With LifePosts I was thinking about ways to create revenue streams for local media while, on a spiritual level, I could solve the horrible problem that millions of people were leaving the earth without having their stories recorded or told," he says.

Since RFA's launch, hundreds of journalists have applied. It's currently in its pilot stage, with three reporters in Appalachia and nine more placed in locations across the country this past spring. "There's this passion among young people to help communities get better information and to save democracy in the process," says Waldman, who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with his wife and has two sons.

In a way, the work he's doing today is the ultimate give-back for Waldman, who believes that it's imperative for communities to view hyperlocal reporting as something that's as essential as local libraries, museums and hospitals.

"Journalism has been great to me," he says. "It feels like all of my experiences have pointed me in this direction, so it feels right to do whatever I can to help community journalism and solve the local news crisis."

Lambeth Hochwald is a New York City-based writer and editor and has been an adjunct professor of journalism at NYU's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute since 2001.

Prizewinner Andrea Young '06 is Expanding Physics' Horizons

By Christine Yu '99

As a child in Washington, D.C., **Andrea Young '06, GSAS'12** liked to figure out how things worked. If you threw a ball, he could predict where it would land. "The idea that the world has a rational underlying machinery has always appealed to me," he says.

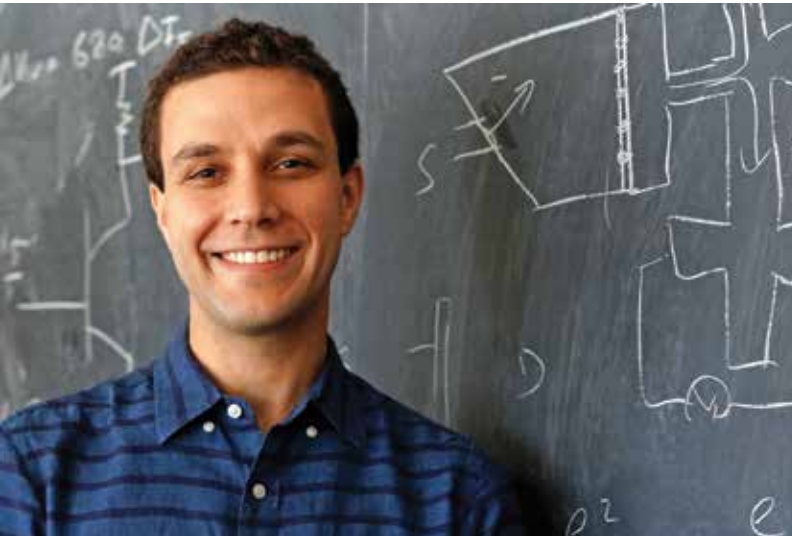
Today, Young has moved well beyond playground experiments. An assistant professor at UC Santa Barbara, he recently won the 2018 New Horizons in Physics Prize, which goes to those who've made significant contributions to the field early in their career; Young was one of three honored this year. "It's nice to be recognized," he says. You don't go into physics for the money or the fame."

Young's pioneering work is with graphene, a two-dimensional material derived from graphite. Although graphene is only a single-atom thick, it's stronger than steel and has unique electronic properties. Young and his colleagues stack multiple sheets of

graphene or other two-dimensional materials — akin to trying to layer sheets of plastic wrap one on top of the other, without any bumps — to create objects called van der Waals heterostructures. These structures allow scientists to observe new states of matter that don't exist in three dimensions.

Physicists are excited about the potential of Young's work to understand and observe phenomena that so far have only been described in mathematical equations and theories.

"The basic physics questions we're interested in understanding are, 'What kind of matter can exist? What makes one thing different from another?'" Young says. In their search for answers, Young and his colleagues build electrical devices from the tiny heterostructures they've made. They place the devices in severe conditions, like extremely cold temperatures and strong magnetic fields, and measure their electrical, magnetic and thermal signals



SONIA FERNANDEZ / UC SANTA BARBARA

and surface properties. Since the laws of physics function differently in two dimensions as compared to three, these experiments shed light on fundamental principles of quantum mechanics — the laws of physics that underlie the natural world and the way atoms behave — and potentially lead to new theories.

Young laid the foundation for his work with graphene at Columbia, where he earned a B.A. in physics and mathematics as well as an M.A. and a Ph.D. “It was a very special time in my career,” he says. “Columbia was the center of the universe for this type of physics, especially while I was a Ph.D. student. There was a lot of energy and ideas.”

Living in New York City was also a good way to balance his long days in the lab. “The idea that at 3 in the morning I could get something to eat, get a drink or find human life was psychologically very useful for me during that 10 years,” he says.

After getting his Ph.D., Young was a visiting scientist at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and a Pappalardo Fellow at MIT. He’s received numerous honors, including the 2016 William L. McMillan Award, the 2016 Packard Fellowship for Science and Engineering and the 2017 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship. In 2015, Young traded East Coast life for Santa Barbara, where he now lives with his wife and son.

Young is still interested in figuring out how things work. In the long term, that something is quantum computing, a holy grail of technology that promises to process extraordinary amounts of information and solve complex problems that regular computers can’t. Young’s part — through his experiments — is to find a way to protect quantum information and help create a stable quantum bit (“qubit”), the basic foundation for this type of computing.

To be honest, most days any possible applications to quantum computing seem a very long way away, he says. “But then there is a saying that people overestimate what can be done in three years and underestimate what can be done in 10.”

So what keeps him motivated? “Seeing something new pop up in your measurement is very exciting, and having a puzzle — say, some new piece of data you don’t understand — to think about is very engaging. The slog is worth it for the thrills when, every so often, something works.”

Christine Yu ’99 is a freelance writer in Brooklyn, N.Y.

newsmakers

David Chubak ’02 was named to *Crain’s New York Business*’ 2018 40 Under 40 list, while **Sam Waldo ’10** was named to the 2018 *Forbes*’ 30 Under 30 – Asia list in the social entrepreneurs category.

On April 16, *The New York Times* received a Pulitzer Prize for public service for the reporting — led by **Jodi Kantor ’96** and Megan Twohey — that uncovered sexual abuses in Hollywood. The *Times* shared the honor with *The New Yorker*, whose reporting on the same subject was led by Ronan Farrow.

Olivier Knox ’92 became the president of the White House Correspondents Association in July.

Lions roared at the 72nd Tony Awards on June 10. Playwright **Tony Kushner ’78**’s *Angels in America*

triumphed in the Best Revival of a Play category, while **Steven Chaikelson ’89, SOA ’93, LAW ’93**, associate producer for *The Band’s Visit*, won big when the show nabbed the coveted Best Musical award. Composer **Tom Kitt ’96** received a nomination for Best Orchestrations for his work on *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical*.

Nick Vita ’95 received an Innovative Disruptor Award at the TriBeCa Film Festival in April.

On May 11, *The Nation* named **Atossa Araxia Abrahamian ’08, JRN ’11** its senior editor.

On May 21, Netflix announced that it had signed a multiyear deal with President **Barack Obama ’83** and Michelle Obama. Netflix reports that the Obamas’

agreement will “potentially includ[e] scripted series, unscripted series, docu-series, documentaries, and features.”

Benjamin Greenbaum ’97, GSAS ’06 is one of seven winners of a 2018 Pershing Square Sohn Prize for Young Investigators in Cancer, while **John Osburg ’97** has been named to the Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program Class of 2018.

Jennifer Kidwell ’00 appeared on *The New York Times*’ list of the 25 best American plays in the last 25 years for *Underground Railroad Game*, which she co-authored and in which she co-starred.

Playwright **Katori Hall ’03**’s new show, *Tina* — a musical about Tina Turner — opened on April 17 at London’s Aldwych Theatre.

bookshelf

Hannah Howard '09 Serves Up a Feast in Debut Memoir

By Yelena Shuster '09

Some girls write their deepest secrets in a private diary. When **Hannah Howard '09** was 11, she created a 'zine recounting all her cringe-worthy crushes and pre-teen angst for anyone to read. "It was all my open heart, just bleeding across the page," she recalls.

Her debut memoir, *Feast: True Love in and out of the Kitchen* (Little A, \$24.95), is no different.

Most people would be terrified of letting the world know about deeply revealing things like eating disorders or abusive relationships. But by Howard's own admission, she has always had "this strange compulsion" to share vulnerable, personal events in writing.

"I just always love to take the adventures, and amazingness and messiness of life, and turn it into stories. So, even though it was terrifying, it also felt very natural," she says.

Howard's vulnerability more than pays off in *Feast*, which chronicles her rise through the ranks of the New York City restaurant scene — all the while binging and starving herself. The bildungsroman explores how a foodie makes peace with food, how it is both her greatest love and worst nightmare.

We see Howard develop her hatred for her thighs when she's just 12 and follow her coming of age as she takes us behind the buzzy scenes at the Michelin-starred Picholine and critically adored Casellula. She thirsts for love and hungers for acceptance, fighting the drug of "bad" food and bad men — eventually quitting both thanks to an AA-like recovery group. The memoir is as much a love affair with food, and the chefs and grocery scions that make up its world, as it is a love affair with NYC.

The book originated with personal essays she wrote as a creative writing and anthropology major at the College. Indeed, Columbia is a major supporting character — it is her escape from what she perceives as Baltimore's suburban monotony, an Ivy League haven where her intellectual ambitions won't be derided but championed. She recounts meeting her best friend, Ursula Kwong-Brown '10, at the outdoor orientation program before freshman year, cooking at literary society Alpha Delta Phi (ADP) on the old-school, 12-burner Vulcan and writing notes about Derrida and Lacan between reams of pages of calorie logs: "I have lost and gained the mass of a small army. But mostly, I have lost myself."

Howard held nothing back, surprising even those closest to her. "Hannah always had so much going on in her life: older boyfriends,

so many cool internships, being president of ADP. She seemed quintessentially cool," recalls Kwong-Brown. "It's a little strange for me to read her book and realize just how vulnerable she was feeling, because that's not the way that anyone perceived her."

The College is still a part of Howard's story. She says she will never forget her "Techniques of the Short Story" class with professor (and author) Sam Lipsyte, who described her debut as "a gripping, moving memoir, a book that lives up its name."

"Around graduation, he told me, 'Don't stop writing,'" Howard says. "It really stuck with me and touched me, and I thought, 'Can't let him down. I gotta keep writing.'"

She also had a fateful "Senior Poetry Workshop" with Professor Josh Bell. "One of the things he taught me is making action happen, which is really part of something I struggle with in fiction or nonfiction," Howard says. "Josh would always say, 'Oh, there has to be a turn, there has to be a surprise.' So, even in the microcosm of poems, in a way, something did have to happen. There did have to be plot."

Howard continued writing after graduating, freelancing for outlets like American Express and cooking up the copy at Dean & DeLuca. A coworker at New York Natives, where she was a columnist, introduced her to his agent, who signed her after reading 50 pages of sample chapters. Together they created a proposal, which was rejected by 15 publishers.

And then somebody finally wanted it, and that somebody happened to be poet Morgan Parker '10 — with whom Howard had taken Bell's poetry class — and who was now an editor at Amazon's literary fiction and nonfiction imprint Little A. "Because it's such a personal, vulnerable memoir, working with somebody I knew just felt like a good idea, and it did turn out to be," Howard says. "They gave me a lot of TLC, but then I had the draw of Amazon to sell and market the books."

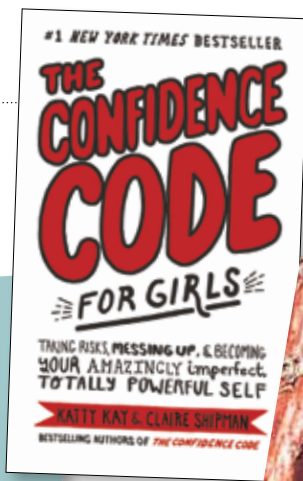
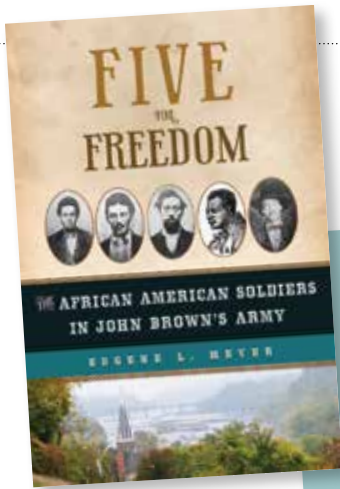
Her advice to future aspiring Hannahs is to "sit at your laptop and write even when it hurts."

The hurt is worth it, she promises: "Even now I get nervous about how the book is doing in the world, and I think that the real answer is: If a few people read something and feel less alone, and it changes something in them, then it's totally worth it."

Yelena Shuster '09 has written for The New York Times, Cosmopolitan, InStyle and more. She founded and runs *TheAdmissionsGuru.com*, where she edits admissions essays for high school, college and graduate school applications.



VLAD KERIC



Shakespeare, Line by Line: A Companion to the Arden Edition by Arthur Bernstein '57. The author, a teacher of adult education at Stony Brook University, considers 10 of the Bard's plays, integrating interpretations by some of the leading Shakespearean scholars into a single coherent discussion (CreateSpace Publishing, \$10).

Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army by Eugene L. Meyer '64. Meyer, a former *Washington Post* reporter, tells the true story of five brave black men who were part of the raid on Harper's Ferry — an event historians agree was a catalyst to the Civil War (Chicago Review Press, \$26.99).

Next Line, Please: Prompts to Inspire Poets and Writers edited by David Lehman '70. This compilation of Lehman's weekly column on the *American Scholar* website provides playful exercises designed to unlock the imagination (Cornell University Press, \$18.95).

Salt: Poems in Catalan translated by Clyde Moneyhun '76. Writing in the *menorquí* dialect of his native Catalan, poet Ponç Pons celebrates "the things that sustain us and bind us to life: memory, language, affections, and our connection with the earth" (Francis Boutle Publishers, \$59.69).

James Baldwin: The FBI File by William Maxwell '84. Baldwin's 1,884-page FBI file, covering 1958–74, was the largest compiled on any African-American artist of the Civil Rights era. This book reproduces more than 100 of the never-before-published documents, bringing renewed attention to bureau surveillance (Arcade Publishing, \$22.99).

A Story for Louise by Eric Lanzieri '85. The true story of how Lanzieri found relatives in Scafati, Italy, nearly 50 years after his grandmother's last contact, using only verbal family history (Lulu Publishing, \$9.99).

Lifting the Turtle by J.D. Scrimgeour '86. A collection of poems that explore the idea of community, and balance the tension between humans' desire for connection and a sense of being an outsider looking in. Scrimgeour writes, "I do not love words, but I consider them friends" (Turning Point, \$20).

The Confidence Code for Girls: Taking Risks, Messing Up, and Becoming Your Amazingly Imperfect, Totally Powerful Self by Katty Kay and Claire Shipman '86. The pair who wrote two *New York Times* bestsellers is back with a guide that shows tween girls the route to becoming bold, brave and fearless (HarperCollins, \$14.99).

Little Sid: The Tiny Prince Who Became Buddha by Ian Lendler '96. Lendler's picture book for ages

4–8 tells the story of a spoiled young prince named Siddhartha who sets off on a quest to find personal happiness (First Second, \$17.99).

Love War Stories by Ivelisse Rodriguez '97. This collection of short stories about desire, grief and betrayal earned high praise from National Book Award-nominated novelist Cristina Garcia: "At its best, it is sublime. Brava to Ivelisse Rodriguez for a stunning debut!" (The Feminist Press at CUNY, \$16.95).

Good and Gone by Megan Blakemore '99. In Blakemore's latest novel for young adults, three teens take a road trip to find a reclusive rock star while grappling with tough issues like rape and mental illness (HarperTeen, \$17.99).

Shortcut Your Startup: Speed Up Success with Unconventional Advice from the Trenches by Courtney Reum '01 and Carter Reum '03. The Reum brothers — former investment bankers and current successful operators and investors — offer this practical playbook for entrepreneurs looking to maximize any business venture (Gallery/Jeter Publishing, \$26).

Abject Performances: Aesthetic Strategies in Latino Cultural Production by Letitia Alvarado '04. Alvarado, an assistant professor of American studies at Brown, examines models of Latino art and performance that shun mainstream

standards of "respectability" and instead feature negative aspects such as shame and unbelonging (Duke University Press, \$94.95).

Writing to the World: Letters and the Origins of Modern Print Genres by Rachael Scarborough King '06. King examines how the form and content of four genres that emerged during the 18th century — the newspaper, the periodical, the novel and the biography — borrowed from letters (The Johns Hopkins University Press, \$44.95).

The Wonder Down Under: The Insider's Guide to the Anatomy, Biology, and Reality of the Vagina by Dr. Nina Brochmann '10 and Ellen Stakken Dahl. A comprehensive guide to the female anatomy from two Oslo-based sexual health professionals (Quercus, \$26.99).

The Suicide Club by Rachel Heng '11. Heng's first novel is set in a futuristic New York City where human organs are bought and sold like stocks and people with genetic perfection have the potential to live forever (Henry Holt & Co., \$27).

The House of Impossible Beauties: A Novel by Joseph Cassara '12. Cassara's debut, named "Most Anticipated Book of 2018" by BuzzFeed, takes place in the colorful Harlem drag ball scene of 1980s New York (Ecco, \$26.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

classnotes



DIANE BONDAREFF

Reunion 2018 brought alumni of all ages back to Morningside Heights for a weekend of Columbia camaraderie.

1942

Melvin Hershkowitz
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I start these notes with best wishes and congratulations to our Class Notes editor, Annie Heatwole JRN'09, on her recent marriage. She assures me that she will continue in her work at *CCT*, where she has been an outstanding editor in recent years. Good luck, Annie!

[Editor's note: And thank you for all your hard work writing this column, Dr. H!]

Our honorary classmate Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90 called me in early March to report that he has been named a Visiting Scholar to edit the collected Columbia Seminar essays for publication in 2020. Tom has been an active

supporter of the Philolexian Society and is an acclaimed author of several works, including *Cast of Characters: Wolcott Gibbs, E. B. White, James Thurber, and the Golden Age of The New Yorker*; his 2015 history of *The New Yorker* and some of its famous writers. Tom was elected to honorary membership in the Class of 1942 as a tribute to his long friendships with **Gerald Green**, **Dr. Herbert Mark** (both deceased in 2006) and this author. Congratulations to Tom on this prestigious appointment, a well deserved recognition of his devotion to Columbia.

I have been in touch with Dr. John Robbins, son of the late Dr. **William Robbins**. John lives in Mount Dora, Fla., and though not an alumnus, is a Loyal Lion. He sent me a copy of a December 1940 issue of *Spectator*, which he found among his father's papers, announcing an awards ceremony in the Lions Den for our 1940 football team. This

event might have been a precursor to our now-established Annual Football Awards Dinner. Our 1940 football team, with our great All-American quarterback Paul Governali '43 (now deceased), defeated Georgia 19-13 and Wisconsin 7-6. My friend **Phil Bayer**, a great halfback, won the Georgia game with our last touchdown. Phil was a decorated WWII Marine hero, killed in the invasion of Peleliu.

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

Our basketball team had a losing record in 2017 but returns with almost all personnel for 2018 — including our Second Team All-Ivy Point Guard, Mike Smith '20. This team will improve and is capable of contending for the Ivy League Championship. Last year's Ivy League champion, Penn, defeated Harvard in the post-season Ivy League Tournament and then went to the NCAA Big Dance, where they lost to Kansas in the first round.

Football prospects for 2018 appear bright, with multiple returning starters on both offense and defense. Coach Al Bagnoli will need to find a new starting quarterback to replace Anders Hill '17 and a new running back to replace Chris Schroer '17. We could then compete with a strong Yale team for the Ivy League Championship.

Dr. **Gerald Klingon** continues to function well at 97 in his Manhattan apartment. We talk on the phone almost every evening. He is very attentive to the Columbia football, baseball and basketball teams, and to the current turbulent political scene. He and I (now 95) are both dealing with short-term memory loss, mainly forgetting names of people and places, but we are coping with this pretty well.

Kind regards and good wishes to all surviving classmates.

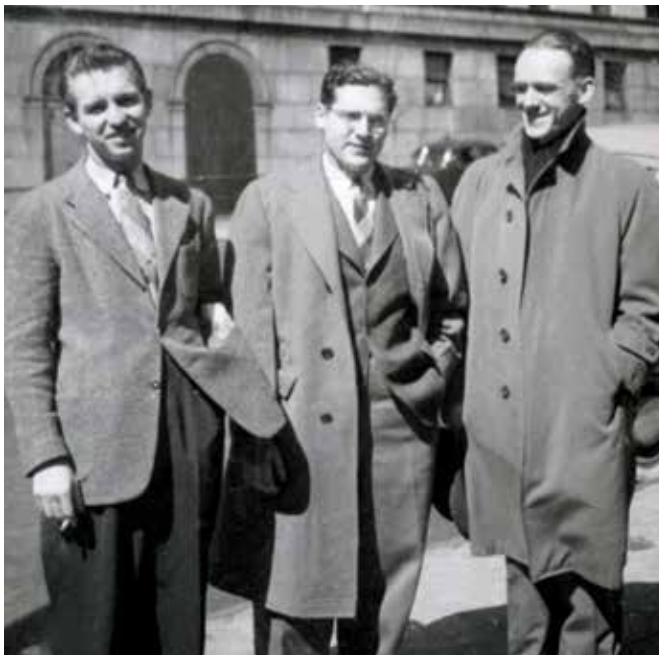
1943

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My wife, Audrey Evans, and I were in the United Kingdom for two weeks in March, where Audrey was invested as a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. After visits to friends and family in Scotland and in England, we spent a weekend in London. It probably being our last hurrah in that city, we spent the weekend at our favorite hotel: Durrant on George Street. Highly recommended; it has more the feeling of a men's club than a hotel. The two-week visit was a success, despite the huge minus of the weather in Scotland during the first week: snow, sleet and cold, cold, cold.

Proud parent note: My son, Carl, is one up on me. He has been named Professor of Pediatrics with Unlimited Tenure at the University of Rochester. It is the highest academic rank at UR, where he is chief of neonatology. It is the equivalent of University Professor, a level I never attained, here at Penn.

Bernard Weisberger reports: "Hello, surviving classmates, 'we happy few,' so to speak. I wrote last in



Dr. Melvin Hershkowitz '42 (center) shared this photo of himself with Arthur Wellington '42 (left) and Donald McKeon '40 (right) in 1942 near Hartley Hall.

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

December, I think, shortly after my wife, Rita, left for three months in the warmth of sunny Surfside, Fla. When she returned a week ago I called on Shakespeare to greet her: 'How like a Winter hath my absence been. From thee, the pleasure of the fleeting year,' I said as she was unpacking her bag.

"There you are — we've been married 26 years on the day of this writing, and I am still trying to impress my girlfriend with my memory for poetry. Of course, it's an odd memory that preserves lines that I have read and reread many times years ago but won't tell me where I left my glasses a moment ago. If you sense in this opening the effort of a man with few events to report trying to inflate them into something readable, you're pretty much on the mark. But it gives me pleasure as always to be in contact with you all every 90 days or so, and so on and on I go.

"I didn't join Rita for the entire winter for various reasons, one of which is an increasing reluctance to travel, even at the cost of a lot of shivering. After a week's opening visit to her, I came back in time to ring in the frosty New Year with my daughter and son-in-law who live nearby, and then returned to my principal current occupation, which I mentioned in my last letter. I am writing, mainly for family and

friends, a memoir of the 22 years of my life after discharge from the Army. It also gives me a project to get me out of bed in the morning (not that there aren't plenty of enjoyable leisure activities and obligatory chores to fill the day). I nonetheless feel a need for at least a couple of hours to work on a piece of writing, even if it's not destined for print and doesn't have a deadline attached — that makes it even more of a pleasure. Added to that is the fact that, as I research and write, I am reliving happy days as a graduate student in history — carefree, interested in what I was learning and writing a dissertation on Civil War reporters that involved lively reading in the newspapers of the time.

"I'm glad to get away now from the subject of 'me' and into family news, which is that Rita's grandson got married in New York on February 18. I went to Surfside, Fla., the preceding Sunday to spend the second session of sunshine with Rita, then we flew north together and richly enjoyed the wedding. It's almost always the same among Rita's clan — a very traditional and moving ceremony followed by a big dinner and intervals of vigorous dancing to deafening klezmer music. The next day, after a couple of visits to old friends, I flew back to high literary aspirations and low temperatures.

“That’s my *Winter’s Tale* (credit Shakespeare again) this time. At the time of writing (late March), I am very revved up for our 75th reunion, though I plan to probably only take part in whatever was going on during Saturday, June 2. Hope to meet more of you there as the fates allow and, if you can’t be there, that you’ll join with others in submitting stories of yourselves to this column.

“A Columbia nugget: George Templeton Strong (Class of 1838) was a lawyer, politician and office-holder of some renown in New York. He is remembered mostly for the meticulous diaries he kept before and during the Civil War years. They are packed with comments, observations and details of quotidian life during that tumultuous period. Ken Burns used the diaries extensively in preparing his docudrama of the Civil War. The multivolume diaries are in the files of the New-York Historical Society.”

1944

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

Dr. **Daniel Choy** PS’49 writes: “I graduated from Columbia College at 18, on D-Day. I was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis *Who’s Who*. My base of operations has always been New York City, except for two years in the Aero Medical Lab in the USAF, where I invented Aeroplast, the emergency burn dressing to be used after an atomic attack. I am providing in my will \$2 million each to the Columbia University Medical Center Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, for whatever research they wish, and the Department of Ophthalmology, for glaucoma research. Also, \$1 million to the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, for mind expansion research. These bequests are to repay, in small measure, the fact that I was able to go through both Columbia College and P&S solely on scholarship. At one point, I had only \$40 in my pocket. This is to encourage those who find themselves in my position. When you are down, the only way is up!”

Share your story, news or even a favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Classmates would be glad to read about you, too!

1945

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

Dr. **Lawrence Aronson** shared some of his life story: “Born 1926, NYU Medical School 1948 graduate. Pediatrician, family practice, double boards. Lovely wife, four children, nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren. U.S. Air Force captain. Reader of fiction and politics. Unitarian. Active, apprehensive Democrat. Retired 10 years. Age 92. Intermediate ballroom dancer. Long medical practice in Silicon Valley, Bay Area, Calif. Residence Los Altos, Bay Area, Calif. Admired immensely Professors Jacques Barzun ’27, GSAS’32; Lionel Trilling (Class of 1925), GSAS’38; and Moses Hadas GSAS’30. Contemporary Civilization and Humanities were very enjoyable and opened up a better understanding of human history and culture. Colloquium discussions of great books at night also was a wonderful experience. Of course, being a pediatrician for many, many years in the small but rapidly developing city of Sunnyvale, Calif., before the development of many vaccines, for polio, meningitis and so forth, was also a unique, challenging and varied experience.”

Share your story, news or even a favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Classmates would be happy to read about you, too!

1946

**Bernard Sunshine
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I hope that all the members of the Class of ’46 are having an enjoyable summer. Please send your news to

either of the addresses above so that our Fall column is full. Best wishes to all.

1947

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

Cyrus J. Bloom, who lives in Philadelphia, writes, “On March 3 I, along with members of his family and more than 100 of his friends, celebrated **Larry Friedland’s** 95th birthday at a grand birthday party at New York’s Lotos Club. Thereafter, on March 13, Larry and I visited **Albert Burstein**, who was ailing and unable to attend, at his home in Tenafly, N.J.”

Share your story, news or even a favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Classmates would be happy to read about you, as well!

1948

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

Share your story, news or even a favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Classmates would be pleased to hear from you!

1949

**John Weaver
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Writing these notes at the end of a March “winter” — three nor’easters when we were meant to be welcoming spring! Only one of us has responded to my cry for a word or two: **Joe Russell** LAW’52. His letter follows. But first, a note on the season in which we find ourselves right now: Beginning in the spring we experienced an extraordinary expression of hope for the future.

Very young but very dedicated children, on the cusp of adulthood, made their pain, their outrage and their resolve known to the nation and the world. Let us hope a goodly portion of those young folk make it to the campus as the next generation of Columbians.

We all must stay alert and take every opportunity to encourage participation in the noble experiment that is our democracy. And in that sense we can take, as an example, Joe, whose entire career has been highlighted by his devotion to the law. He recently endured some significant challenges of a surgical nature, which have afforded him the privilege of quiet recollection of his time on campus.

Joe writes: “Thanks, John, for calling me out of what seems to be hibernation! Warm regards to you and to all classmates who trouble to read this, and truly sorry that I cannot report any activities of interest (apart from some engaged in by my sons and grandson, of a personal nature). I sit here and remember with warmth (and some real sorrow) a small group of College classmates with whom I entered the Law School in September ’49 and lunched with daily on the ground floor of Butler Library during our first year, and often in our second and third as well. All were close personal friends from disparate backgrounds and remain in warm memories held by both my wife and me. With me then were **Tom Beadie**, **George Lenz**, **Walter Schlotterbeck** and my moot-court partner **Bob Young**. Tom and I alone survive; he is a retired lawyer in Terre Haute, Ind., and I am a retired lawyer in Manhattan. We correspond irregularly, lament the state of the nation and chat on the phone, though not often. I have stayed moderately active as a public arbitrator for FINRA, but that seems to be slowing down, giving me more free time to read, which — after two surgeries during late December and late February — is much to be thankful for.”

Gentlemen, we are all still capable of sharing and, as I have said, what we share has relevance. This is not a closed circle of ’49ers. I am certain that a goodly portion of the recipients of our magazine read notes of classes other than their own. And now that we are among the very

longest standing contributors to this section, we are of considerable interest to the young alumni readership. I have this on reliable witness, given my son is the Class of '05.

Speak up!

1950

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No news for this issue — please take a moment during the summer to send in a note. Your classmates want to hear from you. Be well!

1951

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

Share your story, news or even a favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Classmates would be happy to learn what's new with you!

1952

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

Irvin Herman shares a memory: "This was written to amuse my kids and grandkids, all of whom are much better athletes than I — lucky for them they inherited my wife Ginny's physical prowess. Shortly after I emailed this off, a copy of *CCT* was popped into my mailbox. I don't know if any remaining members of the 1950 lightweight football team would find this interesting.

"Listening to an Audible book about the Ratification of the Constitution (a very long book with excruciating detail), there was mention of the Pennsylvania Assembly breaking off its deliberations to attend the Penn commencement. That reminded me of a Columbia football game

I attended in Philadelphia, which then led me to a memory of playing lightweight football at Columbia.

"It was the first or second year of the team's organization. Coach Lou Little hated having us crowding his clubhouse at Baker Field and would growl at us. We secured our pads and uniforms from large boxes with piles of stuff. Our jerseys were of varying shades of blue and of varying types of cloth. I ended up with a wool jersey that must have been worn in that oft-cited Rose Bowl victory of the '30s. Pads and helmets varied also; there were even leather helmets in the boxes. We looked like a sandlot team. Our practice field was next to the piles of coal stored for University use — in fact, we had to play where the quarterback would throw a ball over the pile and the end would circle around to the other side of the mound.

"Adding to our amateurism, the coach was Carl Pell '50; he had been a great lineman. Carl was big but not necessarily the sharpest football strategist. My teammates and I weren't world beaters either. We played a T-formation offense with a man in motion (Lou Little might have created that). Halfway through the season we realized the man in motion always went to the opposite direction of the play. We were playing a man short.

"We also had a halfback who seemed to get knocked out every time he was tackled and another back, a thin guy (Frank Manchester '51, I think?), who looked like a Norman Rockwell illustration, wearing lineman's shoulder pads that were so wide he would get stuck trying to run through a hole in the line.

"Can't remember much about our schedule or how we did, but I remember our away game against Princeton. The 150-pound Columbia Lions sauntered onto the playing field, a variety of helmet types tossed over our shoulders held by their straps, varying shades of blue tops and differing colored pants. As we came out onto a beautifully manicured and professionally marked field, we saw all of the Princeton team's helmets lined up in a perfect row across the far side line. Then their team came out, trotting two at a time in perfect order, rapidly assembled in ranks wearing identical jerseys of orange and black — last year's varsity jerseys in fact — and they started coordinated warm-up calisthenics. We stood along the



This photo from the 1948 *Columbian* shows the 1947 Columbia-Army football game; it is captioned "Bill Olson [49] picks up yardage against Army."

sidelines and watched with fascination. I think some of us might have been smoking (possibly a false memory to add to the effect).

"Then the game. They massacred us. Can't remember the score but only recall snippets from my experience. I had never played football, never learned the plays and on offense had to ask what I should do. I played guard. I actually went out for the team on the behest of my roommate at the time (Steve Furst '53) and thought it a good way to test my physical aggressiveness.

"In any case I sort of held my own, although I remember a trap play. I, to my amazement, recognized it was a trap. When I found myself across the line without being blocked, I dropped to one knee to hold my position and sprung out to tackle as hard as I could the orange and black body running past me. Drove him into the ground. 'Hey, what you tackle me for?!', he said. He was, of course, the leading blocker and the runner either dropped from exhaustion or might have been stopped by our linebackers — or he might still be running.

"My major contribution to our offense was a result of harassing the guard opposite me. Somewhere I had heard that insults could cause your opponent to err in anger. I accused him of having clean white buckskin shoes (an anathema in those days), social instead of academic activities or the like. It worked, but not as I had planned. Next play, following my insults when the ball was snapped, I charged. He

stood and delivered a forearm to my head, dropping me not a little dazed. I heard the whistle: '15 yards for unnecessary roughness.'

"I was able to taunt him later with suitable irony. He had granted us our longest gain the entire game, and it only cost me a headache. My attempt for gridiron glory and honor had ended up in low comedy."

Donald Surr BUS'53 writes: "Hi, fellow members of the ancient Class of 1952. I often wonder how many of us are still around, particularly those who were fellow members of the Glee Club or who were fellow economics and business admin majors, who likely were in the same classes, or in that most enjoyable senior seminar in economics. Would love to hear from you at donald.surr@gmail.com."

Dudley Ferris writes: "Wish I could say something fitting for my compatriots of 1952. ... With years accumulating I feel too young to be my age and must check up on my birth certificate. Must be an error in the year I was born.

"In April I was to be in NYC to see *Tosca* and then *The Iceman Cometh*. (I always drop by Columbia.) Tickets cost ridiculously more than in '52. The next month my wife and I were to travel to London to meet with Swiss friends, who once lived here in Scottsdale, Ariz. Who says I'm old? Japan in the fall!"

Dan Seemann writes: "I barely graduated from school I was such a bad student. I made no connections with any faculty or administrators. Today I have a Ph.D. and some great years at the University of Toledo."

Alvin Feder LAW'54 writes: "**Philip Bloom LAW'54**, my friend and classmate at both the College and the Law School, died on January 4, 2018, at his home in Miami Beach, Fla. Philip had been a Circuit Court judge in Miami until 2003, and a professor at University of Miami School of Law. He conducted a crowded 7:30 a.m. class in litigation skills program."

Howard Hansen writes: "Columbia Ends Army's Streak: On October 27, 1947, a storied football game

Army was on its way to another victory, even though Columbia's score in the second quarter was the first one against Army in five games.

