


CCT

Fall 2019

Columbia
College
Today 

CELEBRATING CENTENNIAL

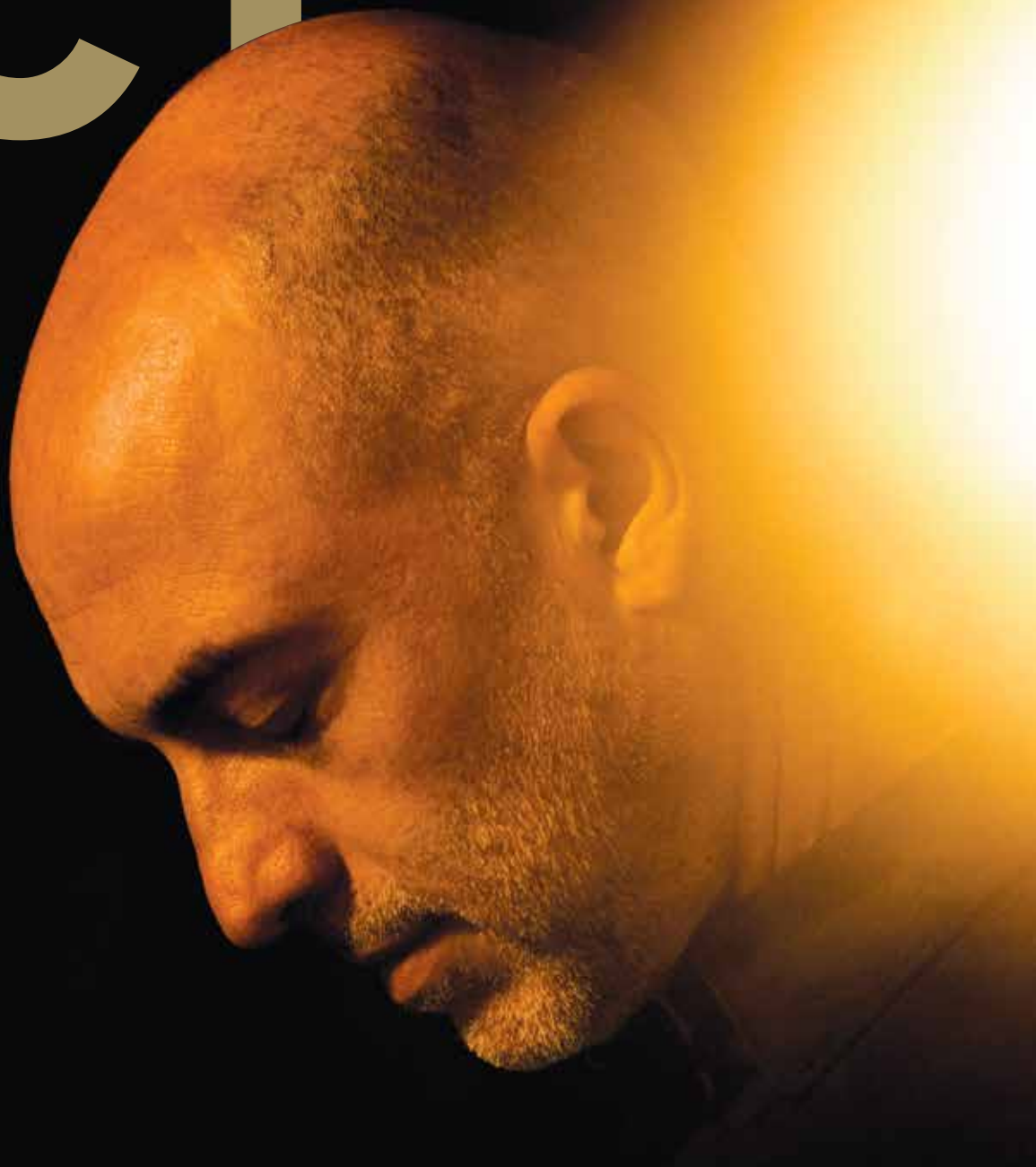
A CORE Q&A WITH
PRESIDENT BOLLINGER

Y.A.'S QUEEN

TEEN-LIT AUTHOR MELISSA
DE LA CRUZ '93 IS TOPPING
THE BESTSELLER LISTS

MEET ME AT THE PLAZA

DIG INTO A JUICY READ
ABOUT NEW YORK'S
MOST FAMOUS HOTEL



DAMON WINTER '97 FINDS THE LIGHT

The Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist
considers the decade after "Hope and Change"

*"My favorite work from the Core was Plato's Republic.
It helped me to learn how to think (still working on it!)."*

- John W. Lombardo M.D. CC'69

*"The Core has been a huge part of my everyday life.
It exposed me to a lifetime's worth of enjoyment of the
classics, philosophy and art."*

- Ian Hartstein CC'85

What's Your Core Story?

Share a fun memory, favorite Core work or personal reflection and be part of our community memory project to honor the Core Curriculum's Centennial. Submit online or email us your #CoreStories and join us this year for our #CoreCelebration.

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THE LATEST

TAKE FIVE | JULY 12

"[My favorite spot on campus] wasn't the Sundial or the library; it was the darkened room in which any given art history class took place. Spending an hour with nothing to do but contemplate the beauty of paintings was church, psychotherapy and Valium all in one."

— Crime fiction writer
Charles Philipp Martin '76

LION'S DEN | JUNE 20

"I'm really good at reading. I know that sounds like a weird thing to brag about. And I know that everyone who went to Columbia probably feels like they're good at reading. I know I'm not the only one who read five books a week throughout college. The problem with me is that I *liked* reading five books a week. That was a good pace for me. So I decided to continue it — for the rest of my life."

— Publisher and novelist
Miriam Parker '00, from "Reading, Writing and ... Not Much Else"

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JÖRG MEYER



Within the Family

Happy Anniversary, Core Curriculum!

Roll out the sheet cake and start counting candles — we've got 100 to light for the Core Curriculum, which is celebrating its centennial this year with all due ceremony. The guest of honor needs no introduction. Generations of alumni have gotten up close and personal with the Core, gained knowledge and insight from its teachings, and had their hearts and minds opened to new ways of looking at the world.

Here at *CCT*, in this and each of the next three issues, we'll mark the milestone with features and other special content. It felt only right to begin with a conversation with President Lee C. Bollinger, who speaks powerfully to the Core's value in raising fundamental questions about life and society, and instilling habits of mind that last a lifetime. The Core may be the signature program of the College, but as he observes, its mission resonates across all the schools of the University, and has a tremendous role to play in the nation and in the world.

Other Core touches in this issue are a playful visual take on *The Odyssey*, one of the signature texts of Literature Humanities (page 4), and the launch of our Core Cartoon caption contest. This installment, on page 88, comes courtesy of the incomparable *New Yorker* illustrator Edward Koren '57. The winning caption will be announced in our Winter 2019–20 issue, with the winner receiving a print of the cartoon, signed by Koren.

We also invite you to tap into your inner muse and send us Core haiku. Your 5–7–5 stylings could be inspired by a text, a professor or any other aspect of your Core experience. A sampling from our early submissions is scattered throughout Class Notes, and more will be featured in the next three issues.

Caption contest entries and haiku both may be emailed to cct_centennial@columbia.edu.

Outside of the Core, our cover story considers the evolving eye of photojournalist Damon Winter '97. It's been a decade since Winter won a Pulitzer Prize for his images of Barack Obama '83 on his historic presidential first campaign trail; today, as *The New York Times*'s first Op-Ed photographer, Winter is finding ways to say more with his camera than he ever thought possible. (Winter's partner, Béatrice de Géa, who specializes in editorial, documentary and portrait photography, is the talent behind our cover shoot.)

We also catch up with bestselling author Melissa de la Cruz '93, who's built an avid fan following — as we saw at this past summer's BookCon — among the young adult set. The prolific de la Cruz talks to us about her career in vampires, Disney villains and dystopian themes (to name just a few of her subjects!), and speaks to why she's become such an ardent ambassador for the YA genre.

Speaking of books, for a double dose of juiciness, check out the "Columbia Forum" excerpt from Julie Satow '96, SIPA'01's new release, *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel*, and our "Bookshelf" feature about Jessica Chiccehitto Hindman '03, SOA'09. The latter played for four years in a professional classical musical ensemble that gave faked concerts. It's a jaw dropper of a tale.

Welcome, to all our new parents reading *CCT* for the first time. And to everyone else, welcome back — that fall feeling never changes; a new semester is under way!

