


CCT

Columbia
College
Today 

Fall 2017

JENNY SLATE '04

THE *LANDLINE* ACTRESS
GOES TO HER ROOM

PATRICIA KITCHER

THIS YEAR'S GREAT
TEACHER ON THE
VALUE OF THE CORE

THE BIG "C"

HOW DID IT GET
THERE, ANYWAY?

STAR POWER

After a turn as
Aaron Burr —
and a moment in
the hot seat —
**Brandon Victor
Dixon '03** continues
to dazzle on and
off Broadway



save the date!

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— Jon Ross '83, founder of MicroAid International, a post-disaster recovery organization

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"The Voice had broken ground as a place where people of color, LGBTs and the counterculture were welcome to take center stage and address important sociopolitical topics as seen through a personal lens."

— Michael Musto '76, from "Village Voice Print Edition, RIP"



Within the Family

Making Class Notes More Noteworthy

Of all the lessons that come from editing *Columbia College Today*, the most inviolable is that when an issue arrives, most readers' first stop will be Class Notes. That compendium of personal news and anecdotes is the best-read part of our magazine; alumni tell us so in letters and conversation, and our surveys confirm it. The section sounds a veritable clarion call: Come see what your friends and classmates have done lately.

Through the years I've surveyed quite a few alumni magazines, and I have no doubt that *CCT* features one of the largest — quite possibly, *the* largest — Class Notes section. It accounts for about half of our pages, 77 columns from 1941 to 2017, a whopping 46,000 words per issue.

The constraints are few. Class Notes writers are allotted a healthy word count per column (1,500, though admittedly, some of our stalwart correspondents would like to have more) and a democratic approach to inclusion. They are the place to share what's happening in your life, in your own words, with your class. And not just your class, because the fact is, most readers skip through the years, stopping when they see a name they recognize or a tidbit catches the eye. Serendipity is part of the fun. There are reports of job changes and graduations; kudos of all kinds; marriage and birth announcements; outpourings of familial pride; accounts of hobbies, travel and retirement; bids to join Reunion Committees and dispatches from the event itself. Memories and jokes are freely traded, as are a few tall tales. Deaths are mourned. On occasion, poetry is written.

Actually, the section as a whole is a kind of poetry — the story of so many lives, marked by a common bond, unfolding in countless ways that are familiar and yet each their own. The everyday is made extraordinary by our attention to these details, and our resolution to write them down.

Looking ahead, however, Class Notes faces a challenge as we march deeper into the Digital Age. Flip through the section and you can see it: Starting in the 1990s, the columns get progressively shorter. There are exceptions, but the trend is unmistakable. It makes sense considering the way we communicate today, in bits and bursts on social media platforms like Facebook. Millennials especially are in the habit of sharing there and on Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat, and quite possibly somewhere else by the time you read this. To write a letter or email with personal updates is far from their default setting.

With each year, we've also morphed into an increasingly visual lot. Most everyone has a smartphone camera in their pocket. Shoot and post — as the saying goes, a picture tells a thousand words. And those of us scrolling through our feeds have come to crave that visual connection.

So how can Class Notes continue to be a place for all our alumni to share their news, however they prefer to communicate? It's a question



we've pondered for some time, and one answer is: more photos. Yes, we've always printed them in our Class Notes pages, but we know the number doesn't nearly reflect all your snap-happy habits. Starting this issue, we aim to change that — to publish more of your photos, so that Class Notes reflects more fully the community that you are today, and so that it feels as alive with images as it does with voices.

Please, consider this your call: Send pictures. We'll showcase them throughout the section and, for our Lion weddings, in our new Just Married! section (page 78). As with written Class Notes, the constraints are few: for a Class Notes photo, at least two alumni must be present; for a wedding photo, one member of the couple must be a College alum; and we need a little something about what you're doing and who's with you for the caption.

Meanwhile, led by the section's superintendent, *CCT* Associate Editor Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09, we'll continue to seek ways to evolve Class Notes. And while we're on the subject, a thank you is in order for our class correspondents — for all their service and dedication, and for rising to the challenge of changing with us.

Finally, if you haven't sent a Class Note in a while — or ever — I hope you'll do so (college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us). Your classmates want to hear from you, and so do we.

Alexis Boney

Alexis Boney SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

Message from the Dean

A Time for Growth and Development

In this issue, Patricia Kitcher, the Roberta and William Campbell Professor of the Humanities and the Carnoy Family Program Chair for Contemporary Civilization, talks about the continued relevance of Contemporary Civilization in today's world.

Kitcher says that the Core Curriculum is not only about developing knowledge and understanding concepts like justice, fairness and responsibility, but also about learning to think through complex issues and to approach problems in imaginative ways. As she says: "It helps to approach a problem as Aristotle would, or think about a problem as Mill would, because now you have a way to be in the world thinking about things. Reading a lot of very insightful people, you can understand a lot of what's going on."

Our role at Columbia College is to prepare students to succeed in the world of today and in the world far into the future — a future that neither we, nor they, can know or imagine. We bring together a community of students who are diverse in every respect so they can engage with ideas and perspectives that are different from their own, ideas and perspectives they may not be comfortable with, ideas and perspectives about which they may have been unaware. And through the Core, as well as other coursework, research, internships, global opportunities, extracurricular experiences and residential life, we're helping students develop skills, competencies and capacities that will benefit them in every stage of their lives.

This means not only helping students develop knowledge, understanding, insight and empathy, but also providing opportunities for them to develop their critical thinking and research abilities; to hone their written and oral communication skills; to improve their quantitative, information and technological literacy; to engage in teamwork and collaboration; to expand their creativity and innovation; to take on civic and individual responsibility; to participate in community engagement and inclusion; and to build global awareness and a sense of wellness and resiliency.

Every class, every extracurricular activity, every internship, every residential experience, every research opportunity, every conversation and every interaction at Columbia helps our students grow personally, professionally and as citizens of the world. And our goal isn't just for students to develop skills, capacities and capabilities, but also to understand how they developed them, where they developed them and how their experiences fit in with their entire Columbia College journey.



As students returned to campus this fall, we encouraged them to meet with advisers, program coordinators and mentors to reflect on their summer experiences; to identify what they liked, what they didn't, what they were good at and what they weren't; and to talk about how their experiences fit in with their journey. We want them to think of their College journey as a time for growth and development. And we want them all to realize that no two of their journeys will be the same.

We hope you, too, take the time to reflect on the skills, competencies and capacities you gained at Columbia College — what you learned, how you learned it and where you learned it. And we hope you will be willing to connect with current students through our mentoring programs — including the newly launched Odyssey Mentoring Program (odyssey.college.columbia.edu) — to encourage them to reflect on their experiences here and to help them make the most of what they are learning and doing, inside and outside of the classroom, benefiting from your hindsight and real-world wisdom.

James J. Valentini
Dean

Students from the Class of 2021 and their families participated in a welcome reception with Dean James J. Valentini.

College's Top Honor Goes to Jonathan S. Lavine '88

The 2017 Alexander Hamilton Medal will be presented to Jonathan S. Lavine '88, a dedicated philanthropist, particularly to Columbia causes, and an executive with Bain Capital and Bain Capital Credit.

The medal, given annually at the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner, is the highest honor awarded to a member of the College community. Presented by the Columbia College Alumni Association, Dean James J. Valentini and President Lee C. Bollinger, it recognizes distinguished service to the College and accomplishment in any field of endeavor.

This year's dinner will take place in Low Rotunda on Thursday, November 16. Proceeds from the black-tie event directly benefit College students by supporting the priorities of the College, including the Core Curriculum and financial aid.

Lavine is a co-chair of the University Trustees, the College's Core to Commencement campaign and the University's Columbia Commitment campaign. He is a co-managing partner of Bain Capital, one of the world's leading private, multi-asset alternative investment firms, and CIO of Bain Capital Credit, which he founded in 1998 as Sankaty Advisors, a division of Bain Capital. Lavine began his career at Drexel Burnham Lambert in mergers and acquisitions and was a consultant at McKinsey & Co. before joining Bain Capital in 1993.

Lavine graduated from the College Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude and

earned an M.B.A with Distinction from Harvard Business School. While at Columbia, he was on the Varsity Golf Team and received the David B. Truman Alumni Award for outstanding contribution to the academic affairs of the College. As an alumnus, he has received the Dean's Leadership Award for the Class of 1988's 25th reunion, a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement and Columbia/Barnard Hillel's Seixas Award.

A longtime supporter of critical initiatives across the College and University, including financial aid, student life and faculty support, Lavine sat on the College's Board of Visitors 2003–12 and was its chair 2008–12. In 2011, he co-created the Lavine-Lenfest Matching Fund to provide ongoing support for non-tenured Core Curriculum faculty.

A member of the Boston Celtics' ownership group, where he is a director, Lavine also chairs the National Board of Trustees of City Year, which focuses on stemming the high school dropout rate in urban centers across the United States. In 2007, he and his wife, Jeannie, the parents of Allison '16 and Emily '18, formed the Crimson Lion Foundation, which delivers financial resources to a variety of nonprofits focused on leveling the playing field for individuals and families, with an emphasis on access to quality educational opportunities and addressing economic inequality. In 2011, they endowed the Lavine Family Humanitarian Studies Initiative at the Harvard School of Public Health and in 2015, they dedicated the Lavine



Family Center for College Affordability at uAspire, which focuses on providing financial resources for postsecondary education.

Lavine also sits on the boards of Boston Children's Hospital Trust and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and supports organizations including Columbia/Barnard Hillel, ADL, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston, Hebrew Union College and American Jewish World Service. In 2016, he was appointed a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council by President Barack Obama '83.

For more information on the Hamilton Dinner, go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/hamilton/2017 or contact College Events and Programs: ccaa-events@columbia.edu or 212-851-7846.



Thank you for supporting your alumni magazine!

Columbia College Today thanks the alumni, parents, friends and organizations/foundations who generously donated during Fiscal Year 2017. To view the list of FY17 donors, please visit college.columbia.edu/cct. If you would like to give to CCT during FY18, please visit college.columbia.edu/cct/giving.



COURTESY COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

DidYouKnow?

One of NYC's Largest Statues Lives at Columbia

Jacques Lipchitz's *Bellerophon Taming Pegasus*, commissioned by the Law School in 1964 and installed above the west entrance of Jerome Greene Hall in 1977, is a sight to behold. The bronze work measures approximately 30 x 28 ft., rests atop a 27-ft. pedestal and weighs 23 tons. At installation it was the second-largest metal sculpture in New York City — behind only the Statue of Liberty!

Young Alumni Service Award

Gairy Hall Jr. '11, BUS'16, a Class Agent and former president of Columbia College Young Alumni, has received the 2017 Gerald Sherwin '55 Young Alumni Service Award.

Hall has built a robust record of volunteerism since graduating. A member of the CCYA board since 2012, he led the organization 2016–17. He co-chaired the group's Career Committee 2014–16 and proved instrumental in revitalizing and strengthening its relationship with the Center for Career Education. Hall also sat on the Columbia College Alumni Association's Service & Philanthropy Committee 2014–17.

He served on both the planning and fundraising committees for his class' five-year reunion and was a member of the Alumni

Representative Committee 2011–14. Today, as a Class Agent, Hall raises funds for current students from alumni peers.

Hall, who lives in London but plans to return to New York City this fall, is a management associate at JPMorgan Chase.

The Sherwin Award, established in 2013, goes annually to a graduate from the past 10 classes (2007–16) who has enhanced the community, well-being or engagement of the College's young alumni.

"What really sets Gairy apart," said Zila Acosta-Grimes '11, LAW'15, "is how amazingly available he is. He always makes time to mentor students, to proof a résumé for a friend or to attend a networking event a more experienced alum spent hours and hours planning. Columbia is lucky to have him."

Two College Alumni Join University's Board of Trustees

Alexander "Alex" Navab '87, a partner and former head of the Americas Private Equity business at Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., and **Li Lu '96, LAW'96, BUS'96**, founding general partner at Himalaya Capital, have been elected to the Columbia University Board of Trustees.

"On behalf of the entire University, I am very pleased to welcome Alex Navab and Li Lu to the Board of Trustees," President Lee C.

Bollinger said in a September 7 announcement. "They are loyal Columbia alumni who bring with them decades of success and innovation in business and civic leadership, as well as a diversity of personal experience that will be invaluable as we build the University's academic excellence and our engagement with the world in the years ahead."

Both men have been honored with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement; Navab in 2011 and Li Lu in 2012.

Earl Hall Nominated for National Register

A sixth Columbia building could be headed for landmark status.

Earl Hall, which sits west of Low Library, will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project. The emphasis will be on the building's significance in LGBT history, dating to the 1960s, when the school's groundbreaking gay student group found a home there.

The historic sites project — led by co-founders and directors Andrew Dol-

kart GSAPP'77, professor of historic preservation at the Architecture School; Ken Lustbader GSAPP'93; Jay Shockley GSAPP'80; and staff member Amanda Davis GSAPP'06 — seeks to identify, document and record sites of LGBT significance before 2000. Five-hundred sites have already been identified, and 100 are mapped on the group's website (nycgbltsites.org).

Columbia was the first institution of higher education in the world to have a gay student group, The Student

Homophile League, founded in 1966 by "Stephen Donaldson," the alias of Robert Martin '69. The University's then-chaplain, the Rev. John Cannon, was supportive and gave the group space in Earl Hall to gather.

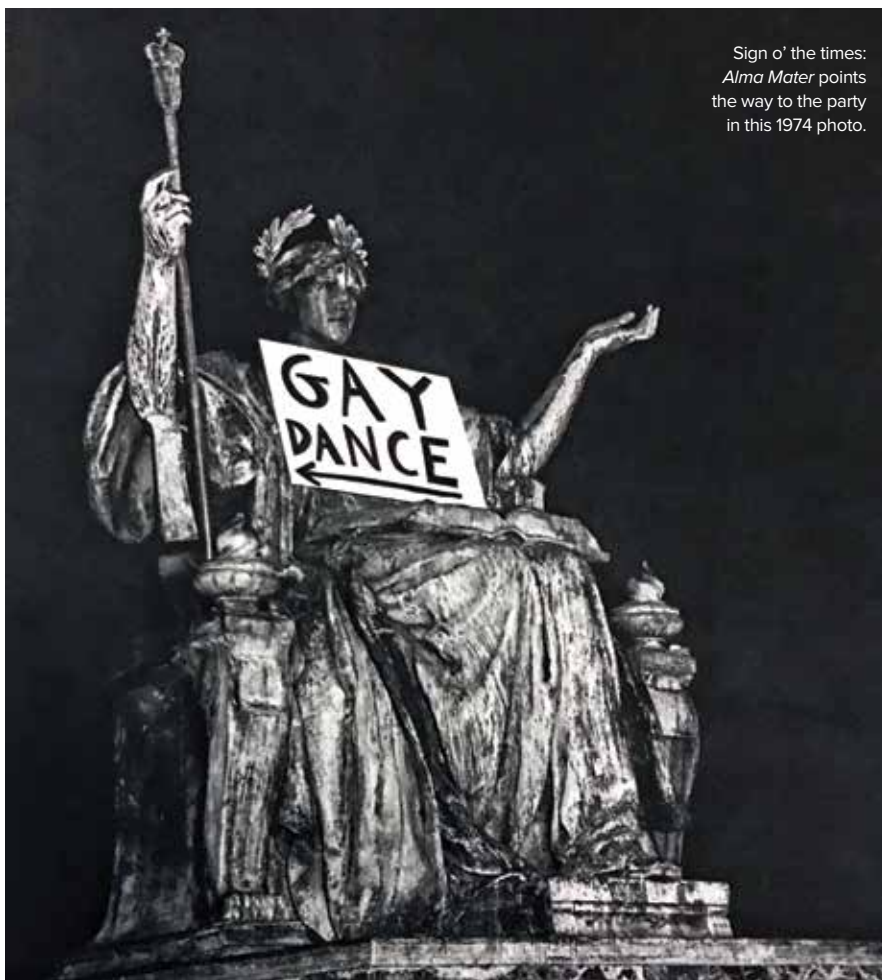
Columbia's Committee on Student Organizations approved the Homophile League on April 19, 1967, and Martin immediately sent a press release to local media outlets. On May 3, 1967, *The New York Times* put the story of the University's gay group on its front page, to the chagrin of the administration. In 1970, the Homophile League's successor group, Gay People at Columbia-Barnard, began holding dances in Earl Hall on the first Friday of every month — the first of its kind at any school. The dances were open to the public and became popular with students and non-students. "I'm sorry to say that I never went to one; I was too shy," Dolkart says.

Dolkart and the other founders will submit a proposal for identifying Earl Hall's significance to New York's State Historic Preservation Office this fall; after review a recommendation will be made and, if approved, the building will be listed on the New York State Register of Historic Places. The Department of the Interior will then review for the National Register.

Columbia buildings already on the National Register are Pupin Hall (added in 1966), Casa Italiana (added in 1982), Low Library (added in 1987) and Philosophy Hall (added in 2003). St. Paul's Chapel was listed on the State Register in 1978.

Any alumnus/a who attended a dance at Earl Hall and would like to be interviewed for this project can contact Dolkart: asd3@columbia.edu.

1974 COLUMBIAN



Sign o' the times:
Alma Mater points
the way to the party
in this 1974 photo.



JAMES KOLSBY SEAS '19

Shreyas Manohar '18

By Nathalie Alonso '08

Shreyas Manohar '18 was honored with a 2017 King's Crown Leadership Award for "Columbia Spirit." His contribution to the University community? Tickling its funny bone.

Since Fall 2015, Manohar has hosted a series of stand-up comedy shows he calls Sso-lol (a play on the acronym for Student Services Online) that features a lineup of comedians from Columbia and around New York City and draws from campus life as source material. Most of the approximately 20 shows he's hosted to date — he tries to organize two or three a month — have taken place at the Postcrypt Coffeehouse. A few have been held at the Austin E. Quigley Theatre in Lerner Hall, including one during the Spring 2017 semester.

Manohar — who previously produced and appeared in *CUNOW*, a YouTube series that satirized Columbia life — believes stand-up comedy goes "hand in hand" with the College's tradition of "dissent, never bowing down to authority and questioning everything." Yet he also sees his art as a way to combat stress. "People at Columbia need to laugh," says Manohar, who was a member of the

122nd *Varsity Show* cast and one of two social chairs for *V123*. "There are many stressful things happening. Everyone is thinking about the world. I think everyone could use a laugh."

Manohar is also part of what he describes as an emerging comedy scene in India. He has spent the last three summers in Mumbai as a writing intern with All India Bakchod, a sketch group with almost 2.6 million subscribers on YouTube. AIB uses subversive humor and satire to address controversial topics — an increasingly risky thing to do in India in light of crackdowns on freedom of expression. This past summer, on nights when he wasn't testing new jokes at an open mic, Manohar opened for comedians in and around Mumbai.

"Because the scene is still so new, I feel that what I do matters," says Manohar about performing in India. "Every open mic changes the scene in some small way. Every new joke you do takes the scene forward."

Manohar's love of comedy grew out of his experience as a cricket commentator in India, a hobby he picked up in eighth grade that turned into paid gigs. (He says he commented on about 500 matches on television and radio in a span of four

fast facts

HOMETOWN: Nagpur, India

MAJORS: Creative writing, English

CLUBS: Columbia College Student Ambassadors, *Spectator*, Latenite Theatre, *Varsity Show*

years.) In high school, he began doing stand-up comedy at the Canvas Laugh Club in Mumbai. Since he's been at the College, Manohar has performed at New York City venues such as the Gotham Comedy Club, the Broadway Comedy Club and the New York Comedy Club, as well as The Creek & The Cave in Queens.

Manohar plans to stay in New York City after graduation and envisions himself writing for magazines or television. He wouldn't mind becoming the next Jon Stewart or Stephen Colbert in the process. "My dream is to have a news comedy show of my own," he says.

Nathalie Alonso '08, from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball's official Spanish language website.

ROAR, LION, ROAR

Bagnoli Cautiously Optimistic in His Third Season

By Alex Sachare '71

Al Bagnoli has seen enough football in 36 years as a head coach to know not to set the bar too high. So it was no surprise that he didn't predict an Ivy League championship as he headed into his third season at Columbia.

Bagnoli chose the phrase "cautiously optimistic" during an interview this past summer to describe the Lions' prospects for the 2017 season, which began with a non-conference game against Wagner on September 16. Columbia started Ivy play on September 30 at Princeton, with Homecoming scheduled against Penn on October 14 at Robert K. Kraft Field at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium (college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/homecoming-2017).

"As we enter year three, we probably have more depth and more positional competition," said Bagnoli, who won nine Ivy championships during his 23-year tenure at Penn and is one of the winningest coaches in NCAA Football Championship Subdivision history with a career record of 242–119. "We have a lot of returning kids with playing time under their belts and we're optimistic about the progress made in the offseason with our strength and conditioning. For the first time we had an indoor practice facility where we can now practice year-round, which I thought was huge."

Columbia compiled a 3–7 record last season, but five of its losses came by an average of just 4.8 points. Bagnoli has now had a chance to welcome two full recruiting classes and beef up a roster that as of September 1 listed 26 players weighing 270 lbs. or more. "Our players, when we inherited them, were tall and lean," he said. "They weren't as stout, especially on the offensive and defensive lines, as you would need them to be. We've addressed those issues." Among the Lions' veteran linemen are Bewley Wales '18, Charlie Flores '18,

Anders Hill '18 passed for 284 yards and three touchdowns against Cornell.



MIKE MCLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Placekicker Oren Milstein '20 made all but one attempt a year ago.

Tyler Schonewolf '19 and Markham Paukune '18 on offense and Lord Hyeamang '18 and Dominic Perkovic '18 on defense.

How much progress Columbia makes this season likely will depend on the play of quarterback Anders Hill '18, who stepped into the starting job midway through last season. "He is unquestionably the leader of our offense," said Bagnoli. "He's a big, strong, physical kid who can make all the throws, and I think he can be a threat running the ball. We're hopeful that he can continue his growth and optimistic that he can take the next step to be an elite player in this league."

Among Hill's targets are a trio of wide receivers — Josh Wainwright '20, Ronald Smith SEAS'20 and Christian Everett '20. "The goal last year was to try to get some more explosive playmakers on the outside," said Bagnoli. "Now I think we're much more experienced at the skilled positions."

Another key player for the Lions is placekicker Oren Milstein '20, who was a unanimous All-Ivy First Team selection as a freshman after converting 12 of 13 field goal attempts and all 16 point after touchdown attempts. Milstein led the Lions in scoring last season with 52 points and kicked two game-winning field goals.

Asked to describe the state of the program, Bagnoli said, "We're doing the right things and we're making progress. The attitude and culture of the program have significantly changed. The players have been awesome, they've worked really hard and they've bought into our vision of what we're trying to do. Our whole goal was to make football enjoyable again. I think we're on schedule."



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

Oh, Say Can You “C”?

Bold, blue and not quite
legal, a grand design looms
in Columbia history

By Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90



PHYLLIS KATZ

For detractors, it is the biggest piece of graffiti in New York. But for those who bleed Light Blue, it is a bold and literal proclamation, a marker of pure Columbia spirit. It's the famed Big “C” — the huge painted initial letter of alma mater's name, impossible not to see from the stands at Baker Field (officially, Robert K. Kraft Field at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium) as it adorns a cliff on the Harlem River at Spuyten Duyvil.

“A monumental sign of athletic intimidation,” wrote Kevin Lotery '05 in *Spectator* in 2002, “it says to all visiting teams, ‘Welcome to our house.’” Visible to decades of jocks and spectators alike, the 60 x 60-ft. blue icon, outlined in white, is so grand that you might think it's been around since time immemorial.

Actually, the insignia has a traceable and fairly recent history, appropriately trimmed with a bit of hazy lore.

The “C” began life at the Poughkeepsie Regatta, the annual championship of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association. Columbia, a founding IRA member, once had its own boathouse on “Regatta Row” at Poughkeepsie, and its crew — along with its competitors — would traditionally tag a portion of the western Hudson shore with the school letter.

Things changed, however, in 1949 when the IRA moved the regatta from Poughkeepsie to Marietta, Ohio. While the tagging reportedly continued in the new location, it wasn't quite the same. And so in fall 1952, two senior rowers hatched a scheme.

“I kept looking at that rock and saying, ‘Boy, that spot would make a beautiful place for a Columbia ‘C,’” heavyweight stroke Donald Fagan '53, BUS'58 recalled this past summer. “We were looking for notoriety.”

Fagan's partner in bicolor crime was coxswain and captain Robert Prendergast '53, who said he “painted it in my head,” down to the approximately 12-ft. width of each of its elements.

The pair began executing their masterpiece from the bottom up, making sure that the lower portion would not be obscured or degraded by the river's periodic rise. Through the Department of Buildings and Grounds, they secured several gallons of pigment. Boathouse manager “Pop” Johnson fashioned a boatswain's chair attached to what Fagan calls “a lifeline cable” at the top of the

*I kept looking at that rock and
saying, “Boy, that spot would make a
beautiful place for a Columbia ‘C.’”*

— Donald Fagan '53, BUS'58

cliff, where the New York Central Railroad ran. He and Prendergast arrived at their canvas via a mahogany launch and took turns applying coats.

“One of us would be in the launch and raise the other up,” said Fagan. “The exciting thing was when the Circle Line came. Their wake would raise and lower the launch. So the guy in the boatswain's chair would go up and down.”

Strictly speaking, was this whole business legal? As Prendergast remembers it, he wrote a letter to New York Central Railroad, requesting permission to execute the stunt. He received a reply in the affirmative, the authorities effectively saying, “You can paint it,

but we're not to blame." And while their machinations attracted the police on the first day of painting, they ultimately left without confrontation. "We never heard from anyone," Fagan said.

Prendergast and Fagan had hoped to complete their outdoor art before graduating. But the project was too ambitious; when winter set in, the duo abandoned their labors. They had managed to execute perhaps 50 percent of the "C," namely the bottom portion and about half of the vertical leg.

"It was unfortunate," said Prendergast, "but I figured somebody else would take over."

He was right, but memories differ on when the final brush stroke was applied. Work was still in progress when Art Delmhorst '60, BUS'64 rowed lightweight. But Tom Gualtieri '65, PS'69, also on lightweight, remembers that the "C" was done by the time he arrived in 1961.

Since then, the "C" has been touched up every few years by crew members, with the exception of one major interregnum. It followed an accident, on February 23, 1976, when lightweight crewmember Steven Abbey '78 drowned after his shell was swamped. Suddenly, safety became a serious concern.

"Somebody at the University said, 'What about liability? What about insurance?'" said former Director of Sports Information William Steinman. "And that ended the painting." As a result, the bold blue of the "C" dwindled to a light gray. At least one Circle Line operator reportedly told the assembled, "Like Columbia football, it's fading fast."

Then, in October 1985, heavyweight bow Dan Eiref SEAS'86 decided to rectify matters. He fashioned a triangle-shaped jig — essentially a wooden bench with rope on either side — "and just lowered people off the top and hoped for the best." The ropes, Eiref said, were attached to iron bars jutting from the top of the rock face, "probably left over from when it was blasted away by the Army Corps of Engineers a century ago."

Eiref and some compatriots secured \$300 from Director of Athletics Al Paul GSAS'55 and bought 20 gallons of paint. Though Eiref himself didn't paint — "I was too chicken to go down" — the process progressed with few mishaps over the course of three weekends.

At one point, freshman James Murphy '88 suggested that they tag their own tag by signing the painters' initials and the date "85." All concerned seemed amenable. But when they saw the size of Murphy's scrawl they slathered over it. Today, the white square is in effect a period, designating the "C" as an abbreviation.

On the whole, Eiref was satisfied with the result: "My biggest regret was buying latex paint. Oil would have lasted longer."

Though the restoration cheered many alumni and fans, there were exceptions. A photograph of the work in progress taken by CCT then-senior editor Phyllis Katz, which adorned the back cover of the Winter 1985–86 issue, drew an outraged response from Edward R. Green '79, SEAS'83. In a Letter to the Editor he called the enterprise an inherently dangerous "harebrained stunt."

Today the two men responsible for starting it all, Prendergast and Fagan, still take pride in their accomplishment. "I told Bob, 'We ought to get a brass plate and mount it there,'" Fagan said. "But I'm not as agile as I used to be."

Former CCT acting editor **Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90** is the author of *Cast of Characters*: Wolcott Gibbs, E. B. White, James Thurber, and the Golden Age of *The New Yorker*.

HEADLINERS

FENCING: Margaret Lu '17, Nzingha Prescod '15 and Nicole Ross '13 helped the United States win a silver medal in the team foil event at the 2017 World Fencing Championships in Leipzig, Germany, on July 24. It was the best result for the U.S. women in world championships history. The U.S. squad beat Argentina and China in the first two rounds and edged Russia 45–42 in the semifinals before losing in the final round to Italy by a 45–25 margin. It was the Italians' sixth Senior World title in the last eight years.



Margaret Lu '17

Lu, who won Junior World medals with Prescod and U.S. National teammate Lee Kiefer, was thrilled by winning silver at the Senior Worlds. "It's almost indescribable," she said. "It's huge. It's one of the biggest events in our sport in the world, so to get a silver medal here is great." Ross, who competed in the 2012 London Olympics, echoed that sentiment, saying, "We've been working on beating these top teams for a long time and it was very gratifying to have it come together."

Prescod, a two-time Olympian, was a late addition to the team after Sabrina Massialas was injured in the individual competition. "I was at orientation in Atlanta for my new job at Ernst & Young for six days, so I was mostly concerned about what my bosses would say on my first week leaving to go to a fencing competition," Prescod said with a laugh.

SWIMMING: Katie Meili '13, who won a bronze medal at the Rio Olympics a year ago, won the silver medal in the 100m breaststroke at the 2017 World Swimming Championships in Budapest on July 25. Olympic gold medalist Lilly King of the United States won the event in a world record time of 1:04.13, but Meili rallied in the final strokes to edge Olympic silver medalist Yuliya Efimova of Russia for the silver medal, finishing in 1:05.03 to Efimova's 1:05.05.



Katie Meili '13

Jessica Antiles '19 won a silver medal in the 400m individual medley and a bronze medal in the 200m individual medley, both at the 2017 Maccabiah Games, a quadrennial, international Jewish and Israeli multi-sport event held July 4–18 in Israel. In addition, Antiles finished fourth in the 200m backstroke and 100m breaststroke.

ARCHERY: Christine Kim '20 won the gold medal in the junior recurve and Sophia Strachan '20 won the bronze medal in the junior compound in the U.S. National Target Championships August 4–6 in Westfield, Ind. Kim defeated Gwendolynn Murphy 6–4 in the final of the junior recurve while Strachan edged Samantha Taylor 144–142 for third place in the final of the junior compound.



Brandon Victor Dixon '03
backstage at the Signature
Theater, before rehearsals
for *F**king A*.



STAR

POWER

After a turn as
Aaron Burr —
and a moment in
the hot seat —
**Brandon Victor
Dixon '03** continues
to dazzle on and
off Broadway

By Yelena Shuster '09

Photographs by Jörg Meyer

IT WAS 6 P.M. on an unseasonably warm Friday in November when Brandon Victor Dixon '03 got the call that would launch him onto the national stage.

The veteran actor was sitting in his usual booth at E&E Grill on West 49th Street when he learned that he would be delivering a message to Vice President-elect Mike Pence after that night's performance of *Hamilton*. It had been almost four months since Dixon replaced Leslie Odom Jr. as Aaron Burr in the mega-hit Broadway show about our Founding Fathers. It was only eight days after the election that inflamed an already divided country. And it was 15 hours before the President-elect would start tweeting about the speech that threw Dixon under his hottest spotlight yet.

The way Dixon tells it now, in between bites of fish tacos in the lobby of the Intercontinental New York Times Square, he wasn't nervous about addressing Pence: "He's just a man, and I mean, I knew something of what kind of person he was at that point. Individuals like that are not going to intimidate me."

At curtain call, Dixon's instinct — honed from 12 years on Broadway — told him that security would usher Pence out of the theater immediately after the show, so

he stopped the cast's bows to make sure Pence heard him. "That bright, silvery spot of hair started to move with all those dark suits around him and I was like, 'Whoa, whoa, whoa,'" Dixon recalls.

The two-time Tony nominee began to improvise: "Vice President-elect Pence, I see you walking out, but I hope you will hear us just a few more moments," he said, before reacting to the chorus of boos emanating from the audience. "There's nothing to boo here, ladies and gentlemen, nothing to boo here. We're all sharing a story of love."

Pence stopped to listen, and with the audience at attention, Dixon took out a note written by the show's creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda, in collaboration

with its producers, cast and crew. Dixon welcomed and thanked Pence for attending before continuing: "We are the diverse America who are alarmed and anxious your new administration will not protect us, our planet, our children, our parents, or defend us and uphold our inalienable rights. But we really hope this show has inspired you to uphold our American values and to work on behalf of all of us. All of us."

The Atlantic later described it as "one of the most publicized peaceful protests in theatrical history."

That night, Dixon fell asleep with no idea that he would soon become a social media sensation. He awoke to a flurry of texts from his friends — and triple the Twitter followers. President-elect Donald Trump had confronted him with a series of tweets, the first

at 8:48 a.m.: "Our wonderful future V.P. Mike Pence was harassed last night at the theater by the cast of *Hamilton*, cameras blazing. This should not happen!"

Without getting out of bed, Dixon responded with the first thing that came to mind: "conversation is not harassment sir. And I appreciate @mike_pence for stopping to listen."

Dixon will never know for sure why the show's executive team selected him to give the speech. Maybe it was because his decade-plus stage experience made him the unofficial leader of the cast. Or because, as an activist for civil rights issues, he would bring a deeper meaning to the words. Perhaps it was because he speaks, even in normal conversation, as though he's reciting long, eloquent prose. Or maybe it's because he is cool, collected and gracious — enough to prop an iPhone recorder on his shoulder during an hour-long interview after the waiter declined to lower the hotel's blaring pop hits.

Whatever the reason, Dixon denies his newfound prominence (a *Variety* cover notwithstanding). "I'm only famous in Midtown," he jokes. And maybe he's right. The tourists sitting across from us seem unfazed. His shaved head, perfectly arched brows and eyes that narrow when he kids — which is often — are not yet recognizable.

But those in his orbit would beg to differ. "People are stopping him in the street all the time. It's terrible walk-



COURTESY VARIETY

Dixon's infamous speech to VP-elect Mike Pence put him in the national spotlight and onto the cover of *Variety*'s January 2017 "Inauguration Issue."



JOAN MARCUS



ing four blocks with him now,” says Warren Adams, his friend and production partner. “He gets stopped and it’s ‘Thank you’ and ‘Thanks for speaking up for all of us.’”

As a child, Dixon knew he belonged onstage: “It’s the same way I knew I had two hands and two feet.” The Gaithersburg, Md., native won a scholarship to study at the British American Drama Academy in Oxford for his junior year of high school, and by senior year he’d been selected as a U.S. Presidential Scholar semifinalist.

He nabbed the lead role of Simba in the traveling tour of *The Lion King* at 21 and left Columbia his senior year. Not throwing away his shot paid off. The series of roles that followed cemented him as a star. His Harpo in *The Color Purple* earned him a 2006 Tony nomination, and his turn in the Off-Broadway *The Scottsboro Boys*, in 2010, garnered a slew of nominations including Drama Desk and Drama League Awards. (In 2014 he revisited the role for a production in London’s West End and received an Olivier nomination.)

As a first-generation Jamaican-American — and the first generation on his father’s side to go to college — Dixon made a point to earn his diploma, though. He finished his degree in 2007 and received Columbia’s I.A.L. Diamond Award for Achievement in the Arts the same year.

Hamilton director Thomas Kail remembers Dixon’s original *Scottsboro Boys* performance as the first time “where I really saw him in a very intimate setting, carry a show and be so fully integrated into an ensemble. That was probably my first full memory of ‘Wow, who is this?’ He was both commanding and compassionate, and he was someone who felt like he belonged on stage in a way that is rare.”

Adams agrees that Dixon seemed destined for the theater. Before the two became production partners, they

Not the same old song
and dance: Dixon as
Aaron Burr in *Hamilton*.

“People are stopping him in the street all the time. It’s terrible walking four blocks with him now. He gets stopped and it’s ‘Thank you’ and ‘Thanks for speaking up for all of us.’”

worked together on *Motown* (2013), where Dixon played the lead role of legendary music producer Berry Gordy Jr. Adams was impressed from day one: “Brandon’s one of those people who walks in the room and a light goes on.”

Make no mistake: Dixon is also one of the hardest working. “He is probably the most prepared person I have ever worked with,” Adams says. “Getting to

rehearsal, specifically the table read, people have their scripts. Brandon walked in off-book. So you'll have a 130-page script and every day, we'll make changes and create pages and we'll give him more, and by evening, he's off-book of those pages, too."

Known for his charismatic stage presence and seductive voice — *New York* magazine has called him "the lost member of Boyz II Men" — Dixon has been singled out in *The New York Times* for his "star power," singing with "passionate fervor" and "especially affecting" performances. His second Tony nomination came just last year, for playing ragtime pianist and composer Eubie Blake in *Shuffle Along, or, the Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed*.

Dixon's impressive résumé put him on the *Hamilton* team's radar in the show's earliest development. He auditioned years ago for the workshop, but the

"Brandon brought power, heat and passion to his work. Eight shows a week he managed to be both consistent and surprising."

main roles were already taken. "I got to know him in that context, as someone who got a chance to play in an audition and watched how he made really smart, fully realized choices walking into the room," says Kail. "From his dedication to the form to his ability to bring humanity to every role. He obviously has a tremendous talent."

Stepping into Burr's revolutionary boots last August was an anomaly for Dixon, who originated almost every other role in his career.

"It can mean a lot for someone in this industry to see you in something that is really well written and diverse," Dixon says. "One of the most extraordinary things about *Hamilton*, below the surface, is that it's a brilliant piece of generous work that now provides a lot of individuals of color — who don't often have a lot of opportunities to do diverse, rich work — the chance to do so, and the chance for people in the industry to see it."

Consider him seen. *The Washington Post*'s Alyssa Rosenberg praised the "wonderful humor" he brought to the role, and *Deadline*'s Jeremy Gerard described Dixon's "The Room Where It Happens," as "the show's most astonishing number." Bryan Terrell Clark, the show's current Washington, says: "Brandon brought power, heat and passion to his work. Eight shows a week he managed to be both consistent and surprising."

Dixon played his Burr as a trickster. "To have risen through the Army ranks so rapidly at a young age, driven his way through Princeton at a young age, and to rise through politics the way he did despite the internal [hatred] toward him means that Burr must have possessed a charm and a candor and an intelligence and a wit that would draw people to him. I used that."

Now the world's going to know Dixon's name. Having left *Hamilton* in August, Dixon has a recurring role on the Starz drama series *Power*, a guest starring role on NBC's *Gone with Chris Noth* and an album in the works. He's also finishing up an Off-Broadway run in the play *F***king A*, a modern retelling of *The Scarlet Letter*, in which Hester is on a quest to find her jailed son, played by Dixon.

Leaving a blockbuster Broadway musical for an untested Off-Broadway play might seem risky, but Dixon is excited by the transformation the new role requires. "What will it take for me to become this person? That draws me to things because I like picking up new skills to find a way to a character," he says. "The goal of the artist is to tell stories that will have an impact on people, that will bring people closer to a greater understanding of themselves and others."

At 36, Dixon is confident in his ability to interpret any character — no matter how beloved or Tony Award-winning. In fact, looking back, Dixon says playing Burr was "one of the easier problems that I've ever had." He does not mean to brag. Everything is relative, and the only reason for this current confidence, he says, is an existential crossroads he faced a few years earlier in his career. As he describes it (in dramatic fashion, he admits), he had a crisis of faith in 2014, found his way back in 2015 and was resurrected in 2016.

What happened in 2014 was *Motown*. The jukebox Broadway hit was produced and written by Gordy Jr., the Motown Records founder who launched the careers of icons like Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and Michael Jackson — who happens to be Dixon's idol. Dixon was playing Berry. For Berry. No pressure.

Dixon began internalizing the magnitude of the job in front of him, hyperconscious of the greatness he had to both represent and manifest. "Berry Gordy, Doug Morris, the [co-producer and] head of Sony Music. These are the people who can change my life in a moment," Dixon recalls of his mindset. By the end of the process, if I'm not a star, it's because I'm not good enough. Because these people are star-makers."



COURTESY OF STARZ ENTERTAINMENT LLC

Dixon as attorney Terry Silver on *Power*, with co-star Naturi Naughton.



The New York Times said Dixon was “memorably” cast in *F*cking A*; here, with Elizabeth Stanley.

So he didn’t embellish. He didn’t experiment. And then he judged himself for the outcome a year later — no nominations, no record deal, no TV role. “I played it safe because I was afraid of making mistakes,” he says. “And if you perform afraid of making mistakes, you’ve lost already.”

“The point of performing is to be ambitious,” he adds, “to reach, to strive. Whether you achieve your goal or not, the beauty is in the endeavor. That’s what people are here to see. They’re not here to see perfection. They’re here to see life, and life is rarely perfect.”

Going to London later that year to play the lead in *The Scottsboro Boys* — a much smaller piece about the infamous trial of nine black teens who were wrongfully accused and imprisoned in the 1930s — grounded him.

“I went from this large-scale, Hollywood, Detroit-esque superstar expensive musical to a very cheap run on the West End, but with a group of teenagers who I had to help really understand the work itself and then understand how to do the work,” he says. “It reoriented my ‘why,’ I guess: why I’m here, what I’m doing. And I just reopened my door to ambition and to experimentation and to the joy of performing.”

Dixon’s crisis changed him in more ways than one. During their *Motown* run, he and Adams founded the multimedia production company WalkRunFly. “We’ve worked on projects about James Brown, Sam Cooke and Ray Charles. The constant with all those individuals was the hope of ownership,” Dixon says. “The importance of owning your own creativity. Control over your destiny.”

A critical focus is developing early work by early-stage artists. “The idea was, if they’re walking, we can help them run, and then they’ll fly,” Adams says. In addition to producing flashy musicals like *The Hunger Games* stage adaptation (and winning a Tony for producing *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* starring Neil Patrick Harris), Dixon and Adams are producing *Whorl Inside a Loop*, a play about a men’s maximum-security prison. Their shared commitment to prison reform bonded the two when they met through a mutual friend 12 years ago. “It was really fantastic to meet somebody who was

not just, ‘Oh, I’m a performer, let’s talk about Broadway,’” Adams says. “Brandon’s an extremely intelligent person, and he has a vast knowledge of the world outside just entertainment.”

For the multi-hyphenate activist-actor-producer, playing veep Aaron Burr — and addressing veep Mike Pence — are experiences that will stay with Dixon forever, he says: “What *Hamilton* allowed me to do is to extend my reach and speak to greater numbers of people and be able to look people in their eyes and say things like, ‘Your voice matters, your potential is limitless,’ and to say things like, ‘We are greater together than we are apart,’ and to say things like, ‘You are not alone, as much as you may think that.’”

Dixon understands how blessed he is to speak on behalf of so many. “Warren and I have been fortunate enough where we can walk into certain rooms, and not everybody who does what we do can — not everybody who looks like we do can — and it is crucial that we create platforms for the people around us to walk through those doors,” Dixon says. “You got to bring people with you, you know? It’s imperative. We are our brother’s keeper.”

“If you are not working to create a space for somebody to live better, to find their dreams, to have a home, to create love in the world, to create a partnership with another individual, then you are wasting your time, you are wasting your money,” he continues, voice rising. “Stacking money you’re hoarding in a vault — that makes no sense.”

With a mischievous grin, he adds: “This republic’s probably only going to last another 20, 30 years. So while the dollar still can do something, you better spread that shit around.”

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

GET THE LATEST

To see behind-the-scenes video (Brandon sings!) from our cover shoot, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.



Margaret Traub '88 at the 2007 International Medical Corps opening of a rehabilitated clinic in Otobora, eastern Congo. The clinic provides primary health care services and treats rape survivors.

JOHNNY KAMBI



First, Aid

Margaret Traub '88
experiences "the
best and worst
humanity has to offer,
side by side," doing
on-the-ground
disaster relief

Photographs by
Margaret Traub '88

By Atossa Araxia Abrahamian '08, JRN'11

When news of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti broke, Margaret Traub '88 was sitting in a Los Angeles meeting room with her colleagues at International Medical Corps, where she was the nonprofit's head of global communications. She found out about the disaster via email, "and I knew right away how important it was," she recalls. "As the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere, their infrastructure would be devastated."

Traub cut the meeting short to begin gathering information, and it quickly became clear that IMC's emergency services would be crucial in Haiti's capital, which had been leveled by the magnitude 7 quake. The IMC, a humanitarian nonprofit founded by doctors and nurses in 1984, works in 30 countries administering healthcare, training local workers, and

Miami; and, after some discussions about planning and logistics — Would it be possible to get to Haiti via the Dominican Republic? Were the airports open? What state were the roads in? — opted to fly direct. Her team claimed seats on the last connecting flight to Port-au-Prince.

It wouldn't be a stretch to say that Traub's career up until this point was a drawn-out prep session for this mission to Haiti. She'd spent more than a decade as a TV journalist, first at *Good Morning America*, then as an executive producer at CNN, so she was used to responding to events in faraway places. The pace of the news business is relentless, so the adrenaline rush that comes with thinking fast and moving quickly to deal with an emergency was familiar to her, too. Traveling to Haiti, albeit under such treacherous circumstances, was also meaningful on an intellectual level: as a senior at the College, Traub had written her political science thesis on the small Caribbean nation. "I'd always wanted to go there and when the earthquake happened and I was on the ground the following day, I remember thinking, 'I can't believe I'm finally coming to this country that I've studied for so long.'"

As prepared as she might have been on paper, the scale of the devastation was unimaginable. Everywhere she turned, there were people close to death. No building, no family, no form of life was spared. "When we landed, we started driving to a hotel that wasn't apparently so damaged, but we discovered 200 people injured in the parking lot," she says. "I'm not a doctor, but I was helping triage and move people around. I was doing logistical stuff, impromptu pharmacy and helping out however I could."

She also found herself on the other side of the camera, explaining to journalists what was going on, making sure they had the right information, even talking them into asking viewers to donate to IMC. "I've developed quite a jaundiced view of TV. I see all the strings off the puppetry, off the marionettes," she says. "I see how they make mistakes and it frustrates me. At the same time, it's a bit of self-regret because I was one of them: I did not know the humanitarian world."

To be fair, most people know little about what it's like to work at a humanitarian organization: We see TV advertisements asking for donations and hear snippets about the heroism of first-responders but have no sense of the day-to-day tasks involved. Participating in that work firsthand was eye opening for Traub. Before, aid workers might have briefly been the subjects of the stories she produced; working among them helped her tap into her more compassionate side. "I remember thinking, I've never been around people like this. I've never seen or experienced anything like this," she recalls.

It also marked a significant shift from her previous role as an impartial observer and reporter. Being

"We discovered 200 people injured in the parking lot. I'm not a doctor, but I was helping triage and move people around, helping out however I could."

alleviating famine and poverty through both long-planned public health initiatives and short-notice relief work. Traub, a former journalist, was in charge of issuing public statements and communications about the organization's relief missions, so she quickly jumped into action.