"Columbia controlled the second half with Gene Rossides '49 being constantly 'rushed and throwing off-balance' and Bill Swiacki BUS'48 making 'sensational and impossible' catches, with Lou Kusserow '49 scoring his last of two touchdowns in the game with six minutes left (and Ventan Yablonski TC'48 kicking the winning extra point). On Army's last

back at the West Point stands when the tables were turned."

"Back to Bullis. After graduation in June 1947, John Bateman, the line coach, called me and invited me to visit Lou Little on the campus when I returned to West Hempstead, L.I., for Easter break.

"I can remember it like it was last week. Mr. Little said, 'If you want the military to be your career, there is no finer institution than West Point. On the other hand, if you're going there just to put in your required years of service, then you are wasting a specialized education.'

"The rest is history!

"It is hard for me to believe and understand why Columbia's 1947 team is not in the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame (Swiacki, Bruce Gehrke '49, Rossides and Kusserow). Their record was 7-2, and more than double the number of players of any team in Columbia's history are in our Hall of Fame."

1953

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No news this quarter! *CCT*, and your classmates, would be happy to hear from you. Please consider sharing news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite College memory — by sending a note to either of the addresses at the top of this column. Be well!

1954

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Hello again, men of '54. Next year at this time we will have marked our 65th anniversary since graduating from Columbia College, and will be closing in on our 70th year since first having met up on campus for Freshman Orientation week. In next issues of *CCT* we'll have more to tell about the bacchanalian blast that is being planned for the Class of Destiny to mark our reunion celebration the weekend of Thursday, May 30–Saturday, June 1, 2019. No,

there will be no horseback rides nor any pin-the-donkey games, but if you join the Reunion Committee soon you will be able to help define the activities, speakers and themes of our event. Please email me at the address at the top of the column to join, ask questions, and make suggestions. This party is yours, mine, and ours.

Earlier this year, *The New York Times* reported on **Alvin K. Hellerstein LAW'56**: "A federal judge in New York tossed out a sweeping lawsuit that sought to make marijuana legal under federal law, ruling that the plaintiffs had failed to take the necessary first step of asking the Drug Enforcement Administration to remove cannabis from its list of dangerous substances."

The *Times* noted the 98-page lawsuit's legal and historical inclusions and Judge Hellerstein's 20-page opinion and that "in court, he appeared to agree with lawyers for the Justice Department, who maintained that if the plaintiffs wanted to legalize marijuana they should try to change the law."

The article, titled "Suit to Legalize Marijuana Nationwide Is Rejected," was published on February 27.

I'm always happy to hear from classmates who have not been back for so long. It's been a long time, but **Leo Bookman** writes us about a different kind of court: "The article in *CCT* [Winter 2017–18, "Roar, Lion, Roar"] about the championship basketball team and Coach Jack Rohan '53 brought back memories.

"When I played freshman baseball the coach was John Balquist, a wonderful man and a very good coach. When I moved up to the varsity in my sophomore year, Coach Balquist became the varsity coach. On that team was a gifted shortstop named Mitch Price '53, whom most of us remember as the star quarterback on the football team. Also on that team was a pitcher named Jack Rohan '53. Jack pitched very well until he developed arm trouble and couldn't continue. He was an excellent athlete and, as the *CCT* article mentioned, he had the most wins as the basketball coach. Good memories."

Our *Spectator* sports editor **Richard Werksman LAW'58** also turns a bit nostalgic, and brings us up to date on some of his activities on behalf of alma mater. He writes, "One marvelous aspect of being an octogenarian has been the privilege and challenge

Richard Werksman '54 says, "One marvelous aspect of being an octogenarian has been the privilege and challenge of continuing to interview applicants to the College."

took place at Baker Field — Columbia ended Army's 32-game winning streak 21–20. It was one of the all-time greatest college football upsets. I know, because I was there! Here is some background.

"After a four-year military high school background, with interest in attending West Point, I went to Bullis School in Silver Spring, Md., which mainly prepared students for attending the military academies.

"At Bullis, we were undefeated and declared National Prep School Champions. We were the only team to beat Army and Navy (and on their fields!) as well as Allentown H.S. (Pa.), ranked the number one high school football team in the United States.

"Back to Columbia-Army. After our Bullis team beat them, we had dinner with the cadet corps in their dining hall, which was overwhelmed with excitement. They had a bonfire outside and the entire corps was traveling to Columbia the next day.

"**Gerry Audette**, my Bullis teammate and future Columbia Honorable Mention All-American guard, plus our Bullis team, were given tickets by West Point to the big game. We sat behind the goal posts on the closed end of Baker Field.

"After Army scored its third touchdown, late in the second quarter (Rip Rowan went 84 yards for the score), Army's Jack Mackmull's extra point kick was wide left, and I had it in my hands, but someone behind me knocked it out. No big deal, I thought at the time, as it looked like

drive to midfield, Kusserow's interception essentially ended the game.

"Some statistics: Rushing yards: Columbia, 100, Army, 302. Passing attempts: Columbia, 30, Army 10 (Rossides was 18–27). Passing yards, Columbia, 263, Army, 42. First downs, Columbia, 18, Army, 12. Fumbles, Columbia, 2, Army, 2. Yards penalized, Columbia, 30, Army, 74. Interceptions, Columbia, 2, Army 1.

"From *Spectator*: 'Pandemonium Hits Campus After Victory': 'Joy unmitigated, glorious joy, reigned in the Lions' heart. Columbia fans were still asking themselves if it was all a dream. The greatest point of conflict seemed to be whether it was the greatest football game in a decade ... or of all time.

"Nobody seemed to want to leave Baker Field after the victory. The Columbia rooters just stood in the stands reverently.'

"A hundred or so got up enough presence of mind to splinter the goalposts, as even the gendarmes assigned pitched in with abandon.

"Up in the stands during the fourth quarter, excitement reached such heights that a reported 2,349 lost the power of speech (and 34 their handkerchiefs!) and hundreds of minor bodily injuries from hilarious pummeling were noted.

"Incidentally, the handkerchief routine, began by the Pointers across the field as a sign of derision, may well become a hard and fast tradition at Baker Field in future contests. The fans took diabolical joy out of waving

of continuing to interview applicants to the College. Invariably, these high school seniors bring to the interview not just experiences domestic and international that have broadened their outlooks on myriad topics but also the ability to express themselves articulately and maturely. Maybe their school counselors have screened out those who would not be seriously considered by warning about how difficult it is to get into Columbia.”

Dick says that his “batting average has not been very good in getting my highly rated interviewees accepted, but I am glad I don’t have to compete with these applicants for admission. To get a firsthand knowledge of the kind of sophisticated, articulate and accomplished young men and women who are applying, I encourage members of our class to serve the College and reward yourselves by offering to interview.”

FYI: It’s easy. Information about the Alumni Representative Committee can be found at college.columbia.edu/alumni/volunteer/alumni-interviewing. (Tell them Dick sent you!) Matter of fact, I likewise did just that in the early ‘60s, while I was a consultant at the University of Southern California; local alumni interviewers were hard to come by. I remember my first batch (all men at that time, of course) about each of whom, as requested, I sent back to Hamilton Hall detailed observations, life and school data, and suggestions, with my personal thumbs up or thumbs down decisions. You guessed it — half my acceptances were turned down, half my declinations were accepted. Of course, the Admissions Office and I agreed half the time. Not bad, I guess.

Saul Turteltaub LAW’57, like others now in a reflective mood, shares with us: “In 1950, when I entered the College, there were very few black men at the then—all-male school, about which I wonder now but did not wonder then. After going through my Class of 1954 yearbook, I sadly wonder no more. Out of approximately 500 members of the Class of 1954, perhaps 10 were black. Later, in my class at the Law School in 1957, there were approximately 200 students, but none were black. Shame on me for not noticing then and shame on me if I still had not noticed in 2018.”

Thank you, Saul for sharing these thoughts. We look for others

likewise to do so. And, in a more personal reflective mood, Saul sent me this confessional poem to share with the class:

*Well Bernd, a lot of years since '54
I ain't that guy I was before
The hair is gone the hearing too
Hearing aids, not one but two
And getting up just kills my back
And then there was my heart attack
My hips and knees demand a cane
A wheelchair to the airplane
But still unchanged is my small brain
It has always stayed insane.*

Arnold Tolkin wants to assure us that while “2017 was a rough year, it passed and we look forward to a bright and rewarding future. We cruised in December on a new luxury vessel with no dining room, only specialty restaurants. We had plans to go to Cuba in May, where we were on our honeymoon the night that Castro took over from Batista. In the fall, we will fly to Spain and cruise back to Miami and extend it into the Caribbean for another 12 days. I am busy tracing my ancestors back to 15th-century Spain (at home) and I am in the fitness center in our new apartment building daily for at least one and a half hours doing cardio and stretching as well as balancing exercises.”

Arnie, we want the details about any *autos da fê* six centuries ago. And our classmates want to know precisely what you two were doing on your honeymoon that led to the overthrow of Batista.

Have a good summer, all. Pay your taxes with a smile (those who extended to August), take your pills and do your exercises (stretching does not mean reaching for the gin), support our free press (buy at least one daily newspaper and actually read it), enjoy your kids and grandkids and great-grandkids (those who have them; others, appreciate your family and friends), go to the theater (not just to learn some new dirty words, which you can do now at the movies and TV), read some real books (if I had a Kindle I would definitely use it as a bookmark), think seriously about our 65th anniversary next year (sign up for the Reunion Committee right now and make some noise), talk often about Columbia (like it or not, the College helped make every one of us), remember the CORE, laugh a little, laugh a lot (see Turteltaub),

talk to your dog (my wife, Helen, and I have seven grandchildren, seven granddogs and two grandpussycats, and they all talk to us), stay healthy (as you can), and ideally be wealthy and wise.

Gentlemen, as always, be well, be good, help cure the world, stay in touch often (don’t wait for my email requests), and never forget. Excelsior!

1955

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Much has been happening at Columbia College. The thread linking everything together is, of course, Dean James J. Valentini, beginning with his hosting of the annual Dean’s Scholarship Reception on February 8 in Alfred Lerner Hall.

All alumni were invited back to Columbia for All-Class Reunion on June 2. It was a return to campus to attend Mini-Core Classes, talks with alumni and the dean, Affinity Receptions and tours around the beautiful campus, the neighborhood and Manhattanville.

Other campus events were the upbeat Varsity Show at the end of April; **Dave Stevens** would be proud of this group, with its original songs and lyrics. There was also a special luncheon with the 1955 crew in Faculty House. A plethora of guys attended the April 9 program: **Elliot Gross, Roland Plottel, Jesse Roth, Don Laufer** (who coordinated this whole affair), **Allen Hyman, Anthony Viscusi, Alfred Gollomp,**

Chuck Soloman (who also does work for the Dental School) and **Dick Kuhn.**

The baseball season started, much to the happiness of **Ron McPhee** and **Jack Freeman**. The fencing team ended up second to Notre Dame in the National Championships — amazing results, as we finished second to a very large school. Other activities, in May, included Columbia College Class Day and University Commencement, the latter held in front of 50,000 people.

In addition to our classmate gatherings, **Ted Baker** and **Mike Goldstein** have been in touch celebrating their Ford Scholar reunion. **Harvey “Haji” Greenberg** is back from Europe after a joyous time out of the country.

Take care of yourselves, drink plenty of fluids, watch your diet. Most of all, be a good person.

Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

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There was a spectacular luncheon in Boynton Beach, Fla., for Floridians, snowbirds, snowflakes and their Valentines on February 14. **Dave Goler, Gershon Vincow, Martin Mayer, Dan Link, Burt Sultan, Murray Eskenazi, Stan Manne, Mike Spett, Don Roth** and I spent a wonderful few hours together.

Don Roth is the author of a novel, *The Girl from Guantanamo*. Happily, he brought a few copies in



Members of the Class of 1956 gathered for lunch in March in New York City. Seated, left to right: Gordon Silverman '55, SEAS'56, Stephen Easton, Mark Novick, Ron Kapon, Peter Klein and Jesse Blumenthal. Standing, left to right: Bob Siroty, Jerry Fine, Ed Gordon, Sid Spanier, Ralph Kaslick and Buz Paaswell.



Members of the Class of 1956 gathered in February at a luncheon in Florida. Seated, left to right: Dave Goler, Dan Link, Bob Siroy and Stan Manne. Standing, left to right: Mike Spett, Gershon Vincow, Burt Sultan, Don Roth, Murray Eskenazi and Martin Mayer.

the trunk of his car and autographed them for those purchasing one.

In March, we gathered at Faculty House on campus — **Peter Klein, Sid Spanier, Mark Novick, Ron Kapon, Ralph Kaslick, Jerry Fine, Buz Paaswell, Stephen Easton, Jesse Blumenthal, Gordon Silverman '55, SEAS'56, Ed Gordon** and I filled the round table.

Ron Kapon represented us at the annual Dean's Scholarship Reception on February 8. We received beautiful letters from the recipients of the CC'56 scholarships, expressing their appreciation for our contribution to their education.

I got some responses from Californians who will be with us in spirit at reunion: **Bob Steinfeld, Morton Jaffe** and **Art Salzfass**.

By the time you read this, summer will be upon us. Look for emails about future class activities. Keep the news flowing.

1957

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Bob Lipsyte JRN'59 reports a mini-renaissance at 80. The 50th anniversary edition of his first young adult novel, *The Contender*, has recently been published, with a new paperback cover and a new introduction. His 1976 *Sportsworld: An American*

Dreamland (one of the 100 best sports books of all time, according to *Sports Illustrated*), which has been long out of print, is being re-issued. A movie starring Donald Sutherland, *Measure of a Man*, is being released; it's based on Bob's second young adult novel, *One Fat Summer*.

Bob and his wife, Lois, live full-time on Shelter Island, where he writes for the town paper, *The Reporter*, and she is president of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters. Because kids and grandkids love to visit, Bob and Lois don't get off the island much these days.

Sam Rosenberg: "I ended 2017 with the publication of a collaborative edition and translation of 13th-century motets and started 2018 with the publication of my verse translation of the anonymous 13th-century tale *Robert the Devil*, whose best-known post-medieval version is Meyerbeer's opera of the same name. Now I am putting poet Paul Verlaine into English and also reaching back into the Middle Ages with the translation of a 13th-century historical work. It's a very satisfying way of continuing to pass the years of retirement!"

Alan Zuckerman: "What a year. It's been almost three years since my wife, Marilyn, died and I am getting used to being alone. I have so many great memories of our adventures. They bring me joy. My year began in sunny Indio, Los Angeles and Berkeley, Calif., and ended in sunny Pompano Beach,

Fla. My motivation was simple; avoid the frigid, snowy winters in Madison. I am writing this in sunny Pompano Beach and was to go back to Southern California in February. In March I was planning to go back to South Africa for two weeks with son Jonas, Jonas' wife Kate, and their children, William (8) and Lily (5). We are scheduled to be there March 18–30, staying with my friend Malose Kekana in Johannesburg and traveling to a game preserve and Cape Town. I worked with Malose 2000–01 and we have been friends since that time. I want to make the trip while I still have energy.

"Life in Madison, especially being near Jonas, Kate, William and Lily, is great. They are such fun. Watching them grow and learn and engage with life brings me pleasure. Jonas is managing Title I educational programs for the State of Wisconsin and my other son, Eric '94, works for a computer software firm in Los Angeles. We were all together with the Aughenbaughs (Jonas' in-laws) for Thanksgiving. I volunteer at the Lussier Community Education Center in Madison, helping them plan programs and I hope raise money to increase services.

"I have renewed contact with some old friends this year. I have fond memories of growing up in Boston, of Columbia, of life in the '60s in Washington and of the War on Poverty, which have been therapeutic. I also developed and taught a course, 'Reflections on the War on Poverty,' for an adult learning community in Madison. It's amazing how much was accomplished in the first two years of Johnson's presidency. It's tragic that President Trump is trying to eliminate many of the Great Society programs designed to improve the lives of poor people.

"My favorite book this year is Laura Dassow Walls' biography of Henry David Thoreau. He was the most inquisitive person and wanted to know why everything is the way it is. He lived in Concord, Mass., with Emerson, Hawthorne and the Alcotts, and he traveled extensively, often by walking. It makes me wonder if technology is destroying our ability to learn by observation. We can find answers on Google, but where is the sense of discovery? Thoreau and the description of life in New England 1820–60 was fascinating.

"There is a quotation from Dante that Robert F. Kennedy often cited: 'The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in time of moral crisis maintain their neutrality ... And it's not sufficient just being against, just saying I don't think I like the way things are going. We have a responsibility to offer an alternative.' This is a time of moral crisis!

"We have a destructive President. We need a leader and alternative plans that will bring people of different races, cultures and religions together, that will share the immense riches of this country and find alternatives to war and weapons to resolve conflict. The income and wealth disparities are getting larger every year. We need to find ways to better distribute both wealth and income. The homeless and poor should have a basic level of income, basic health care, housing and education. For the last 30 years, the top 1 percent have increased both wealth and income. Our current President is committed to continuing this pattern and we need new political leadership who will change those policies. How? That is a long discussion that we need to have. We have an opportunity to see that the benefits of automation are shared by all people.

"Our country and the world are changing rapidly, and we need to prepare for a changing economy and modern technology, and for transforming demographics. I hope that I am still around to see this emerging world and still have the energy and intellect to join the dialogue. Love and hugs to all."

Yours truly was in London, Birmingham and Glasgow, January 23–February 7. Beginning in 1966, I have visited London many times. This time I visited the new U.S. Embassy, a beehive-looking structure designed by Eero Saarinen. It is located south of the River Thames, in a neighborhood largely being torn down and replaced with modern high-rise buildings. I then revisited the Houses of Parliament. To one side of the Houses is a series of statues, including of Sir Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, David Lloyd George and Jan Smuts. Across the Thames are, among others, the London Eye (a giant Ferris wheel) and Lambeth Palace (home of the Archbishop of Canterbury).

A short distance from Parliament is Trafalgar Square. Dwarfing the Nelson Column are a huge arch

honoring Queen Victoria and King Edward VII and the vast National Gallery. Around the corner is the National Portrait Gallery. To the right of the art galleries is St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, noted for its musical program. I attended a partial performance of Mozart's *Mass in C Minor*, with narration from the choir director. The next day there was a piano recital of old-time favorites, including Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody* No. 2, Chopin's "Military" *Polonaise* and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Next stop was Covent Garden, once the farmers market but now a series of booths selling various items. To one side is St. Paul's, the "actors' church," with its classic columns and portico. It is in the opening scene of *My Fair Lady*, where Henry Higgins encounters Eliza Doolittle hawking her flowers and murdering the English language. Nearby is the Royal Opera House; I missed a performance of *Tosca* the evening after I left for Birmingham. Before leaving London I also visited the British Museum, with its magnificent archaeology.

Additionally I visited Windsor; a statue of the aging Queen Victoria stands guard at the entrance to the castle grounds.

Birmingham was new for me. Once grimy "Brummy," it is now a leading cultural center. Much of the downtown area has been or is in the process of being torn down in favor of modern high-rise buildings. Outstanding are the sparkling Convention Centre, Symphony Hall and Repertory Theatre. Remaining from earlier days are an outstanding art gallery with, among other things, a good collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings. On the other side of the building is Victoria Square, which has the classic Town Hall (for musical events) and the Council House (city hall). Close by is St. Philip's Cathedral.

A short train ride from downtown is the University of Birmingham. On one side are the Medical School, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Women's Hospital. On the other side are the undergraduate and graduate schools, with a monumental statue of Michael Faraday, chemist and physicist. There are several old red-brick buildings, but the huge library and other buildings are ultra-modern. Nearby is the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, a fairly small but outstanding art gallery.

My visit to Glasgow was mainly for reminiscing; I often had visited a professor and his wife there. Philip died and Rosemary moved. I revisited the University of Glasgow, with its tall, pinnacled tower and memorials to Lords Kelvin, mathematician and physicist, and Lister, surgeon. The next day I walked through the old part of town to revisit the cathedral and the Green. The cathedral is a pleasant oasis for reflection.

1958

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CCT welcomes new class correspondent **Peter Cohn**, who will take the reins beginning with the Fall issue. Please send updates to him at either of the addresses at the top of this column.

The following was compiled by *CCT*:

Ian Nisonson PS'62: "The seventh Nisonson — the third generation — has been accepted to the College. Me, then three of my four children (Evan '84, SOA'86; Andrea '86; Lauren '88); my brother Barton '62, PS'66; his daughter Nathania '03; and now my son Evan's daughter Emma '22, who has been accepted early decision.

"I retired from my practice in urology in Miami, Fla., about 2005. I am co-director of the Annual Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorder. It is going into its 16th year (one grandson is severely autistic). I am also a member of the executive committee on continuing medical education in a very large nonprofit hospital system, Baptist Health South Florida. Four years ago I started teaching at Florida International Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine as an adjunct assistant professor (I teach 'Professional Behavior 1 and 2' and recently added 'End of Life, Palliative Care'). I also have been a volunteer physician on the Palliative Care Team at Baptist Health South Miami Hospital since 2009. Despite this, I really have free time. Myrna (my wife of 58 years) and I visit our 10 grandchildren in Miami; Boca Raton; Greenville, S.C.; and Carmel, Ind. So, with a little

golf and time in the gym we keep ourselves young and healthy."

Ira Carlin: "First, **Jack McGroarty** passed away earlier this year. He was a retired ophthalmologist who practiced in North Hollywood, Calif. Second, like the proverbial swallows, **Lenny Zivitz** and I returned to San Juan Capistrano recently for a highly enjoyable pre-reunion lunch."

Morton Schatzman is a medical doctor and psychiatrist. He moved to London in 1967 and lives there with his wife. He has two sons, five grandsons and a granddaughter.

Robert W. Hanning GSAS'64: "Like so many of our classmates, I mourn [former *CCT* class correspondent] **Barry Dickman's** passing; his contributions to *CCT* were much appreciated.

"Now in my 12th year of retirement after 45 years in Columbia's Department of English and Comparative Literature, I volunteer in the College Road Program of Columbia's service organization, Community Impact, working with adults who want to go on to college after earning their high school equivalency certification. It's a challenging, sometimes frustrating, but often very rewarding, exercise. I've also reconnected, after 55 years, with Billy Goldenberg '57, to whose music I set some lyrics for a couple of Varsity Shows. I was a rank amateur, but Billy went on to a fabulous Hollywood career. Just for fun, we're writing some songs again. Last but certainly not least, my wife, Barbara, and I celebrated our 55th anniversary in June, more in love than ever. Our daughter, Gina, lives on Roosevelt Island and our son, Rob, in Los Angeles, where he writes for television (currently *Hawaii 5-0*)."

Joe Dorinson: "Our 60th reunion will be diminished by Barry's absence. Why not quote a lyric from the American Civil War era? 'We shall meet but we shall miss him./There will be one vacant chair.'"

Carl Frischling: "It is ironic that Barry passed away before our 60th reunion. He was a mainstay for our class over the many years he was our class correspondent and was a model of a true communicator to remind us of how much we are indebted to the College early on in our lives. He will be missed."

Jim Bast: "Barry will be sorely missed. He was a great person to know and work with at College, and

a very committed 'scribe' thereafter. I'm on Cape Cod in retirement, so unable to make the monthly luncheons. Nor have I been faithful for reunions, where a major excuse is that my college sweetheart and wife of 59 years always has a birthday on that same, often holiday, weekend. I try to atone by interviewing College applicants, as I am apparently one of the only alumni willing to do so here in paradise."

Barnett "Barney" Cline: "One classmate with whom I have maintained close contact and friendship since graduation is fellow San Antonio Texan **Eddie Hedaya**, who now resides in Delray Beach, Fla., with his wife, Jean. My wife, Nancy, and I were looking forward to visiting them in April.

"I recently published a book, *The Wind Blew Me There: Memories of a Ship's Surgeon on Barquentine Verona*. Classmates who find themselves near San Antonio or Austin are encouraged to visit us on our ranch near Blanco, Texas."

Henry A. Solomon PS'62: "I have maintained my international travels on behalf of the American College of Cardiology and recently led two workshops on leadership development for aspiring Chinese hospital executives in Shanghai. I am chief continuing medical education reviewer for MedPage Today, a medical website that was recently acquired by Ziff Davis publishers."

Joseph Coogan SEAS'59, SEAS'60: "Three of my physics professors in the College would go on to win a Nobel Prize: Leon Lederman, Charles Townes and Polykarp Kusch. During the 1950s the physics department seemed to be a holding pen or training ground for Nobel physicists. I remember I.I. Rabi was the department chair when I was there; Enrico Fermi wanted to start there but went on to the University of Chicago. Both were also Nobel Laureates. In the late 1930s, my favorite physicist, Richard Feynman, tried to enroll (he was born in Queens) but was rejected because the Jewish limit at the time had been achieved. He enrolled at MIT and then went to Princeton for a Ph.D. He became a professor at Cal Tech and a Nobel Prize winner. He is famous for his Feynman diagrams, his work on the Manhattan Project and, much later in life, for his TV appearance regarding the *Challenger* spaceship disaster (regarding the

latter, his dipping a small rubber washer in a glass of iced water to show what happens when rubber elasticity changes with temperature elightened the public).

"During my freshman term in the College I lived at home in Teaneck, N.J. One morning I was a bit late for my chemistry class in Havemeyer Hall. I got off the subway at the 116th Street station, which was then on a median divider separating the northbound and southbound lanes of Broadway. I darted across Broadway looking out for traffic, but apparently not for people. Halfway across I bumped shoulders with a man, who then fell down in traffic. Who was that man? It was Harry S. Truman, who earlier had apparently given a lecture at the University. His aides and I helped him up; he was not hurt. After a sincere apology I continued on to Havemeyer.

"Six years later after finishing my degrees, including four years of NROTC courses, I proceeded to my active duty assignment at the Key West NAS. Truman loved Key West. He vacationed there 11 times. His vacation house, which was then the admiral's house, is now the Truman Museum. I lived in town with my wife for two years, six to eight blocks from the admiral's house. However, I never saw Truman again; by then he had probably retired to Independence, Miss.

"However, a new President — JFK — was the new notable, along with Prime Minister Harold McMillan of the United Kingdom, to visit both the Air Station and the Truman Museum. The day of their visit I happened to be the Officer of the Day (in charge of security) at the Air Station. In that position I met both of them ...

"How about meeting other Presidents or notables in other places? Three stand out. In St. Petersburg, Russia, I had one-hour conversations with both Vladimir Putin and Mayor Anatoly Sobchak. The subject was grain terminals, which I was promoting at the time. They both struck me as impressive officials. In the 1990s, I attended a conference at Hofstra on Long Island. Ex-Cabinet members from the Reagan era, such as James Baker, were the speakers. There was one other speaker who was Reagan's counterpart in the USSR: Mikhail Gorbachev. He was in charge when the USSR collapsed. He gave a good speech. When it was finished we had

a chat offstage. He was amazed that I had had a similar talk with Putin.

"Then there was that 'would-be' President of the United States, who was running for office in 1968. I met him at the Cross County Shopping Center in Yonkers, N.Y. He was coming out of Macy's with two of his aides, and I was coming out of a neighboring retail store. They were coming toward me so I decided not to move. When they were close to me, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy put out his hand. When we shook hands I said, 'Good luck Mr. Kennedy.' I remember he was wearing a black armband to commemorate his brother JFK, and a tag announcing his candidacy for president. Several months later after giving a speech in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles he was shot in the head and killed by Sirhan Sirhan while exiting the hotel through the kitchen.

"At the time I was a product manager on Maxwell House Coffee at General Foods. Looking at my IBM runs I wondered why three West Coast prisons were buying so much instant coffee. I decided to investigate by calling the wardens at Vacaville, Alcatraz and San Quentin. They explained that it was the inmates who were buying the jar-pack coffee at the Exchange Store. They could then make a cup at any time during the day, and especially before they would go out to the prison yard to play ball. Each warden then invited me to visit to see for myself. I decided to take them up on their offer. I visited each prison, the Exchange Stores and the prison yards. The warden at San Quentin also offered to walk me around the cell blocks to observe prison life. When we got close to the end of one corridor he said 'Look over there. See the end cell. See who is in there? That's Sirhan Sirhan, the man who killed RFK.'"

1959

Norman Gelfand
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In about a year, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of our Commencement. I look forward to seeing you all there.



A photo of the groomsmen from Bernie Pucker '59's June 15, 1959, wedding. Top row, second from right: Kenneth Gros Louis '59; bottom row, left to right: Paul Nagano '60, Avram Kraft '60, David Rosand '59, Mike Sohn '60 and George Nikolaieff '61.

Let me start with some short notes. **Mike Tannenbaum** GSAS'65 informs us that *Marquis Who's Who*, the world's premier publisher of biographical profiles, presented him with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. An accomplished listee, Dr. Tannenbaum celebrates many years' experience in his professional network and has been noted for achievements, leadership qualities, and the credentials and successes he has accrued in his field.

For a more complete description of the basis for the award, and a summary of Mike's accomplishments, go to 24-7pressrelease.com/press-release-service/450996.

Steve Trachtenberg has been busy. He writes, "I have a new book on the university presidency coming out April 15. Likely my last, but I have said that before. Ran into **Riordan Roett** in the lobby of the Hotel Ritz in Madrid. He never disappoints. When I asked him what he was doing in Spain, he said he was there to see the king. And I believed him."

Bill Zangwill celebrated his 80th birthday on St. Patrick's Day with a fantastic dinner on the 99th floor of the Sears Tower (now the Willis Tower) in Chicago. **Paul Kantor** and his wife, Carole, and **Norman Gelfand** and his wife, Yona, were there, along with many of Bill's family members and friends.

Arnie Offner reports that his biography, *Hubert Humphrey: The*

Conscience of the Country, will be published on August 21. Arnie will be giving numerous talks about the book: at Politics and Prose Bookstore on September 15, and at Smithsonian Associates on October 25, in Washington, D.C., and at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at UVA, in Charlottesville, Va., on October 30. Other scheduled talks, with dates to be announced on his website, arnoldoffner.com, will be at the Leon Levy Center for Biography at CUNY on Fifth Avenue, New York City, and at the Harvard Coop in Cambridge, Mass.

The book has gotten strong endorsements from President Carter, Vice President Mondale and noted biographers.

Arnie spent 49 years as a history professor, including five years at Syracuse, 23 years at Boston University and 21 years at Lafayette, from which he retired as Cornelia F. Hugel Professor Emeritus of History in 2012.

Arnie is married to Ellen Siegel Offner BC'61, a health care strategist and consultant, and they live in Newton, Mass., near their children Deborah and Michael, their respective spouses, and four grandchildren. When not working, Arnie and Ellen travel as widely as possible, and also enjoy spending time at their summer home in the Berkshires, near Tanglewood and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Classmates and friends are always welcome: email offner1@comcast.net or call 617-332-7161.

Dr. **Ralph W. Wyndrum Jr.** SEAS'59, BUS'78, LF-IEEE [Life Fellow-Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers] chair, Fair Haven Environmental Commission, past president, IEEE-USA, Washington, D.C., and past chairman of the American Association of Engineering Societies, also in Washington, D.C., wrote in at the end of 2017: "Time has slipped by quickly. This is the 29th year that my wife, Meta, and I have lived here in Fair Haven, N.J. We've had 57 years of marriage and a wonderful family. Now in our ninth decade (that's over 80, not 90!) we better appreciate all the wonders of life and what God has given us, in the past and in the present — the latter being a winter scene outside of fresh snow, illuminated by computer-controlled twinkling LEDs! With the joys that Christmas confirms, Meta and I want to wish all of our readers a peaceful and quiet holiday season, which inspires us all to humbly serve all in need of our help.

"The holiday festivities that used to be ours to serve are now ours to enjoy at our children's homes, enhanced by eight grandchildren

the Red Bank Chamber Music Society and the Two River Theater.

"My genealogical research in Northern Ireland, Scotland and the English border counties becomes more and more difficult for lack of records, with about 12,000 family members recorded and largely placed in trees. It's the 'strays' that become so frustrating, and the continued repetition of a half-dozen given names over seven centuries.

"February 2017 brought Meta's 'Big 80.' She was honored by a family affair at the Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick, N.J., following a Shakespeare ESU Competition in the morning. In March, we went to Hollywood, Fla., for a week, visiting daughter Jeanne and enjoying the beach and local restaurants. In April, I helped at the Robot Challenge at Brookdale College, sponsored by IEEE. The contestants are local high school upperclassmen, whose talents are just amazing. It's hard to believe how much new academic material has been added to the curricula since we were juniors 60-plus years ago.

"Toward the end of April, we celebrated our 57th wedding anniversary and my 80th birthday at Nicholas

new season, theater, an Oktoberfest, the chamber music performances and all the things that make the fall lively. For Thanksgiving, we joined Dorothy and her extended family, and joined Joan's in Avon for Christmas Day. We will think of you all and look forward to seeing or hearing from you in these class pages in 2018!"

Steve Kallis Jr. reports, "As a retiree in Florida's Tampa Bay, there's nothing new aside from some surprisingly cold weather. However, I don't recall sending this before. For a quarter-century, I was an employee of the late, lamented Digital Equipment Corp., as a member of its corporate public relations department.

"While there, I established a library of 'application films,' which were industrial films that could be lent to schools and professional societies. These films showed various ways that the company's computers were used. Four of the films I did myself, having my own motion picture production equipment. In the days I made those films, cameras weren't digital and used actual film to record moving images.

"My films are now accessible at archive.org. They can be viewed there, or downloaded for retention. The films are *Clear!* (archive.org/details/Clear_201403), a PDP-8/m computer system is used at an airport's fixed base operation to ease the functions of dispatching airplanes and selling pilot supplies; *Computer-Augmented Chemical Analysis* (archive.org/details/Chemical_20140328), a PDP-12 computer is used at a chemical facility to determine the characteristics of a potential antibiotic; *Pulsebeat Of The Universe* (archive.org/details/Pulsebeat), a PDP-12 computer is used in a radioastronomy observatory to study neutron stars known as pulsars; and *Along the Shorelines of the Skies* (archive.org/details/Shorelines), a PDP-8 computer is used to calibrate an ultraviolet spectrometer used in rocket-borne ultraviolet spectrometers in high-altitude and space research.

"On the matter of motion pictures, I might as well add that the 1975 movie *Three Days of the Condor*, which stars Robert Redford, opens with a shot of a PDP-8/e computer being used by a CIA-funded research facility to scan foreign language books and translate them into English. As a PR guy, I placed the computer into the movie, and as a techno-weenie, I programmed it. (In the Internet

Movie Database entry on the film, I'm listed under full cast and crew as the 'technical consultant for the computer sequence.')

My apologies to **Richard Engelman** and **Eric Jakobsson** for not including their contributions. They will appear in the Fall issue.

1960

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Michael Scheck BUS'61 lives in Miami. Apparently, he is quite content to be there. He and his wife, Raquel, married 54 years, have been in Miami for more than 60 years. They are not the only Schecks in Miami. All of their family, Michael reports, "live next door to one another in Miami on a 'cul de Scheck.'" Now that's quite a lot of Schecks — enough to field two softball teams or to occupy the entire first violin section of a symphony orchestra (Michael and Raquel have 17 grandchildren).