Alexis Boncy

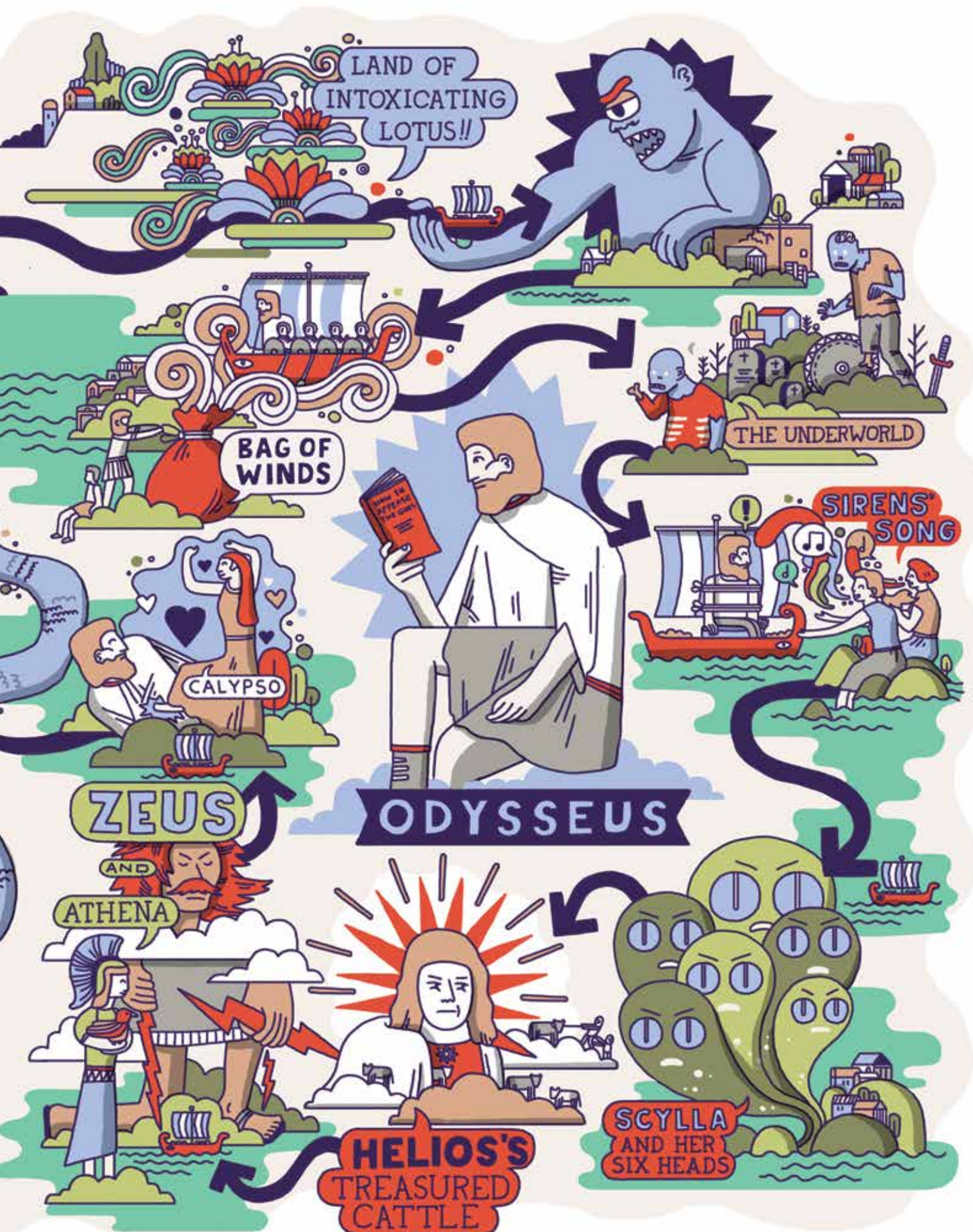
Alexis Boncy SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

A VISUAL ODYSSEY

CELEBRATING THE BOOK
THAT LAUNCHED DECADES
OF CORE CONVERSATION

ILLUSTRATION BY
JAMES GULLIVER HANCOCK





Message from the Dean

A Century of Shared Intellectual Experience

This issue of *Columbia College Today* is the first in Volume 47 of our alumni magazine. More significantly, it is the first issue published in the 100th anniversary year of the Core Curriculum. Many things make Columbia College special, but the Core is the most special. The Core is not just a collection of required courses; it is also central to the identity of Columbia College and the expression of our ideals. So the Core — its past, present and future — is quite appropriately our focus this year. In this issue of *CCT*, you'll find a variety of features that might remind you of the Core's promise to all undergraduates, as well as invite you to revisit the unifying role the Core plays in the lives of so many former students.

I believe the Core is the greatest communal, organized, general education effort in the world. Each year, the entire first-year and sophomore classes study in the Core, engaging with hundreds of instructors, thousands of pages of text, and countless discussions and debates. There is nothing on a scale like it anywhere else.

The endurance of the Core conveys our conviction that there are certain things that every educated person should have exposure to. When our students are exposed to fundamental, and often difficult, ideas, there is value in both knowing the ideas' origins and also in developing a response and understanding of them that is shaped by who they are, who surrounds them and how they view the world. In this way, the Core is always the same and always changing. Always the same in its clear objective to expose our students to philosophy, literature, art, music and science that has been consequential in civilization. Always changing because each student brings their own perspectives, experiences and values into a rich and dynamic conversation, where no one leaves the classroom quite the same as when they entered. In that sense the Core is always experimental — trying out new things and then seeing whether they advance the achievements of its timeless objectives.

During this centennial year, we will look back on the history of the Core and how it evolved during the last century. Just as importantly, we will look ahead to the next century to ask how it can and should evolve, examining the components that are deeply loved as well as those that are questioned and constructively criticized.

We should look to enhance and enrich the experience of the Core by preserving those elements of the curriculum and the academic experience that have value now, and will continue to have value, and then adding things that are made possible by developments and improvements in technology and pedagogy. The entire Core, not just Contemporary Civilization, must remain timely in its implementation so that its persistent objectives can be met. We continue to examine the eternal joys and challenges of human existence, and to learn how humans express those joys and challenges, and how societies of every scale have developed in response to them.

The Core also is the first part of a complete and rich College education; afterward, students transition to one of many majors



and concentrations that allow them to explore their individual and specialized academic interests. By enhancing the experience of the Core we also prepare students for the intellectual engagements that become their focus. The Core creates a tradition of close interaction between students and faculty for every year a student is an undergraduate here, in classroom seminars, in labs and in undergraduate research programs.

Our goal as an institution is to prepare students for a world that neither they nor we can know or conceive. What we do know is that their success — personal and professional — will depend on their ability to interact with anyone, anywhere in the world, at any time. The Core offers a learning environment where that ability can be developed. This exchange of ideas helps students develop a profound level of self-awareness and empathy, and deepens their understanding of humanity. So many recent events in the world show us that the questioning, the intellectual openness of the Core Curriculum, has never been more important. It is a common intellectual experience that gives rise to a powerful sense of community, not just between students, but also with all of you, our almost 52,000 Columbia College alumni.

And so, as we celebrate the first century of this shared intellectual experience, we say: On to the second century!

James J. Valentini
Dean

Hamilton Medal

The 2019 Alexander Hamilton Medal will go to Dr. George Yancopoulos '80, GSAS'86, PS'87, president of and chief scientific officer at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, a leading biotechnology company based in New York. Yancopoulos has built and managed Regeneron alongside Dr. Leonard Schleifer since 1989, a year after the company's founding. Yancopoulos is a principal inventor, along with key members of his team, of Regeneron's seven FDA-approved drugs and foundational technologies; he also is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and has been on the Regeneron Board of Directors since 2001. Regeneron's work targets a variety of conditions, including macular degeneration, cancer, high cholesterol and arthritis.

The son of Greek immigrants, Yancopoulos grew up in Queens and graduated from Bronx Science. He was honored with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 2013.

The Hamilton Medal is the highest honor awarded to a member of the Columbia College community, and recognizes distinguished service to the College and accomplishment in any field of endeavor. The 72nd annual dinner will take place on Thursday, November 21, in Low Rotunda.



EILEEN BARROSO

CCT Gets the Gold!

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) has awarded CCT a Gold Circle of Excellence Award in the "Writing, Feature Writing, Column or Opinion Piece" category for Paul Starr '70's feature, "How the '68



Uprising Looks Today," half of our two-part Spring 2018 cover story, "50 Years Later."

The judges said: "Starr offers an excellent journalistic analysis of

the 1968 uprising at Columbia, drawing parallels with protests on campuses and across U.S. cities today. Fifty years on, he tells the story in a way that makes it seem timely and topical ... the piece also draws readers in to contend with their

own perspectives and actions relative to activism and free speech."

The Circle of Excellence Awards honor outstanding work in advancement services, alumni relations, communications, fundraising and marketing at colleges, universities, independent schools and affiliated nonprofits. This year, upward of 2,800 entries were submitted across 100 categories. Read our winning article at college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/spring18.

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Core Centennial

A year of celebration in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Core Curriculum will kick off with a special event on Friday, September 27, in Low Rotunda. Attendees can come for all or part of the opening day, which will feature refreshments, talks and activities. The festivities start at 9 a.m. with remarks from President Lee C. Bollinger and Dean James J. Valentini.

A "Core Stories" panel will follow, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., with Core

faculty and alumni reflecting on their Core experiences. There will also be breakfast, a historical exhibit, and an opportunity to take photos or shoot a video at the Core Storytelling booth.

A panel on the "Enduring Core," with the current Core faculty chairs, is slated from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The heads of Literature Humanities, Contemporary Civilization, Art Humanities, Music Humanities and Frontiers of Science will discuss both the Core's enduring relevance and its distinction from other undergraduate approaches to education. Midday refreshments will be available.

Attendees must RSVP to secure a space at this limited-seating event. For more information, and to register, go to college.columbia.edu/alumni.

In addition, alumni are invited throughout the year to participate in a community memory project, Core Stories, which aims to give voice to the experience and impact of the Core. Reflections, memories and more may be shared at core100.columbia.edu.

The Woman Who First Crashed the College Gates

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

When it was announced in January 1982, following years of intense, even hostile, negotiations with Barnard, that Columbia College would admit women, a certain doctor of dental medicine thought, "It's about time!"

That doctor was Anna Kornbrot SEAS'74, '75. Uniquely, she was already the College's first alumna — eight years before the coeducational floodgates were opened.

"I don't wear a sign," Kornbrot says 44 years later. "I don't need validation. But I do feel it deeply."

In the early 1970s, "women's lib" was exploding. Bras were burning, the Equal Rights Amendment was white-hot and the fairer sex wanted a fairer shake at all-male bastions of higher learning. "I was politically attuned," Kornbrot says. "I did have my ERA T-shirt." Enrolled in

Columbia Engineering, she read the work of feminist scholar Catharine Stimpson, with whom she took classes at Barnard.

But Kornbrot, the daughter of Polish Holocaust survivors who settled as garment workers in Flushing, didn't see herself as a trailblazer. Rather, she was after a healthy dose of liberal arts. "I valued my education so much that I wanted to get as much out of it as possible," she recalls. "I didn't want just math and science."

She got her wish through a loophole in the undergraduate degree options. During junior year, she noticed in her course catalog something called a 4:1 program. Under this arrangement, an Engineering student could earn a B.S. in four years and, with enough liberal arts credits — including the four basic Core Curriculum courses — also graduate with a College B.A. a year later. Nowhere was it written that women were ineligible.

So Kornbrot walked into 208 Hamilton Hall, armed with the relevant passage. "The secretary looked at the catalog, looked at me, and said, 'I think the dean is going to want to talk with you.'"

A minor kerfuffle ensued. "We would have to build you a separate gym!" fretted Provost Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, GSAS'53. Various administrators suggested that Kornbrot get her B.A. from Barnard.