By 9 p.m., Traub was in midair, en route to D.C. She landed at Dulles at dawn; met up with her colleagues in operations, programs and security; flew to

A destroyed TV station in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, two days after the 2010 earthquake. International Medical Corps' Emergency Response Team was delivering relief within 24 hours of the quake.





in a position where it was her job to comfort people and lend a hand, rather than to abide by journalistic standards and stand behind, was gratifying. “Your job is to do something,” she says.

Traub’s road to IMC was a winding one. Born in Chicago to native New Yorkers, her father, a psychotherapist who studied in Vienna, moved his family to a suburb of Salt Lake City when she was a child. They hiked, fished, skied and hunted in an idyllic landscape, but “it was very much a fish-out-of-water scenario,” she recalls. “Going to Catholic high school, I was being exposed to religious practices that I didn’t practice, and tenets that I didn’t abide by.

“And I didn’t look like everyone,” she adds, laughing. “I had dark curly hair and a big nose, and everyone else was blond.” As soon as she graduated from high school, she was on her way to New York, where she’d dreamed of living for as long as she could remember.

Columbia was challenging for Traub in a way that many students can identify with. “I was so intimidated

by these extraordinary achievers. I was the number 1 tennis player in the state in high school, and a concert pianist; I thought that I would be extraordinary. But when I got to Columbia, I was surrounded by people who did everything I did and more.” After a couple of semesters of hard partying — a reaction, she says, to Utah’s stifling conservatism — Traub began thinking about her career. Should she become a journalist, as she’d always intended, or go to law school? A depressing stint as a paralegal made the decision for her. After an internship at NBC, she became a stringer for the Associated Press, a writer for *Good Morning America* and a producer at CNN.

By 2001, Traub was living in TriBeCa and had what many aspiring journalists would consider a dream job as an executive producer at CNN. Then, 9-11 happened, and the cascade of events that followed compelled her to change her life in a major way — initially because she felt unable to maintain journalistic professionalism amid the hardship that was literally six blocks from her home. “I remember

Nyal, South Sudan, 2017:
A crippling civil war has
displaced two million
people, putting them at risk
of starvation and disease.

International Medical Corps delivered medical relief to the people of Hernani, in the Philippines, following 2013's Typhoon Haiyan.



having a hard time depersonalizing the news,” she says. “All the news we were covering started to shake me and it was becoming harder to cover stories dispassionately. I started feeling really burned out.”

When her malaise didn’t subside, Traub’s then-husband suggested a move to Los Angeles. She went, planning to give the entertainment industry a try, but “I found TV development in L.A. to be completely soul deadening,” she says. “After putting on hundreds of hours of TV every day [at CNN], I was developing shows that after a year hadn’t even seen the light of day for half an hour.”

Dealing with the Hollywood culture was difficult, too. “New York is straightforward and if people don’t like something, they tell you. In L.A., yes means no and no means maybe and maybe means yes.” On the recommendation of a former CNN colleague, she interviewed with IMC, and when the CEO offered her a job just days after the initial conversation, she accepted on the spot.

Within a few months, “my view of the world had completely changed. As an executive in a control room, I had a very Western view. We didn’t cover stories about Africa and parts of Asia and South America; many news organizations don’t.” By the time a year had passed, Traub — who’d never been to Africa, or any developing nation, for that matter — had traveled to Uganda, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The DRC in particular made Traub realize just how much information doesn’t come through in a TV spot or news article. When she went in 2007, she was aware of the country because of a much-publicized “rape epidemic”; she did not expect to emerge from her travels a changed, inspired person. “The roller-coaster of emotions and experiences was intense: It’s one of the most stunningly beautiful places I’ve seen, but the suffering is so tremendous. And speaking with women who’ve been raped in such a violent way, with the butts of guns, with objects being put inside them — understanding human motivation and seeing the best and the worst humanity has to offer side by side on a daily basis broadened my view of the world and of the human experience.”

Traub is now IMC’s head of global initiatives, which involves on-the-ground disaster relief, as well as promoting the organization’s global ambassadors — actresses Robin Wright and Sienna Miller, to name just two — and cultivating partnerships with Fortune 500 companies. She’s happier than she was as a journalist, she says, in part because there’s less day-to-day politicking and power grabbing. “I’m not a very good political animal,” she says.

Wading into warzones and disaster areas can be emotionally traumatic, of course, and Traub says she’s still uncovering the consequences of it today. “I felt the reverberations of what I saw subsequently



Uvira, eastern Congo, 2007: International Medical Corps assisted Congolese refugees who were returning to their homeland after having fled to Tanzania for safety.

over the years — there are multitudinous reasons for the end of a marriage but it played a role [in mine].” But she feels it’s made her stronger. “I’m fearless now about some things I didn’t used to be. I have very little tolerance for bullshit — office bullshit, machinations of our day-to-day lives.

“When you’re in a place where people don’t have food and malnutrition is through the roof, and you come home and the choices are abundant, you start to say, ‘I’m not going to worry about this anymore!’

“I’m fearless now about some things I didn’t used to be. I have very little tolerance for bullshit — office bullshit, machinations of our day-to-day lives.”

I’m not going to worry about something with my boss, or that I was just in a fender bender.’ They seem to pale in comparison.”

Traub also finds humanitarian work more meaningful than TV journalism. “My values over the years have evolved,” she notes. “What was important to me at CNN was success in my career, my title, money and ratings, and love and personal stuff of course — but I was focused on winning the game.

“I now work in a place where we’re not tree huggers — actually, we’re a pretty cynical bunch — but we all work together toward a common mission. My work is moving the ball down the road toward helping human existence be better. It’s a nicer place to be.”

Atossa Araxia Abrahamian ’08, JRN’11 authored *The Cosmopolites: The Coming of the Global Citizen*

core values

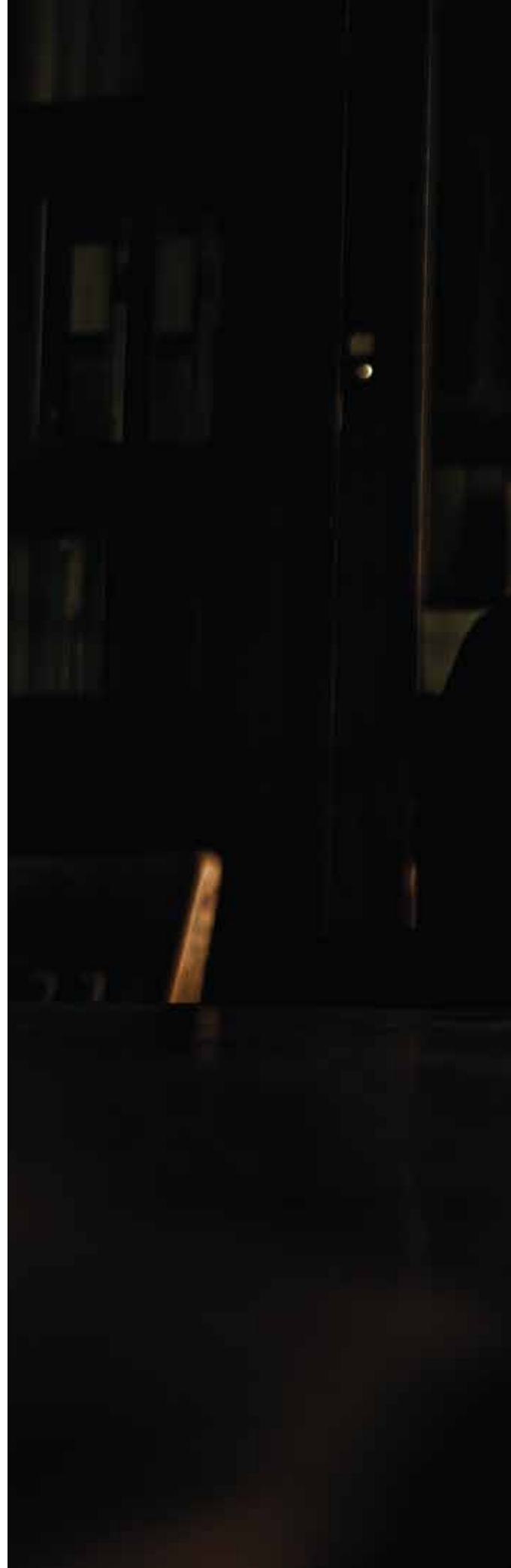
*This year's Great Teacher, Patricia Kitcher,
on the enduring importance
of Contemporary Civilization*

Next year will mark the centennial of the founding of Contemporary Civilization and the Core Curriculum, and Patricia Kitcher, the Roberta and William Campbell Professor of the Humanities and the Carnoy Family Program Chair for Contemporary Civilization, will be a key celebrant. Kitcher has been a leader in CC for five years, and the course's principles are more vital now than ever.

A native of New Haven, Conn., Kitcher became interested in philosophy as a teenager after taking a course on Plato at Yale. She graduated from Wellesley in 1970 and earned a Ph.D. from Princeton in 1974. A renowned Kant scholar, Kitcher specializes in Kant's theories of mind and knowledge and the philosophy of psychology; recently she has turned her attention to Kant's ethical theories.

Kitcher joined the Columbia faculty in 1998; earlier this year she was awarded a Society of Columbia Graduates 2017 Great Teacher Award. Roosevelt Montás '96, GSAS'04, director of the Center for the Core Curriculum and associate dean of academic planning and administration, says of Kitcher: "Principled, rigorous and kind, her influence has made Contemporary Civilization an even stronger course." *Columbia College Today* spoke with Kitcher about Kant, the Core and being a student during troubled times, then and now.

By Jill C. Shomer





CCT: What was it like being at Wellesley in the late 1960s?

Patricia Kitcher: Well, I can tell you the president of my dorm was a young woman named Hillary Rodham.

Really?! Were you friends?

We were not close friends, but I did know her. She was just like she is now — her conversation ranged from Republicans to Democrats. An impressive person.

It was an interesting time because of the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights movement; we lived through the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. It was a very fraught time.

How did that affect your studies? Were you aware that this was such a significant time in history?

Oh yes, it was part of every conversation. We fought wars differently then — we had the draft, there was much more resistance to the war. In 1969 Hillary was the first student to give a commencement speech [at Wellesley]; she condemned the guest

speaker [Sen. Edward Brooke (R-Mass.), the first African-American elected to the Senate] for supporting the war.

It was on everybody's mind. It was just *everywhere*. The country was much more united then because the burdens were being shared, in a way they're not being shared now. Professors at Yale were giving out A's so men wouldn't fail out and receive draft notices.

We've been talking about that as the 50th anniversary of the 1968 protests comes up, how the canceling of classes may have saved some men from the draft.

And then there was Kent State, with students being shot. We just didn't know where it would end. I didn't take my final exams in 1970 because the students were on strike. The valedictorian of my class didn't get to give her speech because she was in jail [for protesting].

How was it when you left an all-female college and went out into the world? The feminist movement was just getting started at that time.

I went on to grad school and it was a nightmare, I hated every minute. There were hardly any women there. It didn't feel safe. You didn't dare overstay at a party. There were professors you couldn't work with or be alone with.

That's sad.

It is sad. Being in graduate school can be unpleasant, anyway, but this was really unpleasant. The four women ahead of me all failed out — they failed exams, some opted not to continue. I've spent my entire career trying to make it better for graduate women than it was for me.

When I was teaching at UC San Diego I chaired the committee that changed the procedures for cases of sexual harassment. There had been eight steps in the process! We got it down to three, which is as few as you can have, because there must be an analogue

Contemporary Civilization has always been about contemporary problems, and when you're living in interesting times — well, we haven't had any great trouble making the CC texts seem relevant.

of an indictment, a trial and an appeal [by the defendant]. Being expelled or fired from a university are costly penalties, so the procedures need to be fair. Yet there must be a system in place to protect the women — and sometimes men — who are targeted by sexual aggressors. It is demeaning, harmful behavior that should not be tolerated in any community.

Do you feel like you're succeeding at creating a better environment for female students?

It's certainly better. But academia is still not very woman-friendly. Philosophy has always been 80 percent male. Our department is good compared to others, but it's still hard for graduate women. Academia is still very family-unfriendly. We've come a long way but there's still a lot of work to be done.



ANTHONY CRIDER / FLICKR

Kitcher expects that her Contemporary Civilization classes will be considering the issues around free speech that arose from August's white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va.

You've taught at a number of different colleges, in California, Vermont, Minnesota ...

They all had wonderful things to offer. And I've enjoyed every minute at Columbia. Receiving a Great Teacher Award was a great honor and a great surprise.

When you received the award, you spoke about teaching "courses that impart intellectual skills that are essential for getting by in the world we now face." What can you say about the importance of Contemporary Civilization in today's world?

I've thought about my job in terms of trying to see what would be most relevant in the contemporary scene to the texts that we teach. CC has always been about contemporary problems, and when you're living in interesting times — well, we haven't had any great trouble making the CC texts seem relevant.

In the section we have about revolutions we sometimes put in the Constitution as well as the Declaration of Independence — this year we had it in, just to make sure we'd all read it. We have thematic arcs that you can go through the whole course with.

What theme do you have planned for the coming academic year?

The one I would like to add is about the refugee crisis. The beginning of the Trump presidency has forced people to think about principles that do or should govern the treatment of refugees. The real issue is the enormous scope of the problem and the inadequacy of all the responses to it. If students want to be challenged, as ours do, then they can try to see whether they can find any resources for thinking about the refugee problem that are up to the task, and if not, whether they have any ways of developing more adequate approaches to this humanitarian disaster.

How have the thematic focuses you suggest for CC changed through the years? What were some past themes?

The end of the Obama years saw the beginning of a serious discussion about over-punishing. This is one of the major moral issues of our time — why do we punish people so much? The French Constitution strives for minimal punishments. Our Bill of Rights added against "cruel and unusual punishment" at a later stage, and "cruel and unusual" is way out there. Why do you have a system that is so punitive? We added readings like *The New Jim Crow*

["Mass Incarcerations in the Age of Colorblindness," by civil rights litigator and legal scholar Michelle Alexander] and writings about other interesting work that's being done.

We have the Center for Justice at Columbia, and justice in punishment will continue to be a theme in CC. The problem hasn't gone away and it seems to have some bipartisan appeal, which is good in some ways with the present climate of rancor. It is also a "good problem" for CC, if I can put it that way, because it is useful to go back and consider what serious thinkers have offered as rationales for punishment and to see how well they stand up — or whether they provide any defense at all for current practices.

On the topic of serious thinkers, there seems to be a disavowal of knowledge happening right now. Couple that with all the arguments about "fake news" ...

It pays to revisit the arguments about freedom of the press by John Stuart Mill — freedom of the press is more important for the ills it prevents than the good that it does. And that seems all the more true today, with the need for fact checkers. People have been worried about the relationship between fact and theory for hundreds of years. This administration's accusations of bias are just such a crass version of anything that would count as an intellectual discussion of the actual issue.

And so intellectual discussions seem especially important to have right now. What do you think is the value of the Core Curriculum for current College students?

In terms of Contemporary Civilization, it's about learning to think through complex issues, learning to see two sides of the same issue play out and learning what the foundations are. The assigned texts represent different perspectives on political and social problems and the students need to work their way into understanding those different perspectives. To succeed at the course, they can't just parrot what Nietzsche or Du Bois wrote; they must gain some appreciation of why and how they develop the views they do. What are their reasons? What are they assuming or refusing to assume? Although students could still just look at various problems from their own points of view, they've at least had to try to understand what considerations might support other views.

Do you think Contemporary Civilization instills a sense of social responsibility in students?

Our goals are more modest — though not very modest. We try to get students to see problems where perhaps they didn't see them before and to get them to think seriously about how such problems might be approached. To give an example, I often end my section of the course with Amartya Sen's essay on concepts of poverty. Although it might seem at first that definitions of poverty aren't very interesting, students quickly appreciate that they are very important in terms of providing resources to those in need. They also realize quickly that there are lots of reasonable approaches one might take in crafting a definition.

Giving students the tools to think seems to be a worthy thing to do.

How to defend your arguments, how to think, is one of the most valuable things in trying to defend a position or write a paper. "What do I think and why do I think that?" That's actually much harder than you would believe.

What do you think about a movement toward vocational skills, or a major that leads more directly to a job, so that college turns into a path to a career rather than an exploration?

You just need to look at the studies that have been done for decades: People who have a broader education can move better in the world. Rejecting the humanities doesn't make sense from a practical point of view. Students feel like they learn to see the world in a different way so it doesn't look so puzzling to them. I just think the world looks like a friendlier place if you have the intellectual tools. Everyone comes in and takes the Core and immediately begins critical thinking. But it's not just critical thinking — it's how you can approach things in different ways.

I don't separate what you might call the skills part from the substance part — it helps to approach a problem as Aristotle would, or to think about a problem as Mill would, because now you have a way to be in the world thinking about things. Reading a lot of insightful people, you can understand a lot of what's going on.

Are you and your husband [Philip Kitcher, the John Dewey Professor of Philosophy] debating philosophy all the time?

[Laughs.] Our children had a firm rule — no work at any meal! We don't always talk about work, but with a scholarly career it's good to be with another scholar; they know what you're going through and why. When you already have tenure and it's a Sunday but you can't stop.

You've written three books — are you working on another?

Yes, one of the theses I'm trying to defend is connecting Kant's theory of ethics to his theory of cognition — how we understand another person as a thinker is through the understanding of our own mental activity. In my view, that's what he's doing with the ethics as well.

The basic idea is that when you encounter another human being, you automatically take them to be the same sort of moral creature that you are. You see the person, the human form, and you see a moral being: someone who can do the right thing for the right reason, a being who is for that reason worthy of respect. That's what you have to get talked out of, either by yourself or others — something that you know immediately — in order to dismiss others as unworthy and to consider only your own self-interest.

As a coda, since we met in July there's been another national conversation about freedom of speech, related to the events in Charlottesville. Will this be a discussion point with your students?

To return to Mill, the great defender of freedom of expression, free speech loses its protection when done in a way to incite violence. Insofar as the organizers meant not just to express an odious opinion, but also to provoke violent reactions, they forfeited their right to speak. One could argue that history since Mill shows that anti-Semitism and racism are by their very content invitations to violence against members of particular groups. I'm not sure that Mill would disagree, but I expect that CC sections might try to think through this problem during the year and also think through the responsibilities of political leaders and ordinary citizens to respond to hate speech, even in cases where it might be protected by considerations of liberty.

Open House

Actress Jenny Slate '04 and her father welcome readers into their (haunted!) family home



ILLUSTRATIONS BY KARL STEVENS

Those who follow **Jenny Slate '04's** acting career won't be surprised to learn that she has long been preoccupied with the idea of hanging on to her childhood self. From her viral YouTube video series (and Penguin book) *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On*, to her roles in *Obvious Child* and *Landline*, Slate's on-screen characters often seem comically immature.

Now, after a notably grown-up level of achievement (appearing on *Saturday Night Live*, *Parks and Recreation* and *Girls*), Slate has chosen to dive into her past. The result is a memoir, co-written with her father, poet Ron Slate, *About the House* (Concord Free Press, 2016). While it's nominally an account of the Slate family's unusual home — a haunted 1898 colonial in the Boston suburbs — the book also serves as a kind of origin story for Slate herself. Like her floral-walled bedroom, or the closet in which she scribbled teenage grudges, the house has been both a laboratory and a much-needed refuge for Slate: a place where she could experiment with ways of being, and a space where she could heal herself when things went catastrophically wrong.

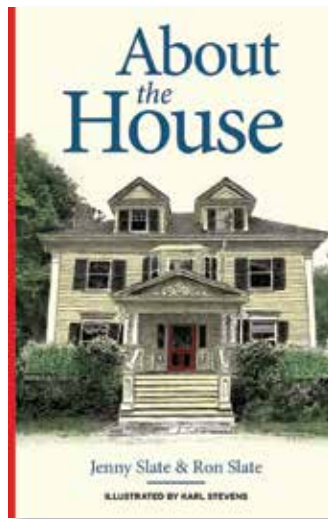
About the House was conceived with the help of Concord Free Press co-founders Stona and Ann Fitch. (Ron Slate has been on the

press' board since its beginning.) An innovative charity, Concord Free Press publishes a small list of limited-edition titles — a typical print run is 3,000 copies. Each book is given away for free, and the recipient is asked to contribute to a charity of their choice. About the House has produced more donations than almost any other on its 11-book list, raising more than \$150,000 for causes including the ACLU and Planned Parenthood.

The Slates' Victorian house "meant a lot to the family," Stona Fitch points out, in describing the book's conception. Unairconditioned and rambling, with a ghost who might appear and disappear on the staircase, the home seems both "scary and loving," more like a person than an abode. In a December 2016 NPR interview, Jenny Slate muses that the place might be somehow "a little bit alive. Like, if you ripped up the basement floor, you might find ... a big red lit-up heart or something."

In the following excerpt, Slate examines the ways in which her childhood bedroom was the perfect chrysalis for her still-shifting identity — and her acting career.

— Rose Kernochan BC'82



In my memory, my room still has two beds with rounded bedposts and a desk that smells like varnish. My mother and I stained it and sealed it together, the shellac smelling so strong that when I hid a box of Junior Mints in one of its little drawers, the melty candies tasted only of chemicals and I was pissed and afraid to eat them. I love little secrets and little drawers. I love secrets that are sweet and not rough. I love gentle treasures. My room, in my mind, has a big, comfy white arm chair that I begged for in high school because I also had a phone and lots of reading to do, and I wanted to seem like I was so grown up that I could do my homework even if I wasn't sitting at a desk. I loved to drape myself across the chair, my legs hanging over one arm, my head resting on the other. Teenagers don't need to sit on chairs in the normal way! I also had a big yellow Victorian dollhouse on a rotating platform. Its front lawn had a little pond and a gazebo. The inside of the house was painstakingly decorated. There was a wood-burning stove in the kitchen. The people who lived there were from the past.

I have always loved the past, and loved that the house was so old. I wanted to blend in perfectly with the decades that descended behind us. My dresser was from my grandmother's bedroom when she was a girl, so it was incredibly special to me. And I was a sentimental young person, in a different way than I am now. These days, I sit in my bedroom and reflect but I don't feel a yearning for a part of my life that I haven't gotten to yet. But back then, as a teenager, I was aware of two things — two thoughts that were so alive that I wasn't sure if they were part of me, or if they were my companions.

One: I had always, for my whole life, from my first workable thought, wanted to be an adult woman-actress. There was no start to this desire. It came with me, and I was forced to be with it while it moaned and groaned about not being able to be itself yet. I didn't want to be Shirley Temple. I wanted to be Amy Irving, Mary Steen-burgen, Dianne Wiest, Madeline Kahn, Gilda Radner, Judy Garland, and one day, Ruth Gordon.

The second thing I was aware of and tried to be smart about, an idea drilled in by my mother, and then by Mary Martin's *Peter Pan*, was that I would be an idiot and a walking tragedy if I somehow let the child inside myself die away. That I would be the most successful actress and adult if I could somehow preserve it, if I could find delight in my younger self and her innocent and odd preferences. And this is how I became sentimental even as a child and a teen. I knew to value my childhood while I was in it. To plant it and grow it and keep it living, so that I wouldn't have to make a terrible decision or a painful compromise. Do you want to be an adult or a child? I want to be both. Is there an area for that? There is, because I used my bedroom as a lab for this process.

My room had flowers on the walls, and flowers on the rug, and flowers on the quilt and bed linens and dust ruffles and on the curtains too. In the closet were sweaters, skirts and dresses. Party shoes. Scraps of fabric from embroidery, pillow making, and doll clothes projects. Empty duffel bags. At the appropriate point, I really leaned into being a teenager. I would shut myself in the closet with my flashlight from camp, a handful of colored pencils, and write my secrets and grievances on the walls.

During this time, I read Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye* like it was my bible. It was about a woman whose whole thing was that she ended up being fine, a full person, and she eventually got to have sex, and an adulthood in which she painted in strong oil paints, and she was a successful artist, but she was ultimately formed by the abuse that she went through while being bullied in her teens. She was bullied viciously by the girl who was supposed to be her best friend. Her bully was Cordelia. There were several bullies for me, including a girl named Jessica, who was my best friend and then made a freezing cold, heartless exit out of my life. But the bully who I still have active rage toward was (and is) Sarah, a wispy-haired, thin-lipped blonde whose heart probably beat once a minute and who probably had minnows swimming in her stomach. A little girl whose cold, blue blood made her seem like an undertaker's sour protégé. I hear she's some sort of yoga teacher now and the idea that she's telling people how to be peaceful while not offering the disclaimer that she caused deep, acid-like suffering makes me want to rip a roof off of a house. She was very good at being cruel, knowing just how to do it. And I, good at nothing but secret things that I didn't know how to express because they were for the future and a deserving audience.

Yes, I'm still upset about it, even though it's too much to still carry this anger. Even though the specific rejections that I experienced unearthed a joyful and heartbreaking resilience in me. I'm still upset about it even though that unchosen pain made me into the person who I am and who I love to be. But this daily emotional pummeling made me ill and disoriented with rage and sadness. And that's why the closet had writing on the walls, hidden scribbles, just a little bit of disobedience, because writing on a wall is not allowed usually, although I'm sure my mother wouldn't have cared. She would have seen, "I hate Jessica, she deserves NO MERCY!" and probably agreed with me. My mother hated Jessica's mother.



So did I. Their family was like a cluster of golden retrievers, but not as gregarious or innocent at all. Just open mouthed and blonde. Her mother wore long denim skirts and giant Christian-y cardigans and had such non-square shoulders that she actually looked like a zucchini in a little outfit.

My mother read *Cat's Eye* in a book club with the other mothers in my class. She came away from the meeting incredulous and agog at the stupidity and emotional wastefulness of the women in the group. She said that they were all complaining about their own mothers, and when they'd looked to her to add in her own mother-based rage, she had declined. Because her mother is Nana Connie, and honestly, Nana Connie really is kind of perfect. My mother never went back to the group, but she did give me the book to read. In my opinion, my mother gave me this book and it saved myself and my life, and I knew it. If I were home right now, I'd get into the closet and write that myself. "My mother's high standards and good taste and warm heart and a book she gave me saved my life and made me who I am right now."

I studied in that bedroom. I studied enough so that I could go to the college of my choice and leave high school behind, even though there were some bright spots at the end. My walls were pinned with pictures of Leonardo DiCaprio, his gentle Nordic features mixing really well with the floral Laura Ashley walls. In one especially adored picture, he stared into the camera, intense and present, with a real goose around his neck.

The goose neck was draped around his own neck. I loved it. It made me crazy with love. I remember thinking, *I wish I could be that goose.*

One summer, I came back from my sophomore year of college, my heart thoroughly shredded by a boy named Russell who claimed that we should break up for the summer because we'd both be going home. "But we're both from Boston!" I screamed at him. He was very timid and didn't like being yelled at, plus he just wasn't over his last girlfriend, who had a wide face like a dinner plate and wore ugly clogs, but who had been mean to him, so he became obsessed with her. I was devastated and limped back home to my childhood bedroom where there was now only one twin bed. My plan was to cut my hair like *Amélie*, work in a chocolate shop in Harvard Square, and get over Russell. Being rejected by him seemed like some sort of major hint thrown my way, something that said that I was *really* not there yet, really not on my way to becoming an actress or even a woman who could be loved.

There is no air conditioning in our house in Milton. I've never wanted it. I love the open windows, the very loud bugs, and the fans that we take out of the attic when it gets too hot. We bring them down from the third floor and we put them on in our rooms, and they wave their heads from side to side and help us go to sleep with their breeze and humming rhythm. I bought new sheets for my bed, sort of matching with the Laura Ashley extravaganza that never died, but also to assert that I was interesting and worth it. The bottom sheet was light pink. The top sheet was a deep raspberry. I kept the bed as it was, by the window, but I put the sheets on backwards. I slept on the wrong end of the bed, with my head right by the window, in mismatching sheets, not sure if I was awake or asleep because I smoked so much weed that my brain felt like a melted caramel. *Fuck you, Russell.* This right here is what a dream girl looks like. I had some other boyfriends that summer. I relaxed in that bedroom, not knowing it would be my last full summer as myself alone in that room. I smoked constant weed. I listened



to the *Amélie* soundtrack and ate big bowls of cherries, before I became very allergic to them. I smelled like chocolate and I rested, and at some point I left and went back to New York City to continue to try to let something out of myself and into myself.

The room went through changes. Things got taken off the walls because the ceiling had to be fixed. The little bed, once part of a pair, was taken to the third floor to be with its mate and was replaced with a weird big four-poster bed that my parents got without asking me. A crib went into the room, but it was old, from when we were babies. It was supposed to be for my sister's twins, but I think she thought it was thoroughly unfit, which I'm sure is right. It seemed rusty and splintery and not for today's babies. The last time I was in that room I'd crept back to Milton to try to get my head on straight after the three-year long crash and burn of my marriage. Being a divorcée in a big bed all by yourself actually seems like a game that I would have played as a girl.

I don't know what is more important than to say that most of the time I spent in that room was given to completing tasks, making wishes and fantasizing, all in preparation, all in a yearning drive, to become my actress adult self. Every single stage of that room is colored by that desire. My parents came to that house and they maybe were thinking about whether or not they were who they hoped to be, and whether they could continue to do what they wanted. I knew exactly what I wanted to be, and I knew I had nothing to do but to wait until it was time. Incubation. The room was a chrysalis. In many variations, I played a game. I played that I was an adult actress, that I had choices about what to do with the hours in the day, and that I was also living a life in which I myself was chosen by others. I played that I ate a small meal and took a long walk. That my room was my apartment and our lawn was Central Park. I played that I had objects of womanhood (clip-on earrings, a purse, a bra, a cup of coffee and window to look out of), and I pretended that I used these objects with intention while knowing that they were part of a whole, precious vision.

I used to get myself up in "dress-up clothes" that strangely resembled Bernadette Peters in *Annie*, using play money from Milton Bradley's *The Game of Life* and an old purse that also had fake credit cards and car keys, and leave my room like a woman leaves her New York City apartment: Lock the door, be in a bit of a rush, wiggle your butt as you walk, go out there into the city-world to get something

for yourself, like groceries or nightgowns or scotch tape — all small but important details in a bigger situation of personal success.

I did it all on purpose, my game-playing in that room whose walls looked like a garden. Not long ago, I told my father, "An actress is someone who is a woman on purpose," or many different women to be sure, but also one woman as well. I played the game of pretending and imagining that I was already who I hoped to be. And I sat in the room and I studied in there, hoping to make my brain good enough to go to New York. I played the game again, and I slept on the bed in the right way and the wrong way, and then I left.

Playing the game became second nature, even outside of the room. You cannot play the game correctly if you are also not aware of the present. The actress is not unaware that she is standing on a stage. You cannot play the game well if you erase the objects that are there. You have to say, "This plastic tea cup is what it is, but I'm saying that it's a porcelain coffee cup and it has coffee and not just water, and I'm looking at the lawn through the bedroom window, but the bedroom window stands for a gorgeous old window in a New York City apartment, and the lawn stands for a city street that I'm not even afraid of, or Central Park." You take the *now* and you use it and you make sure to not insult it. You just use it creatively. You make it special by saying, "Hey room, did you know you could do *this* with yourself?" You play the game until so much time has passed that the game becomes real, and everything has always been real, all of everything and the way it's been dressed up and converted, it's all connected because it was always allowed to be there.

The room is resting now, and I'm out there with a bra and a purse, pretending to be another woman when someone calls *action*, and honestly being one woman when the person says *cut*.

Most of the time I spent in that room was given to completing tasks, making wishes and fantasizing, all in preparation, all in a yearning drive, to become my actress adult self.

Out in the world, the part of myself that has been asking to be let out and accepted, the adult actress who lived inside my child self, has sprung into being. She changed places with the child, who has now made a tiny little bedroom in my heart. She lives in there. She has her own little phone line and it calls my brain and I always pick up.

The room is resting and when I need it, I go back and rest in it. We are together again, and it's odd, because the room has the feel of an empty cocoon, invisible curving, a curling up trail of energy. It has the jet streaks of the energy of a creature that has waited and waited and built up the power to be whole and to fly off into the outside. It has done its major part, and now it is either just what it is, or a treasure for another creature to find and wonder over.

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UNITING COLUMBIA'S CAMPUS

Crisp fall weather might bring to mind memories of heading to class along College Walk, but the pedestrian path tread by so many students hasn't always been there. A street once ran through the center of campus, from Broadway to Amsterdam, but in 1953 the City of New York gave its blessing for a radical project. Columbia's "bicentennial beautification plans," as *Spectator* reported on April 7 that year, called for closing the block to motor traffic, ripping up the paving and replacing it "with a new surfacing and landscaping which will be in harmony with the surrounding area." The article continued: "Columbia, which has agreed to pay a token \$1,000 to the city, will be bound not to erect any structures over the entire area. The closing of the street ... will consolidate the campus, making the area from 114th to 120th Street virtually one unit."

On June 6, 1955, the Board of Trustees voted to change the name from West 116th Street to College Walk, making it part of Columbia's signature landscape and lexicon.

New Leaders, New Priorities for the Year Ahead

By Michael Behringer '89

I am honored to be the newest president of the Columbia College Alumni Association (college.columbia.edu/alumni). Having been involved with the CCAA for nearly 10 years, I can say with certainty that it's a rewarding experience to give back to Columbia, reconnect with old friends and meet generations of alumni and students. I'm looking forward to advancing the CCAA's mission during my three-year term, which began on July 1.

The CCAA serves both College alumni and students. Founded in 1825, its membership comprises more than 50,000 College alumni worldwide. By tradition, we also recognize College students, faculty and administrators as members.

The CCAA is your liaison and representative for all things relating to the College. Its mission is to promote alumni engagement, raise funds on behalf of the College and provide counsel to the dean and other senior administrators. Our leadership, a 70-member Board of Directors elected to two-year terms, meets regularly with Dean James J. Valentini. Examples of the CCAA's work are leading and supporting the Columbia College Fund, supporting the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner and John Jay Awards Dinner, and maintaining several committees that address topics of importance to students and alumni, such as career education, student life and athletics.

This fall, six new members join me on the Steering Committee: **Steve Coleman '83**, VP of engagement; **Ted Schweitzer '91**, VP of development; **Alex Wallace Creed '88**, VP, state of the College; **Stefanie Katz-Rothman '88**, communications adviser; **Chris Della Pietra '89**, secretary; and our chair, **Doug Wolf '88**.

The CCAA is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers. Steve has been an Alumni Representative Committee (ARC) regional chair for Boston. Ted, a prolific fundraiser, is a former chair of the Fund Development Council. Alex is a John Jay Award recipient and was the Class Day speaker in 2011. Stefanie co-led the planning for the Columbia College Women 30th celebration symposium this past April. Chris, the quarterback of our 1988 football team that broke "the streak," was presented the President's Cup for his reunion leadership. Doug led the CCAA as president for the past three years.

For this year the board has identified several priorities:

- **Expanding ARC:** ARC members help the Admissions Office by interviewing applicants to Columbia College and Columbia Engineering and by representing the schools at local events to promote the Columbia experience. Despite a passionate group of

core volunteers, we trail our Ivy peers in number of interviews with prospective students. We want to expand our ARC coverage and strengthen our volunteer system.

- **Developing the Odyssey Mentoring Program:** College alumni include professionals and experts in nearly every discipline. Their knowledge, coupled with their understanding of what it means to have attended the College, makes for an invaluable resource. We want to expand opportunities for alumni to provide advice and networking opportunities to current students as well as to fellow alumni.

- **Implementing increased student-alumni programming:** Alumni and students are eager to interact and share experiences, build community and understand the issues facing students today. We have some exciting ideas in the works that we'll share in the coming months.

- **Support for Core to Commencement:** The Core to Commencement campaign is a multi-year endeavor to rally support and dollars to enhance the undergraduate experience that makes the College the "jewel" of the Columbia crown. We want to draw more alumni into this important initiative that supports students, faculty and the Core and positions alma mater for continuing greatness.

- **Reunions and Homecoming:** We'll look at ways to enhance these signature events by expanding programming and participation.

We need passionate alumni to help with these initiatives. If you're interested in volunteering, or have questions and/or suggestions, please email me at mpbehringer@gmail.com or friend me on Facebook (facebook.com/michael.behringer1). I'd love to hear from you.

Also, please mark these fall events on your calendar. Homecoming is Saturday, October 14; the Lions will host Penn. The Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner is Thursday, November 16. The Alexander Hamilton Medal, the CCAA's highest honor for service to the College, will be awarded this year to one of our most dedicated and loyal alumni, University Trustee **Jonathan S. Lavine '88**. I hope you can join us in celebrating Jonathan for all he has done for Columbia.

ROAR!



COURTESY MICHAEL BEHRINGER '89

On August 25, **Lisa Carnoy '89** was unanimously elected to the United States Soccer Board of Directors, where she will be an independent director. The board is the governing body of the U.S. Soccer Federation.

After being appointed by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo in early June, Justice **Paul Feinman '81** was confirmed by the New York State Senate to the State Court of Appeals on June 21.

On August 3, *Ad Age* hosted “Women to Watch,” an event to celebrate women in advertising. EVP of Global Solutions for Fox Networks Group **Danielle Maged '89, BUS'97** received an *Ad Age* “Women to Watch” award during the ceremony.

Max Schnur '15 made it to the first round of doubles play at Wimbledon's 131st Championships. He is the first Columbia alumnus to make it into the tournament since 1982.

On August 4, WNYC's Leonard Lopate interviewed artistic director **Thomas Kapusta '12** and producer **Alexander Donnelly '14** about The Corkscrew Theater Festival, which they created to

support independent theater and artists by increasing production opportunities for early-career artists.

Two alumni appeared in *Crain's New York's* list of the Most Powerful Women 2017: New York City Council Speaker **Melissa Mark-Viverito '91** came in at number 17 and **Sheena Wright '90, LAW'94**, president and CEO of the United Way of New York City, came in at number 41. The rankings “evaluated the candidates using three basic criteria: the financial size of their organization, their rank within their company and the specific impact they've had on New York City through their professional and personal endeavors.” All the honorees were celebrated at a luncheon on September 26.

Maggie Gyllenhaal '99 stars in *The Deuce*, which debuted on HBO on September 10. The show takes place in the 1970s and tells the story of the beginnings of New York City's porn industry; Gyllenhaal stars as a sex worker who enters the triple-X film world.

Musicologist, historian and UC Berkeley Emeritus Professor of Music **Richard Taruskin '65, GSAS'76** received Japan's

prestigious 2017 Kyoto Prize “for his contributions to the study, performance and critical discourse of early music, modern Russian music and Western music history.”

Broadway producer **Ron Simons '82, BUS'89** won the Tony for “Best Play



Revival” for August Wilson's *Jitney* at the 71st Tony Awards ceremony, held June 11 at Radio City Music Hall.

David Perlman '39, JRN'40, the famed *San Francisco Chronicle* science editor, retired in early August after nearly 70 years with the *Chronicle*. “Perlman has churned out thousands of articles over the years,” said a *KQED Science* article about his retirement. “Not only has he won numerous science journalism awards, there are two named for him. Perlman's life has spanned whole epochs in science: the launch of the space age, the entire unfolding of the computer age and, as *The Los Angeles Times* noted in a profile, Pluto's entire life as a planet, from its discovery in 1930, to its recent demotion to subplanet.”

Long-distance runner and activist **Alison Mariella Désir '07, GSAS'11, TC'16** is one of the faces of a new Under Armour campaign, “Unlike Any,” which celebrates female athletes. The campaign combines the work of lyricists, poets and spoken-word artists to create videos highlighting each athlete.

Lucia Aniello '04 made her film directorial debut on June 16 with *Rough Night*, a comedy starring **Kate McKinnon '06** and Scarlett Johansson, among others. McKinnon also appeared on the cover of the July 2017 *ELLE*; she was interviewed by Tina Fey.

— Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09



JASON MOODY PHOTOGRAPHY



ANTOINE BRAXTON/TELL-A-VISION FILMS

Commissioner Julie Jacobs Menin '89 Advances NYC's Cultural Profile

By Christine Yu '99

Bringing the Grammys back to New York City seemed like an impossible task. But **Julie Jacobs Menin '89** was up for the challenge.

In February 2016, during her first week as head of media and entertainment for NYC, Menin flew to Los Angeles to woo executives from The Recording Academy. After staging the Grammys at the Staples Center for 17 of the last 18 years, the case to move them east was hard to make. It cost an estimated \$6 million–\$8 million more to run the show in the Big Apple, where there hadn't always been political support for the event.

Now, for the first time, the music industry had a dedicated advocate within NYC government. When Mayor Bill de Blasio appointed Menin commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME), he expanded the office's portfolio to include music, publishing, advertising and digital media, in addition to its longstanding focus on film, theater and television. "To not have the music industry housed in any city agency was problematic," says Menin, demonstrating the take-charge attitude driv-

ing her quest to make NYC the preeminent media and entertainment hub in the country. "We need to cover all the creative sectors. There are a lot of synergies among them."

For more than a year, Menin showed The Recording Academy that music has a home in NYC. Since the city doesn't underwrite award shows, she orchestrated complex negotiations among city agencies, Madison Square Garden, labor unions and the academy to defray the event's costs and rallied a host committee to raise millions of dollars. By May, Menin succeeded — the 60th Annual Grammy Awards will return to Madison Square Garden on January 28, 2018. It is expected to generate \$200 million in economic benefit for NYC. "When we talk about affordable housing, parks and schools, this revenue can be a game changer," she says.

For nearly 20 years, Menin has been a trailblazer. The awards show coup was the latest example of how she facilitates opportunities for New Yorkers.

Left to right: Mayor Bill de Blasio, Julie Jacobs Menin '89, Alicia Keys, Jane Rosenthal and Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen at the 50th Anniversary celebration of MOME.

Growing up in Washington, D.C., Menin was curious about current events. However, the political science major's interest in government really began at Columbia, thanks to a public policy course taught by Professor Ester Fuchs. "She spoke about the role city government can play in effecting change," says Menin, and the idea stuck.

Menin earned a law degree from Northwestern in 1992 and practiced regulatory law for eight years. In 1999, ready for a change, she opened Vine, a restaurant and catering business a few blocks from the World Trade Center, despite zero food industry experience. "I wanted to operate a small business in the community where I lived and was going to raise a family," she says. But her business was destroyed and she was forced to evacuate her home after 9-11.

"September 11 was important in terms of catalyzing Julie's passion and commitment to New York City," says Lisa Carnoy '89, former division executive for the Northeast for U.S. Trust and a Columbia University trustee, who knows Menin professionally and through their work with Columbia College Women and the Columbia College Alumni Association (Menin was a CCAA Board of Directors member 2010–16 and since 2016 has been a Columbia College Board of Visitors member).

As a local business owner and resident, Menin was spurred to act. She founded the nonprofit Wall Street Rising three weeks after 9-11. It assisted more than 600 small businesses by helping them navigate the convoluted world of emergency aid programs, apply for loans and grants, and identify viable real estate for relocation in order to stay in operation. It initiated cultural programs to attract visitors downtown, and Menin worked with Jane Rosenthal and Robert De Niro to launch the first Tribeca Film Festival in 2002.

Menin's leadership in the resurgence of Lower Manhattan led to her appointment to Manhattan's Community Board 1, which covers the Financial District, Battery Park City and Tribeca, and which she chaired for seven years. "Thousands of residents left after 9-11 and never came back. Everyone said people weren't going to live and work there. But we proved them wrong," she says. In 2014, de Blasio tapped Menin to head the Department of Consumer Affairs, where she fought for worker and consumer protections.

Today, Menin continues to find opportunities to invigorate NYC's vibrant cultural and economic life. She launched a five-part women's



ANTOINETTE BRAXTON/TELL-A-VISION FILMS

initiative, including a \$5 million grant fund, to increase representation of women in film, television and theater. "Many studies point to the lack of female directors, producers, writers and actors. We're not seeing or hearing enough women's voices," Menin says. Her office also helped create job-training programs for unemployed and underemployed workers, and a virtual reality and augmented reality hub at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which is expected to create more than 500 jobs in the next 10 years. She even convinced New Yorkers to agree to read the novel *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie together for the "One Book, One New York" program, and is uniting the city this fall around *Crooklyn* for "One Film, One New York."

Menin continues to draw energy from NYC, where she lives with her husband and three sons, a 14-year-old and 12-year-old twins. This fall, she's bringing her passion back to where it started — Columbia. She's slated to teach "Cities Take the Lead: When Local Officials Fill the Federal Policy Void" at SIPA.

"I'm a firm advocate and believer that government can make a difference in people's lives," says Menin. "Being involved in city government is an honor."

Christine Yu '99 is a freelance writer who has written for *The Washington Post*, *Outside magazine* and *espnW*, among others.

Sleepy Hollow Mayor Takes Town Beyond the Legend

By Nathalie Alonso '08

It's tough to introduce yourself as the mayor of Sleepy Hollow without raising some eyebrows. "As in the Headless Horseman?" Indeed, and each fall **Ken Wray '77**, **GSAPP '91** presides over the first of the season's annual hayrides that trace the flight of Ichabod Crane. But the mayor of this small New York village has bigger responsibilities than nurturing an early 19th-century legend.

Top of the list: overseeing Edge-on-Hudson, an ambitious construction project on which Sleepy Hollow has pinned its hopes of economic growth. The plans call for transforming nearly 100 river-

front acres — formerly a General Motors plant — into a complex with more than 1,100 housing units, commercial space, parkland and a hotel. The site had been vacant since 1996, when the plant closed, and its restoration will have a profound impact on the scenic Hudson Valley village. So in addition to typical mayoral duties like managing the budget and hiring municipal employees, Wray's job has involved negotiating with GM and the developers.

"That's what's exciting about it," Wray says as he tours the construction site in his blue pickup one day this past summer. "You do

all the things a mayor does in any other little village, except here we've got all this development and the need to manage how it's going to play out."

Edge-On-Hudson was conceived years before Wray was elected mayor in 2009, but legal battles, GM's bankruptcy and other hurdles delayed construction until May 2016. Under Wray's leadership, the village settled the pending lawsuits and successfully navigated oft-contentious negotiations with GM on the way to issuing the special permit that made development possible. Wray also negotiated a deal that allowed Sleepy Hollow to install an urgently needed water reservoir on land owned by the Rockefeller family, at no cost to the village. "Without that, we couldn't let a single new home be built," he says.



NATHALIE ALONSO '08

Mayor Ken Wray '77 with the Halloween-themed fire truck he commissioned.

Edge-On-Hudson is expected to increase Sleepy Hollow's small but diverse population — currently 10,000 residents, half of whom speak Spanish at home — by roughly a third, according to Wray, who also is executive director of The Parodneck Foundation, a non-profit that promotes affordable housing in New York City. Wray will draw from decades of experience in that field as he attempts to mitigate the effects of gentrification. "We all moved here because we liked the character of the village; we liked that it's a village, not an anonymous 'burb,'" he says.