And this battalion of Schecks doesn't always stay put in Miami. Michael favored me with two beautiful pictures of the entire complement (including dog Maisie) assembled for photos in Brazil, taken two years ago, and in Beaver Creek, Colo., taken this past December. With such evidence now in hand, 17 establishes a record for grandchildren. That crown, which has long weighed on **Vince Russo's** brow with 15, moves on to Miami.

Michael, who earned an M.B.A. from the Business School, retired in 2005 from the wholesale distribution of paper and other products. He's not the only member of the family with a degree from the College. Son Marty '88 and daughter Elise '91 are graduates, and Marty's daughter Nicole '19 will be one — three generations of recipients of a spectacular education on Morningside Heights. Michael sends his regards to all.

Mike Gelfand offers additional wry observations about his freshman adventure painting the "C" at Spuyten Duyvil while suspended on a board at the end of a rope, and a serious note about the value of his participation as a coxswain on the crew: "That was a differ-

Mike Tannenbaum '59 was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who, the world's premier publisher of biographical profiles.

and their friends, a wonderful and rich turn of events. Thanksgiving found us at daughter Dorothy and [her husband] Mike's in Branchburg, and Christmas will be at daughter Joan and [her husband] Kevin's in Avon-by-the-Sea, both here in New Jersey.

"I am president of the Monmouth branch of the English-Speaking Union (ESU), which presented a number of English cultural programs this year, and completed the year with a traditional Christmas roast beef dinner at the Rumson Country Club. I also serve as a Eucharistic minister at Nativity Church. Meta is VP of her alumni club, with its monthly lunches. I chair the member care committee of the Root Beer and Checker Club, which meets twice weekly for lunch and serves the social needs of its aging members. Both Meta and I support

Restaurant, and Howie Allen '58, SEAS'59's 'Big 80,' at a party in Brooklyn. We flew to Overland Park, Kan., in May to visit son Ralph III, Wanda, Isabel, Amelia, Ralph IV and Eleanor. It's always fun, yet we only see them once or twice a year.

"In the middle of June we flew to Stockholm, where we joined our close Dusseldorf friends, Klaus and Elsbeth Mueller, for a four-day sight-seeing tour. It was a lot of fun with friends we see too little. From there we took a cruise on Oceania around nine Baltic countries including Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. It was for 10 days; we highly recommend the cruise and the associated tours. We stayed around home in July, August and September, with some local travel and enjoying the Navesink River, the ocean and fine summer weather. October brought forth the

ent era: 16 years old, no parental consent needed, no safety harness, no flotation vest in case you fell into the river from your perch. Nobody worried about liability issues in 1956! Being asked to cox by Dean [Harry] Coleman '46 was fortuitous. It's where I first developed the self-confidence and leadership skills that led to my success as a vascular surgeon and community leader."

To the uninitiated observer of a race of eights, the coxswain is probably the least appreciated person in the shell — perhaps one of the least appreciated participants in all of sports. But every oarsman and oarswoman knows that many a race of eights is won by a few seats, and the difference between winning and losing often depends on the skill and the leadership of the coxswain. *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*, by Daniel James Brown, a beautifully written bestseller that tells the story of the historic University of Washington eight-oared crew that won the gold medal in the 1936 Olympics, pays appropriate tribute to the coach-in-the-boat.

Tom Palmieri, now fully retired as a hand surgeon, plans to spend a great deal of time on his boat, the *Manus Rex*. I gather *Manus Rex* is a play on Tom's surgical specialty and translates roughly from Latin to English as "the King of Hands." Tom is in contact with **Vince Russo** and would love to renew contact with other members of the class. Drop me a note if you would like to be in touch and I'll provide Tom with your contact information.

Congratulations to **Stephen Solender SW'62**, who was celebrated as one of eight New York octogenarians-plus who continue to lead lives of active civic engagement and accomplishment. At the annual "8 over 80" gala benefit on March 12 for The New Jewish Home, one of the nation's largest and most diversified nonprofit geriatric health and rehabilitation systems, Steve, described as a "nonprofit luminary," joined in being honored with seven other distinguished New Yorkers: entertainment legend Clive Davis; renowned *New York Times* journalist Marilyn Berger; former NYC mayor David Dinkins; philanthropic leader Elizabeth McCormack; academic visionary Vartan Gregorian; and finance leaders Roy Zuckerberg and John Heilmann.

Steve's lifelong record of distinguished social service is truly extraordinary. After graduating from the School of Social Work, Steve worked for the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago as a teen worker, program director and branch director; thereafter he moved to Geneva, Switzerland, where he worked for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and was president of the English-speaking Jewish community of Geneva. He returned to the United States to become director of social planning and budgeting at The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, and then became president. He was executive VP of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, where he supervised its merger with the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, creating the largest local Jewish Federation in North America and one of the country's largest private philanthropies (he was the organization's executive VP for 13 years). He was the founding president of the Human Services Council of New York, the umbrella group uniting human services agencies in New York. He also played a key role in the formation of the United Jewish Communities, which became the central funding and social service system for the American Jewish community, as its first president and CEO and now as its president emeritus. He was the second executive VP of the 9-11 United Services Group, supervising the distribution of more than \$700 million that had been donated to voluntary agencies in New York after the terrorist

attack on the World Trade Center. And the list of his works goes on.

Steve received a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2000. Steve and wife Elsa married in 1960 — certainly an auspicious year — and have two Columbia sons (Michael '86 and Daniel '87) and seven grandchildren. Dan's wife, Lynne, is SEAS'87. One of the grandchildren is Brian '17.

Syd Goldsmith GSAS'65 writes from Taipei: "By Chinese traditional measure, I turned 80 at Chinese New Year in 2017. It was a momentous year. First, living to this age in Chinese society will mean red banners at my funeral, not the ordinary white mourning banners for those who do not make it this far along the journey of creeping entropy."

It was a year that included a month of travel. "The peak," Syd continues, "was Harrison's (my 24-year-old son) response to the gift of a trip to Europe to honor his forthcoming graduation from college. I had hardly finished telling him when he said, 'Why don't you come with me?' We rented a car and followed our instincts in Germany, Switzerland and France, with some bonus days in Austria and Italy, where we jammed jazz with our host the pianist, Harrison on erhu [a two-stringed bowed musical instrument] and me on flute. That was just one of many delightful experiences. Another host in Switzerland invited us to a concert and we cooked for each other. A combination of things led us to drive nearly 1,000 miles out of the way so Harrison could connect with a friend in Munich and I could visit with the former French delegate to the International Herald Tribune Forum. Driving all that distance together to see a couple of friends gave us a good reminder of what's really important. Another message from that trip: 30 days traveling, father and young-adult son, one on one, was an extraordinary experience getting to know each other for both of us ... not a typical parent-child experience. Fifty-five years apart in age and very close together. Beautiful."

But the year was not without its disappointments. "**Paul Chevalier** and I had to give up skiing together after years of glorious annual visits to his lovely home in Sedona and a week on the slopes at his timeshare in Telluride. It all came about at the 50th

reunion when I ran into Paul for the first time since we graduated. After a delightful late evening with the Chevaliers and **Paul Nagano**, Paul C. suggested skiing and I decided that the rarity of new offers of friendship at age 70-plus overcame any concern about the distance required to just do it. Now that the realities of added years are making themselves felt, we are planning to move our next reunion to New York in June. Good replacement for risking old bones on ever-steeper slopes. So, time marches on, with many silver linings in the clouds associated with aging."

And, as for his creative experiences, Syd notes, "With *Hong Kong on the Brink*, I now have three published books, along with three Flute Flight albums and two more in the works. Teaching at the Central Police University in Taiwan keeps me in touch with a much younger generation, and that's a joy and an education too. Life's good."

1961

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Bill Binderman SIPA'63, LAW'64 passed away on February 15, 2018, after a valiant struggle with rapid onset Parkinson's disease with Lewy Body Dementia (the worst kind of PD). Bill almost singlehandedly organized and oversaw our five-year Homecoming events.

During our time at Columbia, Bill was WKCR's sportscaster, covering all our football games (among other events). He was someone who cared deeply about, and contributed significantly to, Columbia throughout his life. He never turned down an opportunity to be there for anyone who asked, never mind the travel, the conflicts or inconvenience. Bill was a friend you could always count on to be there and support you.

Bill practiced law in New York and later in Philadelphia. He was president of Beth Emeth Synagogue in Larchmont, N.Y., and a leader of our class for more than 55 years. He is survived by his wife, Roberta, and several children from his first marriage.

Members of the NYC lunch group, of which Bill was a frequent attendee, wanted to make a memo-



Contact CCT

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

rial gift to honor Bill by gifting to his beloved WKCR. If you wish, you can donate online directly on the WKCR website (wkcr.org) by clicking the “give today” link. The phone number is 212-851-2699.

Jim Ammeen, Jack Kirik and Lucky Bowers '62 recently vacationed on St. Maarten. The island was severely damaged on September 6 by Hurricane Irma; most businesses, housing, hotels, churches and restaurants were either damaged or destroyed. Airport arrivals and departures are operating out of tents; full recovery will be a long journey. Fortunately, Lucky had rented a house that suffered little damage.

After spending more than 25 years studying and writing about the benefits and risks of hormone replacement therapy (for women, not men), **Av Bluming**, who is a medical oncologist, together with social psychologist Carol Tavis, spent the past year writing a book on the subject. It is scheduled to be published on September 4 and is already available for preorder on Amazon: *Estrogen Matters: Why Taking Hormones in Menopause Improves Women's Well-Being, Lengthens Their Lives — and Doesn't Raise the Risk of Breast Cancer.*

Former WKCR program directors (and friends for more than 50 years) **Art Wisot** and **Nat Kramer '63**, SEAS'64 reunited recently when the Kramers (Nat and his wife, Georgia Dobrer Kramer BC'64) traveled from Westchester, N.Y., to Southern California to watch their granddaughter play in a basketball tournament; they stayed with the Wisots. Since



Art Wisot '61 and Nat Kramer '63 reunited in Southern California. Seated: Georgia Dobrer Kramer BC'64 and Kramer; standing: Phyllis Wisot, Wisot and David Wisot.

graduation, the Kramers and Wisots have attended each other's family milestone celebrations. They culminated their recent visit with a brunch that included the Wisots' son, David. Four former WKCR program directors attended the Kramers' daughter's wedding. Those program directors stick together.

Nat practices trademark law in Manhattan and Georgia practices divorce law in Westchester. Art does administrative work for his reproductive endocrinology practice, Reproductive Partners.

Tom Gochberg reports that after a week in the hospital having diagnostic work done on why he felt so weak and not learning how to walk as he felt he should, he was diagnosed with the need for neck surgery to take the pressure off his spinal cord. An eight-hour surgery was performed on March 7. The damage was corrected and Tom was released. He hopes it will stabilize his condition and, at best, improve his ability to walk. He expects it will take about three months to determine how successful the surgery was.

1962

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Larry William PS'66 and Peter Gollon '63, GSAS'69, Larry's college roommate and longtime friend, spent a wonderful week last October visiting one of Africa's greatest remaining wildlife areas: Chief's Island in the Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana's Okavango Delta. They were able to get close to lions and lion cubs, leopards and cheetahs, white and black rhinos, large herds of elephants, giraffes and African wild (“painted”) dogs. Seeing and photographing these magnificent animals — most of which are critically endangered — in their own habitat renewed Larry and Peter's commitment to helping ensure the survival of these species, even in the face of global climate change. Larry and Peter then flew to the Zimbabwe side of Victoria Falls and stayed in the century-old Victoria Falls Hotel, which Larry regrets “still emanates a faint air of white man's burden.”

In January, Larry traveled to northern Montana to photograph



Michael Stone '62, Burt Lehman '62, Steve Berkman '62 and John Freidin '62 got together for lunch overlooking the beach and ocean on Fisher Island, Fla., where Berkman lives.

more wildlife. He also has more travel planned: “In a few weeks,” Larry writes, “I will be going to Pietermaritzburg in South Africa to attend the graduation ceremony of a Congolese friend, who will be getting his doctorate in gender studies. He lives in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo, one of the worst spots on earth. Over the past four years I was his primary editor as he labored on his doctoral dissertation.

“I continue to mentor high school students. One will graduate this June and I hope to attend the ceremony. It will be a busy day for my wife, Judy, and me, as our twin grandchildren will graduate from high school that same day. Additionally, in April Judy and I plan to travel to France, the Netherlands and Belgium. Other than this stuff, I stay home, where I have a lot of fun cooking and tending my tiny garden.”

Allen Young wrote in January: “Davos, Switzerland, is in the news, and it made me smile when I heard it. That's the spectacular venue where Trump recently met with heads of state and the world's business elite. In summer 1961, at 20, while on a Carnegie grant researching Swiss neutrality in the Cold War, I spent a couple of days in Davos. Here's a segment about that experience from my autobiography (which, by the way, was not my idea but which I decided to tackle after several people said, ‘You've had an interesting life; you should write a book.’).

“I interviewed academics, bankers, politicians and high-ranking businessmen in the Swiss watch industry. To accomplish this, I traveled by train

to other parts of Suisse Romande, the local phrase for French-speaking Switzerland, including Berne and Lausanne. Dean John Palfrey was attending an international conference in Davos, high in the Alps, and invited me to meet him. To get there, I had to take a boat and funicular; the conference venue was spectacular. While my focus was not primarily on the natural beauty of Switzerland, I appreciated it to a certain extent. I enjoyed hiking up Le Salève, a small mountain on the edge of Geneva. I took an enjoyable day trip by car with Pastor Trocmé to the picturesque town of Annecy in the nearby French department (similar to a state) of Haute-Savoie. Very often, I simply stood on a bridge at the edge of Lake Geneva, watching the Rhone River waters swiftly flow below me en route to the Mediterranean Sea.”

Allen's 500-page book, *Left, Gay & Green: A Writer's Life*, includes a chapter about his years at Columbia, including coursework, friendships, politics and sex. It is available on Amazon.

Lester Hoffman writes from New York's Upper West Side: “After Columbia, I earned a Ph.D. at Harvard in a unique combination of studies — philosophy of language, cognitive psychology, and learning technology. After teaching for nine years at CUNY and Long Island University on subjects like medical ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of education and the social consequences of technology, I left academia to establish a new career as a training and management consultant. I have been creating



Larry William '62 and Peter Gollon '63 spent a week in Africa in October taking photographs at Chief's Island in the Moremi Game Reserve (in Botswana's Okavango Delta).

learning programs for dozens of large companies such as IBM, Citibank, Goldman Sachs and Pfizer. I've also been a professional editor/writer with more than 200 scientists, researchers, engineers and computer professionals, helping them write and edit their data and ideas into books, papers and other publications. I still do this. I've taught more than 100 workshops on scientific and medical writing, editing and publishing for such clients as Novartis Pharmaceuticals, the FDA, the NIH, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the School of Public Health and the Navy. I get pleasure from helping technical experts explain their ideas to non-experts, learning about their research and helping them explain it to the world. Another consulting interest is bias and diversity; I've written two books on unconscious bias in the workplace and taught many workshops on this timely topic.

"Best of all, I've been wonderfully married to Dorothy Gnos Hoffman, a pharmaceutical editor, for 41 years. Our older daughter, Krista, is an actor in Los Angeles and our younger daughter, MeiHua, is a barista here in New York. I'd love to hear from classmates in NYC, or anywhere (tomhaw@aol.com)."

In the Spring 2018 issue, **John Joyce** recalled the May 9, 1961, *New York Times* story about Columbia's big baseball win over Army and the stellar performances of **Tom Vasell**, **Bob Koehler** and Mike Esposito '61. Today I have the sad responsibility to report that Bob passed away on December 12, 2017, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

The following obituary appeared on the Athletics website: "Bob was a special man, a proud Lion, and someone who will be dearly missed but remembered fondly in spirit by the teams that played with him and were coached by him," said Tim Murray '04, a player under Bob.

"A native of the Bronx, Koehler was the ace of the Lions' pitching staff from 1960 to 1962. Upon graduation, he held the Columbia record for career strikeouts (253) and ERA (2.02) and still ranks second and third, respectively, in those categories. In 1960, Koehler posted eight victories, tied for the program's single-season record with a 1.11 ERA to earn team MVP and All-Eastern League honors. He followed

that up with a 1.04 ERA the following season. Koehler was signed by the New York Yankees in 1962 and played two years in the minor leagues, before receiving a master's degree in education from Teachers College. He then taught for 31 years at H. Frank Carey H.S. on Long Island. During the summer, he played baseball in Canada and served as a batting practice pitcher for the New York Yankees and Mets. In 1998 he returned to Columbia to serve as a volunteer pitching coach, a role he held until 2005."

Bob is survived by his wife, Shan Bradley Koehler; children and their spouses, Catherine and Greg Lowe, Michael Koehler and Kimberly Dukes, and Christopher Koehler and Dede Clapp; grandchildren, Austin, Cameron, Jeffrey and Douglas; and brother, Edward.

In late February, **Steve Berkman** hosted **Burt Lehman**, **Michael Stone** and **John Freidin** for lunch overlooking the beach and ocean on Fisher Island, Fla., where Steve and his wife, Bobbi, have lived for many years. Steve and Mike were college roommates, as were Burt and John (and **Jon Narcus**). We solved the world's problems and never talked of days past.

1963

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I am writing this note in late March. By the time you read it, I expect that you will have had a great time at our 55th reunion and helped us break all the attendance records. Details to follow in the Fall issue.

Phil Satow kindly hosted me at his table in March at the John Jay Awards Dinner, where I had the pleasure of sitting next to former Dean of the College Austin E. Quigley. This is one of my favorite Columbia events and it was great to share it with some of my favorite Columbia people.

Peter Gollon GSAS'69 and his college roommate, Larry William '62, PS'66, traveled to Africa last fall (see the Class of '62 notes). After their joint safari adventure, Peter traveled on his own and spent three days in Johannesburg, where he visited many

of the significant sites and museums dedicated to the decades-long struggle against apartheid, which ended with the peaceful transition to a democratic government in 1994 under Nelson Mandela.

As an aside, Peter writes, "My wife and I continue to be well and active with various progressive organizations, travel, visiting our children and grandchildren and so on. I'm looking forward to reunion, including staying in the dorms again, but definitely not eating John Jay food!"

Peter, we will be holding our reunion banquet in John Jay, but I assure you and our classmates that it will be catered.

Jerry Finkelstein writes, "I will not be able to attend reunion. I and my wife, Helen (whom I married 52 years ago, when we were both grad students at UC Berkeley), will be on our way to a vacation in France and Ireland.

"I obtained a Ph.D. in physics at Berkeley, then I taught physics at Stanford, at Columbia and at San Jose State. I am retired from teaching, but still do research in physics at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

"Helen and I have two children: Our son, Erik, was a post-doc at Columbia and works for the New York City Department of Public Health; our daughter, Malaika, teaches at City College of San Francisco. We have one grandchild — Josephine is in the seventh grade in a school in Manhattan. Class of 2027?"

Dan Perl writes, "My lab (UniforMed Services University of the Health Sciences' Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine Brain Tissue Repository) and our work was the subject of the lead story on *60 Minutes* on April 1. The story is a powerful one and a moving piece of television, which will provide an explanation for why

I am so committed to the work I have been doing."

Jim Rodgers writes, "I practice law here in Brattleboro, Vt., without slowing down as yet. My wife, Carol, is an associate professor at SUNY Albany and is also busy advising a unique charter school in the Bronx. My children all live on the West Coast: Melissa in San Francisco, and Jon and Liz in Los Angeles. We will get together the second week of April when we fly to San Fran for a family celebration."

Paul Reale GSAS'67 writes, "I have two new CD recordings: *Dies Irae* on MSR Classics, which features concerto *Dies Irae* for piano trio and winds and two piano sonatas. *Chopin's Ghosts: Works for Cello and Piano* came out on the Naxos label on April 13. Older news: My string orchestra piece, 'Hextet,' premiered in New York on January 9."

Barry Bem SIPA'67 (barrybem@gmail.com) writes, "At this point I have lost contact with all classmates. Maybe this information will bring responses. After graduation in 1963, I joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Colombia. I then returned to Columbia for a master's in international affairs. Then I had a series of jobs with an international connection: Foreign Service (three years); AFS International, a high school exchange program (seven-plus years); the international student office at Howard University in Washington, D.C. (14 years); and the Peace Corps staff (five-plus years), first in Ecuador as programming and training officer and then at headquarters in an office that handles various emergencies. I retired from full-time work but continued part-time for many years as a licensed tour guide in D.C. and as a tour manager for groups going to Cuba, Spain, Portugal and elsewhere. I have always been

involved in various volunteer activities, especially involving HIV/AIDS. Current activities are opera, tennis and gardening.”

David Orme-Johnson writes, “I recently returned from the First International Conference of Complementary and Integrative Medicine and Public Health and the Third International Congress on Ayurveda (held in Rio de Janeiro, March 12–15), which had 4,000 delegates. I spoke the first day during the plenary session. The conference was sponsored by the Brazilian Ministry of Health, which

integrative medicine into its system and is implementing it nationwide. Personally, this was a very fulfilling milestone, to have the research on TM and Ayurveda be taken seriously by a governmental agency and be implemented on a national scale.”

David Hitlin GSAS’68 writes, “I am resending a note I sent a while back that to my knowledge never made it into your column.”

David, you are absolutely right. Apologies. Here it is.

“A piece of professional news: I was awarded the American Physical Society’s 2016 W.K.H. Panofsky

Dan Perl ’63’s lab and its work was the subject of the lead story on 60 Minutes on April 1; it’s “an explanation for why I am so committed to the work I have been doing,” he says.

paid all expenses for 300 speakers, who came from all over the world — India, China, Latin America, North America and the Caribbean. I began by briefly reviewing studies showing that the physiological effects of the Transcendental Meditation technique are in the opposite direction of stress (reductions in cortisol, respiratory rate, heart rate, etc.). I then presented evidence from my five-year health insurance studies indicating that practice of the TM technique reduces health care use across all disease categories and age groups, for both hospitalization and outpatient visits. In both studies, particularly large decreases were found in older people, which highlights TM’s anti-aging effects. In summary, these data, along with a 14-year longitudinal study and a five-year Gold Standard randomized controlled trial, indicate that TM practice reduces sickness rates and medical expenditures by 10 to 14 percent per year, for a 50 to 70 percent reduction in five years.

“I then suggested that TM be implemented in schools and other venues throughout Brazil. I presented evidence that group practice of TM, such as by students in schools, creates coherence in collective consciousness, as indicated by reduced rates of crime, traffic fatalities, drug-related deaths, infant mortality and other social indicators. The Brazilian Ministry of Health has incorporated

Prize in Experimental Particle Physics, along with three colleagues. Two of us led the BaBar experiment at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and two were from the competing Belle experiment in Japan, hence the dual citation. The citation reads, ‘For leadership in the BaBar and Belle experiments, which established the violation of CP symmetry in B meson decay, and furthered our understanding of quark mixing and quantum chromodynamics.’ You can read more online at bit.ly/2HL5j1Q.”

Harley Frankel writes, “My nonprofit, College Match (which currently gets 73 percent of our low-income inner-city students into top 25 colleges like Columbia and 96 percent into top 50 colleges, with 94 percent graduating from these great colleges), recently got a nice compliment. A very well-respected and successful Hollywood documentarian has begun making a documentary on us. This film director has won an Academy Award and at least two Emmys focusing on issues of public policy and public interest. He is currently on the East Coast filming three of our groups visiting superb East Coast colleges, including Columbia. The primary purpose of this documentary is to interest other social entrepreneurs in other cities to establish their own college access programs using the College Match model. The significance of this is that we believe there are only one or two

college access programs in the country that get the same level of college acceptances that we do, and the one I know about spends more than twice as much as we do per student. As a result, the College Match model is cost effective and thus replicable (which many successful nonprofit programs unfortunately aren’t). We have agreed to assist others interested in moving in this direction.”

Nicholas Zill writes, “My latest blog post concerns the academic and behavioral issues that adopted children often encounter in elementary, middle and high school. You can read it online at bit.ly/2EV0ikh.”

If you missed our 55th reunion, remember that our regular class lunches (for now, we are still gathering at the Princeton Club) are always a great place to reconnect. If you’re in NYC, try to make one of the lunches. The next one is September 13. Check out cc63ers.com for details.

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

1964

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While I have noted a number of times that business takes **Beril Lapson** to places such as Turkey, China and Mexico, it turns out that he has a particular interest closer to home: He is the treasurer of Country Dance*New York.

Country dance is the American folk-dance version of English country dances of the 18th and 19th centuries. Beril’s wife, Ellen BC’69, has been an enthusiast for five or six years, and Beril decided to join in about a year ago. He also loves to tango.

Gary Schonwald has been practicing law in New York and in London, where he is a solicitor, for several years. But Brexit has affected the practice of law in England, so he is spending more time in New York City.

In March, **Fred Kantor** traveled to Wisconsin for the bar mitzvah of his grand-nephew.

Mazel tov!

I was invited to attend a Law School class of first-year students studying brief writing and appellate oral argument. The centerpiece of

the class was a videotape of my oral argument before the New York Court of Appeals, the state’s highest court, in a case involving the privacy rights of hospital patients. The class was great fun — the students had good questions and, since I had won the case, I was happy to talk about it.

I am writing this in March for this, the Summer issue. I wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe summer.

1965

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Dr. Arthur “Archie” Roberts was designated by the Saint Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke, Mass., as the 61st recipient of the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Award, which is presented annually to an American of Irish descent who has distinguished himself in his chosen field.

Jeffrey Bell died at 74 on February 10, 2018. His passing was noted in significant obituaries in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and in an editorial in *The Wall Street Journal*. Jeff was a conservative economic theorist who also entered the political arena and defeated Sen. Clifford Case of New Jersey in the New Jersey Republican primary in 1978, although he lost the general 1978 election to Bill Bradley. Jeff did it again in 2014, winning the Republican Party’s nomination for Senate and running against the incumbent Democrat, Cory Booker. Although Jeff lost, he captured 43 percent of the vote.

Bradley was quoted in the *Times* obituary: “You learn a lot about somebody when he’s your opponent. Jeff was a man of ideas, he was a man of principle and he never took a cheap shot. Later when I became an advocate for tax reform — closing loopholes and lowering rates — Jeff was a real ally.”

Those who attended our class’ 50th reunion might remember that Jeff had volunteered to take part in our Economics Forum. He backed out only a few days before the reunion, citing illness, and **Jay Woodworth** stepped in for Jeff. I was sorry to have missed the chance to hear Jeff defend his advocacy for a return to the gold standard.

Readers might recall that my Winter 2017–18 column included news from Houston classmates recounting their experiences with Hurricane Harvey. **Larry Guido** (ljgmfac@icloud.com) pointed out that classmates in Florida and Puerto Rico devastated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria should not be overlooked: “Most if not all of the Keys from Key Largo down to Key West were devastated,” he writes. “My partner and I live in Key Largo at the Ocean Reef Club. The Keys are really just now (January 27) being rehabilitated. The amount of the population that was evacuated and lost their homes has been incalculable. We have been supplying the upper and middle Keys with police protection, firefighters, food and clothing. The tremendously frightening devastation to flora, fauna and human beings was not to be believed.

“When we came back from Italy and Paris in early October, I found that my condo was attacked and severely infected by black mold. Although my condo building was not affected by a direct storm surge, the entire area had lost power for more than a week. The lack of air conditioning allowed the mold to flourish. The wind gusts of close to 150 mph caused the building to torque upon itself. This allowed for wind-driven rain to enter many of the supposedly secure joints of the building. It has been uninhabitable since the second week in October. I had to have an industrial dry cleaner take all my clothes and cleanse them from the mold. Food was destroyed. Mattresses needed to be thoroughly

cleaned. The mold remediation company had to remove the walls of my condo and go down to bare cinderblock and infrastructure.

“Because of the many residents who were impacted, the construction companies are busier than they have ever been. My condo is now just getting rebuilt. I was looking forward to being back in by the end of March. Also, **Ron Chevako** (ron_pri@chevako.net) and his family live in Puerto Rico. That island is yet suffering.”

I followed up with Ron, who reported, “The aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria is almost as challenging as the immediate recovery period. We at the Jane Stern Dorado Community Library, which my wife, Anne, and I run, are still being inundated with offers of goods for distribution as well as cash; the goods are easier to use. The same is true of the local Dorado Rotary Club, of which I am a past president and, this year, director of community service. Imagine the opportunities we have.

“Our town of Dorado, with a population of less than 40,000, lost 625 residences (blown away or at least rendered inhabitable and unrepairable, i.e., start from scratch after you clear the debris). We found out through Rotary — as we are beginning to be involved in roof repairs — that 1,175 wooden houses had their roofs blown off and suffered damage to walls. Many other towns and areas were far worse off.

“The initial rescue phase right after the hurricanes gave little opportunity for us to participate. In our neighborhood of 75 substantial concrete houses — after checking on neighbors and holding a community meeting on security arrangements without power — it was decided to have a voluntary work party on the Saturday after the Wednesday hurricane. Neighbors helped those who could not clear their property of debris, and by day-end, using two trucks, one ‘loader’ and a lot of muscle (periodically supplemented by beverages), three-quarters of our urbanization was cleared. Old friendships were deepened and new friendships were made. ...

“Things were much worse elsewhere and many people in these ‘better’ surroundings began to mobilize assistance efforts to others less fortunate. Some simply loaded their vans and SUVs and headed to the worst hit mountain and beach

areas, despite difficult to impassable road conditions and limited gasoline obtained by standing hours in line. I saw little of this activity but what I saw was orderly process despite an air of desperate people having great needs. The same was true with food and water distribution even in the early days of the aftermath. Of course, there were exceptions. The ugly portion of humanity that invariably rears its head was far, far outweighed by genuine acts of kindness by people only looking for a smile and a thank you.

“Things got better and we are now at the beginning of the rebuilding stage with incredible economic and political difficulties to overcome. The central government is trying hard, as are most of the municipal governments. The federal government’s immediate assistance has greatly diminished, although we still have significant FEMA presence. Thank goodness for the sizeable nonprofit sector, religious and otherwise. I am pleased to say I still see many examples of people-to-people assistance.

“It has been a long, tough process and the reality is we are only beginning, with a significantly reduced population. We — like most people who stayed — have many heartwarming and funny stories. We moved to Dorado because our son, daughter, son-in-law and the world’s greatest grandchild lived there; we are 10 houses away from them.”

In my Spring 2018 column I wrote about my plan to meet **Larry Wallach** at the Metropolitan Opera on March 12. It happened, after a stupendous performance of Strauss’ *Elektra*, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Larry is diminishing his teaching role but using the extra time for composing and to hone his keyboard skills. Retirement as a time for extra creativity: Sounds like a plan!

The Spring column also contained a rave review by **Steve Steinig** of Daniel Mendelsohn’s book, *An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic*. Shortly after I received Steve’s submission, a good friend stopped by carrying that very book; I requested a loan, and I recently finished reading it. I second Steve’s praise — it will bring you back to first-year Literature Humanities as it recounts the author’s experiences teaching the ancient text to a small group of undergraduates, albeit with his 81-year-old father sitting in on the classes.

Michael Schlanger (michael@schlanger-consulting.com) provided thoughts on his life transition plan in a letter he wrote to his classmates at the Columbia School of Social Work: “After much reflection over the past weeks, I have decided to leave CSSW to return to public service through my first career of 50 years, the law.

“My decision distilled down to a moral cost-benefit analysis: Now, and over the next several years, perhaps as long as 15–20 years, through which path can I best serve society, as a citizen and as a patriot?”

“If I were to continue as a CSSW student, the earliest I could begin work as a psychotherapist would be summer 2019, and then would need to be supervised for two years before I could be licensed and practice on my own. That would take me to summer 2021, when I would be nearing 78.

“On the other hand, if I were to return to public service through the law, I can serve society in many of the same ways, but four years sooner. As a current (and 35-year) member of the Board of Trustees of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, I could step right back in to work with the committee. So, too, with the other pro bono legal services organizations with which I long have been affiliated, for example, the Children’s Law Center; the Neighborhood Legal Services Program; Ayuda.

“Moreover, my 50-plus-year passion for (and active involvement in) liberal/progressive/humanist politics still burns brightly, and the 2018 mid-term elections will be among the most important in American history, as they will decide the future of all the issues most important to our society (including to the missions of CSSW), including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, immigration, clean air and water, climate change, civil rights, voting rights, women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, human rights, civil liberties, anti-imperialism and the rule of law itself.

“Applying that moral cost-benefit analysis, I realize I need to return to public service through the practice of law and applied political science.

“I am deeply grateful for the intellectual companionship, moral support and friendship of so many of you. What might have been a difficult readjustment to academe was made easy (and fun) by your daily kindnesses. Please let me know if I



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.

can assist in any way as you move forward with your promising careers at CSSW and beyond.”

1966

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From **Bruce Trinkley**: “Greetings from Dorland Mountain Arts Colony in southern California, with magnificent views of Mount San Jacinto and the Temecula Valley vineyards, where I’m in the midst of a composer residency, arranging songs with lyrics by John Latouche ’37. Latouche wrote two Varsity Shows and went on to a distinguished career as a lyricist for Duke Ellington, Vernon Duke, Jerome Moross and Douglas Moore. He is best known for writing

Steven Leichter says: “Greetings from Columbus, Ga.! By the time this is published, I will have sold the Endocrinology Center we built to Piedmont Columbus Regional Healthcare. It is an exciting moment for me and those who built this program, because it assures us that Columbus and most of southwest Georgia will continue to have a major endocrine center going forward. When we moved here 23 years ago, there was little or no endocrinology in the area.

“No, I am not retiring (yet). I enjoy endocrinology and patient care too much. But Sydney and I do spend time on our five children and six grandchildren, most of whom live here. Last night we saw one of our grandchildren, Sam Leichter, play a lead role in a high school play at one of the schools here. Sam is in middle school. Tonight, we will eat with our old friend and lawyer,

ment is the only link between the giveaway and some general good, and they are not going to find positive-return investments. So said my last tax article. I still write, still teach at Texas, not retired yet.”

Verbose **Randall Bourscheidt** tells us, “Recently went to part-time as clinical professor of pediatrics at the Uniformed Services University School of Medicine.”

After a six-month hiatus, we hear again from the well-traveled **Rich Postupak**. “Gents, things had been necessarily quiet for me of late, given cessation of the political campaigns and my chef contracts. However, thanks to the friendship and generosity of fellow ’66ers, it has still been an enjoyable period.

“Hung out with **Larry Lebow** and **Fred Lerner** in early February; they graciously treated me to a delicious Mongolian barbecue experience. I downed many mugs of fermented yak milk while singing songs of the Great Khan. Shortly after that marvelous time, I found myself at **Stan Felsing**’s home with his terrific family. Stan took great pains to explain rather firmly why I couldn’t put butter on my corned beef sandwich, so I settled for mustard. Not bad! **Billy Karp** and **Gary Kopf** brought me up to date on their escapades as well, although it was over a sedate breakfast. It seems that they are both very involved in non-aerobic competitive slow walking, the aim of which is to maintain a sub-72 pulse rate as well as discernible forward motion. Crazy stuff!”