Kornbrot's most memorable sit-down was with Dean Peter Pouncey and Associate Dean Michael Rosenthal GSAS'67. "Pouncey took a diabolical delight in the whole thing," she says. "You could see the wheels turning about how he would deal with Barnard." (For years, that school's administrators had resisted College coeducation, fearing among other reasons that its applications would suffer, perhaps fatally.)

Rosenthal was another matter. "It was an interrogation. He was poking at me," Kornbrot says. "He said things like, 'Are

you looking to disrupt the University?' Now, I'm a patient person, but he pushed my buttons. So I finally said, 'Yes, I want to disrupt the University!' Pouncey was laughing his head off."

(Asked to recall the conversation, Rosenthal, chuckling, thinks he may simply have been needling Kornbrot. "If she has those memories, what can I say? But it's inconceivable that that was me. We were delighted at the prospect of being able to pull the rug out from under Barnard's intransigence.")

The anticlimax came in a letter dated June 13, 1974. Columbia College admissions director Michael Lacopo wrote to Kornbrot, "I am delighted to inform you that a joint committee representing the School of Engineering and the College has granted your request for transfer to the College beginning September 1974."

With her Engineering B.S. in hand, Kornbrot began her single year in the College amid little fanfare. "I wasn't looking for anything other than a seat in the classroom and to just do my thing. I savored every one of those courses." The finale was Class Day, when the 5-foot-2 Kornbrot marched up to receive her diploma. "You could see people's eyes watching this procession and then all of a sudden you saw all these double takes: 'Is this a short guy with really long hair?'"

Kornbrot's 4:1 loophole was almost immediately amended so that female applicants would be admitted exclusively to Barnard. One other woman, Ann Candy — now Dr. Ann Stein — was grandfathered in, earning an Engineering B.S. and a College B.A., both in 1978.

Kornbrot went on to dental school at the University of Pennsylvania where, in her fourth year, two of her male classmates — but not she — were granted interviews for a residency program in oral and



Kornbrot's yearbook photo from the 1975 *Columbian*.

maxillofacial surgery. She complained to the dean, who told her, “You’re absolutely right. You are being discriminated against.” Once I picked my jaw up off the floor, I said, “Now what?” Following determined lobbying, she got her residency.

Today, Kornbrot (who earned a D.M.D. in 1979) practices in Philadelphia and teaches at both Penn and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. “I like surgery,” she

says. “It’s hands on. It’s discrete. You have a problem, you solve the problem and you move on to the next patient.”

A footnote: Kornbrot was unsure what she was going to do if the College wouldn’t admit her. “I really wanted to go,” she says. “But how far was I willing to go? Was I willing to go to court? Would I sue the University? All this stuff was swimming through my head.”

Her husband-to-be, Barry Klayman ’74, suggested she consult a particular professor at the Law School. “I asked her, ‘What are my options? What are my chances?’ She said, ‘Schools have so much discretion in who they can take. Don’t pursue it. You won’t get in.’”

The professor was future Associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW’59.

Student Spotlight

Santiago Tobar Potes ’20

CCT: What’s something interesting you learned recently?

Potes: I’ve been taking cognitive neuroscience just out of interest. Neuroscientists believe we have two types of decision-making systems: One of them is very old — it allowed our type of humans to survive; it’s intuitive, and processes information and reaches conclusions quickly. The other is a newer type of decision-making system — it’s slower and more rational. I find that so interesting because I feel that one of society’s biggest issues is dealing with both of these decision-making systems; one that helped us as a species and the other that’s helping us to adapt to new conditions.

CCT: What’s your favorite Core reading so far, and why?

Potes: Augustine’s *Confessions* and Dante’s *Divine Comedy*. I love *Confessions* because I’ve been thinking a lot lately about what I love — it’s helping me to develop my own value system. Augustine says you should only love things that are eternal, you should only love things that will never change, things that you won’t stop loving in a year, in a month. Now that I’m in my last year of college I have a clear vision of what I like, so now I’m asking myself *why* I like these things.

I was so touched by Dante’s *Inferno* in Lit Hum that I’ve been taking a yearlong class in which we read the entire *Divine Comedy*. It’s taught by Teodolinda Barolini, and she has been the most impactful teacher I’ve ever had. The text speaks to me because of what it represents: meeting different people, learning from them, improving yourself from what you’ve learned and keeping on with progress.

CCT: What do you like to do outside of class?

Potes: I started playing the violin when I was 11 after hearing a radio show on NPR; I remember hearing the sound, and being so captivated by it. I’ve been in the Columbia University Orchestra since freshman year. Last semester I was in two chamber ensembles — one a string quartet and the other a piano trio.



CCT: How do you like to take advantage of being in New York City?

Potes: I love New York City so much, and the relationship it has with Columbia. I’ve been very lucky to be mentored by some great alumni. The fact that the city has the highest number of alumni is also why where we are is so incredible — I can schedule a coffee meeting in between classes and take the subway to talk to so many people. It’s not just that New York is our classroom; New York is also a university unto itself.

fast facts

Major: No major, two concentrations: East Asian Languages and Cultures, and Medieval and Renaissance Studies

Hometown: Born in Cali, Colombia, but moved to Miami at 3 and grew up there.

Favorite spot on campus: The Reference Room in Butler Library. “There’s a quotation on it that says, ‘A man is but what he knoweth,’ and I look at that and think about the reason why I’m here. It’s beautiful in itself and it’s a beautiful reminder of why I’m here, despite the odds — I’m the first person in my family to go to college.”

Niamh O'Brien

Senior Associate Dean, Alumni and Undergraduate Career Development, Center for Career Education



KILLIAN YOUNG / COLUMBIA COLLEGE

You've been with the University since 2003, starting at SIPA, but transitioned to the Center for Career Education 12-plus years ago. What drew you to the role?

I was drawn to and continue to love working with undergraduates as they embark on their career journeys; explore their identities, interests and career opportunities; and pursue and reflect upon their experiences with us at CCE. The joy continues as we work with alumni to help them progress in their career journeys beyond Columbia.

What's your typical day?

My day starts very early, with the sunrise. Over breakfast, I check the University website for the latest news and the events page for pop-up concerts, lectures or yoga classes that I can join. My work day also starts very early, with email catch-up and a review of my calendar. I typically have meetings with students and collaborative work with my team members and/or colleagues around the University. I'll also deal with unexpected needs as they arise.

How have students' attitudes and approaches to "career" shifted in your time as associate dean, and what are some of the ways that CCE is meeting students' needs today?

Rapid changes in technology have shifted how students prepare for the future of work. We want them to be ready for and opti-

mistic about jobs that might not yet be defined, so we emphasize exploration through counseling, tools and programming, to build self-awareness around interests and their sense of agency in deciding their futures. Career resilience is also a skill that we foster through our individual and group work with students. We also keep them abreast of recruitment trends through our programming and our "In the Know" blog posts. We are also lucky to have incredible alumni who collaborate with us to share their stories and advice with students.

What resource(s) do you wish more alumni would take advantage of, and why?

Making and maintaining connections are key pursuits whether you are launching or progressing in your career. We encourage alumni to reach out to other alumni, and to join alumni clubs, our Columbia Career Connections group and/or the Columbia University group on LinkedIn.

What's one thing about yourself that would surprise readers?

Many people struggle with my name and are surprised that the "mh" is pronounced "v" so my name sounds like Neave and is spelled Niamh. The name Niamh is from Irish mythology. She was daughter of the god of the sea and one of the queens of Tír na nÓg, the land of eternal youth.

DidYouKnow?

One of Columbia's Oldest Known Trees Was a Gift from the New York Botanical Garden



SCOTT RUDD

Nathaniel Lord Britton SEAS 1879, a Columbia professor of botany and a co-founder, along with his wife, Elizabeth Gertrude Britton, of the New York Botanical Garden, was instrumental in acquiring one of the Morningside campus's oldest known trees. Britton was in charge of Columbia's botany department and herbarium in the late 1800s and became

the first director of the NYBG in 1891. Columbia donated its herbarium and many of its botany books to the garden in Britton's honor when the campus moved uptown in 1897. It is thought that to reciprocate the gift, the garden gave Columbia a tree for its new campus — the spindle tree (*Euonymus bungeanus*) that grows on the lawn to the left as you face Hamilton Hall.



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Let's Roar in the '20s at
next year's Columbia Reunion!

Reunion 2020



**Save the Date for Columbia Reunion Weekend
June 4–6, 2020**

All alumni are invited, with special events for milestone years that end in '0 or '5 or who are 2019.

college.columbia.edu/reunion
ccreunion@columbia.edu

ROAR, LION, ROAR

A Football Player's Family Secret

Sid Luckman '39's rise from schoolboy football phenom in Brooklyn to All-American quarterback at Columbia to a 14-year career with pro football's Chicago Bears is only part of the story told by R.D. Rosen in his new book, *Tough Luck: Sid Luckman, Murder, Inc., and the Rise of the Modern NFL*. While Sid was climbing to stardom, his father, Meyer Luckman, was being convicted of the gangland murder of his own brother-in-law and sentenced to 20-years-to-life in Sing Sing, where he died in 1944. How could this tale of celebrity son and mobster father go untold for eight decades? Former CCT Editor-in-Chief Alex Sachare '71 spoke with Rosen in July to get the story behind the book, which was published by Atlantic Monthly Press in September.

CCT: You grew up across the street from Sid Luckman '39 in Highland Park, Ill. Is that what drew you to write about him?

Rosen: The book is deeply rooted in my experience of being a Bears fan and knowing that the great Bears quarterback lived across the street from where I played touch football fairly obsessively. A couple of years ago I was on my computer, looking for any films of Sid in the Bears' championship games. I love sports history, and being able to see what he had done was exciting for me.



ERIK LIEBER

Author R.D. Rosen

CCT: Was Meyer's story what convinced you that there was a book to be written?

Rosen: Absolutely. When sports writer and author Dan Daly told me Sid's father had murdered his brother-in-law, I couldn't believe it. I was surprised the story hadn't been told in full. So I did it, because Sid deserves a book about himself. He had prevented anybody from digging too deeply. Remember, it wasn't until [former baseball player]

Jim Bouton wrote *Ball Four: The Final Pitch* in 1970 that players' private lives became fair game for journalists.