Sleepy Hollow was known as North Tarrytown when Wray and his wife, Lynn Moffat BC'78, arrived with their three children by way of Brooklyn in 1996. The GM plant had recently shuttered, taking with it a major source of tax revenue. Seeking a cleaner, safer place to live, the couple was impressed by the school system and the community's deep roots. They arrived in time to vote in favor of the name change to reflect the village's place in American lore as the setting of Washington Irving's 1820 tale *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, as well as a shift to a recreation-based economy.

Now in his fifth term as mayor, Wray got involved in local government "by accident," he says, in 2007, when he unwittingly signed papers to run for village trustee at a Democratic Party meeting — and won. He found the work compelling and, after a two-year term on the Board of Trustees, Wray decided to run for mayor. In the last two elections he ran with Unite Sleepy Hollow, a non-partisan coalition he helped establish in 2015.

As a trustee, Wray identified and helped other candidates get elected to the board, among them David Schroedel, who served two terms. A village resident since 1986, Schroedel attributes Wray's success, at the negotiation table and at the polls, to an ability to foster cooperation among people with different perspectives. "He puts together strong teams and challenges them to build consensus on how to approach problems," says Schroedel.

Driven by memories of visiting state and national parks with his family — including his father, Karl Wray '35 (now deceased), and twin brother, Mark Wray '77 — Wray is now working to ensure that for the first time, Sleepy Hollow residents can enjoy their spectacular waterfront. As part of the deal with GM, the village received a 29-acre parcel that will be used for amenities such as an amphitheater, a community center and sports facilities. Wray also envisions outdoor art reminiscent of the Storm King Art Center, one of the world's leading sculpture parks, further north.

"Whatever we do is going to be here for 50 years and probably longer than that," he says. "We're looking at this as an opportunity to shape the future of the village."

Nathalie Alonso '08, from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for *LasMayores.com*, Major League Baseball's official Spanish language website. She is a regular contributor to CCT.

Go Inside the NFL with Ian Rapoport '02

By Alex Sachare '71

On the first full day of summer, **Ian Rapoport '02** was playing golf and focused on nothing more urgent than which club to choose for his next shot. A few minutes later, after getting a tip from a source and confirming it, he was on the phone with the set of *Good Morning Football*, the NFL Network's morning show, breaking the news that the Oakland Raiders had signed quarterback Derek Carr to a contract extension that at that time made Carr the highest paid player in the NFL.

Such is the life of an NFL "Insider" in these days of no real offseason and a 24-hour news cycle — always on call, always one

moment away from having to drop everything and chase down a story, verify a report, confirm a rumor. And Rapoport loves every minute of it.

"I like covering something that people really care about and need to know about," says Rapoport, who has been an on-air reporter for the NFL Network since 2012.

Rapoport, like his chief rival, ESPN's Adam Schefter, is charged with "breaking news, telling our audience things they didn't know and giving them insight into what is going on around the league," says David Eaton, news editor for the NFL Network.



BEN LIEBENBERG / NFL.COM

Rapoport appears regularly on the shows *Good Morning Football* and *NFL Total Access*, often with segments that air from his basement studio at his home in Rye, N.Y., just north of New York City. He also is a regular on the Sunday pregame show during football season and reports from the NFL Playoffs, the Super Bowl and the NFL Draft, among others. And for those who can't wait to get the news on TV, Rapoport tweets it to his more than 1.3 million followers (@rapsheet).

A native of Westchester County, Rapoport was a history major. He planned to go to law school, but enjoyed covering sports for *Spectator* and by sophomore year, he says, "I knew I wanted to give journalism a try." He decided to give it two years, and if things weren't working out, it would be on to law school.

Rapoport worked part time in the sports department of the *Journal News*, his local newspaper, and, shortly before his self-imposed deadline, landed a full-time job at *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Miss., where he covered Mississippi State football. "When I was interviewed, they kept asking me whether I really would leave New York and move to Mississippi, like they couldn't believe anyone would do that. But I really wanted to give it a shot," he says. And while he admits to "a little bit" of culture shock, he notes, "I lived in Starkville, a real college town, for two years and that's where I met the woman [Leah] who would become my wife. So there was a lot to like in Starkville."

From there it was on to *The Birmingham (Ala.) News*, where he covered Alabama football and the Crimson Tide's famously controlling coach, Nick Saban. "Nothing could have prepared me for what became the craziest experience of my life," he says. "Everything he said was a story, and everyone in the state wanted to read everything about him," Rapoport says. "I went from a nobody to one of the most widely read writers in college football."

After three years, Rapoport moved to the *Boston Herald* to cover the New England Patriots and their similarly controlling head coach, Bill Belichick. He did so for two years and also did some television work, including reports for the NFL Network, which caught the attention of editors there. "I was covering the Super Bowl," Rapoport says, "and they asked me to come in and talk. I told them I didn't know anything about TV, but they said, 'That's OK, we'll teach you.'"

Eaton says that he was attracted by the skills Rapoport developed while covering high-profile teams and demanding coaches. "He had very strong sports editors early on in his career. The time in Alabama made him a better reporter and New England is another good place to learn how to develop news sources. Those experiences made him a very solid reporter."

Rapoport became a Dallas-based regional reporter for the NFL Network and after a year was promoted to the position of NFL Insider. Two years later, Rapoport and his family — which now includes sons Max (4) and Jude (3), who enjoy playing in his home studio — relocated to Rye, a 20-minute drive from where he grew up. "My goal always was to get back to New York," he says. "It took a long time to get back here, but I'm extremely happy the way it worked out."

Asked about his plans, Rapoport says he loves his job despite its consuming nature. "I'm the guy telling NFL fans what's up, and to me, that's fun." He concedes that he sometimes misses writing, though, and says he'd like to write a book in the near future. But at the pace that news breaks around the NFL, that's unlikely to happen anytime soon.

Alex Sachare '71 is a former editor-in-chief of CCT. In prior careers, he was a sports writer and administrator.

bookshelf

Amanda Steinberg '99 Redefines a Woman's Worth

By Yelena Shuster '09

By 21, **Amanda Steinberg '99** was running her own office. By 25, she was making six figures. By 29, she had founded a million-dollar software company. So how did the longtime hustler find herself unexpectedly \$100,000 in debt a year later?

The short answer: She had no clue how to manage money. And if someone as successful as she could have that big a financial blind spot, what hope do the rest of us have? The realization led to Steinberg's next start-up, in 2009: *DailyWorth.com*, a financial hub for women unlike any in the mainstream media at the time, full of personal essays meant to appeal to all aspects of a woman's wallet. "My hypothesis was if I can repackage and rebrand money in a way that makes it intelligent, but not just focused on, 'Here's how to save \$10 at the grocery store,' then I would be able to attract half of the market, which then would be an interest to advertisers," she says.

Eight years later, Steinberg has adapted her guidance into book form with *Worth It: Your Life, Your Money, Your Terms* (North Star Way, \$26). "Socialized separation between women and money is so much more of a problem than I realized when I started [the website]. The whole identity of what it means to be female is to not be interested in money in most cases," she says.

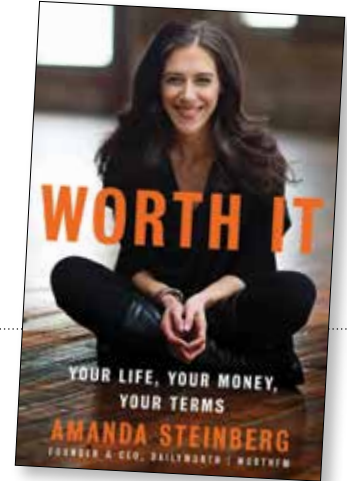
Steinberg strove not to sound like a typical finance author, from the cover to the content.

"We're so used to money advice being delivered in a certain way and I felt like I kept being pushed into the formulas. Like my publisher wanted me standing on the cover like Power Woman" — she crosses her arms — "and I was like, 'That's not me; it's not how I project.' I want to be warm and accessible."

In the book, Steinberg rails against the gendered financial advice women typically receive, which she believes focuses on the microcosm of the home (earning, budgeting) instead of bigger-picture macroeconomics (saving, investing). "Budgeting is a lot like dieting — both encourage the same type of magical thinking about transformation," she writes.

Worth It is as much memoir as self-help. In the irreverent, confessional voice that made *DailyWorth* a success, Steinberg detours into the personal, like her parents' divorce and her early sexual exploits. She uses her own story to inspire: If she rebounded from \$100,000 in debt to build a positive net worth, so can you.

The book features scientific data, psychology studies and anecdotes in the tone of a savvy friend, complete with mini homework assignments to change your inner money narrative.



"It's not that women can't grasp the subtleties of the financial services industry; it's that the language is arcane a lot of the time. It's a full-immersion language course," says Steinberg's book editor, Susan Gregory Thomas '91. "What Amanda does is talk about both investments and the nitty-gritty aspects of budgeting in intelligent but ultimately relatable, practical, you-can-do-this ways."

For Steinberg, who read *The Economist* and wore business suits "for fun" in high school, Columbia gave her the opportunity to finally fit in, "abnormal sense of ambition" and all. "I always dreamed of becoming an executive," she says. "I didn't have a lot of friends because I was intense, you know? We laugh about it now, but it wasn't cute when I was 19. It was weird. Columbia was the perfect springboard for me to accelerate my career path."

Case in point: As a senior, Steinberg convinced then-Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn B. Yatrakis GSAS'81 to let her take a Business School class for her urban studies major. Though the class wasn't for undergraduates, Steinberg sat in Yatrakis' office until she made the exception. Steinberg earned an A — and, thanks to a class guest speaker, her first job out of college.

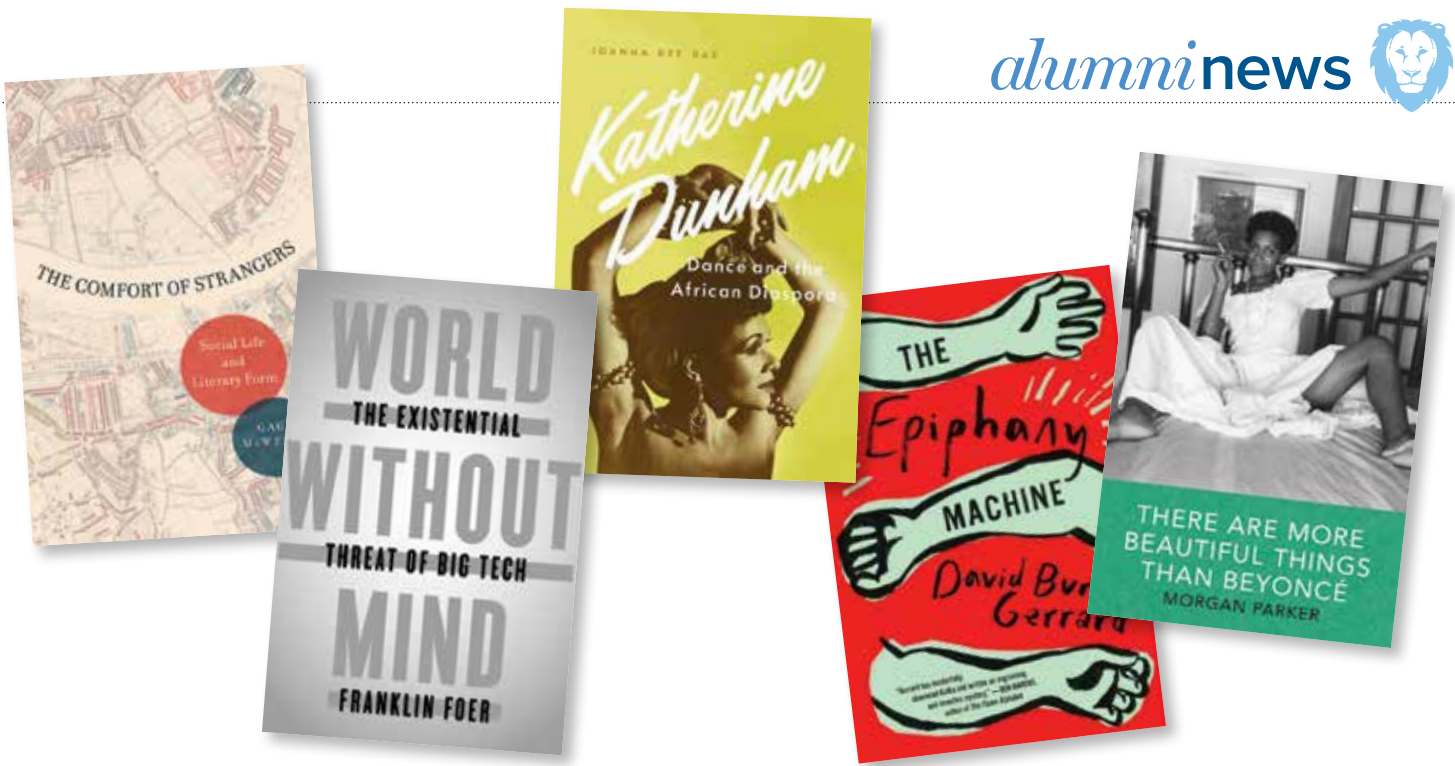
The speaker had a web-development company that hired adults from low-income neighborhoods. Instead of asking for an internship, Steinberg — and her abnormal ambition — thought of something else. "I waited until the whole room cleared out, and here I am, a senior in college, and I was like, 'I need to open up your New York office.' He's like, 'What? You're 12.' And I was like, 'No, I do,'" she says.

That's how she ended up managing an entire team right after graduation.

Some might find it strange for a non-writer to launch a content company, but it's clear from five minutes of chatting that Steinberg is a born storyteller.

"A lot of *DailyWorth's* success and the fact that I created this brand that women relate to is because I am able to express it in a way that balances humor, intelligence and irreverence," she says. "The world does not need another dry money book."

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



Taking on Global Health Issues: Odyssey of a Developmental Pediatrician by Dr. *Alfred Scherzer* '49. Scherzer's memoir of his work in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific includes the establishment of organized government health education services (Lulu.com, \$10).

All is For the Best by *Richard Ascher* '55. A collection of darkly comedic short stories about a tribe of New Yorkers 1945–2010; some of the tales are drawn from real-life situations (Amazon Digital Services, \$14.99).

Minyan: Ten Interwoven Stories by *John J. Clayton* '56. A minyan is a group of Jews who meet to pray; these fictional stories, set in a congregation in Boston, consider the intersections of love, psychology and spirituality (Paragon House, \$17.95).

MacKenzie's Farewell by *William Burley* '63. In this novel, two environmental activists must fight to prevent a nuclear waste dump from moving into a Connecticut town (iUniverse, \$20.98).

Manci's Girl: An Updated Noir Thriller by *Bennett Alan Weinberg* '71. A young writer becomes entangled with a Philadelphia crime boss and his amoral former mistress in this first volume of the Bon Vivant Mystery series (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, \$15).

Literary Awakenings: Personal Essays from the Hudson Review edited by *Ronald Koury* '78. A collection of 18 essays about the many ways literature shapes our daily lives (Syracuse University Press, \$24.95).

Christianity Matters: How Over Two Millennia the Meek and Merciful Revolutionized Civilization — And Why It Needs to Happen Again by *David Maloof* '80. Maloof, a senior partner at an international law firm, describes and analyzes the effect that Christianity has had on world history (70x7 Publishing, \$12.99).

Martian Dawn & Other Novels by *Michael Friedman* '82. Readers will encounter "stardom, science fiction, movies, love affairs, twins, French people, writing colonies, parenting, missionaries, murder and holograms" in this trio of novellas (Little A, \$14.95).

A Hero in Time by Dr. *Peter J. Rappa* '83. A love story with a medical theme that features a mysterious trauma victim in a Texas hospital and the team of doctors trying to discover his identity (Build.Buzz.Launch Media & Publishing, \$16.99).

Campus Politics by *Jonathan Zimmerman* '83. The battle between freedom of expression and political correctness is heating up at many universities; Zimmerman, a professor of history and

education at NYU, lays the groundwork for understanding both sides of the controversy (Oxford University Press, \$16.95).

The Comfort of Strangers: Social Life and Literary Form by *Gage McWeeny* '93. The author describes how literature of the 19th century changed as cities got bigger, going from stories of individuals and interiority to those representing experiences of life amidst strangers (Oxford University Press, \$69).

World Without Mind: The Existential Threat of Big Tech by *Franklin Foer* '96. Foer, a national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, makes a case for challenging the power of Big Tech monopolies such as Facebook and Amazon (Penguin Press, \$27).

Modern Hungers: Food and Power in Twentieth-Century Germany by *Alice Weinreb* '99. During WWI and WWII, many countries experimented with feeding — and starving — entire populations. The author shows how this was especially significant in Germany, which struggled with agricultural crisis at the same time it was becoming a military powerhouse (Oxford University Press, \$55).

Butcher Paper by *Simeon Mills* '00. This graphic novel, available from a small boutique press in the Inland Northwest, "uses a straightforward visual vernacular to show you weird

and impossible things that are nonetheless emotionally familiar" (Scabland Books, \$15).

Crescendo: A Novel by *Amy Weiss* '01. A spiritual story about a woman who struggles to find meaning in her life after the sudden death of her husband (Hay House, \$14.99).

The Epiphany Machine by *David Burr Gerrard* '03. A tragicomedy that provides an alternative history of New York City, shaped by a device that tattoos personalized, irreversible predictions on its users' forearms (Penguin Random House, \$27).

The Light We Lost by *Jill Santopolo* '03. The author's debut novel tells the story of two Columbia seniors who meet and fall in love on 9-11 and spend the next decade being separated and reunited (G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$25).

Katherine Dunham: Dance and the African Diaspora by *Joanna Dee Das* '05. Dunham was one of the first choreographers to conduct anthropological research about dance, which she translated into performance, education and scholarship (Oxford University Press, \$34.95).

There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé by *Morgan Parker* '10. Parker's second collection of poetry offers perspective on what it means to be a black woman in America today (Tin House Books, \$14.95).

— *Jill C. Shomer*

classnotes



CCT ARCHIVES

HEAVY LIFTING:

Workers move the Baker Field lion statue in 1962 from its former home (now the soccer and baseball fields) to in front of Christie Field House.

1941

Columbia College Today
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CCT is saddened to report the passing of **Wm. Theodore "Ted" de Bary** GSAS'53 on July 14, 2017, at his home in Tappan, N.Y. He was 97. Ted was a world-renowned Sinologist and spent close to 70 years at Columbia as a student, professor, provost and professor emeritus. Among his many accomplishments, he is credited with broadening the way colleges nationwide study Asia. Please see

"Obituaries" in this issue for more on Ted's remarkable life and career.

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.

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Melvin Hershkowitz
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Looking through recent Class Notes for other classes, I have noticed that many friendships began with chance meetings on assigned dorm floors.

This stimulated me to look back at my own dorm room assignments, and I herewith summarize my memories of long ago.

Freshman year, 1938–39, on 7 Jay. I was greeted by Alford "Pint" Marasca '41 with a warm hello and then a pseudo-aggressive comment with the F word, "F you, Mel." "Pint" was a low-weight member of the

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.

wrestling team, and his nickname reflected his size. I saw very little of him after that. He had a career with J.P. Stevens and retired in California. I then met two pre-med students, Phil Greenberg '40 and Paul Bookstaver '40. They were studying organic chemistry and tried to explain to me the complexities of the Grignard reaction. Phil became a psychiatrist in Miami, Fla., and Paul became a prominent obstetrician in New Jersey, long after both had forgotten the Grignard reaction.

Sophomore year, 1939–40, on 4 Livingston. I shared a suite with **Herb Mark** and **Bob Kaufman**. We became lifelong friends. Herb became a distinguished physician, professor of medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and a VP of the American Heart Association. Bob was a lawyer (Yale Law) and VP and counsel for the ABC-TV Network, where he worked with **Roone Arledge** '52 to establish TV coverage of the Olympics and Monday Night Football. Herb died in 2006. Bob died in October 2016 at 95. I remain in touch with their widows, Avra Mark in Tuckahoe, N.Y., and Sue Kaufman in Scarsdale, N.Y. Sue called me on June 25 to report that the crew coaches and support staff have honored Bob's crew coxswain years, 1939–41, with large blue and white "RK" logos on the ends of the rowing shells. Across from our 4L suite was another one, inhabited by **Hermon Farwell Jr.** '40; **Bob Loy** '40, **GSAS** '49; and **Chuck Webster** '40, **PS** '43. **Hermon** (his father was our professor of physics) became a professor of speech and language; **Bob** became a professor of French; and **Chuck** (a big strong

crewster) became a consulting cardiologist in San Francisco. All were friendly to us.

Junior year, 1940–41, on 5 Hartley. Around the corner from my room was a suite with roommates **Paul Governali** '43 and **Len Kopeliovitch** (later **Len Koppett**) '44. Paul was one of our greatest quarterbacks, winner of the Maxwell Award and an All-American. Len became a famous sports writer for *The New York Times*, an expert analyst of baseball and basketball. He wrote and edited several books, including *The Man in the Dugout*, an analysis of famous baseball managers. **George Boehn** occasionally appeared in our Hartley hallway, expressing his disapproval of certain events with an agitated repetition of the phrase "hot fire, hot fire." The meaning of this always eluded me. George became a well-known writer and magazine editor, working at *Newsweek* and *Fortune*, among others.

Senior year, 1941–42, on 5 Hartley. I met two of my lifelong best friends in Hartley: **Don Mankiewicz** and **Donald Dickinson**. **Don Mankiewicz** became a famous TV and Hollywood script writer. He won the 1955 Harper Prize for his novel *Trial* and was nominated for an Academy Award in 1958 for his screenplay *I Want to Live!* His father, **Herman Mankiewicz** (Class of 1917), worked in Hollywood for many years and was famous for writing *Citizen Kane* and *The Pride of the Yankees*, a film about **Lou Gehrig** '23. **Don's** uncle, **Joseph Mankiewicz** '28, was a famous Hollywood writer and director who won Academy Awards for *A Letter to Three Wives* and *Julius Caesar*. **Don Mankiewicz** died in April 2015 in California. **Don**

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

Dickinson was a wounded, decorated WWII infantry officer in Europe. After the war, he settled in Las Vegas, where he lived the rest of his life, working as an executive in the casino industry until his death in December 2006. On December 7, 1941, I was in my room on 5 Hartley, listening to the Pro-Giants football game on my \$25 Emerson radio, when the announcer reported the attack on Pearl Harbor. Fourteen members of our Class of 1942 were killed in WWII, including my friends **Phil Bayer** (a Marine officer, killed at Pelelieu) and **Roger Dounce** (an Air Force pilot, shot down in the Pacific campaign).

On June 27 I had a phone call from **David Wellington**, son of **Dr. Arthur Wellington**, to report that **Arthur** (97) is now in hospice care at the VA Community Living Center in Bath, N.Y. **Art** had previously lived at the Woodbrook Nursing Home in Elmira, N.Y., his hometown. I got on the phone with old pal **Art**, and we had a brief chat. His speech was a bit garbled, but coherent, and we reminisced briefly about our Columbia friends (**Don Mankiewicz**, **Don Dickinson** and **Chic Hoelzer**), all deceased and all members of our Certified Degenerate Horseplayers Club. **Art** was a Marine artillery officer in the Pacific in WWII, and returned to Columbia for his D.O. degree (1943). He had a long career as

a prominent optometrist in Elmira. In 2003 my wife, **Leslie** (now deceased), and I had a wonderful vacation with **Art** and his wife, **Marilynn**, at their summer cottage in Tenants Harbor, Maine. We had not seen each other for many years, but had kept in touch via regular mail and occasional phone chats. **Art**, **Dr. Gerald Klingon** (96), **Stewart McIlvennan** **LAW** '48 (95) and this correspondent (94) are among the nonagenarian survivors in our Great Class of 1942.

Best wishes to all surviving members of our Great Class of 1942.

1943

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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Members of the Class of '43: Please bring the rest of us up to date with your activities. **Bernie Weisberger**



Dr. Melvin Hershkovitz '42 (far right) shared this photo of himself with his wife, **Leslie Hershkovitz**, and his lifelong friend **Dr. Herbert Mark** '42.

and I try to keep these Class Notes moving. Your help is needed to leaven the dough.

G.J. D'Angio: "My 95th birthday bash on May 2 went off beautifully. Ten old friends dined together in a great Italian restaurant (La Buca — try it if ever in Philadelphia).

"My posture has changed. I am bent over and off-balance. Need a walker indoors and outdoors.

"My wife Audrey Evans' nephew and his wife arrived on May 22 for a week's stay. We went to New Castle, Del., for lunch in our favorite pub and reviewed the four-plus flag history of that memorable town. Peter Stuyvesant was once its governor. Dutch, Swedish, English and several American colonial and later United States banners have flapped in its wind; well worth a visit. It is unique in the United States — an English colonial seaport frozen in time.

"My granddaughter, Sara, and her family overlapped during the weekend. She was attending her 10th Class Day celebration at Bryn Mawr.

"One of the high points of the year was a visit by **Bernie Weisberger** in June. He was one of three overnight guests we had that week. One of the others came from Australia and the third from Massachusetts. Other U.K. family members were due in September. Our cost-free B&B is pretty popular. It is open to any CC'43 classmate who might come to Philly.

"Audrey and I went to Edmonton, Canada, later in June to visit the Ronald McDonald House there. She was part of the celebratory events scheduled for that weekend. The House is a remarkably successful operation — seldom seen so many smiling faces or heard so many happy treble yelps.

"The Fourth of July came and went. All in all, I would prefer George III and his government over what we have now. At least the king was not responsible for his insanities.

"A Columbia nugget — four remarkable Germans arrived in the U.S. in the mid-1880s, three with Columbia ties. Abraham Jacobi (1830–1919) has been called the 'father of American pediatrics.' He taught at the Columbia Medical Center. His professional legacy and heritage are carried on at the Jacobi Medical Center in NYC. Felix Adler (Class of 1870, 1851–1933) was

a philosopher, theologian, ethicist and social reformer, and founded the Society of Ethical Culture. That international movement is still active today. Franz Boas (1858–1942), the father of anthropology, was a professor of that discipline at Columbia and the first in America. Carl C. Schurz (1829–1906), the only Gentile and non-Columbian in this group, became a noted publisher, lawyer, statesman, Army general during the Civil War and political figure. He was a U.S. senator from Missouri. Gracie Mansion, the official residence of the Mayor of New York City, is in Carl Schurz Park on the Upper East Side of Manhattan."

Bernie Weisberger: "Once more I take word processor in hand to record the doings of Chicago's brief and chilly springtime. It's a great place to live but climate is decidedly not one of its attractions. As usual, the time between my last report and this one seems to have whisked by, leaving me with great plans for writing — mainly making hefty progress on a personal memoir — plus other chores of organization unfulfilled. I did compose a couple of short anti-Trump posts for a favorite progressive-left wing website, and, more important in the long run, worked with my economist collaborator Marshall Steinbaum on a review-essay. It is slated to appear in the Fall issue of the *Journal of Economic Literature*. I continue to be gratified and even a touch amused that I can still make it into the pages of an academic publication so many years after I left classroom teaching. I used to toy with the idea of giving up writing at some point, but find that I just can't stop and in reality don't want to. Combined with other family and personal activities it sometimes gives me the feeling of running hard just to stay in place, but it's not bad as a recipe for survival in my 90s.

"My health has been OK for my years, though a weakening of my sense of balance has forced me off my bicycle, which I miss quite a lot. I can, however, still walk and once more can report that I finished the annual Father's Day 5-kilometer (3.1 miles) walk sponsored by the Evanston YWCA to raise funds for campaigns against hate crimes. I finished absolutely last but without stopping to rest, and had the slight



A summer 2017 reunion between classmates occurred when Bernie Weisberger '43 (right) visited G.J. D'Angio '43 in Philadelphia.

mortification of crossing the finish line amid a bunch of pre-pubescent kids. They have a small, mile-long race of their own. It starts an hour and a quarter after the 5K walk on the theory that by then nobody would be sharing the road with them. Ho, ho! I would like to add that two of my great-grandchildren were among the young runners. I hope to have planted the seeds of long, healthy running careers in their lives by my example.

"Other family news includes the May graduation of my granddaughter Rebecca from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a master's in social work. There was also a late visit in June, first to Denver to visit my younger daughter and son-in-law and another granddaughter, Leah. From there I flew on to San Francisco for a day or two with granddaughter Abigail, now practicing law in Berkeley and specializing in handling the cases of asylum seekers. It is not an easy job in the current wave of anti-immigration sentiment. Makes me more proud of her than ever.

"It was my second trip of the month. June 5–8, I visited New York for meet-ups with old friends there, with a glorious finale. I came home by way of Philadelphia and had an overnight stay with Dr. **G.J. 'Dan' D'Angio** and his wife, Audrey Evans. Dan and I didn't know each other in our campus days, but have pretty well bonded over the years of being too often the sole contributors to the Class Notes. I'm looking at you, fellow classmates. To top it off, I treated myself to a roomette on the Capitol Limited train coming home, which, if timely arrival isn't of the essence, is a wonderfully pleasant way to travel.

"I had intended to share some memories of two of my great teachers at Columbia, Gilbert Highet and

Jacques Barzun '27, GSAS'32, but I'll save them for next time.

"One final note: On the Fourth of July, I followed a custom of many years. Over breakfast here with my wife Rita's granddaughter, her husband and their three children I read the *Declaration of Independence* to them — or at least the opening and closing paragraphs. They explain why the colonists would no longer be denied the right of governing themselves, and solemnly pledging their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to carry out the Revolution. This despite the risk to their lives if the British defeated the colonists. I have been doing it ever since my own children were old enough to understand the basics. I thought it important to remind them that all of us have a responsibility when we reach voting age to keep that dream of freedom alive. More than ever this year, I am glad that I did it. So long for another 90 days or so."

1944

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Daniel Choy PS'49, the director of the Tinnitus Control Center in NYC and a consultant to The Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, writes: "I turned 91 on May 29. After P&S I was in the USAF during the Korean War. In 1950, for the only citizens still alive after an atomic attack, and all suffering from second-degree burns, I invented a spray-on burn dressing, Aeroplast, which could be sprayed on an entire victim by an untrained rescuer in 5–10

minutes. It was first stocked by the Department of Defense, then bought by Helene Curtis in 1982 for \$42 on the dollar.

"As I write this, on April 29, I have just offered my latest invention, a cure for predominant tone tinnitus (the first in 6,000 years) to the VA, which spends \$2 billion on disability to 170,000 vets suffering from blast-induced tinnitus, which can be abolished by the Padden-Choy Procedure. I write this with the hope that one or more CC alumni have access to Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law, who would be most influential in accepting my offer, which is backed by Dr. Lawrence Lustig, the Howard W. Smith Professor of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery and chair, Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at P&S."

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

1945

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1946

**Bernard Sunshine
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No news for the Fall 2017 issue, but the Winter 2017–18 issue awaits your updates! Please do send a note to one of the addresses at the top of this column.

1947

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1948

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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Ed Paul shared his first Class Note: "In every issue of *Columbia College Today*, I look for news on my 1948 (and nearby years) classmates. There seems to be less and less news of classmates in each succeeding issue. So I decided to help fill the void in our often-empty column by writing my first letter to Columbia in the 69 years since graduating. It's a short history of my collegiate and professional career ... a tale of undergraduate elation followed by graduate gloom and eventual resurrection.

"I often think back on my four stimulating undergraduate years in Hamilton Hall. I majored in fine arts and English literature as a liberal arts preparation for a career in architecture. I reveled in the four years in the College and the brilliant lectures, seminars and colloquiums taught by the likes of Van Doren, Barzun, Edman, Krutch, Weaver, Davis, Casey, Chiappe and so forth. I assumed that four more graduate years in Columbia's Architecture School would be a continuation of

that same kind of academic stimulation that the undergraduate Core Curriculum was. Unfortunately, that was not the case!

"After a frustrating year in the Architecture School, my lifelong dreams of becoming an architect, as was my father, were dashed by a dull, uninspiring and directionless faculty. I was completely discouraged by the meaningless curriculum and gave up my long-held dream of being an architect and went to work for a construction company. After a couple of years in various construction capacities I realized, despite my discouraging experience in Avery Hall, that I still wanted to be an architect. I met a wonderful Smith girl, Judy Page; had a whirlwind engagement; and got married in 1952, in true Columbia fashion, as all my attendants were classmates: John Steeves was my best man, and Bernie Wishy, Sheldon Levy, George McKay and Cullen Keough were the others.

"Even after my potentially career-ending experience in the Architecture School, I was still loyal to the College and to all my undergraduate activities and for many years was active in postgraduate College activities: running telethon fund drives, organizing class reunions, publishing the first Columbia class newsletter and so on. Judy, my loving wife, understood that, deep down, I loved Columbia College and that I shouldn't let my bad graduate experience interfere with my dream of becoming an architect. She was very supportive and encouraged me to try other schools.

"I was already 30. Time was of the essence, and, at Judy's urging, I applied to other architecture schools. Fortunately, I was accepted by Harvard, which had a much more up-to-date design philosophy, so I switched from 'Beaux Arts' Columbia to 'Bauhaus' Harvard. I thrived in the new and stimulating architecture atmosphere in Cambridge and earned my master's in three years.

"The difference between the two architecture schools was like night and day! I'm aware that the mediocre faculty that I had at Avery Hall in 1949 has transitioned through the years into a much more 'in tune' group and that the Architecture School is now first-rate, in keeping with Columbia's other excellent graduate schools (Law, P&S, Journalism, etc.).

"After three exhilarating years at Harvard, I went to work for an architectural firm in White Plains, N.Y., and did a couple of award-winning designs with them. I also moonlighted evenings and weekends in my Greenwich, Conn., home. I was very lucky in after-hours work, and my second moonlighting house (my own) was published in a centerfold feature article in the *New York Times Magazine* in February 1963. It was followed, in a couple of months, by a four-page spread in *House & Garden* magazine. After that unbelievable streak of good publicity, my phone rang constantly. I gave notice to the firm I was working for and started my own. It was a one-man practice that lasted for 45 years, during which time I designed more than 100 houses in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island. Most of them are still in good condition, a few with original owners or progeny still living in them. Some have been torn down and replaced with mega mansions.

"Recently, our own house, built in 1959, was designated as a National Historic Landmark. A large bronze plaque was to be installed on the house this past summer. Several other of my earlier projects are being considered for 'landmarking' as outstanding (and surviving) examples of Mid-Century modern architecture. Better late than never!

"I'm in my 93rd year, reasonably healthy and still working on small jobs for friends and family. Judy and I, along with our four children, grandchildren and friends, celebrated our 65th year of a happy marriage in June.

"I'd love to hear from classmates and hope more of them write in. Don't wait for 69 years, as I have. *Tempus fugit!*"

Sylvain Bromberger wrote in, too: "Had my 93rd birthday in early July. Not bad, as long as I do not look in the mirror and others don't insist on helping. I recently spent 10 wonderful days in Paris, where friends and colleagues had organized a workshop in my honor at the École Normale Supérieure. I learned many things at the workshop about topics on which I have worked and in the course of stimulating exchanges with people I like and admire there. And then the Musée D'Orsay, the Seine Musicale, the intriguing restaurants that a friend had discovered, the great croissant *et café au lait* every

morning. Paris! The paper I gave will be my last. Writing it was ultimately rewarding, but I have had it with the anxiety that comes while getting things wrong umpteen times before they seem possibly right. Time to read some good novels and to learn about fields that interest me, about which I know too little.

"I am not in touch with anyone with whom I went to Columbia, but then I had no real sense of belonging to a specific class: Most of us were veterans discharged at different times trying to make up for the time spent fighting the war to end all wars. I recognize few if any of the names of people mentioned in this column, but best wishes to all still around."

Pianist **Dick Hyman** reports: "In April, I received an honorary doctorate from The Juilliard School. It was delivered in a full cap-and-gown ceremony at the school, and it was a genuine honor for me to be able to accept it."

Thank to those gentlemen who got in touch! *CCT*, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you, too. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career, your travels or even a favorite Columbia College memory. Please contact us by using either the email address or postal address at the top of the column.

1949

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Well, I guess it was too much to hope for that I would hear from more of you before the Fall issue Class Notes deadline. My email and my front door mail slot have been devoid of all but one communication.

I will pass on notice of that exception but I remain disappointed that nobody else has found the time or inclination to connect this time around. Please let us hear from you in time for the Winter 2017–18 issue. The days will be short and cold nights would certainly be warmed by your news, your recollections, your connection.

With regard to the one classmate from whom I received a communication: **George Intemann** wrote and we enjoyed a brief — but, neverthe-

less, spirited — exchange of emails. George has strong feelings with regard to the political climate that is roiling about with the new administration and how those feelings are reflected as he thinks about the College.

While it is not the place of this column to conduct a forum on these matters, I do welcome the communication and I respect the fact that a classmate has strong feelings and brings those feelings to our basic commonality, a deep and abiding caring for our alma mater.

That connection is alive and well in so many of us. Now, as we are of what has been referred to as advanced age, we have the luxury of a little more spare time. Take some of that time to let us hear from you.

1950

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From **Arthur Thomas**: "I am most pleased to be remembered by *CCT*. My life at Columbia College was intense in terms of study and extracurricular activities on campus. My remembrance of my college life has been broadened by my wedding to Charlotte Harriau on the campus. I will be happy to hear from classmates at alt30@columbia.edu. I still think that professors and sports coaches are among those at the top of the totem pole; I honor and remember well my professors and sports coaches."

From **Gil Hermann**: "My wife, Jane, and I have given up our home of 43 years in Denver and have moved to an extremely nice retirement home just south of Denver in Highlands Ranch, Colo. Our two daughters remain close by in Denver. I noted with sadness the passing of one of the prominent members of the Class of '50, **Norman Dorsen**. We played basketball together at Columbia and later socialized frequently in Boston when he was attending Harvard Law and I was a surgical resident at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Norman had a most distinguished career as a civil rights lawyer. For details, see his obituary in *The New York Times*." [Editor's note: Also see "Obituaries" in this issue.]

From **Ray Scalettar**: "Since I closed my office, Phyllis and I have been traveling a great deal and enjoy our hobby of visiting presidential libraries. Most recently we went to Texas to visit LBJ's, George H.W. Bush's and George W. Bush's libraries.

"I was honored recently to be promoted to clinical professor emeritus of medicine at the graduation for the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences."

Thank you to all who wrote in this issue! Other Class of 1950 members, please do share your updates with *CCT* and your classmates by writing to either of the addresses at the top of this column.

1951

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Paul Miller sent a brief update: "We old folks have to watch our footing. Today [July 7], I arrived home from a two-month confinement in the hospital and rehab. No fun. A broken hip. Held me up from seeking a wife. Getting tired of being alone."

Ray Scalettar '50: "Phyllis and I have been traveling a great deal and enjoy our hobby of visiting presidential libraries. Most recently we went to Texas to visit LBJ's, George H.W. Bush's and George W. Bush's libraries."

with the class, on the chalkboard, that it didn't make a difference. I've forgotten why, but I take my time in the rain, to enjoy it. I have had to surrender skiing and sell my Chesapeake Bay-based sailboat because of the loss of equilibrium due to peripheral neuropathy. However, I still volunteer as crew leader of the Structures Crew for the Friends of the Wissahickon. Life is good, and I am proud of being a member of the Class of 1951."

Marvin J. Berkman writes: "Recently celebrated my 88th birthday. I wonder how many of us are left. Last time I looked, I still hold the Columbia track record for the 200m Dash (21.14 seconds), and have for 67 years. It's listed in an article [found on Hepstrack.com, 'Can It Get to 100?', which asks] if it will last 100 years."

A few words from **Len Stoeher** on the passing of **Jim Lowe** (see "Obituaries," Spring 2017): "Greetings to Class of 1951 NROTC classmates and friends. Yesterday [July 10] was a beautiful day in the Washington, D.C., area. I drove to Arlington National Cemetery to attend Jim's funeral. The Roman Catholic service was held in the Old Post Chapel with 30–40 friends and family in attendance. The eulogy was given by Jim's oldest daughter. My hearing aids were acting up and I can't report on content, but, from the frequent

It seems, however, that 43-year-old women are not interested in 90-year-old men. Still love Florida. A little hot in the summer but lake and pool help cool me."

"A couple of memories," says **Merritt Rhoad**: "Being the first class to retrieve the freshman beanie from the greased pole and beating Army 21–20! On the academic side, the appreciation of art and music gained from Humanities. The very rainy day our calculus teacher, Mr. Stein, stopped mid-lecture to wonder whether you got wetter walking or running through the rain, then developed a mathematical proof

bits of quiet laughter, I would say that she gave an excellent talk.

"Following the church service, Jim's coffin was loaded onto a caisson pulled by six gray horses and escorted by a sailor honor guard of two companies (about 50 men), and a Navy band. The graveside service was impressive with its ritual folding and presentation of the flag, the firing of both a cannon and a rifle squad salute, and the final sounding of taps. The Navy escort and the presentation of the flag were led by a flag officer (a rear admiral). All in all, I felt that the Navy did a very professional and moving job.

"After the interment, the family hosted a wake at a local restaurant, which I did not attend. It was a long day and a fitting sendoff for Jim."

Nathan Kase PS'55 writes: "I apologize for my long silence and also this necessarily lengthy (and blatantly immodest) effort to repair my inexcusable lapse in communication with classmates. At 87, I must have won the genetic lottery (despite a decidedly toxic diet and lifestyle). However, because of admitted abuse of that gift and not certain whether a statute of limitations might apply in these matters, what follows is a comprehensive but condensed résumé of what's gone on in my professional and personal life.

"I am a lifelong academic clinician, educator and administrator. Through the years I have been (and still am) a full-time tenured professor of ob/gyn and reproductive science at the Yale School of Medicine and now at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, as well as a professor of medicine (endocrinology) also at Mount Sinai; chairman of two departments of ob/gyn (at Yale and Icahn); served two terms as dean of the Icahn School of Medicine, totaling 15 years; and two terms as interim CEO of Mount Sinai (total four years). I grudgingly gave up my active and fulfilling practice (40 years as a consultant in reproductive endocrinology and infertility) necessarily as I faced unique administrative challenges in my second tour as dean. Nevertheless, I maintain a full teaching schedule in reproductive endocrinology and infertility and related subjects year-round for students, residents, fellows and attendings in ob/gyn and medicine at three hospitals in the Mount Sinai Health System.

"I have published extensively, most prominently as editor and author of three major texts (each in multiple editions). I am a member of two active research groups — one examining the relationship between cholesterol and breast cancer, the other fetal epigenetic reprogramming in progeny of women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome.

"I lost my dear wife, Judy, in 2013 after 58 years of marriage (and five years of 1950s pristine pre-marital courtship). She succumbed after a valiant fight against the relentless progression of stage 3 lung cancer. Judy was at once my lover, my best friend, my confidante and adviser, and sever-

est but accurate critic. That void in my life has been partially filled by my interactions with our three children, nine adult grandchildren and a new increasingly important friend.

"What really prompted this submission? I had occasion recently to recall and detail the enormous influence that Professor Jacques Barzun '27, GSAS'32 had on me while I was an undergraduate. I try to emulate, however unsuccessfully, his elegant demeanor, intellect, rhetorical style and pervasive love of the Humanities to this day."

It was so nice to hear from these gentlemen! *CCT*, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you as well. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column.

1952

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Howard Hansen writes: "[See the nearby] photo, taken in 1951 in front of the Field House at Baker Field (as we knew it then). Of the eight Sigma Chi football teammates shown, sadly **Kermit Tracy** (#40), **Charlie McCann** LAW'55 (#60), **Tony Misho** (behind Charlie) and **Bob Schwegler** (#51) have passed on. As we grow older, relationships with teammates and old friends grow stronger. I feel blessed to have ongoing friendships with **Bill Wallace** (second from left), **Mel Sautter** (#69) and **Bob Wallace** '53, PS'57 (#82) — and their longtime spouses — to this day. I'm third from right (#35). My living fraternity brothers in this photo have career lifetime accomplishments worth noting, as they are most impressive.

"A brief summary of **Bill Wallace**'s career: Life insurance business agent, manager and director of agencies. He was chairman and CEO of Home Life of New York, instrumental in spearheading the first mutual insurance company merger with Phoenix Life Insurance Co. Bill became the national president of the General Agents and Managers Asso-



Howard Hansen '52 submitted this photo of Sigma Chi football players in 1951. Left to right: Kermit Tracy '52, Bill Wallace '52, Charlie McCann '52, Tony Misho '52, Mel Sautter '52, Hansen, Bob Wallace '53 and Bob Schwegler '52.

ciation as well as president of the American College (the industry academic institution in Pennsylvania). He received the industry's American College Huebner Gold Medal. In 1994 Bill received the industry's most prestigious honor — the John Newton Russell Memorial Award — for his sustained meritorious service.

"**Mel Sautter**: a colonel and career Marine (30 years). During the Cuban Missile Crisis, when Russia [tried to] install nuclear missiles in Cuba, Mel was flying his jet 'parked' (going back and forth) off the tip of Florida, waiting for orders to strike or return to base ... wow!

"In Vietnam, he was commanding officer of the Red Devils Air Wing, where he survived 360 combat missions (73 of which were carrier-based) piloting an F8 fighter jet. Mel received the Distinguished Flying Cross with a bronze star. He was only one of two Marine aviators to log more than 2,000 F8 Crusader hours. He was awarded Top Gun in 1962 and received the highest score ever recorded for air-to-air gunnery in an F8 Crusader at 20,000 ft. and 30,000 ft. during competitive exercises.

"Mel's final tour of duty was as CO of MCAS Kaneohe, Hawaii, in charge of 6,000 personnel, 1978–81. He was awarded the Legion of Merit by the Secretary of the Navy for his services at Kaneohe.

"After retiring from the Navy, Mel was hired by Ross Perot to head up Electronic Data Systems in Montgomery, Ala., for 10 years. In 2003, he was elected a member of the Golden Eagles, a restricted pioneer Navy/Marine aviator association.

"**Bob Wallace** '53, PS'57 had a distinguished career as a physician. Bob always said that Coach Lou Little had a significant role in his being accepted into med school. Coach Little showed much interest in the subsequent careers of men who played for him.

"Bob interned at St. Vincent's in Manhattan and studied under Dr. Michael DeBakey and Dr. Denton Cooley in Houston. He went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and in five years (at 37) he was named chair of the department of surgery, where he stayed from 1968 to 1979. In 1975 Bob represented the Mayo Clinic as part of a group that went to Russia to exchange ideas. He was the first surgeon in the nation to perform the Rastelli procedure to correct transposition of the great arteries with septal defect and pulmonary stenosis.

"Bob went 'back home' after 17 years at the Mayo Clinic to become chair of the Department of Surgery at Georgetown's School of Medicine; he became surgeon-in-chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Bob has written more than 250 articles or book chapters. In 1995, in Boston, he was installed as president of the American Association of Thoracic Surgery. In 2008, he was honored as a recipient of the Mayo Clinic's Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2016, Bob and his wife, Betty, traveled to Moscow for him to receive the Bakulev Prize for his ongoing contributions to the field of cardiovascular surgery."

CCT also heard from **Joseph Di Palma**, who reports: "I was named as

a 2017 recipient of the Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award. For additional information as to honors and accomplishments, Google 'Joseph Di Palma Who's Who.'

Please send news to CCT through either of the addresses at the top of this column. We would love to hear from you!