Michael Garrett is attempting to transition from the legal profession to that of travel writer, and sends us his latest effort from Panama. He requests any critical comments you think appropriate, at any time of night you wish. “The link to my album of images from our trip to Panama is gandalfion.smugmug.com/2018-Panama. When you arrive at the album by left-clicking on the link — or on some computers, pressing CTRL and left-clicking — use the up and down arrows on your keyboard to navigate the album. Do not choose the full-screen option because it changes my intended shapes of the images and crops out some important content.”

Michael is also investigating tech support as another income enhancement.

He continues, “The album is not a strict travelogue. I have regrouped

the images and reordered our visits to suit my own vision of our Panama experience. I hope you enjoy the result. As always, the process of viewing the album is greatly enhanced by the presence of a glass of fine wine in the left hand.”

Well, now, another signpost of advancing age. Wine?

Richard Forzani now reports on himself. He and his wife, Kathy, had the great pleasure of attending the 70th birthday celebration of Barbara Kurzweil, wife of **Harvey Kurzweil** and a wonderful person. Despite the preponderance of attorneys present, the event was very enjoyable. He had the great honor of meeting one of the Kurzweil relatives who had flown in from Israel for the event, and who was a participant in the Entebbe raid.

It has, deliberately, been one and a half years since I conveyed personal health info. This is a brief update. Initially projected in July 2016 to have three to six months, I am still present, stabilized and telling tall stories. The chemo has been effective and not too onerous. I feel good, am enjoying my life and taking it six months at a time, with the attitude that everything now is the bonus round and I’m already ahead of the game. I send my very sincere good wishes and empathy to all our classmates who are contending with serious health issues. Stay strong, friends.

1967

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I heard from **Peter Basilevsky** LAW’72: “After a half a century of silence, I guess it’s about time to send you a brief update on my life since graduation. I graduated from the Law School after an interim three-year hiatus as an officer in the Navy. Upon graduation I went to work with the law firm of Burke & Burke (now Satterlee Stephens), where I spent my entire legal career specializing in corporate law, retiring as counsel in 2016.

“In 1972, I married the brilliant and beautiful Bette Nyhlen (Vassar ’70) and we settled in New York City, raising two lovely children, Katharine and Alex, both now married with children. Bette, who

Michael Schlanger ’65, after much reflection, has decided to leave his studies at the School of Social Work and return to public service through his first career of 50 years, the law.

the lyrics to *The Golden Apple* and the libretto for *The Ballad of Baby Doe*.

“I have had two wonderful premieres recently: in October, the Goshen College Chamber Choir performed my *Mennonite Songs*, settings of poems by Julia Kasdorf that chronicle her Mennonite heritage; and in November, *Two Invocations* (*Kyrie and Agnus Dei*), performed by members of the Lviv Chamber Choir and the Lemberg Sinfonietta in the Saints Peter and Paul Garrison Church in Lviv, Ukraine. (All are encouraged to visit Lviv before it is discovered by tourist crowds: the tourist motto is ‘Lviv it up!’)”

From **Rich Beggs**: “I recently attended the 50th reunion of my Air Force flight school class. It was held in San Antonio, Texas, and we took a day trip to our old pilot training base (Laughlin AFB) in Del Rio, Texas. Also, I am to soon attend the Wounded Warriors Project bike ride in Hot Springs, Ark., with my son Rick. It’s a four-day event and I’m in training now, especially to harden my butt. I continue to devote my time and money to this and other charities.”

Dave, at one of the best restaurants in the United States, right here in Columbus. Last week we enjoyed the Columbus symphony, which is the second oldest in the country. And when not in Columbus, we are sitting on the beach or playing golf at the Fairmont Orchid in Kona, Hawaii. So we have come to a good place in life in our senior years.

“If any classmates happen to be in Columbus, please call us, or just ask someone how to find us. There are not too many Leichters in the city. Best wishes to all of the class!”

Steven, why can’t we call you in Kona?

Calvin Johnson: “The 2017 tax cut is a waste of \$2.4 trillion as an incentive to capital. Capital is already in glut. The returns on capital are lower than inflation, meaning that no one is finding any positive value from investment. The tax bill makes it worse both by creating tax shelters generating not tax but negative tax or subsidy, and by inducing foreign capital to come to America and drive down American investment returns. Finding positive return from invest-

started as a Citi banker, became a radiologist, having attended Weill Cornell Medical School and becoming chief resident radiologist at New York Hospital before going into private practice. After 20 years in the city, in 1991 we moved to Cos Cob, Conn., and two years ago we moved to Newtown Square, Pa., to be close to our son, an attorney in Philadelphia, and his family. Over the years I have been involved in alumni affairs, having served stints as an alumni senator and as president of the Columbia Alumni Federation (precursor of the Columbia Alumni Association), the Society of Columbia Graduates and the Fairfield County Alumni Club. I've stayed in contact with many of my brothers at Phi Gamma Delta. All in all, I've been blessed with the friendship and acquaintance of many wonderful University graduates as well as a happy, quiet and, with the exception of my marriage, unremarkable life."

Jenik Radon updated us on his latest travels and accomplishments: "After a drought of several years, I have finally visited a new country — Papua New Guinea, my country Number 106, which leaves 88 to go. If all goes well, I will be racking up the frequent traveler miles by commuting to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and advising the government on natural resource development. Also I became a news star of sorts, albeit in Vietnam, at the Asia-Pacific Economic Corp. conference, where I described the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement as a 'lawyers' full employment

act.' The TPP is vaguely drafted, has contradictory provisions and, notwithstanding official comments to the contrary, does not really protect the environment, health and other matters of public interest. I gave the keynote on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals at the first meeting of Inter-Pacific Bar Association, which took place in Ho Chi Minh City. My Columbia class at SIPA, 'Panama Papers,' became livelier with the huge data leak, called the Paradise Papers, from a Bermuda law firm — exposing international corporate tax games, as well as corruption, through the use of secret companies. In that vein, my co-authored article, 'Beneficial Ownership Disclosure: The Cure for the Panama Paper Ills,' was published in the Columbia *Journal of International Affairs*. The leading Egyptian oil and gas magazine published my cautionary words on the challenges of the privatization of state-owned enterprises. I have become a regular commentator on I24News, a new worldwide news channel based in Tel Aviv, commenting on everything from the German elections to the increased crime wave in Sweden. The year ended by my spending 'vacation' time at my Mont Tremblant, Québec, condo and enjoying the balmy -25C weather, with a nippy -37C."

Robert Knobler SEAS'69 wrote: "I am professor emeritus from the Department of Dermatology of the Medical University of Vienna and a lecturer at P&S. I have not changed my habits and continue to publish and travel worldwide, sharing my experiences with a technology invented at Columbia, which I contributed to improve and spread across Europe and Latin America, 'Extracorporeal Photochemotherapy' (photopheresis for short). It is being used to help manage organ transplant rejection (both solid organ as well as bone marrow) and a lymphoma of the skin. I am collaborating on a related subject with one of my old professors, Edward F. Leonard, who was chair in bioengineering! My profession has become my hobby at this stage."

Four classmates took my request for brevity earnestly. **Richard Francis**: "Three children (two doctors), six grandkids, wife Marsha. Still am a practicing addiction psychiatrist in Manhattan."

Romolo Maurizi: "Married to Mary T. O'Connor. Mammographer. Two girls, one boy. Four grandchildren: three boys, one girl. Still playing soccer twice a week! Live in Summit, N.J. Make wine every year."

Fred Roberts: "I earned a Ph.D. in social anthropology with a dissertation based on two years of fieldwork in rural Finland, and was on the faculty of Michigan State University for 30 years. My wife of 49 years, Caralee, was a public health researcher. We retired early to pursue our passions for landscaping and hiking. Our home is now in Eugene, Ore."

Dick Morris '68: "I was Bill Clinton's strategist in the White House. I am a frequent commentator on public issues. I do a daily video on politics, The Lunch Alert, through my website, dickmorris.com, and on Facebook at deep6thedeepest. I have written 19 books, including 13 bestsellers."

Charles Saydah wrote: "I encourage classmates, wherever they are, to become interviewers of candidates for the College and Columbia Engineering. I got involved three years ago, and have interviewed some 50 applicants for the Classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022. It has been an extraordinarily rewarding experience. Don't let your age inhibit your becoming a volunteer through the Alumni Representative Committee (ARC). The Core makes our experience timeless. If you get involved, you'll discover an abundance of bright, earnest kids who have promising futures. That's heartening, particularly in an age that writes off primary and secondary education as exercises in futility at best and wastes of time at worst. If you get involved, don't let the extreme selectivity of the process discourage you. Of the 50 I've interviewed, only three have been accepted — two outright and one off the waiting list. Of three other waiting list candidates, one wound up at Yale, another at Stanford and a third at Georgetown. Among my rejected applicants last year was a young man who wound up at Harvard. Those are the kinds of high school students you'll be meeting if you get involved. So consider the possibilities — I don't think you'll be disappointed." [Editor's note: Go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/volunteer/alumni-interviewing for more information on ARC.]

Paul Slater sent the following tribute: "In September I flew to Boston to attend the funeral of my college roommate, **Bob Segel**. Sadly,

Bob died on September 6, 2017, after a brief illness. Bob was a great roommate. He was irreverent, funny, self-effacing, generous to a fault and, at times, utterly outrageous. Good times just seemed to follow him around. But, mostly, Bob was just a good person and a good friend. The Yiddish term for it is 'mensch.' Loosely translated, it means 'a stand-up guy.' In my book, that is high praise.

"Over the years, Bobby didn't change much. Oh, his hair grew thinner and he gained a few pounds, but his good nature and proclivity for mischief were undiminished. He married a wonderful woman ('out of your league,' I told him) and nothing was more important to him than his children, Julia and Michael. He started a successful investment firm and was widely admired in the investment community. For those of you who were regulars at the Gold Rail, that may be somewhat of a surprise. But then, I'm an attorney and a former law professor. In 1967, that too would have drawn pretty long odds. Having Bob as my roommate certainly didn't make me a more serious student, but it went a long way toward making my four years at Columbia the time of my life, and I got a lifelong friend in the bargain. So the next time the Red Sox play in Chicago, I'm going to get tickets to the game. I'm going to buy a round of beer and I'm going to toast my friend. Here's to ya, Bobby! Here's to ya!"

Be well, all of you. And do write ...

1968

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The Class of '68 dinner and Reunion 2018 will be over by the time this issue comes out, so I thank **Nigel Paneth, John Roy, Tom Sanford** and **Pete Janovsky** for their efforts. I was happy to be the turnout coach, cheerleader and nudger — I hope the hundreds of emails I sent and phone calls I made will have helped (and I'm delighted with the help I received, like from **Mas Taketomo**).

I heard from **Bill Cross** by email. He and **Michael Tracy** had wine outside in Rome — it was a wonderful note, but I wanted to be there, too. I heard from **Tony Taddey**, who



Send in Your News

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

had to be in Central America during reunion (so he is, of course, forgiven), but we expect him at the 55th and 60th reunions. **Bob Chapla** had said he would sign up when he got back from a vacation in Sicily. The class turnout should have surprised the school, as we are supposed to be an unenthusiastic class (inaccurate).

I'm sure the reunion programs will have been stunning, whether it was astrophysicist **Bruce Margon's** pictures of the universe from the Hubble telescope or **Larry Borger** and **Buzz Zucker** bringing us back to 1968 when we were Ivy Champs in basketball — what other class has done that? And we were the fencing national champs!

Jeff Kestler is signed up at this writing. I hope **Frank Lowy**, **Jay Dobkin** and **Guy Barbolini** will have shown up. There will have been rowers like Kaufman, Sanford, Torbert, McCown and McCoy (I am sure I missed someone) and football players and **John Davis** and **Tom Mallios** from soccer. I have much happiness in anticipating seeing so many of you, including professor **Bill Chin**, tennis star **Steve Gottlieb** and Clinton expert **Dick Morris**.

I will have written this before I see **George Ting** and **Tony Kao** from Tokyo and **John Chee** from Hong Kong; it has been a long time, it seems. I am looking forward to seeing so many from the class, like **Reid Feldman** from Paris — with whom I had dinner one New Year's Eve by stroke of luck — and, of course, the Massachusetts group, the upstate New York crowd and the Floridians. The singers Rich, Bowzer, Mas, Peter and Jeff (and I am sure I've forgotten many that I have to be forgiven) will be there, and **Janet Furman** as well, whom I hope will have lent a hand on a surprise piece of entertainment.

National travelers from faraway places like Hawaii (**Frank Dann** and **Leigh-Wei Do**) and Alaska (**Bob Carlson**) and folks from Wyoming and New Orleans (I hope **George Bernstein** will have made it — the food is too good in his hometown, maybe). From Texas is **Bill Henrich** and from Westchester is **Bill McDavid**; I wish **Albin Beyer** could come from South Carolina — he was finishing his semester and switching gears to retirement to commit 100 hours a week to painting. (I have one piece of his, he is very talented.)

Hoping to see my roommate, the philosophy major **Robert Brandt**, and star developer **Seth Weinstein**, and public health professor **Jon Kotch** from UNC — he built quite an amazing program — and **David Shapiro**, the poet and art historian (and personal adviser for my modest collection). I hope **Ted Kaptchuk** will have made it, and retired professor of philosophy **David Malament** and **Steve Press**, **Roger Berkley**, **Neil Anderson** and **Chris Friedrichs**.

I have missed a lot for sure, guilty as charged — sentenced to sit on Low Steps to think about how lucky I was to run into this amazing group of bright people at this great college in a challenging time for our country and the world and for us young folks.

1969

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Mark Leinwand writes: "My days of TV quiz show glory now being ancient history (19 episodes of *Tic-Tac-Dough* in 1980 and five episodes of *Jeopardy* in 1985) and my retirement from entertainment law and business affairs being a bit more recent than that, I have embarked on something very different for the second half. Having long dabbled in short stories and even an unpublished novel, I am now seriously focused on the exploits of my character Morningstar, a professional poker player with unusual abilities, whose origin is a mystery even to him. The introductory story, *Target Unexpected*, was published last year in issue 713 of *bewilderingstories.com*. Other Morningstar stories are done and in the pipeline. I think there will be many stories with this character as he gets deeper into discovering the extent of his strange powers, while he reluctantly and secretly finds himself forced to use them.

"On a more personal note, on the cusp of 70 I became engaged to be married, for the first time, to a lovely and brilliant woman from England. It just goes to show that on all fronts, it's never too late!"

From **Bob Rabinoff**: "Having retired and shuttered my custom software development practice, in 2015

I took a refresher course to renew my certification to teach Transcendental Meditation. After an unsuccessful attempt to move to Winnipeg and teach there, I moved to Milwaukee. Teaching is of course wonderful, and I've found a warm and welcoming Orthodox Jewish community where I can learn and grow. Milwaukee is a very nice town — 90 miles north of Chicago, but not nearly as frenzied (except during Green Bay Packers games). The slower, Midwestern pace and the lower (i.e., affordable!) housing prices make it quite livable and enjoyable, even after 41 years living in rural Iowa.

"On the family front, Eve recently had a book published, *Perception in Aristotle's Ethics*. She teaches at the University of Minnesota at Duluth. Daniel will I hope have defended his dissertation at the University of Toronto, also in philosophy, and has started a job as an ontologist at an AI firm in Austin. Joseph and his wife, Kirsten, have received tenure, effective August 15, in the math department at Georgia Tech. Shoshanah is an R.N. in labor and delivery in Palo Alto, Calif., where her husband, Erik, is getting a Psy.D."

Ron Rosenblatt writes: "**Jim Alloy**, **Rick Rose**, **Max Carey** and

American Wind Energy Association; our younger daughter is an associate at a large law firm in Kansas City."

From **Andy Markovits**: "I have been the Karl W. Deutsch Collegiate Professor of Comparative Politics and German Studies, as well as an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in the Department of Political Science and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, at the University of Michigan. I remain an active teacher and researcher in my fields of interest, which also include the study of comparative sports cultures in the United States and other industrial democracies. I was awarded the Cross of the Order of Merit First Class by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany in March 2012. This distinction is the highest that the Federal Republic of Germany bestows on any civilian, German or foreign. I live happily with my wife, Kiki, and our current Golden Retriever, Cody (the last in a series of seven Golden Retrievers who have enriched my life massively), in Ann Arbor."

Don Schenk reports: "The Aeronautical Society of South Africa gave me the John Weston Award, the society's highest award, for the work I am doing to create human capital in South Africa."

Mark Leinwand '69 is now "seriously focused" on the exploits of his short stories' character Morningstar, a professional poker player with unusual abilities.

I kept in touch through the years. Unfortunately, we lost Max last year to leukemia. In September, Rick, Jimmy and I joined a dozen or more old friends from Beta and football at the Homecoming game against Penn (where I won bragging rights over one of my daughters, who went to Penn). It was a wonderful day followed by a fun evening on campus. This past January my wife, Susy, our dog and I drove from our home in Iowa to southeast Florida, where we rented a home for five weeks and enjoyed the sun and sand. On the way down we stopped at the Alloys' second home on Amelia Island. Susy is a retired TV news anchor. We have two daughters (30 and 28). The Penn engineer, our older daughter, is the director of transmission for the

From **David Hummon**: "In 2011 I retired from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., where I was a professor of sociology for three decades. Three years later, I lost Patricia Taylor, my wife and companion of 38 years, who died suddenly and unexpectedly. Since then, I have moved to the Boston area, married the wonderful Mary Mark Hummon, pursued my interests in painting, writing and travel, and have enjoyed time with family and six grandchildren."

Jory Berkwitz writes: "Thank you, Michael, for so gently referring to old age as the 'next chapter.' Whatever you call it, I am there, retired (in Florida, no less) — and whenever I am not seeing a doctor for one thing or another, I spend my

time writing, mentoring business owners for SCORE and trying to catch fish in the Gulf of Mexico. My new book is *Death of the Dinosaur: How Wall Street Has Changed and Where It is Headed*, a retrospective about my 40 years on Wall Street and how the industry has changed — both for better and worse.”

Bill Stadiem's *Madame Claude: Her Secret World of Pleasure, Privilege, and Power* was published in May [see “Bookshelf,” this issue]. Based on conversations with Madame Claude and interviews with men and women in her orbit, Bill portrays her life and her notorious and successful escort service. Bill adds: “Have been living mostly in France for the last two years researching my Madame Claude book. I’ve never met more of the ‘beautiful people’ than with this project — even more than with my 2014 book *Jet Set: The People, the Planes, the Glamour, and*

and global public health at the University of Edinburgh in 2011. After living in Belize for five years, where he was studying avian evolutionary ecology, he returned to the States after being shot in the back at the end of 2016. (Someone foolishly decided he was a rich gringo worth killing and robbing.) He resettled in Portland, Ore., where he continues work on a memoir almost ready for publishing. Its working title is *You Are Here — X: Tales from the Evolution of an Anthropologist*. Three chapters have appeared in print since December and a fourth is scheduled to appear in July.

Jack Schachner writes, “Isabella Trinh Hoang Schachner, our first grandchild, was born in Hanoi on October 2. Our son Alec ’08 has lived in Vietnam since graduating from the College. My wife and I traveled to Ninh Binh, which is about 90 minutes from Hanoi by

the trial of the other 11 lawsuits. I regularly play pickleball and tennis, walk my Golden Retriever, shovel snow and so on for a total of about seven miles a day, according to my Fitbit. My wife and I go to four jazz concerts a year at Miller Theatre, on campus, with so many fond memories of my college years.”

Classmates: We are now the 50th reunion class, counting down to Reunion 2019 next spring.

1970

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A sincere thank you to **Emanuel Ax**, who kindly agreed to perform a benefit concert for the Literacy Network of South Berkshire on May 26 and was scheduled to be at the Mahaiwe Theater in Great Barrington, Mass. My wife is on the board of this worthwhile organization, which provides free educational instruction and support services to adults in the southern Berkshires.

David Lehman sent the following about his recent publication: “*Next Line, Please: Prompts to Inspire Poets and Writers* was published on March 15. The book comprises most of the columns I posted on The American Scholar website from May 2014, when we launched the project with a ‘crowd-sourced sonnet,’ until November 2016. Each week I posted a poetry prompt, or challenge; participants entered their work in the contents field, and in the following week’s column I single out those worthy of special praise. I continue to do it online at bit.ly/2HIZIsW.”

Scott Simon, who said that he was meeting his quota of submitting once every 50 years, sent the following interesting note about what he has done since graduation: “Heading toward the 50th anniversary of Sha Na Na’s performance at Woodstock in 1969, as well as the 50th reunion of the Class of ’70, two golden milestones that give pause for a look back. As a performer I was ‘discovered’ at a freshman Barnard mixer playing piano during The Walkers breaks by Bob Merlis ’69, who asked if I had a band. Of course I said yes. The event was a MUFUTOM,

an acronym for Music and Fun on Tuesday, and four days later my thrown-together band was rocking the Lions Den. Four years later, after a multi-year stint with the campus blues band The Royal Pythons, I joined Sha Na Na. I knew the guy who invented the band, George Leonard ’67, from 6th floor John Jay Hall, also home to notable lifelong musical friends Mark Wenner ’71, **Stephen Dydo** and Gregg Geller ’69, who dubbed me ‘Screamin’ Scott.’ What ensued with joining the bigtime group was tireless touring, recording, taping 97 episodes of our eponymous TV series and acting in the movie *Grease*, for which I co-wrote John Travolta’s solo ‘Sandy.’

“I assumed the title of managing partner for the band in the early ’80s and, along with fellow original members Don York ’71 and Jocko Marcellino ’72, tour on. One generation later, all glory now goes to my daughters, who have recently published significant books. Nina Simon has followed up her first book, *The Participatory Museum*, with *The Art of Relevance*. Morgan Simon penned the recent *Real Impact: The New Economics of Social Change*. They are both leading theoreticians and practitioners in their respective fields.

“My wife of almost 20 years, Deborah, and I ‘retired’ to Ojai last year. A beautiful town, recently plagued by fire and flood. The pull of my transcendent granddaughter, Rocket Mo Simon, in Santa Cruz may yet pull us further north. Sha Na Na plans to put together a show on campus for the Class of ’69 reunion to celebrate their and our 50th. Don’t blink!”

From **Larry Rosenwald** GSAS’79: “Last January, in the context of Wellesley College’s Albright Institute, I had the honor of conducting a public conversation with Sally Yates who, as acting Attorney General, honorably refused to enforce the first of President Trump’s travel bans and was fired. Ms. Yates had indicated she’d prefer a public conversation to a lecture — the directors of the institute delighted me by asking me to conduct that conversation, and I did. She is utterly genuine, eloquent, undogmatic, unpretentious and wise. I’ll remember the encounter with her as long as I live. Anyone interested in seeing the interview can find it online at bit.ly/2qJxqGF.

Albie Hecht ’74, after producing movies, is now the chief content officer at pocket.watch, responsible for overseeing content and character development.

the Romance in Aviation’s Glory Years, about the Pan Am era. I remember a Pan Am Columbia charter that got us to Paris for less than \$100 (plus all the champagne we could drink). I think we lived higher on the hog as students than we do today, even in fat cat careers. A suite at the Ritz was \$25 a night, a three-star dinner at La Tour d’Argent the same. An hour with a legendary ‘Claude girl,’ often the next Brigitte Bardot or Catherine Deneuve, was \$40.

“I met Madame Claude in Beverly Hills in the early ’80s when, in exile from Giscard d’Estaing’s tax collectors, she ran a patisserie in Pacific Palisades called Le Canard, which was a front for her real business of introducing beautiful European women to stars and moguls. I met a lot of them through her and liked it out here so much I decided to stay. I see **Neal Handel**, **Hoffer Kaback**, **Matthew Negru**, **Joe Scharfstein** and **Steve Valenstein**, plus **Jeff Sydney**, who recently passed away — brilliant guy.”

Nathaniel Wander retired from a research position in anthropology

car (on what is likely Vietnam’s only two-lane divided highway toll road), to be at Izzy’s one-month birthday celebration. My daughter-in-law Tina’s family lives in Ninh Binh. About 80 family members and friends attended the party. Tina’s family couldn’t possibly have been more hospitable. I was the second oldest person at the gathering — only Tina’s grandfather is older — which I mention because the standard greeting in Vietnam is ‘Hello. How old are you?’ Each time I replied that I was 70, I was treated like a very special person and was referred to thereafter with words reserved only for elders, who are highly esteemed. I wonder if any classmates need to travel 29 hours door to door each way to see their grandchildren?

“Although I am retired from the practice of law, I continue to be appointed regularly as the Referee at foreclosure sales. I enjoy visiting the courthouses I was in daily for 35 years (the last 12 as a judge in Supreme Court). I settled 1,023 of the 1,034 cases assigned to me (900 were divorces) and presided at

1971

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We might not have any notes this issue, but our CC'71 connection is always strong. Please take a moment to share your news — your classmates want to hear from you. Remember back 51 (*fifty-one!*) years ago and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. *We are still connected.*

1972

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Happy summer, Class of '72! There's no news this time, so be sure to send in your notes so we can have a robust Fall column! Travel, family, careers, life musings — CCT wants to hear it. I can be reached at either of the addresses at the top of this column. Be well this summer!

1973

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Forty-five years sounds like what *used* to be a lifetime ago. I hope most of us are beginning our second lives!

Marc Jaffe LAW'76 is deep into his “encore career” running the Children’s Learning Centers of Fairfield County, in Stamford, Conn. He says it’s “very rewarding and impactful, with some of it quite innovative and potentially breakthrough”; it serves nearly 1,000 children a day. Marc’s wife of 24 years, May, is an award-winning producer and director of audiobooks and their son, Aaron '21, plays on the Ultimate Frisbee team. Marc says participating in the Convocation for his son was “glorious,” and that there’s “an energy and spirit there we never would have imagined in 1973.”

Al Cain was able to retire early (in 2012) and has been “indulging several interests.” He competed in 10 triathlons both in his age group and as a “Clydesdale” (men more than 200 pounds); he learned to play the viola and has progressed to the local community orchestra; and he has been a docent with the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in Southern California, giving tours and presentations to kids in the Los Angeles area. Otherwise, he can be found playing “mediocre golf” when he isn’t traveling.

Hope you all had a wonderful time at Reunion 2018! Write to me and tell me about it!

1974

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“Horum expecta” — await the hour, it shall come. This inscription is written on the Sundial in the center of

campus. It was fitting that the 1968 protests began at the Sundial 50 years ago this past April 23; a week later five buildings were occupied.

I bet not a single talking head noted that the March 23 “March for Life” (the protest about guns in general and especially the recent school shootings) took place almost exactly on the anniversary of the Columbia protest. Watching the students give their “we’re going to change the world” speeches brought back memories of our own protests against the Vietnam War. Just as we faced the prospect of being shot in a far-off Asian locale, the students today face the threat of being shot at their own schools, at concerts or somewhere else.

If you think you had a busy year-end to 2017, think of **Stuart Offner** (a commercial real estate attorney at Mintz Levin, living in a Boston suburb). Two of his three kids were married within three weeks! Sophia (second year at BU Law) tied the knot at the end of December, and Ted (doing software at Microsoft in San Francisco) was hitched in January.

Meanwhile, middle child Olivia has moved from her position as VP of corporate communications at BlackRock (a giant investment firm) to Weber Shandwick (a PR firm in Manhattan) to become VP in its financial services practice. Ted is also moving soon (from San Francisco to Boston), but will still work for Microsoft.

Stuart tells us he does a lot of his commercial real estate work in both Boston and New York, but also works on real estate all over the country.

I read in a Facebook post from **Bob Adler** (retired and living in Belfast, Maine) that he was thrilled that his daughter, Rachel, was in the audience singing along with Patti Smith last March in Montclair, N.J. He posted that it was “about 42 years after I was first mesmerized by Patti Smith at The Bottom Line in New York City.”

Seems like a lot of water has “flowed under the bridge” since we were at The Bottom Line, Village Vanguard, Filmore East and all the other great venues.

I got word from **Barry Gruber** (who lives in Rochester, N.Y.) that he has “informed the powers that be at work of my momentous decision to retire at the end of the 2018–19 school year.” He adds, “It will definitely be a little scary, but after 43

years in the workforce I am ready for the next adventure.”

It is hard to keep up with the career of **Albie Hecht** (living in Montclair, N.J.). After producing movies such as *The Spongebob Squarepants Movie*, starting Spike TV (“the network for men”) and starting the creative company Worldwide Biggies, we now learn he is the chief content officer at pocket.watch, where he is responsible for overseeing content and character development of the brand’s slate of content and franchise properties. I will try to get more details for a future column.

I saw a Facebook post from **Barry Klayman** (partner at the law firm Cozen O’Connor in Philadelphia) that his daughter, Ali, had a documentary premiere at SXSW (South by Southwest) last March; it was quickly picked up by Netflix. Called *Take Your Pills*, it is about how it is increasingly common for many adults to take prescription stimulants like Adderall — and not just for ADHD. The film is about how the pressure to succeed is leading people to take the drugs to give them a performance edge.

There you have it. Classmates “keepin’ on/keepin’ on” in their careers of many decades while others are “movin’ on” to new ventures. As always, our progeny continue to amaze. Pass on news about you and yours — what could it “hoit”?

1975

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Fernando Castro spent much of the spring on an extended visit to Columbia (the one in South Carolina, if you hadn’t guessed already!).

In February, **Jim Dolan** had a big day as daughter Zoe Dolan wed Glen Halperin SPS’16 in Philadelphia at Front & Palmer. Zoe graduated from Franklin & Marshall in Lancaster, Pa., with a major in art history and is a cultural events producer at the Onassis Foundation USA in NYC. Glen is an associate at Morgan Stanley and earned a master’s from Columbia in sustainability management. And then, Philadelphia turned green for Jim’s birthday, and it wasn’t even St. Patrick’s Day. Jim woke up



Charlie Lindsay '75 and Joe Seldner '73 took an early April drive in Palm Beach, Fla., in Lindsay’s classic 1959 Cadillac.

to between two and three million people celebrating in the streets [after the Eagles' Super Bowl win].

Peter Garza-Zavaleta did more touring in the spring, spending Easter in Prague.

After many years, and several major relocations to experience and celebrate cultural differences, **Phelps Hawkins** has set aside syllabi and lesson plans. He and his wife, Sandra, will spend some time at his "beloved" lake in New York and will winter at their "gorgeous new home" on Skidaway Island in Savannah, Ga.

As classmates, cousins and others around me retire, it's interesting how emails come into play. Many, like some classmates, used a branded/corporate/institutional email. Some have never had personal emails, and getting one now can be quite amusing to observe. Classmates, if your email does change, please be sure to let me know! [Editor's note: And the Alumni Office, too: college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us.]

1976

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Plenty of updates this time, for which your faithful scribe is very appreciative. Once again I did hear from the Syracuse area, and the Goodriches' faithful pup, Mika, is barking like crazy 6-9 a.m., Monday to Friday. She gives Linda and **Dennis Goodrich** a break on the weekends.

As I mentioned in the last *CCT*, I saw **Gordon Kit** at the Lenfest Center for the Arts on the Manhattanville campus for the Dr. Saul and Dorothy Kit Film Noir Festival. The festival is funded for the next 10 years, so watch for communications from the University for next spring's event.

Derrick Tseng also attended the festival, but we did not recognize each other there. He reached out afterward and we met in April for coffee to reminisce about 10 Carman. He was happy to hear that **Dave Merzel** and **Leeber Cohen**, my roommates from Suite 1014, occasionally check in. Derrick is in touch with his 1015 roommate **Kevin Koplin**, who "still has a full bag of Pepperidge Farm chocolate chip cookies mixed into a quart of whole milk for dinner."

Derrick is immersed behind the camera in film production and even thinks there still might be a career in that. We were amazed at how young we both look (no picture to prove that!) and promised to see each other sooner than the 20 years that these cups of coffee took. Mind you, Derrick took advantage of my "come to Manhattan offer" to all '76ers. I even picked up the tab with my hefty *CCT* expense account (NOT!).

Tim Teeter GSAS'89 reported: "I live in Savannah, Ga. I have been married to the same woman since 1984 but have no kids. I got my Ph.D. in history from GSAS. I have been teaching classical history at Georgia Southern University since 1991 and occasionally publish. I've been taking students for summer study in Italy for several years now. I'm in the Columbia neighborhood from time to time. You're welcome to scroll through my Facebook page if you want anything more. If I think of anything else I'll send it along."

Our class 2017 John Jay Award honoree, **Toomas Hendrick Ilves**, sent the following: "It's been years since I wrote anything for *CCT* Class Notes, but ... After I finished my second term as president of Estonia in October 2016, I moved to Stanford, where I am today a 'Distinguished Visiting Fellow' (sic) — and I must always identify myself as such, by my contract at the Hoover Institution, writing about digital issues, especially as they relate to democracy, in other words, hacking, disinformation, doxing, data mining and so on. The previous 25 years were spent digitizing my country. If anyone is interested on what we achieved, the best article on this to date can be found in the December 18, 2017, issue of *The New Yorker*. Otherwise I have four kids, ranging in age from 30 to 1 year, spread around the world — Brussels, Tallinn, Boulder and, of course, Palo Alto."

Robert M. Siegfried SEAS'78 checked in: "I'm at Adelphi, having been there 19 years. My son, Jason, is a computer science major and has been in two of my classes. My wife, Kathy, and I are married 23 years and live in Oceanside, N.Y., on the south shore of Long Island."

Steve Mackey PS'85, GSAS'93, who holds up the Class of 1976 banner with a few of us at the annual Class Day Alumni Parade of Classes, contributed the following: "Columbia



WKCR alumni celebrated at a gathering hosted by Russ Behrman '77 and his wife, Cindy. Left to right, Behrman, Ken Howitt '76, Tom Mariam '78, Jim Miller '70, Shari Teitelbaum BC'79 and Steve Teitelbaum '77.

remains the basis for my educational foundation, career and home. I am in my 23rd year at P&S as an associate professor of medicine. I spend 90 percent of my time in clinical education, where I organize the outpatient curriculum for the medical interns, precept residents in the clinic and wards, and lecture medical, M.D. and Ph.D. students. My passion remains to be learning. Over the last 16 years I have taken more than 40 classes in math, engineering and physics. I still live one block from my freshman dormitory — John Jay — with my amazing wife and daughter. We are active in the highly eclectic, vibrant and only remaining synagogue in Harlem."

Another New Yorker, **Walter Rivera**, sent the following: "Gov. Andrew Cuomo appointed me as a judge of the NYS Court of Claims on June 14, 2017, and I was confirmed by the New York State Senate on June 19, 2017. I sit in the White Plains and NYC Districts of the Court. Prior thereto, I was elected as a Town Justice in Greenburgh in Westchester County and served in that capacity on a part-time basis from 2012 until my recent appointment. I also teach as an adjunct law professor at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace and as an adjunct professor at the College of Westchester. I enjoy the new challenges and the ability to serve in the public sector after a run of 32 years in private practice. I am humbled to be one of three honorees at an event to be held during Reunion 2018, chosen by Barnard and Columbia minor-

ity alumni. I have three children and four grandchildren. Two of my children are out of college and my youngest son graduated in May. My daughter Aiyana '02 is a child psychiatrist. My wife, Isabel, and I are empty-nesters and enjoy spending time with family and friends."