CCT: Take us back to the 1930s, when Sid was making headlines as a football star at Brooklyn's Erasmus Hall H.S. and his father was making headlines of his own.

Rosen: It may be unique in the annals of history that a father and son were making headlines in the same town at the same time for such wildly different reasons. As Sid was leaving Erasmus and going to Columbia, he had to sit in a courtroom and hear about his father's vicious murder of his uncle.



CCT ARCHIVES

Sid Luckman '39 in his Lions football days.

CCT: Tell us what happened that led to Meyer's arrest.

Rosen: Meyer, who at the time was about 60, and his brother ran a trucking company in Brooklyn that delivered flour to bakeries. In those days, if you wanted to be in business you had to play ball with the mob. Meyer had a brother-in-law, Sam Drukman, who had a gambling problem, but he was family so Meyer hired him anyway. But after a while Meyer became convinced Drukman was skimming from the business to pay gambling debts and decided to do something about it. Why he didn't get the mob to take care of it for him, I don't know, but he chose to do it himself, with two accomplices. They lured Drukman to the company on a Sunday night and strangled him.

CCT: Do you think it's more than coincidence that Sid played for coaches who became father figures?

Rosen: Paul Sullivan at Erasmus really was a fatherly guy. As far as Lou Little at Columbia, Sid was drawn to him immediately, and they did establish a father-son relationship. George Halas of the Bears was no one's idea of a warm and fuzzy father figure, but he convinced Sid to play pro and then became very protective of him.

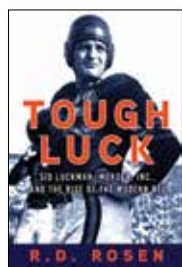
CCT: What new insight about Sid did you glean from writing this book?

Rosen: I would speculate that Sid compensated for his father's crime. And when I talked with his children and heard stories about his kindness and generosity, it really jumped out at me how on some subconscious level he devoted his life to being above reproach.

CCT: What was the biggest obstacle you encountered in this project?

Rosen: Sid died in 1998 and left no records. The family was ruled, in a sense, by the silent secret, and by Sid's refusal to be written about. I went to his son, Bob Luckman, and said, I used to live across the street from you and I'd like to write a book about your dad. When I told him the book

would have to be about his grandfather, too, he said, "Oh, Sid wouldn't like that." I said, "Your father was a great man, a great historical figure, but you can't get that book unless it's also about your grandfather. That's just the deal."



CCT: Given the family reluctance, did you consider backing away?

Rosen: Yes. I thought about that a lot. At what point does it become morally OK to share a family's horrible secret? I've written other books in which I've had to convince people it was in their best interest to talk, and I took the tack with the Luckman kids that it's better I write this book than someone else. Of course, if Sid were alive, you and I wouldn't be talking. He had some powerful friends who would have come to me and said, "Mr. Rosen, we strongly suggest you find a different topic to write about," and that would be it.



Columbia takes on Amherst College in a 1920 game on South Field.

GEORGE ALLEN / COURTESY COLUMBIA LIBRARIES

Cheering Columbia Football

Columbia's Rare Book & Manuscript Library is marking the 150th anniversary of college football this fall with "Roar, Lion, Roar: A Celebration of Columbia Football" (library.columbia.edu; select "Exhibitions" below "Events & Training"). Running until December 20 in the RBML's Chang Octagon, the exhibition features materials from the University Archives showcasing highlights of the Lions program — one of the oldest in the country — from its 1870 inception to the present.

The exhibition covers Columbia football's early days (including an early 20th-century ban of the game) and most famed victories (among them the 1934 Rose Bowl victory and 1947 win over Army). It also addresses the 1970s teams that played under Coach Bill Campbell '62, TC'64; the 1980s losing streak; the winning 1996 team; and the renaissance helmed by Head Coach Al Bagnoli. In addition, the exhibition highlights the coaches and players who have made a mark on Columbia football. Historic photographs, programs and memorabilia all will be on display.

Speaking of Football ...

Mark your calendar for Columbia Homecoming 2019, Friday, October 18–Saturday, October 19. The big game takes place on Saturday, vs. Penn, with kickoff at 1:30 p.m. Come early for the annual Homecoming Lunch & Lawn Party, a family-friendly event with food, drinks and games, hosted by the Columbia College Alumni Association.

The CCAA is also offering a pair of new Homecoming events: a Friday evening student/alumni picnic on the lawn in front of Butler Library, and a Saturday night after-party for young alumni at Hudson Terrace.



Keep tabs on all the Lions news! For the latest, download the Columbia Athletics app or visit gocolumbialions.com.

All events are ticketed; for more information and to purchase tickets for the CCAA events, or packages of event and game tickets together, go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/homecoming. Tickets for just the game may be purchased separately at gocolumbialions.com.

FINDING THE LIGHT

BY BORIS KACHKA '97, JRN'98



President Barack
Obama '83 at JFK
International Airport,
Queens, N.Y.;
October 18, 2012.



**A DECADE AFTER “HOPE AND CHANGE” — AND A PULITZER PRIZE —
PHOTOJOURNALIST DAMON WINTER '97 FEELS FREER THAN EVER BEFORE**



Donald Trump at a
campaign event in
Dubuque, Iowa;
January 30, 2016.

What do you do after “Hope and Change” gives way to fear and loathing?

For photojournalist Damon Winter '97, the question wasn't just political; it went to the core of his life and work. After joining *The New York Times* in 2007, where he quickly earned a reputation for marrying expert technique with vivid storytelling, Winter went on the road with candidate Barack Obama '83 and brought home the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. His indelible campaign pictures — of Obama pointing at a cloud, or greeting ecstatic children or addressing thousands as rain, sweat and tears coursed down his face — immortalized that season of light for the paper of record.

Ten years later, having covered Obama's more earth-bound reelection run, war in Afghanistan, devastation in Haiti and the 2016 campaign of Donald Trump, Winter would be forgiven for feeling sentimental about those earlier, sunnier days. But he doesn't. When he revisits the photos that made his career, he sees work that is “naïve”

and “simplistic.” In the years that followed, he says, “I felt like I had a little more to say.”

The moment that really made him reassess his earlier work shouldn't surprise anyone who follows the news. The election of a President who doubled as Media Basher-in-Chief led the press to ask itself hard questions: What had they missed about the American voter? How could they defend themselves while remaining above the fray? How could they maintain an objective posture when so much of what the government was saying was objectively false? The dilemma was not limited to writers. We like to say the camera doesn't lie, but that doesn't mean it has no point of view. Photographers were no more immune to the jeers of MAGA crowds or the candidate himself than the rest of the press pack. Having borne it for months, Winter emerged from 2016 with “this feeling of futility” that he couldn't shake.

Ultimately, that feeling has hardened him against nostalgia; it's also left him freer to say more with his cameras than he'd ever thought possible. He's traveled a journey

President Obama boards Air Force One at Boston's Logan Airport; June 26, 2012.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY DAMON WINTER '97 / THE NEW YORK TIMES



Donald and Melania Trump descend from their private jet at Wilmington International Airport, Wilmington, N.C.; November 5, 2016.

parallel to his readers — witnessing Obama's disillusionment, war and climate crisis, and a President who personifies chaos. Like many of us, including the newspaper nicknamed the "Gray Lady," he's become a digital native, a multimedia creator. He's also grown more forthright about his opinions — especially during the past year, as the first in-house photographer for the *Times's* Opinion section. He's looking toward 2020 with a mixture of excitement and dread and, as ever, an exceptionally keen eye.

Winter's home on the Upper West Side, which he shares with his longtime partner, photographer Béatrice de Géa, and their son, Noah, is a prewar duplex that Winter is slowly converting into a light-flooded haven of sliding doors and slatted wood. Oddly, only one photo is on display, in the bathroom. "Béa doesn't want to have to look at the same photos every single day," Winter explains, while scanning his vast portfolio on a laptop.

We like to say the camera doesn't lie, but that doesn't mean it has no point of view.

It may be de Géa's preference, but the lack of work on display suits Winter's reticence — a trait not normally associated with photojournalists (one colleague calls him "a silent assassin"). He started shooting pictures as an undergrad with a camera his mother gave him for his birthday, and fell instantly in love. He'd had an interest in environmental science, but says he's never fit into any field or clique: "It's a sort of personal feeling that I'm an outsider." On our first meeting, he'd apologized in advance for being an uninteresting subject, and here in his home, he seems reluctant to pick his favorite photos, which was kind of the point of the visit.

Winter even casts his success as a lucky break. "It really is the beauty of photography that initially drew me to it," he says. But "I don't think I'm creative or crazy enough to live off the wiles of my own mind ... I was

just extremely lucky to have stumbled into photojournalism." After the College, he worked at the *Dallas Morning News* and other papers before landing at the *Los Angeles Times*, where he was a Pulitzer finalist in 2005 for a photo essay on victims of sexual abuse in Alaska.

Two years later, *The New York Times* poached him, as part of a larger drive to give the paper more visual flair. "He has a real vision," says *New York Times* deputy picture editor Beth Flynn. "When you look at an image made by Damon, it has all the elements

that an image should have — light, composition — but it has the Damon Winter vision attached to it." After he won the Pulitzer, he drew intensive feature assignments around the world.

Winter was up for those adventures — most of the time. In his living room, he shows me a picture of troops evacuating a gravely injured soldier in Afghanistan; a helicopter downdraft throws sepia-toned dust over stoic soldiers, recalling iconic war photos like the Iwo Jima flag planting. Winter had had to walk through a minefield, and saw a tech lose his legs — knowing he might be next. "This is before I had Noah and realized it wasn't worth it," he says.

But after dodging mines on the battlefield, Winter caught flak from his peers. In order to capture the intimacy of life on the base, he took some pictures with a phone and a Hipstamatic filter (the precursor to Instagram), breaking *Times* precedent against digital tweaks. He addressed the backlash from purists in a long post on the paper's Lens blog, arguing that it was the right tool for the job. "We are being naïve," he wrote, "if we think aesthetics do not play an important role in the way photojournalists tell a story. We are not walking photocopiers. We are storytellers."