1953

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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I hope that everyone had a pleasant summer, and I look forward to running your updates in the Winter 2017–18 issue. You can send your notes to either of the addresses at the top of this column; your classmates and I will be happy to hear from you. Be well and have a nice fall season.

1954

Bernd Brecher

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This quarter our class heard from several members who had not previously gotten in touch, and perhaps even were out of touch with Columbia or the class for a long time. Welcome back; you were missed. Some others of you have become regulars in these Class Notes, and it is a great joy to keep up to date with you and your accomplishments. The only correspondence we do not appreciate is the one not sent.

In response to my observations about our nation's condition in this first year of Trump and my request to send me your own observations, **Harold Stevelman** PS'58 (was he always a man to cut quickly to the chase?) wanted to share with us the following: "Democracy will prevail

as long as we have a free press and the rule of law."

A take of a different kind, about his life and family, was transmitted by **Bennett Aaron LAW**'57: "It's hard to believe that 63 years have elapsed since I graduated in 1954. Carol and I recently celebrated our 62nd wedding anniversary and she remembers attending the graduation, which took place prior to our marriage. Since that time, many good things have happened in our lives. We have four children and eight grandchildren. They are all doing fine and leading interesting lives. Our eldest son, Morrie, and his wife, Carrie, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They live in Phoenix, where they raised their three children. Our other son, Steven, and his wife, Lisa, live in Harrisburg, Pa. They have raised two terrific children. Our eldest daughter, Margie, and her husband are in the process of moving to Santa Fe, where our son-in-law has a new job.

"After college, I enrolled at the Law School and graduated in 1957. Carol is a native Philadelphian, which is the reason we moved to Philadelphia following law school and military service. Philadelphia has been a great place to live. We enjoyed raising the family here. I've also had the opportunity to develop a successful legal practice specializing in estate planning and wealth transfer. Over the past 40 years, Carol has been very successful as a residential real estate agent."

Bennett also took leadership positions in numerous philanthropic programs, focusing mainly on the Jewish community in Philadelphia and on Israel. He was president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia (1984–87) and thereafter spent 14 years serving on the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel. He chaired the United Israel Appeal 1999–2003. He says, "Now I am deeply interested in learning more about what has transpired in the lives of my classmates since 1954."

OK, gents, there is your formal invitation ... my mailbox awaits.

Bill Burleigh believes that he is "the last man standing of the Utah contingent that attended Columbia in the early 1950s. Gone now are Mitch Price '53, Bill Jackson '52, **Dick Wall**, Cal Jenkins '55, Ward Armstrong '57 and others. I got to thinking of the great times we had together. We used to travel by train together to and from

Salt Lake City to NYC. It would take us two and a half days just to travel one way. At Christmastime we would save all of our allowed absences from classes (we called them 'cuts') and missed a full week of school in order to have a little time at home at that time of the year."

Bill, ain't nostalgia transformative? I still have someplace a teabag-size souvenir of salt from the Great Salt Lake, distributed aboard the train as we zoomed from San Francisco to New York along the lakeshore. The year was 1940, my arrival in America via many boats and trains, including the Trans-Siberian Express.

Bill remembers how "we formed a great fellowship during that time and in our years together at the College. And we made many great friends at Columbia that form precious memories. So 'Hello and God Bless' to all of you classmates who are still standing."

Now there's a challenge to all of us not prone. Thanks, Bill.

Bernd Brecher '54: "I still have someplace a teabag-size souvenir of salt from the Great Salt Lake, distributed aboard the train as we zoomed from San Francisco to New York along the lakeshore."

Ted Spiegel, our class' photographer supreme whose photo of JFK is on a recently issued U.S. stamp, wants us to know that, "caught up in the spirit of John Kennedy's 100th birthday and knocked down by issues surrounding leadership in our nation, I joined forces with a musically talented friend, Marc Black, to compose 'The Kennedy Stamp Song,' now playing on YouTube. I invite my classmates to listen in on JFK and invite their family and friends to join in the chorus."

Another Oscar Hammerstein II (Class of 1916) in our midst?

Fritz Schlereth SEAS'56 and a colleague from the Syracuse University chemistry department have started a company, MolecuSense, to bring his sensor patent to market. They are in the process of building a model and looking for financing. "There's still time for running," he reports, "although I'm currently sidelined with a sore muscle. It's a bum-

mer because I recently entered a new age group and was looking forward to winning some races again."

If the past is prelude, we know Fritz will be on the track by the time this item appears in CCT. GO!

In honor of **Richard Bernstein** SEAS'55's 83rd birthday, 100 members of Type One Grit (a group for diabetics who follow Richard's methods for managing blood sugars) from around the world, of all ages, have put together a testimonial video detailing their life-changing experiences using Dr. B's approach to attaining normal, healthy blood sugars and expressing their deep gratitude for his devotion to all diabetics. His contributions to diabetes research and treatment continue apace.

Congratulations, Dick, on your birthday (young as you are) and on your medical successes.

Alvin Hellerstein LAW'56 continues to make rulings that in turn make headlines and are fully covered in *The New York Times*. "City

Law Illegally Promoted Unionization, Judge Rules," was the head on an article published last June. "The 11-page ruling by Judge Hellerstein of Federal District Court in Manhattan found that the city had overstepped its bounds in requiring, as part of a licensing process, that carwash owners buy a special bond within a two-tiered system ..." the story said, and that the judge ruled that the city law "violated federal law."

Google the complete article, which is full of the kind of legal, social and political observations that always hook my layman's inquiring mind.

As for me (**Bernd Brecher** JRN'55), the deciders at CCT have launched a new weekly web post called "Take Five," and asked me to join in the fun. This involves five questions about our College days and their effect on our lives. The following is my response to question three, which asked "What class do you still remember and why?"

I wrote, "Several classes never leave my memory, including Colloquium with Moses Hadas; writing seminar with Quentin Anderson; the English poets with George Nobbe; several English, theater and humanities courses with Joseph Wood Krutch, Lionel Trilling, Mark Van Doren and other academic giants; and modern American lit with Fred Dupee ('modern American literature is about man's search for his father' — think about that). I have a very special feeling for Jimmy Shenton's class on American history, where you were in for a treat — one day the professor would be dressed up as and acting out Ben Franklin, another day he would be very F. Scott Fitzgerald-ish, dressed in a raccoon coat and boater, waving a college flag while roaring '20s music blared from a Victrola on a corner of his desk. (Jim became a regular at all our alumni reunions.) All of these great teachers brought their love of education and the world to the classroom every day, and their students felt it to their core.

"There were many more, but I have to mention a non-teacher who taught me much about education, community, people and Columbia: Joe Coffee, a member of the Class of 1941 and the founder and first director of the Columbia College Fund and an out-of-class mentor to so many of us. As I write this I learned of the passing of Ted de Bary, also CC'41, whom I never had as a teacher while an undergrad, but whose classes, lectures and seminars I participated in since graduation. He was indeed a 'continuation' of all that was great about Columbia College education; he was also a speaker at many of our reunions. I will always remember him as Columbia's man for all seasons."

Go to "Take Five" online at bit.ly/2hfMV06 and see the full response, but meanwhile — for the next Class Notes — let me hear about some of your own memories of favorite classes.

In the Winter 2017–18 issue, I will report on an invitational visit to a special event in Halberstadt, Germany, that Helen and I will attend this September. It is where I was born and where my family lived until shortly before the outbreak of WWII and the full blast of the Holocaust. Our granddaughter Maya, who recently graduated from Oberlin College, will come along to make a documentary. Stay tuned.

Remember the dates for our 65th reunion! Mark your calendars for the tentative weekend of Thursday, May 30–Saturday, June 1, 2019.

Also — while the pay isn't great, the rewards are priceless — please join our still-growing Reunion Committee. Wherever you live, whatever you do, we need you. Email me for info.

For now, as always, be well, do nice things for others, write/email/call often, with all my best, much love, Bernd. EXCELSIOR!

1955

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As the end of the summer reaches its climax, there are many classmates who have done yeoman's work in terms of fundraising, hosting events and other activities.

Jerry Catuzzi and **Ben Kaplan** are making plans to travel overseas. **George Christie** is in North Carolina, **Larry Balfus** is on Long Island and **Herb Cohen** is in the Bronx. **Jack Freeman** and **Ron McPhee** are involved with alumni sports (especially baseball). **Ralph Wagner** is in New England. **Bob Brown** is in Manhattan. **Ezra Levin** and **Roland Plottel**, stalwarts of the class, are in New York. **Ted Baker** is putting together the list of Ford Foundation members. **Alfred Gollomp** and **Don Laufer** are coordinating the Class of 1955 dinner list.

Unfortunately, **Bill Epstein** is on the injured list and may not be able to make the first event. **Paul Frank** has reached us from afar (Connecticut). **Bob Bernot** is noted to be looking at the Columbia basketball schedule.

Congratulations again to **Allen Hyman** for receiving an Alumni Medal in front of his friends and relatives at Commencement. Toni Coffee BC'56 sent him congratulations. There were more than 50,000 attendees at this major event.

We heard from **Elliott Manning** at the University of Miami. A force of the class and attendee at the 60th reunion was **Beryl Nusbaum**. Representing the class at other events is **Low Mendelson**, especially in the Washington, D.C., area.

Roger Stern's grandson attended a Columbia basketball camp, a

prospect at 6-foot-7 — "Can't teach height," as they say.

An invigorated attendee is **Elliot Gross** — a worthy representative.

Anthony Viscusi has played a significant role in the development of our class. Other guys from around the country have also made their mark. A Class of 1955 member from the West Coast is **Jeff Broido**. Still practicing in Westchester is **Jud Maze**.

The five-year alumni cycle is half-way through. It's not too late to get involved in planning for Reunion 2020. Stay on top of things; everybody should be involved! Attend events — no matter where — diet, support, participate, smile.

Good guys are winners.
Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

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A great luncheon at Faculty House in April was followed by a wonderful All-Class Reunion (formerly called Dean's Day) on campus in June. **Peter Klein**, **Bob Lauterborn**, **Jordan Bonfante**, **Alan Broadwin**, **Elinor** and **Dan Link**, **Al Franco SEAS'56**, **John Censor**, **Ralph Kaslik**, **Stephen Easton** and I were able to snatch a table for ourselves. The keynote speaker was Dr. Richard Axel '67, a Nobel Laureate. The Alumni Representative Committee reception later in the afternoon was notable for an excellence award to yours truly.

I heard from **Lionel Deutsch**, who has retired from the Woodstock



Former Columbia baseball captains Tom Vasell '62 (far left) and Charles Brown '56 (far right) teed up in Palm Beach, Fla. Joining them were their wives, Kathie Vasell (second from left) and Carole Brown (second from right).

Therapy Center and has moved to 309 Batham Lane, Ironton, OH 45638.

Ed Botwinick SEAS'58 writes that he and his wife, Vicki, were to move to Earlysville, Va., in late June. Ed is recovering from lower back surgery in NYC.

I recently learned of the death of **Robert Pearlman SEAS'55**, SEAS'56 on May 21, 2017, after a long illness.

Have a good fall and keep the info flowing to the addresses at the top of this column.

1957

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Lawrence Merrion: "My wife, Judy, and I live in Concord, Calif., where our children and grandchildren are



At All-Class Reunion 2017, held on June 3, Class of 1956 members claimed a whole table. Attending were Peter Klein, Bob Lauterborn, Jordan Bonfante, Alan Broadwin, Dan Link and his wife, Elinor, Al Franco SEAS'56, John Censor, Ralph Kaslick, Stephen Easton and Robert Sirotky.

nearby. We travel a bit and are planning our next trip to Italy for the fall.”

Lawrence is a retired architect.

Bill Schwartzman died in San Francisco on April 25. The obituary in the *San Francisco Chronicle* suggested that memorial contributions be made to the Jewish Home of San Francisco, 302 Silver Ave., San Francisco, CA 94112.

The principal occurrence of the quarter was our 60th class reunion, held June 1–4. Yours truly served on the Reunion Committee with **Jim Barker, Jerry Finkel, Dan Davidson, Alvin Kass, Carlos Muñoz, Paul Frommer** and **Alan Zucker-**
man. Under the able leadership of Peter Pallotta, assistant director, alumni relations, we put together a three-day program of CC’57 events, which were interspersed among various all-class events, events for other reunion classes, Mini-Core Classes and lectures, and the farewell brunch on Sunday.

Twenty-four of us, plus wives and guests, attended at least one of the class-specific events, a smaller number than we had hoped — a thought also expressed by **Gene Wagner** and **John Taussig**. Nevertheless, for those who attended, reunion was both pleasant and memorable.

I began the festivities with a Thursday visit to the Hamilton Grange, Alexander Hamilton’s federal-style home in Harlem, on West 141st Street, half a block east of Convent Avenue. The National Park Service provided an excellent tour of the home, with its fine collection of furniture, silverware, chinaware and glassware. Although small compared

to Mount Vernon and Monticello, in its time the Grange was considered a fine home. It was about a 90-minute carriage drive on unpaved roads from the downtown New York of its day.

Thursday evening, CC’57 had its first class reception, a dinner at Del Frisco’s. Following dinner, we had a choice of attending *The Golden Cockerel* (American Ballet Theatre), *Anastasia* or *Waitress*. Judy and **Gary Angleberger** and I went to *Anastasia*, a musical version of the legend of the Romanov princess alleged to have been her family’s sole survivor of the massacre by the Bolsheviks. The musical was inspired by the film from our Columbia days, which starred Ingrid Bergman and Yul Brynner.

Friday began with a Columbia College Alumni Association welcome breakfast in Low Library. Several Mini-Core Classes followed, as well as two tours. **Dan Davidson** and I selected “Radical Rationalism,” taught by Associate Professor of History Neslihan Senocak. Professor Senocak observed that the Middle Ages (the period between the Roman Empire and the Renaissance) is a modern concept rather than a contemporary one. Indeed, the reunion booklet noted that “medieval scholastic thought was actually a radical form of rationalism.” Professor Senocak discussed, among others, Thomas Aquinas, Maimonides (*The Guide for the Perplexed*) and Ibn Rushd (*Averroes*). An all-class luncheon followed on Low Plaza.

After lunch I attended “Jazz Around the World,” taught by Kevin Fellezs. Professor Fellezs observed that jazz is a paradox, fundamentally human, extending all across America, not limited to blacks, from New Orleans’s Storyville on. It spread the world over, to such places as Russia (where it was championed as the voice of the people), France (“Le Jazz Hot”), Shanghai, Japan, Brazil (influence on the samba and the bossa nova) and South Africa (based on township music). Professor Fellezs played several jazz recordings from various countries. He concluded that jazz has been hybridized the world over.

I then attended “Tax Reform — Washington Insights and Out-of-Sights” with Conrad Teitell LAW’57. The reunion program email described Mr. Teitell as “a practicing attorney, a prodigious lecturer, a prolific writer and a professor of law [who] has helped



During their 60th reunion, members of the Class of 1957 enjoyed the chance to catch up. Left to right: Yitzhak Sharon, Lewis Schainuck, Herman Levy and Gabriel Pinski.

draft and shape tax legislation and has testified before the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service.”

Regarding what is on the table, Mr. Teitell said “salami tactics,” i.e., taking one slice at a time rather than grabbing the whole at once — he cited as an example of this the alternative minimum tax, a way to effectively increase the percentage of the income tax without actually doing so.

On Friday evening CC’57 held a dinner in Butler Library.

Saturday morning began with the Dean’s Breakfast in the Low Rotunda. Dean James J. Valentini gave the annual State of the College address and shared updates on new initiatives. I then attended the reunion keynote address by Dr. Richard Axel ’67: *Scents and Sensibility: The Fascinating Relationship Between the Brain and Smell*. Dr. Axel is a Nobel Prize winner, a University Professor and an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Columbia University.

Then CC’57 held a class luncheon in the Casa Italiana library. The speaker was Austin Quigley, dean emeritus of the College and the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature. He spoke on recent developments at the College, notably on diversity. Following the luncheon, I went to hear Julie Crawford, the Mark Van Doren Professor of Humanities and the Paul Brooke Program Chair for Literature

Humanities, lecture on “Resistance to Authority in Shakespeare’s *Othello*.” Professor Crawford’s hand-out began with passages from other authors on the subject of wifely duty of obedience to her husband, and then proceeded to a number of passages from *Othello* leading up to Othello’s stifling of Desdemona and the tragic aftermath. Professor Crawford also mentioned Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*. The lecture recalled Professor Andrew Chiappe ’33’s, GSAS’39’s most memorable course in Shakespeare; I have been a Shakespeare buff ever since.

Shortly before our final class dinner, Rabbi **Alvin Kass**, daughter Sarah Kass ’87 and I met for the Wine Tasting. **Mac Gimse** was scheduled to read his poem “Every Life Matters,” which he based on our alma mater, *Sans Souci*, at our Saturday dinner to honor our deceased classmates; his wife’s illness, however, prevented him from attending our reunion. I read Mac’s poem aloud, leading those present in joining the refrain, “Every Life Matters.” **Steve Fybish** concluded the evening by leading us in singing *Sans Souci*, as Mac wished.

At the farewell brunch, Avivah and **Gabriel Pinski, Ron Kushner, Sandy and Yitzhak Sharon** and daughter Dina, **Alan Zuckerman** and I said goodbye, ending a pleasant and memorable reunion.

Gary Angleberger: “My wife (the Rev. Judy A. Angleberger) accompanied me to our 60th class reunion, and we had a wonderful time



Contact CCT

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

interacting with most of the other class members who attended part or all of the reunion activities. I, a Presbyterian clergyperson like my wife, always look forward to a conversation with Rabbi **Alvin Kass**. We share observations about the congregations we serve — his pre-retirement times in his synagogue in Brooklyn and my experiences as a pastor and church administrator. There's also talk with Paul Taormina '56, SEAS'57 about our days playing in the infield of the Columbia baseball team and with **Jim Barker** about business and politics and reflections on 'back then days' as CC students in the late mid-'50s. There's always some conversation with **Herman Levy** about life in general, usually ending up with us together at a dinner and [this time] at the theater for the *Anastasia* musical. Two extra days in [NYC] introduced us to The Tenement Museum on the Lower East Side, and a Sunday morning to worship in the midst of the impressive gothic architectural style and wonderful music at the Riverside Church. The sermon was well delivered and drew applause (quite an unusual response in our experience) from the multi-national and multi-racial congregation."

Yitzhak Sharon: "It was really heartwarming to see old friends again at our 60th reunion. Everyone looked so well and so young! It was fascinating to have each of us talk briefly about himself at the Saturday dinner. It was clear how much Columbia shaped our lives."

John Taussig: "My wife, Jan, and I attended our class reunion and thoroughly enjoyed the overall experience. Coming back to the campus always brings back memories for me. And most of them are even worthwhile. The events were fine and well planned as they each served as vehicles for talking and catching up with classmates from 60-plus years ago."

"My singular disappointment was the attendance. Only [24] showed up. Where were you guys?"

"It's mostly about memories for me now and making new ones. Our ninth decade is a reality check for each of us. I believe that rekindling important memories helps to keep us going. Eyesight? I need to put on old glasses to find my new glasses. Hearing? The only real sound I hear when I get new hearing aids are my screams when I get the bill. Cognitive issues? I don't remember. Sex?"

I do have an appropriate comment here but am sure it would never pass Herman's careful edit scrutiny. But am certain you can fill in the blanks, so to speak.

"Carlos mentioned to me that we might have a 65th reunion. I hope so. More memories. I'll be there. Will you?"

1958

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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Rick Brous submitted this multi-generational saga, pre-2017 Commencement: "I have been given the honor of being one of the 'Anniversary Marchers' at Columbia's upcoming Commencement ceremony this year. In 1917, 100 years ago, my dad, Leonard Brous (Class of 1917), graduated from Columbia College! I plan to wear a sign with his picture and the year he graduated [on one side, and on the other] 1917 my dad; 1958 me; 1995 my daughter; 1998 my son; 2023–31 my grandchildren? ... As one of only five Alumni Medalists in California I am very proud to be part of the Columbia family."

Rick's son is Michael Brous '98; his daughter is Rabbi Sharon Brous '95, GSAS'01, whose accomplishments we have previously reported.

I ♥ John Giorno, the exhibition featuring **John Giorno's** work that was first presented in Paris, came home to New York this summer. Staged by Ugo Rondinone, a Swiss artist who has been John's partner for almost two decades, it was divided among 13 city venues, including High Line Art, the New Museum, the Rubin Museum of Art and the Hunter College Art Galleries. As reported in this column at the time of the Paris opening, the exhibition included pieces from

John's extensive archive (both poetry and paintings), as well as contributions by his collaborators and artifacts like William Burroughs' typewriter; the author lived in John's East Village home in the '70s. One highlight: The bed in which John slept for five hours while Andy Warhol shot his 1963 movie *Sleep*, which was screened as part of the exhibition at the Swiss Institute.

Ernie Brod forwarded the following (unattributed, but we tracked it down to a letter to the editor of *The Economist*), written by one of your classmates: "I was delighted to read Johnson's column on trying to find a gender-neutral pronoun (April 1). As he said, the *Oxford English Dictionary's* first use of a sex-neutral, indefinite 'they' was about 1375. For some mysterious reason, school marms and style manuals decided that the epicene 'they' was ungrammatical. As a result, people began saying truly ungrammatical sentences such as 'Everybody likes pizza, doesn't he or she?' in an attempt to sound correct. They failed. I wrote about this subject in an essay that appeared in *American Speech* in 1982." — **George Jochowitz** GSAS'67, professor emeritus of linguistics at the CUNY's College of Staten Island.

And in the spring there was a heads-up from **Joe Dorinson**: "Dear friends and *mishpoche*: Optimum's Channel 222 (MLB) aired a Jackie Robinson special program, *Letters from Jackie*, to which I contribute some insights as a 'talking

1959

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CCT has reduced the hole for our class to 1,500 words and consequently I cannot include all your submissions in this issue. My apologies to **David Horowitz**, **Eric Jakobsson** and **Bernie Pucker**. Their contributions will appear in our next submission.

Franklin "Frank" Carroll, in Lakeland, Fla. (fcar507374@msn.com, 863-815-8649), writes, "I did the apprentice teacher assignment at Horace Mann School for Boys in the Bronx. I was the only CC student who completed the assignment. We were discouraged by the HM instructors, but as I was considering leaving, one of their instructors had a heart attack and I filled in."

"I played freshman football, but was not a starter. I became friends with **Hagop "Jack" Merjian**, who was attempting to restart Columbia's soccer program (it had been dropped during WWII). We started as a club, and soccer was reinstated as a varsity club during the 1958–59 school year. I wasn't that good and never started a varsity match, but did sub. However, I learned a lot. Again, considering the success Columbia soccer has had in recent years, it is

I ♥ John Giorno, the exhibition featuring John Giorno '58's work that was first presented in Paris, came home to New York this past summer.

head.' It is a fascinating study of an authentic American hero. In this era of fake news and alternate reality, it is refreshing to recall this great man and his important legacy during the Easter/Passover holidays."

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

significant that the reinstated varsity program was made possible by the effort of the Class of '59 — Jack, some good foreign students, some American players who had played in high school and one aspirant (me). The quality improved when varsity status was granted for the '58 season; Joe Molder was our coach. Jack became the headmaster at the Pomfret School in Pomfret, Conn. Can anyone provide information on how to get in touch with him?

"When I came back to Indiana, I became a high school teacher. I am credited with creating and teaching the first, last and only black history high school course taught in Indiana. The state decided to only include the subject as a portion of the regular history classes. Oddly enough, when I was completing the last week of the course, I was offered a position at Ball State University to help it create a course of study in minority relations, which led to an additional master's; I declined the offer as I was by that point well-established in my school system and was the father of five.

"I helped create the high school soccer program in Northern Indiana, which in turn was helpful in the creation of soccer as a high school sport in the state. I became an NCAA soccer official. I later became a certified referee instructor; this allowed us to create certified and paid referees for both the youth and high school programs.

"I became the president of the Northwest Indiana Youth Soccer Club and helped raise the number of participants from approximately 300 to more than 3,000. I created the first indoor soccer season in the state. I was the soccer coach at Purdue University Calumet for 13 seasons, making the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics playoffs in nine of those seasons. I am in the Hammond, Ind., and Purdue University Northwest Sports Halls of Fame.

"We moved to Florida in 2000. The Hammond area was part of the 'Rust Belt' (I worked several summers in the steel mills while I was in college and as my family grew and until my wife graduated from Purdue as a nurse). Hammond had five high schools when I went there in 1961 (I taught in Gary for two years after graduation). But after 37 years in Hammond, the city's population decreased by 25 percent and it was decided to close one high school. They made a great offer to retire early; I was one of 72 who accepted.

"My oldest son runs a messenger service in Minneapolis. My second son has a great job in the legal publishing industry and lives in Irving Park in Chi-Town. My oldest daughter died of cancer at 18. My next daughter worked with horses for many years, but is now a dealer at a casino in Cincinnati. My youngest daughter teaches at Indiana

University Northwest (Gary). I have four grandchildren: one in advertising in Minnesota; one runs a bar/restaurant in Orlando; and two live in Indianapolis — one works for the welfare department, the other teaches high school chemistry. I also have two great-grandchildren.

"I have tried to keep busy. I worked for 15 years as a substitute teacher for Polk County. I served on the Board of Directors for our senior park, edited our community monthly paper and volunteered for the sporting programs at Walt Disney World. I started as a water worker for the Disney Marathon and became a team leader for several events, including the Special Olympics, track meets (college and the North American AAU championships), full and half marathon weekends (four a year), golf tournaments and so on. I was the team leader for the target shooting event for the last Great Outdoor Games ESPN program in 2005. That was the year five hurricanes hit Florida. ESPN has not held this event since then.

"My most emotional service was as parade marshal and liaison for the Australian team during the Invictus Games (sporting events for wounded warriors from 14 nations allied with the United States in wars in the Middle East), held at Walt Disney World in May 2016."

From **Michael P. Zimmerman** GSAS'63: "Some good news for the Class of '59 in these crazy-making times. My book, *Tyrants of the Heart: A Psychoanalytic Study of Mothers and Maternal Images in James Joyce*, will come out in the late summer or fall and will be available on Amazon. Classmates will find that I've referred to Lionel Trilling '25, GSAS'38 in my discussion of Joyce in his letters (Chapter VII and Epilogue) and to Andrew Chiappe '33, GSAS'39's unforgettable Shakespeare course when I use 'Venus and Adonis' to unpack the complex symbolism where Leopold Bloom and Stephen Daedalus simultaneously stare into a mirror in Bella Cohen's brothel and see that their joint image is a raging Shakespeare, hardly Professor Chiappe's Shakespeare (Chapter V).

"More good news: My wife, Lily Iona MacKenzie, and I planned to vacation in France (Provence, the Dordogne, the Loire Valley and Paris) in June and July. Lily's novel,



A group of Class of 1959 alumni get together every fall in the Northeast. Last year's gathering featured (seated, left to right): Roald Hoffmann, Ed Wolpov, Paul Kantor, Martin Geller and Jerry Goodisman. Standing: Bill Zangwill.

Fling!, was published last year.

This year, her second novel, *Curva Peligrosa*, is scheduled to appear in August and her third, *FreeFall: A Divine Comedy*, in 2018. We're going to have a joint book launch at our favorite restaurant in Richmond, Calif., in October.

"Even more: Our oldest grandchildren, Jonah and his twin sister, Esme, are going to college here, in the United States (they were born and raised in London). Jonah is going to Princeton, where he will star on the soccer — oops, to use the word he prefers, football — team. Esme will go to Wesleyan, where I hope she'll continue concertizing with her violin and still manage to take time off for her earlier love, the tennis courts. Their younger brother, Milo, also quite a violinist, will attend the Friends Seminary in NYC.

"Roar Lion Roar! Vive la France! Vive M. le Président Emmanuel Macron!"

Morty Klevan: "It's hard to believe that it's nearly 60 years since we graduated from Columbia. Aside from providing me with a first-class education, the College gave me lifelong friends — **Harvey Leifert**, whom I have lunch with once a week; **Isser Woloch**, whom I see each time I go New York to be tested at Memorial Sloan Kettering to make sure my multiple myeloma is under control (it is); **Bennet Silverman**, and, more by phone because of distance, **Ken Scheffel** and **Jerry Wacks**. My life today is pretty low key. Aside from working in political campaigns as a volunteer (most recently in Chris Van Hollen's successful Democratic primary campaign) and as volunteer guide at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, I spend a lot of time watching and exulting in the Nationals' superb starting pitchers and position players,

and bemoaning the state of their relief pitching. I planned to take a two-week break from watching the Nationals in September, as Carla (my wife of 54 years) and I go to Iceland and Sweden for a short vacation."

Jay Neugeboren was profiled in *Numero Cinq Magazine*. You can read the article online: bit.ly/2uhhECF.

It will surprise no one that **Steve Trachtenberg** has been busy. He and I spent some pleasant time talking while he was in Chicago. He writes, "I'm back from Malta, Spain and England. Did laundry and came to Martha's Vineyard. I'm in Vineyard Haven. Planned to be in San Diego with all my kids in July. In August planned to go to the Arctic to see the elk migration. Buying Yukon clothes in preparation. Boots. Mittens. Socks. Excited."

A link to the local newspaper on Martha's Vineyard shows that Steve is still making his opinions known.

Norman Gelfand, thanks to his daughter, is now the grandfather of his first grandson. He has two fantastic granddaughters. His youngest son has no children, which is probably for the best as he is not married yet, but he does have two NBA championship rings.

1960

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Twenty-seven years ago a tradition was born. The year was 1990 and, following our 30th reunion, members of the class decided to gather for lunch at noon on the first Thursday of the month. That tradition continues to this day. The passage of time — with the inevitability of retirement reloca-

tions, conflicting obligations, death and infirmity — has taken its toll on our attendance.

Our first restaurant, Michael's Pub, was an institution on East 55th Street with a 30-year history at that location, famous for its evening performances of jazz and blues. We experienced neither the jazz nor the blues, but the food at noon was good.

Michael's closed its doors in 1996. We proceeded to patronize, in succession, two restaurants on West 57th Street. Each, in turn, closed its doors. We remember them fondly, but just as with old flames and acquaintances, it is not surprising that now we struggle unsuccessfully to recall their names.

There might have been another restaurant or two that we closed, as the lifespan for restaurants in New York often is brief, and memories at our age are fragile and not entirely reliable. And so, it was a fortuitous event when the Columbia University Club of New York, which had no facility of its own, joined the Princeton Club as "in residence" and we found a home for these many years at 15 W. 43rd St., in the club's Grill, originally located on the first floor and then moved to the third.

The union between Columbia and Princeton lasted until recently when irreconcilable differences, or whatever transpires when two such institutions try to coexist under the same roof, caused the relationship to dissolve and the Columbia University Club was wooed to join the Penn Club, one block over, on West 44th Street. Members of the Columbia University Club were offered the opportunity to retain membership rights to continue to use the Princeton Club and **Art Delmhorst** exercised that option. After due consideration and an examination of the facility now housing the Columbia University Club, we decided to stay at 15 W. 43rd St., where we will stay likely as not until, albatrosses that we are, the Princeton Club closes its doors.

There were three first Thursday exceptions that **David Kirk** recalled. A flight to Portland, Maine, to tour the city with **Larry Rubinstein** and lunch on lobster rolls, an extended "lunch" in Paris to join with **Bob Berne** and wife, **Steffi**, in celebration of Bob's birthday and a poignant lunch in a conference room in **Richard Friedlander's** office, where

Richard informed us that based on his doctors' assessments, his condition was terminal and it would be his last lunch with us, and before the first Thursday of the next month arrived, Richard was gone. Those were occasions that were indeed memorably enjoyable, and ineffably sad. For those who have lost contact with our monthly gatherings and wish to return but wonder where we are, and for those who have not attended, but would like to enjoy some good companionship and conversation, know that we persist and carry on each first Thursday of the month (except when that day is a holiday), and convene at the Princeton Club at 15 W. 43rd St. on the third floor. Feel free to email me for further information and/or if you have any questions, and by all means send some news for our Class Notes.

Bill Tanenbaum and his wife, **Ronna**, whose travels have taken them around the world, returned in June after traveling to London (before the terrorist attacks, Bill advises), continuing north to Edinburgh, and, as Bill writes, "finishing the vacation adventure in a rented apartment in Jerusalem, not knowing that President Trump was scheduled to visit during our stay. We experienced the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. Tens of thousands danced in the streets as bands blared their music and the groups headed to the Old City and the Western Wall. It was a joyous occasion to be part of."

The Tanenbaums' conviction is to keep moving and exploring, and they recommend it to us all.

1961

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James Bryce LAW'70 retired from the University of Alabama School of Law after teaching tax law for 39 years. He plans to spend his remaining years traveling and taking care of his gardens, orchards and timber at Shotgun Hollow Plantation in Eoline, Ala.

During **Gerry Brodeur's** recent trip east he had lunch with **Wayne Hatfield** in Londonderry, N.H. Earlier on the trip, he had dinner

with **Jack Kirik** and his wife, **Sue**, in Hershey, Pa. Upon returning to Las Vegas, Gerry fell and broke his femur near the ball that joins the hip, requiring three screws to hold it together. Long recovery ahead. His advice: "Don't fall!"

Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

In June, **Bob Salman LAW'64** was elected to his fifth consecutive four-year term on the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. More importantly, Bob and his wife, **Reva**, celebrated their 54th anniversary on June 16.

Bob also is active in **Phil Murphy's** race for governor of New Jersey, concentrating on transportation issues.

David Konstan GSAS'67 went to Taipei in July to teach two summer courses at Fu Jen Catholic University. One was on Latin love poetry, and the other, taught in translation, was called "Love, Sexuality and Friendship in the Classical World." David was considered the distinguished visiting professor in "The Program of Western Classical and Medieval Culture."

John Learned writes from Hawaii that his daughter, a Barnard graduate, is a Hollywood film editor.

Stuart Sloame and his wife, **Ellen**, moved to West Hollywood, Calif., in April 2016 from Washington, D.C., to be near their daughter **Joanna Sloame '09**. Joanna writes and produces videos for PopSugar, an Internet magazine for millennial women. Stuart reunited with **Jack Samet**, a fellow Los Angeles resident, at the WeHo Bistro Restaurant.

My wife, **JB**, and I were in Washington, D.C., in June to visit with **Alex Liebowitz** and his wife, **Denise**. While there, Alex and I attended a class luncheon and saw **Mickey Greenblatt**, **Max Cohen**



Jack Samet '61 had lunch at Los Angeles' WeHo Bistro Restaurant with Stuart Sloame '61, as well as with Sloame's wife, Ellen, and Samet's girlfriend, Beverly.

and **Tom Lippman**. The group meets every other month, usually on the second Wednesday. If you happen to be visiting D.C. and wish to attend, contact Mickey: mickey@mgreenblatt.com. There is always an extra place at the table.

I have a number of email addresses that are no longer valid, as classmates have retired or moved and changed Internet providers. If you do not receive quarterly emails from me requesting information for Class Notes but still receive *CCT*, please send me your updated email address. [Editor's note: Please also inform the Alumni Office: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info.] Thank you.

1962

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The big news, of course, is that our 55th reunion took place during the



Gerry Brodeur '61 enjoyed lunch with Wayne Hatfield '61 in Londonderry, N.H.

first weekend in June. Because I was not there, former class correspondent **Ed Pressman** — with assistance from **Paul Alter** — prepared the following report. Thanks to both of you.

"The reunion began on Thursday, June 1, with a catered cocktail party at the lovely Manhattan home of **Paul Alter**. This event has become a popular tradition for our class reunions. Paul introduced Dean James J. Valentini, who welcomed us with remarks, reintroducing us to the College and getting everyone 'into the swing.' As always, we shared memories of our years together. It seems wonderfully inevitable that these stories grow more embellished and colorful as the years go by.

"After cocktails at Paul's, we split into smaller groups. Some went to restaurants, some to a Broadway show or to the ballet at Lincoln Center, and others to Columbia events.

"On Friday morning, about 15 of us — many with their spouses — had breakfast on campus with other reunion classes. Afterward we were ushered onto a bus and headed downtown to the [National September 11 Memorial & Museum] of the World Trade Center. It was a sobering and fascinating experience, especially for those of us who had toured the site during our 50th reunion in 2012.

"On Friday evening we returned to Amsterdam Avenue for a casual, filling and nostalgic dinner at V&T Pizzeria.

"Saturday morning began with the Dean's Breakfast, at which Valentini reported on the state of the College. That afternoon we had a 1962 luncheon, attended Mini-Core Classes, and roamed the campus and ever-expanding Columbia neighborhood.

"The weekend was topped off with a moving class dinner at The Campbell Sports Center. **Jim Balquist** gave an inspiring talk about our championship wrestling team of 55 years ago! And at the conclusion of the meal, Paul asked for a moment of silence in honor of our classmates who have passed away. It is a long, sobering list.

In addition to Jim (and Ann) Balquist, Ed Pressman (and Marcia Gellert) and Paul Alter, the following classmates attended our 55th: Judy and **Jeffrey Bergen**, Karen and **Gerry Debonis**, Linda and **Joel Goldman**, Brenda and **Burt Lehman**, **John Mackenzie**,

Jeffrey Milstein, **Lorrie Gerson** and **Stuart Rosenbluth**, **Joan** and **Richard Toder**, **Gayle** and **Harvey Chertoff**, **Frank Grady**, **Vicki** and **Fred Modell**, **Tobias Robison**, **Gary Roxland**, **Kalman Robinson**, **Linda** and **Stephen Stein**, **Anthony Valerio**, **Kathy** and **Franz Stoppenbach**, **Jane** and **Leo Swergold**, **Julia** and **Yen Tan**, **Jewell** and **Stan Waldbaum**, **Arlene** and **Russell Baccaglini**, **Emily Gallup** and **Robert Umans**. Please let me know if your name is missing, and I will report that in the Winter 2017–18 issue.

Ethel and **Bernie Patten** had planned to travel to Iran this fall. The government sent them lengthy instructions about what they could and could not wear and do. Ultimately, however, it refused to issue them visas. Bernie wrote: "We had to state a religion, something that Libya had previously required of us. Finally, I admitted I was a Taoist, and Ethel said she was a follower of Bacchus, which was the truth. Libya issued the visas, but not Iran. We'll try again next year."

Bob Meyers recently discovered that three College alumni share his row of lockers at his swim club in the hills of Oakland, Calif.: **Rich Glaser '67**, **Jeff Davis '68** and **Dave Rapson '79**. And the swimmer with the locker next to Bob's has a daughter in the Engineering School! Bob also confessed: "As I turned 76, I had to stop using my mountain bike and finally faced reality and purchased an e-bike. It's a battery-assisted mountain bike that lets me ride on nearby fire trails the way I did 20 years ago and still enjoy the sport while getting a decent aerobic workout."

Crawford Kilian reported in April, "Here in Vancouver we're in the midst of a provincial election, and I've been writing articles in *The Tyee* about the government's disastrous educational policies over its 16-year reign. With any luck they'll be out on May 9, and I can start blasting the new government. After teaching college for 41 years, I'm really glad to have moved into a new career as an online journalist. *The Tyee* lets me write about education, politics, public health, environmental issues and books, so it's a pretty good news beat. And I find I don't miss writing books at all. Also, a young Australian shepherd has been hired on as my personal trainer. She

gets me out walking four or five miles a day — rain, shine, or snow. So far, my knees have endured."

Roman Kernitsky practices ophthalmology on a full-time basis. His wife, **Lydia**, is a retired dentist. They live in Colts Neck, N.J., and have two grown sons — one a lawyer; the other a diplomat. Roman recently traveled to Siracusa, Sicily, which was very exciting, he writes, "because I participated in a procession for the festival of Santa Lucia (May 1). Saint Lucy is the patron saint of the eyes, and

Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2. And, most importantly, come! For all who missed the 50th, here is a chance to make up for it. For all who made the 50th, come back again, and let's make this reunion even more fun. As I mentioned in the Summer issue, we have already formed a Reunion Committee and had our first meetings. Please contact me if you want to help organize and gather your classmates. Let's make it a great party.

Herb Soroca writes, "For the last couple of years I have been coaching

Lee Lowenfish '63 reports, "I spoke on a panel about Jackie Robinson's journey at the national convention of the Society for American Baseball Research."

since I am an ophthalmologist this was very gratifying. On an unrelated topic, I feel that Hillary Clinton is an ignorant, vicious, narcissistic liar and not Trump. Clinton is the one who was responsible for Americans who got killed in Benghazi. Furthermore, I am a war refugee (from Poland, 1946). It was Obama who created the refugee problem in Syria by not taking action when Assad used chemical weapons — Obama's red line. Under Obama no significant number of Christian refugees was admitted to the United States, even though they are on the verge of extermination. Democracy and freedom in the world have retreated under the eight-year administration of Obama."

rowing at the Greenwich Water Club. This past year I was asked to be head coach of the novice boys. On May 21–22 at the Northeast Youth Championship on Lake Quinsigamond (Worcester, Mass.), my novices finished second (silver medal) out of 20 crews in the 8 and then split into two 4s, stern 4 and bow 4, and finished first and second (gold and silver medals) also out of 20 crews. Terrific bunch of kids (13–15-year-olds) and a real thrill to be back at Worcester. Also, this past February, my wife, Barbara, and I had dinner in Sarasota with Marsha and **Rick Eisenberg** and Sandy and **Bruce 'Jeff' Wechsler**."

Lee Lowenfish reports, "I spoke on a panel about Jackie Robinson's journey at the national convention of the Society for American Baseball Research. **Bob Whelan** came up to me the day before and said hi. Slowly it came back to me — he's from Grover Cleveland H.S. in Queens, went on to a career in political science and is now emeritus at University of Texas Dallas after being at University of North Florida and University of New Orleans."

David Orme-Johnson writes, "We recently returned from a peace conference in Kiev, where I spoke. I thought you might like to see this article on it online: bit.ly/2ibUIUt."

David also wrote earlier, "Here is a link to the second of my articles on 'The Scientific Quest for Enlightenment,' published in *Enjoy TM News*. In this article I document how the

1963

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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Our 55th reunion is only eight months away. Please mark your calendars and hold the dates

scientists that started research on TM in the early 1970s got together with Maharishi to start two universities; how our research focused on scientifically defining transcendental consciousness; and Maharishi's role in the key discovery of EEG (electroencephalogram) synchrony. Enjoy it online: bit.ly/2wh4YRv.

D. Keith Mano's widow, Laurie, writes that Columbia recently decided to archive his writings in its Rare Book & Manuscript Library, housed in Butler: "It certainly is a great honor. Keith was the recipient of Columbia's Eureka J. Kellett Fellowship and the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. He received a Literary Lion award from the New York Public Library as well as a *Playboy* Award for his excellence in journalism."

I had known Keith was a novelist for many years, but had not followed his journalism, which was prolific. He contributed articles on sex for *Playboy* and, for 17 years starting in 1972, he wrote his column, "The Gimlet Eye," in every issue of *National Review*. I started googling these articles recently, after avoiding the publication my whole life, and found them immensely interesting and beautifully written. I will now set aside some time to read some of Keith's novels. Any of you have a favorite?

Nick Zill writes, "You might be interested in my latest blog post, 'What Happens At Home Doesn't Stay There: It Goes to School.' It is based on analysis of data from the Census Bureau's current population survey and the National Survey of Children's Health. You can view it online: bit.ly/2fyBqYy."

Nick also reported on his latest entry on YouTube: "Two frustrated Trump supporters sing of Donald's efforts to drain the swamp, accompanied by a Zydeco band. You can sing along and watch the swamp creatures triumph on YouTube (words and music by yours truly) online: bit.ly/2wP14vC."

I learned from one of Nick's Facebook posts that **Bill Burley** has published *Mackenzie's Farewell*, the first of three novels about Rob Mackenzie and Maryann Caton. You can order it through Amazon or iUniverse. [Editor's note: See "Bookshelf."] If you google Bill, you will see several pictures of him with his bagpipes and kilt (Bill is one of three players of my favorite instrument in our class — possibly a record).

Bill, I hope that you will be Piping in the Haggis at the annual Burns Night Dinner at the Penn Club, where the Columbia Club is now housed. If you are, I will gather a bunch of classmates to celebrate with you.

Volunteers?

Remember our regular class lunches (for now, we are still gathering at the Princeton Club at 15 W. 43rd St.) are always a great place to reconnect. If you're back in NYC, try to make one of the lunches this fall. The next are on October 12 and November 9 — it's always the second Thursday. Check cc63ers.com for details.

1964

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By the time this arrives in your mailbox, the summer will have passed and autumn will be upon us. But whatever the season, and wherever you are, I send my best wishes to you and your loved ones.

Joel Abramson reports that he is the 2017–18 chair of the New York State Bar Association's General Practice Section.

Good luck in the year ahead, Joel.

Barry Bley writes from Colorado: "I received the most recent edition of *CCT* in my mailbox today, and I thought it appropriate to bring you up to date with my activities. My wife, Cindy, and I live in a northern suburb of Denver. We have the best of both worlds — downtown in 20 minutes and in the mountains in 40. I retired from teaching in the public schools of Suffern, N.Y. (and later Denver), after 42 years. Our time is taken up with our seven grandkids, ages 4–18, all of whom live within a half-hour's drive.

"I continue my work with the Alumni Representative Committee, interviewing high school seniors who have applied to the College. This will be my 43rd year of conducting these conversations. Looking back over my career, I am pleased that four of my former students are now my fellow alumni. They are Josh Wayser '84, LAW'88; Russel Wilson '86; Eric Ndikumana '12, PH'14; and Isaac Solano TC'15. I only wish there were more alums in Colorado."

The 2016–17 **Alan J. Willen** Memorial Prize has been awarded to Partha Sharma '17 for his thesis, "Lockstep Independence: Alaska's Constitutionalism and the Indigent Parent's Right to Counsel in *Matter of K.I.J.* (1991)."

In a thank you note for the prize, Partha, who majored in political science and concentrated in philosophy, writes that his paper "analyzed the Alaska Supreme Court's remarkable recognition of a right to counsel in certain family law cases. As an aspiring public interest lawyer, I was drawn to studying the prospect of a 'Civil *Gideon*' being established by state courts. The Alaska case, in its uniqueness, drew my attention."

Alan, who was a *Spectator* news editor, loved history, and the class is proud to sponsor the prize.

Please write to me at norman@nolch.com to see your news in the Winter 2017–18 issue.

1965

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News of three writers from our class this issue: **David Denby** JRN'66 wrote a marvelous piece on the conductor Arturo Toscanini, "The Toscanini Wars," in the July 10 issue of *The New Yorker*. David's piece was occasioned by the publication of a 900-plus page biography of Toscanini by the music historian Harvey Sachs, which received a front-page review in *The New York Times Book Review*. But David's piece focuses on the experience of listening to Toscanini's recordings. Writing about any sensory experience is not easy to do, but check out this passage: "Listening again to any of Toscanini's recordings ... has been, for me, both a thrilling and an alarming experience. Enthusiasm from decades ago, long folded into the back drawer of memory, came roaring back. Some of the performances bursting from speakers and headphones stagger belief. Consider one of the most familiar yet daunting of all monuments, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony ... At the beginning of [the first] movement's recapitulation, Beethoven, returning to the blunt opening bars,

splits open the heavens in waves of convulsive sound. In any conductor's performance, this should be an apocalyptic moment; Toscanini does better. In his 1952 rendering with the NBC Symphony, he uncharacteristically departs from the score. Rather than instructing the kettle-drums to play through the passage with continuous rolling thunder, as other conductors do (including Wilhelm Furtwängler and Herbert von Karajan), he had the timpani peak at each of the three crescendos in the passage — releasing, all three times, an almost frightening charge of energy, as if the atom were being split again and again. And throughout the passage Toscanini holds to his rapid tempo for the entire movement. Playing with this kind of speed and force, the musicians of the NBC Symphony reach the limits of what human beings are capable of. But what is conveyed by this assault on possibility? Toscanini's 'despair'? Rage? Defiance of what has to be? Defiance of death, then?"