Samuel Hurwitz headlined the following: "My big items of news are: (i) my daughter, Rachael, is getting married in May, (ii) my son, Jake, is getting married in August, (iii) my wife, Laura, started a cookie business (jakesmomscookies.com), and (iv) my wife and I got a dog."

Perhaps Sam's dog and Mika should get together in New York State for a political discussion.

Rich Rohr, who served with me in 1975 on the WKCR Board

Columbia
College
Alumni
on Facebook



facebook.com/alumnicc

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more.

of Directors, reflected on the past, present and future: “Our class headed almost entirely for law school and medical school. Forty-two years later I find myself out of medical practice and working for Optum (the nice part of United Health Group) on applying artificial intelligence to medical documentation. Despite what you hear about AI taking over the world, computers have a hard time understanding the context in which words are used, and a lot of my job has to do with figuring out how to insert human judgment efficiently into automated processes. It is very different from what I expected to do in 1976, and I suspect that many of you are doing something other than what you intended at graduation. It points to the value of a Columbia College education — a broad understanding of the world and the forces that shape it. This education can take you anywhere you want to go.

“One of my coworkers has a daughter entering NYU this fall. She did not want to attend Columbia because it has too many required courses. It is true that I was only able to take one course that did not fulfill a requirement other than total points. The way that I see it, the faculty did a great job of pointing us toward the information that we need to navigate a complex and changing world. If you need a reminder of how well Columbia does that, be sure to attend our next reunion.”

Well said, Rich. I have always considered life to be a voyage, with plenty of both calm and rough seas, which produces challenges and I hope rewards. Rich’s words ring true, especially the word *navigate*. When I talk to each of you, I become reflective on that ability that we all share.

I am now beginning my fourth year as our class correspondent. You all make it easy, as I simply coordinate all this news and put it together for the rest of the Bicentennial Class to see, in what I hope is an enjoyable and interesting read. Each column creates a really nice afternoon for me to sit and enjoy the memories of what we were, where we are and where we will be.

Rich, I do like that word — *navigate!*

Thanks for being great classmates and alumni. I look forward to hearing from and seeing you all in the near future. Try to get back to NYC for Homecoming (Saturday, October 20),

which will be Columbia vs. Dartmouth. The day will kick off with a barbecue lunch. You will get information by all forms of mail later in the year. And keep those updates comin’!

1977

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Time for some catching up and sorting out. I was dismayed to discover a note sent more than a year ago; it was from **Marc Groz**. He writes (wrote!) from Stamford, Conn., and catches us up on a few things: “While I have spent most of my career in the investment management business, focused on the nexus of quantitative finance and information technology, I have, in recent years, been more and more drawn toward inventing socially useful financial instruments and related technologies. A decade’s worth of R&D yielded six patents and now, at long last, comes the real fun. Yes, at 60 years of age, I am doing a start-up!”

Let me offer a very belated good luck with that!

Aside from the mistiming of this submission, this information might also be misplaced. He continues, “I entered CC as a John Jay Scholar with the Class of ’77, graduating in ’79 with a dual major in mathematics and psychology (my transcript says ‘Math Psycho,’ but they assure me this is only because of space limitations!).” [Editor’s note: The alumni database lists him as CC’79.]

Well, I’m more than happy to count Marc among us, as I am with **Lenny Glynn**, who offers a near-epic tale of his quest for a B.A. Lenny writes, “As it happens, I find myself in the Class of 1977 by accident. I should have graduated in 1971, having entered the College in fall 1967 — just in time to have the school blow up on me in freshman year. In 1969 I took a one-semester medical leave and in spring 1972, when I was finishing, I discovered that I had fallen short by three credits and couldn’t claim my degree. By then I was working full-time at *Time* magazine, so I just let things drift, before finally coming back to Columbia in 1977 to take a single four-point course, apply again for my degree — and graduate.”

Welcome home, Odysseus.

Lenny, who is public policy director at Putnam Investments, adds that he likes to tell people, “My college days at Columbia were the happiest 10 years of my life,” and that “being in the Class of 1977 makes me feel much younger (or at least it used to ...).”

Same here, too, actually. I teach college and these days usually find myself telling students how long ago I was sitting where they are. I am a lot more impressed by this than they seem to be.

1978

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We finished our 40th reunion in June but this column was written in early April, so we have a bit of a time warp going with *CCT*. I’m assuming we had a great time and I hope you are looking forward to hearing more in a few months.

Don Endrizzi PS’82 is creating a medical dynasty of sorts in Portland, Maine. He writes, “After finishing medical school and residency at Columbia, I have been a practicing orthopedic surgeon in Portland for the last 30 years. For the last year I have been chief of the division of orthopedics at Maine Medical Center. My wife, Peggy Pennoyer, is an allergist in private practice. We have three children, Julie PS’13, Doug and Mark. Julie kept our Columbia connection intact.

“To me, Columbia seemed like an oasis in the turmoil of mid-’70s New York. I remain grateful for the Core Curriculum, and my experience and friends on the Columbia crew team, and I remain proud to say I attended Columbia.”

Daniel McCorkle also has daughters who followed in their dad’s footsteps. “Forty years! Following grad school at UW in Seattle, ‘Old economy Dan’ spent the past 30 years as a researcher and educator at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. This spring my younger daughter graduated from Barnard; her older sister graduated from there three years ago.”

Another classmate we have followed over the years who has a light blue daughter is **Paul Phillips**

GSAS’80: “I’ve had a wonderful first year on the faculty of Stanford as the Gretchen B. Kimball Director of Orchestral Studies and Associate Professor of Music. My wife, Kathrynne Jennings, also joined the Stanford faculty as lecturer in music, teaching voice in the music and theater departments. Our older daughter, Joanna ’12, is a film and television editor based in Los Angeles, while our younger daughter, Alanna, is enjoying her freshman year at the University of Vermont.”

Tom Mariani is rarely a man of few words, but these days he’s saving most of them for the folks that legal guys charge \$1,000 an hour for the written word. “I am very excited to announce that I will become the firm-wide head of communications for Jones Day, starting in April,” he writes.

Even in New Haven we know they are big-time, big-city counselors — congratulations, Tom!

Chuck Callan, our financier on the Hudson, decided to try a new sort of minimalism in the column, albeit after sending many entries to your humble scribe over the decades. Suffice it to say Chuck is now into “yoga,” found New York “gritty” in the 1970s and found “his kids” the thing that most changed his life. For the next column we may seek relief in haiku.

From Ridgewood, N.J., and the Suburban Nephrology Group, **Kevin Vitting** notes that he has been keeping tabs on a general rounds-worth of classmate docs. He writes, “Heard from **Kevin Olsen** (cardiologist in Pennsylvania), **Peter Szeibel** (psychiatrist in Iowa) and **Warren Chin** (family physician in New Hampshire). My major personal transformative events were the founding of my medical practice (1991) and my marriage (1993); world events that caught me off guard include 9-11 and the rise of Donald Trump.”

Kevin agrees with Chuck on how we thought of New York in the 1970s: “I recall the ‘gritty’ environment before Morningside Heights became gentrified and NYC emerged from the ennui of its ‘Drop Dead’ status in the 1970s — and I realize that CC has now become such a desirable college destination that I most likely would not get in if I were applying today!”

I’m convinced we all would have gotten in these days, but we would have had to work a lot harder in high school.

Steve Bargonetti, our man on Broadway, updates with: "I'm working on the musical *Lawdy Miss Clawdy*, about the life of singer Lloyd Price ('Mr. Personality')."

Many people are not aware that not only did Lloyd discover Little Richard, but he also broke ground with his first hit ('Lawdy Miss Clawdy'), the first radio-friendly R&B song in the early '50s that had whites and blacks in America dancing together — civil rights through music! I'm also lead guitarist for *The Cher Show*, which will be in Chicago at The Oriental Theatre this summer and will come to Broadway in the fall.

"My life changing event was playing music at the Furnald Folk Festival — after that, I knew I wanted to be a full-time musician!"

Kevin Powell gives us an overview of 40 years in a flash from LaGrange, N.Y.: "I left Columbia with my geology B.A. and went to work looking for oil in Saudi Arabia. We found a lot of it! I then changed careers to IT in 1984 and I worked at the New York Fed for 10 years. Around this time I managed to finish my first New York City Marathon. Then it was on to work in Basel, Switzerland, at the Bank for International Settlements. Finally, I worked at Barclays back in New York for 14 years and now, retired! Along the way my marriage to Sandra Huer in 1993 has taught me compassion, caring and generosity."

Terrence O'Connor updates us: "As of this year, I have worked in the financial services industry for 40 years. Married for 28 years to Kathryn, with three kids: John (Lehigh '14), Terrence (Colby '16), and Claire (Franklin & Marshall '20). Friends from Columbia include **Paul McAuliffe**, **Marty Cicco** and **Jeff Combs**. How would I describe the Columbia of our era? Small, regional, all-male college in a huge university in a gritty urban environment."

There's that word "gritty" again!

Joseph Schachner, "My older daughter, Adena Schachner, is an associate professor of psychology at UCSD. She has our only granddaughters, now 19 months old and super cute! One of my biggest surprises is the lack of influence that parents actually have over their children, especially once they are teenagers!"

"At work, when the manager of my group retired, they made me an offer I couldn't refuse: 'Become the manager

of your group or work under some new hire.' So now I am the group manager. Fortunately, they are good people and we all know one another already. It is working out well.

"My main memory of Columbia is that it was not a supportive environment that wanted every student to succeed. It was up to the student to succeed ... or not."

Alfred Feliu LAW'81 has a company aptly named Feliu Neutral Services. "I am an employment lawyer who serves principally as a neutral, e.g., arbitrator, mediator, investigator. I have been married for more than 30 years. My wife and I met at the Law School and we live in New Rochelle. Our three kids have all graduated from college and are, thankfully, employed, two in NYC and one in Boston. Life is good."

Ian Silverman writes, "My beloved wife, Beth, and I will soon celebrate 35 years together. We have two grown sons, Marc and Alan, on an earnest journey of identity and career. I have been a pulpit rabbi for 30 years and it continues to both gratify and challenge me. My post in East Northport on Long Island is now 15 years and running. Columbia in my memory was a source of rigorous study and a thorough introduction to Western Civilization and Humanities.

"For me, a life-changing event was the death of my father at a young age, just after I was married. It was a painful chapter for our family but it helped shape my choices career-wise and expanded my thinking in terms of life goals and priorities."

Thank you all for your support and contributions during the past 40 years, and I look forward to another quarter-century or so of keeping tabs on you guys. Oh, don't forget to send money to Columbia if you can.

1979

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News from **Neville Alleyne**: "We reside in La Jolla, Calif., with our children, ages 21, 20 and 17. The two boys are at the College — a junior and a sophomore. One is studying business/economics and the other is pre-med. Chris '19 is 21 and playing

football — he was the first recruit of Coach Al Bagnoli. He has had an amazing three years as a Lion. My daughter is a junior at The Bishops H.S. and was looking at colleges on the East Coast. We hope it will turn out to be a hat trick and that she will attend Columbia as well.

"My practice is now completely robotic spine and we were the pioneers for the Mazor Renaissance Robot. Go Lions!"

In 2004, **Henry R. Jost** retired from owning a mortgage company in the Washington, D.C., area. He now lives in Deerfield Beach, Fla.

Fernando Koatz is "still living in Forest Hills, married for more than 28 years (to the same woman, who is an assistant principal in a New York public elementary school) and continues with my own law firm in New York City. Neither of my two sons matriculated at Columbia or wanted to be lawyers. I see several Columbia

Bill Lee writes, "I am the senior partner at Scarsdale Pediatric Associates; my wife is now retired; our daughter married in 2016 and is living out of New York.

"I am still a fan of Suzanne Vega BC'81 (thank you, Furnald folkfest). I take care of several Columbia students. It is great bonding with them about Contemporary Civilization and Literature Humanities. Thank goodness the reading list is more diverse now. I keep in touch with Dr. **Joel Landzberg** and Dr. **Richard Caselli**. They are practicing cardiology and neurology, respectively. In addition, please extend congratulations to father/son duo Fred Balzac '80 and son Sam '17 for Sam's graduation last year. It is great to have Columbia span the generations."

Robert Kinoian DM'91 considers himself a New Yorker, but has been displaced into the suburbs of Bergen County, N.J., for quite

Dr. George Yancopoulos '80 and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals are sponsoring the Science Talent Search, the most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors.

grads, mostly in New York, and I stay in touch with others outside of NYC via Facebook, LinkedIn and so on."

Ralph Keen is dean of the Honors College at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he is also professor of history. "I have fond memories of Dean Peter Pouncey, who became my advisor in the classics department and who always tried to assure me that I was doing better than I thought I was. That encouragement was important to me then and I try to be supportive of my students for the same reason. Roger Bagnall, whose work habits I've never been able to match, and Dean Carl Hovde '50, whose kindness and wisdom we rarely find in the academy these days, stand out as mentors whose impact on me has endured. Best wishes."

Xavier Huguet has "retired from my post at the European Commission on March 1, after 30 years. I now split my time between Brussels and my hometown of Barcelona with my wife, Nadine. I also plan to come to the United States more often, where my youngest son, Nick, lives — he attends the University of Vermont."

a while. After graduation, Robert performed and taught classical guitar. He has performed at Carnegie Hall on multiple occasions, at New York City's The Town Hall and at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among other notable stages. He studied with all the great classical guitarists of the 20th century, including Maestro Andrés Segovia.

He married Mary Ann Halajian in 1985 after she received a master's in nursing administration. After deciding that the life of a performing musician might not be compatible with the family life he wanted, Robert returned to school to pursue a degree in dentistry. Graduating first in his dental school class, he returned to the Dental School to attain a specialty certificate in orthodontics.

He has been an orthodontist since 1991, making beautiful smiles in a home office in Paramus, N.J., since 1998. Robert is since widowed but has a daughter who has a master's in English education and works at the Tenafly, N.J., middle school.

Robert has continued his connections to Columbia by being on the

Board of Directors for the Columbia University Armenian Center for more than a decade. He still plays classical guitar and enjoys concerts, museums and many arts events in New York City.

Robert C. Klapper: This column's Columbia memory comes from visiting the grocery, better known as Trader Joe's. The particular store I visited forced me to go in between tiny aisles while looking for the 1-pound block of Belgian chocolate that I craved. You might think this reminds me of a visit to Mama Joy's or TaKome. But actually, this visit to the grocery gave me a flashback to our senior year and the bowels of the dorm in which I was lucky to spend my fourth year at the College. That dorm was none other than Furnald Hall.

When we were at the College, Furnald Hall was housing for seniors only. It was the prize you gave yourself for surviving three years of torture. You might not know this, but that is no longer the case — the powers-that-be at the College have turned it into a freshmen-only dorm. As we say on Twitter, "SMH" (shaking my head).

In 1979, the world was changing so fast (even before Steve Jobs rocked our universe). *Saturday Night Live* and ESPN were in their infancy, a long way from becoming the institutions now burned in our memories; but for me, that year was about learning of the power of the student body at Columbia through its creation of the Furnald Grocery Co-Op. I hope some of you can enlighten me further by emailing me the real backstory to the co-op in the basement of Furnald; but from

my perspective, it was a groundbreaking experiment whose story has stayed with me 40 years later.

Buying groceries under a co-op business plan that directly competed with the University's establishments (as well as the outrageous prices from the merchants across the street) was a transcendent revelation for me — to see that the employees and owners were classmates, making this impossible dream a reality. Wiggling through the geometrically impossible aisles to pack the maximum amount of product into a tiny space is the memory elicited by my visit to Trader Joe's, but its attempt to make you feel like you are obtaining both an exotic item and a bargain is but an illusion compared to the reality that was the Furnald Grocery Co-Op.

I still find it so interesting how much we learned during those four years of captivity that came from outside the classroom. The Furnald Grocery and its principle remain one of the most powerful lessons I've learned.

Roar, Lion, roar!

1980

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I received a nice note from Professor **Jeff Field** regarding the Super Bowl of Science, which was held in March in Washington, D.C.

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and **Dr. George Yancopoulos**

GSAS'86, PS'87 are sponsoring the Science Talent Search, which is the oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors. A total of \$1.8 million was awarded to extraordinary students to further their education and research. Truly a worthy cause and great night for the students.

Pat DeSouza stopped by my office recently. He is chairman of Water Intelligence, an environmental services and technology company focused on detecting, finding and remediating water leaks. An interesting business with plenty of opportunities.

Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com, and have a nice summer.

1981

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I recently heard from **John Luisi**, who apparently has one of the choicest office locations in NYC. John is the assistant commissioner at the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, so he goes to work in Central Park (the Arsenal at Fifth Avenue and 64th Street). From his office on the third floor, he is able to hear tunes emanating from the George Delacorte [Class of 1913] clock and check out the thrice-daily sea lion trainings.

Sounds idyllic! As someone who moved away from the city a long time ago, the first thing you notice is the noise, so to work in Central Park and actually hear music and animals — wow. John points out that venturing into Central Park during our days at Columbia was not exactly "forbidden," but it was strongly discouraged.

John and his wife, Eileen, have a son, Alex, who is entering a Ph.D. program in Norway focused on matching supply and demand of renewable and clean energy on the grid. The Ph.D. program is located in Trondheim, the fjord region of Norway, which they plan to visit (often) during Alex's studies.

I hope our class had a productive spring and a summer vacation (or two) to look forward to. Time permitting, please drop me a line so I can update the class on your whereabouts. Email me at kfay0516@gmail.com!

1982

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Lots of amazing news, so let's get started! Checking in first is the good doctor **David Adelson** PS'86, director of the Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children's Hospital, the Diane and Bruce Halle Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neurosciences and chief of pediatric neurosurgery.

Nine years ago David was recruited to Phoenix Children's Hospital to develop a children's neuroscience institute. From modest beginnings, the institute has had wonderful growth; there are now more than 85 clinicians, 50 research personnel and soon to be six research labs, a clinical research group, data center and biorepository, three residencies and five fellowships.

What a valuable accomplishment! Huzzah!

Next is **Jim Walton Jr.**, who says: "Since graduation, I've been a producer and director in sports television at ABC Sports, ESPN, the PGA Tour and NBC Sports, where I have worked on every Olympic Games since Athens in 2004. I own a small production company that specializes in the golf industry.

"I am married with two children and live in Peapack, N.J. My daughter, Bella, is at Tulane in the Class of 2019 and my son, Pito, recently committed to Princeton to play ice hockey. If only Columbia had a team!"

To put this in perspective, the last time I attended a Princeton hockey game I noticed that seven team members had already been drafted by NHL teams. Clearly, Pito is one hell of an athlete!

Next comes the awardee of my first annual prize for journalistic excellence, **John Rofe**: "First, sorry for not writing in almost 36 years. I'd say something like, the dogs ate my smartphone, but Buster and Biggy died long before I got my first iPhone. Now I have three daughters, 9, 7 and 5, and they do command a lot of my phone's attention, but still.

"Thirty-six years! Why so long? And not just for me but for so many of my classmates? I put it on the era we grew up in, in the wake of the '60s and its opposition to social norms and formality in general.



Left to right, Mike Brown '80, Shawn FitzGerald '80 and Eric Blattman '80 celebrated their 60th birthdays in Palm Beach, Fla.

"I took a major step back from my college days after my close friend, **Eddie Brown**, was killed on graduation night. I've had contact with few classmates since Eddie's funeral. I ran into **Michael Waldman** at the 1988 Democratic convention, which I covered for some New Jersey newspapers; and I stayed with **Will Korn** outside of Boston in 2007 after watching the Red Sox win a playoff game.

"I was in touch with a third, **Mike Lamble**, on LinkedIn. I also see Tom Shin '84 whenever I get to Korea (or he to Paris) and Fred Coles '85 whenever I'm in New York. I've seen Chris Christophorou '81 a couple times, and Eileen Noonan SEAS'82. And another former roommate (after Will), **Bill Gallagher**, and his wife, Maura, three times.

"I literally ran into Doug Lavin '83 while we were jogging in opposite directions around the Central Park Reservoir, but I never knew him at Columbia.

"Unless I'm having a senior moment and forgetting someone, that's it. I wish it was more. But I've followed this space closely, always looking for a tidbit on someone I knew. So here is my tidbit, to make up for lost time.

"After graduation, I got my first job in journalism thanks to Al Greenberg SEAS'49 at *Skiing Magazine*, who picked me — who had never put on a pair of skis — as an intern over another candidate from Princeton, and my first apartment thanks to Tom and Eileen. We lived together on 115th and Amsterdam for eight months.

"Three years later, I got fired at *Skiing* by an editor who did not go

to Columbia and thought I was too aggressive with his copy. I had just edited a report he wrote on new skis and left it on his desk with corrections. 'You should be at a newspaper,' he told me. 'You shouldn't,' I said back. I was gone the next day.

"In quick succession I worked for the *Queens Tribune* in Flushing, helping to cover Donald Manes and the New York corruption scandals in 1986; the *Hudson Dispatch*, in Union City, which made New York politics look pristine; and the *Passaic Herald News*, which sent me to the State House in Trenton, N.J.

"Trenton might as well have been Boise, so I moved to Los Angeles, got a job with the *Daily News*, then *Copley News*, covered Rodney King, the riots, the 1994 earthquake, and O.J., got married, got divorced, had two dogs, two houses and, of course, two cars. But I did not have any work done, if you know what I mean.

"The O.J. case soured me on newspapers — we were chasing the *National Enquirer* for scoops — so I took a job with a Newhouse start-up called the *Sports Business Journal* (I was hired by John Genzale JRN'75).

"Five years and two tries later, I finally convinced *The New York Times* to hire me as a copy editor and was back in New York in 2003. My parents were happy, and I was happy not to have to drive anywhere. That lasted two and a half months. *The Times* sent me to Paris. They needed a French speaker to help out at the *International Herald Tribune*, and I had mentioned during my interview that I'd go there if they really, really, really wanted me to. I've been here ever since.

"It's a great thing to change your center of gravity. You see the world from a different angle. You open up to new things. You eat well.

"I was a much better person when I married again, and if you did the math you know I'm an old dad. But the girls are a blast, and since the *Times* closed its international editorial offices in Paris in 2016, I've been with them full time as I do some freelance editing, teach English to adults and rehab our old apartment so we can rent it to visitors (any interest?).

"I would tell you about my wife, but the space is not big enough to do her justice. I'll just say she works full time as communications director at a medtech start-up while doing an executive M.B.A. at the top busi-



On February 10, some of the 1978 residents of Carman Hall held a reunion in Brooklyn, N.Y. In attendance were Ed Gelles '82, Nathan Soule '84, Mark Brennan '82, Ken Gruber '82, Scott Simpson '82, Dave Zufall SEAS'82, George Mostoller '82, Steve Peterson, Rajan Sekaran '82, Jackson Zimmerman '82, Keun Ha Zimmerman, Daniel Schwarz '82, Martin Johnson '82, Jose Sanabria '82, Celeste Sanabria and John Swen '82.

ness school in Europe and helping to take care of the kids. She's pretty amazing. She did not go to Columbia. She's Canadian.

"Most importantly, everyone is in great health, including my 85-year-old mom and my wife's parents, and our brothers and sisters and their families. And we all love being around one another whenever we can bridge the three continents that divide us. So there you have it. I hope it was worth the wait. Promise I won't be another 36 years."

Fantastic note! Thanks, John!

Now let's hear from **Evan Charke**: "My daughter Ella BC'20 is loving her time at Barnard. My wife, Juli BC'88, is an alum, as well. My twin sons, Will and Julian, are sophomores at Dobbs Ferry H.S.

"I am an attorney for Bank of America/Merrill Lynch based in Midtown and recently started teaching securities regulation as an adjunct professor at Pace Law School. I also was elected vice-chair of FINRA's National Adjudicatory Council.

"As a long-suffering Philadelphia Eagles fan, winning the Super Bowl has made life immeasurably better. I suppose there really are unicorns."

Stephen "Sully" Sullivan GSAS'13 writes, "I'm teaching 'HIST3535: History of the City of New York' for the fifth consecutive summer (I still can't believe they pay me to walk around the city with undergrads from all over the country and the world, point at buildings and tell stories ...). Anyone from

the Class of 1982 who would like to tag along on one of our 'three-hour tours' (no *Minnow*, no Gilligan, no shipwreck) is welcome."

A great update from **David Shine**: "In early April, **David Fishman**, **Ed Herstadt**, **Evan Hollander** and **David Shine** convened for a long weekend in the land of Locke and Hobbes. Having had enough of English Enlightenment philosophy in CC, we were not there to follow the Enlightenment trail, but instead to visit **Larry Sacks SEAS'82**.

"Larry has lived in London for the past 10 years working for financial institutions in the risk management area. Life for Larry in London seems to be anything but solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short. Instead, Larry lives in a lovely country home with a proper English garden with his wife, Kay; son, Ben; and dog, Snoopy.

"We visited some museums, saw the Churchill War Rooms and the playing fields of Eton (where we found no evidence of any battles being won) and duly took in St. Paul's and Westminster. But mostly we did what we did best as Columbia students — ate, drank beer, laughed and talked about women (sometimes even our wives), sports and books. So although the waistlines are thicker, the hair thinner and the life scars a bit deeper, much really hasn't changed."

Finally, I rate the following submission as one of the greatest ever! You'll see why.



Submit
Your
Photo



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

John Swen writes: “The 40th anniversary of the Carman Hall 1978 freshman year took place on February 10 in Brooklyn, and included **Ed Gelles**, Nathan Soule ’84, **Mark Brennan**, **Ken Gruber**, **Scott Simpson**, **Dave Zufall SEAS’82**, **George Mostoller**, Steve Peterson, **Rajan Sekaran**, **Jackson Zimmerman**, Keun Ha Zimmerman, **Daniel Schwarz**, **Martin Johnson**, Kathy Simpson, **Jose Sanabria**, Celeste Sanabria and **John Swen**. **Lee Goldstein** was a late scratch due to the horrible flu running around. Classmates came from Toronto (Ken, I put you first!), Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Boston and Rhode Island. We even tempted classmates to come to Brooklyn all the way from Manhattan.

“We had a terrific time catching up, enjoying excellent food prepared by the group (especially the amazing pulled pork from Steve and the incredible beer and cheese from Martin), and sharing our successes (many) and failures (enough). Political conversation was in blessedly short supply, although there was one brave soul who gamely defended He Whom Shall Not Be Named. Mostly we talked about our families. There was universal agreement that our kids are all smarter, nicer and more accomplished than we were — even if some of them struggle to be admitted to schools like Columbia. There was interesting and honest discussion of marriage and divorce, the joys and occasional sorrow of raising children, the unmitigated joy of having grandchildren, and some fascinating (touring rock ’n’ roll band leader) and some boring (fly fishing) hobbies.

“As a conversation starter, we printed the CC reading list for 2017–18 and discussed how it compared to the books we remembered reading. Everyone approved of the additions of the Koran and other modern texts. Nearly everyone endorsed the idea of the course these 40 years later, including some of us who believe it played an important role in our careers. Those of us from less sophisticated backgrounds particularly appreciated Art Humanities and Music Humanities, which opened up a lifetime of appreciation of music and art. Candidates for deletion from the Core were remarkably few; Kant and Hume were the only two mentioned more than once.

“If anyone else is tempted to host an evening of classmates, we encourage you to do so; we all enjoyed it very much. In fact, we look forward to reprising our dinner. If anyone has contact information for **Geoff Cohen** or Dave Yee ’83, we are hoping they can join us, along with **Lee Goldstein**, for our next gathering.

“Also, to potential future hosts: Make sure your neighbors are prepared for late-night departures (4 a.m.). One thing that hasn’t changed for Carman Hall 2nd floor freshmen of 1978: They go hard and they don’t go home till late!”

Truly amazing! Hope you guys are enjoying all this news as much as I am!

1983

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My boys (Ricky, 10; David, 13) and I attended every Columbia home basketball game this season. We had an enjoyable pre-game V&T dinner with **Kevin Chapman**, Sharon Chapman BC’83 and their son, Ross ’18. Ross plays the trombone for the CU Marching Band. He graduated as a music major and is heading to law school. **Mike McCarthy** was also at V&T and attended the game. We also had a pre-game V&T dinner with **David Rubel**, his wife, Julia, and their daughter, Abigail ’19. David and Julia’s son, Quentin, was accepted to CC last year but deferred so that he could take a gap year with AmeriCorps. Abigail plays the flute for the CU Marching Band. We enjoyed watching Columbia beat Princeton 85–60.

Martin Ottomanelli: “Thanks for the friendly prods for information. I always intend to reply and then never do, so this time I’m finally acting. Maybe it’s because I’m planning to attend the 35th reunion (along with my wife, Sibylla), so I’ve been thinking about my years at Columbia more than usual.

“Here’s an update of what’s been going on over the last 35 years in a few sentences. We moved to Geneva, Ill. (a Chicago suburb), in 1993. I’ve been in commercial banking since graduation. While still in

New York, I got an M.B.A. at Fordham at night while working at my first banking job out of college. I’m a regional credit officer in the middle market commercial banking division of Huntington Bank (headquartered in Columbus, Ohio). I work with several middle market lending teams in Illinois and Wisconsin and manage the credit risk for the related loan portfolio.

“Sibylla and I were married in 1983, so we’re celebrating our 35th this year as well. We are planning a trip to Rome and The Vatican. We have two wonderful daughters. Grace-Marie graduated from the University of Illinois–Champaign with a major in community health and then went to graduate school at Midwestern. She is a physician’s assistant and is with a practice that covers pediatrics to geriatrics. Sophia graduated from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. She double-majored in law, politics and society; and sociology. She works for a not-for-profit that assists the local AIDS and HIV+ population and their families with healthcare, counseling and housing. She is applying to graduate programs for a master’s in public health. We are incredibly proud of our children.

“I stay in touch somewhat regularly with **John Bonomi**, **Rob Dell Angelo** and **Steven Reich** and we’re hoping to see each other at reunion. All three are attorneys — not sure if that means anything. My siblings still reside in the greater NYC area and we’ve been back many times through the years. We look forward to each visit — there’s only one NYC.”

Alex Treitler: “I am a busy single dad living in St. Paul, Minn., since 2007. I have four children. My son, Oscar (29), lives in Stockholm with his wife and two young daughters. He is a professional violinist, and the primary in the Treitler Quartet. I also have three daughters who live with me in St. Paul: Ella (12), Ivy (11) and Lucia (6). I was until recently the organization director of spiritual care at Augustana Care in Minnesota and Colorado.

“Following a lifelong consideration of affiliation and identity, I formally completed my transition to Judaism. As part of this I have been researching and writing about the history of my Jewish Galician family and the scattered Jewish connec-

tions of my Swedish and Scottish-American family. I welcome contact from classmates who might similarly have embarked on considerations of ethnic and cultural identity and might have a newfound interest in family story and history. Beyond this I would describe a newfound passion by paraphrasing the Woody Allen line: ‘Those who can’t coach, coach basketball.’ As I accompany my kids in their schooling, I think often with gratitude of the many excellent teachers I had at Columbia. Specifically I remember Peter Rudnytsky ’73, who taught my section of Lit Hum, and Peter Boll, who taught my section of Contemporary Civilization. Both of them approached these topics with an intellectual rigor that I absorbed ... I can be reached at alex.treitler@gmail.com.”

Victor Cha published an op-ed in *The New York Times* on March 9. It begins: “The announcement at the White House on Thursday evening that President Trump will meet the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, within two months raises more questions than it answers. While the unpredictability of a meeting between these two unconventional leaders provides unique opportunities to end the decades-old conflict, its failure could also push the two countries to the brink of war.” Read the full piece at nyti.ms/2J6ntug.

Barry Rashkover: “I agree with the idea of honoring all of our departed classmates in the 35th reunion memorial service. One of those was **Peter Stevens**, who was a successful gastroenterologist.”

On April 1 *The Wall Street Journal* published an article about the acceptance rates falling at Ivy League schools:

Brown: 7.2 percent, admitted 2,566 of 35,438
Columbia: 5.5 percent, admitted 2,214 of 40,203
Cornell: 10.39 percent admitted 5,288 of 51,328
Dartmouth: 8.7 percent, admitted 1,925 of 22,033
Harvard: 4.6 percent, admitted 1,962 of 42,749
Penn: 8.4 percent admitted 3,731 of 44,491
Princeton: 5.5 percent, admitted 1,941 of 35,370
Yale: 6.3 percent, admitted 2,229 of 35,306
Glad we applied when we did to CC!

Michael Schmidtberger '82 and his wife Margie Sung's daughter will start at Columbia in the fall.

I attended the John Jay Awards Dinner in early March and was extremely impressed by honoree Los Angeles Democrat Mayor Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93. He is a good friend of David Javdan '90. David and I are already discussing supporting Mayor Garcetti for the presidential election in 2020. **Ed Joyce** also attended the dinner and sat with me at a recent Columbia basketball game.

1984

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Happy summer, one and all! On the Klainberg front, my wife, Dana TC'89, an assistant registrar at Teachers College, and I are proud to report that daughter Sydney has graduated with honors from SUNY Geneseo and is aiming to pursue a Ph.D. in psychology. Daughter Emma, a SUNY Binghamton graduate, follows in her grandmother's (my mom, Dr. Marilyn Klainberg) and mother's footsteps as she studies at Teachers College en route to a degree in higher education. Ever-ambitious, she also works at several Columbia jobs, including helping coordinate SHAPE (Summer High School Academic Program for Engineers), a new program for high school students interested in engineering. First son Adam has been working in the accounting department of our family business since graduating from SUNY New Paltz, but as of this publication, will be working in the finance department of VIACOM as a junior analyst. And speaking of junior, that's Jacob, now a rising third-year at SUNY Purchase, where he aims to be our family's **Adam Belanoff** (screenwriter to the stars).

Mazel tov to dear friend, former neighbor and fellow Sachem **David Godfried** on the graduation of his son, Robert '18, from the College. Robert majored in sociology and is planning to work in city or local government, with a view toward either law or journalism school in a

few years. One of David's favorite courses was a seminar in his last semester taught by one Professor Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74, aka our illustrious Dean of Students in the roaring '80s!

Howdy, **Robert Aaronson**: "Our oldest, Alexa, and her fiancé, Dan, are first-year medical students at the University of Arizona here in Tucson, where we have lived for more than 20 years. Our middle child, Natalie, is a sophomore at Washington University, studying design and writing, already organizing next year's sorority rush, and working as *The New York Times* campus representative there. Our youngest, Ian, is a senior in high school and was eagerly awaiting word from colleges. So we are soon to be empty-nesters.

"My wife, Bonnie, left law practice years ago, had a busy career in commercial real estate and has slowed down the last few years to pursue a bunch of hobbies and passions, including bag and purse making (maybe another career in the making?) and working with our local chapter of NOW, in hopes of someday passing the ERA!