In 2010, Winter spent many months visiting Haiti after its catastrophic earthquake, working on a series of stories that allowed the *Times* to transcend the grief tourism typical of disaster coverage. He sought "a way for people to connect, not just to be shocked or to get information, but to feel empathy for people who have gone through something really horrific." Some of his work captures the carnage and raw grief, but his favorite picture is of a girl walking uphill in silhouette, a full water-cooler jug on her head. It's not about mourning or poverty, but the Sisyphean task of recovery. "I felt

Pfc. David Gedert stands in a beam of sunlight as he puts on his combat gear in Kunduz, Afghanistan; October 11, 2010.





Eridiant Joseph collapses in grief after discovering his sister's body in the rubble from a 7.0 earthquake in Port Au Prince, Haiti; January 25, 2010.

like a different person when I came back," Winter says. "I felt like I had done something worthwhile."

By comparison, the next campaign was anticlimactic. The tone of Obama's 2012 run was typified by a photo rich with subtext, in which the President speaks to a crowd: The glass of the teleprompter in front of him reflects an arrangement of flowers, while up in the sky — in the real world — storm clouds gather. After Winter compiled his coverage into a photo essay headlined "A Face More Careworn, a Crowd Less Joyful," White House press secretary Jay Carney complained to a colleague of Winter's: "Who the fuck is Damon Winter and why is he such a terrible writer?" Winter laughed it off. "It reinforced the fact that I was never his photographer," he says.

Winter's next campaign made the skirmishes of 2012 seem quaint. Discussing assignments in 2015, he'd told photo editor Jennifer Dimson he wanted to cover Trump. "I think he was interested in the challenge," says Dimson. "Nobody knew what kind of campaign it would be." One of Winter's colleagues, *Times* White House photographer Douglas Mills, believes he just knew a rich subject when he saw one. "Barack

Obama was the most photogenic President," says Mills, "but Donald Trump is the most iconic."

Consider one of Winter's most memorable shots (below): Trump stands in front of a murky American flag, every part of him obscured except a shock of that strange hair and a brightly lit hand pointing like a raised gun. Winter had been trapped for hours behind barricades along with dozens of other journalists, heckled by the crowd and ignored by hostile staff. "You're stuck in this pen," Winter says, "and you have time to really contemplate: 'What is it that I want to say? What can I

Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Greensboro, N.C.; June 14, 2016.



do within the confines of this situation?” This particular situation was both more confined and more chaotic than usual, but the constraints worked to Winter’s advantage. He saw a fuzzy shadow — probably another reporter’s phone — obscuring most of Trump’s face, and started clicking and adjusting, knowing not only what the perfect picture would look like, but also what it would convey: “These sort of iconic big grand gestures that he makes, and his iconic hair — but there was nothing underneath.”

It was the kind of work that made even seasoned Washington photojournalists ask themselves, *How’d he do that?* “He just sees things differently,” says Mills. “Everyone is looking for the right face, but Damon found a spot in the light, and turned a well-lit photograph into a silhouette.” Mills is on a text chain with

photojournalists, and the day before he spoke to me, one of them had linked to a Winter photo of Mitch McConnell and captioned it, “DAMON. AGAIN.”

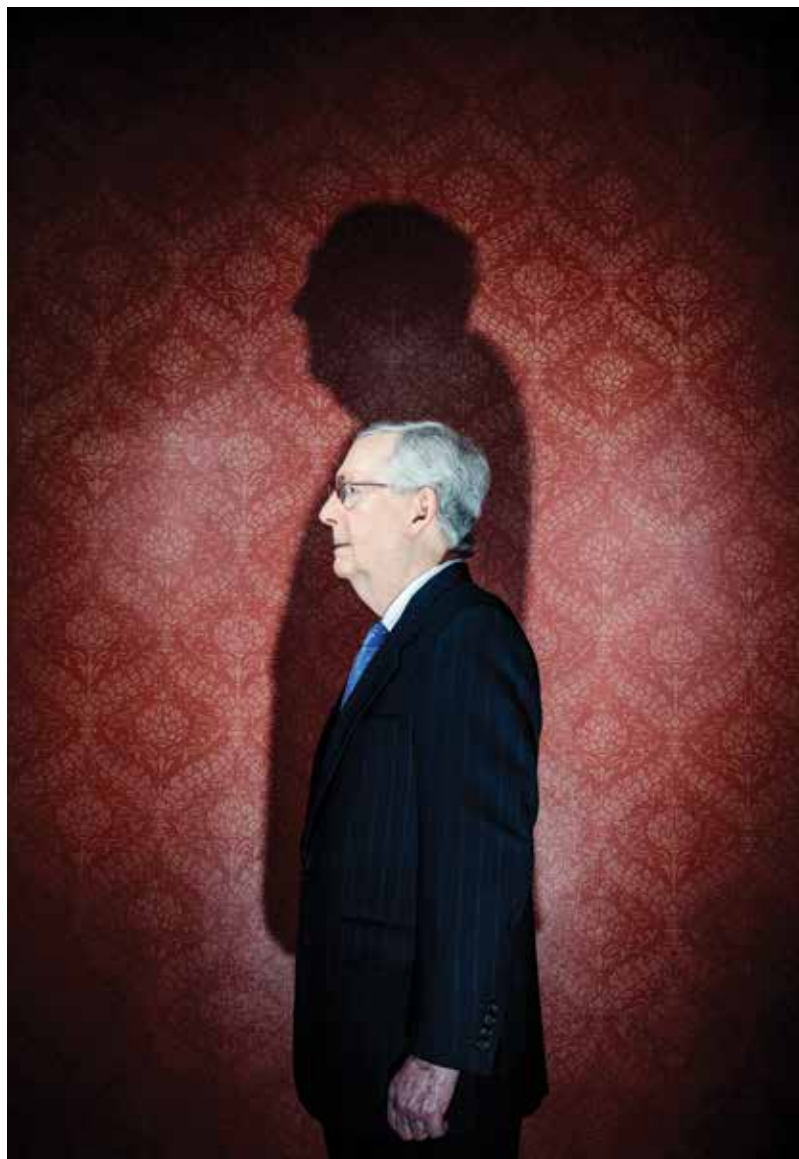
For all the groundbreaking work, covering Trump took a psychic toll on Winter. De Géa noticed a shift in her partner’s moods; on his rare visits home from the trail, she told him he had the same “PTSD look” in his eyes he’d had after Afghanistan. “I would be angry and impatient,” Winter recalls. “You’re being mistreated by the people running the campaign, by the supporters and then by the candidate, and witnessing this shift in the mood in the country that

“We are being naïve if we think aesthetics do not play an important role in the way photo-journalists tell a story. We are not walking photocopiers. We are storytellers.”

you didn’t really understand ... At least in Afghanistan there were long lulls in between the really intense stuff.”

He stuck with it, literally, to the bitter end. Winter’s favorite photo from the campaign was one of his last. On election night, Trump campaign staffers, never expecting to actually win, got precipitously drunk. Around 4 a.m., a woman cut her bare foot on the shard of a wine glass, leaving a trail of blood on a MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN poster. Winter started shooting the poster, and staffers berated him. “I said something back, like, ‘This is a really important picture,’” he says, laughing. “I felt like it really told the story of what had happened that night and what was to come.” In the end, it never ran. “The editors thought it was too provocative.”

It wasn’t just the existential crisis of the new administration that left Winter feeling adrift in 2017. The *Times* photo department was also going through a shakeup, which temporarily left staff photographers unsure of their



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; December 19, 2018.

beats and assignments. “It was easy to get lost in the shuffle,” Winter says. But then, in 2018, some good luck came his way. The Opinion Page had been looking to expand its online presence, and one idea was to assign a dedicated staff photographer to give it a coherent style and exclusive material. Winter’s photo essays were already straying into editorial waters, so why not loan him out?

The timing was perfect, not just for Winter but also for a paper trying to keep pace with the world. Old-school editorial pages, with their godlike tone and throwaway photos, could never compete in an online ecosystem of hot takes and visual flash. In order to build digital subscriptions after years of giving away content, newspapers have been forced to both grab browsers’ attention and earn their loyalty by distinguishing themselves from clickbait. Winter’s dynamic photography is leading the way on both fronts.

Winter’s first Opinion assignment was “sort of right up my alley,” he says — an eye-catching series of double-



Reflection of Fair Bluff, N.C., in stagnant floodwater after a succession of “once in a lifetime” hurricanes; September 24, 2018.

exposed portraits of transgender people, their bodies superimposed with artifacts of their lives. This kind of impressionistic trickery was “so different from what we generally do for a newspaper,” he says. Another creative foray was an essay about a perpetually flooded North Carolina town. Looking at his photos, it takes a minute to realize that every single one is a reflection — an underwater image of buildings or streets shot through stagnant floodwaters and flipped over. It was uncharted territory both aesthetically and thematically: art in the op-ed pages.

Shooting photos to accompany opinion pieces also meant grappling with writers’ points of view. Sometimes Winter was fully aligned with them; other times he

layered on his own take. He’s done both while working with the somewhat controversial writer Bari Weiss ’07. Last year, he shot portraits for Weiss’s piece on a group of right-leaning iconoclasts who make up the so-called “Intellectual Dark Web.” He lit them dramatically in deep twilight, often in pompous poses, poking a bit of fun at their self-importance. “[Weiss] will probably hate me for saying this,” Winter says, “but I kind of wanted it to be a little bit of a check and a balance.”

Yet he and Weiss connected deeply on a truly dark assignment — covering the October 2018 mass shooting at the Pittsburgh synagogue Weiss had grown up attending. They tried to gain entry to the crime scene,



“I’ve never been a fan of that *National Geographic* golden hour light. It’s just kind of uniform and syrupy sweet.”

to witness and convey what really happened inside. “I’d been thinking a lot about the way mass shootings are covered,” says Winter. “We have become so numbed by the rote imagery” — the antiseptic flowers and tears papering over the murder of innocents. They were denied access, so Winter chose to heighten the banality, making note of “this orchestrated dance that follows these horrific acts of gun violence,” inuring us to a scourge we keep on doing nothing about.

Winter has kept up a frantic travel schedule, even if his assignments are less dangerous and more contemplative than they used to be. When we met at his house, he’d just come back from several days in Hawaii, shooting 70



portraits of multiracial people for a story. Another recent shoot was for a piece titled “The Lessons of a Hideous Forest,” about the flora growing over Staten Island’s infamous Fresh Kills landfill. The pictures, juxtaposing strangling vines with relics of trash, were twisted and eerily beautiful. Their careful composition and abundant shadows were recognizably Damon.