I was a Toscanini enthusiast myself during our college years, especially when Riverside Church Radio Station (WRVR) ran a series in which, over the course of many months, they played every Toscanini recording, both studio and live, so I wrote to David about that. He responded: "Thanks for your note. It [the *New Yorker* piece] was a labor of love. It started as a record-listening piece for the web, and it just grew once I got hold of the biography. Yes, [the *Times* reviewer] did the life, not why the life actually mattered. I remember that WRVR series; I remember talking to the guy who put it on the air."

And, in breaking news, the August 8 edition of *Publishers Lunch* included news of a new publishing deal by the "author of *Great Books* and *Lit Up*, David Denby's untitled group portrait of four remarkable Jewish Americans — Leonard Bernstein, Betty Friedan, Norman Mailer and Mel Brooks."

Gary Engelberg wrote with news of his new book: "You know there must be something special if you get an email from me! Some good news! I recently received the first 75 copies of my new book, *Learning To See And Other Stories And Memoirs From Senegal*. It's due to be released on September 17."

Gary has lived in Senegal, West Africa, for more than 50 years, since

his Peace Corps assignment there. When I hear that anyone I know is traveling to Dakar, I send them to Gary. **Brian Fix** was the most recent; his and Gary's reports on their meeting appeared in the Summer 2014 issue of this column. Gary is the co-founder and former director of Africa Consultants International, an NGO that promotes cross-cultural communication, health and social justice in Dakar. Here are excerpts from the publisher's description of Gary's book: "This book is a treasure of cultural insights about Senegal for anyone who may be interested in learning to see. In this volume of memoirs and short stories, the author shares incidents that contributed to his growing understanding of the culture of this country that he loved at first sight and grew to love even more over the years."

And a quote from the book: "It's early September 2015 in Senegal. We are about three quarters of the way through the rainy season. This has been one of those years that gives the impression of having passed by in overdrive. Suddenly January turned to May while I was still getting used to writing 2015 on my checks. Five days ago, September 1, marked my fifty years in Senegal. The years too have passed quickly. When I decided to write, the short stories in this book came quickly as well, like ripe mangoes falling from the tree. They are accounts of real people and real events with some changes in names and details, as well as fictional stories with invented characters that are inspired by a composite of real events. With its roots in the 12th century, and located

on a cross-roads where different world cultures have met and mixed, Senegal has had the time to develop intricate mechanisms to manage diversity and bind people together in non-conflictual relationships. While its architectural achievements are modest on the world scale, its social architecture has the beauty of the Taj Mahal in its balance and perfection. These social mechanisms are reflected in the predominant cultural values of this old society. In this collection, I share acquired insights from people and incidents that contributed to my growing respect for these values and the wisdom of this millennial culture. These stories and memoirs somehow encapsulate some of the values upon which this culture is constructed. They are a treasure of lessons from Senegal about what is important in life for anyone interested in learning to see."

I've written about **Richard Taruskin** from time to time, most recently when **Jim Siegel** attended a lecture Richard gave in New York City. **Leslie Brisman** and **Dan Carlinsky** informed me that Richard was awarded the Kyoto Prize. This is a Nobel Prize equivalent for fields that are not covered by the Swedish Nobel Prize. It is only awarded to three people per year, and it is only awarded in music once every four years. All previous awards in music have gone to composers or conductors; Richard is the first academic to receive the prize. Richard intends to accept the prize in Japan in November 2017.

The sponsor of the prize, the Inamori Foundation, describes Richard as "a musicologist and critic of prodigious erudition who has transformed contemporary perspectives on music through historical research and essays that defy conventional critical paradigms."

The foundation's citation continues: "Born in New York in 1945, Dr. Taruskin studied Russian language at Columbia University before entering its graduate school of musicology, where he focused on Western music history under Professor Paul Henry Lang, and joined the faculty after earning his Ph.D. In those days, he performed as a viola da gamba player, and served as the choral conductor of the Collegium Musicum of Columbia University. These experiences provided a prelude to the considerable controversy surrounding early music that he would ignite later in life. In the 1980s, while

writing for *The New York Times*, other newspapers and academic journals, he provocatively asserted that contemporary performances of early music were not true examples of 'authenticity,' as was commonly claimed, but rather reflections of late 20th-century aesthetics. This argument influenced the performance world of early music in tangible and intangible ways, and even today, Dr. Taruskin's argument underlies the varied approaches these performances tend to take.

"Dr. Taruskin has left an even larger mark in the music world through his Russian music research, evident in his books — *Opera and Drama in Russia as Preached and Practiced in the 1860s* (1981), *Mussorgsky: Eight Essays and an Epilogue* (1993), and *Stravinsky and the Russian Traditions: A Biography of the Works through Mavra* (1996). These works, spawned from a revolutionary method of analyzing original compositions alongside extensive study of contextual circumstances, including folkloristics, have radically reshaped our image of the original composers and updated the methodology of musicology research itself.

"His six-volume *The Oxford History of Western Music* (2005), focusing exclusively on music in the Western literate tradition, represents a literary landmark in musicology and perhaps the largest overview of music history ever written by a single author. Under the influence of ethnomusicology and historical science which has critical approach to historiography, Dr. Taruskin critically overstepped the description method based on some aesthetic and/or historical universality and presented an enormous amount of descriptive evidence that Western music history written under homogeneous standards actually consists of an aggregation of historical matters that are minuscule and heterogeneous. His deep knowledge of such diverse fields as history, culture, politics, art, literature and religion allows him to make an incisive analysis of the literate tradition of Western music in the socio-cultural context. Every chapter of his first-edition Western musicology history, which exceeds 4,000 pages, is both thrilling and illuminating.

"Dr. Taruskin's critiques have consequently set a new standard in musicology, influencing audiences and performers alike. His critical practices

and deep academic insights have changed music as we know it, pioneering a new realm of music research which can go beyond the boundary between conventional criticism and musicology, and between historical musicology and ethnomusicology.

"The quality and volume of his work reveal that in music, creativity can be found not only in composition and performance, but also in meticulous discourse contextualizing the art and that this, in itself, can contribute significantly to the world's music cultures."

1966

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Welcome to our abridged column. Most of you will recall I advised you that the Class Notes space was to be shortened from 2,000 words to 1,500 words. Later submissions to the column will appear in the next issue.

Tom Chorba, in his typical acerbic manner, commented, "Why the hell do they think we read the magazine?"

I asked for details about any of you getting caught with a pair of strippers, to which **Jonathan Sunshine** replied, "What is this about a pair of slippers? I put mine in the shoe rack."

John Burke confessed he was apprehended leaving an abandoned Radio Shack store with a pair of wire strippers, to splice a speaker wire on his "hi-fi" system.

From **Larry Nelson**: "Jan and **Dean Mottard** visited us in Arlington, Va., in May. At **Bob Gurland's** cocktail party at last year's reunion, Deano met my wife, Sue. It was a fun start to an excellent weekend. We hadn't met Jan before, and if you haven't yet, I highly recommend making it happen! Capt. Mottard was a little nervous when I told him I invited three Marine generals to the party ("Um, I once saw a general"). Unfortunately, only the very nice and surprisingly gentle three-star across the street was in town. Jan and Dean exhausted themselves with sightseeing on their own and left with more monuments to see, sufficient food and drink in their bellies, and enough room in their hearts to agree to a follow-up week



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.

in Cozumel with us and Meredith and **Gene Thompson**. Go Lions!"

Jessie Berman advises, "I am alive and well, and I am still at my office in Manhattan, practicing criminal defense."

In the past few years, **David Paglin**'s theater project, Conscience Drama Directive, has presented four performance evenings featuring the plays (two from each) of the English department lions of our day, still world-renowned theater scholars-critics: Eric Bentley and Robert Brustein GSAS'57. Happily, Eric and Bob are very much with us, brilliant as ever, at 101 and 90!

Three comments on my email signature line read "Golden lads and girls all must, as chimney sweepers, come to dust." From **John Mamoulakis**, "All come to dust. But what matters is what passes between birth and dust."

Well said, John.

David Matthew, in the literary spirit, replies, "... and what rough beast, its time come round at last ... Be well, do good work, keep in touch." **Roger Low** commented, "There are no obvious signs of imminent dust, here, I'm pleased to report. **Michael Garrett** and I had a very pleasant lunch in London. As usual, photos of grandchildren were shown."

Geoff Dutton: "Putting close-to-finish touches on my politically transgressive novel of terrorists plotting in Europe; I've been peddling it while in the midst of a nonfiction book project about remediating the out-of-control march of technology. Started blogging semi-regularly last winter at progressivepilgrim.review and occasionally contribute to counterpunch.org. Proudly watched my teenage daughter march off to her first paying summer job at our local public access media center. Who knows, maybe she'll find her way to CU."

Michael Garrett reports that he and his wife, Sandy, spent a fun month in England, Scotland and Norway this summer (except for so many questions about how we could have elected that "evil child") and will celebrate their 50th anniversary by taking the whole clan to the Caribbean. Michael is looking forward to Columbia Press' publication this fall of a book of essays (one of which is his) marking the 50th anniversary of the 1968 uprising.

Joel Labow: "Recently cut back to two days a week teaching pediatric

clinical clerkship students. I am a clinical professor of pediatrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md."

Anthony Starace: "As avid hikers, we recently returned on July 15 from nine days in Iceland. We began by soaking an entire afternoon in the Blue Lagoon outside Reykjavik. But most of our trip was spent hiking to the rims of volcanos, to the Háifoss waterfall and along its river valley, to hot springs in the Reykjadalur Valley and to 1,000-year-old historic sites in Thingvellir National Park. Of course, we roughed it in first-class hotels serving New Nordic Cuisine gourmet meals. Typically, one's entree (mainly seafood or lamb) is surrounded by so many different colorful sauces, purées and vegetables that it resembles an impressionist painter's palette. Interesting also is that democracy began in Iceland from the time of its settlement. The country is powered 85 percent by green energy, primarily geothermal. In Reykjavik, for example, hot water is distributed from 28 kilometers away by insulated pipes to each household, and sidewalks and roads in the city remain frost-free owing to heat pipes below them. Finally, Icelanders maintain the purity of their language, so that even today most literate Icelanders are able to read their famous *Sagas* from the 13th century in the original language. It is quite an incredible, beautiful and interesting country and people."

Welcome back to **Jonathan Davis**: "I don't recall previously submitting a post to CC'66 Class Notes. And, I don't think I have anything of general interest to post now. But, I am wondering whether it might make a good topic for classmates who have already retired or who are about to take the plunge to comment on what's been good about it, what hasn't been so good, what to look out for, and, in general, what advice to offer."

Bob Klingensmith: "Since 'global warming' has been hitting California particularly hard this summer, Nancy and I planned to extend our normal August golf getaways to Scotland by a few weeks. We'll spend the first couple in Northern Ireland, playing a different course until they all have been brought to their knees. If you watched the Scottish Open on July 15, the players were all wearing sweaters and wool ski caps. So, we'll

spend the whole month in Scotland and play every day that it's not pouring. I've long been a member at the Dunbar Golf Club, designed in 1853 by 'Old Tom' Morris, the legendary golfer who won the 'The Open' four times in the first decade of its existence. It's one of the oldest courses in the world as well as one of the prettiest, with half of the holes paralleling the open sea. So, the sea breezes, gulls and sailing ships comfort you and keep you happy even during the worst of rounds. It's a great way to appreciate life as well as a great way to keep you on this side of the turf."

From **Neill Brownstein**: "Linda Brownstein is the love of my life. We are celebrating Linda's 70th birthday — with family and friends — 'Around The World' (in Park City, the San Francisco Bay Area, Chicago, NYC, Maui, Japan, India, Botswana) in 80 days."

Stefan Rudnicki: "My company, Skyboat Media, continues to produce and publish top quality audiobooks, specializing in genre classics (fantasy, SF, horror, thriller). And I continue to rack up awards (Earphones, Audies, Hugos, etc.) as a narrator and producer while serving on the Board of Directors of The Audio Publishers Association and attending relevant conferences." [Editor's note: See profile, Spring 2014.]

Harry Kresky bought a place near Cambridge, N.Y., in Washington County. He says, "Learning to fly fish on the Battenkill and loving it. And with one foot still in NYC practicing law."

Jon Coppelman: "For the first time since we graduated 51 years ago, I'll jump in on this peculiar ritual of compressing what is now a long life into a few lines. I was an English major, with no strong sense of what I wanted to do in the working world. As a result, I've done many things in a meandering career, from developing drug diversion programs in Atlanta to managing adult literacy programs in Massachusetts. I'm still working and have little interest in retirement. My dear wife of 30-plus years, Nancy, is co-director of outreach at the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment in Boston. We have two wonderful daughters: Julia, a Northwestern graduate who entered Yale Law School this fall, and Anna, a Kenyon graduate who admirably juggles four jobs in Somerville, Mass.

This recitation of mere facts cannot convey the countless joys, blessings and sorrows that have been constant companions along the way."

Phil Brenner's long-awaited history of Cuba will be published on September 1. *Cuba Libre: A 500-Year Quest for Independence*, co-authored with award-winning journalist Peter Eisner, is intended for both an academic audience and broadly educated readers like Columbia grads. Phil begins a three-year phased retirement this fall from American University, which gives him the chance to participate in conferences on the 55th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Your correspondent personally reports on a road trip taken with my 27-year-old son, Rich (amazingly, at his request), from New Jersey to Nashville and back. I introduced him to real Tennessee barbecue and we spent time quaffing many brews at many Music City venues. P.S.: For some ridiculous reason, Rich believes that because he is 45 years younger and in much better shape, he can out-drink me. He forgets that his seven years of college/law school partying do not outweigh my 5-in. height and 45-lb. weight advantage, along with 54 years of solid experience. Old bull beats young bull. Again.

Finally, our perpetual Peck's bad boy, **John Doody**, writes, "I have nothing new to report. Just a continuing enjoyment of the pleasures from my personal fountains of youth ... much younger women." Your correspondent verifies that John spends much time in Florida cavorting on his large speedboat, with said companions, and admonishes him to keep it well inside the Gulf Stream, since immersion in cold water may shrink it down to nothing.

1967

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Spending time with old friends on campus at our 50th reunion was, for me, both moving and joyful. At least 70 classmates attended. **Bob Rosenberg** welcomed the class to his home on Thursday night. **Richard Axel**, a Nobel laureate, delivered a superb keynote on Saturday morn-

ing. The *Spectator* editorial board met over dinner at V&T, entertained a half-dozen editorial topics and came to consensus that while neither the food nor the service at V&T had changed much in 50 years, our experiences on *Spectator* were instrumental in our development.

On a campus tour, **Joseph Solodow** and I reminded each other of where we learned of the assassination of President Kennedy in November of our freshman year. Joe was standing in front of Furnald; I was on Low Plaza wondering why groups of students had gathered around transistor radios. The Saturday class dinner was in Low Library, the same dignified setting in which Dean David B. Truman had welcomed us to Columbia nearly 54 years ago. The entire event was a vivid reminder of our formative years, the enduring friendships we made and the college years that shaped us forever.

A special thank you to the Reunion Committee for its work on behalf of the class: **Alan Bateman, Carlton Carl, Robert Costa, Ken Haydock, Roger Lehecka, Vince McBrien, Mark Minton, Jenik Radon, Stephen Rice and Bob Rosenberg.**

Before reunion, **Don Shapiro** wrote, "Unfortunately, I will be traveling out of the country at the

1968

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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I apologize that I was out of commission for the last column; I am now back on duty. I'm in good humor — trying to stay in good shape — and recently was at my country place in Saratoga, N.Y., where the weather was perfect. And I found a Turkish restaurant there that was exceptional.

I was at Barnes and Noble and saw **Eric Van Lustbader's** most recent book, *The Bourne Initiative*. I did not know he was the author of 11 of the Bourne series and in 2004 wrote *The Bourne Legacy*. Wikipedia says of Eric: "writer of thrillers and fantasy novels." That's for sure! So I looked more closely and saw a list of 82 books, if

wonderful to see him. We last saw each other at my home in Miami. I am sure we will get a long report on the trip. John sees **Greg Winn** regularly, who is reportedly ready to take on the best golfers in his age class. I intend to track down **Neil Anderson**, who is also in Fort Myers, to be at the 50th. Greg and John have already committed to coming with verve and enthusiasm. I saw Neil when I was last in Fort Myers; his jokes at dinner were politically charming.

Bob Brandt and I text periodically. He recently reported that he was "in Italy with my wife biking in the Piedmont region, the foothills of the Alps, with great food and wine."

Sounds like a bike ride program in Central Park for our 50th!

Bob says he might stop by and say hello to me in Saratoga on his way to the Sagamore on Lake George. I am looking forward to seeing him at our reunion, along with other philosophy majors like **Bill McDavid**, who can still play the electric guitar! Recently I was wishing that Professor Arthur Danto GSAS'53 was around — sadly, he is not — as I have become increasingly interested in abstract art and contemporary art. Bob, Bill and I were in his class together. Danto was superb, for sure.

I heard from **Buzz Zucker**, who writes, "The biggest news is the retirement of my razor at the beginning of June. Oh yes, I retired from work also. I am very much looking forward to becoming more acquainted with my bed and less acquainted with my car."

Buzz and I spent a day right before he wrote at my place in New York, where we used the pool on the 44th floor and the gym and talked a lot about the future and some Columbia great times. I did test him on his current knowledge of Broadway shows, one of his passions. In fact he could report about almost all of them — quite amazing. Even more extraordinary is the fact that he had seen 71 shows in four months! We then went to PJ Clarke's for food and then Buzz was off to another show. It was so great to see him, as I last saw him at a Columbia basketball game.

I heard from **Bruce Margon**, who has had (as many have had in our class) a wondrous academic career. Someone should catalog the

list of our classmates in academia; it might be the most extraordinary group. Bruce writes, "I'm a faithful reader of your *CCT* columns despite my years of silence. To make up for this silence with a (premature) burst of enthusiasm, I'm writing to ask if (or when) the date for our 50th reunion will be set. I know, I know, I'm a year early, but I'm determined to come and want to lock in the dates as soon as they're available. [Editor's note: See the dates at the top of the column.]

"I retired about two years ago, both as the UC Santa Cruz vice chancellor for research and as professor of astronomy and astrophysics, so of course now that I'm emeritus I find myself doing more, and more rewarding, research than I've done in a decade. On retirement, my wife, Lorraine, and I downsized to a townhouse right on the ocean about 15 miles south of Santa Cruz; we love it — we can see whales from our living room, and I don't mean on TV. We're traveling a fair amount — for fun, to science conferences and to see our young granddaughter (who is too far away) in Maryland. And perhaps in a final burst of energy, for a month each summer I teach an intensive (six hours a day, five days a week!) class on astrophysics to 25 high school students from all over California, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, who come to the UCSC campus in residence for a month. Essentially all then go on to college, many the first in their family not only to attend college, but also to graduate from high school. For that month, I fall asleep at 8 p.m. almost every night, but it truly is exhilarating. I've never before taught a class where almost all of the students say 'thank you' as they file out, every single day. After 50 years I finally have an answer to the question 'What's the social good of astronomy?' I'm really looking forward to our 50th reunion!"

Bruce — as you might know — we had an astrophysicist speak at one of our early reunions, with pictures that even then were breathtaking. The group was in awe; I surely was. Speaking of the 50th reunion, there will be a huge turnout, I believe — many have already contacted me and others and plans are underway. The school does a great job now, and takes input from us well indeed. I'll bet we have the best turnout of any 50th

Phil Brenner '66's long-awaited history,

Cuba Libre: A 500-Year Quest for Independence,
was published on September 1.

time of our reunion, so I won't be attending. However, I hope you can include my update in the next issue of *CCT*. After retiring from medical practice in the Philadelphia area, my wife of 48 years, Karlyn, and I divide our time between Aspen, Colo., and Juno Beach, Fla. Winter and summer in Aspen, and spring and fall in Florida. They're both wonderful places to live. We also travel a great deal, trying to fill our bucket list. We have two kids, Stacey and Adam '03, and three grandkids."

Until our 55th reunion, we will need to fill the gap and stay connected via Class Notes. I urge you to write to me at az164@columbia.edu, and I promise to remind you via email.

I counted correctly. Quite amazing. Let's plug his book: Get it, and hope to get an autograph at reunion.

I also spoke to **David Shapiro**, who has retired, but is writing and working on his next book. His knowledge of art and art history is quite wonderful, particularly on Jasper Johns.

John Roy lives in Fort Myers, Fla., but was on a trip west that sounded both fun and exhausting. Specifically, he wrote he was in Memphis visiting his son Noah and then on to Chicago, Minneapolis, Bismarck, N.D., Red Lodge, Mont., and West Yellowstone. John and I had a cup of coffee when he was in the city before the trip; it is always

of that class era; it will be Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2.

From **David Heim** JRN'75: "This year, I began a three-year term as a member of the board of directors for the American Association of Woodturners. The AAW, with some 16,000 members, is the world's largest organization devoted to the advancement of woodturning. This past summer, we had our 31st annual convention, in Kansas City. It attracted more than 1,000 people to see close to 100 turning demonstrations presented by some of the world's best woodturners. And in July, Spring House Press published *Woodturning Patterns: 80+ Designs for the Workshop, Garden, and Every Room in the House*. I wrote and illustrated the book, which consists of fully measured drawings that people can use to make everything from tool handles to pepper mills to salad bowls to chopsticks to baseball bats. Having a hobby is great. Being able to monetize a hobby is even greater."

From **Phil Guinsburg**: "I am downsizing my practice of 44 years. For the first time I am a renter and not an owner. I signed a five-year lease."

Mike Hindus wrote; sounds like fun hanging out with brilliant Columbia students. They invited him back, and he is living near campus — amazing. He writes, "This spring I taught a seminar, 'American Legal History,' in the American studies department at the College. It was a great experience and the students really liked it as well. I have been invited back to teach it in Spring 2018. In connection with that, I got a (very) small apartment on the Upper West Side, convenient to Columbia and Lincoln Center, and I plan to spend several months a year in New York for the first time since graduating."

I was so sorry to hear from **Paul de Bary** that his dad passed away. This issue covers Ted de Bary '41, GSAS'53's extraordinary life in "Obituaries." I did want to share that Ted and Paul were at every home game through the years. Halle and I sat next to them at many of the games this past year. I am sure Ted held the fan record for attendance. And we all saw a win at Homecoming last year. Paul and I will do the best we can to represent Ted. Go Lions!

Hope to hear from more of the class and most importantly, hope all

of you are well and enjoying each day. If you are going to be in Miami this fall, please get a hold of me.

1969

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On Class Day, I once more carried our Class of 1969 banner in the Alumni Parade of Classes. This year, I was joined by **George Lindsay**, who was celebrating the graduation of niece Sally '17 (daughter of George's brother Charles Lindsay '75).

Frank Eld shared the April/May 2017 issue of *Treasure* magazine (a publication of Boise's *Idaho Statesman* newspaper), which has Frank on the cover posed in front of an 1893 house (the Jones House) that Frank and his wife, Kathy, saved from demolition, personally restored and now call home in Boise. This is not Frank's first renovation project; he spent some 40 years preserving, restoring and giving life to the village of Roseberry, Idaho. Frank acquired the Roseberry General Store, and then houses, cabins, a church and a barn — 22 buildings in all. Frank's efforts have helped preserve many Finnish buildings along with Finnish heritage. Frank is retired from teaching history and industrial arts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, allowing more time for renovations.

For the Jones House, Frank did most of the restoration work with his brothers (Larry, Dale and Mac), bringing out the historic details (but for the modern kitchen Kathy asked for, after years of using a 1920s stove in their Roseberry home). The magazine article is richly illustrated, showing details of the house and of Frank with top hat, three-piece suit, watch chain and walking stick. Prominently on display are Frank's framed Columbia diploma and freshman beanie. The house also displays a loaf of Finnish bread from the last batch Frank's mother made before she died.

This is clearly a story of a classmate living out a passion. Here is the link to the article: bit.ly/2wydjAl.

Frank also sent me an update on July 23: "I am currently on my longest research trip. I have been through the Upper Peninsula,

Canada, Vermont and Maine and am heading for New Hampshire searching for and documenting original Finnish log construction. The New England states don't have large log buildings, but the Finns built saunas on the farms they moved onto and so far I have found six. I have been on the road more than 50 days. I present programs on my research at various Finnish communities as I go. I was to be in Massachusetts for a big summer festival on August 25. The whole trip will probably last four months."

From **John Lombardo** PS'73: "I have left the practice of surgical ophthalmology after 35 years, and I've been elected president of Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Co. (MLMIC), the second-largest medical liability insurance company in the nation. The people are great, the mission is noble and I couldn't be happier. MLMIC, in turn, is being acquired by Berkshire Hathaway, and we are all excited about the future here. I continue to spend painful Saturdays at Robert K. Kraft Field, and I'm a longtime season ticketholder for our basketball team. My wife, Alix, has agreed that, if I predecease her, she'll spread some of my ashes at the field."

Bill Stark reports: "Today, June 2, was the last day of my 'run every day' streak that started September 10, 1976. I had surgery for a hernia, and I intend to obey the doctor's orders because I hope to eventually get back to running every day that wonderful distance (about 40 miles per week) that makes me feel so good. For everybody who told me how amazing my record was, I have replied that I certainly was amazed myself. Perhaps the best part was to serve as an inspiration to others."

Bill's running streak lasted 14,876 days (40 years, 266 days), was the ninth-longest active running streak in the world when it ended and is now listed as the fifth-longest retired running streak in the United States (and sixth-longest retired streak in the world) by the United States Running Streak Association.

From **Mike Schell**: "My wife, Kathy, and I moved full-time to Cape Cod (Chatham), Mass., in June 2016. The Cape (and the Commonwealth to a large degree) aspire to achievement of the Blue Economy (and succeed significantly). We frequently engage with our three children and one grandchild (married daughter,

son-in-law and granddaughter in Washington, D.C.; son in Washington, D.C., working for Everytown for Gun Safety; son in New York City lawyering for a BigLaw firm). I stay in touch with classmates around the country — among others, **Peter Clapp**, **Hilton Obenzinger**, **Hank Reichman**, **Ben Sandick** and **David Turner**. I sit on two nonprofit boards (Lake Forest Academy in Illinois, which I chair, and Better Markets in Washington, D.C.). I've been active in pretty much every political campaign in which I was a voter since 2015 (and many before that). I walk five to eight miles a day, play tennis three times a week from April to December 1 and otherwise stay busy reading and generally staying healthy and informed — as best I can. Now and then, I will take on a pro bono project of one description or another, most often with a legal cast to it."

Eric Branfman writes: "In March, I retired from the practice of law after 45 years. I spent the first 10 as an antitrust lawyer, the next 10 as a complex-case litigator and the final 25 as a telecom lawyer, largely representing new entrants into telephone and related markets. Ten days after I retired, my wife, Beverly, and I moved from our house in D.C., where we had lived for 45 years, to a condo right across the line in Maryland. One great thing about retiring is that I now have more time for my lifelong hobbies of bridge and golf. Between them and all the work involved in getting our house ready for sale, moving and renovating the new apartment, I've found no trouble in filling all the hours that are no longer devoted to work. My children, Melissa '06 and Josh '09, enjoyed New York so much during their years at the College that they both live in Brooklyn."

From **Steve Mangold**: "After a professional photography career, I started a nonprofit that built orphanages for girls in Oaxaca, Mexico. We also funded an innovative community medical education program, Niño a Niño, which the UN in 1992 called one of the two most effective health initiatives in the world. It continues its work in Oaxaca state today. Wanting to learn more about nonprofits, I became the communications and development manager for Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. I built its brand to

be the dominant hunger and poverty charity in our area, increasing the donor base from 5,000 to 36,000 in five years. I shared in the awarding of a Public Relations Society of America Silver Anvil, the industry's most prestigious award, for promoting the nation's largest canned food drive. I next joined one of the oldest Silicon Valley PR agencies in 1996 and became co-owner in 1998. We were the third-largest healthcare agency west of the Mississippi and also represented tech brands such as Apple, Applied Materials, Knight Ridder Digital and Synopsys, as well as numerous nonprofits, retailers and events. Our company was twice named 'Most Outstanding Agency Outside New York City' by the League of American Communications Professionals. In 2009, I formed Brand Cowboys as a virtual agency with contractors, and we specialize in supporting fundraising campaigns with strategic messaging and relentless media coverage. Recent clients include Symphony Silicon Valley, the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo's \$30 million capital campaign and the successful \$950 million Measure A Affordable Housing bond campaign. I am active in the San Jose Rotary Club and was a trustee of the Verde Valley School in Sedona for 16 years. I am married to a retired psychoanalyst and we have a 37-year-old daughter."

Bill Giusti writes: "I retired from the practice of law in 2014 as a result of the good fortune of having lived long enough to bump up against my firm's mandatory retirement age (and its non-compete clause). I hated retirement. I had an office at my old firm, came in five days a week, tried to keep up with developments in my practice area and roamed the halls asking 'Don't you need my advice?' Typically, no one would respond. And my wife didn't relish having me around 24/7. What to do? Early in my career, I was in charge of lawyer hiring at my old firm and worked quite a bit with legal recruiting firms. Last year, I ran into one of the pioneers in the industry: Lynn Mestel. I told Lynn my tale of woe — 'I'm retired. They forced me to retire. I can't compete. I'm miserable.' Lynn suggested I join her firm. So I did. I'm now an executive director at Mestel & Co. in New York, responsible for recruiting and placing law-firm partners and

for arranging law-firm mergers. This keeps me in touch with people, and I help younger lawyers advance their careers. I'm having a great time."

1970

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For this issue, I received notes from old friends, as well as several first-time contributors. **Dov Zakheim** reports, "In the 'we are all getting older' department: My oldest grandson, JJ, graduated from Frisch H.S. in the spring!"

I suspect that grandson will find his way to Columbia, where Dov's two sons matriculated.

Larry Rosenwald GSAS'79 notes, "I'm venturing into a new mode of criticism, with a piece forthcoming in 'First of the Month' on Patty Jenkins' *Wonder Woman* as seen from a pacifist perspective — 'a new mode of criticism' in that it's an online journal rather than a print one, and also in that though I love superhero movies and have seen a zillion of them, this is the first time I've written analytically about one of them."

My friend **David Lehman**, who edits *Best American Poetry*, a publication that is well worth a read, updated me as follows: "Since May 2014, I have been writing the 'Next Line, Please' column — and served as quizmaster of our poetry challenges — for *The American Scholar* online. Each week I give a prompt; people submit their poems and the following week I review the entries and pick the winners. We made a book consisting of most of the columns posted between May 2014 and October 2016, and it will be published by Cornell University Press in March 2018. Anyone can play; see this online: bit.ly/2uhfwKY. My latest 'Masterpiece' column on Shelley's 'Ozymandias' appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* on June 23, under the heading 'What Trumps Vain Boasts.'"

First-time contributor **Ashok Mahadevan** and I exchanged interesting notes about the derivation of my last name, which is Greek but also is the name of the mountain in Tibet where Shiva lives. Ashok reports, "Two possibly newsworthy items about my

life: 1.) I've finally got a smartphone and am discovering the joys of WhatsApp and 2.) I'm going to trek to Everest Base Camp (not the summit, I must make clear) in October."

First-time contributor **Juan Urra** writes, "Retiring after 43 years acting as attorney for farmworkers in the Salinas and Pajaro valleys of California. For most of those years, I have been the attorney at an organization that organizes farmworkers at the neighborhood level, develops their leadership capacity and partners them with existing stakeholders who help them forge power relationships with decision makers. My wife, Anna Caballero, is back in the state legislature after serving for five years in Gov. Jerry Brown's cabinet. My retirement plan is to spend as much time as possible with Anna, both in Sacramento and Salinas; return to playing golf routinely; and attend a football game at every major college football venue in the country (already done 10, including Robert K. Kraft Field)."

And another first-time contributor, **Joseph Spivack**, writes, "Retired from full-time work on January 1. Spending time doing angel investing in start-ups, managing investments, working out, traveling with my wife, Lynn Appelbaum, and hiking. Loving it so far! Angel investing allows you to spend time with a lot of smart and interesting people! Before retirement, I worked for a bank consulting firm doing stress tests for smaller community banks. May do some part-time work for the same firm."

Joe can be reached at spivack@yahoo.com, 201-410-5186 or [linkedin.com/in/joespivack](https://www.linkedin.com/in/joespivack).

Thanks to all who wrote in. Please keep the notes coming for the Winter 2017–18 issue; I'm at lkailas@reitlerlaw.com.

1971

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Don Linder GSAS'76: "Since the 1970s, I've done a lot of things in a lot of parts of the world, primarily a combo of educational and arts administration, plus my writing, which has always been my first love.

"In 2001 I moved to Thailand when I was asked to become the academic director of the American University Alumni Language Center, the largest English language institute in the world — 18 branches, 15,000 students, 600 faculty/managers, headquartered in Bangkok.

"In 2004, I formed my own consulting company working with educational institutions, government departments, NGOs, arts organizations and private businesses. In 2010, my wife and I moved to Chiang Mai, in the north of Thailand, where I 'semi-retired,' allowing me to pursue my writing full-time. In 2014 I wrote my first feature-length film, *The Last Executioner*, which had its international premiere by invitation at the Shanghai International Film Festival, where it won Best Actor.

"In 2015, at Thailand's equivalent of the Golden Globes — the Tukata Tong Awards — the film took home the Best Film and Best Screenplay Awards. The Tukata Tong Awards have been presented since 1958, when they were originally given by the king. In all those years, I was the first non-Thai to win the award. The film went on to play at more than 100 film festivals worldwide (including NYC) to some great critical acclaim. *The Last Executioner* is available on Netflix.

"Since then I have finished writing another film, *Dark Karma*, slated to go into production later this year. I am working on *A Hmong Requiem* for a French production team, with a projected release of late 2018/early 2019.

"I live in Chiang Mai with my wife, Wannida Jiratha, and my heart will always be on the Upper West Side. We welcome any Columbia alumni who pass this way, or are considering it, to get in touch (donlinder@gmail.com). Thanks for doing the Class Notes for our class all these years. It's been a wonderful way for me to stay in touch to a degree in the far reaches of the world."

Michael Straus GSAS'09: "In my last update, a few years ago, I noted my completion of graduate studies in ancient Greek at the University of Cambridge — call it the benefits of early retirement from practicing law, a mid-life crisis or whatever you wish.

"More recently, I've completed the translation of a long poem (200-plus pages) by Chilean poet and Nobel Laureate Pablo Neruda,

which remarkably enough had never been translated into English in part, let alone whole.

"I was pleased to be able to publish an excerpt from the translation in the current issue of *Columbia Journal*, the University's literary magazine. For now, it's only available in hard copy; on the odd chance anyone would like to read it, it's obtainable online at bit.ly/2wypLjP. Another excerpt was also published by the *Missouri Review* and it's available online at bit.ly/2xssBTP.

"Beyond that, the entire poem now has a publisher; is in final editing stages; and will be accompanied by an essay by one of Columbia's Spanish professors, so all in all a very satisfying venture."

"A Summer of Sculpture at the Cathedral" features **Greg Wyatt**, cathedral artist in residence, with his sculptures *The Peace Foundation* and *Animals of Freedom*. The exhibition, also featuring the National Sculpture Society and the Arts Students League of New York, ran through September 10, 2017. *The Peace Fountain* is a 40-ft. monument permanently installed on the Great Lawn of the Close of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, at West 112th Street and Amsterdam Avenue in Morningside Heights.

I (**Jim Shaw**) was one of five high school classmates at Jamaica H.S., a public neighborhood high school, to attend Columbia; another five attended Barnard. **Doug Mackay** passed away from illness at

Terry Chorba and a few days earlier at a high school 50th reunion by **Jim Shaw**. After Columbia, I had the good fortune to go to medical school in Boston. Then I trained in surgery and urology, also in Boston. I practiced in West Palm Beach full-time till 2015, and am part-time and office-only now. I've had a lovely marriage for 40 years, and two fine sons.

"Would I pursue medicine now, if I were starting over again? Being a doctor has been a wonderful way to do good and do well. Enormously gratifying, but also occasionally very frustrating. Never been bored. Never had serious 'money problems,' which has certainly been important. We live modestly, have great deal of love in our lives and with our children, and have reasonable expectations. Within that broad description, my career has worked for me, and very many patients over the years. I sometimes feel I did urology as a way of having a career including surgery, which was a means of being a doctor, which allowed me to have good work and do good work as a people-person.

"My main hobby has been trying to learn to play piano, with lessons and with an annual total-immersion in a piano camp. A difficult undertaking for an adult, but very satisfying. Contact me if you are trying something like this. I would love to hear from class members.

"One son did significant work on the engineering of a lead-less cardiac defibrillator and pacemaker, and

read *CCT* you often turn to the Class Notes column first. With regret, I now suggest that you also check the Obituaries section, near the back of *CCT*. It is there in the Summer 2017 issue that I read this and more about **Mark Allen**, whom I knew as a fine fellow: "He was a principal scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Caltech for 37 years. An astrochemist, he developed a chemical model to study the atmospheres of Earth and other planets, comets, interstellar space and exoplanets. Among his activities at the College were four years on the Ferris Booth Hall Board of Managers, of which he was president in his senior year. Among his survivors are his wife of 34 years, Emily Bergman. Memorial contributions can be made to Columbia College (college.columbia.edu/alumni/give) or Caltech."

Remember back 51 (*fifty-one!*) Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. *We are still connected.*

1972

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This spring marked 45 years since we graduated from Columbia, and gave some of us a chance to reunite on campus to reflect on that experience and the years since. In addition to the walking tours (what better place to pay homage to the Columbia experience than with a visit to the Alexander Hamilton Homestead on Hamilton Heights?), lectures and other events in which all alumni could participate, the Class of '72 had an extensive program of its own. There were class receptions on Thursday and Friday evenings (the first hosted by **Rick Kurnit** at his law firm, the second arranged by **Bob Grey** at a gallery just off the High Line in Chelsea), a luncheon followed by a presentation and discussion on Saturday, and a dinner that evening.

Without a doubt, the luncheon program was very special. Here's **Wayne Cypen**'s description: "The highlight of the weekend was the class luncheon. Our distinguished classmate **Sean Wilentz**, a professor of history at Princeton, wrote and delivered a thoughtful essay on Don-

ald Trump and Bob Dylan. Sean's presentation engendered a lively hour-long discussion of politics and other current events. The majority of those attending seemed to share a liberal viewpoint, while **Gerard Papa** heroically championed the conservative cause. We then went around the room, and each of us shared his story of where his life had come from and where it was going. Despite the small sampling, I was so impressed with the accomplishments of my fellow graduates and was proud to be among them."

You should know that during reunion, Wayne was honored for "lifetime achievement," commemorating his 37 consecutive years as chair of the Miami-area Alumni Representative Committee.

A great deal of planning went into the weekend, for which we owe renewed thanks to the group that put it all together. As **Rick Kurnit**, who led the discussion after our luncheon reflected, "It was a pleasure once again working with **Bob Grey**, **Mike Gerrard** and others in organizing venues for our class events. **Sean Wilentz** again generously agreed to anchor our Saturday afternoon and led us into a conversation about what we are each doing currently and how to navigate our next careers and the next 30 years — something that I expect will be an even more vibrant discussion [in the future], as many more are expected in five years for our 50th reunion, and more discussion of what 'retirement' means in a connected world where physical location is irrelevant."

As an example, Rick noted his plans: "I expect that I will continue to practice employment and marketing communications law at Frankfurt Kurnit for many more years as we grow past the 100-lawyer mark, but probably more out of the Los Angeles office and otherwise away from the office, as my clients more and more seek briefer consultations and more insight and less execution, at least until someone figures out how to move from time-based to value-based billing."

Other events during the weekend included class and alumni talks (I went to "The Future of News Media in the Trump Administration"), Broadway shows, the Wine Tasting and the Starlight Reception on Low Plaza, for those so inclined. And yet, **Wayne Cypen**'s observation

Sean Wilentz '72, a professor of history at Princeton, delivered a thoughtful essay on Donald Trump and Bob Dylan at Reunion 2017.

a shockingly young age. It was great to see Arno Hecht '72, **Karl Klapper** and **Steve Varady SEAS'71** at the 50th high school reunion in June. We outlasted the high school itself; to see why, and to see how public education has changed, go online to bit.ly/2wEJuO6 or just search 'Jamaica High School New Yorker.' I am told that the building now houses four smaller high schools.

Steve Varady writes: "I was recently found in the 96th Street and 2nd Avenue subway station by

the other is a healthcare consultant. I spent all of my career in a fee-for-service environment. There are many arguments suggesting this is outmoded, expensive and so on. Yet, most physicians respond to incentives closer to fee-for-service than anything else, and it would be a shame if we threw out the baby with the bathwater, in this regard."

I write this Class Notes column and submit it several months before publication. Obituaries are written by *CCT* staff. I know that when you

rings true: “There’s probably no good way to sugarcoat the fact that, of about 700 in our class, only 25 or so registered for reunion.”

It’s difficult to convey in words how meaningful it is to reconnect with (and to meet) people with whom we shared one of the most formative periods in our lives. This won’t be the last time that you hear this from me, but let me plant the seed now: Please plan to join us for our 50th reunion in 2022. I promise you that it will be an extraordinary experience.

1973

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Hope your summer went well. Not much this time, but not for lack of trying! Please send your news to either of the addresses above for the Winter 2017–18 issue!

James Minter reported on Class Day, where he saw **Bob Pruznick** and **Diran Sohigian**. James and **Joe Seldner** were bemoaning our degenerating knees and hips — as James put it (aptly), “Who knew all these decades later we’d still be complaining about bad joints?”

James also sent the sad news that **Fred Schneider** had passed away in 2015 after losing a bout with cancer. Fred and his wife, Harriet Weinberger, lived in Brooklyn and were both attorneys.

B-dia, b-dia, b-dia, b-dia — until you write again. Hasta.

1974

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“History doesn’t repeat itself but it often rhymes.” I was reminded of

this quotation, attributed to Mark Twain, as I spoke with my daughter, Katie, last fall as she was about to leave to start her college career at American University in Washington, D.C. While nearly half a century later, it seemed possible (probable?) that she could be reenacting many of the major events of our college years. When I think back on our years on Morningside Heights, it seems that three issues dominated the political climate: The conservative backlash, the anti-war movement and the Watergate scandal. Will it be déjà vu?

In the late 1960s, the “silent majority” (often described as mainly comprising working class and middle-class whites) ushered in Richard Nixon as President in 1968. Nixon then worked to dismantle as much of Lyndon Johnson’s liberal agenda as he could. During our college years, the “New Right” fought against higher taxes, environmental regulations and government restrictions on our free economy. This sounds remarkably similar to our current political environment.

After a decade of struggle in Vietnam, the United States invaded Cambodia in 1970, and hundreds of thousands of protesters filled the streets and closed college campuses (including Columbia). The shooting of students at Kent State and Jackson State University only inflamed the protests. American troops left Vietnam in 1973. The long intervention in the Middle East has not evoked the same public protests, but it is not outside the realm of possibility that political turmoil could once again arise during the next four years.

The 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee offices in the Watergate complex led to many months of congressional hearings. In April 1974, three articles of impeachment — including obstruction of justice — were levied against Nixon. Soon after our graduation, Nixon resigned before the impeachment process could be completed. When Gerald Ford took office, he quickly pardoned Nixon. As I write this in late summer, the press is full of speculation of the involvement of our current administration with the Russians, allegations of obstruction and the possibility of impeachment of our President.

If any of the above speculation proves true, my daughter should have an interesting four years on

the politically active American University campus — and I will enjoy reliving our four wonderful undergraduate years on our equally politically active campus!

On a related note, we learn that **Abbe Lowell** has been retained by Jared Kushner, as reported in *Politico*, to “represent him in the special counsel’s probe of potential Russian collusion with the Trump campaign and his financial dealings, as well as in separate congressional inquiries.” While that seems like a full-time job, Abbe is also currently representing Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), who is charged with corruption and is facing trial this year.

Both may be fascinating political drama, but not nearly as intriguing to the prurient as the defense of Bill Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky and Paula Jones sex scandals!

After leaving his position of 30 years as a director at the McKinsey & Company consulting firm in 2008, **Bill Meehan** made his 10-year part-time teaching at the Stanford Business School a full-time career. He has continued to concentrate on the strategic management of nonprofits and social ventures. While serving on the boards of numerous nonprofits and public companies (including Juniper Networks), Bill has still found time to write. His latest page-turner is *Engine of Impact: Essentials of Strategic Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector*.

We saw a short post on Facebook from **Tom Sawicki JRN’77**, where he tells us that his son, Amitai, recently started clinical training at the Tel Aviv University Medical School. Tom is director of programing at AIPAC Israel and a long-time Jerusalem resident.

Early last summer **Scott Kunst** retired from Old House Gardens, the heirloom bulb company in Ann Arbor, Mich., that he started almost a quarter-century ago. The company has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal* several times and Scott even made an appearance on Martha Stewart’s television show. Coming just in time to help Scott ease into retirement is a second grandson, Nolan, via his son Scott St. Claire. This grandson is only an hour’s drive away — closer than his first, Benjamin (via son David), in San Francisco — but an excuse to fly to San Fran seems perfect for a retiree!

After a 31-year stint as literary editor at *The New Republic*, **Leon**

Wieseltier quit in 2014 in a dispute over the plan for the magazine to change to a digital format. While still the Isaiah Berlin Senior Fellow of Culture and Policy at the Brookings Institution, it looks like Leon is looking to expand this interest. About a year ago we started reading that he was going into business with Laurene Powell Jobs, widow of Apple’s Steve Jobs. Seems they are starting a journal that will comment on the effects of technology on our lives. More details to follow in a future column.

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Rev. **Dr. Lewis Anthony** on May 28, 2017, from liver cancer. He was described in *The Washington Post* as “a loquacious pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church who long straddled the city’s religious and political communities with his outreach ventures” and that he “was regarded as one of the city’s most eloquent and in-demand speakers.” It needs to be noted that Lewis never accepted an honorarium, saying “it’s hard for me to accept money for the gift that God has given me for speaking.”

Lewis was a graduate of Harvard Law and served in the administrations of Washington, D.C.’s first two elected mayors. In 2000 he was in the first class of inductees into the Washington, D.C., Hall of Fame Society. It is worth googling “Rev. Lewis Anthony” to hear several clips of his captivating sermons.

There you have it. The prospect of déjà vu of our college years along with new careers, new grandchildren and, unfortunately, some sadness. Whatever is happening in your life, take a moment to pass it on.