"I'd like to be a professional road cyclist, but I'm way too old, far too slow and also busy as a doctor, practicing pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. I teach and am a medical administrator. I'm a clinical professor at University of Arizona, Midwestern University and A.T. Still University, and have been busy for the last few years as the Arizona governor for the American College of Physicians. Columbia College was an incredibly important part of my young life and education."

Aloha, **Marsha Mount Eckert** BUS'90: "IT, coffee, B&B and baby: You might recall I was one of the first six women to receive a degree from CC (the graduation day *NYNews* article: 'Columbia Fems Are Gems'). Highlights of my career include working at Bristol Myers, NYCDOT analytics, in management consulting and then IT consulting. Continuing my education, I got an M.B.A. (with honors) and I have earned more than a dozen Microsoft certifications, including MCSE, MCDBA and MCTS. In 2004 my husband and I built a coffee farm and a B&B on the Kona coast of Hawaii. It was a beautiful, peaceful setting, yet convenient to town and airport. We operated these for 14 years and have now put

the property on the market. Our daughter was born in Hawaii and I was on her school's advisory board. We plan to return to California, to be closer to other family members. Through the years in Hawaii I continued IT and analytics work and will be looking for a full-time position in Southern California. Our B&B once hosted a wedding that included three Columbia grads: the officiant, the father of the bride and me."

Michael Feldman, clicking away quickly during tax season: "My daughter's YouTube channel, CloeCouture, has nearly 3.7 million subscribers. I am a certified financial planner."

Michael Plottel GSAPP'88, mojo rising! "I was recently elevated to fellowship level by the American Institute of Architects in recognition of my professional work as a public architect. It's an honor bestowed on roughly 2 percent of architects nationwide. Here is the capsule statement that summarizes the last 25-plus years of my public work: 'Michael Plottel leads public projects that repair and enrich the fabric of urban life. He continues to make significant contributions to the public architecture community by driving dialogue and research on civic engagement and practice.'

"Outside of that I'm enjoying empty-nester life with my wife, Daniella, occasionally getting in touch with old friends and planning our next trips overseas."

You stay classy, **Madhu Alagiri**! "I went to med school in Philadelphia and stayed for a surgical residency at Temple. Subsequently, I joined the surgical faculty at UC San Diego and am a professor there. I run both an active research and clinical practice. I am married with three kids. One is at Cornell, another is at the University of San Francisco. The youngest is a freshman in high school. Doing a little surfing and sailing and so far enjoying a nice quality of life with no major complaints."

Is that **Adam Dicker** sitting on Low Steps? He writes, "I'm visiting campus with my youngest child. I interviewed 20 candidates this year, and one gained admission. My son is a freshman after two years living in Israel."

Chris Nollet says the heart of rock 'n' roll is still beating: "I got to play in a Specials tribute band recently with Bill Gibson, the drummer for Huey Lewis and the News."

From **Ed Hewitt**: "I was more or less the first women's crew coach at Columbia (1984-93), and my squeeze of 30 years, Lori Dauphiny, got her coaching start there before being hired at Princeton in 1988; she became the head coach at Princeton in 1997 and, along with the Columbia coaches, has sustained the relationship between the two programs since. The idea for a cup race came from former women's coach Scott Ramsey and, when my and Lori's friend James Hill Jr. of Philadelphia learned about the idea, he searched for and found a cup.

"The cup was made sometime between 1787 and 1807 in London during the reign of George III and was later presented as a prize for a boat race in Newport, R.I., in 1927, about which there is an inscription inside the cup. It goes to the winner of the annual Columbia-Princeton women's varsity eight race. To get a sense of it, it is 18 inches tall and weighs 125 oz. without the base."

And finally, if you didn't know it already, **Wayne P. Weddington III** has a lot to say ... but not here! He reports, "I have a blog, W3. It was tough to be a dogged curmudgeon without writing it all down periodically! Find it at goo.gl/w1vuWD."

Start thinking about attending our 35th reunion next year!

1985

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"I'll be back on campus periodically in a minor, but official and, I hope, worthy capacity," writes **Thomas Vinciguerra** JRN'86, GSAS'90 from Garden City, N.Y. "I'm editing and writing the introduction to a Columbia University Press book of essays, tentatively titled *Keeping Speech Free*, a 75th anniversary celebration of the University Seminars.

"Drawing on professors and experts from within and outside of alma mater, the seminars are a series of high-level academic discussions, lectures and conferences. 'Human Rights,' 'Women and Society,' 'Neo-Confucian Studies,' 'Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience' and 'The Problem of Peace' are just some of the more than 90 distinct offerings.

I expect the intellectual workout of a lifetime.

“Best of all, it was our very own dean, Bob Pollack ’61, the director of the seminars, who approached me for this project. Bob has further designated me a Visiting Scholar; the perks include full Butler borrowing privileges, a nifty line on my C.V. and my very own CU stationery.

“Lest you think I’ve become serious, I recently published pieces about such all-important topics as the literary legacy of Mickey Spillane (for *The Wall Street Journal*), the youthful beefcake photos of John Ashbery GSAS’50 (for *The New York Times*) and the 50th anniversary of the classic *Star Trek* episode ‘The Trouble With Tribbles’ (for *Vanity Fair*). Naturally, too, I’m still serving with maximum ego as Avatar of the Philolexian Society, going stronger than ever more than 30 years after I dusted it off.”

In other news, **Michael Cho** and I caught up on the phone this spring. His oldest child recently graduated

players to be noticed by major league scouts). No less than Carlton Fisk, Frank Thomas and Nomar Garciaparra have played for the Firebirds, so we are looking forward to some time on the Cape under the lights with baseball and mini golf. My last trip to Orleans occurred during my days with the Kingsmen.

As for me, as part of the New York Choral Society, this spring I was blessed to sing the Bach B-minor mass at Carnegie Hall. It is such an amazing feeling to look out from that stage.

My recent Columbia activities have included a Mini-Core Class, a three-part review of many of the key excerpts from Contemporary Civilization. My preparation included rereads of Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and Mill. Many of the concepts came back from decades past, but re-reading these texts was harder than I imagined; the discussions among alumni, led by Professor John McWhorter, were

Sebastian Sperber LAW’88, who practices with Cleary Gottlieb in London, focusing on international capital markets transactions and merger and acquisition transactions.

And speaking of reunions, mark your calendars — our 35th reunion is only 23 months away. No doubt some planning sessions will begin to rumble in the coming months, so please help us plan the festivities.

Keep those updates coming. Happy summer!

1986

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Ever fantasize about spending a year studying whatever your heart desired at an outstanding university? **Goran Puljic** is living the dream, as he and his wife, Melinda, are spending 2018 studying at Stanford enrolled in the Distinguished Careers Institute program. He retired as a partner at Oak Hill Advisors in early 2016 and took on a senior adviser role at distressed debt fund Strategic Value Partners. Their oldest son, Nick SEAS’19, is studying computer science and working at Amazon this summer. Tucker, their youngest son, is studying culinary arts at Johnson & Wales College in Providence, R.I., and is a chef on Nantucket in the summer.

If you want to try a different career path, it’s not too late, as we learned from **Rachel Schwartz**: “Several years ago, I went back to school to pursue a master’s in art history. I had been a lawyer since about 2000 (and before that, a copy editor). But I majored in art history, so this wasn’t quite out of left field. I’ve completed my coursework for a master’s in art history/museum studies at the City College of New York (just a bit north of Columbia!) and am trying to write my thesis. I work part-time at the Frick Collection, a beautiful museum on the Upper East Side. I also run a lot. Through the years, I’ve completed nine marathons, including the NYC Marathon five times.”

I ran into **Michael Lustig** while walking on my block. He says, “Since retiring from BlackRock I’ve been deeply involved in a number of start-ups (with a focus on ‘impact

investing’) and nonprofits as my ‘day job,’ but I took on a different role this academic year: adjunct professor of finance at the NYU Stern School of Business. I lectured in a night class at the Business School for 13 years but stopped about five years ago. An opportunity arose to teach full-time students in an elective class at NYU, ‘Debt Instruments and Markets,’ and midway through my second semester of teaching there (with a section of undergrads and one of M.B.A.s) I’m not looking back! While spending time in the Village is fun, my daughter Helena BC’20 finished her sophomore year and I’m still involved (on a board level) with Columbia/Barnard Hillel, so I venture uptown fairly often. My other daughter, Julia, is a sophomore at SUNY Binghamton, so she doesn’t get quite the same number of visits!”

Michael Purves brought us up to date: “Other than two years in West Philadelphia for business school, I have remained within a few subway stops of Hamilton Hall since graduating. For the vast majority of my career I have worked in various facets of Wall Street: as an investment banker advising clients on M&A and corporate finance, then as a portfolio manager at emerging market hedge funds. For the last six years I have been a macro and derivative strategist at Weeden & Co., a nearly century-old broker dealer serving institutional clients. It is a busy day trying to make sense of the endlessly shifting global markets, but you never get bored. My four children keep me on my toes (twins who are 16, a 7-year-old and a 4-year-old); indeed, raising four kids in NYC is an extreme sport. My wife, Lucia, is a cancer scientist from Spain, so the language requirement certainly paid long-lasting dividends.”

Congratulations to **Michael Parent** on the sale of his company! “After an amazing, uninterrupted 23-year run — working with my partners to build our firm, Signal Hill, into a leading technology M&A investment bank — Signal Hill was recently purchased by Daiwa Securities Group, providing me the opportunity to move on to new adventures. More time for family, friends, charitable work and perhaps far-ranging travel top the priority list in the near term. I’ve always greatly valued our Columbia College education, and my appreciation for it grows every year.”

Wayne P. Weddington III ’84 has a blog, W3: “It was tough to be a dogged curmudgeon without writing it all down.” Go online to goo.gl/w1vuWD.

from high school and Mike is working on a health care platform that will be on the market in the coming months — more info to come.

On the home front, all three of my kids continue to do me proud; my oldest son, Isaac ’14, has been promoted to a senior software engineer at *The New York Times* and was one of the key coders designing the app for the Olympics and other recent live events. My middle son, Noah, graduated from Duke this spring and has recently begun service in the Peace Corps in the Philippines (thank you **John Phelan** for your encouraging words about your experience many years ago). We look forward to visiting him in that part of the world many months hence. My youngest son, Josh, a rising junior at the University of Miami, continues to follow the broadcaster’s dream and is spending the summer as one of the play-by-play broadcasters for the Orleans Firebirds, one of the teams in the Cape Cod baseball league (a summer destination for rising college

very stimulating and reminded me of the power of these great ideas. I have done several of these classes over the years, so for those of you in the New York area, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Congratulations to those CC’85ers with children accepted into the Class of 2022. For those who thought admission to the College was getting competitive, take heart, as we have moved into the uber hyper-competitive world. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions announced that it accepted 2,214 of the 40,203 students who applied. It is the largest applicant pool in Columbia’s history, marking an 8 percent increase from last year, and creating an overall acceptance rate for the College and Columbia Engineering of 5.5 percent.

I recently attended my 30th Law School reunion; I caught up with several of our classmates who crossed over with me from one side of Amsterdam to the other, including

J.D. Scrimgeour GSAS'87's most recent book, the poetry collection *Lifting the Turtle*, was published in November. He will teach poetry at Ginling College of Nanjing Normal University in Nanjing this summer.

In late 2017, **Bill Seligman** LAW'89 joined a group of his Los Angeles and New York-based colleagues from the boutique real estate law firm Cassin & Cassin in moving their practice to McGuireWoods. He is based in Century City, having moved to Los Angeles 15 years ago. Bill's practice focuses on representation of real estate lenders and debt investors in all debt products and asset classes, at all phases of the debt cycle from loan origination to workouts.

1987

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This month's column will necessarily be short but sweet. **Lloyd Lim** shared news about his latest book, *Business Tools, Not Platitudes: With Staff Training Modules*. He says it is the first of the many books he has written that he suspects will have more of a commercial appeal. If you check out lloydlimsolutions.com, you will see how prolific Lloyd has been in the fields of business and finance, including his blog posts.

I'm hoping that our columns will contain many more contributions, especially from those we have not heard from in a long while. This is your column. Without your input, we have nothing. Please consider submitting your updates to SarahAnn29uk@gmail.com!

1988

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I met **Jonathan Rosand** PS'94 during junior year abroad at Oxford, where we found ourselves floormates in University College housing. Jon wrote in before our 30th reunion, saying he was "looking forward to catching up with folks who really remember NYC in the '80s. I recalled

fondly our time together in Oxford at Stavertonia when I visited a few years ago. The place looks pretty much the same, surprise, surprise.

"Since graduating from medical school I have been in Boston at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard, where I am chief of neurocritical care and emergency neurology and oversee a research program at MGH and the Broad Institute. We have established the Henry and Allison McCance Center for Brain Health, which is devoted to preventing brain disease and preserving brain function over the lifespan. My wife and two sons, 16 and 19, are healthy and thriving, for which I am thankful every day.

"My father, David Rosand '59, GSAS'65, longtime professor of art history at Columbia and a loyal and committed alumnus, died in 2014. Since then my family and I have devoted ourselves to ensuring that his contributions to alma mater continue to live on for future generations. With the generous collaboration of Dad's circle of friends, former students and faculty we established the David Rosand Professorship of Italian Renaissance Art History. On a larger scale, we are now raising funds to secure Casa Muraro, Columbia's home in Venice, Italy. Working with fellow devoted alums and art lovers has been a source of great fun and I look forward to talking about art history and Italy with anyone who shares these passions!"

Craig Blackmon writes that he and his wife, Tiffany McDermott BC'87, "continue to reside happily in beautiful — and officially super cool — Seattle. Tiffany has scaled her medical practice (ob/gyn) back to part time, giving her the chance to explore more of life's wonders. I continue to dabble in the real estate startup scene. My current iteration, Houses.Direct, markets homes directly to buyers, saving sellers tens of thousands of dollars in transaction costs."

I saw that former Lions football coach Jim Garrett, a celebrated if controversial figure during his one-season tenure in 1985, passed away this year. It brought back assorted memories, not only of covering the team's travails and his dramatic firing for the *Spectator* sport pages, but also of commiserating with classmates about the dark days of Columbia football. The Lions have moved on, I'm happy to say — second place in

the Ivy League last season, and next year is looking good. To paraphrase one of the trustiest clichés from our *Spec* sports writing days, "What a difference 30 years make."

1989

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A big thanks to **Kaivan Shakib**, who agreed to send a Class Notes write-up on the John Jay Awards Dinner when I was stuck in Boston and unable to join the celebration. Here's his report, which begins with a note on the snowstorm that forced the change in my (and a few others!) plans. Kaivan writes, "As 'Deantini' pointed out, chances of snow greater than six inches in NYC in March is 0.67 percent, and the last time there was more than six inches of snow in NYC on March 7 was 1941. But struggling through was worth it so that we could honor the two members of the Class of '89 who were among this year's five honorees. We are all very proud of **Robert Rooney**, CEO of Morgan Stanley International Plc., head of Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and head of technology; and **Julie Jacobs Menin**, commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment. I had a chance to chat with Rob and his wife, Corinne, as well as Julie and her three sons.

"Supporting our honorees were **John Alex**, **Michael Barry**, Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) President **Michael Behringer** (who gave a rousing speech), University Trustee **Lisa Carnoy** (who gave a very rousing speech), **Jonathan Dwyer** (who still looks 22), **Matthew Engels**, **Jared Goldstein** (who surprisingly owns a tuxedo), **Ken Hechtman** (just checking that you are still reading this list), **Donna MacPhee**, **Steve Metellos** (who looks 25), **Jill Pollack**, **Kirk Ruddy**, **Frank Seminara**, **Bennie Seybold**, **David Winter** and **Raymond Yu**. If you're curious, Rob and Julie bring our total Class of '89 John Jay Award recipients to four; they join **Lisa Carnoy** and **Stephanie Falcone Bernik**. Let's hope the weather for next year's dinner is a little balmier and that we

can add a few more members of our class to the distinguished list."

Of the evening, **Robert Rooney** says, "It was a privilege to be among such an impressive group of alumni and to share the stage with other members of the incomparable Class of '89: fellow honoree **Julie Jacobs Menin**, trustee **Lisa Carnoy** and CCAA President **Michael Behringer**. We had a great evening in the snow, seeing so many classmates and friends."

Though I couldn't make it to the John Jay Awards Dinner, I was able to attend the Columbia Alumni Association's "She Opened the Door" conference in February, the first University-wide women's conference. It was spectacular; in addition to hearing Columbia memories from Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59, it was great to visit with **Donna MacPhee**, **Teresa Saputo-Crerend** '87 and **Danielle Maged**, all of whom were involved with organizing this truly remarkable event.

1990

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It's always great to hear from **Ted Tsekerides**. He writes, "I turned 50 on January 19 and my wife, **Caroline Andersen**, set up a surprise by having a bunch of close friends from our Columbia days come to town. We had a great weekend hanging out on Long Island (I live in Cold Spring Harbor). Good for the soul. Ryan Womack '89, Mark Miller '89, George Caliendo '89, **Richard Weil** and **Javier Maldonado** attended. I'm at Weil Gotshal, a partner in the litigation department. Ryan is a research librarian at Rutgers. Mark is running a hedge fund in Chicago. George works for Bloomberg in San Francisco. Richard has his hands in a lot of things, but from what I can tell runs investments for a bunch of funds in Los Angeles. Javier is an attorney in San Antonio doing immigration and employment law."

Got a sweet tooth like me? **Erika Henik**'s Sweet on Vermont Artisan Confections was featured in *The New York Times*' Valentine's Day Gift Guide in February. Her career as a chocolatier started at Columbia,



Ted Tsekerides '90 had a great weekend in January celebrating his birthday with College friends. Standing, left to right: Ryan Womack '89, Mark Miller '89, George Caliendo '89 and Richard Weil '90. Seated, Javier Maldonado '90 and Tsekerides.

when she worked part-time for a small chocolate company based on West 110th Street (not Monde!). One of her best customers in those days was Professor Jim Shenton '49. He was hooked after she gifted him with a box of chocolates at the end of a summer course, "The History of the City of New York"; the course featured weekly walking tours around the city (and inevitably ended at some eatery). Shenton became a lifelong customer, ordering not just for himself, but also for friends, family, colleagues like Professor Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69, and his CC class on the last day of the semester. Erika recalls **Josh Gillette's** envy that he had to sit in the hallway outside Professor Shenton's office during office hours, while she could just stroll in with a box of truffles in hand. Nowadays, Erika's daughter (11) and son (8) educate their friends about the relative merits of dark versus milk chocolate and enthusiastically hand out samples during tastings and special events.

In the Spring column, I mentioned the creation of **Paul Greenberg BUS'97's** digital video firm, Butter Works. Now that it's been a while, he reports, "I have an excellent creative partner, and we've gotten good early traction with several new clients from media companies, brands and agencies. The goal is to be a full-service company providing business modeling, branded content, distribution, full production and so forth. Given the success I had

with the digital studio I ran at A+E (a Facebook show with 50 million views per episode, a Snapchat show with 80 million views per episode, YouTube hits, lots of great branded content, etc.), it seems like a good time for me to make the move. More info is at butter.works."

Kudos to **Laura Marks SIPA'96**, who reported in March, "In addition to running the Louis and Nancy Hatch Dupree Foundation in support of an archive and resource center in Kabul and teaching U.S. citizenship classes to immigrant women at Women for Afghan Women, I co-chair the New York/New Jersey community group for the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance, an organization that works to find a cure for and improve the lives of those living with tuberous sclerosis complex. TSC is a genetic disorder that causes tumors to form in various organs, primarily the brain, eyes, heart, kidneys, skin and lungs; it's also the leading genetic cause of both epilepsy and autism. This cause is especially meaningful to me because our son was diagnosed with TSC several years ago. He's fortunate to be relatively mildly affected and is doing well, but that's not the case for many people living with the disorder. In early March, I visited a dozen Washington, D.C., offices of United States representatives and senators from New York to ask them to sign our bipartisan letter requesting the continuation of funding in 2019 for the TSC Research Program (TSCRCP) through the Department of Defense.

"Despite having a very short turnaround time, our team of volunteers managed to get 200 members of the House to sign our letter — a record number for us! (The Senate process is pending as of this writing.) We anticipate that this support will translate into a multimillion dollar allocation in the FY19 Omnibus Spending Bill to the TSCRCP, as it has for more than a decade. Some of the exciting research under way through the TSCRCP are a clinical trial to improve social skills in infants with TSC before they develop autism and a study that's looking at TSC cerebellar cells that might help explain how autism spectrum disorder develops at the molecular level. We call TSC a linchpin disease because TSC research has a high potential to lead to discoveries and treatments for other conditions such as cancer,

autism, epilepsy, diabetes and traumatic brain injury, to name a few." For more information, visit tsalliance.org.

I heard from **Chris Young** with sad news: "My freshman roommate (Carman 10) and lifelong friend, John Soltis, passed away in his sleep on March 7, 2018, at the ridiculously young age of 49, for reasons not yet understood. Classmates will remember him as the crazy California kid who wore shorts in winter '86-'87, when multiple blizzards pummeled campus. John, the valedictorian of his high school class in Ontario, Calif., was one of the smartest people I've ever known, and our close friendship throughout life was a privilege. His quick wit, sardonic sense of humor and unique outlook on life always kept me in stitches. As a professional (which he insisted was 'more like a hobby that paid the rent'), he was an award-winning illustrator within the Hollywood advertising community — there is no doubt you all have seen his artwork on movie posters and billboards worldwide. Friends in the industry put together a gallery of his life's work in memoriam on April 8 at The Mark in Los Angeles.

"Beyond his cerebral talents, John was also an outstanding athlete. After playing football freshman year at Columbia as one of the team's several talented kickers, he transferred back to the West Coast, where he went on to play for UCLA varsity football for three years, anchored by future NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman. John's sudden departure is devastating to those who knew him, and to say that he will be sorely missed is a gross understatement of the new reality that we are now forced to endure. Rest in peace, dear old friend. For those so inclined, a GoFundMe memorial fund has been put together to support his family and provide scholarships in his name: gofundme.com/john-soltis-memorial-fund."

1991

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I had a lovely conversation with **Alison Toledo White**, who is an attorney with the SEC and lives in McLean, Va., with her husband and two children. Alison was in NYC recently and took her family

to campus so she could show them around. She was able to get into Carman and said it looked exactly the same as when we lived there — cinderblocks and all. Apparently, Columbia is in the process of renovating Carman, but the floor she was on hadn't changed a bit since 1987!

David Wacks lives in Eugene, Ore., with his wife, Katharine Gallagher, and their sons Eitan (12) and Zev (10). David is professor of Spanish at the University of Oregon (wacks@uoregon.edu). His new book, *Medieval Iberian Crusade Fiction*, is under contracts. David, Katherine and their sons spent 2016–17 living in Seville, Spain.

Chris Front GSAS'93 lives in St. Louis, where he's been working at John Burroughs School, an independent school, for 16 years. Last summer he became the school's director of academics, after five years as principal of grades 11 and 12. Chris now oversees the curriculum and the faculty. Other than seeing **Justin Kerber** at a random kids' soccer game once in a blue moon, he relies on Facebook to connect with classmates.

Jimmy Windsor writes: "I work at the University of Iowa and am the director of pediatric cardiac anesthesia. I am married and have two daughters: the first is 19 and is attending NYU and the second is 14 and in eighth grade.

And, finally, I'm happy to report that **Annie Giarranto Della Pietra's** daughter, Kate, and **Dana Fenlon-Wu's** daughter, Hannah, were both accepted at Columbia and will be members of the Class of 2022! Congrats to Kate and Hannah!

This was a short update — for those who haven't sent news recently, please let me know how you're doing using the email address at the top of the column. Hope you all have a fun summer! Until next time, cheers!

1992

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Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** (and four distinguished alums from other classes) got the honors at the 40th annual John Jay Awards Dinner on March 7. I was unable to attend the celebration, which raises money for the John Jay National Scholars Program, but photos posted to

Facebook (facebook.com/alumnicc) suggest a packed house at Cipriani 42nd Street. The Dinner Committee included **Wah Chen, Erik Feig, Peter Hatch and Hilary Hatch**.

Thanks to Peter, I can report that attendees included **Jason Schwartz, Negar Ahkami, Farnaz Vossoughian, Ben Lawsky, Maria Ramirez Jurgens, Brian Farran, Nicholas Diamand, Karl Cole-Frieman and John Marciano**. Two of Eric's first-year roommates — **Rich Bernard** and **Jared Clark** — also attended. The happy event also drew Dae Levine BC'92, Josh Levy '94, Hillary Semel BC'92 and Amy Sananman BC'92. Reunion co-chair **Erin Zyko Hussein**, who works in development for CC, attended as staff.

The other honorees were Sara Just '88, Julie Jacobs Menin '89, Robert P. Rooney '89 and Ron Simons '82, BUS'89. More on the evening: college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/johnjay/2018.

Rich and Jared's appearance made me think of my first days on Morningside Heights with my roommate **Ben Weaver** and suitemates **Dan Herman** and **The One Who Transferred to Cornell**. Are any of you in touch with your first roommates? Drop me a note!

Negar Ahkami writes: "I enjoyed a great turnout at reunion last year, as well as at the John Jay Awards Dinner this year, which honored my friend **Eric Garcetti**.

"I am an artist and, for the last two years, I have been in a long-term artist residency at Arlington Arts Center, which gives me a semi-subsidized art studio for six years in a vital contemporary arts venue in the D.C. area. As part of my residency, I recently had a solo exhibition, which ran April 14–June 2, *Fantasy Will Set You Free*."

Please permit me a bit of personal news. By the time this goes to print, I will have a new job: chief Washington correspondent for SiriusXM satellite radio. The job will keep me at the White House much of the time, but it also comes with a daily show around evening drive-time. It's a little scary to shift from writing the news — something I have been doing since July 1996 — to radio. And I had a great run at Yahoo! News. But it's an exciting opportunity that I simply could not pass up. Come July, I take on another challenge as president of the White

House Correspondents Association. Yeah, yeah, you've heard about the annual dinner (it's our only fundraiser). But the job is fundamentally about advancing the interests of the news media covering the most powerful political institution on the planet. Day to day, the WHCA works to ensure that every medium that covers the White House gets what it needs — pictures, sound, the ability to ask questions of the President and his advisers and so on. That regularly puts us at odds with the White House — every White House. I will, however, remain your humble Class Notes correspondent, so keep your personal news coming!

1993

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No news this issue, but please look out for the Fall issue, where we will have a robust 25th reunion roundup! And don't forget that you can still make a donation to the Class of 1993 25th Reunion Scholarship — it's a gift for graduating seniors, the first of its kind for Columbia. Go to givenow.columbia.edu and select "25th Reunion Scholarship."

1994

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We kick off this issue with two big news items from **Imara Jones**: "The first is that I am transitioning from MTF," she writes. "In some ways that supersedes all other updates." But the other big news is the launch of her weekly news program, *The Last Sip: A News Program for the Rest of Us*, which focuses on spotlighting innovations to social problems in historically marginalized communities. The show airs on Free Speech TV, the same home as *Democracy Now!*, and, Imara writes, "for those sleeping in Sunday mornings it will be available on demand on the web and OTT [over-the-top] devices like AppleTV."

Monique Morris writes that her book, *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*, was recently released in paperback, featuring a foreword by Mankaprr Conteh and Melissa Harris-Perry. "I'm busy film-

ing a *Pushout* documentary," Monique adds. "Very excited about it!"

Sergio La Porta writes that he is married to Malina Zakian and has two children, Lucine (12) and Zaven (10). Since 2009, he has been the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and is also chair of the Department of Philosophy at California State University Fresno. "In addition to teaching Armenian Studies, I also teach a humanities course, which I modeled somewhat on Lit Hum," Sergio writes. "It is fantastic to see students fall in love with Homer, Euripides, Virgil, Ovid and Dante. We are enjoying life in California and have fellow Columbia alumni as friends! Very entertaining to rehash our Columbia experiences."

Also enjoying life in California is **Ocean MacAdams**, who writes that, two years ago, after 26 years in New York, he and his wife relocated to San Francisco: "We love it here and the kids (12, 7 and 4) have all settled in nicely. I still get to see New York, however, because for the last year I've been running Thrillist, an NYC-based media company that covers food, drink and travel. I'm there about every other week (ask me anything about the Delta frequent flyer program)."

Ocean adds that he'd love to see more Class of 1994 friends, noting that he recently visited Poland to see **Jonathan Roy**, who moved to Warsaw with his wife to open the restaurant Koko & Roy. "If you're ever in that neck of the woods," Ocean says, "do check it out!"

Rebecca Weinberg writes of an upcoming trip to Chicago with two of her three kids to visit **Rachel Dewoskin**, as well as a potential catch-up with **Anne Kornblut** in California later this summer. On the career front, Rebecca recently earned a master's in social work from Penn, and in addition to building a property management company with her husband in downtown Philadelphia, she works part-time at Planned Parenthood with transgender clients.

Another professional update came in from **Karen Sandler**, who this spring started as executive director of alumnae relations at Barnard. "It's been fun being back on Morningside Heights in a professional capacity and getting to work with such wonderful alumnae, many of whom are friends from my CC days," Karen writes.

A great first-time update came from **Chris William** GSAS'02, PS'03, who reports that during grad school and med school at Columbia, he married Srilakshmi Gnanasekaran '93, PS'00, PH'01 and moved to Boston for 13 years. "We moved back to New York about two years ago, with a son who is now 12, spending free time at soccer games, watching superhero movies and playing Settlers of Catan," Chris writes. "I'm a neuropathologist at NYU School of Medicine with a laboratory using mice to study functional decline in Alzheimer's disease and learning delay in Down syndrome."

Tom Lecky writes that in 2016, after 17 years as the head of the Books & Manuscripts Department at Christie's auction house, he left to buy Riverrun Books, a 40-year-old antiquarian book business in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. "I am now an independent adviser, appraiser and dealer," he writes. "You might sometimes see me on *Antiques Roadshow*, which I have appeared on since 1999. My wife, Amanda BC'94, and I have two sons, John and Wyatt, in high school. We celebrated our 24th (!) anniversary in June."

And finally, **Danny Franklin** welcomed new addition Jacob Frederick on October 31. Jacob joins sister Anna (3), sister Phoebe (12) and brother, Sam (14).

Congrats and thanks to everyone who shared such great news. Keep it coming!

1995

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Congratulations to **Arun Kristian Das** JRN'01, who married his longtime partner, Erin Lynn Nau, on September 30 in Astoria Park. "Despite the chill, it was perfect," Arun writes. "We were surrounded by friends and family and had a wonderful night." A few Columbians attended.

Arun has been working for more than 17 years at WNYW/Fox 5 News, where he is a web and social media content producer. He also volunteers with New York Cares and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He recently started New York on Foot to encourage locals and visitors to see NYC via walking, running and hiking. "For now, I lead biweekly



Nick Summers '05 and Janet Lorin '95 (both front, center) spoke to a group of College students at Bloomberg; Lorin hosted the visit through Columbia's Center for Career Education.

run-walk groups in Astoria, but I hope to soon host more events — walking tours, hikes, group runs — and create useful content online to help people explore New York on their own,” he writes.

Erin is the counseling and education coordinator at the Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline and Support Program, considered the oldest breast cancer hotline in the United States. She is also a candidate for a Ph.D. in social work at Adelphi.

Congratulations to **David Webber**, whose book *The Rise of the Working Class Shareholder: Labor's Last Best Weapon* came out in April. David is a law professor at Boston University. The book tells the story of innovative and successful labor activists whose work has been almost invisible. “These folks have figured out how to use labor’s unheralded shareholder power, vested in its trillions of dollars of pension funds, to create jobs, to fend off attacks on worker pension funds, to rein in CEO pay and tie it to worker pay, to radically reform corporate voting, to sue companies that commit fraud and to push back against hedge funds and private equity funds that take worker pension dollars and use it against their interests,” David writes.

“I think it’s crucial to spotlight it, particularly at a moment when labor’s options are becoming increasingly desperate in this country,” he writes. “I also show how the Koch brothers and others are threatening this activism, why it is so important to rally to defend and protect it and how we can do so.”

It was great to hear David on Bloomberg Radio recently. I hit the 10-year mark at Bloomberg News in April. After writing about college

admissions and student loans for about eight years, I switched to college endowments. My stories often appear in *Bloomberg Businessweek* and *Bloomberg Markets* magazine, and I’m on Bloomberg Radio weekly. I recently hosted a group of College students at Bloomberg.

Thanks for the updates, and please keep the news coming.

1996

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Happy summer, classmates! I have **Pete Freeman** to thank for the only notes we have in this issue. Pete moved to Freddie Mac last December, joining **Scott Walker**, who is also an associate general counsel there. Pete lives in Maryland with his wife, Jill Fine BC’96, daughter, Lily, and son, Max. Scott lives in Virginia with his wife, Heather, and sons, Collin, Ian and Jacob.

Pete also writes that he streamed *Get Me Roger Stone* on Netflix, and spotted **Fred Stanton** in the credits as a producer. Pete enjoys keeping up the class Facebook group (search for “Columbia College Class of 1996”) and urges those who don’t plan to #deletefacebook to join.

Separately, and without prompting by yours truly, he says everyone should brag a little bit and send in an update for the next Class Notes column, since we are a long way from our 25th reunion. Please write — we want to hear what you’re doing!

“There is only one thing in life worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.” — Oscar Wilde

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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Classmates, this is my inaugural issue as your new class correspondent! How very exciting it is for me to be passed the torch from **Sarah Katz**, whom we should all thank for her 20 years of service.

Last fall, I decided to step down from my volunteer position of several years as recording secretary for the Manhattan chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. That position required me to attend the monthly meetings in person and I’m no longer able to travel regularly to NYC now that I have a baby (before the baby arrived, I used to fly to NYC from Florida once a month just to attend DAR meetings!). So I was thrilled when the position of *CCT* class correspondent opened up, as it’s some volunteer work that I can easily do from home in Florida while the baby is napping.

I emailed all of you at the beginning of March with an invitation to share your updates. If you didn’t receive my email, that means that I don’t have your correct email address, in which case please do let me know what it is by writing to me at the email address at the top of this column. [Editor’s note: Please also let the Alumni Office know: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info.]

I am delighted to report that seven classmates shared updates.

Our first update comes from **Sareeta Amrute**, who notes that her book, *Encoding Race Encoding Class: Indian IT Workers in Berlin*,

was recently awarded the Diana Forsythe Prize for the best book in the anthropology of science, technology and medicine: gad.americananthro.org/diana-forsythe-prize. Sareeta went to Berlin as part of the research for her book — the same city where, when we were students, our paths first crossed.

If I may take a moment to indulge a memory, it was during our junior year when we both signed up to be foreign exchange students in Germany. We were part of the inaugural group of around a dozen or so undergrads from Columbia and a few other Ivies who spent their spring 1996 semester in Berlin, taking undergraduate courses at the Freie Universität as well as at Humboldt-Universität. This was an exchange program arranged by the Berlin Consortium for German Studies. BCGS required that students already be proficient in German in order to participate. We were told to simply take any courses that interested us — these were all regular undergraduate courses in the German university system, taught in German alongside German college students. We lived in student housing called Studentendorf Schlachtensee, which was in the verdant Zehlendorf neighborhood.