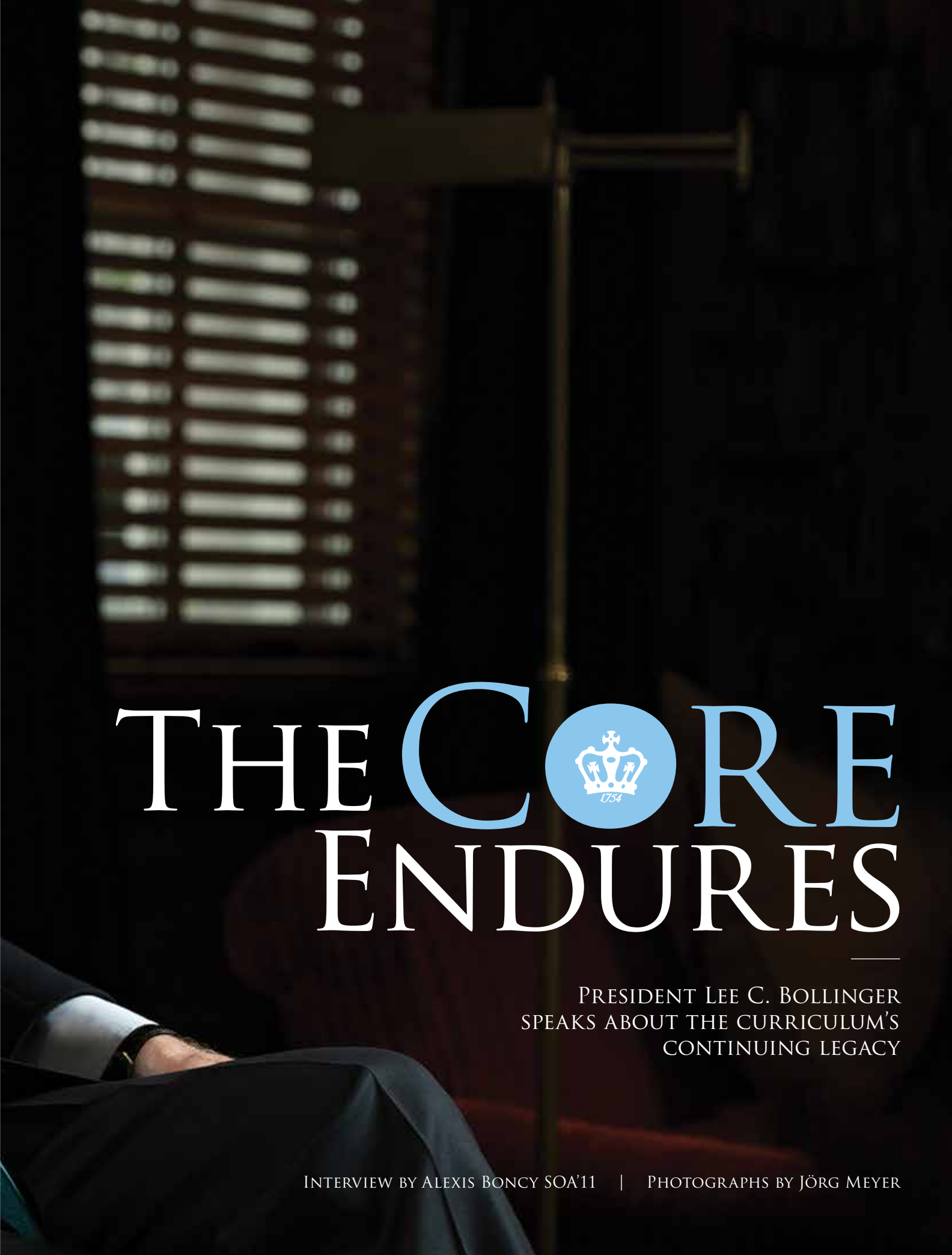
“The whole dark thing — it’s not particular to Trump’s campaign,” Winter says. “I’m an equal opportunity offender.” It seems doubly strange, then, that his colleagues so often talk about how talented he is at “finding the light.” What does he make of the seeming contradiction?

“I’ve never been a fan of that *National Geographic* golden hour light,” he says. “It’s just kind of uniform and syrupy sweet.” He prefers the constraints of a darkening sky, sometimes even the flickering fluorescents of an auditorium. “You can find beautiful, interesting light in lots of different places.”

Boris Kachka ’97, JRN’98 is the books editor of New York magazine and the author of *Hothouse: The Art of Survival and the Survival of Art at America’s Most Celebrated Publishing House* (2013) and *Becoming a Veterinarian* (2019). His feature “*The Radical Authenticity of Beto O’Rourke*” was a CCT Online exclusive in February.

Bibi Fell (right), Spanish/Filipino/Chinese/German/Irish/French, and **Madelyn Fell,** Spanish/Filipino/Chinese/German/Irish/French/Serbian, in Honolulu; June 11, 2019.





THE CORE ENDURES

PRESIDENT LEE C. BOLLINGER
SPEAKS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM'S
CONTINUING LEGACY

INTERVIEW BY ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11 | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JÖRG MEYER

THE CORE ENDURES

THROUGHOUT THE 2019–20 ACADEMIC YEAR,

Columbia College will be marking the Centennial of the Core Curriculum. As our alumni and faculty well know, this set of common courses — required of all undergraduates — is one of the defining experiences of a College education. It began in 1919 with the class that became Contemporary Civilization and evolved and expanded in the decades that followed to embrace Literature Humanities, Music Humanities, Art Humanities, University Writing (formerly Logic & Rhetoric) and, most recently, Frontiers of Science. To kick off this year of celebration and reflection, we asked President Lee C. Bollinger to sit for a conversation about the Core and its significance, not only to the College but also to the University and, more broadly, as testament to the far-reaching benefits of a liberal arts education.



What do you think makes the Core Curriculum unique and enduring?

I think it's fair to say that, for a number of reasons, it's almost impossible for any university in today's world to put together core knowledge as meaningful as Columbia's Core Curriculum. One reason for that is, it's very difficult to get a current consensus. The challenge when you're trying to create something new is different than when you're taking something that's inherited and trying to evolve it.

Many people find the Core to be intellectually thrilling. To be a young person and to be exposed to great texts, great objects of art, and great music of the world over time — and to be exposed to that directly, not intermediated by some secondary or tertiary texts or lectures — is an experience they will never forget. It is reflected in the thousands of comments I have received from current students and alums who say, "*The Core changed my life.*" We all feel a need to connect great thought, great beauty and great achievements to our current lives. The Core is a concentrated, very direct way of making that experience available to young people, which I think is part of its enduring legacy.

It's really so much more than a course of study.

Absolutely. The Core offers an introduction into the scholarly mind. A university is not just a place where knowledge is transferred from one generation to the next; it's a community, a culture. It is a way of thinking, a way of life, a way of approaching almost everything you experience over the course of a life. It encourages a sense of modesty, a sense of your own ignorance, a need to use reason and logic in constructing how you're going to think. You are introduced to that immediately through the Core, and that is very special.

It's also important to recognize that you don't necessarily have an expert teaching you. It will be a serious scholar, but it may be someone coming to the subject with fresh eyes. And so, very early on as a student, you understand that you don't have to be intimidated by expertise. It's powerful to be told and shown by example that even though you aren't as well equipped as someone else might be, it's still your responsibility — and your life will be made better by making the effort — to understand.

You're speaking, of course, about the seminar-style format of the Core. Are there other benefits to that approach?

One of the things about having to speak and write is that it makes you confront your own ignorance, your own incapacities. It's very easy to sit back and be critical when other people are speaking — to think, "That's all completely obvious." But as soon as *you* try to write, and as soon as *you* try to explain things, you have to confront the fact of how difficult it is. If it were so easy to absorb Shakespeare or Montaigne or Aristotle or Virginia Woolf, we wouldn't need universities, and we wouldn't need the Core Curriculum.

Every person has had the experience, I think, of reading a great text, looking at a great piece of art or listening to a fine piece of music and thinking certain things, admiring certain things — but imagine then having a scholar help you to unravel that art’s complexities. You would begin to see things that you hadn’t, and it’s amazing, and by the end you develop a habit of mind; you know that you will never take a great work or any work for granted, and that, too, is an enormous educational benefit, a life benefit.

There seems to be enormous benefit as well in the community learning aspect of the Core.

Early on in my presidency, somebody in my family said that it was striking to walk up the Low Steps and to see so many students sitting quite separately, reading Plato or Aristotle. And that symbol of a young person on the Steps, outdoors, reading the same great text as someone sitting a few yards away, is an example of what you’re talking about. When you are doing the same thing that all of your peers are doing, it reinforces the seriousness of what it is that you are undertaking. I think it also must be incredibly stimulating to be able to compare notes about classes and readings; it’s an immediate bond with other individuals. The objective, of course, is to give our students so much more than the skills they need to read a great text. We want them to understand the value of being able to discuss difficult and important ideas with other people who may not share their views. We want them to continue to do it throughout their lives.

How do you view the questions around diversity and representation in the Core?

There has to be an ongoing discussion about the character and the content of the Core. And not only about the Core, but also about scholarship generally — any university worth its salt will embrace that continual self-examination and self-criticism. Issues of inclusiveness need to be addressed. Issues of a more international and global world need to be addressed. Issues about the unfairness and inequality that informed or characterized the societies in which many of these works arose or emerged need to be addressed. It’s all part of what it means to be an institution that respects reason and knowledge, and to carry forward values that we, over time, have come to realize are incredibly important — values of equality, values of addressing invidious discrimination, values of being respectful of other people, of being tolerant. So, I think the measure of the continuing success of the Core Curriculum will be its capacity to change as new values are introduced and old values are rethought.

You’ve said that “the education afforded by the Core has never been more relevant to the world we inhabit.” Can you elaborate?

We’re living at a moment when the attack on basic facts, on the use of reason, on reporting on what you see in the

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world — these are under assault. In one sense, there has always been anti-intellectualism in societies and certainly in American society. Universities have to contend with that, and they have to address it. But, in today’s world, this anti-intellectualism is essentially an assault on what it is that universities stand for. So, universities, and the Core Curriculum in particular, need to continue to be sources of responses to those attacks. After all, our mission, ultimately, is to discover new knowledge and pursue the truth.