1975

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Jim Dolan sent this recently, and it’s just too good to edit: “In early May I had the opportunity to spend an afternoon with my high school (St. John’s College H.S. in D.C.) and CC’75 buddy, Fr. **CJ McCloskey III**. CJ had spent much of the past decade in Chicago and then Silicon Valley, but now happily resides back on the East Coast in Reston, Va.,

and is thankful to be back in the land of his beloved Redskins and Nats. We had a chance to get into the wayback machine and talk about the '72 Strike, how the two of us made a decision to take Roger Hilsman's class at the School of International Affairs and how CJ was able to con his way into Lionel Trilling '25, GSAS'38's seminar, which was not an easy ticket back then. Also, remembering that CJ had introduced me to squash with then-Admissions Director Mike Lacopo along with some funny reminiscences about the old and infamous Columbia swimming test. It was a wonderful afternoon with a really great friend, someone whom I had not seen *facie ad faciem* in more than 25 years."

Fr. John is in residence at the Reston Study Center in Reston, Va.

Speaking of Philly and my new gig, yours truly (**Randy Nichols**) is now on assignment at that Ivy League institution in Philadelphia, on a long-term project. As I lived outside of Philadelphia for many years, it's a familiar and comfortable place to be. The Acela takes only a little more than an hour and is usually an easy trip. Hotel hopping, but the client pays the bills, so I'm living reasonably.

I continue my involvement with tall ships. At the *Pride II of Baltimore's* recent gala, I spent a bundle on a one-of-a-kind 18-ft. pennant that had flown on the *Pride*. Now, it billows from the ceiling in my tall ships basement. In June, I went to Boston for Sail Boston 2017 and hosted the captain and crew of the *Pride* for dinner at Jacob Wirth. (The beer bill was approximately twice the food bill. Sailors, LOL!) The next day, watching 50-some ships sail into Boston harbor was awesome!

Joseph Polizzotto is now SVP, strategy and client services for QuisLex in New York City. Prior to joining QuisLex, Joe was Deutsche Bank general counsel-Americas and previously general counsel of Lehman Brothers.

Forunato "Fred" Senatore SEAS'77 earned a master's in bioengineering from SEAS, under the supervision of Professor Harry Gregor (now deceased), followed by a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Rutgers in December 1982. Fred married Susan Spielvogel BC'78 in January 1983 and they moved to Lubbock, Texas, where he was an assistant professor of chemical engi-

neering at the Texas Tech University School of Engineering. Fred was fortunate to receive multiple grants, allowing him to retain graduate students and post-docs. His research transformed from pumps, pipes and fluid mechanics, to artificial organs and blood flow through vascular prostheses. Fred became a full-time matriculated medical student at the Texas Tech University School of Medicine 1987-91 while continuing his responsibilities as assistant professor of chemical engineering. In January 1991, he and Susan had daughter Gabriella ("Gabby") Elizabeth Senatore. He graduated from medical school in 1991 and matched in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. In January 1994, Fred and Susan were blessed with daughter Eva Genia Senatore. Upon completion of his residency, Fred matched in cardiology at Harvard's Massachusetts General Hospital. After his fellowship, he embarked on a clinical research path by joining the pharmaceutical industry and remained in the pharmaceutical industry 1996-2012 (Merck, Aventis, Sankyo, Mitsubishi). In 2012, Fred joined the FDA as a medical officer in the Division of Cardiovascular and Renal Products. He's been at the FDA to date.

Gabby earned a B.A. from Marymount and a master's from Emerson and is a teacher. Eva earned an B.A. from Hunter College and is a studio makeup artist, working in productions where she transforms actors' appearances (aging, wounded, etc.). Fred lives in Bethesda, Md., near his job in Washington, D.C. Susan lives at their home in Bridgewater, N.J. — they have a FaceTime marriage. Fred goes to the Smithsonian, travels to New Jersey on weekends and often goes to NYC with Susan. He is a fitness fanatic, trying to stave off the aging process, and plays piano and accordion. Susan has been publishing books on her paternal family's tragedy as victims of the Holocaust. Fred would like to connect with other Lions — especially classmates and others working in government — in the D.C. area.

Bob Schneider and his wife, Regina Mullahy BC'75, are truly now empty-nesters. While daughter Meg hasn't lived with them for several years, she has spent summers with them as she completed her graduate work at Rice University. Meg gradu-

ated in May. She and Regina toured northern Europe this past summer before Meg moved to Chicago, where she took a position with Gallup Consulting. Regina and Bob spent a week with Meg in the Windy City in June, sightseeing, getting her settled in and celebrating Bob's birthday.

1976

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Greetings '76ers! Not many updates. I did get to Syracuse again to see Linda and **Dennis Goodrich**. Of course, Dennis is becoming a regular feature of this column. All of their international trips were previewed in the last column, but I can now report that there is a new addition to their home — Mika, a tiny puppy with a great deal of energy and (like her namesake) strong opinions.

I heard from **Terry Corrigan**, in Hilton Head. His update is simple: "Health is good, golf is deteriorating, Belize is looking better every day."

In addition, Terry and his wife recently hosted a member of the Class of 2017. It's a great story: "We have a young lady staying with us for a week to compete in the North and South Tournament — the second oldest and second most prestigious women's amateur golf event in the U.S.," writes Terry. "Her name is Jackie Chulya '17. At Columbia, she had a double major in math and economics, and was the unanimous choice for Ivy League player of the year. She has also won the LPGA Foundation's Dinah Shore Award for students who excel in both golf and academics, and who demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and community service. Alas, Jackie was eliminated on the 18th hole of a hard-fought match. She actually played better today than her first two days, but unfortunately came up against a girl who was putting exceptionally well. She'll be with us for another couple of days playing golf, basking by the pool and sampling Southern cuisine. In the fall, she plans to play the LPGA's Symetra Tour and I hope will do well enough to earn a spot on the regular LPGA Tour." [Editor's note: See "Student Spotlight," Spring 2017.]

Those are the only two updates, so here's a quick story about my first alumni contribution to Columbia. After spending four years working in the sports department of WKCR, in fall 1976 it was difficult to sit in the stands and watch Columbia basketball. As usual, I traveled to road games and watched Columbia beat Rutgers at The Barn (the Rutgers on-campus home court before the current Piscataway facility). That game was a huge upset, with Alton Byrd '79 and Ricky Free '79 leading the Lions to victory in their first varsity season.

After that game, I came back to a seat in Levien Gym and was frustrated at the lack of enthusiasm during our games. It had been nine years since our Ivy Championship in 1968, and the fans were numb from years of less-than-stellar basketball. Alton and Ricky would lead a resurgence under Coach Tom Penders, and the gym was electric as their careers continued. However, in December 1976, that was yet the case.

So, I went to Athletic Director Al Paul and volunteered to be the Columbia Lion. Let me make it clear, that I was not Roar-ee — I was Leo D'Lion, a much more realistic rendition of a lion than the current mascot. Al agreed to allow me two alcoholic beverages after each game in the Lou Gehrig Lounge, which at that time had liquor and a piano! I cheered like a crazy Lion for the remaining December games and the entire Ivy League season — both home and road. One thing I learned was that if you are wearing a lion suit, crazy is the baseline.

I had a couple of gimmicks, and one was that I shot free throws prior to the team warmup at the beginning of the game and during halftime. I have never admitted it before, but I used to go to Levien Gymnasium in the afternoon, suit up, and practice my free throws. I discovered that I also had to wear the head in order to simulate "game conditions."

Word spread, and I was soon facing the opposition mascots during road games in free throw shooting contests. The Princeton game away was great. The Tiger was a Princeton junior who had gained notoriety by writing a paper about designing an atomic bomb using publicly available books and papers. However, he could not match my 8-for-10 performance from the free throw line.

Over the years, I have continued to volunteer my time to many different areas of the College, but as I reflect, my year as the Lion remains a favorite.

Keep those updates coming and remember — if you are heading to NYC, I am an eight-minute Hoboken ferry ride from meeting you for lunch!

1977

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No news this time, gents. We'd love to hear from you for the Winter 2017–18 issue, so please write in to tell us what's new — or not so new, if you prefer to share your favorite College memories!

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International maven **Chris Dell** has many plans, from Europe to good ol' New Jersey: "I've sort of retired, at least from full-time work. Pursuing a few small things as part-time projects in power and infrastructure in Southern Africa and a possible project to turn coal in Bulgaria into power, fuel and petrochemicals through a modern, clean technology focused on carbon capture. To keep my mind alert, I'm also spending time with the history of the Portuguese Discoveries.

"We recently bought an old windmill in a wine region outside Lisbon and I plan to spend time there this autumn fixing it up. I have also written some policy ideas for Phil Murphy, a former ambassadorial colleague and the Democratic candidate for governor in New Jersey. In short, an eclectic variety of things, maybe

one of which will really take off (well, not the windmill, I hope)."

More news from the Garden State, as **Marc Matsil** is the new director of The U.S. Green Building Council New Jersey Chapter. "From NYC's stressed urban communities to NJ's most populated cities and suburbs, and the far reaches of Juneau, Alaska, Marc has worked to advance resilience, conservation and restoration strategies to reduce the carbon footprint," the council noted.

"In the advent of climate change — sea level rise and greater storm intensities, USGBC NJ's mission is to transform the state's built environment into an ecologically resilient and sustainable system, reduce energy consumption and carbon inputs, to result in healthier, greener communities. Through education, advocacy and growth of its LEED program, and collaboration with our partners, this can be achieved," said Marc, who is also appointed to boards and task forces including The German Marshall Fund Transatlantic Cities Forum; City of NY Water Infrastructure Task Force and the Regional Plan Association's Fourth Regional Plan Committee.

We received a detailed account of the goings-on in Israel from our regular Middle East correspondent, **Gary Pickholz** SIPA'81: "**David Freidman** hosted the annual July 4 dinner at the Ambassador's Residence for the diplomatic corps, Israeli government officials and about 200 others.

"He bought me a proper hot dog, smoked beef and Jack Daniel's. There followed fantastic fireworks over the beachfront on the Zionist Riviera. I sat with the British and Indian ambassadors and their wives, and retired Connecticut senator Joe Lieberman and his wife, Hadassah."

When I had a catering company in high school, we used to serve at Joe's State Senate campaign events and he later wrote my recommendation for graduate school at Yale.

Gary continues, "Dave spoke from the heart, noting his background was as a modest rabbi's son, and the last time he hosted a dinner in Israel was 45 years ago, at his bar mitzvah. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu countered in his reply toast that *his* bar mitzvah was, in fact, in Philly, not Israel, underscoring the intimate ties between the two nations ... and *my* father was the rabbi of that

synagogue! (Netanyahu's father was a professor of Jewish history and thought at Penn at the time and my father earned his Ph.D. from him.)

"Also stuffing down all the smoked American beef with all the Jack Daniel's one could possibly digest were SIPA/GSAS classmates Dore Gold '75, SIPA'79, GSAS'84 and Michael Oren '77, SIPA'78, both presently Israeli government officials and former American ambassadors. Dore recently departed as deputy general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Michael is a rapidly rising member of the Knesset. The ambassador noted that his father's closing benediction from the pulpit every Shabbat morning was King David's psalm for peace, which notes that the Lord enforces peace through strength."

Paul Phillips GSAS'80 writes for the first time from his new home across the country: "On July 1, I became director of orchestral studies and associate professor of music at Stanford. This spring I accepted the offer from Stanford after having served for 28 years as director of orchestras and chamber music at Brown. My wife, Kathryn Jennings, will be lecturer in music at Stanford, teaching voice in the music and theater departments. Our older daughter, Joanna '12, a film editor based in Los Angeles, is excited that her parents will be joining her on the West Coast, while Alanna, who graduated from Providence Country Day School in June, is attending the University of Vermont as a first-year."

Another one of our musical regulars, **Henry Aronson**, writes, "*Loveless Texas*, the musical I wrote with my wife, Cailín Heffernan, came out at the Sheen Center in NYC this September — so if you love fun new American musicals, hustle down to see it!

"I'm also starting a gig as music supervisor for *The Voice Remastered*, the live show at the Hard Rock in Las Vegas showcasing talent from NBC's *The Voice*, coming in March 2018. And there is more touring with *Rocktopia Live*, the concert event that combines classic rock with classical music."

Noting a new position is **Joseph Schachner** SEAS'79: "Since last August I am a grandfather! And at work, despite my goal to remain a senior software engineer forever, the manager of our group retired and I was the logical replacement, so now

I not only mentor junior engineers but also I am now responsible for their work and have to write progress reports for upper management. As it has been explained to me, I'm too valuable as a senior software engineer to let me just be a manager, so I get to schedule myself for projects and work on them in some fraction of my time. Honestly, it's better that way."

Recently back from an exciting adventure is New York doctor **Alex Demac**. "I took a father-son trip to Spain and southern France in June with my 19-year-old son, Denham, a junior majoring in theater and creative writing. We rode the clean and quiet subways in Madrid, were impressed that Spain now gets more than half of its power from renewable sources and learned that a train line is being built between Paris and Bordeaux that will cover the 363-mile trip in two hours.

"We were moved by Picasso's *Guernica*, horrified and fascinated by six bullfights and delighted by the Salvador Dali Theatre-Museum. I returned to my beloved NYC, wondered why the subway platforms look like they haven't been mopped or scrubbed in a millennium, then took the elevator to the top of the One World Trade Center Observatory, looked out the window and was glad to be home!"

From the wilds of Glasgow, Mont., comes news from doctor **Robert Crockett**: "I'm still doing general surgery in a critical access hospital in northeast Montana. Hoping for no local wildfires; they have been all around us. Hoping the wildfire in Washington, D.C., doesn't put us, and many other critical access hospitals, out of business."

Work in small government here in New Haven continues to be fascinating and stimulating, and I can't imagine a better group of folks to be thrown into a small lifeboat on a raging sea with. Our state budget is a mess, the key federal programs we rely on are all slated to be cut and our needs grow well beyond what we can ever hope to secure. And yet ... we have balanced the budget, brought in almost a half-billion in development and are really working to figure out how to keep our twin roles as the state's technology and global gateway while also being the most humane place in the state for all those with real needs who have been displaced from the post-industrial economy.

If anyone has any good ideas about what's going to happen in real life next, please let us know. While I think CC and Lit Hum prepared us as well as anything could for USA 2017, I haven't quite figured out what it all means yet. So I guess the good thing is that 40 years out, we are still innocents discovering an uncharted world.

1979

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Florindo Troncelliti lives in Morningside Heights and updates us that he is "working to grow the Manhattan chapter of Peace Action New York State. We're in the push to eliminate nuclear weapons. New members and contributions always welcome! Do some freelance writing, mostly about opera. Produce a weekly TV show on MNN: *Peace News*. And, by the way, I'm running for City Council: District 7, on the Green Party ticket. Don't forget to register and to vote this November. Be well!"

David Thomson: "Thanks for keeping the flame alive — I enjoy reading Class Notes every issue. And thanks for asking for an update."

"After Columbia, I went to law school at Vanderbilt. Yeah, Tennessee, the other side of Mars from Morningside Heights. But that was intentional; I wanted a different experience in a different place, and I got that. (How many bluegrass tunes do you know?) I returned to New York, working for a law firm

at 30 Rock, where I got my feet wet in the litigation department. After a few years, I went to the Department of Justice in Washington as a trial attorney in the environmental enforcement section, litigating pollution cases on behalf of the EPA. I moved to a law firm in my first wife's hometown (Denver) in 1990. The marriage did not last, but the location did. I have been happily married to Kathy (née Russel) for 22 years and we have two daughters, Angelina (20) and Sarah-Jane (15). While practicing in the '90s, I discovered a love for teaching and in 2003 became a full-time member of the University of Denver's faculty, where I have been ever since. I love living in Denver but I get back to 116th and Broadway at least once a year, recently hosting a high school reunion after-party on the Low Steps; when I need a New York fix, it's just a three-hour flight away. In Denver, we enjoy 300 days of sun per year, mountains, trails, bike paths, trains that work and all the same Broadway shows (a year or two late). When global warming floods the coasts, y'all come to the Mile High City, OK?"

Robert Klapper: "This Columbia memory comes from a ridiculous conversation I had on the phone fighting with my credit card company (MasterCard, hate them) regarding why I could not use my card to pump gas."

"This led to a conversation with a stranger in the Philippines. The gas station is in Encino, Calif., and the credit card is based in Chicago, but somehow some guy in Manila is going to give me permission to put gasoline in my car. If this

makes any sense to you, it's time to run for election.

"The conversation began with '... In order to proceed, I need to ask you a couple of questions. 1. What breed is your favorite dog? 2. Which brunette starred in your favorite movie?' After failing to give an appropriate answer to the first two questions, he then asked me the one question I actually could remember because clearly my password had gone in one ear and out the other. He asked me for my Social Security number."

"This nine-digit number rescued my car and my credit card, but it led to the Columbia memory that the current students would not believe was so critical to our journey at the College. Whenever I must write or recite this nine-digit number, I take an extra deep breath because I am so traumatized by this form of identification because of our four-year experience."

"Let me remind you that this is how we received our grades at the end of each semester. Walking across the quad into the bowels of the basement at the Bursar's building, trying to find — in a sea of glass cabinets — the class you just finished. In an effort to remain anonymous, Columbia used our Social Security Number as identification for our grade. My heart skips a beat still thinking about searching for my organic chemistry result 40 years ago."

"I remember the walk through those hallways in the basement of that building searching for my grade like it was yesterday. The expression, 'Sometimes you feel just like a number' is exactly how I felt. I might not remember what I had for breakfast yesterday, but thanks to Columbia College, those nine digits are burned into my brain and that guy in the Philippines got me to fill up my car."

"Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

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It's that time of year again, when the days of summer pass into beautiful fall nights. The city is radiant as the leaves in Central Park are changing and the smell of football is in the

air. Coach Al Bagnoli has our Lions competing at the highest levels we've seen in years and it is only a matter of time before we see the Ivy title.

Dennis Costakos checked in from the Modern, where he had lunch with Dr. **George Yancopoulos** GSAS'86, PS'87, **Daniel Abella** and Neil deGrasse Tyson GSAS'92. Congratulations to Neil on becoming the first American scientist to win the Stephen Hawking Medal for his scientific writing. They enjoyed lunch and conversations worthy of a symposium Plato might describe, including general relativity, self-driving cars, current events and mentors at Columbia, including Coach Bill Campbell '62, TC'64.

Glad to see you all at Homecoming. Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

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My in-box this past quarter was very quiet, and as promised (or threatened), when this happens I am forced to share my own updates. First the news ... We did hear from **Michael Pleters**, who resides in El Paso, Texas, with his wife, Veronica Escobar, and their children, Cristian and Eloisa. Michael was recently appointed as a U.S. immigration judge, which followed an 18-year stint with INS/DHS and three and a half years as assistant U.S. attorney. His wife is also a judge (with El Paso County) and is also a multiple contributor to *The New York Times* Op-Ed pages. Cristian has started his junior year at Harvard (yes, he chose Crimson over Light Blue!) and Eloisa has started her freshman year at Simmons College in Boston. Like many of us, Michael has fond memories of Cannon's, West End Café and Mama Joy's — veritable institutions when we were on campus.

Thanks so much for the update, Michael. What a talented family!

I reached out to **Lincoln Paine** to thank him for his book (tome) *The Sea and Civilization: A Maritime History of the World*. Every year I try to read at least one "significant" book. This year, I chose Lincoln's, as last year my wife and I spent two



Guess which class alumni Lance Warrick, Larry Lubitz, Brooks Klimley and De Moyle Howell represented at the 2017 Alumni Parade of Classes?

weeks cruising around the Mediterranean and the cruise inspired me to read about maritime history. Since writing the book, Lincoln was invited to address the Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program. They were astonished at how inexpensive Columbia was in the late 1970s (it truly was), but also that Columbia lacked adequate housing for all its incoming class. If you enjoy reading well-researched and well-written books (such as Daniel Yergin's *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power*), I highly recommend you read *The Sea and Civilization*.

Please send your updates for the Winter 2017–18 issue to me at kfay0516@gmail.com. Your classmates want to hear from you!

1982

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Greetings, gents! I'm currently at the beach. I have no idea what's going on in the world. I've lost my will to watch the news. Turned off my internet connection after hearing something akin to "Nuclear war has broken out in Europe; more details after the sports news ..." We're in the midst of a modern-day Cuban Missile Crisis and all we get is piffle about our new director of communications' potty mouth. What a waste [Editor's note: This note was submitted during Anthony Scaramucci's 10 days in office.]



David Filosa '82 (left) and Andy Weisman '82 prepared to sing *Sans Souci* at the Great Teacher Awards ceremony, held during Reunion 2017.

On a happier and more life-affirming note, I had an amazing time at reunion in June. All those in attendance did as well. The reception in the Lenfest Center for the Arts building at the new Manhattanville campus was a blast. Jim McMenamin, director of principal gifts and adviser to the dean, gave a wonderful talk about the construction initiatives at the University, while members of Columbia College and Columbia Engineering ate, drank and reminisced. For those of you who haven't seen the new campus, located just up Broadway around West 125th Street, it's really worth a visit.

The class dinner, held in Butler Library, was quite captivating. Our accomplished classmate (and heck of a nice guy!) **Michael Schmitzberger** gave a welcoming talk and introduced none other than the distinguished **Jamie Rubin** SIPA'84. Jamie delivered a fascinating talk on our President's foreign policy while patiently fielding dozens of questions.

Finally, yours truly had the distinct pleasure of presiding over the presentation of the Great Teacher Awards, presented annually by the Society of Columbia Graduates to celebrate great teaching at the College and Engineering. This year's winners were Professor Patricia Kitcher from the College and Professor Jaychandran Sethuraman from Columbia Engineering. Joining me at the event were Society Board members **Alex Moon** and **David Filosa**. This is such a heart-warming event, and it's open to any of you who care to attend.

On an additional fortuitous note, the entrepreneurial **Stan Kaplan** sent us a shout-out. After bemoaning the fact that he had recently endured South Florida's hottest month on

record, i.e., July 2017 (not to worry, climate change is just "fake news"), Stan noted that "in addition to founding REX Technology Partners last July, I recently founded REX Fine Art (REX was one of my two dogs that passed away last year) to promote, manage and represent nine living, and one deceased, artists. Technology and art give me my daily professional 'yin and yang' — and I'm enjoying both roles immensely."

Very cool! (Despite the weather.)

Stan, you just need to move to Colorado and then everything will be perfect!

Let's keep those notes coming in!

1983

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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My wife, Debbie, and I hosted a Summer Send-off event at our apartment for 30 entering CC/SEAS students, 30 parents and 30 alumni. Nicole Rodriguez '21 sent us the following email after the event:

"I wanted to thank you for opening your home last night and welcoming myself and my fellow Columbia classmates. I enjoyed hearing stories of your time at Columbia and I could really see how much of an impression your time at Columbia had on you. Though you did not know any of us, it was clear that just by attending Columbia, there is now a bond between all of us. Although initially nervous to go to Columbia and not be able to feel at home, hearing your own memories makes me look forward to starting my time there and making my own. Again, thank you so much. I hope to keep in touch and see you around campus in the future!"

Ed Joyce and his wife, Linda Gerstel BC'83, also hosted an event to help Columbia students and alumni connect, engage and network during the summer break. Ed and Linda were recently honored by the Heschel School for their exceptional dedication and service. Daughter Kayla attends Washington University in St. Louis and daughter Sarah '19 is at the College.

David Garrow's book *Rising Star: The Making of Barack Obama* has a chapter on President **Barack Obama's** Columbia experience. As a student at Occidental College, Obama wanted a bigger school. He felt he would be more able to fulfill his potential attending Columbia in NYC. He also would have more access to a black cultural experience. Garrow notes, "Obama realized the beer drinking, pot smoking and cocaine snorting that Oxy offered him and had cemented his reputa-



Roy Pomerantz '83 hosted a Summer Send-off for incoming students, their parents and alumni. In attendance, left to right: Adrian Eng SEAS'16, Paul Getzels '85, Ai Ng SEAS'82, Kathy Schneider '88, Lilian Hsn, Pomerantz, Jonathan Hirschfeld '21, Pomerantz's wife, Deborah Gahr, and Susan Hirschfeld.



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.

tion as a 'hard-core party animal' to some friends, was incompatible with any self-transformation into a more serious student and person." According to the book, Columbia only received 450 transfer applications that spring and accepted 67 students. Garrow continues: "Columbia admissions officials were unhappy about the quality of those applicants as well as the quantity. Dean Arnold Collier believed they had not attracted stronger applicants because 'we're not housing them.'"

According to *Rising Star*, those accepted had GPAs of about 3.0 and combined SAT scores of 1100. Obama's memoir mentions he spent his first night in Manhattan "curled up in an alley way." Columbia required transfer students to take all of the Core classes. Tuition was \$3,350 per semester. Garrow references *Spectator* headlines ("Alienation Is Common for Minority Students," "Students Label CU Life Depressing") and other articles about the crime and poverty surrounding the school as well as the University bureaucracy. Obama occasionally played pickup basketball at Dodge. In *CCT*'s January 2005 story on Obama, he referred to his time at Columbia as "an intense period of study ... I spent a lot of time in the library. I didn't socialize that much. I was like a monk."

Obama majored in political science. According to a *New York Times* article from 2007, he took a course with Michael L. Baron (received an A on the senior paper) where other students described him as one of the top one or two students in the class. He fulfilled part of his science requirement by taking "Physics for Poets" with Gerald Feinberg. It was one of his favorite classes. He also took classes with Edward Said, Len Davis, Maurice Obstfeld and Andrew Walder. Charles Hamilton "didn't know him at all" — nor could any senior political faculty members identify him (other than Baron). Obama gave his papers to "an elderly woman with a harelip and hoarse voice for typing." Yes, Miss Dee. Obama did not participate in Danny Armstrong's South African divestment rally and "few of Columbia and Barnard's black undergraduates from 1981–83 have any recollection of Barack Obama."

Gerrard Bushell said he "would see him periodically" and "remember him by face."

Kenny Chin: "My wife, Lisa, and I are well. Nick now works at GE Digital and Austin is a junior at Syracuse. We saw *Barry* on Netflix a few months ago. It was a good movie. Nice depiction of NYC in the early 1980s — a real hellhole. We all survived and thrived."

Eric Epstein reports that his daughter, Esme, attends Occidental College in Eagle Rock, Los Angeles.

Seth Farber's daughter, Anna, graduated from Hunter H.S. and attends Oberlin College.

Paul Lerner: "I was recently contacted by a Columbia GS student, Ben Appel, who is doing research work in LGBT history. He had come across a pro-gay rights op-ed I wrote for *Spectator* in October 1982, 'Openness is the Only Way to Combat Bigotry.' Ben interviewed me over the phone and also interviewed other gay Columbia alumni of different ages. He wrote a very thoughtful article, 'Generation of AIDS,' which was published in the April 18 issue of *Spectator*. It was really interesting to read his perspective on how the lives of different generations of Columbia students have been impacted by homophobia, HIV/AIDS and increasing acceptance. And it was gratifying to see all of the progress that we have made over the course of those generations. His article is online: bit.ly/2xszdl2."

Eddy Friedfeld taught "The History of Comedy" at NYU Tisch School of the Arts this summer.

Jon Ross: "MicroAid has started another project in Nepal. We're doing a home repair for another earthquake-survivor family in the Kathmandu Valley town of Bhaktapur." [Editor's note: See profile, Spring 2013.]

Steve Coleman: "My daughter Sarah '15 roped me into a cancer fundraiser on August 5 and 6, in Ohio, no less. I completed the 180-mile, two-day ride with her (and a fairly large team of real bikers). The program is called Pelotonia, and this year it had more than 8,000 riders and 3,000 volunteers. Pelotonia raised more than \$16 million for cancer research. The ride has private sponsors, so 100 percent of the donations go to research. Check out my page: pelotonia.org/stevecoleman. I did receive a donation from Mr. Pomerantz and one in the name of Professor Selig."

Kevin Chapman is recuperating from a torn labrum and fractured

shoulder socket, incurred during a kayaking accident while vacationing in Bermuda.

Kevin, we all wish you a speedy recovery!

Doug Novins sent an email promising an update soon.

Doug, look forward to hearing from you!

Michael Schmidtberger '82 has been named chair of the Sidley & Austin Executive Committee. Mike has been with the firm for 27 years and the managing partner of the New York office for the past five years.

George Wilson: "Hope to see you soon for reunion planning calls."

George, thanks for your dedication! Our 35th reunion is fast approaching. Anyone interested in joining the Reunion Committee, please contact me!

1984

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Class Day 2017 was another *roaring* success (pun DEFINITELY intended) Holding the '84 banner high was yours truly, along with **Fred Fisher, David Kung DM'89** and **Richard Lin**, three proud parents of Columbia graduates that day.

Fred is a vascular surgeon at the Orlando VA Hospital and a professor at the University of Central Florida Medical School. His daughter, Rebecca Claire Fisher '17, will be an analyst for the law firm Kobre & Kim in Washington, D.C.

David is a plastic surgeon at Johns Hopkins, and president of Kung Plastic Surgery. His son, Justin Kung '17, was a two-sport intramural champion at Columbia this year in basketball and volleyball. He was also captain of the table tennis team. He will be a one-year post-baccalaureate fellow at the National Institutes of Health this year prior to entering medical school in 2018. David says, "I am in Bethesda, Md., in an active plastic and reconstructive surgery practice. It was very nice getting caught up with Columbia College classmates and their families, especially **Richard Lin**, whom I haven't seen in decades. It was also a treat for my

wife, Bonnie DM'89, to walk with her class for the first time! Also, kudos to my niece Amber Sun '17, who also graduated that day."

Richard is a physician scientist at Stony Brook University. He specializes in taking care of patients with, and doing laboratory research on, pancreatic cancer. His son, Winston Lin '17, will work for the Federal Reserve in Washington, D.C.

Condolences to my dear friend **Ben Pushner** on the passing of his beloved mother, Gertrude P. Pushner LS'62, a graduate of the School of Library Science, and the best damn baker of rugelach this side of I-95! It was always a joy for the Marching Band to visit Ben's home in Mystic, Conn., to and from various trips to Ivy basketball games, and I am personally saddened by the loss of this great lady.

On a happier note, congratulations to Ben and his family on the matriculation of his daughter Jenny to Middlebury College.

Also, with thanks to Ben, I've learned that **Carr D'Angelo** was mentioned by the Adam Sandler character "Sandy Wexler" in the Netflix special based on Sandler's real-life agent, Sandy Wernick. If you recall, Carr was a Hollywood producer, along with Sandler, of two films featuring Rob Schneider (*The Hot Chick* and *The Animal*). Carr left Hollywood for the Valley, where he spearheads Earth-2 Comics. (If you missed it, check out *CCT*'s profile of Carr, which is online: bit.ly/2vtUn2u.)

1985

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It took more than 10 years, so I guess I shouldn't be too upset; more than 50 columns, so many world events come and gone. But that's the last time I reached out and didn't get any updates from anyone. I will (I hope) take this to mean that everyone is well and busy and had nothing significant to report.

It also means I have ample license to give my own extended update, which I haven't done in a long time anyway. So while I look forward to receiving your updates for the Winter 2017–18 issue, the timing

works well for me to catch you up with what's going on in my life.

After I finished law school at Columbia and practiced for several years in New York City, I decided to join my family coffee business. This past August marked 27 years of showing up every day and trying to learn a little bit more and keeping pace with the ever-changing world we live in. We are fortunate in that our business has grown and that we are now selling products across the country to many prominent national foodservice and retail customers. In order to do this, we must continually "raise our game" and innovate so that we can stay competitive. It's not easy, but then again, no business is today.

My three boys are 25, 21 and 19. In a blink of an eye. My oldest is Isaac '14. For many of you who have shared this experience of having a "P" in your Columbia moniker, you know how special it is to revisit Columbia a generation later through your children and see what has changed (and in some cases, what hasn't). After, for all intents and purposes, majoring in *Spectator* (officially majoring in comp sci), Isaac worked hard to gain some wonderful work experiences and was fortunate to earn a job offer on the digital side of *The New York Times*. He continues to work there after three years on a variety of projects that improve the user's experience with the endless flow of news.

My middle son, Noah, is in his senior year at Duke. His college experiences have included semesters in Patagonia and New Zealand, summertime paid internships in Sausalito and Asheville, and a trip to the NCAA Final Four — after sleeping outside for six weeks to secure tickets to the Duke/N.C. game (they have a pretty decent and popular basketball team there). He has focused his academics on environmental studies and is seriously considering a stint in the Peace Corps after graduation.

My youngest son, Josh, is in his second year at the University of Miami. He inherited my sports passion and would like to turn it into a career — he is majoring in communications/sports marketing and works on the radio/TV stations. In his first year, he broadcast more than 40 baseball, basketball, football and volleyball games live and got to travel all over the eastern half of the United States. He truly enjoyed it and is rapidly growing his repertoire and ability.

Allison BC'86, my wife of 29 years, has continued to play an active role in community advocacy in a variety of ways. Most recently, she worked part-time for the Parent Leadership Institute, a community-based advocacy assistance program to assist parents advocating for educational projects in their local Long Island community. She has also been active in educational advocacy (including the "opt-out movement" and data privacy), as well as in assisting several local candidates running for New York State legislature seats.

And to complete the household, we have two Portuguese Water Dogs, Sophie (10) and Casey (7 months). We have lived in Port Washington, N.Y. (on the North Shore of Long Island), for 19 years and have both done a lot of community volunteer work (Allison most recently on the local Board of Elections, me with raising money for our synagogue's capital campaign). We have been very fortunate and blessed.

Now that I got that out of the way, I look forward to your updates for the next CCT! I hope to see you at Columbia events in the fall. And reunion is less than three years away ...

1986

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Warwick Daw reports on a great trip. "In June, I went to Tanzania to visit my daughter, Marguerite '16. She has been there for a year as a Peace Corps volunteer, teaching secondary school physics as part of the Let Girls Learn initiative. What an amazing trip it was! Marguerite had just gotten electricity to her house on the school grounds about a month before the visit, and I don't think anyone in the village has running water. One concern there is that fetching water from the local river is a chore placed solely on the girls, and greater importance is placed on this task than on the girls' academic work.

"It was a term break, so we were able to travel all over Tanzania. In addition to visiting Marguerite's site in the Southern Highlands, we saw a waterfall and coffee farm on Kilimanjaro, went sailing and coral reef diving

in a dhow in Zanzibar and saw lions, hyenas, giraffes and many other animals in the wild. This trip was my first to Africa and I was left wanting to go back and see more of Tanzania."

After an anxious application year, **Adam Cohen** is pleased that his son, Josiah '21, has started at Columbia. Adam is also looking forward to the publication of his book, *Signs and Wonders: 100 Haggadah Masterpieces*, the first art-historical overview of the rich history of the illustrated haggadah from the Middle Ages to the present.

1987

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Happy 30th reunion to all of us! Let the reflections begin!

From **Rebecca Turner**: "A fun reunion surprise was chatting with fellow Los Angeleno **Greg Gonzalez**, whom I didn't know well during my time at Columbia. It turns out he has been a history teacher at my old high school for more than 20 years, and astonished me by taking a picture of us and texting it to my beloved high school history teacher, who is still there and a colleague of his. I await word on her reaction!"

From **Bruce Furukawa**: "My favorite moment at reunion was at the dinner on Saturday, sitting at a table with people I have not seen in 30 years from Carman 11. It brought back so many memories of us sitting at the end of the hallway



Farah Chandu '87 (right) connected with **Cathy Webster '87** in London while Chandu was visiting family.



Bruce Furukawa '87 (right) met up with **John Sun '87** in London, where Furukawa says they "had a great time in Kensington and SoHo."

watching MTV during breaks and betting which one of the 20 videos we would see next. I also sat next to others whom I have seen more recently and just adore, like **Gerri Gold**, **Greg Gonzalez**, **Jung Youn** and **Esther Chung**.

From **Cathy Webster**: "Where to start? **Dave Perlman** and company hosted a terrific Thursday reception at Essex with great conversation and a McBain RC reunion (**Gerri Gold**, **Tommy Johnston** and me) and brief sightings of some wonderful classmates. Singing the old school songs with Glee Clubbers, including **Lee Ilan**, and **Farah Chandu** and her husband, **Paul Carbone SEAS'86**, was amazing. I enjoyed a fine meal with **Dick Dawson** and **Katie Dawson** (née Tkatch) afterward. And I joined the 11 Carman kids, too! I loved learning that the track team belted out show tunes on the bus back in the day ... And the helpful reunion staff located my band sweater, which I had left at the dinner."

From **Annemarie Coffman Lellouch**: "Reconnected with classmates who are doing all sorts of fabulous things — **Cathy Webster**, **Laura Raquel Zander**, **Divya Singh** and **Lee Ilan** (to name but a few). Class dinner with Carman 11s, the Low Steps after the class dinner with the columns lit up in blue (super classy), sneaking into Havemeyer to find the 309 lecture hall exactly as it always was, **Richard Axel '67's** amazing keynote; seeing that The Hungarian Pastry shop is more or less the same and breakfast at Tom's with **Esther Chung** and **Jung Youn**.

"See you all in five years!"

From **Richard Simonds**: “Reunion was great, got to see a lot of old friends — the highlight was definitely the Saturday dinner. Another highlight was a fabulous lecture I heard on global warming by Professor Jerry McManus ’89, GSAS’97 of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia, which led to email exchanges and my reading of several books on the subject that he recommended. Columbia has a terrific faculty and the University is on the cutting edge of research in a number of important areas that have an impact on our lives; we should be proud of alma mater!”

But the reunioning continued long after the weekend festivities concluded. **Paul Verna** writes, “Barely six weeks after we saw each other at our 30th reunion, **Jon Nelson** and I spent an evening together in the Portland, Maine, area. He and his family took their annual vacation in the Belgrade Lakes region, and on the way, they stopped in the Portland area, not far from my hometown of Kennebunk. We posed for pictures in front of the famous Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth. We spent some quality time at reunion with other CC’87 friends, including **Daniele Baliani**, **Stavros Zomopoulos**, **Jose Calvo**, **Jennifer Berry**, **Rina Elizabeth Teran**, **Nancy Rabinowitz Friedman** and **Jennifer Insogna**. It was great (re) connecting with so many fine folks!”

And in London, **Farah Chandu** met up with **Cathy Webster** while Farah was visiting family. They posed for pictures near the statue of Nelson Mandela, recalling our divestment days. Farah wrote, “It’s becoming a Columbia-London tradition for me — I narrowly missed seeing **Maria Resende** this time, but had dinner with **Judy Kim** here a couple of years back.

In more CC’87 London fun, **Bruce Furukawa** met up with **John Sun**. Bruce says, “We had a great time in Kensington and SoHo. I posted some photos. I also went out to Cambridge to drop off my daughter at a program for high school students, where **Greg Gonzalez** is one of the supervisors.”

Early tallies show that our reunion attendance was quite impressive, with 77 attending the Essex reception on Thursday, 104 at the Friday evening reception at

the Ascent Lounge and 136 at the Saturday class reception and dinner — so I know there are a lot more stories! Keep ’em coming!

1988

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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Michael Argenziano PS’92 and his wife, **Maria Rodino**, live in Closter, N.J., with their six children. “Maria practices endocrinology in Westwood, N.J., and I’m chief of adult cardiac surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center,” Michael wrote. “Our two oldest children are Michael ’18 and Anthony ’20; Michael is applying to medical school. Maria is also a marathon runner, has completed the last three NYC Marathons and is planning to run NYC again this year. We fondly remember our days at Columbia and credit Columbia for countless valuable experiences and opportunities!”

A quick note from **Stu Kaplan** PS’92: “After running a child and adolescent hospital for children with eating disorders, I followed my midlife crisis and moved to Amsterdam for an M.B.A. program, pursuing global nonprofit administration.”

Jeremy Dickstein wrote, “In the past few months I have both continued my wealth management/investment advisory career and also expanded into small business consulting. In the spring I was named to run the private wealth management division of Spartan Capital Securities, an independent broker-dealer affiliated with RBC. In addition, I was recruited to Aflac to assist with one of its large institutional clients. Last but not least, I was recently hired as a regional sales director for the renowned and award-winning business consultant/broker boutique firm Lisiten Associates. As Yogi

Berra used to say, ‘If you see a fork in the road, take it.’”

Steve Cohen LAW’92, BUS’92 hasn’t strayed far from Morningside Heights. “I live on the Upper West Side with my wife, Sarah Jones, and our terrific kids, Nina (9) and Leo (7), as well as Friday Jones, our cherished 11-year-old dog. I am a partner at Wachtell Lipton and have been an M&A lawyer working continually (as we do at Wachtell Lipton) since graduating from the Law School. Sarah and I are both practicing lawyers, so between the kids, the job and the occasional tickets to Carnegie Hall, our favorite pastime is trying to get sufficient sleep.

“In June we went to Venice to celebrate my 50th birthday, a significant milestone in aging; I am pleased to report that I survived it, but it’s still a pig in a python. On the topic of aging and shifts in perspective, in connection with turning 50, I was having a conversation with my friend about his birthday when my 7-year-old son, listening, interrupted to ask him, ‘Wait — oh my god — are you from the 19s?’ referring to our origin in the 20th century. When my friend confirmed it, Leo said, ‘Wow, my dad is from the 19s also.’”

Silicon Valley venture capitalist **Ben Horowitz** and his father, David ’59, were the subjects of an interesting *New York Times* article about high-tech and politics. “Ben Horowitz is helping define the modern tech age,” the *Times* wrote. “His father shaped the ’60s radical left — before taking a hard right turn. Family chats get interesting.”

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to hearing from you.

1989

Emily Miles Terry
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Earlier this year **Kaivan Shakib** joined Morgan Stanley, where he heads up financial technology investment banking. Kaivan writes, “I’ve already connected with fellow Kappa Delta Rho fraternity member **Robert Rooney** (CEO Morgan Stanley Europe), who is in even better shape than he was in college, and with **John Alex**, who is in wealth management.”

Kaivan also spends time as a board member for Summer on the Hill, a not-for-profit that helps kids from the Bronx and Manhattan get into independent parochial schools.

I touched base with **Daniele Campbell**, who writes, “We are having a great summer — as I write this, just dropped my son at camp, and we are looking forward to a nice time with my daughter (8).”

Daniele worked at Marvel for three years; she says, “Working at Marvel was tons of fun. I’m continuing to leverage my direct-to-consumer marketing background by consulting on subscriber acquisition for Univision on its OTT (over-the-top)/TV everywhere app Univision Now. I’ve been there since March and it’s been a lot of fun.”

Daniele and her family live in the Murray Hill area of NYC.

A quick congratulations to **Michael Behringer**, who has taken on the role of Columbia College Alumni Association president. [Editor’s note: See “Message from the CCAA President.”] Also congratulations to **Chris Della Pietra**, who is on the executive board of the CCAA as secretary and chairs our Reunion Committee and Homecoming committees. Please get in touch with them to get involved.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
younggrache@hotmail.com

Making his 1990 Class Notes debut is **Greg Krasovsky**, who sends greetings from Moscow: “I took a year and a half of academic leave from Columbia to be a City of Philadelphia police officer and graduated with the Class of 1991. While attending Penn’s Law School I went to Moscow (my city of birth) to intern with Russia’s Supreme Court and do summer work at the Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom law firm. One summer turned into 11 years in Moscow, 1993–2004. I was an investment banker, an entrepreneur (real estate, construction, IT, biotechnology), an auditor and a lawyer. I finished Russian law school in 1998 at People’s Friendship University of Russia — a university established in the 1960s to teach foreigners and introduce them to the wonders of socialism and Soviet

communism. In 2004 we came back to my United States hometown, Philadelphia, and lived there until moving to Fairfax, Va., during the 2008 presidential campaign.

"I've been living in Moscow and practicing law after spending summer 2014 in war-torn eastern Ukraine's Lugansk. I often make appearances on Russian television as an American lawyer and political scientist — you can see links to those videos on my

on to a successful career as a money laundering compliance specialist at major banks, including a stint in Hong Kong. She's married with three children. **Matthew Brooks**, who came to Moscow in 1995 and stayed for a year working at our real estate and construction company. Matt's practicing law and happily married to his high school sweetheart with three children in a suburb of Niagara Falls, where I visited him

in-law Ben Jacobs '93, **Sunhee Lee**, Mark Koppel '63 and Alan Greengrass '63, BUS'98. Jeremy was on sabbatical in the spring from his political science professorship at Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus. For almost a decade, Laura has been the head of the Louis and Nancy Hatch Dupree Foundation, which supports the Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University, an archive and research center in Kabul. In her spare time, she teaches U.S. citizenship classes at Women for Afghan Women in Queens and co-chairs the Tuberosus Sclerosis Alliance of New York and New Jersey. As many of us marvel at how old our children are getting and take pride in their many milestones, it's worth mentioning that Liz works at AARP (no jokes please, as we hit the mid-century mark).

1991

Margie Kim
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No news this time, CC'91. So let's send in lots for the Winter 2017–18 issue! Did you do anything exciting during the summer or fall? Any big plans for 2018? Let's hear it!

1992

Olivier Knox
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Greetings, everyone! I bugged a number of you at our fantastic reunion for updates — I'm about ready to start writing them for you ("J. Schwartz emailed to say he runs a nudist colony where he uses giant papier-mâché puppets to turn the complete works of Berthold Brecht into fun for the whole family!"). Thankfully, I did get a couple of nice notes. As always, please send me your life updates at olivier.knox@gmail.com.

Jennifer Fredricks is dean of academic departments and programs and professor of psychology at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y. She's in charge of faculty development, overseeing faculty hiring, supporting faculty research and teaching, course staffing, faculty mentorship programs, overseeing external department reviews, administrating internal research grants and fellowships, and

overseeing a \$100 million science and engineering building renovation. "I would love to connect with other alumni living in the Capital region," she writes.

I'm trying to meet up with **Jonathan Henick** SIPA'93 — always a little embarrassing to find out via a third party that you live in the same city as a classmate. In the meantime, Jonathan writes that he's been in the Foreign Service for nearly 24 years. He and his wife, Dominique, and their kids, Oskar and Carmen, moved back to D.C. from Ankara last year. "I'm the acting coordinator (or assistant secretary) for International Information Programs, leading a team of talented and creative writers, editors, videographers, graphic designers, data analysts and web and social media experts working to support U.S. public diplomacy around the world," Jonathan writes.

That reminds me: CC'92ers, if you're in D.C., drop me a note.

That's it for now! Please send me your updates!

1993

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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News from **Richard Carrick**: "In 2015–16, I received a Guggenheim Fellowship in Musical Composition and my wife, Nomi Levy-Carrick '92, took a position working with the Ministry of Health of Rwanda for a year. So we left NYC with the kids to live in Kigali. The adventures were totally amazing — working with Rwandans and other international expats, going on 'local' safaris and (for me!) being asked by the Rwandan government to pen a new arrangement of its national anthem for the military band! In September 2016 we moved back to the East Coast to continue our music and mind work in a new city: I started as chair of composition at Berklee College of Music in Boston,

Greg Krasovsky '90 sends greetings from Moscow:

"Current geopolitics and U.S. relations with Russia is a mix of House of Cards and Game of Thrones."