How fondly I remember those days! I used to hop on the U-bahn and the S-bahn, frequently going to Berlin’s three big theaters — the Staatsoper, the Deutsche Oper and the Komische Oper — where I would gleefully watch all sorts of ballets and operas in an orchestra seat for something like \$10 per show, thanks to Germany’s benevolence in giving discounts to college students. I reveled in strolls along the grandly beautiful Unter den Linden boulevard, on my way to the university or to the opera house, admiring the historic buildings and imbibing the old spirit of the imperial era. My imagination ran wild as I would saunter through the palaces of Charlottenburg and Sanssouci, pretending that I lived there! I excitedly signed up for all the dance classes that I could find around town, further honing my technique in ballet and ballroom styles that I had begun studying at Columbia. What lovely boat rides there were on the Spree River, and who could forget the glorious Botanic Garden! There may also have been a Persian Freund, although I had better return to academic details



Emilie Jacobs '00, Raji Kalra '97 and Gabrielle Ponder '97 traveled to Nigeria to attend the engagement celebration of Lia Johnson '97.

now. The focus of my studies in Berlin was Russian poetry in German translation (translating Russian poetry into German and then discussing and writing about it in German).

During our semester in Berlin, our program arranged for our entire group to take a train ride from Berlin to Prague for a week of summer vacation. What a fairy tale city Prague was! I remember **Nathan Hillstrom** flying to Berlin just for a couple of weeks or so, in order to join us for the fun train trip to Prague. After returning to Berlin he and I also paid a visit to the enchanting Peacock Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that can only be reached by small ferry.

Ah, memories!

Moving on, **Rebekah Gee** PH'98 was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. She lives in New Orleans and is the secretary of health for Gov. John Bel Edwards (D-La.) for the state of Louisiana. In this role, she is in charge of Medicaid and public health for the state, with a \$14 billion annual budget. She has been married to David Patron for seven years. Their twins, Elizabeth and Eva, are 5. She is also the stepmother of Ben, Elly and Nathan.

Kerri Stone reports that in January she was privileged, as the chair of the Association of American Law Schools' Section on Women in Legal Education, to accept the Section of the Year Award on behalf of the section. She elaborates: "The ceremony was in San Diego, and I was lucky to turn it into a family trip with my husband, Josh, a lawyer; my

son, Dylan (5); and my daughter, Marlee (2). We live in Coconut Grove, Fla., where I am a law professor at Florida International University College of Law."

Jen Gatien shares: "There have been enough years between our graduation and where I am today to recognize how much Columbia shaped me. My father was indicted during my junior year. Thankfully, with the help of the Dean's Office, I was able to graduate with my peers. I have been producing films that focus on criminal justice and am working with Amazon to develop a feature based on this time in my life. The script (being written by Nick Pileggi and JJ Sacka) looks at our city under the reign of Mayor Rudy Giuliani, the power of the media, the challenges of a college student navigating the world of the federal justice system and the nightlife world of downtown New York. Very proud that I made it through that time!"

John Dean Alfone recently attended a music conference, SXSW Music 2018, and published an article about it, which you can read at bit.ly/2qIlNji.

Raji Kalra reveals that she and **Gabrielle Ponder** attended the engagement celebration of **Lia Johnson** to **Olawale Akinshinwa** in Lagos, Nigeria. Also in attendance were **Emily Blumsack '00** and **Emilie Jacobs '00**. Festivities included **Femi Kuti's** performance at the historic New Afrika Shrine, traditional dances from different tribes and a day at a private beach club. **Raji** says she is looking forward to their wedding in the Bahamas later this year. She

adds: "From Nigeria, I went on to visit a friend in Kenya. This year will mark my 50th country visited!"

Wow, and I thought I had been to a lot of foreign countries (25 last time I counted). But **Raji** has definitely outdone me. Now there's a girl after my own heart!

I will wrap up this column with my own update. We spent my birthday this February in Boca Raton, where I was delighted to let my then-15-month-old baby, **Amara**, experience her first carousel ride at the lovely **Sugar Sands** playground. She took great delight in going up and down on her colorfully painted horse as the waltz music played (but then I'm afraid she was quite unwilling to leave the carousel!). It has been such a joy this past 1.5 years to watch her develop. At the time of my writing this, she is 16 months old and is the cutest little toddler imaginable. Her vocabulary is exploding now with dozens of words that she can say — both verbal and sign language. She can recognize a few numbers and letters now, too, and already has a little repertoire of dance moves. I've put away my passport now and am content to just spend my days simply being her mother. Cue the **Nat King Cole** song "Around The World ..."

Blessings to all, and please do send me your updates!

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
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No notes for this issue, but the Fall issue will be chock full of news from our highly anticipated 20th reunion! Please take a moment to send in a note and I'll add it to the collection. Be well!

1999

Adrienne Carter and
Jenna Johnson
adieliz@gmail.com
jennajohnson@gmail.com

Brad Neuberg and his wife, **Abby**, welcomed their daughter, **Cameron MacKenzie-Morse Neuberg**, on January 16. **Brad** has been at **Drop-box** on the machine learning team as a software engineer for several years. We are happy to hear that he still

keeps in touch with and sees **Laurent Vasilescu** and **Susan Kassin**.

Kandi Birdsell Parsons was named shareholder at **Zwilling**, a boutique privacy and data security law firm in Washington, D.C. She also added two members to her family: a rescued Boxer mix, **Max** (who has one blue eye and one brown), and a bearded dragon, **Groot**, whom her son assures her will not live beyond when he heads to college.

We caught up with **Kandi** in New Orleans this spring with some other Columbia classmates, but we were sad to miss **Dimitri Apeessos**, who has been living and writing in **NOLA**.

Have a wonderful summer, and please be sure to send news to the addresses at the top of the column!

2000

Prisca Bae
pb134@columbia.edu

How's summer treating you, CC'00? Any fun trips, summer adventures or relaxing lazy days? Share your news here. Your classmates want to hear from you!

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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Hi everyone! Last August, **Mary Herrington** (née **Lee**) returned to Columbia — as an employee. She writes, "I work at the Law School, where I advise law students and alumni on careers in law and professional development with a fantastic team, including **Stephen Buchman '59**, **LAW'62**; **Michael Kerman LAW'08**; and **Marta Ricardo LAW'94**. My family's footprints are all over the city: My husband and I commute from Brooklyn every day to Midtown and Morningside Heights; my daughter will start kindergarten later this year in Manhattan; and my son is an adorable preschooler in Brooklyn Heights."

Mary caught up in the past year with **Tricia Beckles**, "who lives near me in Brooklyn and is in-house counsel at **Novartis**," and her former roommate **Cheryl Young**, "who was in town to run a half-marathon and has been based in San Francisco since completing a Ph.D. at UC Berkeley."

Thanks for the great update, Mary, and for your continuing service to Columbia!

Andrew Rudman wrote in with a great update: "I live in Los Angeles with my wife, Punam, and my 2-year-old daughter, Uma. After getting a master's in mathematics at Boston College in 2005, and briefly flirting with the idea of an academic career, I hit the road with my group, The Two Man Gentlemen Band, and spent the better part of the last decade barnstorming across the country and Europe playing '20s- and '30s-style novelty music, while occasionally working on mathematics textbooks on the side. Since early 2013, I've been the series composer and songwriter for a Disney cartoon series, *Wander Over Yonder* (working as 'Andy Bean'). The show starts its second season early next year." [Editor's note: See the Summer 2015 issue of *CCT*]

Thanks, Andrew!

Please let me know what you are up to this summer! Your classmates would love to hear from you.

2002

Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani
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Jill Santopolo '03's first novel for adults, *The Light We Lost*, came out in May and hit both *The New York Times* and the *USA Today* bestseller lists; it also hit the bestseller lists in Italy, Germany and Sweden. Additionally, Reese Witherspoon chose it as her February pick for the Reese Witherspoon Book Club and it's in development with Southpaw Entertainment to become a feature film. The book starts at Columbia on September 11, 2001, so there's a lot of Columbia love in the pages! I cannot wait to get my hands on a copy!

Mike Mellia was commissioned by Hermès of Paris to direct and film a series of surreal fashion videos.

Sheethal Shobowale SPS'06 took a position at Google as global head of business analytics at Waze. Her role is to create meaningful and fun data insights at scale for her business partners, press and consumers. It requires a few trips to Israel every year, and in June, she is taking the whole family for the first time. Her sons are Hudson, who turned 6 on Tax Day, and Rafael ("Rafi"), who

turned 4 on March 3. They are almost finished renovating a passive house in Boerum Hill, Brooklyn, where they hope to host many friends and family.

Miriam Sheinbein lives in San Francisco with her husband and kids (Cruv, 10; Rimon, 7; and Lefett, 4) and is "still (proudly and defiantly) working at Planned Parenthood and teaching family medicine residents at UCSF San Francisco General Hospital. At the end of April, **Karen Austrian** PH'07 is coming to visit all the way from Nairobi!"

Jarvis Buckman '03, SEAS'03, BUS'11 is an investment analyst at Knighthead Capital in Midtown, where he has worked since April 2014. Prior, he was a desk analyst at Credit Suisse from 2011.

Jarvis married Floriande Buckman on September 1, 2013, and they are parents to son Victor (3), and daughter Jamie, who was born on Brexit [June 2016]. They live in Hamilton Heights.

Jennifer Wildeman had a son, Logan Wildeman, last summer, so that makes two kids: Lana and Logan. Jennifer is the senior portfolio advisor at Aksia, in NYC.

2003

Michael Novielli
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I first and foremost thank and acknowledge **Tamar Simon** for her efforts to improve communications with our class. She's spent countless hours updating our class Facebook page and class contact information. If you haven't already done so, please request to join our Class of 2003 Facebook page: facebook.com/columbia2003. And if you aren't receiving email communications from the Alumni Office or copies of *Columbia College Today* at home, please update your info: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info.

I was fortunate to attend **Ken Sim's** wedding to Laura Rieber here in Singapore. There were a few other Columbians in attendance, including **Chee Gan** '05, who represented Ken's friends by making an awesome speech.

In more wedding news, **Andy So** married Amy Chan in Honolulu, Hawaii, in February. A number of classmates were in attendance, including **Albert Shin**, **Mike Chee**, **Ella Tay** (née Chang), Ed Yung

'04, **Shawn Tay** SEAS'04 and **John Kwak** SEAS'03.

Robyn Schwartz writes, "Dan Hammerman '02 and I are in Los Angeles and expect to be here through summer 2019. We're not sure where and what will follow but hope that the next stop is more permanent — we're grateful that we haven't had to change cities (or even apartments) in nearly three years! In February we welcomed our second child, Benjamin Amos ('Benny'). While he and big sister Elsa would love to see where their parents met, the timing of reunion unfortunately does not coincide with our plans to come east to see family in late summer. I will miss the opportunity to reconnect in person and wander around campus, but will watch these pages for everyone's updates."

Andy Shin writes, "I moved back to Los Angeles after living in San Francisco and New York City since graduation. We bought a house in Sherman Oaks and our daughter turned 3 in June. I've stayed in technology since graduation and I'm the chief technology officer for the tech start-up GOAT, in Culver City, Calif."

Jill Santopolo continues to make headlines, this time because her bestselling debut novel, *The Light We Lost* (a love story that rises out of the tragedy of 9-11, about a couple who meet at Columbia that morning and both decide that they want their lives to matter), will be adapted into a film.

Jeremy Fourteau is director of product at Headspace, the popular guided meditation platform.

Eve Bloomgarden is an assistant professor of medicine (endocrinology) at Northwestern.

Dan Chen '02 has been social chair of the Columbia Alumni Association boards for both Hong Kong and Singapore, between which he has split his time for the past several years.

Stay tuned for updates from Reunion 2018 in the next column!

2004

Jaydip Mahida
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A few updates to share for this issue. Let's definitely keep the momentum up, as we have generally seen a good number of updates coming in recently!

Andrew Lebwohl LAW'07 writes, "I started in July at Huron Consulting Group, focusing on turnaround and restructuring advisory. I was a corporate bankruptcy lawyer through the financial crisis, but I wanted to be a part of the business-decision-making process. I've been thrilled with the switch, and my kids enjoy actually getting to see me on the weekends!"

After winning a Newbery Honor in 2017 for his children's novel *The Inquisitor's Tale*, **Adam Gidwitz** has created a new book series for kids ages 7–10: *The Unicorn Rescue Society*. Two kids and an eccentric mentor try to save the world's mythical creatures from the evil billionaire Schmoke brothers. The series is funny, fast-paced and richly illustrated.

On my end, I recently started organizing monthly get-togethers in New York for alumni who are brothers of my fraternity, Psi U. It has been really nice to reconnect with old friends still in the area.

Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you may be taking, 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 via the *CCT* Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Happy summer, Class of 2005! **Daniella Ross** writes, "I recently moved back to Los Angeles with my husband after several years in Michigan. I'm an ER veterinarian in a specialty hospital."

Thanks for writing, Daniella! **Andrea Cortes-Comerer** was promoted to senior director at Oppenheimer & Co. earlier this year. She is responsible for Oppenheimer's custodial retirement plans and works with the firm's advisors on client matters.

Congrats, Andrea!
CC'05, let's hear from you! This is your column, and we'd love to hear all about your summer activities — send your news to cct@columbia.edu.

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



1

1. On September 30, Arun Kristian Das '95 married Erin Lynn Nau in Astoria Park, Queens.

Forman '09, Daisy Nguyen (SEAS staff), Michael DeFazio '06, Matt Barsamian '07 and Noah Cooper '08.

2. Stephanie Demko (née Davis) '09 married Adrian Demko '07 on February 17 in Brooklyn, N.Y., at the Weylin (The Williamsburgh Savings Bank). Left to right: Andrew Walther '07, Andrew Ward '07, Adriana Sein '07, Clare Murphy BC'06, Shaun Rowatt '09, Shay Murphy '06, Dan Neczypor '08, Angela Zhao '14, Bryan Mochizuki '07, Tim Paulin '08, Monesh Kirpalani GSAS'06, Will Lipovsky '10, Dan Palmer '07, Henry Perkins '08, Todd Abrams '07, Michael Roberts '09, Alex Contratto '11, Kelley Steuerer '09, Michelle Hull LAW'11, Jess Cui BC'12, Lindsey Kremer BC'11, Elena Cooper '09, Jess Chan '06, Krissy Loo BC'07, the bride, the groom, Chris Dugan '09, Mike Malfettone '08, Dave Schulte SEAS'06, William Reggio SEAS'13, Jason Matos '08, Jake Olson '07, Luciana Olson '07, Moran

3. Gary Pickholz '78 married Shira Gvir on September 15 by the sea, north of Tel Aviv.

4. On August 26, Christina Vlahos Profestas '14 married James Profestas SIPA'14 at the Garden City Hotel on Long Island. Left to right: Jeffrey Levine SIPA'05, Scott Trenary BUS'16, Marios Hatzikyriakou SEAS'08, Steven Foundos BUS'06, SIPA'07, the groom, the bride, Louis Vlahos '84, Alyssa Ehrlich '14, Maryann Vlahos '14, Malvina Kefalas BC'14 and Kinno Norojono '14.

5. Katerina Vorotova '07 married Anton Deinega in Playa Larga, Cuba, on January 13. Left to right: Eugene Okon SEAS'06, the bride, the groom, Anastassiia Botchkareva '06 and Nikkie Zanevsky '07.



2

WOLFGANG FREITHOF - A DAY OF BLISS



3

CARL SHERER '78



4

JOVON



5

PETER OWEN BUS'14

2006

Michelle Oh Sing
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Hi everyone. A few exciting updates from classmates this season!

After spending their sophomore year as next-door neighbors in McBain, **Mary Kate Bacalao** (née Johnson) and **Sam Schon** now have even more in common. Mary Kate and her husband, Luis, welcomed daughter Ela Selene on January 31 in San Francisco, while Sam and his wife, Katie, welcomed daughter Margaret Joan on February 2 in Houston. They wish they were still next-door neighbors, but they have other things in common, including regularly scheduled nap times and prodigious diaper outputs.

Lisa Speransky is honored to have been named CEO of BabyBjörn in January, after having been with BÉABA (another European baby brand) for five years, most recently as president and CEO of its North American business. BabyBjörn is the North American subsidiary of the 57-year-old family-owned Swedish baby gear brand, most famous for inventing the style of baby carriers and baby bouncers that we still use today.

Lisa's exciting winter continued as she married Matthew Moore, who is general counsel at Influential. Almost 300 guests attended the Brooklyn wedding on March 10, including **Meghan Jewitt SEAS'06**, **Melissa Branfman**, **Brian Ruby SEAS'06** and Elena Lagoutova BC'07.

Katharine Gerbner published a book, *Christian Slavery: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World*. She is an assistant professor of history at the University of Minnesota.

Send in your news for an upcoming issue by emailing me at mo2057@columbia.edu. Your classmates want to hear from you!

2007

David D. Chait
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Thank you everyone for sharing your exciting updates!

Kat Vorotova BUS'14 and Anton Deinega, in their globetrotting fash-

ion, celebrated their marriage on the south coast of Cuba with 36 of their closest family and friends in attendance on the rapidly changing island. Several classmates were there, including **Nikkie Zanevsky**, Eugene Okon SEAS'06, Anastassia Botchkareva '06, Peter Owen BUS'14, Natalie Tateyama BUS'14, Zakie Twainy BUS'14 and David Foults SIPA'14, Kat's co-founder in their food tech startup, Try The World.

Christin Alvarez (née Moné) and **Giovanni Alvarez** welcomed their son, Benicio Moné Alvarez, into the world on November 9. He already technically attended Columbia's victorious Homecoming game last fall but he can't wait to see the next one with his own eyes.

David Greenhouse writes, "My wife, Emily, and I decided we're not too old for another adventure, so we said goodbye to London and moved to Berlin. I am enjoying living in an apartment after many years in Victorian cottages and learning many funny German words (best one so far: Reformhaus = health food store). Emily loves being able to walk to work. Wilbur (our 1-year-old) is scooting around our floor and enjoying laughing at everything. I've had a wonderful time being a full-time dad for the last few months, although I was looking forward to getting back to work in the spring when Wilbur starts Kita (nursery). Come and visit Berlin anytime!"

Sarah Smick shares exciting news: "I'm pleased to announce that I had a baby girl on January 22 — Annie Marlo Michaels, 6 pounds, 3 ounces, 21 inches. She's amazing! I'm also thrilled to share that I executive produced a feature film that premiered at SXSW in March. The film's called *Unlovable* and stars Oscar-winner Melissa Leo and Oscar-nominee John Hawkes."

Rowan Moore Gerety shares, "My first book, *Go Tell the Crocodiles: Chasing Prosperity in Mozambique*, was published in February. I live in Miami and am trying to remember to take advantage of living near the water while I can."

Julia Kite writes, "In February, my debut novel, *The Hope and Anchor*, was published. The book was made immensely better by the input of members of the Columbia Fiction Foundry, a shared interest group that meets the first Saturday of every month at the Columbia Alumni

Center. We're always looking for members, so if you're writing fiction in any genre for adults, get in touch!"

2008

Neda Navab
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Teriha Yaegashi is the development director at Art in General, a historic, nonprofit arts institution in DUMBO, Brooklyn, that functions as part-museum, part-arts incubator.

Liz Grefrath and her husband, Joshua Furst (who's on the School of the Arts faculty), welcomed their second son, Warren Olin Sessions, on December 27. Liz works at the ACLU in service of your civil rights, and is almost halfway through law school in the part-time J.D. program at Brooklyn Law School. She lives in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, with her family.

Jonathan Basile published his first book of literary criticism and philosophy, *Tar for Mortar: "The Library of Babel" and the Dream of Totality*.

Betsy Purves (née Remes) and her husband, Jon, are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Robert, on December 25. The whole family is happy and healthy in Washington, D.C. (despite living in a swamp, apparently). They look forward to introducing him to Columbia and New York City at reunion!

Kevin Crews LAW'08 has been named a 2018 Texas Rising Star by Super Lawyers. Texas Rising Stars is an annual list of exceptional lawyers in the state who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement, and who are either 40 or younger or have been practicing for 10 years or fewer. This distinction is given to only 2 percent of young attorneys in Texas.

John Gardner started EverFit, a personal training company that runs on Slack, in 2017. They are on a mission to make high-end fitness available to everyone. For \$95 a month, their on-demand, human coach guides you through a daily personalized nutrition, exercise and wellness program.

Neil Flanagan "is trying to shake up D.C.'s architecture scene through Turncoats DC, the first American chapter of an off-the-record debate club about urbanism and design. On top of practicing architecture, I

also revealed the story of Reno, an African-American town cleared in the 1920s to build one of Washington's most desirable neighborhoods; it was two years of research published as a cover article for D.C.'s alt-weekly, *Washington City Paper*."

2009

Alidad Damooei
damooei@gmail.com

What's the buzz, CC'09? The column is empty this issue, but I know that your summers are full of adventure and excitement — share that with your classmates! Shoot me an email at damooei@gmail.com and you'll be in a future issue. Can't wait to hear from you. Have a great summer!

2010

Julia Feldberg Klein
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Congratulations to **Abby Finkel** (née Oberman), who shares, "My husband, Bryan, and I welcomed our second son, Parker Isaac, on February 19. Parker joins big brother Asher, who is thrilled with his new role, in rooting for the Lions!"

Michael Tannenbaum married Jennifer Zeckendorf at the Union Club in New York City on April 14. Groomsmen included Joseph Charalé '11, **Jonathan Kaiser**, **Austin Lawrence** and **Landon Tucker**.

Gabriella Ripoll writes, "In fall 2016 I started working in the legal department of an amazing company, Delos, which specializes in wellness solutions for the built environment (circadian lighting, purification of air and water, policy recommendations for employers and communities, etc.). Last fall we moved to a beautiful, fully wellness-outfitted office in the Meatpacking District, where I see the sun set over the Hudson every day (also because I'm an attorney and I usually work past sunset). I joke that being an in-house attorney is a lot like being the 'mom' of the company, trying to wrangle wayward businessmen away from unnecessary risks. But it's fun work and I'm learning things all the time. Plus, my office is dog-friendly so I get to bring my dog, Lillipup, often (she is well loved by my coworkers).

"I live in Brooklyn and ran into **Kevin Jason** and his lovely fiancée, Megan, last fall at the Renaissance Faire in Fort Tryon Park, where we caught up for a bit while watching sword fighting before getting lost in the crowds again. I recently took a blacksmithing class with my boyfriend, Fil, and we each made a functional (and very sharp) knife from a chunk of steel (and got a couple of burns and blisters in the process).

From **Chris Yim**: "My wife, Grace, and I are setting off on a nine-month adventure. Our first stop is London, and we'll keep going east from there. My journey has led me to seek contentment, and my intention for our time traveling is to deepen our relationship. I'm sad to leave San Francisco and the community that I have here. I feel so lucky to have had this group of friends that have inspired and showered me with love over these past few years. I'm beginning to understand that making the most of my privilege means sharing my love in abundance.

"A few weeks ago, I went to New Orleans for **Varun Gulati**

SEAS'10's bachelor party. We rolled 16 people deep, danced our faces off on Bourbon Street and kayaked in the swamp with an anarchist activist as our kayaking guide. It was so beautiful to be in nature, having my heart chakra open up with brethren. We had quite a Columbia contingent with **Dario Abramskiehn**, **Jake Grumbach**, **Allon Brann**, **Raja Gupta '15**, **Narayan Subramanian SEAS'13**, **Todd Nelson '12**, **David Collier '09** and **Justin Leung '09**. We had Bhangra music and 'Despacito' bumping on speakers as we cruised through that town on a party bus. One observation that I made was just how magnetic energy is on the dance floor. It really gets people going!

"I loved getting to witness friends experience New Orleans for the first time. It's a special place, where the party floods out into the street, the live music blares and the people are dancing all over the place. It's amazing because you can roam from party to party and move without much friction. The culture is loud and vibrant, quite different from

San Francisco. The funniest event that happened was that Allon got stranded at Harrah's looking for a kosher hamburger. He refuses to get a smartphone, so he couldn't call an Uber. He got driven home by a soccer mom with a minivan.

"Life is good. I am content!"

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
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sean.udell@gmail.com

Howdy, 2011! We continue to be thrilled by your updates; thanks for keeping all of us in the loop about the exciting things going on in your lives.

Nuriel Moghavem recently finished his first year of residency (aka internship) at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. He'll officially start his neurology residency at Stanford in July. While he's working that casual intern schedule, he's managed to keep an incredible health policy blog going;

take a look at informedconsentca.com to read his healthcare musings. He's also probably doing a million other things, too, but he's trying to protect **Sean Udell** from developing a robust inferiority complex.

To be fair, Sean is doing some things! In addition to trudging through board exams and pretending to be a doctor, Sean is supplementing his third year of medical school by taking a meditation and mindfulness course with **Dhruv Vasishtha**. The course is based at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, but Dhruv managed to convince all of Wharton to sign up, too. As part of the course, Sean and Dhruv recently participated in a day-long silent retreat. They capped off their day of Zen with their partners on a double date at a Malaysian restaurant in South Philadelphia.

Some other classmates are also partaking in the pure joy of medical education. **Erin Adams** recently completed her first year of medical school at Howard University College of Medicine. She is spending

KNOW ANY GAME CHANGERS, TASTEMAKERS, WORLD SHAKERS?

**LION'S
PRIDE**

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HONOREES WILL BE FEATURED IN CCT'S WINTER 2018-19 ISSUE.

the summer in Peru on a medical mission trip (any suggestions on where to go or what to see would be highly appreciated by her!). On the other end of medical school, **Rajkaran Sachdej**, who hails from Guam, recently got that M.D. from the Oregon Health and Science University. He spent much of his tenure at OHSU promoting diversity and inclusion initiatives and inter-professional collaboration between the health graduate schools. This year, he was the university's student council president, is a recipient of the esteemed Dean's Award for contributions to the curriculum and delivered the Convocation address to the entire student body. He recently matched into a psychiatry residency at The George Washington University and looks forward to pursuing cultural psychiatry and global mental health. Mazel tov to both Erin and Raj! **Natalia Fontecilla** PS'18 also recently graduated with that M.D.,

Steve Martinez is also engaged! He and his fiancée will be married in 2019. (She's a Fordham grad, but, luckily, she loves Columbia, too.)

We're not totally sure how to transition to this next update, but **Michael Egley** is a Brazilian jiu-jitsu competitor training out of Team Carlson Gracie in Temecula, Calif. Michael has medaled at some of the biggest Brazilian jiu-jitsu tournaments in the world as an adult and wants to open his own marital arts school. Message or follow him on Instagram at @born2grapple.

Also in California, **Kurt Kanazawa** recently starred as Mits (a Japanese-Hawaiian boy) in Y York's WWII-dramedy *Nothing Is the Same* at the Sierra Madre Playhouse. The show, directed by Tim Dang (emeritus artistic director of East West Players), garnered a *Los Angeles Times*' Theatre Critic's Pick Top Four Shows! Kurt was especially grateful to have the Southern California branch

Tim Nesmith (wherever he may be ... most likely Vienna, maybe Cannes, but probably Mongolia).

Finally, **Opal Hoyt** is still kicking it in NYC. Really, she hasn't left because that costs money, so this would be a great time to start her a GoFundMe page.

2012

Sarah Chai
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Friends, this time we truly have updates from around the globe — New York City to Lahore, Amsterdam to Antarctica!

Charlie Lopresto is excited to announce he graduated from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in May and will return to New York City to pursue his residency training in internal medicine at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center. Throughout the last four years of medical school, Charlie pursued his passions for research and leadership, with the roots of these passions stemming from his time at Columbia. Charlie recently finished being the national research director on the Board of Directors for the Student Osteopathic Medical Association and was a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* for the last two years.

Additionally, he has become interested in medical policy and organized medical groups, from the local to the national level. Having gained experience in lobbying for physicians' and patients' rights at the state and local level, he plans to continue his involvement in the Medical State Society of New York and the New York State Osteopathic Medical Society; he would love to see fellow Columbia alumni who are completing their residencies in New York State join him in these organizations. He moved back to Queens in June and looks forward to reconnecting with the Columbia College alumni community in and around New York City.

Gillian Rhodes sent an update from Pakistan: "After two and half years dancing for Second Nature Dance Company in Seoul, South Korea, I'm now based in Lahore, Pakistan, for five months, performing and teaching. I recently performed with some of the top classical and

contemporary artists in Pakistan, and I look forward to many more performances and workshops."

Pat Blute is advising EY Global Digital in New York. He was instrumental in putting together Ernst & Young's "Innovation Realized" conference in April. The two-day conference, held in Amsterdam, brought together a group of corporate executives, start-up CEOs and market influencers to engage in small group discussions, peer collaboration and workshop challenges.

James Rathmell and **Chuck Roberts** roared in 2018 with their first Antarctic landing on New Year's Day. The two visited the continent as part of a trip organized by students at Stanford, where James and Chuck are pursuing graduate studies.

2013

Tala Akhavan
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I hope everyone had an absolutely amazing time at Reunion 2018 and that you all loved being back on campus after five years! Who did you see, what did you do, do you have any fun stories? Share your reunion recaps in Class Notes by emailing me at talaakhavan@gmail.com. Can't wait to hear from you!

2014

Rebecca Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

Happy summer, CC'14! We heard from **Chris Zombik**, who recently completed his third year at an education consulting firm in Shanghai. He gets to work closely with bright and ambitious Chinese high schoolers who are preparing to attend elite American colleges. Outside of work, Chris has been busy studying Mandarin, participating in the Shanghai Writing Workshop, helping his fellow American expats register to vote through Democrats Abroad and taking in all the diverse flavors and excitements of life in China's most dynamic city.

Hunter Coleman recently made headlines for a life-saving turn in Shreveport, La. While driving home from dinner on March 12, Hunter witnessed a tragic car accident.

Erin Adams '11 completed her first year at the Howard University College of Medicine and is spending the summer in Peru on a medical mission trip.

and this is extra-special news because hers is from alma mater! This summer, Natalia is moving from P&S to Johns Hopkins to pursue a residency in dermatology.

Well done, Natalia!

If that wasn't enough, she's engaged to her physics lab partner, Michael Biles GS'11, PS'16. Pupun Hall isn't exactly known for its romantic charm, but we're glad your electrons came into orbit in the same place where the atomic bomb was conceived. Michael and Natalia will be married in Annapolis, Md., this fall.

of the Columbia Alumni Association plan an event to see the show. For our Midwestern readers, *Nothing Is the Same* will travel to Chicago for a week at the Victory Gardens Theater in August — go see it!

The play had a deep personal significance for Kurt's family, as his late grandmother, Shimeji Kanazawa, was known as "The Florence Nightingale of Hawaii," appointed to committees by Presidents Reagan, Carter and Clinton, as well as honored by the governor of Hawaii and the city of Honolulu with "Shimeji Kanazawa Day" for her efforts during the war as chief liaison between the Japanese civilians and the Martial Law Government, working for the Swedish Consulate.

Kurt also requested a shoutout to **Diana Greenwald**, who's getting married — again — this time in France (same guy, different country). Kurt will share a single twin-sized hostel bed with **Lucas Shaw**, **Kyle Boots** and **Jan Van Zoelen** and then parkour himself into a classic Claremont bunkbed on top of

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Radhe Patel '15, Katie Garcia '15, Emma Yee '15 and Rachel Ngu '15 met up in Cambridge, Mass., on January 15.

Motorists had pulled over and were getting out of their cars in the dusk to view the scene, which was adjacent to a large body of water known as the “Duck Pond.” Heavy rains of recent weeks had swollen the pond, and a four-door sedan had descended a steep slope and plummeted into the waterway. The car was sinking fast. Onlookers were screaming that there were three small children trapped inside the car, now almost underwater. Hunter threw off his jacket, sprinted across the street, ran down the bank and dove into the pond.

Along with four other good Samaritans, he swam 30 yards to the car, where he was able to help rescue the older female passenger, Kathy Brown, who was nearly unconscious. While choking on the freezing water, Hunter managed to swim with Brown back to shore and save her life. Before law enforcement could arrive, Hunter and the other rescuers were also able to save all the children (Brown’s grandchildren, it turned out). Unfortunately, they were not able to save the driver, the mother of the three children rescued from the car and Brown’s daughter.

On March 21, the five commissioners of the Louisiana Public Service Commission unanimously passed Resolution No. 2018-1, a “Resolution Commending the Heroic Actions of Hunter Coleman.” On March 27, the Shreveport Fire Department and Shreveport Mayor Ollie Tyler presented Hunter to the City Council and awarded him the Citizen Life Saving Award.

2015

Kareem Carryl
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Hello, Class of 2015! It’s hard to believe it’s already summer. I don’t know if it is just me, but it feels like this year is flying. Let’s jump right into the news!

Rachel Ngu writes, “In January, **Emma Yee SEAS’15**, **Katie Garcia** and I rallied together to celebrate the birthday of our dear friend **Radhe Patel SEAS’15**. Radhe, among many other things, helped start Women of Color for Progress, a nonprofit that empowers women of color to flourish, represent and lead well. It recently celebrated its one-year anniversary, where it recognized #WomenInAction who have often advocated for those with less access. So proud and inspired by her tireless efforts to bring about a fairer and more just society!”

Jocelyn Bohn got married on May 26! We wish her the best of luck and look forward to many photos!

As always, your classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
llyukrason@gmail.com

What’s up, CC’16? No news this time, so let’s make our Fall column overflow! Tell me about your summer adventures — what did you do, who did you see, where did you go? Send news to llyukrason@gmail.com! And don’t forget that CCT loves photos, so if you have a photo that includes at least two College alumni, send it in for inclusion (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Bianca Guerrero is finishing the Urban Fellows program. She says, “It has been so great — I recently

worked on the mayor’s expansion of Healing NYC, the initiative to reduce opioid deaths by 35 percent in five years, and I am learning more and more about homelessness in our city. I am figuring out if I’ll be able to continue in City Hall or somewhere else. A big question for me is if I want to continue exploring social issues or dive into housing, the issue I’m most passionate about.

“I recently restarted a tenants’ association in my building in Washington Heights. My father started one years ago that fell apart due to lack of interest, but with growing concerns about the conditions of the building and displacement I decided to restart it. Residents of 27 of 44 total apartments apartment attended, which is a great start. My goal is to get the landlord to address mold, leaky roofs and vermin in each apartment.

“I really miss how college semesters and breaks marked time, so to make up for it, I made marks of my own! I am traveling to Hawaii with fellow Truman Scholars in May and to Wyoming to go to Yellowstone in July — two places that will help me to reach my ‘30 new places before 30’ goal.”

Colin Howard TC’17 graduated in May with a master’s in mathematics education and the New York State Initial Certification to teach math.

Adam Lieber saw *Black Panther* and enjoyed it.

Julian Nebreda lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil. He works for Gullane Entretenimento, a film production team.