How do you view the Core’s place and mission within the larger University?

The Core is, of course, the signature program of the College — but we have 16 schools here. So, I have said, and will say again, that the Core Curriculum is to the University what the University is to the world and the nation. It’s easy to say we are about the search for truth, and that can sound banal, cliché. But underlying those words is a whole tradition of respecting human inquiry into truth, knowledge and understanding. That tradition of inquiry has brought enormous benefits to the world — capitalism, free markets, open economies, political systems of self-government, democracies — and these are really, really important. But what’s incredibly important, what underlies those systems and organization of societies, is a respect for truth and a desire to expand your knowledge.

I believe in universities. They are very special institutions, and I think part of America’s success as a country is rooted in its commitment to colleges and universities and what they represent — liberal arts education, professional education, and not just in terms of preparing people for professions, but also educating people in the broadest sense. But universities are fragile. They’re different from the rest of society, and they emphasize certain values — reason and explanation; respect for different points of view; being skeptical, being modest. We take all of those values to an extreme and that creates a culture. The Core Curriculum is the essence of that and representative of what we do at all of Columbia’s schools. Studying the Core exposes our students to the best of this culture and prepares them to carry forward this way of thinking into the world.



It's the first Saturday in June, and thousands of fans have crowded into New York City's Javits Center, lining up since early morning for a chance to meet their heroes at BookCon. The two-day celebration of books and pop culture brings together authors and readers of young adult (YA) literature, a booming market that has made rock stars out of writers. And one of the industry's brightest lights is Melissa de la Cruz '93.

On that Saturday, de la Cruz perched at a table as the line for her book signing snaked around stanchions and out of view. Excited fans rolled through to take selfies, meet de la Cruz and talk Hamilton (de la Cruz had just come from a packed panel — "Making Out Between the Pages" — where she discussed the final book in her *Alex & Eliza* trilogy, which follows Alexander Hamilton CC 1778's romance with Elizabeth Schuyler). Near the front of the autograph line, a girl clutching all three *Alex & Eliza* books complimented de la Cruz on her striking gunmetal-grey eyeshadow, while

another autograph seeker gushed, "My friends are freaking out that I'm meeting you!" A Sunday giveaway for advance review copies of the first book of her new series, *The Queen's Assassin* (coming in early 2020), was so mobbed that the publisher had to call security. Rock star status: confirmed.

To say de la Cruz is prolific would be an understatement. In the nearly 20 years since she published her first novel, the author has written more than 50 books, penned three television movies, helped develop two thriving book festivals on opposite coasts and, oh yeah, cumulatively her books have spent years on *The New York Times* Bestseller List. But ask the bubbly de la Cruz how she manages her workload and she answers, with a laugh, "Absolute procrastination and then absolute desperation!"

For de la Cruz, writing has always been a passion. She grew up with parents who loved and encouraged reading, and as a child she devoured everything from *Little Women* to her mother's Jackie Collins romance novels (she describes herself as "the kid who always had a book"). But reading an interview with Francine Pascal, creator of the Sweet Valley High tween series, opened her mind to being on the other side of the page. Pascal "talked about how she had created the [Sweet Valley] world, but the women who actually wrote the books were 22 years old! They were three girls who were just out of college and they were her ghostwriters," de la Cruz recalls.

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

The Teen-Lit Queen

CCT joins the fan club of bestselling author Melissa de la Cruz '93

"At this time I was 11 and I thought, 'They're 22? Maybe in 11 years I could be writing books like these.'"

When de la Cruz was 12, her family left her native Manila and settled in California. Columbia and the East Coast called to her, as she was inspired by both Jay McInerney's *Bright Lights, Big City* and the Beat Generation — "[Columbia's] reputation rested on being the home of Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, and for having produced all these beautiful writers and just having that edgy, alternative reputation," she says. "It felt like the kind of school you would go to if you were a little artistic."

De la Cruz majored in English and art history, and stayed in New York for a decade after graduation, writing about beauty and fashion for publications from *Marie Claire* to

who happened to be vampires, was released in 2006 and rode the wave of late-aughts vampire popularity. Although it first became a bestseller in 2008, *Blue Bloods* continued to pop up on the list until as late as 2011; the story grew into a nine-book series. De la Cruz's first take on adult fantasy literature came in 2011 with *Witches of East End*, which spawned a six-book series and a Lifetime TV show, which ran for two seasons.

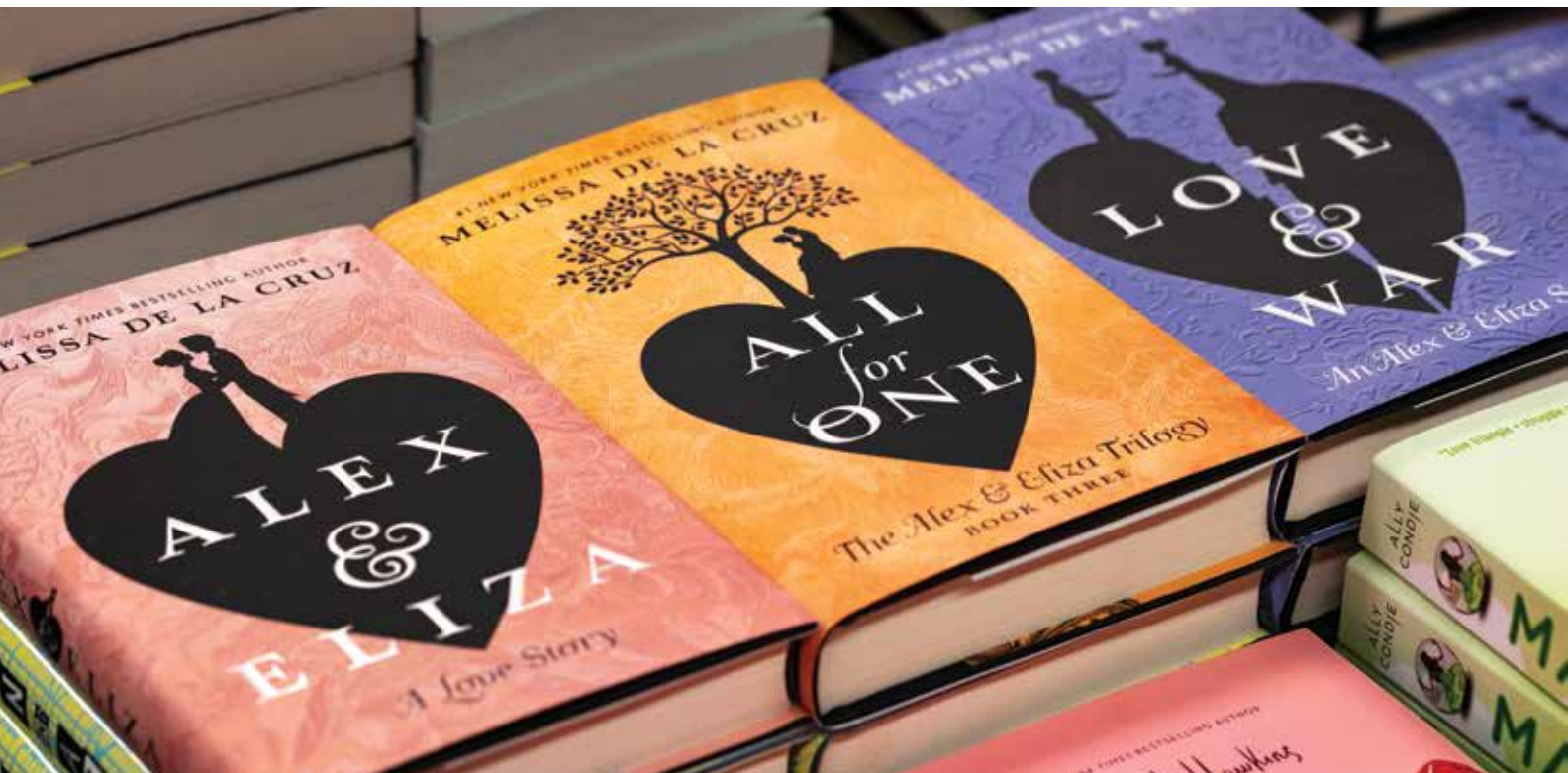
After success writing about vampires, witches and dystopian futures (the *Heart of Dread* series, co-written with her husband), de la Cruz was looking for the next big thing. A fortuitous lunch with Jeanne Mosure, then-head of Disney Publishing Worldwide, led to an offer de la Cruz couldn't refuse: a deal to write a middle-grade (readers ages 8–12) series about the children of Disney's villains, tied into the upcoming Disney Channel movie *Descendants*. "I thought it was so funny," says de la Cruz. "I had just talked to my agent about wanting to do a fairy tale and here I was being handed the entire Disney universe." The offer turned into 2015's *The Isle of the Lost*, which reigned on the *Times* Bestseller List for 50 weeks ("We ran out of champagne!" jokes de la Cruz) and has spawned an entire book and movie series; the fourth book, *Escape from the Isle of the Lost*, was released on June 4, and the *Descendants 3* film debuted on August 2.

De la Cruz reflects on her accomplishments as being hard won: "There are a lot of ups and downs in creative careers, and I was fortunate to be with people and raised by a family that said, 'When it's time to celebrate, it's time to celebrate,' because you don't know how long the moment will last — you can't take things for granted."

"I had just talked to my agent about wanting to do a fairy tale and here I was being handed the entire Disney universe."

Allure to the *Times*. In 1999 she sold her first book — the adult fiction novel *Cat's Meow* — and in 2003 she and her husband, Michael Johnston GSAPP'99, moved to Los Angeles.

De la Cruz's first YA novels were contemporary fiction, covering wealthy teens in the Hamptons and regular high school life. Then everything changed: Thanks to the success of the *Twilight* book series (which launched in 2005), vampires and supernatural creatures were suddenly big business. De la Cruz's *Blue Bloods*, about wealthy New Yorkers



JÖRG MEYER

“The first time I hit the bestseller list was in 2008, and I had been a writer for about 10 years by then,” she says. “I felt really validated. When *Descendants* did so well and was on the bestseller list for a year, it was hard not to get used to it. But I was really cognizant that these things don’t last and you have to enjoy them while they’re happening.”