Russian law practice Facebook page (fb.com/krasovsky112). It's been a trip watching and commenting on the 2016 U.S. presidential elections, the Trump administration's alleged ties to Russia and those phantom Russian hackers. Current geopolitics and U.S. relations with Russia is a mix of *House of Cards* and *Game of Thrones*. All I can say is, don't believe the hype and false news!

"I've been married to Tatiana since 1998 and we have four children: Maya (17), Michael (15), Sarah (12) and Bella (1). Maya will be applying to colleges this fall and Columbia is, of course, at the top of my list. I've seen or talked to a number of our CC'90 classmates over the last five years. **Patricia Sullivan**, who worked for the Manhattan DA after Fordham Law and then went

with my children in 2013 on the way back from a crazy Canadian road trip. Matt swapped dirt bikes for a Harley Davidson. **Dan Max**, who also finished Fordham Law and specializes in U.S. government contractor M&A in the greater Washington, D.C., area. If you're interested in visiting Russia or just need friendly advice on this place, then please reach out to me."

This in from **Isaac-Daniel Astrachan**: "Now in my 19th year at Steven B. Jacobs Group (time flies!), I'm working on several projects, including a 45-story residential tower in Long Island City, a five-star hotel in Tribeca, a citizenM hotel on the Lower East Side (the tallest modular hotel in North America) and our own apartment renovation. My wife, Meghan, was on sabbatical this year and was scheduled to go back to work in September, just in time to teach Aidhan, who will be starting 9th grade. Aidhan continues to play soccer at Downtown United Soccer Club. His team ended the season ranked in the top 100 nationally and was to travel to Barcelona and Madrid this August to train, compete, explore and have fun."

In further Carman 8 news (hey, everyone else who didn't live on my floor, if you write to me, I'll publish you), I made a delightful trip to Forest Hills, N.Y., in May to celebrate the bat mitzvah of Maya Buchman, daughter of **Laura Marks** and her husband, Jeremy Buchman '91. Columbians in attendance included **Liz Poston** (née Lubow), **Chien-Li Chung** SEAS'91, my brother-



Submit
Your
Photo



CCT welcomes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

and Nomi joined the department of psychiatry at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. I still travel to NYC a lot for music, performing most recently with my ensemble Either/Or at Columbia's Miller Theatre and recently performed at the Library of Congress. Roar, lion, roar!"

It's not too early to start thinking about our 25th reunion! Plan to return to Morningside Heights next summer and reconnect with old friends!

Send in your notes for the Winter 2017–18 issue. Your classmates want to hear from you!

1994

Leyla Kokmen
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Anna Ivey writes from her home base of Los Angeles, where she's working at the software company she co-founded. "We make a digital tool called inli.ne that helps students fill out their online college applications with the benefit of expert advice, kind of like what TurboTax does for tax returns," Anna writes. "I see other Columbia grads regularly at alumni events in Southern California — it's a nice group out here."

News reports from further up the coast say that **Ocean MacAdams** has been named president of online publisher Thrillist, which produces food, travel and lifestyle programming geared toward young men. Under the leadership of Ocean, who will split his time between the San Francisco and New York offices, Thrillist will continue to enhance its focus on video production.

In other career transitions, **Amit Bose** SIPA'95 writes from Washington, D.C., that after seven-plus years in different roles in President Barack Obama '83's administration, he ended his tenure there in January as deputy administrator at the Federal Railroad Administration. "Serving in the administration was an honor that I will always remember," Amit writes, "and I am fortunate to have been a member of the team that advanced countless transportation projects, including the Northeast Corridor and the California high-speed rail project, and safety across the country."

Amit writes that he is excited about his new role at HNTB, an

infrastructure firm, as its Mid-Atlantic transit and rail lead.

Also writing from D.C. is **Deena Berkowitz** (née Durst), who is married to Benjamin Berkowitz SEAS'94. Deena writes that Benjamin is a partner and intellectual property lawyer at Foley & Lardner and has been nationally recognized for his work in patent prosecution, including chemical, biochemical and mechanical patents. "He's grateful for both the solid engineering background he received at Columbia and for meeting his wife in biochemistry class," Deena writes. "We live in the Washington, D.C., area, where I'm an assistant professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine at Children's National Medical Center. We have five children, ranging from second grade to college students."

And finally, a happy coincidence in June allowed me to catch up with **Imara Jones**, as we by chance crossed paths at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. Imara had just flown in from New York for the People's Summit, where he hosted a number of interviews on behalf of Free Speech Television, and I was leaving for a business trip in Pittsburgh to oversee a video at Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. Who knew that one of the world's top-10 busiest airports would produce such an unexpected reunion?

That's it for this time. Thanks to everyone who wrote in — please keep the news coming to lak6@columbia.edu!

1995

Janet Lorin
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Let me say a big thank you to my freshman year *Spectator* compatriots **Rolando Pujol** and **Tova Mirvis** SOA'98 for answering my call for an update. I remember we were called "beat chiefs" back then, when the office was on the second floor on Amsterdam, maybe around West 115th Street.

Spec colleagues, please send in an update!

Rolando is director of digital and social strategy at WPIX-TV Channel 11 in New York. "I'm fortunate to say I have a dream job for someone who grew up watching lots of local New York TV," he writes. "In almost five

years, we've built out a strong and competitive digital and social news presence in New York. I'm proud of our innovations too — we're leading in over-the-top content, Amazon Alexa, Facebook Live and other areas." Rolando also runs the station's archives and launched a popular Facebook page, WPIX Archives. Last year, he found a historic film that was long considered lost — the original version of the WPIX Yule Log, TV's first televised fireplace. The station restored and re-aired the special last Christmas, in time for its 50th anniversary. "My discovery led to significant, national press coverage, which was terrific for the station," he writes.

"I'm also running Tribune Media's Antenna TV social channels, which is a perfect fit for a TV nostalgia nut like me."

Before working for Channel 11, Rolando had an on-air hosting gig for WNBC's digital channel, New York Nonstop. The show, *Hidden City*, was about New York history and neighborhoods. He also worked for years in newspapers, including *Newsday*, *The New York Daily News* and *amNewYork*, where he was managing editor.

Our news editors at the time were Eric Roston '93, GSAS'98 and Elena Cabral '93, JRN'99, both of whom I am still in touch with after more than 25 years. Rolando remembers a particular moment with Eric in 1992. "I love telling the story that the now-quite famous Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93, the mayor of Los Angeles, gave me one of my biggest scoops; he pulled me aside after one of those dreadfully dull student council meetings to tell me Mike Sovern '53, LAW'55 was stepping down," Rolando writes. "And I remember running back to Eric and getting it in the paper. Good times."

Elena (a former CCT class correspondent) teaches at the Journalism School, where she also runs the part-time master's of science program. After graduating from the program, Elena went on to work for *Newsday*, *The Miami Herald* and then *Scholastic News*. She helped guide students through the tumultuous election season and is now teaching them to ask the hard questions in the aftermath. She has been married to David Gonzalez (I was at that wedding in San Antonio!), a reporter and Lens Blog editor at

The New York Times, for 17 years and they have two children, Paloma (9) and Sebastian (14).

I see Eric all the time at Bloomberg, where he has worked since 2011 covering climate change and energy issues. He lives in Montclair, N.J., with his wife, Karen Yourish JRN'98, and their daughter. His work (and that of many of our colleagues) can be found at the dedicated news website climatechanged.com. He's been joking for several years about writing a thriller (working title, *The Delta Prophecy*), and this year has taken it on as a late-night hobby. He hopes to finish before he receives his first Social Security check in 2033.

Tova has a book coming out in September, a memoir, *The Book of Separation*, about leaving the Orthodox Jewish world in which she was raised. "I've been busy with that and with my three kids — one of whom recently graduated from high school, which feels hard to believe," she writes. Tova lives in Newton, Mass., just outside of Boston, where she's lived for a dozen years. Her other kids are 9 and 14.

1996

Ana S. Salper
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My fellow Class of 1996ers, where are you? For the first time in years, I have no news to report! I want to hear from you — and am trying to avoid the mass email blast I will inevitably have to send to you all — so please send in notes and let me know what you are up to!

For now, I leave you with this: "In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity." — Albert Einstein

1997

Sarah Katz
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It was amazing to see so many of you at our 20th reunion in June! We had an incredible turnout, and it was so wonderful to see all of your smiling faces. Kudos to reunion chair **Raji Kalra** and the entire Reunion Committee for organizing an incredible long weekend of events.

Unfortunately for me, it all went by in a blur and I didn't take

Alumni Sons and Daughters

Sixty-five members of the Columbia College Class of 2021 and four members of the Columbia Engineering Class of 2021 are sons or daughters of College alumni. This list is alphabetical by the parent(s)' last name.

STUDENT	PARENT	STUDENT	PARENT	STUDENT	PARENT
Theodore Ajluni <i>Bloomfield Hills, Mich.</i>	Roger Ajluni '89	Max Elikan <i>Silver Spring, Md.</i>	Jeffrey Elikan '87	Charles Noxon <i>Los Angeles</i>	Jenji Kohan '91
Isabel Alland <i>Bernardsville, N.J.</i>	David Alland '80	Timothy Eng <i>Warren, N.J.</i>	Edmond Eng '90	Alexander Chu <i>Singapore</i>	Mary Kuo '92
Chad Arle <i>Concord, Mass.</i>	Jeffrey Arle '86	Zachary Miller <i>Wellesley Hills, Mass.</i>	Lauren Farber '88 °	Caroline Laplace <i>Weston, Conn.</i>	Robert Laplace '89 and Maria Benedetto-Laplace '89
Noah Avigan <i>Sharon, Mass.</i>	David Avigan '85	Henry Feldman <i>Waban, Mass.</i>	Lee Feldman '89	Katie Tropp-Levy <i>Great Neck, N.Y.</i>	Julie Levy '91
Jordan Barry <i>Short Hills, N.J.</i>	Michael Barry '89	Marco Balestri <i>New York City</i>	Rebecca Fine '89	Alexander Maddon <i>Hartsdale, N.Y.</i>	Paul Maddon '81
Mira Soni <i>Arlington, Va.</i>	Jeffrey Bartos '87	Maeve Flaherty <i>Norwalk, Conn.</i>	John Flaherty '84	Julian Maldonado <i>San Antonio</i>	Javier Maldonado '90
Matthew Zinman Samantha Zinman <i>Harrison, N.Y.</i>	Lauren Bauer-Zinman '90	Matthew Geyman <i>Livingston, N.J.</i>	Ella Geyman '89	Peter Maroulis <i>Palo Alto, Calif.</i>	James Maroulis '88
Sara Bernstein <i>New Rochelle, N.Y.</i>	Joseph Bernstein '87	Jared Goldfischer <i>Mountain Lakes, N.J.</i>	Michael Goldfischer '86	Julia May <i>New York City</i>	Morgan May '67
Alexander Brett <i>Greenwich, Conn.</i>	James Brett '84 and Patricia Brett '87	Eli Goldin <i>Venice, Calif.</i>	Joshua Goldin '82	Asatta Mesa <i>Miami</i>	Margarita Mesa '94
Cameron Carter <i>Duluth, Ga.</i>	Hector Carter '91	Kyoko Hirose <i>San Francisco</i>	Ryutaro Hirose '85	Theodore Michaels <i>Richmond, Mass.</i>	Basil Michaels '83
Robin Cheng <i>Hong Kong</i>	Ali Cheng '95	Isaac Horwitz-Hirsch <i>Santa Monica, Calif.</i>	Joshua Hirsch '84	Elizabeth Myrus <i>Providence, R.I.</i>	Richard Myrus '84
Julian Christensen <i>Menlo Park, Calif.</i>	Jens Christensen '84	Ari Hirsch <i>Wynnerwood, Pa.</i>	Marten Hirsch '88	Alexandra Orlinsky * <i>Baltimore</i>	Diane Orlinsky '88
Josiah Cohen <i>Toronto</i>	Adam Cohen '86	James Hunter <i>Nashville</i>	James Hunter Jr. '87 and Dineo Khabele '89	Caroline Park <i>Atherton, Calif.</i>	Hyun Park '84
Jonathon Cohen Jordan Cohen <i>Newton Center, Mass.</i>	Judah Cohen '85	Aaron Jaffe <i>Old Greenwich, Conn.</i>	Marc Jaffe '73	Joseph Phelan <i>Princeton, N.J.</i>	John Phelan '85
Alexandra Cooper <i>New York City</i>	Neil Cooper '82	Claire Jenkins * <i>Charlottesville, Va.</i>	Jeffrey Jenkins '94	Elisha Pinker <i>Stamford, Conn.</i>	Edical Pinker '89
Shimshon Dicker <i>Merion Station, Pa.</i>	Adam Dicker '84	Emma Kateman <i>Beverly Hills</i>	Jeffrey Kateman '89	Matthew Rosenberg * <i>West Hempstead, N.Y.</i>	Gary Rosenberg '77
Sophia DiLorio <i>Scotch Plains, N.J.</i>	Peter DiLorio '86	Jenna Kerman <i>New York City</i>	Mark Kerman '83	Zoe Metcalfe <i>Berkeley, Calif.</i>	Louis Rossetto Jr. '71
Carl Dobrovic <i>Oakton, Va.</i>	Nino Dobrovic '86	Henry Kiem * <i>London, U.K.</i>	Theodore Kiem '92 and Elizabeth Kiem '94	James Ryan <i>Rockville Centre, N.Y.</i>	Jennifer Ryan '89
		Yaira Kobrin <i>Bronx, N.Y.</i>	Jeffrey Kobrin '92 and Michelle Greenberg-Kobrin '96	Katherine Santamaria <i>Saint Petersburg, Fla.</i>	John Santamaria '77

STUDENT PARENT

Jackson Satow <i>Chappaqua, N.Y.</i>	Michael Satow '88
Chiara Drake <i>San Francisco</i>	Kevin Siegel '88
Zoe Sottile <i>Woodbridge, Conn.</i>	Anne-Whitney Sottile '89
Eva Steinman <i>Cresskill, N.J.</i>	Natasha Steinman '90
Devon Stuzin <i>Baltimore</i>	Kenneth Stuzin '86
Katherine Tak <i>Weston, Mass.</i>	Thomas Tak '91 and Huijin Tak '92
Malcolm Volk <i>Seattle</i>	Andrew Volk '86
Kathryn Williamson <i>Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.</i>	John Williamson '88
Alexandra Wolf <i>Newton Center, Mass.</i>	Douglas Wolf '88 and Sherri Wolf '90
Alexander Yu <i>New York City</i>	Raymond Yu '89

Eight incoming Columbia College or Columbia Engineering transfer students are sons or daughters of College alumni.

James Bernstein '20 <i>Haverford, Pa.</i>	Joseph Bernstein '84
Sophia Danzig '20 <i>New York City</i>	Andrew Danzig '82
Christopher Fryer '19 ** <i>Hingham, Mass.</i>	George Fryer '83
Eliana Gottdenker '20 <i>Bethesda, Md.</i>	Michael Gottdenker '86
Danielle Harris '20 <i>Bronx, N.Y.</i>	Asher Harris '82
David Lee SEAS '19 ** <i>Somers, N.Y.</i>	David Lee '79
Harry Schiller '20 <i>Cambridge, Mass.</i>	Robert Schiller '73
Samuel Schwartz '20 <i>Longmeadow, Mass.</i>	Donald Schwartz '78

* member of the Engineering Class of 2021

** Combined Plan Program (College and Engineering)

o deceased

notes! Here are a few updates from classmates who wrote in. Feel free to send your reunion stories and other updates to me for the Winter 2017–18 issue!

Hannah Trooboff McCollum and her husband, **Brian McCollum SEAS '97**, are fully settled into their lives in Hopewell, N.J., having finished the renovation of Brian's childhood home. They are enjoying raising their daughters, Lena (9) and Caroline (6), there. Caroline's kindergarten classroom was the same as her father's, and more than one of Lena's teachers taught Brian. Hannah started as an associate director of admission at Peddie School this fall, and Brian continues to work at Impax Laboratories as the director of operations at its Middlesex manufacturing plant. All four of them had a great time attending the 20th reunion and the girls fell in love with Columbia's campus. They stayed in the dorms, which was an adventure and brought back lots of memories, too!

within the trenches), he has also worked in 2017 as a PA for *American Ninja Warrior* (NBC) and *NFL: Honors* (FOX) during Super Bowl week in Houston. He writes, "Great seeing everyone at the 20th reunion!"

1998

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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Sandie Angulo Chen
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Happy autumn, Class of 1998! I am sorry to say no one sent in updates this issue. So I'm using this column to remind all of you to save the date for our 20th reunion,

John Dean Alfone '97 was a production assistant on Season 14 of The Voice, a PA for American Ninja Warrior and a PA for NFL: Honors during Super Bowl week.

Kerensa Harrell flew up from Florida to attend reunion. She brought her husband, Dr. Manu Sehgal (Penn-GM'01), and their seven-month-old daughter, Amara. Baby Amara happily attended all the reunion events and even made it into the class photo. She was teething, so her favorite activity was quickly snatching the alumni nametags and starting to chew on them before anyone had a chance to react. Kerensa enjoyed sitting next to **Katie Hickes Karpenstein** at the Saturday dinner. Kerensa and Katie met freshman year when both lived in singles on the ninth floor of John Jay Hall. When Katie got married in 2004, she had Kerensa choreograph her wedding dance — a silky tango to the song "A Media Luz" by Julio Iglesias. The two were delighted to catch up after all these years!

John Dean Alfone was a production assistant on Season 14 of *The Voice* this past May. As he tries to climb the Hollywood ladder (from

Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2 Our Reunion Committee is busy planning the events, but there's still room for more volunteers, if you want to become involved. Contact me if you want to help.

1999

Adrienne Carter and Jenna Johnson
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Hello classmates! We have news from two of our cohort this issue, **Sara Steindel Dauber** and **Alice Weinreb**.

Sara writes of travel kismet with some fellow Columbians. She and her husband, Andrew Dauber '00, recently found themselves in the Galapagos Islands (lucky ducks!) by way of a work conference. They found surprise Lions among the famous fauna of the area — that is, "two

Just Married!

Welcome to the debut of Just Married!, our section for wedding photos. We welcome photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo using CCT's photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



KENDRA JOY PHOTOGRAPHY



PARIS WEDDING STUDIOS



JON MACAPODI



AMY & DAVID BANCROFT

1. Jack Zietman '11 married Ilana Krakowski BC'11 on June 11.

2. Taylor Gray Wlazlo '16 was married July 1 in Houston at Chateau Polonez. Left to right: Akira Baruah SEAS'16, Sonya Li '16, Sarah Berlinger SEAS'16, the bride, Saaket Pradhan '16, Alison Chang '16 and Richin Kabra '16.

3. Marc Williams '06 married Julie Nusbaum on December 31 in Great Neck, N.Y. Left to right: Danny Bessner GS'06, Dave Hudson GS'06, David Kaplowitz GS'07, Brian Wolfson '06, Seth Wainer '06, the groom, David Seidman '06, Asher Mullokandov '06 and Gavriel Mullokandov '07.

4. Maximilian Bulinski '08 married Erin Maskell in late April in Baltimore. Left to right: Jeff Spear '10, Yamini Kumar GSAPP'13, Nikhil Kanekal JRN'10, Adam Hurst SEAS'05, the groom, the bride, Lingxi Kong '08, Kevin Gauvey-Kern '08, Thommen Ollapally '08 and Greg Keilin '09.

5. Lili Lee '05 married Raymond Lau on January 28 on Long Island. Left to right: Soo Young Jeong SEAS'05, Qian Situ SEAS'05, Juneyoung Yi '05, Carol Park GS'05, the bride, the groom, Seulgey Kim '03, Pamela Lee SEAS'05, Jinny Jin '05 and Hea Lyun Lee '05.

6. Raymond de Oliveira '16 was married less than a month after graduation in Annapolis, Md., at the William Paca House and Garden. Columbia alumni in the groom's party were (fourth and fifth on the right) Michael Barth '16 and Christopher Sabaitis '16. The groom is in the center.

7. On May 20, John Davisson '08 and Amanda Erickson '08 married on Long Island, with many Columbia friends alongside them. Back row, left to right: Andrew Martin '08, Owen Hearey '08 and Josh Hirschland '08; middle row, left to right: Megan Greenwell BC'06, Leora Falk BC'07, Erin Durkin '08, Adam Kushner '03 and Jimmy Vielkind-Neun '07; and front row, left to right: the groom, Morgan Sellers '06, Laura Brunts '08, Deborah Beim '08, Daniella Zalzman '09, Lydia DePillis '09, Sara Vogel '09, Simone Sebastian '03 and the bride.

8. Ben Howell '02 married Lacey Whitmire on April 18, 2015, in Watkinsville, Ga. Left to right: Tim Howell '98, Abby Walthausen BC'06, Alex Farrill '03, Veronica Liu BC'02, Tim Bean '04, the bride, the groom, Brian House '02 and Dan Greenwald '02.

9. Chantée Dempsey Morin '09 married Nicholas J. Morin at the Loeb Boathouse Central Park on October 7, 2016. Left to right: Kate Davis, Matthew Morin, Toluwalope Onafowokan '09, David Cooper '09, Kelly Mabolo, Bryan Kotliar, the groom, the bride, Daniel Perrone, Nicole Petrascu, Aubrey Morin and Alexandra Brodman.

other Columbia College graduates were among our international group of scientists and M.D.s: Ron Rosenfeld '68 and Rick Ross '68," who, it turns out, had been lab partners in their own Columbia days. Sara and Andrew live in suburban Cincinnati with their four children, aged 5–10. Sara's working at a "startup called Eccrine Systems, developing wearable medical devices that can measure what's in your sweat."

We're looking forward to seeing this new technology make its way into technology generally available to the rest of us!

Alice Weinreb gives us an exciting new book to pick up this fall! She's an associate professor of history at Loyola University Chicago and she's "very excited to announce that my book, *Modern Hungers: Food and Power in Twentieth-Century Germany*, recently came out. It is a study of the relationship between our modern food system and the military-industrial complex, focusing on Germany's roles in the World Wars and Cold War."

Sounds like something the history majors among us should check out *jetzt sofort*. Book club, anyone?

That's it for this installment, folks. But send us your news to the addresses at the top of this column! We're looking forward to hearing from you.

2000

Prisca Bae
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Class of 2000, what's the news? I hope everyone is having a great 2017 — great enough to share in CCT! Email me at pb134@columbia.edu to tell me how hobbies, work, family, travel and life in general are going. Your classmates want to hear from you!

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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Hi all! It had been a while since I heard from Tamer Makary, so it was a great pleasure to receive a stateside dispatch from him. He recently relocated with his wife and four children to Haddonfield, N.J. His eldest (Alec) is 6, and his



JUDY ROSS

The Universidad San Francisco de Quito Growth Hormone Conference in San Cristobal, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, brought together alumni across generations. Left to right: Rick Ross '68, Ron Rosenfeld '68, Andrew Dauber '00 and Sara Steindel Dauber '99.

youngest (Sophia) is turning 2 in October, with Sebastian and Isabella in between.

Tamer spent more than four years as CDO of Magrabi Retail (the Middle East's largest optical retail chain) and executive director of the Magrabi Foundation (an NGO focused on tackling needless blindness in Africa). Tamer travels back and forth to the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia to support an advisory practice, Ethica Partners, which he started late last year. The group is focused on corporate strategy and capital raising mandates, servicing small and mid-cap companies across the globe.

Tamer recently joined Not Impossible Labs, started up by a close friend, Mick Ebeling (in a COO/CIO capacity), where they work together to incubate and commercialize socially sustainable businesses. He sits on the board of the Africa Eye Foundation (as VP of fundraising), which last October opened the first not-for-profit subspecialty eye hospital in sub-Saharan Africa (based in Yaoundé, Cameroon). Tamer has been very busy!

Richard Luthmann wrote in with a great update: "No summer vacation for me this year, as my election/ballot access law practice has really taken off. I am the law chair for the New York State Reform Party and I spent a good part of July and August securing ballot access for citywide candidates in NYC, including in the races for



SCOTT RUDD

mayor, public advocate and comptroller, and in several City Council races. As the top lawyer in the party, I will have the opportunity to do some New York State 'legal tourism,' as there are ballot access issues in Syracuse and Buffalo that I am working on, as well as appeals to be heard in Albany. I hope my wife, Tammara, and I will be able to get away sometime after November 8 (my birthday and the day after Election Day). Additionally, earlier in the summer I was named one of Brooklyn's 40 Stars Under 40 by the *Brooklyn Reporter*."

Congratulations to **Daniel Schiff** on his wedding to Emmanuel Garcia-Morales on June 9. Daniel

is an attorney at the Federal Labor Relations Authority and Emmanuel is a Ph.D. candidate at Johns Hopkins. Daniel and Emmanuel live in Baltimore.

If you've been hiding under a rock, you may have missed **Jonathan Lemire's** incredible political reporting — he's been everywhere lately. He writes for the Associated Press and it's hard to escape him — in my car, on TV (MSNBC), everywhere. It's amazing to hear his insights and terrific reporting. Brings me back to our *Spec* days.

Congrats, Jon!

Finally, I love to include photos of you in the column. Please share if you have any photos of yourselves with fellow College alums! *CCT's* only photo guidelines are that all photos must have at least two College alumni in them and the photos must be high resolution. Feel free to send them to me at jrg53@columbia.edu, with caption and photographer information, and I will get it incorporated. You can also use *CCT's* photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2002

Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani
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Helena Andrews-Dyer is a "reporter for *The Washington Post*,

covering politics and popular culture. She's interviewed everyone from Tom Hanks, to John Legend, to Cicely Tyson, to Aziz Ansari on red carpets across Washington, D.C. (yes, D.C. has red carpets ... and real celebrities). Helena and her husband, Robert, an IT consultant, welcomed their first child, a daughter named Sally Rose, in April."

Allison Lloyds O'Neill had a baby boy on February 2! Alexander Grant was born at Columbia on West 168th Street and was named for Alexander Hamilton.

Agnia Grigas released her third book, *The New Geopolitics of Natural Gas*.

NYC director **Mike Mellia** was commissioned by *W* magazine to direct a series of infinitely looping videos in a fashion editorial featuring Balenciaga, Céline and more. It was filmed during Frieze New York Art Week.

Garonne Decossard SEAS'02 works on the Global Acceptance and Solutions team at MasterCard. Leveraging her chemical engineering background, Garonne recently turned her hobby for product making into launching a haircare line that caters to those suffering from treatable alopecia. Her hair oil is well received and is now sold online, at hair salons and in small boutiques in the Tri-State area. She has also partnered with Dr. **Ahmet Altiner SEAS'02** to make her oil

available at his dermatology offices on the Upper West Side and in Brooklyn Heights. Garonne has also embarked on the wonderful and thrilling journey of motherhood, with her daughter, Grace.

Scott Koonin shared a great picture from our 15-year reunion (see it nearby)! Please send updates on what and who I missed there to soniah57@gmail.com. And, as always, all other updates are welcome!

2003

REUNION 2018
MAY 31–JUNE 2

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I hope that you've found this past summer rejuvenating, fun and fulfilling. In this issue we highlight classmates who are having a huge impact on industries as wide ranging as K–12 and higher education, social work, food and beverage, and entertainment, with quite a few updates from the educators in our class. Would love to hear from more

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 you, be it about your career, family, leadership positions, hobbies or even just an interesting book you've read, trip you've taken or restaurant tip you'd like to share. Do drop me a line at mjn29@columbia.edu so that I can include you in my next column.

Francis Lora SW'09, MS, LCSW, CFS is now SIFI (seminar on field instruction) certified and able to officially supervise social work students from all participating social work master's programs. Additionally, already a certified financial social worker and financial emotional development specialist, Francis is developing a course and coaching experience to

introducing international audiences to baijiu (Chinese traditional spirits) at Capital Spirits Beijing, the world's first dedicated baijiu bar, **Bill Isler** will soon be back in NYC full time. Bill and the Capital Spirits team will, in early 2018 and in cooperation with a major Chinese distillery, be launching a brand of baijiu in the United States and Europe, to be found soon on a bar shelf near you. More details to come in the next months."

Brandon Victor Dixon continues to make headlines, this time playing Terry Silver on the Starz hit drama series, *Power*. [Editor's note: See cover story.]

If you've been hiding under a rock, you might have missed Jonathan Lemire '01's incredible political reporting for the Associated Press.

help professionals who have been in and out of debt to stay out of debt.

Mindy Levine '04, GSAS'08 shares, "In addition to my work as an associate professor of chemistry at the University of Rhode Island, I am the incoming chair of the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society, serving chemists at all stages in the greater Boston area. Be in touch if you fit that description! Also, I recently started a new science birthday party and children's science programming business: The Party Elements!"

Seth Wax writes, "My wife, Elisabeth Berger BC'03, and I welcomed our first child, Mia, in March. I also recently started as the Jewish Chaplain at Williams College."

Will Wilmot writes, "My wife, Kate Klock '05, and I welcomed our son, Julian, in November. I've been teaching Latin since graduation and work on the Upper West Side at Trinity School."

Ebony Dix writes, "I am chief resident in psychiatry at WVU in Morgantown, W.Va., and am applying for geriatric psychiatry fellowships. When I'm not busy presenting at national conferences, I like to spend time at home with my three feline children."

Dana Zullo, now a mother of two, volunteers as the social media manager and board secretary for the Columbia University Club of Atlanta.

Following 14 years in China, with the most recent three years spent

Jill Santopolo's latest book, *The Light We Lost*, was recently chosen by *The Denver Post* as one of its staff picks. While *The Light We Lost* is for adults, Jill has a number of publications for children, including her *Sparkle Spa* series.

Carter Reum was invited to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Carter, alongside his brother Courtney Reum '01, co-founded M13, "a brand development and investment company accelerating businesses at the nexus of consumer products, technology and media; companies such as Pinterest, Lyft, and Shake Shack are part of their vast portfolio."

2004

Jaydip Mahida
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Jax Russo Curtin LAW'07 writes, "It's been a while since I sent an update! I've been senior counsel at Heineken USA since 2013. In November 2015, my husband, **Jeff Curtin**, and I welcomed our daughter, Aurora Catherine. We live in Park Slope in Brooklyn."

David Johns TC'06 will return to Columbia to pursue a Ph.D. in sociology and education policy at Teachers College after receiving his master's in the same disciplines in 2006.

Adam Gidwitz's children's novel, *The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog* — an epic medieval adventure — was awarded a Newbery Honor, one of the highest awards in children's literature. It's the story of three children — a peasant girl, a Jewish boy and a young monk of African descent — with miraculous powers, fighting to save the Talmuds of France from being burned by King Louis IX. [Editor's note: See Spring 2017 "Bookshelf."]

Brian Platzer's novel *Bed-Stuy is Burning* was published in July. *Vanity Fair*, *The Wall Street Journal*, NBC and *The New York Post* have all raved about this "thrilling debut novel about marriage, gentrification, parenthood, race and the dangerous bargains we make with ourselves" (Ann Packer) set over the course of one cataclysmic day when riots erupt in a rapidly gentrifying Brooklyn neighborhood. Brian says he feels deeply indebted to his professors for teaching him so much.

Sivan Kinberg GSAS'15 is an assistant professor of pediatrics and biomedical informatics at Columbia University Medical Center. She specializes in pediatric gastroenterology. As the director of the Pediatric Intestinal Rehabilitation Clinic, Sivan leads a multidisciplinary team that cares for children with intestinal failure.

Vernon Beckford wrote in to say that he recently got married.

Congratulations, Vernon!

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 might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Marc Aspis and his wife, Sharon Aspis BC'10, welcomed their second son, Matthew Eli, on May 26.

Congrats, Marc and Sharon!

From **Cristina Carpio** PS'09: "I am a board certified general surgeon,

now working at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, Mass."

Great work, Cristina!

Please send your notes to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Your classmates would love to hear from you!

2006

Michelle Oh Sing
mo2057@columbia.edu

Friends, here are some exciting updates from classmates:

Marc Williams married Julie Nusbaum on December 31 in Great Neck, N.Y. Attendees included Danny Bessner GS'06, Dave Hudson GS'06, David Kaplowitz GS'07, **Brian Wolfson**, **Seth Wainer**, **David Seidman**, **Asher Mullokandov** and **Gavriel Mullokandov** '07. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!" for a photo.]

Jonathan Ward returned to the United States after 11 years abroad, during which time he completed a Ph.D. at Oxford in China-India relations. He has set up a company to consult on China and India and resides in Washington, D.C.

Neeraj Pradhan recently joined the leadership team of Commonwealth Joe Coffee Roasters as its director of corporate strategy. From the company: "Commonwealth Joe is a premium specialty coffee and nitro cold brew company that is vertically integrated with multi-channel distribution and retail. It is a leading provider of nitro cold brew to offices in the D.C. Metro Area and is looking to scale to new geographies in the near future."

Brian Wagner is taking a leave of absence from his job as COO of ScoutComms to deploy to Afghanistan as a Navy reservist. He is assigned to Resolute Support, the NATO-led train, advise and assist mission, and will serve as a public affairs officer in Kabul through April 2018.

2007

David D. Chait
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It was so nice seeing so many of you at our 10-year reunion in June! The Class of 2007 had an incredibly

strong showing and I hope everyone had as much fun as I did. Here, some exciting updates from our class:

Melissa Flores Caban and her husband, Cleo Caban, welcomed their first child, Alexander John Caban, on May 10.

Amram Migdal, Rebecca Migdal and Meirav Migdal are thrilled to welcome daughter and little sister, Sarit Lotte Migdal.

Helam Gebremariam and **Subash Iyer** had a baby boy, Anand Desta Iyer-Gebremariam, on July 20. All are doing well in Washington, D.C.!

Addison Anderson shares, "My movie *Trivia Night* is now streaming on Amazon! It's an indie comedy set in the pub quiz underworld of NYC. It appeared at a bunch of film festivals (and won 'Best Feature' at one) and I made it alongside fellow CC Paunchies Colin Drummond '09 and Michael Molina '10."

John Shekitka TC'17 earned an M.Phil. in social studies education from TC. He writes, "I hope to have the Ph.D. finished in the next year or so."

In January, **Alison Mariella Désir** GSAS'11 launched Run 4 All Women, a "running initiative created to support women and provide a hedge against political efforts to defund Planned Parenthood." She shares: "The movement raised more than \$103,000 in just 30 days — more than double the goal. Alison led the 240-mile relay from Harlem to Washington, D.C., January 18–21, with hundreds of runners and supporters along the way donating supplies, food, time and encouragement to the team. The group is now taking its next steps, with several runs that were scheduled for the second weekend in August, again benefiting Planned Parenthood, along with a virtual participation option. For more information, visit Run4AllWomen.com or [@run4allwomen](https://twitter.com/run4allwomen) on social media." [Editor's note: See "Alumni Corner," Spring 2017.]

Josie Raymond JRN'08 (née Swindler) writes, "I'm excited to share that I'm running for State Representative in Louisville, Ky., in the district where I grew up. It's time for empathetic and engaged new leadership willing to talk about higher wages, healthcare as a right and quality education from pre-K to college. Please see what the cam-



Kat Vorotova '07, Julia Kite '07 and Rachel Hensel '07 met up on South Lawn during their 10-year reunion.

paign is about at josieraymond.com and let me know if you want to join us on the trail. We would welcome a *Spectator* embed."

2008

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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On May 20, **John Davisson** and **Amanda Erickson** got married on Long Island, alongside many of "our fellow Speciees." In attendance were **Andrew Martin**, **Owen Hearey**, **Josh Hirschland**, Megan Greenwell BC'06, Leora Falk BC'07, **Erin Durkin**, Adam Kushner '03, Jimmy Vielkind-Neun '07, Morgan Sellers '06, **Laura Bruns**, **Deborah Beim**, Daniella Zalcman '09, Lydia DePillis '09, Sara Vogel '09 and Simone Sebastian '03. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!" for a photo.]

David Henry Gerson married Liv Prior Colliander on September 3. The couple met on their first day of graduate school at the American Film Institute.

Ariana Mason married Cornell alumnus Michael Denis-Rohr on June 17 in Philadelphia. **Carlene Liriano** and **Beatriz Herrera** were in the bridal party. Other alumni in attendance: **Jeff Fineberg**, Anna Fineberg '10, **Caroline Sherman**, **Alexandra Eisermann**, **Kardelen Pekcan Turan** SEAS'08,

Angela Kou and the bride's dad, Gary Mason '69. Ariana practices dentistry in the Philadelphia area, so contact her at drmasondmd@gmail.com if you are looking for a dentist!

Maximilian Bulinski married Erin Maskell in late April in Baltimore. In attendance were Columbia friends spanning the Classes of 1958–2010. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!" for a photo.]

Congrats to all! Send your news to me at nn2126@columbia.edu.

2009

Alidad Damooei
damooei@gmail.com

On October 7, 2016, **Chantée Dempsey** married her law school love, Nicholas J. Morin. The ceremony was held at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, with the reception at the Loeb Boathouse Central Park. Columbians in attendance included **Toluwalope Onafowokan**, **David Cooper** and **Jordan Tucker**. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!" for a photo.]

Maxime Harnik (née Glass) and Evan Harnik welcomed their daughter, Rose Sloane Harnik, on May 30.

Monique Alves celebrated the completion of her Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business M.B.A. on June 10. She heads to Seattle next to join the Microsoft retail marketing group. Monique proudly rocks Blue and Green now.

Share your news with classmates by emailing me at damooei@gmail.com!

2010

Julia Feldberg Klein
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

Hi 2010. For the first time in a while, I have some news of my own to share. It was an exciting summer, to say the least. After graduating from Harvard Business School in May, I got married in early June to Gregg Klein at the Boston Public Library, on a gorgeous summer evening. In attendance from Columbia and Barnard were **Matthew Harold**, **Joey Goldberg**, **Alexa Hubbard**, **Charlotte Freinberg**, **Gabe Saltzman**, **Charlotte Furet** BC'10, **Roxanna Dehnad** SEAS'10, **Stephanie Zuckerbrod** SEAS'10, **Jason Zucker-**

brod '09 and **Mohan Ramaswamy** SEAS'04. Now, I am settling in to a calmer life in Boston and was to start a job as a product manager at TripAdvisor in August.

Rachel Vishnepolsky finished a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Chicago this past summer. She was planning to move back to NYC and start work as a data scientist in August.

Last but not least, from **Chris Yim**: "In June, I started a sock monkey company. This is my shameless plug, but the mission of the company is to give support to children who grew up without a best friend and lacked that emotional and social outlet. I'm calling the company and product Friend Monkey Best. The website is still in production, but will hopefully be up by the time that you read this. It's a solo project that is allowing me to explore myself as an artist. I'm doing all the designing, sewing, production and creating a unique facial expression on each sock monkey. If you're asking what you can do with this monkey, it's geared toward both adults and children, and you can take it with you wherever you would meet or hang out with a best friend — in the front seat of a car, at a cafe, on the beach or next to you at home on the couch watching *Friends from College* (a new Netflix series).

"**Jake Grumbach** and I went to Yosemite recently. I told him that I've become more agnostic, and we talked about existence. The conclusion that I reached is that while life may be 'meaningless,' meaning, as **Tiff Jung**



Monique Alves '09 with Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business Professor Paul A. Argenti '75 at Alves' graduation from Tuck.

would say, is all relative. We are on this big rock floating through space, and what we've done in banding together as a human race is a beautiful thing, and it's up to me as an individual to create a narrative for myself to find meaning in what I do, the people I love and how I go about my day to day. I organize a Yosemite trip every year and it's one of my favorite places to go in the world. When I'm out in nature and experiencing really beautiful things that you can't articulate with words, I realize there's so much more in the fabric of this reality. Are we in base reality?

"So, my faith has changed significantly in the past 18 months, and I find myself looking for a new identity. Stay tuned. I recently celebrated two years of marriage, and I can say that it does get better! My wife, Grace, and I are hitting our stride with a lot of hard work that we've done to improve how we communicate and support each other. I still annoy her, but I'd like to think I make her laugh and [that she is] equally as happy [as I am]."

"I've recently started volunteering at a homeless shelter serving meals. I'm doing improv and starting to put myself out there at a few jams in San Francisco. I'm also training for a marathon in November that I'll run with my father-in-law. He wanted to cross one item off the bucket list, so I'm doing this with him."

"Oh! And I'm looking for ways to get involved in racial justice. If you have any ideas or are working on anything interesting, please get in touch."

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
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And the Class of 2011 keeps making moves! The two of us really loved getting your updates this time, as we always do, especially since we're both scurrying around hospitals these days trying to learn some medicine. Your news updates are a periodic bright spot in our days.

First, some vacation updates from this past summer. **Nuriel Moghavem** joined with **Jan Hendrik Van Zoelen Cortés** and the two successfully traveled across the trans-Siberian railroad. A highlight

was meeting two brothers on the train, both lawyers for the factory that manufactures Kalashnikov rifles. Jan used his Department of Slavic Languages skills to chat with them, while the brothers made it clear they did not want him to translate for "The American."

Nicole Catá traveled to Dublin, Barcelona and Verona this past summer. One of the highlights was strolling along the Barceloneta and sampling tapas with **Anna Caroline Ultvedt Malkan**! In August, Nicole started working as a staff attorney at the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (fun fact: Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann '73 is there, too!).

And many of our fine classmates have new gigs! **Kurt Kanazawa** has signed with Aperture Talent Agency in Los Angeles, owned by Wilhelmina International. It's a boutique full-service agency for commercial work, print modeling, and theatrical film and television. After Kurt had some small successes in film, TV and print modeling in Italy, and working with a couple of agencies there, he figured he'd try it in his hometown for a bit. He suspects he'll be around until the end of 2017 at the minimum, but likely longer; however, he says he misses Italy: acting in Italian was (predictably) so fun. If you know of casting directors or writers in Los Angeles for TV miniseries, sitcoms, movies or theater, please send them his way or have them check out the spiffy kurtkanazawa.com.

In May, **Dino Grandoni JRN'15** started as a reporter at *The Washington Post*, where he was hired to cover energy and environmental issues and start a newsletter on that beat. The job dislodged him from New York, where he had lived since arriving on campus in August 2007. Dino says he misses the city, but is thrilled to work at the *Post* and report on the Trump administration. If you are in Washington, D.C., give him a holler.

Coco Oliva recently started a job at Providence, the two-Michelin-starred restaurant in Los Angeles, where she is a line cook in chef Michael Cimarusti's kitchen. Previously she worked for chefs Jon Shook and Vinny Dotolo, the restaurateurs behind Animal, Son of a Gun, Trois Mec and Petit Trois in Los Angeles. Nom.



ANDREW KISCH

Candise Henry '12, Alessia Morales '12, Amina McKenzie '12 and Alex Pitz '12 celebrated their five-year reunion together.

And an update on a classmate who literally has a new gig: **Lety Elnaggar** launched the Berlin-based, futuristic-world music band Out Of Nations, which plays cross-over music rooted in funk, Arabic, Latin and pop styles, inspired by a desire to fly effortlessly over borders and between cultures. Their first single, "Sellem," is available in the Middle East and North Africa and debuted worldwide on July 11 on iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify, Bandcamp and so on.

And fulfilling every glorious stereotype, two of our CC friends have married their BC sweethearts. **Jack Zietman** married Ilana Krakowski BC'11 on June 11. The couple met in a Hinduism class during sophomore year and started dating after running into each other on the street in Washington, D.C., a year after graduation. Many Columbia and Barnard alumni attended the wedding, including Shosh Brownstein GS'09, Aviva Buechler BC'11, David Charles '52, Simeon Cohen GS'11, Brandon DeShields GS'12, Ariel Fein BC'11, Shayna Flink GS'11, Arielle Fried-Tanzer (née Feit) GS'11, Mira John SEAS'11, Laura Landau BC'12, **Hannah Perls**, Adina Rosen BC'11, Ariella Rosen GS'09, Jordan Schuster GSAS'07, Rami Schwartz GS'11, David Shiovitz SEAS'11 and Andy Wessbecher GS'12. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!" for a photo.]

In August 2016, **Vesal Yazdi** and Nicole Cerutti BC'12 were married

in Florence, Italy. Dear friends **Alex Bancu**, **Alex Chun**, **Kate Clairmont**, **Devika Ramnani** and **Kelly Valencia SEAS'11** were in attendance. Vesal graduated from Harvard Business School in May and the couple moved back to New York City in June. Vesal will be an investor at Davidson Kempner while Nicole will be a psychotherapist. They're looking forward to seeing old faces in the city!

And, of course, many of us can't get enough school so we keep on going and then sometimes we graduate. **Eleanor Shi SIPA'17** wrapped up two more years at Columbia for an M.P.A.; she focused on renewable energy finance and policy. After traveling through Europe with **Kamsen Lau**, **Peter Lucak** and **Elyssa Goldberg '12**, she packed her bags and (finally) left New York for the East Bay. Eleanor now lives in Berkeley with **Anne Kramer** and works for SunPower in project finance, trying to resist joining the bandwagon of Golden State fans.

Ola Jacunski GSAS'16 successfully defended a Ph.D. in computational biology, and graduated from Columbia for (she hopes) the last time. She began working with The Boston Consulting Group in August.

Bracha Waldman (née Rubin) TC'15 and Benjamin Waldman GS'08, JTS'08 welcomed their first child, Samson Gary, in June. They recently moved to Teaneck, N.J. Bracha is a speech-language pathologist and Benjamin teaches U.S. history in New York City schools.

And lastly but not leastly, **Justin Vlasits** finished a Ph.D. in philosophy at UC Berkeley this past summer and is off to start a post-doc at Universität Tübingen in Germany in October. He will be joined by his wife, Anna Vlasits (née Corke) '09, and son, Arthur (2).

2012

Sarah Chai
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It was so great catching up with so many of you at our five-year reunion in June. Between dancing on Low Steps and grabbing some Heights margs, it was amazing to hear how our lives have changed but also to revert to a version of our college selves. In that spirit, I want to share "A Personal Note to Columbia University's Class of 2012," written by my dear friend **Morgan Fletcher** about a week after our reunion:

"This time last week I still wasn't sure whether or not to go to my Columbia five-year reunion. To be honest, the mere idea was anxiety-inducing; many of the people I now call my closest friends were not in my graduating class (or even in college with me), but if they were, they weren't coming into town for it. What squad would I roll up with? Who would I cling to as I avoided all my exes (don't judge me, personal growth is a journey and life is long!)? What was I supposed to do about bumping into the people I remembered as not liking me/

who I didn't like/ who were too cool for me? How would I navigate the hundreds of faces? What if I forgot someone or had been forgotten?

"So I was resolute in my decision making and, despite the fact that reunion was happening about 50 blocks from where I live, I decided I. Wasn't. Going.

"I told myself, 'I see everyone enough on FB as it is, right? I'm close to the people I want to be close to, and I can make my own decisions! And I don't want to give Columbia any more of my money!' My mind was set.

"But I realized that I was acting from a place of fear. And I was afraid because I was actually incredibly sad for most of my undergraduate experience.

"As I've mentioned on FB, my dad was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer late fall of my freshman year. He died 10 months later — exactly how long the doctors said he would live. And even before his diagnosis, I was not at home on this new campus. Though New York was my native city, I had been very happy with my high school life and friends in Virginia. I was the only one of my group of friends (still tight-knit) who went out of state for college, and missing them was basically a four-credit class in itself. Once my dad was diagnosed, I was deeply depressed and had some very dark thoughts. I also spent some time in some pretty toxic relationships, both platonic and romantic. Basically, I was at an all-time high, y'all.