Jeremy Cooper recently got engaged to his college sweetheart, Ellin Mitchell BC’19. He recounts, “I proposed at the end of a walk of memories, which included the John Jay patio tables, a cappella in the Broadway room, and a trip to the Pupin Observatory, the Met rooftop and Kimpton Hotel Ink48 (a hotel I appraised a few months ago). We will marry in Israel in January 2019.”

Mikaela Bernstein got married on March 18 to Benjamin Apfel ’18.

Whitney-Shannon Alam is a college adviser at an NYC public high school and starting a master’s of social work at the NYU Silver School of Social Work in the fall.

Noah Rivkin is the mayor’s aide in Newton, Mass.

Emmalina Glinskis went to Antarctica for two months for research on climate change. She

documented her journey in her blog on the Columbia Earth Institute website: bit.ly/2vpmofn.

2018

Alexander Birkel and **Maleeha Chida**
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CCT welcomes the newest class correspondents, **Alexander Birkel** and **Maleeha Chida**! Below, they introduce themselves. Please take a moment to send them your news for future issues.

“Hi everyone! My name is **Alexander Birkel**. Some of you might know me as the guy who always posted in the Facebook group as a prospie, some of you might recognize me by my eccentric blue puffer jacket and some of you might have never heard of me at all. But starting today, I am one of two of your CCT class correspondents, so just when you start to forget about me, I’ll be reaching out to you as a class to hear more about what you all are doing in your lives post-graduation!

“Bidding adieu to East Campus does not mean leaving the campus community forever, and that’s why I, as well, as the rest of your classmates, would love to hear everything that’s going on in the weeks, months and years after we throw our caps in the air. Feel free to send in all of your latest life stories to ab4065@columbia.edu and I’d be more than happy to share it with the rest of the class. Roar, Lion, Roar!”

“Congratulations, Class of 2018! My name is **Maleeha Chida**. Some of you might remember me as the person who always posted in the Class of 2018 Facebook group about student-alumni events. Well, now that we’re actually alumni, you’ll still be hearing from me! I will be one of two CC’18 class correspondents for CCT. I’ll be reaching out to hear about all of your updates since graduation — work plans, travel experiences, grad school and so on.

“Feel free to drop me a line at mnc2122@columbia.edu with all of your exciting adventures! I will share them through the Class Notes section of the magazine so that we can stay connected even when we’re not on Morningside Heights. I can’t wait to hear from all of you!”

obituaries

1939

David W. Mason, retired teacher and camp owner, Fryeburg, Maine, on September 15, 2017. Born in New York City in 1917, Mason captained the tennis team at the College. He earned an M.A. from Teachers College and taught at the Punahou School in Hawaii, the Riverdale Country School in the Bronx, and the Fairfield and Greenwich Country Day Schools in Connecticut. Mason served in the American Field Service as an ambu-



David W. Mason '39

lance driver attached to the British Eighth Army in North Africa during WWII. He was owner/director of Camp Agawam in Raymond, Maine, and along with his wife, Peg, ran the camp for 30 years. He started the Main Idea program at Agawam in 1971, which gives more than 100 boys a free week of camping activities each summer. Mason received The 2005 Halsey Gulick Award from the Maine Youth Camping Association. He and his wife also owned and operated Agawam Kezar Ski Camp for 40 years in Center Lovell, Maine. The Frye-

burg Academy Alumni Association honored Mason as outstanding non-alumnus in 2013. He was also selected for the 2017 Fryeburg Academy Hall of Excellence for being a strong supporter of many academy sporting events. Mason is survived by his wife; two sons; one daughter; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

1941

Erwin V. Alpert, retired store manager, New Haven, Conn., on January 28,

Steven P. Marcus '48, GSAS'61, Victorian-Era Scholar, Former Columbia College Dean

Steven P. Marcus '48, GSAS'61, the George Delacorte Professor Emeritus in the Humanities at the College, died in New York City on April 25, 2018, at 89. He transformed literary criticism — changing it to look at history and society — by revealing a subculture of Victorian pornography and psychoanalyzing characters in Charles Dickens' novels, and was dean of the College from 1993 to 1995.

The son of the former Adeline Gordon and Nathan Marcus, Marcus was born in New York City on December 13, 1928, and grew up in the Bronx. He attended William Howard Taft and DeWitt Clinton High Schools, graduated at 15 and won tuition-free scholarships to Harvard and Columbia. He rejected Harvard because his family could not afford the room and board. To save money while he attended Columbia, he lived at home and packed lunch.

At the College, where he majored in English literature, Marcus studied under Lionel Trilling '25, GSAS'38. He wrote a master's thesis on Henry James under the guidance of Professor Frederick W. Dupee, the eminent modernist scholar.

After brief stints teaching at Indiana University and City College of New York, Marcus won a fellowship to Cambridge University, where he conducted research on a Fulbright fellowship and published

his first literary criticism, in *The Partisan Review and Commentary*. He began teaching at Columbia in 1956. After two years in the Army, mostly in Greenland, Marcus returned to Columbia to complete his 1,105-page dissertation on Dickens, which became the basis for his 1965 book, *Dickens: from Pickwick to Dombey*. He became an associate professor in 1963, a full professor of English in 1967 and the George Delacorte Professor in the Humanities in 1976. He twice was chairman of the Department of English and Comparative Literature and was also a principal investigator in the Columbia Project on Conflicts in Values and Health Care.

In 1993, Marcus was named dean of Columbia College and VP for arts and sciences by President George Rupp. As dean, Marcus was a staunch supporter of the Core Curriculum as the basis for a comprehensive education. But the dual role of dean and VP proved unwieldy. After less than two years, he resigned to return to teaching.

A specialist in 19th-century literature and culture, some of Marcus' 200 authored works are *The Other Victorians: A Study of Sexuality and Pornography in Mid-Nineteenth-Century England* (1966); *Engels, Manchester and the Working Class* (1974); *Doing Good: The Limits of Benevolence* (1978); and *Representations: Essays*

on Literature and Society (1991). He was also co-editor, with Trilling, of an abridged version of Ernest Jones' three-volume biography, *The Life and Work of Sigmund Freud* (1961). "That partnership," wrote *The New York Times* in its obituary, "spurred Professor Marcus to apply a psychological prism to much of his own literary criticism." For example, in *The Other Victorians*, Marcus likened pornographic fiction to utopian fantasy — "a world of grace abounding to the chief of sinners." He called it "pornotopia." Marcus' *Freud and the Culture of Psychoanalysis: Studies in the Transition from Victorian Humanism to Modernity* (1984) challenged critics who claimed that Freud had concocted his seduction theory.

Marcus was a founder of the National Humanities Center, an independent institute operating from North Carolina since 1978 to advance studies in the field. He also was its director of planning and chairman of the executive committee of the Board of Trustees.

In 1997, the College bestowed on Marcus the Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching. He retired in 2004 as George Delacorte Professor Emeritus in the Humanities. A fellow of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Academy of Literary Studies, Marcus received Fulbright, American Council of Learned Societies, Guggenheim,



GUENTER KNOP

Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Rockefeller and Mellon grants.

A political liberal who was opposed to the Vietnam War, he was drawn into the so-called culture wars of the 1990s and criticized exponents of political correctness as "soft totalitarians." While expressing sympathy for the long-term goals of those advocating social change, he chastised them for what he called Orwellian humorlessness and euphemisms that threatened "the decay of language."

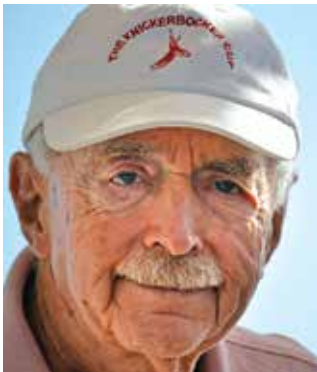
Marcus' first marriage ended in divorce. He married Gertrud Lenzer, a German sociologist, in 1966. She survives him, as does their son, violinist John Nathaniel Marcus, and a grandson.

— Lisa Palladino

2018. Born in New Haven, Alpert graduated from Cheshire Academy. After the College he served in the Army as part of the Yale Medical Corps based in Saipan and New Zealand. Upon returning to New Haven he lived the remainder of his life happily married to Florence Sterling Alpert and with his sons, Richard and Daniel. He was the retired manager at Sterling & Sussman Department Store. Alpert was predeceased by his son Richard and his son-in-law Eduardo Sese. He is survived by his wife, son Daniel and son-in-law Rabbi Eric Weiss.

1944

Richard J. Farber, research engineer, Floral Park, N.Y., on May 2, 2017. Farber was born in the Bronx on May 28, 1923, and graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. before going on to the College, where he was Phi Beta Kappa as well as a member of crew and the Army Signal Corps. He earned an M.Phil in 1981. Farber taught radar techniques at MIT before joining Hazeltine Research as a research engineer and rising to associ-



Richard J. Farber '44

ate director of research. At Hazeltine, he developed and was awarded patents for advances in both the color and cable television industries. Farber was part owner and VP of Key Color Laboratories, a color photo film developing lab for commercial and professional photographers in Mineola, N.Y. He also was a leading member of Temple Emanuel (Tikvah) of New Hyde Park, N.Y., from the late 1950s on. Farber was a lifelong ham radio operator — call sign W2KXB — and an avid fisherman, tennis player, runner and sailor well into his 80s. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Elaine; children, Martin '71 and his

wife, Susan, Andrew '75, BUS'81 and his wife, Rabbi Joan, and Sheryl Magaziner and her husband, Robert; seven grandchildren, including Aaron '05; and four great-grandchildren.

1945

Julian B. Hyman, retired physician, Hackensack, N.J., on October 13, 2017. Born in 1925 in New York City, Hyman earned an M.D. from Albany Medical College. He served in the Korean War as a medical officer in the Navy. He then returned to NYC and began a long career practicing hematology and oncology, sharing an office with his brother, George. During his career, Hyman was chair of the Departments of Medicine at the New York Polyclinic Hospital and Saint Clare's Hospital, before joining the staff



Dr. Julian B. Hyman '45

at Roosevelt Hospital. He was an avid art collector, world traveler and photographer. Hyman joined The Print Club of New York at its inception and was its president for seven years. He will be remembered by his family and friends for his optimism, generosity, humor and inclusion of people of all races and cultures. Hyman is survived by his children, Steven, Mona Rubin and Harvey, and their spouses, Barbara, Michael and Lael; and seven grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Columbia University or to the New-York Historical Society, where Hyman's photographs of New York are a part of its permanent research library.

1946

James W. Gell, ob/gyn, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., on February 2, 2018. Gell was born on April 1, 1927, and raised on Long Island. He attended

Townsend Harris H.S., and graduated from the College at 18 and the University of Michigan Medical School at 22. During WWII, Gell volunteered for the Navy, and returned to active duty as a medical officer during the Korean War, 1950–52, including a year at sea as the ship physician. Gell practiced in the Detroit area for more than 30 years, later serving on the faculty of Wayne State University Medical School. For more than two decades, he cared for uninsured women as a volunteer physician at Volunteers in Medicine on Hilton Head Island, S.C., and at Mercy Place Clinic in Pontiac, Mich. He will be remembered for his great sense of humor and as an avid University of Michigan Wolverine fan, skillful piano player, fierce card and game player, and opera lover. Above all, he will be remembered as a kind and generous man. He is survived by his wife, Sallie; four children; and five grandchildren.

1949

Neil C. Sandberg, community relations professional and professor, Los Angeles, on March 10, 2018. During WWII, Sandberg was transferred by the Navy from duty in the North Pacific to undertake studies at Columbia. He graduated after the war and retained fond memories of his University experiences, including campus life, interactions with faculty and service as the Navy's student representative. The latter involved meetings with Columbia's then-president, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Sandberg was the Western Region Director for the American Jewish Committee for three decades and was the founding director of AJC's Asia Pacific Institute in 1989. He was the longest-serving director of the Martin Gang Institute for Intergroup Relations, a shared venture of AJC Los Angeles and Loyola Marymount University. He served from 1968 to 2008, and was honored by the institute in 2013 for leadership in promoting mutual understanding between religious and ethnic communities. Sandberg also was an adjunct professor in sociology at LMU. He is survived by his wife, Mary; son, Curtis, and his wife, Silvia; and a grandson.

1951

Bruno J. Giletti, retired professor, Oakland, Calif., on January 29, 2018.

Born on December 6, 1929, to Rita Baltera Giletti and John Giletti in New York City, he attended Stuyvesant H.S. and obtained his bachelor's, master's and doctorate from Columbia (SEAS'52, GSAS'54, GSAS'57), maintaining school friendships through the years. Giletti was a professor of geological sciences at Brown from 1960 to 1996. A frequent contributor to major scientific journals in the field of geochemistry, his scientific curiosity led him to Oxford and Paris in his early years. Part of his research was in using radioactive isotopes to measure the ages of rocks in the Rocky Mountains, New England and Scotland. Giletti was known for his amiability, vocabulary, cooking and all-around good sense of humor. He enjoyed playing bridge, reading mystery novels and traveling, especially in Italy and France. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Janet Orvis Chapple; daughters Ann and Laura Giletti, from his first marriage, to Dody Hannah; stepdaughters, Nancy, Beth and Karen Chapple; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.

1954

John A. Dauer Jr., leather salesman and antiques dealer, Wilkesboro, N.C., on August 13, 2017. Born on Staten Island, N.Y., after the College, Dauer joined his father as second-generation owner of the John A. Dauer Leather Co., which has supplied the material needs of manufacturers, craftsmen and artists throughout the country for more than 70 years. Dauer continued working in his North Carolina warehouse three weeks prior to his passing, and often referred to himself as "The World's Oldest Sheepskin Salesman." He also directed the restoration and preservation of numerous historic houses, including houses in the Massachusetts cities of Heath, Plainfield, Hatfield and Florence, and was a dealer and collector of antiques. His vast and varied collections reflect his deep appreciation of American folk artisanship and craft. Dauer appreciated planting gardens (by their Latin names), well-prepared meals, creative banter, good humor, bad puns and steadfast friends. He was predeceased by his

former wife, Rosamond Dauer, and is survived by his sons Matthew and Christian; daughters-in-law, Kristen and Catherine; and three grandsons. Memorial contributions may be made to The National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2600 Virginia Ave. N.W., Ste 1100, Washington, DC 20037; savingplaces.org.

Herbert H. Frommer, dentist and professor emeritus, New York City and Westhampton, N.Y., on February 1, 2018. Born in 1933 in Manhattan to Benjamin and Ethel Frommer, and raised in Queens, Frommer graduated from Far Rockaway H.S.; the College, where he rowed for the varsity crew; and the Dental School (1957). An accomplished practitioner for 40 years, for many decades he taught at the NYU College of Dentistry. He received the Arnold & Marie Schwartz Outstanding Teacher Award and

the NYU Distinguished Teaching Award at Founders Day in 1996. A man of honesty, integrity and a spirit of loving kindness, his sunny disposition and cheerful sense of humor will be missed by all. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Eleanor Goldman Frommer; children, Ross and Daniel; three grandchildren; brothers Paul and Alan; sisters-in-law Judith Goldman Frommer, Elizabeth Appell Frommer and Jean Goldman; and daughters-in-law, Connie Dong and Jacqueline Frommer. Memorial contributions may be made to the NYU College of Dentistry, the Park Avenue Synagogue or the Parkinson's Foundation.

Herbert G. Hagerty, retired Foreign Service officer, Washington, D.C., on December 7, 2017. Born in 1932, Hagerty grew up in East Orange, N.J. He earned a B.A. in history and government from the College and an

M.A. in South Asia regional studies in 1956 from Penn. He was also a "Distinguished Graduate" of the National War College in 1976. Hagerty was a Navy briefing officer 1957–61 and an intelligence analyst 1961–65. He retired from the Navy Reserve in 1971 as a lieutenant commander. Hagerty joined the Foreign Service in 1965 and served as a political officer in India, Norway, London and Pakistan. For courageous performance of his duties the day of a 1979 embassy attack in Pakistan, he earned a Group Award for Valor. In 1981, he earned a Superior Honor Award for "sustained high performance" during the period following the attack. In his last overseas assignment, Hagerty was the deputy chief of mission in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He retired in 1990 with the rank of minister-counselor in the Senior Foreign Service. He later taught professional writing at the Foreign Service Institute and consulted

with government agencies. Hagerty was predeceased by his wife, Ann, and brother Dennis. He is survived by his brother Richard; sons from a previous marriage, Sean and Devin; stepdaughters, Jill Satin, Katy Satin and Marta Satin-Smith; a granddaughter; a niece; a nephew; and all their families.

Eric Salzman, composer and former music critic, Brooklyn, N.Y., and East Quogue, N.Y., on November 12, 2017. Salzman earned a B.A. in music and, in 1956, an M.F.A., from Princeton. He then studied for two years on a Fulbright grant in Rome. In 1966, he received a Ford Foundation grant for music critics and spent a year covering the major music festivals in Europe. His works were performed widely in Europe by leading musicians. From 1966 to 1968 Salzman taught at Queens College. He authored books on 20th-century music and on the new music theater;

Lawrence K. Grossman '52, Head of PBS and NBC News

Lawrence K. Grossman '52, the president of PBS responsible for turning *The MacNeil/Lehrer Report* into the first hour-long nightly newscast on any network — and perhaps best known for standing up to outside pressure not to air *Death of a Princess*, a film based on a true story about a Saudi princess who had been publicly beheaded for adultery — and former president of NBC News, died on March 23, 2018, in Westport, Conn. He was 86.

Grossman was born Lawrence Kugelmass on June 21, 1931, in Brooklyn, N.Y. After his father died, he was adopted by his mother's second husband, Nathan Grossman. He attended Midwood H.S., where a journalism teacher opened his mind to the world of communications. At the College, he studied English and political science, then went on to Harvard Law, where he met his future wife, Alberta "Boots" Nevler, who was attending Radcliffe.

Grossman left Harvard after a year and joined *Look* magazine in the promotions department. He joined the advertising department at CBS in 1956, then moved to NBC in 1962, becoming the network's VP

of advertising. There, he met Grant Tinker, who was then in programming (nearly two decades later, their friendship led Tinker to consider only Grossman for the presidency of NBC News). Grossman ran his own advertising, marketing and communications firm from 1966 to 1976.

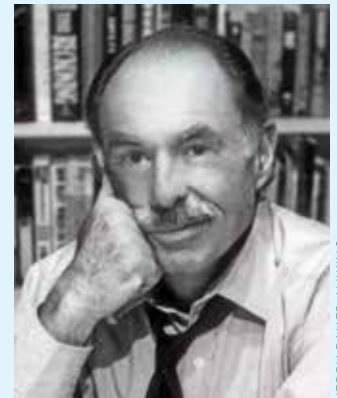
PBS, one of his firm's clients, hired him as its president in 1976, and he moved to Washington, D.C. Grossman transformed PBS over eight years — the network became the first to deliver its programming by satellite; he introduced the programs *Live From Lincoln Center* and concerts from the White House and the Kennedy Center, and approved production of a 13-part series on the Vietnam War; and in 1983, doubled the length of the network's signature news program, *The MacNeil/Lehrer Report* (now *PBS NewsHour*).

In 1980, Grossman refused to bow to pressure that PBS not air *Death of a Princess*. Mobil Oil, a major PBS underwriter, was among the movie's protesters. Some members of Congress spoke out. And Warren M. Christopher, the Secretary of State, relayed a letter of concern from the Saudi Ambassador to the United

States. Grossman's stance "was the single most important thing he did at PBS," Richard Wald '52, GSAS'53, now the Fred W. Friendly Professor Emeritus of Professional Practice in Media and Society and special lecturer in journalism at the Journalism School and a former NBC News president, told *The New York Times*. "He created a sense in PBS that they were doing important work, and it caused PBS to stand up straighter. It was enormously important to how PBS conducted itself thereafter."

Grossman was hired by NBC in late 1983, and after General Electric's acquisition of RCA, NBC's parent company, in 1986, he fell out of favor with his new bosses. He was dismissed in 1988.

After leaving NBC, Grossman taught at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and in 1993 became president of Horizons TV, a onetime challenger to PBS and C-SPAN. He wrote *The Electronic Republic: Reshaping Democracy in the Information Age* (1995), about how interactive telecommunications of that era — faxed petitions, email lobbying and 900-number polls — were providing citizens



JERRY BAUER / VIKING

with more direct participation in politics and making them the "new fourth estate." In the late 1990s, he and former PBS chairman Newton Minow launched Digital Promise, a nonprofit that receives federal and private funding to use digital technologies to improve education.

Grossman is survived by his wife; daughters, Susan Grossman NU'78, Caroline Grossman and Jennifer Grossman Peltz; brother, Daniel; six grandchildren, including Sarah Grossman-Greene '08; and two great-grandchildren.

— Lisa Palladino

co-founded the American Music Theater Festival in Philadelphia, the Free Music Store in NYC and a music theater group, Quog, that developed techniques in expanded musical and dramatic modes of expression; and co-composed several music theater works. He was composer-in-residence at the Center for Contemporary Opera. He and his wife, Lorna, traveled to more than 20 countries to see birds. Salzman served on the board of the South Fork Natural History Museum & Nature Center in Bridgehampton, N.Y., conducting bird walks for them, for the Brooklyn Bird Club and for The Linnaean Society. Memorial contributions may be made to Quog. Salzman is survived by his wife; daughters, Stephanie Salzman (Carbonnier) and Eva Salzman; and a granddaughter.

1956

Carl W. Norden, retired physician, Philadelphia, on August 26, 2017. Norden graduated cum laude from



Dr. Carl W. Norden '56

Harvard Medical School in 1960. He was head of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, N.J., 1994–2000. During his career, Norden served in the U.S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control; was chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh; and was a member of the faculty at Rochester University School of Medicine. He authored or co-authored close to 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Norden was a caring physician, superb clinician, researcher and mentor, and trained many medical students, housestaff and fellows in internal medicine and infectious diseases. He also conducted pioneering

studies in osteomyelitis. His textbook, *Infections in Bones and Joints* (1994), co-authored with William J. Gillespie and Sydney Nade, is the first comprehensive reference on all aspects of bone and joint infections. Norden is survived by his wife, Joyce Galpern Norden; sons, Daniel and Samuel; stepchildren, Steve, Pam, and Emily Galpern; and seven grandchildren.

1957

Walter Braun, retired scientist, Germantown, Md., on April 3, 2018. Braun was born in the Bronx and raised in New Hyde Park, N.Y., graduating from Mineola H.S. in 1953. After graduating from the College, he went on to Brooklyn Poly Tech (now NYU) and earned a Ph.D. in chemistry. He worked for many years at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Washington, D.C., with distinction and honors; he received a gold medal from the Department of Commerce for distinguished achievement in the federal service with the citation, "For outstanding contributions to modern gas kinetics through the development of flash photolysis resonance fluorescence and studies on laser augmented reactions." Among the many activities Braun enjoyed, his favorites were traveling, playing tennis and tinkering with his computer. He leaves behind many family and friends in the United States, Germany and Brazil.

Richard D. Gooder, professor, Cambridge, U.K., on October 30, 2017. After the College, Gooder went to Clare College, Cambridge, on a Kellett Fellowship, earning a second B.A. in 1959. He stayed on to earn a Ph.D. and become a fellow of Clare College. Gooder's professional life was largely spent at Cambridge University as a member of the English faculty. He was a founding editor of the literary journal *The Cambridge Quarterly*. Gooder married in 1960 and is survived by his wife; three children; and eight grandchildren.

1959

Bruce M. Stave, professor emeritus, Coventry, Conn., on December 2, 2017. Stave was born on May 17, 1937, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He earned an M.A. in 1961 from GSAS and

a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh as a Mellon fellow. He spent the majority of his career at the University of Connecticut, starting in 1970 after being a Fulbright professor in India. At UConn, he chaired the history department and led the oral history program. Stave was one of the first faculty-designated Board of Trustees Distinguished Professors. His publications included 11 authored or edited books. In addition to his Fulbright in India, he was a Fulbright in Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines in 1977, and at Peking University 1984–85. In Coventry, Conn., he chaired the Democratic Town Committee. With his wife, Sondra Astor Stave, he founded the Northeastern chapter of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union. Stave is survived by his wife of 60 years; son, Channing '92, and his wife, Sara; two grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, Howard and Renee Stave; and Sara's parents, John and Suzanne Schloss. Memorial contributions may be made to the UConn Foundation for the Stave Prize in Recent American History.

1962

Robert A. Kohn, retired diplomat, Washington, D.C., on December 8, 2017. Kohn was born and raised in New York City and earned a master's from The George Washington University. Before retiring, Kohn was one of the most senior Officers of the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, with more than 42 years of Foreign Service experience with the Department of Commerce, Department of State, White House Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the United Nations. Assignments included Minister for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in France and Germany; Commercial Counselor in The Netherlands, Spain and Greece; Commercial Attaché in Peru and in Mexico; and Diplomat-in-Residence and U.S. Department of Commerce Chairman at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, in Washington, D.C. Kohn was concurrently an adjunct professor of international business at Georgetown. He also served as Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere in the Executive Office of the President, was a U.S. delegate to the United Nations, served on the

U.S. Delegation to the Organization of American States and lectured extensively on trade liberalization throughout Latin America. Assignments with the State Department included Officer-in-Charge of Congressional Affairs; Officer-in-Charge of Refugee and Migration Affairs; and Political Officer in Australia, Brazil, and Peru. He leaves his wife of 50 years, Rose; sons, Robert and Aaron; and four grandchildren.

1964

Michael L. Barnett, retired dental research consultant and retired periodontist, Princeton, N.J., on November 22, 2017. Barnett was born on October 27, 1943, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and graduated from the Dental School in 1967. He did post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Washington and Harvard. Barnett served as a captain in the Army during the Vietnam War. He was an assistant and/or associate professor at the New Jersey Dental School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, SUNY Buffalo, and the University of Louisville, School of Dentistry. Barnett chaired the Department of Dentistry at the Morristown Medical Center, where he directed the dental residency program and developed a hospital-based program for the treatment of developmentally disabled children and adults. He retired from Pfizer Consumer Healthcare as the senior director of dental affairs and oral technology development and main-

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.

tained a consulting practice. Barnett received numerous grants and frequently spoke and published research in the dental field, and was involved in numerous professional and cultural organizations. A lifelong French horn player, he was a music lover, supporter of the arts and a world traveler known for his dry sense of humor and incredible smile. He is survived by many cousins. Memorial contributions may be made to the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra or the Princeton HealthCare System Foundation.

1965

William L. Weinstock, retired attorney, Brooklyn, N.Y., on June 12, 2017. Weinstock graduated from NYU Law School in 1968. He spent most of his career as an attorney with the New York State Insurance Fund, rising to the position of managing attorney in 1995. He retired in 2001. After leaving the fund he represented insurance companies and self-insured employers as defense counsel in workers' compensation proceedings and was happy to make his extensive knowledge available to former colleagues.

1971

Elliott S. Frank, retired computer scientist, Las Vegas, on October 14, 2017. At Columbia, Frank arranged remote engineering setups for WKCR during the Vietnam War protests. He later implemented some of the earliest back-office database management systems for most of the major banks in New York City before heading out to Silicon Valley, where he worked for Amdahl Corp. and several dot.com firms.

1972

Jonathan M. Gutman, endodontist, Tucson, Ariz., on January 12, 2018. A longtime resident of Mamaroneck, N.Y., and a graduate of Boston University's School of Dentistry and the Boston University Specialty Training Program in endodontics under Herbert Schilder, Gutman served patients in New Rochelle, N.Y., and Tucson. He was deeply dedicated to his family, and took great joy in all of their accomplishments. He is

survived by his wife, Renee; children, Benjamin, and Rachel R. Light; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Congregation Chofetz Chayim in Tucson.

1987

Gary L. Rempe II, entrepreneur, Albuquerque, N.M., on September 24, 2017. Rempe was born in North Platte, Neb., on July 22, 1964, and grew up in northern New York. He graduated from the College with a degree in history. As a student, he played varsity football, studied guitar and initiated a lifelong passion for kayaking by joining the Columbia Kayak Club. Following college, Rempe wrote an award-winning health and fitness book, and cover stories for *Good Housekeeping*, *McCall's* and *Shape* magazines; started a rock band; and founded several companies, including Zummit Labs, a software company using artificial intelligence to improve the mobile commerce experience. More recently, he and his wife, Susan Beamis Rempe '87, co-founded Memzyme, a company focused on clean energy. Rempe will be remembered for his quick wit, sense of humor and big laugh; business and community leadership; intelligence; loyalty to family and friends; love of history and music; and passion for outdoor adventures and all manner of games. He is survived by his wife, Susan; children, Caroline, Gary and his wife, Molly, Greg '16 and Clara; mother; and three siblings.

1993

Rachel M. Mintz, photographer and artist, New York City, on January 10, 2018. Born in Washington, D.C., Mintz was educated at the College and NYU's Stern School of Business. A talented photographer and artist, she combined her Jewish heritage with a love for the creative arts. In addition, she was a gifted writer, adventurous traveler and an avid sports fan. Mintz's boundless passion and enthusiasm for life perfectly exemplified the biblical verse "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." She is survived by her parents, Harriet and Benjamin; brothers, Adam and his wife, Sharon, and Jared; and nieces and nephews.

— 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.

- 1944 **George L. DeCoster**, Key West, Fla., on March 5, 2018.
- 1948 **Henry L. King**, retired attorney, University Trustees chair emeritus, New York City, on June 18, 2018.
Joseph A. Montimurro, retired ob/gyn, Venice, Fla., on April 11, 2018.
Seth Rubenstein, attorney, Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 16, 2018.
Murray Strober, retired internist and cardiologist, Passaic, N.J., on March 17, 2018.
- 1950 **Gregory P. Williams**, Chesterfield, Va., on February 5, 2018.
- 1951 **Stanley G.Y. Lee**, retired military servicemember, Lakewood, Wash., on October 9, 2016.
- 1952 **Donald N. Scofield**, retired Baptist minister, Penney Farms, Fla., on April 18, 2018.
- 1955 **Robert E. Sparrow**, retired attorney, Hollis Hills, N.Y., on June 9, 2018.
- 1956 **Peter M. Mayer**, publisher, New York City, on May 11, 2018.
Walter F. McKeon Jr., Hicksville, N.Y., on December 25, 2016.
- 1957 **Charles A. Straniero**, retired ob/gyn, Mendham, N.J., on October 27, 2017.
- 1958 **E. Michael Pakenham**, editor and wine columnist, Wellsville, Pa., on May 9, 2018.
- 1959 **Robert S. Stone**, attorney, Mount Kisco, N.Y., on April 30, 2018.
- 1961 **William N. Binderman**, attorney, Philadelphia, on February 15, 2018.
Thomas J. Gochberg, real estate financier, New York City, on May 24, 2018.
- 1965 **Jay N. Woodworth**, economist, New Providence, N.J., on June 15, 2018.
- 1966 **Eugene J. Leff**, retired attorney, Philadelphia, on April 12, 2018.
- 1968 **Gregory F.T. Winn**, scholar, lecturer, civil servant, diplomat, author, Naples, Fla., on April 19, 2018.
- 1971 **Eli A. Rubenstein**, attorney, Newton Center, Mass., on January 27, 2018.
- 1975 **Jose A. Martinez**, attorney, Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 14, 2018.

A Tearful Goodbye

The Class of 2018's president looks back on his last days — and a treasured space — at Columbia

By John Philippe Avendano '18

It all began with 40s on 40 in April. All it took was classmates blasting music, singing and yelling “Class of 2018!” on Low Steps slightly past midnight for it to dawn on me that my time as a student at Columbia was not only finite, but it was also rapidly evaporating. I only had 40 days to relish my existence in this place I'd called home for the last four years. But something was strange: Upon this realization, I felt little emotion. It was easy to recognize the lack of time I had left, how post-grad life wouldn't be nearly the same, how many of my friends would be moving to places anywhere but close to New York City — but somehow, I felt *nothing*.

I thought I would cry so many times in the weeks leading up to graduation — I thought it would make things easier on me, emotionally, when the day itself came. But I never did. With everything I had to do (last-minute get-togethers with friends, several formal events and finals), I had wanted to sit down, breathe and reflect — but there were very few places I could go on campus to do just that.

So, in my last two weeks at Columbia, I made a ledge on campus my home. As you ascend the steps to Low Library and turn either left or right, you can step out onto an elevated platform that protrudes above the rest of campus, overlooking Low Plaza and giving you a beautiful view of Butler, John Jay and Carman. Either

alone or with friends, my visits to that ledge grew more and more frequent in those last few weeks.

From the ledge, I could see people walking briskly about campus, headphones on, destinations and goals in mind. The typical Columbia student: driven, motivated, nonstop. I can't say I was any different in my time as a student. “Study for this exam, head to this practice, go to this party,” were thoughts that'd go through my mind every day — no stopping, no breathing, no thinking. Just doing. Impulsivity and spontaneity were attributes I'd only gotten a taste of from friends who knew how to best define the phrase *carpe diem*, reminding me that I should savor moments of peace — that our time at Columbia was undoubtedly short. To them, I remain eternally grateful.

The ledge was a hidden gem on our campus — it just took me four years to realize it. I could go there and the sounds of laughter, chatter and police sirens wailing outside our campus gates became nothing but buzz that faded away in the background of my introspection. It was a place I could go to think about the present, and a place I could go to deeply reflect on the past. It was a microcosm of Columbia.

On the ledge, I'd think about the friends I'd made and the memories we shared. The classes that I loved, or hated and often didn't attend. The times I confessed my feelings, fell in love, had my heart broken and had my heart become slightly fuller. I'd sit there and just soak it all in, not worrying about what loomed on the horizon.

I thought the ledge would be the place I'd ultimately cry; it wasn't. I almost cried on Class Day, when I stepped to the podium and saw a sea of friendly faces, many of whom I knew I might not see for a while after that day. But it actually happened two days after Commencement, when it finally dawned on me that, come August, I wouldn't be returning to my cozy bubble on the Upper West Side. That I wouldn't easily be able to step onto campus and just give everybody — acquaintances and friends — big hugs, with feelings of excitement that a new school year was set to begin.

I cried for the future and the fact that, as a high school senior, I never would've thought this place would come to occupy such a dear place in my heart. I cried for goodbyes I never gave, friends who cried on my shoulder in tough times and for those very same friends who allowed me to cry on their shoulders in even tougher times. I cried that I didn't take more moments in my time as a student to just sit and reflect — just like I did on that ledge.

I cried because I realized that every incredible friend I made at Columbia and every memory I shared with them were worth crying for. And, at the end of the day, the number of tears I shed makes me certain that I'm pretty lucky.



EILEEN BARROSO

GIFTS TO THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE FUND supported

Audrey's internship with the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist.

In addition to internship stipends for students like Audrey, the Columbia College Fund supports financial aid, student life and the Core Curriculum.



"THANKS TO AN INTERNSHIP STIPEND MADE POSSIBLE BY THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE FUND, I gained crucial experience in the field of archaeology that is impossible to replicate in the classroom. Generous donations made each and every one of my experiences in Wyoming possible."

— Audrey Andrews CC'18



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