"Time did its thing and kept moving, and I stuck it out through



ANDREW PINELLI

Members of the Class of 2014 had fun at Park Avenue Spring in April. Here, Alena Kluge, Maggie D'Arcy, Charlotte Haney, Olivia Rose Tow and Dana Benami.

the four years, holding on tight to the promise that an Ivy League degree and an overinflated sense of optimism could see me through the worst. Despite what I was going through, I didn't take time off or transfer schools, though I'm sure my body and mind would have thanked me if I had. I made unhealthy choices and wrecked some relationships. I caused damage and was collateral damage myself. We were all experiencing learning and growing pains, and the environment of Columbia was unyielding in its demands...

"And then I went abroad for eight months, came back the second semester of senior year, and then it was all over. 'Finally,' I thought, liberated. I practically ran off of campus — I even accidentally slept through a graduation ceremony because I was so emotionally and physically disconnected (sorry BSO, love yoooo). I felt isolated and exhausted, ready to move on from an experience where I had largely felt chewed up and spit out.

"What kept me going through-out those tumultuous four years, though, were the friendships I had found. Somehow through all of the hardship I connected with people who, no matter whether I faltered or flourished, stood by me. They consoled me, protected me and pushed me forward.

"At our five-year reunion, I learned that there were more of those people than I even knew. I was able to catch up with classmates and learn about who they're becoming. In our post-grad worlds, we'd moved into adulthood, shedding much of the stress of Expectation™ ingrained in us by a demanding educational infrastructure. For five years we'd been learning to operate in new and less predictable environments. Our experiences differed dramatically, and without a series of required reading

texts to unify us, we were in the process of becoming our fullest and most individualized selves.

"More than once during these inspiring conversations I heard — or said — a variation of, 'Well I know you're doing XYZ,' 'cause I saw it online! How is that going?' I received this inquiry with joy. We have kept an eye on one another digitally and supported one another from our own corners of the world, only to find one another evolved and still evolving, back on campus five years later.

"I didn't anticipate the encouragement, enthusiasm and love I was immediately met with. I had overestimated the negative impact I had on others during my most trying times, and underestimated a human's ability to empathize, forget, forgive and let live.

"I saw someone from CU Admissions once reunion was over, and I asked her if she felt that every graduating class has students who feel as unified as we seemed to, or if other reunions were less emotional and enthusiastic? She told me, 'Sometimes. Sometimes there are groups within the years that are tight, but not like you guys. You guys as a whole seem close, and that's unique.'

"So I want to take this moment to say to those whom I graduated with, thank you for being a beautiful and unique group of individuals. Thank you for finding your way to pursuing your dreams and bringing that inspiration to our reunion. And thanks to the friends who set off my FOMO so hard that I bought event tickets day-of to most of our reunion events and stayed up past 4 a.m. each night. You were all worth it, from Day One to now."

Thanks to Morgan for sharing this beautiful piece. Morgan is based in Harlem and is a social media marketer for both brands and nonprofits. Off the clock you can



David Beal '15, Martha Scott Burton '15, Sam Yulsman '14 and Gabrielle DaCosta '15 celebrated Richard Lenz '12's birthday earlier this year.

find her in the process of learning languages (she's now on her third non-native language!), co-directing the Art Girl Army, performing freelance voiceover work, teaching embroidery workshops or discussing pop culture over tea.

And thanks to Ruthy, Ali, Dominique and Gillian for sharing the latest in their lives!

Ruthy Glass (née Sher) successfully completed a Ph.D. in psychoneuroimmunology at Rutgers and will continue her research during a post-doctoral fellowship in the Vincent Center for Reproductive Biology in Massachusetts General Hospital through Harvard.

Congratulations, Ruthy!

Ali Hard TC'17 says hello from her new home in Washington, D.C. "After finishing a master's in nutrition and public health at Teachers College this past May, I was excited to start a position as senior public policy associate at the National WIC Association in August in Washington, D.C. I'll be fighting for access to critical nutrition services for families. If you are in D.C., please reach out! Mike Weng SEAS'11 and I are looking forward to attending plenty of protests and marches, and we'd love for our Columbia friends to join us!"

After wrapping up her time at the Obama White House, **Dominique Mann** began working in corporate communications at GE. In her spare time, she's writing, acting and working on multimedia side projects. She's based in Washington, D.C., and Boston and hopes to travel more domestically in the coming year, especially to better understand

the country at this time. Feel free to connect with her, especially for travel and organizing ideas!

Gillian Rhodes sent an update from South Korea: "It was a traveling spring, with a performance in India and being on a panel for the 'School of Tomorrow' conference in Islamabad. [In July, I spent] a long working holiday in Paris, where I performed for the OuiShare Fest 2017 and TEDxVannes! Too bad I couldn't fit in a trip to New York for reunion!"

We'll see you at the next reunion, Gillian!

Thanks to everyone who wrote in! Please email me at sarahbchai@gmail.com to get your notes in the Winter 2017–18 issue!

2013

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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After graduation, **Lucie Cincinatis** worked for a private equity fund for four months, quickly realizing that she didn't find the meaning or purpose she was looking for in that field. She left New York and moved to Haiti through a fellowship program with the American Jewish Committee with the aim of



Daniela Quintanilla '14 and Abigail Mitchell '14 took this photo during a March trip to Preikestolen, Norway.

developing educational programs and support schools in the slums of Port-au-Prince. After a year, she started a social enterprise called Jacmel & Co., a sustainable fashion brand, which aimed to promote job creation in Haiti and show the beauty of the country through crafts and arts.

She continued her life journey, which brought her to Asia, where she discovered the beauty of the Himalayas through trekking, dove into yoga and meditation in India, and learned more about Buddhism. Lucie then launched The Donkeys, a social impact travel company based in Nepal. She facilitates and leads treks, which also include meditation, yoga and volunteer work for a school that collapsed in the earthquake. When Lucie is not facilitating treks in Nepal, she usually travels around the world, in her words, "teaching yoga or facilitating self-development workshops that aim to create harmony, beauty and gratefulness in the life of other humans."

Since graduating, **Arielle Kogut** has moved on from investment banking to the buy-side. She hit her first-year anniversary at Hudson Bay Capital and travels every chance she has.

On August 24, **Victoria Wolf Lewis** married Hezi Ben Sasson GS'16, JTS'16 in Israel, where they got engaged in December 2016. Victoria and Hezi met on campus only a few days before Victoria's graduation, just as Hezi was completing his freshman year at GS. They spent the summer together until Victoria left for Cleveland, where she earned a master's in music (in violin performance and Suzuki

pedagogy) at the Cleveland Institute of Music in May 2015. After a year and a half of overnight bus rides between Cleveland and NYC and quick campus trips, during which most of the time was spent in Uris, in Hezi's words, "The rest is history."

Victoria performs mostly opera and chamber music and also teaches privately. After graduating from GS with a major in psychology and from JTS with a major in modern Jewish studies, Hezi has been working in the finance industry in New York City.

I recently moved from New York City to Los Angeles to take a role at the tech company where I work. I stay involved in the Columbia community remotely and look forward to working with the West Coast alumni organizations to further establish the CC presence in California.

Send notes to me at talaakhavan@gmail.com. Your classmates want to hear from you!

2014

Rebecca Fattell
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George T. Phillips graduated with honors from Georgetown's Law Center in May and will begin practicing with Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan in New York this fall. George's girlfriend, **Caitlin Jokubaitis LAW'19**, is a Stone Scholar at the Law School.

Andrew Wright got engaged to his high school sweetheart, Caitlyn Ziobro (NYU Tisch'15), earlier this



Emily Dreibelbis '14 (left) and Naomi Senbet '14 ran a half-marathon in Seattle.

year! He's VP of research at Marathon Strategies, a New York-based public affairs firm founded by Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer campaigns alum Phil Singer. Andrew helps to manage opposition/self-research and due diligence vetting for clients.

Jennifer Lee was scheduled to start at Harvard Business School this fall. Having spent time at SpaceX in operations, she says she's excited about the power of hardware to make our lives more efficient, interesting and experiential. She spent the summer living in France and eating way too many almond croissants.

Naomi Senbet and **Emily Dreibelbis** did not meet until they both moved to Seattle three years after graduation. The Columbia connection helped pull them through their first half marathon together; they completed it in under two hours. #sub2 #GoLions

Bob Sun is a recipient of a medical student fellowship to conduct research at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences/

vice, which he is attending on a fully funded merit-based scholarship. He completed an internship at the Department of State in Washington, D.C., this spring and spent the summer as an intern at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Austin was last in Beijing in 2013, as an undergraduate participating in the Columbia-Tsinghua exchange program.

And I, **Rebecca Fattell**, still only live with members of JJ5.

2015

Kareem Carryl
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Doesn't it feel like we just started 2017? Now we are already in the fall. As you return to school or get back into the work grind, please remember to send your updates my way! For now, we have a few updates:

Bitania Wondimu writes, "I'm excited to be starting my second year of medical school at Northwestern



Parthi Loganathan SEAS'16 sent in this photo of Columbia alumni and students hanging out in San Francisco. Pictured: Brian Zeng '16, Robert Ying SEAS'16, Adam Reis SEAS'15, Nate Brennand SEAS'15, Bella Shim '19, Flora Min Jung Park SEAS'18 and Loganathan.

have been contributing to the Brazil Practice Group for the past year. I took the GRE this past summer and am preparing to apply for Ph.D. programs. I hope to begin my Ph.D. in history, specifically Brazilian history, in fall 2018. I am looking forward to reaching out both to my undergraduate professors at Columbia and prospective professors in doctoral programs of interest as I prepare my graduate applications."

Oluremi Onabanjo wrote that she recently curated an international exhibition, "Recent Histories: Contemporary African Photography and Video Art" (2017) with The Walther Collection; she also edited the accompanying catalog of the same name, co-published with Steidl. While she took on the role of director of exhibitions and collections in fall 2016, she started working on this project while interning at The Walther Collection during her senior year at Columbia.

As for me, I had a recent visit to Pittsburgh, where I caught up with **Zan Gilani**.

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. You can also use the CCT Class Notes photos webform to send in a photo of yourself with fellow College

alumni: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
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Hey 2016, your classmates were up to some amazing things this summer:

Jackson Fisher writes: "Oh hey, Class of 2016! I didn't see you there. I was a little distracted by my dreams and the fact that I am living them. These dreams include working in a support staff role at a cool office with lots of free snacks, yelling at current undergrads about how we never got a Shake Shack when I was in school and hanging out in the air ducts above 1020 so I can feel young again but also like a spooky ghost. I also produce and perform comedy all over the city! Simone Norman BC'15 and I cohost a monthly stand-up show, *Branded Content*, and I improvise in a show whose name is probably too gross to print in this publication. Follow me on Facebook or Twitter (@jacksondfisher) for details on the shows — we love to see classmates in the crowd! But please don't tell my boss about my tweets. Many of them are also gross, and I really depend on those snacks."

Nick Perloff-Giles writes that he recently signed under his artist project, Wingtip, to Republic Records, a

Oluremi Onabanjo '15 curated an international exhibition, "Recent Histories: Contemporary African Photography and Video Art" (2017) with The Walther Collection.

National Institutes of Health in Durham, N.C., July 2017–June 2018.

Austin Lowe completed his first year of graduate studies in the Asian Studies Program at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Ser-

University, and I'm continuing to do research with the Chicago South Side Trauma First Responders Course."

Paloma Contreras writes, "I live in Brooklyn and work at the law firm Cleary Gottlieb, where I



Zan Gilani '15 (left) and Kareem Carryl '15 recently caught up in Pittsburgh.

division of Universal Music Group. He's thrilled and excited to be playing festivals all over the country this summer, including Lollapalooza in Chicago, Life is Beautiful in Las Vegas and Electric Zoo in NYC! He'll also be on tour throughout the country and Canada in the fall and winter. Please reach out if you see him on a flyer near you!

Taylor Gray Wlazlo writes: "After four years of long distance between New York and Texas, Andrew (Texas A&M Engineering '16) and I were married July 1 in Houston at the beautiful Chateau Polonez. Several Columbia alumni were in the bridal party, including maid of honor **Sarah Berlinger SEAS'16**, bridesmaids **Alison Chang** and **Sonya Li**, and bridesman **Saaket Pradhan** (former president of CC'16). Also attending were **Richin Kabra** and **Akira Baruah SEAS'16**. After a wonderful honeymoon in Scotland and Ireland, we have settled back into life in west Texas, where Andrew is a petroleum engineer and I will attend Texas Tech HSC School of Medicine." [Editor's note: See "Just Married!" for a photo.]

Raymond de Oliveira writes: "I met Nadia seven and a half years ago. We were married less than a month after graduation in Annapolis, Md., at the William Paca House. Columbia alumni who attended were **Michael Barth**, **Claudia Moreira SEAS'16**, **Marc Pelessone SEAS'16**, **Joseph Powers**, **Christopher Sabaitis**, **Ludwig Suarez '15** and **Ming Zhao**. Less than two days later we were in San Francisco, where

we had signed a rental lease without having ever seen the apartment. For the next month, until work started, we honeymooned around the city, attending lots of fairs, festivals and concerts, and lived together for the first time." [Editor's note: See "Just Married!" for a photo.]

Parthi Loganathan SEAS'16 writes: "There's a growing Columbia alumni community in San Francisco. Do reach out! We'll recreate good times on Low Steps at Dolores. A recent gathering had **Brian Zeng**, **Robert Ying SEAS'16**, **Adam Reis SEAS'15**, **Nate Brennand SEAS'15**, **Bella Shim '19**, **Flora Min Jung Park SEAS'18** and me!"

Have any fun things you want to share? Want to put some of your friends on blast? Let me know at lliukrason@gmail.com!

2017

REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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Hello from your class correspondent. Hope everyone had a great summer and is adjusting well to being an actual adult. Some updates from our classmates:

Whitney-Shannon Alam has been working at Columbia University's Office of Alumni & Development as the coordinator for Columbia Giving Day, scheduled for Wednesday, October 18! Afterward, Whitney-Shannon plans to be a college adviser at NYU.

Nick Wolferman went to Namibia and saw tons of different animals. Overall, he found it to be an awesome experience, he says.

Makeda Yohannes is a research and program associate at the Brennan Center for Justice, working on voting rights and elections in the democracy program.

This fall, **Justin Aimonetti** will attend the UVA School of Law; he was awarded the prestigious Dillard Scholarship.



Jason Eisner '17 (center) spent two months trekking through Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Japan with Eitan Neugut '17 and Jordana Fremed '17.

Hala Moussawi is a research assistant at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C.

Yushu Han started a full-time job as a research associate in the New York office of Sanford C. Bernstein. This past summer she spent time in her hometown, Beijing, and traveled across China before heading back to New York. She is exploring fun activities and exotic restaurants in the city outside the Morningside Heights bubble. Yushu plans to get a guinea pig soon!

After competing at the NCAA Track Championships in Eugene, Ore., **Natalie Tanner** has enjoyed traveling to London, Bristol, Nice and Stockholm with some of her closest friends from Columbia. After her travels, Natalie packed up her life in New York and moved to California to start neuroscience research in the Memory Lab at Stanford.

Taylor Mills is a legislative assistant for the NYC Council. In October, she will move to Amiens, France, to teach English in elementary schools.

At this writing, **Jason Eisner** was in the middle of a two-month trek through Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Japan with Eitan Neugut '17 and **Jordana Fremed**. They have visited some incredible sites, such as Angkor Wat and the Hanoi Hilton, where John McCain was held captive for almost six years. After the trip is over, Jason will move from New York to Los Angeles to work at the United Talent Agency in its Agent Trainee Program.

Daniel Schwartz started a master's in computer science at the Engineering School. He also recently became engaged to Elizabeth Rosen '18.

Congratulations!

Michael Abolafia writes, "As I write this, it's been just under two months since Commencement, and I feel as excited about the talents, prospects and aspirations of my fellow Lions as I did when I addressed the Class of 2017 on Class Day. The summer has been a restful and reflective one so far. I'm home in New Jersey and am an archival research assistant to Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Tom Reiss. I've also spent more than a few late nights and early mornings since May preparing for the next phase of my academic journey: A one-year master's (M.St.) in English literature (1900–present) at the University of Oxford, which begins in October. (Infinite thanks to the Harry J. Carman Fellowship and Henry Evans Travelling Fellowship for making this possible!) When I arrive in the City of Dreaming Spires (after a short jaunt in London), I'll be thinking fondly about Columbia and Morningside Heights and the classmates and professors who made my four years as remarkable as they were."

Lastly, a few updates of my own. After graduation, I traveled around Asia with family and friends, spending much of my time in my mom's hometown of Huangshan. A highlight of the trip was scuba-diving in Phuket with Jibben Hillen SEAS'17. After Asia, I plan to visit Germany and other parts of Europe with my cousin in August. After my travels, I will be somewhere on the East Side of Manhattan with roommates **Madeleine Steinberg** and **Ankit Shah SEAS'17**. I hope we'll have a place locked down by the time this issue is out!

If you have updates for the next issue, please send them my way (carl.yin@columbia.edu).



Daniel Schwartz '17 recently became engaged to Elizabeth Rosen '18.

obituaries

1941

Sigmund J. Montgomery, engineer, finance executive, consultant, Darien, Conn., on February 27, 2017. Montgomery, who went by John, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on July 10, 1920, and grew up in Katonah, N.Y. He earned a B.S. from Columbia Engineering in 1942, then served in the Eighth Air Force, assigned to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's staff in England and France. He left the military as a major with a Bronze Star in 1946. Montgomery then returned to Columbia, earning an M.S. from Engineering in 1949, and was an assistant professor there 1948–59. Montgomery moved to Darien in 1947 and began consulting in management and engineering. He earned a Ph.D. in accounting from NYU's School of Business and then helped to develop the Graduate School of Business at the University of Connecticut Storrs and the M.B.A. program at UConn in Stamford. While teaching at UConn, the school loaned Montgomery to the city of Stamford to be its commissioner of finance. Montgomery was predeceased by his first wife, Jean. He is survived by his second wife, Ruth Richardson Montgomery; daughter, Cynthia Kowalski, and her husband Ronald; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and three step-

children, Charles Skeele, Harrison Skeele and Sarah Post. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org).

Robert D. Zucker, retired CEO, Floral Park, N.Y., on June 8, 2017. Zucker enlisted in the Navy in 1941, attained the rank of lieutenant commander and commanded a fleet minesweeper in WWII. He was CEO of several companies, including one that evolved into Nautica. Zucker was mayor of the village of Roslyn Estates (N.Y.) for 10 years, navigated a sailboat to a win in the Newport to Bermuda



Robert D. Zucker '41

race and especially enjoyed opera and tennis. At the College, Zucker was CC'41 class president, CC'41 CCT Class Notes correspondent 2008–16, *Jester* business manager and a ZBT brother. He was married for 58 years to Allyn Van Baalen; she predeceased him, as did a brother, Richard '44. For the last 16 years, Zucker was the partner of Fran Katz. He is survived by her, as well as his children, Micky (Lorry), Alan '68 and Nancy; four grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

1945

Melvin M. Grumbach, pediatric endocrinologist, San Francisco, on October 4, 2016. After growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y., Grumbach was the first in his family to go to college, doing his undergraduate, medical (P&S, 1948) and residency at Columbia. He met his wife, Dr. Madeleine Francis

Grumbach PS'51, there. Married 55 years, until her death in 2007, the couple raised three sons, Ethan, Kevin and Anthony, and had five grandchildren, including Jacob '10 and Matthew '13. Grumbach's pioneering research elucidated the biologic mechanisms of sexual differentiation, growth and puberty, and addressed socially charged issues about gender identity and normal height variations. He chaired the UC San Francisco Department of Pediatrics 1966–86, transforming the department into one of the world's most prestigious programs. Grumbach was most at peace spending time with his family and friends at a vacation home on the Northern California coast, gazing at the Pacific Ocean and watching the sun set. In addition to his sons and grandchildren, he is survived by his brother, Lee. Memorial contributions may be made to the UCSF Foundation, UCSF Department of Pediatrics, 550 16th St., San Francisco, CA 94158-2549, "Attn.: Grumbach Research Award."

Anthony Vasilas, physician, Manhasset, N.Y., on April 7, 2017. Vasilas earned an M.D. from New York Medical College. He served in the Navy on Governors Island and in Washington, D.C., during the Korean War and became chair of the Radiology Department at Beekman Downtown Hospital, where he practiced until his retirement. Vasilas was a founder and president of the Archangel Michael and St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox churches, an archon and a lifetime member of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. He helped to revitalize the Hellenic Medical Society of New York, was its president and was committed to medical education and philanthropic causes. Vasilas was predeceased by his wife of more than 65 years, and childhood sweetheart, Sophie (née Pappas); and daughter, Paula Rousos. He is survived by his son, Peter, and his wife, Sharon; daughter, Constance, and her husband, Ramon Parsons; son-in-law, Sakis Roussos; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Elpis Chandras; and brother- and sister-in-law, Nicholas

and Alexandra Pappas. Memorial contributions may be made to the Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church and the Hellenic Medical Society of New York Scholarship Fund, 60 Plaza St. East, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

1948

Raymond G. Auwarter, retired newsprint sales CEO, Chapel Hill, N.C., on April 9, 2017. Auwarter was born in Queens, N.Y. After matriculating at the College, he served in the Navy for 18 months and graduated



Raymond G. Auwarter '48

on time with his class with a B.A. in business administration. Auwarter's newsprint career began in 1948 in the mailroom of The Madden Corp., where he rose to president and CEO of seven companies, and ended at the Donohue Paper Sales Corp., which he owned, in 1993. Auwarter was an active volunteer at Plandome Country Club, in Plandome (L.I.), N.Y.; president of the Nassau Country Club, Glen Cove (L.I.), N.Y., and on the board of Governors Club, Chapel Hill, N.C. He was a former member of the University Club of New York and volunteered for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in North Carolina, Finland House and the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce. Auwarter played varsity basketball at the College and enjoyed music, dancing and collecting, but his faith and family were paramount. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Roberta; daughters, Ellen and Julia; son-in-law, Thomas Gleason; and four grandchildren. Memorial contri-

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.

Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, GSAS'53: "The Soul of Columbia College"

By Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80

Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, GSAS'53, the John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus and Provost Emeritus, died at home in Tappan, N.Y., on July 14, 2017, less than a month before his 98th birthday.

Renowned for his scholarship in East Asian religion, thought and society, de Bary taught on Morningside Heights for seven decades, earning admiration across the globe as an educator of formidable commitment, dignity and character. He founded Columbia's influential programs in Asian studies, including the groundbreaking undergraduate curriculum in Asian Civilizations and Asian Humanities he developed to complement the College's signature courses in the Western tradition. "Ted de Bary was a truly great Citizen of Columbia on every level, as an accomplished student, visionary scholar and respected academic leader," said President Lee C. Bollinger in a statement to the University community. "To the last, he was a beloved teacher and friend who remained devoted to his alma mater. And for that, generations of fellow Columbians will always be grateful."

Following the example of dedicated teachers of prior generations, de Bary championed the integrity of the College faculty and the Core Curriculum, upholding the Core's vitality and value not as an unchanging canon, but as an ever-evolving responsibility: to confront students with a common body of significant, enduring texts taught by a committed interdepartmental staff in small discussion sections. "He was deeply engaged with the Core Curriculum in all its dimensions," said Dean James J. Valentini. "His impact on the College has been far-reaching and will long continue to be felt."

De Bary's achievements earned him many honors, including a John Jay Award in 1989; the Alexander Hamilton Medal in 1999; the National Humanities Medal, given at the White House in 2014 by President Barack Obama '83; and, in 2016, the prestigious Tang Prize in Sinology, recognizing his pioneering contributions in Confucian and Neo-Confucian studies.

Born in the Bronx on August 9, 1919, de Bary was raised by a single mother in Leonia, N.J., where he attended public schools. In 1937, he was offered a scholarship to the College. In undergraduate classes with historians Carlton Hayes (Class of 1904, GSAS 1909) and Jacques Barzun '27, GSAS'32, philosopher Ernest Nagel GSAS'31 and many others, de Bary discovered a world of intellectual challenge, an experience he treasured. He was a campus leader, heading up the Debate Council, the Van Am Society and the student government. He dove into the city's jazz scene, catching Duke Ellington, Count Basie and other famed bands in Harlem and Greenwich Village. De Bary met his future wife, Fanny Brett BC'43, at a tea dance in Brooks Hall during his junior year. They were married for 67 years, until her death in 2009.

Recruited to U.S. Naval Intelligence shortly after Pearl Harbor, de Bary served in the Pacific theater. He was a doctoral student at Columbia in 1949 when Dean Harry J. Carman GSAS 1919 asked him to develop the Asian Core programs, a labor that entailed the creation of source books — texts, in translation, of classic works — employing the talents of such eminent scholars and translators as Donald Keene '42, GSAS'49, de Bary's close friend and colleague for three-quarters of a century. De Bary chaired the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures 1960–66, when he was named the Carpentier Professor of Oriental Studies. In the aftermath of the 1968 student uprising, he chaired the Executive Committee of the newly formed Columbia University Senate. He was appointed EVP for academic affairs and provost — the University's highest academic office — in 1971, serving until 1978.

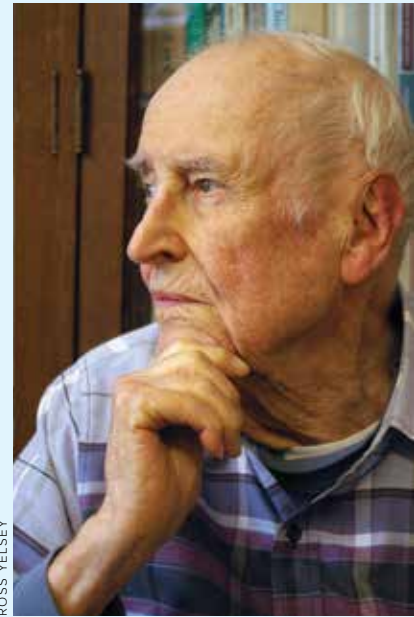
De Bary officially retired in 1989, but continued teaching on a voluntary basis for another 28 years. He graded the last papers for his Spring 2017 courses — Asian Humanities and his seminar, "Nobility and Civilization" — in May. "For more than half

a century, Ted de Bary has been the soul of Columbia College," Andrew Delbanco, the Alexander Hamilton Professor of American Studies, told *CCT* in 2013.

It would be fair to ask if there has ever been a more true-blue Columbia loyalist than Ted de Bary. He attended his first football game at Baker Field as a schoolboy in 1927; as an alumnus (with the exception of sabbatical leaves), he did not miss a home game for more than 50 years. His legacy includes the creation of such institutional enrichments as the Heyman Center for the Humanities, the Society of Senior Scholars and the University Lectures.

He also made innumerable lesser-known contributions to campus life. In the mid-1970s, de Bary played a crucial role in the rescue of Reid Hall, Columbia's 18th-century academic center in Paris, which the trustees had considered selling to help close a budget shortfall. He and his wife made a substantial donation toward the establishment of the Wm. Theodore and Fanny Brett de Bary and Class of 1941 Collegiate Professorship of Asian Humanities. In 1995, they donated the Peace Altar in St. Paul's Chapel, fashioned by the celebrated Japanese-American woodworker and designer George Nakashima. A fixture at class reunions, award dinners and many other campus events, the de Barys had four children, three of whom survive them: Brett BC'65; Paul '68, LAW'71, BUS'71; and Mary Beatrice de Bary-Heinrichs GSAS'84. A daughter, Catherine de Bary Sleight BC'73, JRN'77, died in 2010. Between them they had eight grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a step-great-grandson.

Tucked amidst de Bary's scholarly works — he wrote or edited 33 volumes — there are passages that illuminate the purity of his mission as a teacher. In his final book, *The Great Civilized Conversation: Education for a World Community* (2013), de Bary describes one of his chief mentors, Ryūsaku Tsunoda, considered the father of Japanese studies at Columbia, whom both de Bary and



ROSS VELSEY

Keene referred to, simply, as *Sensei*, or teacher.

"This unpretentious, undogmatic teacher had no special message, claimed no special authority, demanded no obedience to his person," de Bary wrote. "Like Confucius, he forgot himself in his wholehearted devotion to study. There was never a class or lecture that he did not spend hours in preparation for. There was never a student in whom he did not take a personal interest, though he could be severe as well as sympathetic. There was hardly a day on which he did not make some intellectual discovery for himself and joyfully share it with anyone around the office or library who might understand."

De Bary shared his teacher's devotion and joy and never strayed. His contributions are likely to endure as long as the students of his students continue to impart his love of reason and community, his allegiance to freedom of conscience and expression, and his dedication to civilized discourse within and among the world's many great cultures and traditions.

Former *CCT* Editor **Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80** contributed a profile of de Bary, "Loyal to His Core," to the Fall 2013 issue.

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 **Paul S. Sandhaus**, writer, New York City and Santa Fe, N.M., on June 27, 2017.
- 1945 **Charles M. Greenwald**, retired radiologist, Olmsted Falls, Ohio, on June 21, 2017.
- 1946 **George K. Levinger**, educator and psychologist, Amherst, Mass., on July 3, 2017.
- 1948 **Charles P. Simmons**, journalist and literary critic, New York City, on June 1, 2017.
- 1949 **Rodman B. Funston**, retired advertising and executive recruitment executive, Tubac, Ariz., and New Preston, Conn., on August 1, 2017.
- George R. Lenz**, retired attorney and rare book dealer, Huntington, N.Y., on August 1, 2017.
- 1950 **Dan Neuberger**, retired research chemist, Rochester, N.Y., on January 23, 2017.
- 1952 **Dennis C. Cronin**, retired attorney, Killingworth, Conn., on June 19, 2017.
- A. Thomas Houghton**, retired educator, Manahawkin, N.J., on May 1, 2017.
- 1954 **John A. Dauer Jr.**, leather salesman and antique dealer, Wilkesboro, N.C., on August 13, 2017.
- 1955 **Lary L. Faris**, retired manufacturing processes and quality control expert, Lakeside Marblehead, Ohio, on April 25, 2017.
- 1956 **Guy T. Castle**, retired academic administrator, Amenia, N.Y., on July 3, 2017.
- Robert I. Pearlman**, attorney, Madison, N.J., on May 21, 2017.
- Kenneth E. Silverman**, Colonial American literature expert, New York City, on July 7, 2017.
- 1957 **Stephen S. Fybish**, weather historian and teacher, New York City, on August 30, 2017.
- 1958 **Richard H. Bakalor**, attorney, Merrick, N.Y., on July 14, 2017.
- Donald J. DeDittus**, advertising executive, Dallas, on August 15, 2017.
- Esmail Koushanpour**, emeritus professor, Mundelein, Ill., on February 12, 2017.
- 1959 **William U. Bridge**, retired USPS clerk, Yonkers, N.Y., on May 29, 2017.
- 1961 **Andrew S. Levine**, engineer, Stockbridge, Mass., and Bonita Springs, Fla., on July 19, 2017.
- Theodore H. Stanley**, anesthesiologist and medical entrepreneur, Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 13, 2017.
- 1966 **Natale M. Ceglie Jr.**, physicist, Pleasanton, Calif., on July 2, 2017.
- 1983 **Richard D. Shin**, physician, Burr Ridge, Ill., on March 13, 2017.
- 1999 **James M. Stephenson**, humanitarian aid worker, Danville, Calif., on July 25, 2017.

Contributions may be made to St. Thomas More Church (stmchapelhill.org), the American Heart Association (heart.org) or the National MS Society (nationalmssociety.org).

1949

Walter A. Schlotterbeck, retired attorney, Mercer Island, Wash., on February 5, 2017. Born on December 22, 1926, to German immigrants, Schlotterbeck grew up in New York City. He graduated from Brooklyn Tech and earned a degree in 1952 from the Law School. He served in the Navy during WWII. Schlotterbeck worked at GE for 30 years and completed his career as SVP and general counsel for the company and secretary to the Board of Directors. He and his wife of 65 years, Pauline, were members of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Kirkland, Wash. His favorite and constant message was a well-known saying: "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so." Schlotterbeck is survived by his wife; children, Susan Schlotterbeck Ross and her husband, Mark, Tom and his wife, Katie, and Paul; seven grandchildren; and his brother Donald. Memorial contributions may be made to Planned Parenthood, Lutheran Community Services Northwest or, as Schlotterbeck would say, "Surprise me!"

1954

Richard E. Wagner, wooden boat expert and educator, Seattle, on April 20, 2017. A native of East Rutherford, N.J., Wagner was trained as an architect, with no sailing experience. But during the mid-1950s, en route to a summer job in San Francisco, he stopped in Seattle. He fell in love with the city, found a floating home on the shores of Lake Union and married his neighbor, the former Colleen Luebke. The Wagners began to collect small watercraft and within a decade owned about two dozen small boats. They realized they could use them to show people — particularly children — how to build, repair and sail wooden boats. Of interest to Wagner was access for the disabled, the homeless, high-school dropouts and others not typically involved with

life on the water. Their first major event was a Wooden Boats Festival in 1977; from that, The Center for Wooden Boats was born. Wagner is survived by his wife; sister; two sons; and a grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to The Center for Wooden Boats: cwb.org, 206-382-2628 or in person to 1010 Valley St., Seattle, WA 98109. Please include "Dick Wagner Memorial" in the memo or notes line.

1957

Sam R. Brice, retired construction business owner, Fairbanks, Alaska, on May 27, 2017. At Columbia, Brice was a noted wrestler and football player and a member of Beta Theta Pi. After graduating with a pre-law degree, Brice served in the Marine Corps until his honorable discharge in 1960 with the rank of captain. He arrived in Alaska after completing his service and helped establish the family business, Brice, Inc., which evolved to become one of the premier contractors in rural Alaska. He loved flying his small plane in Alaska. Brice was a devoted husband, brother, father, uncle and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Joan; brothers and their spouses, Al and Carol Brice, Thomas and Berta Joan Brice, and Andy and Lois Brice; seven children; and 11 grandchildren. The governor of Alaska attended his funeral. The family asks all to remember the different ways Brice touched people's lives and to honor his memory by emulating his compassion.

Denis B. Frind, attorney, Portland, Ore., on October 6, 2016. Frind was born on May 20, 1935, in New York City. He graduated from Forest Hills H.S., Queens, N.Y., and in 1960 earned a degree from the Law School. He served as a staff judge advocate with the Army at postings in Tehran and New York City. Frind practiced law in New York City at Altieri, Kushner, Miuccio & Frind and, later, at Goetz Fitzpatrick. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Donna; daughters, Karen and her husband, Malcolm Delaney, and Amie and her husband, Adam Getis; son, Steven, and his wife, Leslie Danon; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made in the name of Denis Frind

Norman Dorsen '50, Civil Rights Advocate

Norman Dorsen '50, a passionate human rights advocate who led the American Civil Liberties Union for 15 years and was involved in some of the biggest civil liberties cases of the 20th century, died on July 1, 2017, at his home in New York City. He was 86.

Dorsen's career-long focus on civil liberties was informed by his involvement in the Army-McCarthy Hearings, in 1954, which concerned claims by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy and his chief counsel, Roy Cohn '46, LAW'47, that Communists had infiltrated the federal government and the Army. In addition, Dorsen argued Supreme Court cases that established juveniles' rights to due process and that acknowledged the rights of children born out of wedlock. He was also one of the first attorneys to argue before the court in favor of abortion rights and gay rights.

Born on September 4, 1930, in New York City, Dorsen was a stellar student and attended Bronx Science, then entered the College at 16 while still living at home. By 23 he had finished Harvard Law School, where he had been an editor on the law review. He later studied international

economics as a Fulbright scholar at the London School of Economics and clerked for Justice John Marshall Harlan II on the Supreme Court, where he was remembered by Justice William J. Brennan Jr. as principled and "indefatigably persistent."

After Harvard, Dorsen became a lieutenant in the Army and went up against McCarthy and Cohn. "There is no doubt that being confronted by the McCarthy crowd, and in particular by Roy Cohn, sensitized me to issues of fairness in hearings and other proceedings and the drastic harm that the government can do to free expression," he told *CCT* for a Spring 2013 profile (college.columbia.edu/cct/archive/spring13/alumni_news2).

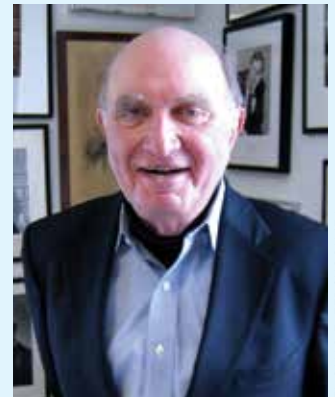
A key figure at NYU School of Law, where he joined the faculty and became the director of the civil liberties program in 1961, Dorsen's influence was partially responsible for the school's reputation for attracting students and faculty with an interest in public interest law.

In a 1992 tribute, Brennan recalled a case that Dorsen had felt particularly strongly about. "For weeks before and after the case was argued, he pursued my law clerk

relentlessly through the halls of the court, peppering him with arguments," Brennan wrote. "Sooner or later, Norm calculated, my clerk would agree, exert his influence and induce me to see reason."

Dorsen demonstrated that perseverance before the court many times as a litigator. In 1967, he helped convince the court that Arizona had acted unconstitutionally after sentencing a 15-year-old to six years in prison for making an obscene phone call. In 1968, he successfully argued that Louisiana could not discriminate against children born out of wedlock.

As general counsel of the ACLU, a role he took on in 1969, becoming president in 1976, Dorsen helped guide the organization through many challenges, including its defense of the rights of Nazis to stage a march through Skokie, Ill., in 1977. The following year, *The New York Times* credited Dorsen with "a magic touch for healing organizational wounds." He also helped build The Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Program at NYU Law into a powerhouse. In 1995, he became the founding director of the Hauser Global Law School



THOMAS F. FERGUSON '74

Program at NYU, one of the first programs of its kind.

In 2000, President Clinton awarded Dorsen the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award. In a statement introducing the award winners, the White House referred to Dorsen as "a tenacious and outspoken defender of human rights."

Dorsen was predeceased by his wife of 46 years, the former Harriette Koffler, in 2011. He is survived by his daughters, Annie, Jennifer and Caroline; brother, David; and four grandchildren.

— Lisa Palladino

to Volunteer New York!, 220 White Plains Rd., Tarrytown, NY 10591.

1974

Ralph C. Coti, attorney, Hawthorne, N.Y., on September 14, 2016. Born on October 16, 1952, in the Bronx, Coti made his home in Ridgewood, N.J., with his wife, Mary Alice, and son, Peter. Coti earned a B.A. Phi Beta Kappa and then a J.D. and an M.B.A., both in 1977, from the Law School and the Business School, respectively. Admitted to the New York and New Jersey bars, he built a busy and respected practice as one of the last of a dying breed: the generalist attorney in Manhattan. Coti's practice areas included real estate, corporate transactions, trust and estate, litigation, not-for-profit and tax matters. He was a scholar, historian, lover of literature, patriot

and contrarian. A devout Roman Catholic and staunch political conservative, Coti was also a gentle and unvaryingly courteous soul. In addition to his wife and son, Coti is survived by his sisters, Valerie Furlauto and Laura Coti Garrett, and their husbands and children; and his aunts, Fil Magavero and Tecla Martemucci. Memorial contributions may be made to Rosary Hill Home, 600 Linda Ave., Hawthorne, NY 10532.

1989

Cynthia E. Barber-Mingo, software engineer, Westford, Mass., on February 13, 2016. Barber-Mingo was born in Washington, D.C., on February 25. She was educated in New York City public schools from kindergarten through high school, including Bronx Science.

At the College, Barber-Mingo majored in computer science and then immersed herself in her chosen career as a software engineer, which began at 16 when she worked at Merrill Lynch in NYC as a merchandising and trading systems summer intern. She also worked for NYNEX, Digital Equipment Corp. and IBM, achieving the title of "Master Inventor" while at IBM. Her name appears on 13 U.S. patents that are the IBM patent portfolio. Barber-Mingo loved to knit and crochet. She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Eric R. Barber-Mingo '90; children Ernest, Mya and Aaron; and mother, Hortense L. Howell-Barber.

1993

Christine Staco, professor, Flushing, N.Y., on March 28, 2017.

Staco was born in New York on August 11, 1971, and from a young age demonstrated a yearning to excel and grow. She loved to go on hikes, to read, and to research and understand human behavior, positive energy and spirituality. Staco was educated at Our Lady Queen of Peace, The Mary Louis Academy, Columbia and Cornell. She earned an M.A. in literature. Staco moved often but adapted easily and made friends, living the saying "Home is where the heart is." She is survived by her parents, Clarens "Boby" Staco and Gabrielle Caillet Staco; sister, Michelle; children, Ama, Felix Jr. and Fernando; nephew, Justin; brother-in-law, Ty; and aunts, uncles, godparents, cousins and friends. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Brain Tumor Society (braintumor.org).

— Lisa Palladino

College Selections and Family Ties

Jeffrey Harrison '80's poem "Higher Education," excerpted from Best American Poetry 2017

HIGHER EDUCATION

Antioch, Berkeley, and Columbia
were the ABC's of colleges
my father said he wouldn't pay for—
breeding grounds for radicalism
he called them, as if their campuses
were giant Petri dishes spawning
toxic cultures. Our own pathology
was pretty toxic at the time, both of us
stubbornly refusing to learn
anything about each other, or
about ourselves for that matter, stuck
in a rudimentary pattern of
defining ourselves as opposites.
I wouldn't even look at Kenyon,
his beloved alma mater, despite
its long tradition as a school for
future poets. I hadn't read a word
of Robert Lowell or James Wright yet,
but I'd read Ginsberg, and the first stop
on my college tour was Columbia,
and that's where I ended up going.
And my father, to his credit, must
have seen it was the right place for me
or at least was unavoidable,
so he let me go, and he paid for it.
And the only price I had to pay
was, when I was home on holidays,
to suffer his barbed commentary
about the very education he
was financing, which ironically
had to do with the core values of
Western Civilization. I can't
remember—is forgiveness one of them?
We both got a C in Forgiveness
but later bumped it up to a B minus
when, in a surprising twist, my son
ended up at Kenyon. My father
took real pleasure in that, though he
was already dying by then. I thought
of him at graduation, how proud
he would have been for his grandson
who, he might have joked, was a better
student than he had ever been—all
our ignorance put aside at least
for that one day of celebration.



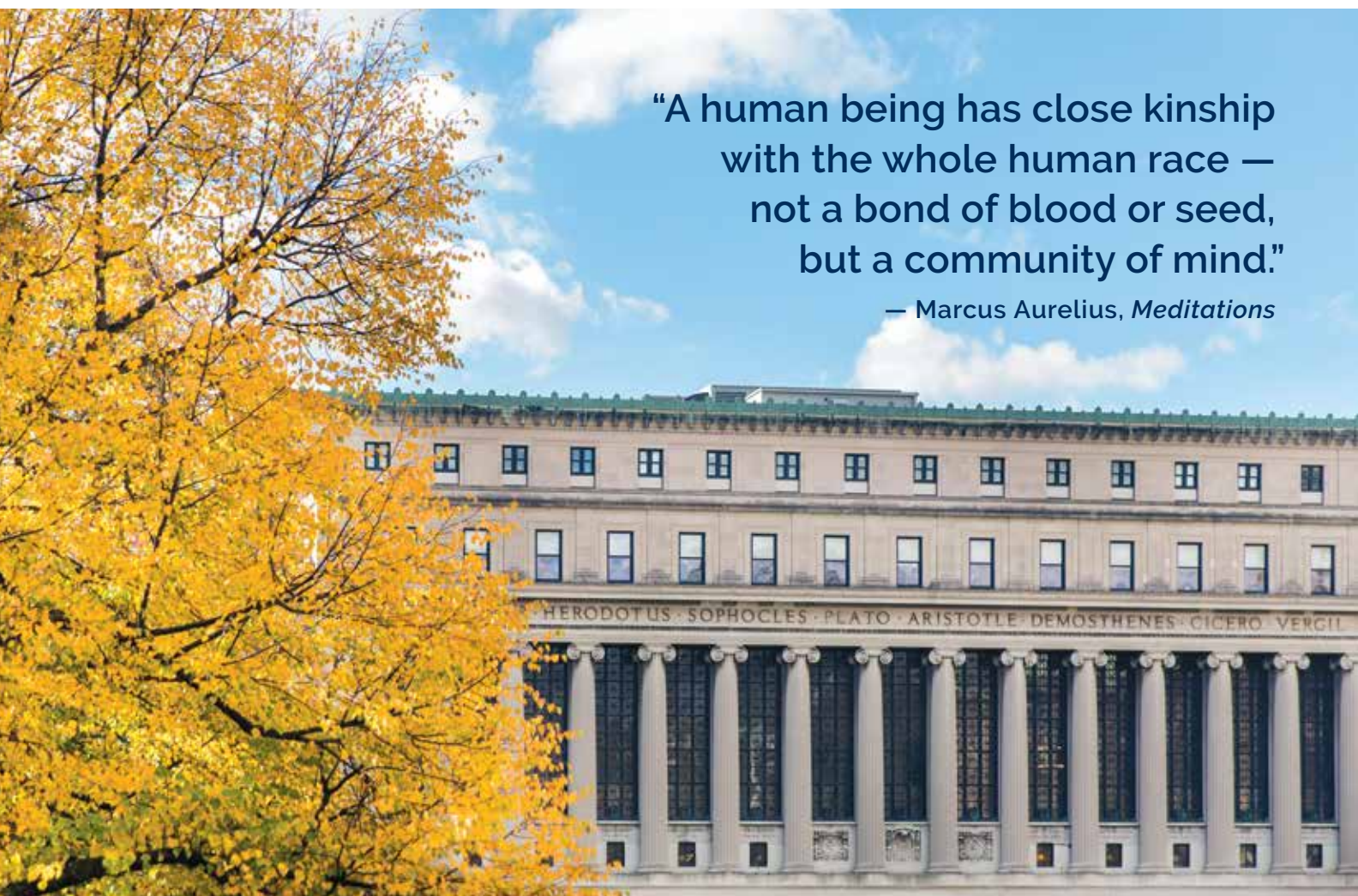
My father really did list Columbia as one of the colleges that was off limits, which only made me want to go there more. He eventually came around, and as a result I had the good fortune of being able to study poetry with Professors Kenneth Koch and David Shapiro while taking the Core and my other classes.

As is often the case with me, I wrote the first few lines without knowing where they were going to lead, but it became clear fairly early that the poem was not so much about college education as about the learning that goes on — or does not go on — between fathers and sons. The fact that my own son had recently graduated from my father's alma mater, Kenyon College, led me to the imagined, temporary reconciliation at the end of the poem.

Jeffrey Harrison '80 is the author of five books of poetry, including, most recently, *Into Daylight*, which was published by Tupelo Press in 2014 as the winner of the Dorset Prize. "Higher Education" first appeared in *The Yale Review* in 2016 before being included in *Best American Poetry 2017*.

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with the whole human race —
not a bond of blood or seed,
but a community of mind.”**

— Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

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