On the Friday night before BookCon, de la Cruz sat on a panel with six other YA authors also represented by Penguin Teen, hosting a free trivia night at the Upper West Side Barnes & Noble. Among the crowd of excited teens and young adults was an elderly man who stepped into the Q&A to ask why the authors were wasting their time writing fiction when they could be writing something educational for young people. De la Cruz, there promoting *All for One* (the third book in the *Alex & Eliza* trilogy), was diplomatic in her response: “I write books to entertain, I write them to amuse myself — I hope they amuse other people. But I do think that they teach something that’s so much more important than how to put together an airplane. They teach us how to love, and that’s the most important lesson of life.”

She continued, “I wanted to write about Eliza Schuyler because I wanted to write about a good person, a decent American. In the climate that we’re in, I wanted to celebrate that [decency] — everything that is good about our country was in this one person.”

De la Cruz is ardent in her belief that reading about different people and places can teach empathy and open-mindedness. Her 2005 book *Fresh Off the Boat* drew from her own family’s immigration story and was one of the first Filipino-American themed YA books published in the United States. A decade later, publishing company Harlequin Teen came to her about an imprint they were launching with *Seventeen* magazine about teens going through real-life issues. Their request: Could she write about a teenager experiencing the effects of illegal immigration? Her instinct was to say no, she didn’t want to relive the difficulties of her own immigration story (her family came to the U.S. legally on her father’s business visa, but it was a long journey to a Green Card). “But then I thought that it would be kind of necessary to tell the story now,” she says. “This country was founded by immigrants; we were always proud to be immigrants in this country.” The book, *Something in Between*, was released in October 2016.

De la Cruz wants YA to be celebrated in its own right, and to that end she’s been instrumental in raising the genre’s profile during the two decades she’s been writing. She has participated in the Charleston, S.C., young adult book festival YallFest for its entire nine-year run, and is the co-founder of its West Coast sister show, YallWest, begun in 2015. Author Margaret Stohl, the co-founder of both festivals, says, “The incredible power of Mel is that she will see something and immediately know how to make it better, fund it, roll it out, take it to the next level. She came [to the first YallFest] as an author and then, as my friend, said, ‘Oh honey, you’re doing this all wrong!’ And by the next year

she had enlisted every major publishing house in New York and in our industry.”

YallFest brings dozens of YA authors to South Carolina for a weekend of panels, signings and special events. De la Cruz notes, “A lot of the cities in the deep south aren’t normally on the book tour circuit, and a lot of the kids we met during our first festival were so thankful that we came there.” When YallWest launched in Santa Monica, Calif., the organizers wanted to continue bringing YA literature to underserved communities, and so the festival sponsors kids from Title 1 schools (public schools with a large concentration of students from low-income families) to come to the festival for free and to receive free books. “There aren’t that many people who can demand the attention of an entire industry and their dollars, and that’s what Mel can do,” Stohl says. “It’s really just this one person who has transformed opportunity and access for children. She’s sort of the unofficial CEO of the YA community.”

At BookCon, after speaking to a jam-packed room for “Making Out Between the Pages,” fans lined up at microphones to ask everything from how de la Cruz and her fellow writers found their passions in life to thanking the panelists for creating diverse characters that speak to the readers’ real-life experiences. Moments before de la Cruz headed into the panel, she reflected further on her Friday night comments about love, decency and the power of books. The questions “‘how to love, who to love’ have fueled generations of readers and books,” she mused. “From Jane Austen to Shakespeare, it’s *the* immortal question. How do you learn about love but through books and putting yourself in someone else’s shoes?”

MARIA CINA



Hamilton!

Read an excerpt from *All for One*, the final book of de la Cruz’s *Alex & Eliza* trilogy: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras/allforone.

A Well-Lived Landmark

Julie Satow '96, SIPA'01 pays tribute to the Plaza Hotel

For many New Yorkers, the Plaza Hotel is a symbol of wealth and romance, embedded like a low jewel in the city's skyline. To Julie Satow '96, SIPA'01, the Plaza also seemed like a personal landmark — a figure always traced into her life's backdrop. On some high school afternoons, she'd sit in the Sheep's Meadow in Central Park, the hotel's silhouette visible in the distance. As a teenager — and during her time at Columbia — she'd venture inside to visit her grandmother, who stayed there on city visits. Satow's 2009 wedding was held in the Terrace Room, its ornate walls decorated with flow-

ers and Roman statues. "The Plaza always represented glamour and excitement to me," Satow says.

Satow became a journalist, writing first about business and then real estate. In 2015, by then a contributor to *The New York Times*, she decided to write her first book and thought of the mythic hotel she'd known since childhood. The allure of its story was undeniable:

The Plaza had been a beguiling, elusive trophy from its earliest days, the kind of real estate prize that had both seduced and frustrated those who possessed it. From the "rakish adventurer" Harry Black, who owned the hotel in the early 20th century, to the Sonnabend family, from Donald Trump to the jailed Indian tycoon

Subrata Roy, the Plaza had an almost mystical ability to blind rich investors to the vagaries of its often-tenuous bottom line. Trump, who drove the Plaza into bankruptcy proceedings just four years after he bought it in 1988, called the purchase his "Mona Lisa," while for the 21st century's international buyers, the world-famous château was "the ultimate global calling card."

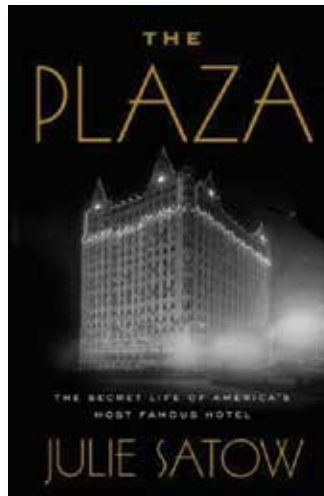
Satow, for one, didn't let the romance of the Plaza blind her to its seamier side. The hotel has always been a locus for scams and scandals as well as for opulent refinement; her book, *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel* (Twelve Books, \$29), rips open the embroidered Edwardian curtains and pulls up the rugs to reveal the grime. During construction, a retired cop was thrown down two unfinished stories; in the 1970s, Central Park South was known as Prostitutes' Promenade. Satow's well-received history is, as *The Wall Street Journal* puts it, a "lively and entertaining portrait" of a beloved landmark with an "astonishingly unsavory past."

Satow writes movingly about revisiting the Plaza for a night when she had almost finished her book. She wanders through the hallways, past a boutique, a hair salon and the still-popular portrait of Eloise, to the ornate but empty room where her wedding took place. The building is a hybrid now, part condo and part hotel, with pied-à-terres owned by shell companies on the floors where eccentric widows and their servants used to live. Despite the sometimes awkward alterations, Satow is still moved by the Plaza's graceful presence — and she's hopeful about its future. Like any fixer-upper, all it needs is a lot of cash — and the newest owner, Katara (the hotel arm of Qatar's Investment Authority), clearly has deep pockets. "With sufficient investment," Satow says, "I am sure the Plaza can return to its former glory."

— Rose Kernochan BC'82



EMILY ASSIRAN



Chapter 1

Parade of Millionaires

“Great hotels have always been social ideas, flawless mirrors to the particular societies they service.”

—Joan Didion

On the morning of October 1, 1907, the hotel bellmen and front desk staff were scurrying about the marble lobby, smoothing their uniforms and making final preparations. Upstairs, maids in starched white aprons checked the sumptuous suites, fluffing feather pillows and straightening the damask curtains. As the hotel manager barked orders, a troop of nervous doormen, dressed in black satin breeches and jackets inlaid with yellow braid, filed outside the Plaza’s bronze revolving door, arraying themselves along the entryway’s red-carpeted steps.

Along Fifty-Ninth Street, crowds had been gathering since the early hours. At 9 a.m., a shiny black carriage finally pulled up in front of the entrance and out stepped Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, one of the country’s wealthiest men. The excitement grew palpable as onlookers jostled one another for a glimpse of the New York princeling, while newspapermen called out for a quote. Wearing a top hat and a wide grin, the dashing Vanderbilt strode past the spectators, up the hotel’s grand staircase, and through the revolving door.

Once inside, Vanderbilt headed straight for the front desk. But instead of meeting the clerk, he was confronted by a young Irish girl perched atop the counter, absentmindedly clicking her heels. Mary Doyle

was meant to be minding the Plaza newsstand, but while her fellow employees were busily preparing for the grand opening, she had aimlessly wandered over to the desk when she saw the clerk momentarily leave his post. It was at that exact moment that Vanderbilt made his entrance.

“I suddenly realized that the newsstand, where I was supposed to be on duty, wasn’t even in sight from where I sat,” Doyle recalled in her memoir, *Life Was Like That*. “But, not knowing what else to do, I remained where I was.” As the debonair millionaire looked on bemusedly at the young girl with thick blond hair and a snub nose, there was “a slightly strained moment of silence.” Then, “with a barely perceptible trace of sarcasm,” Vanderbilt inquired if he might not check in. “Still sitting on the desk, I reached out casually, swung the brand-new register pad around in front of him, and dipped and handed him a pen.” Vanderbilt bent over the large book and on the first line of the first page signed, “Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt and servant,” forever inscribing himself as the Plaza’s inaugural guest.

The Plaza was the most expensive hotel in the city’s history, its looming eighteen stories dominating the surrounding skyline. Its arrival was so monumental that it ushered in new behaviors that would leave their mark on New York for generations.

The Plaza’s opening, for instance, coincided with the debut of one of the city’s most enduring symbols, the modern taxicab. On that first day, those in the crowd who ventured to the Fifth Avenue side of the hotel discovered a fleet of twenty-five bright red cars. These vehicles, imported from France, featured gray interiors with long bench seats and two facing single seats that could be turned up when not in use. The drivers were

decked out in matching uniforms made of a similar gray-blue as the interiors. To generate publicity and entice wealthy fans on this first day of business, these prototypes for today's ubiquitous yellow cabs were being offered free of charge to Plaza guests.

In 1907, cars were still novelties — it would be thirteen more years before the first traffic light graced Fifth Avenue. New Yorkers who didn't own carriages often depended on two-wheeled hansom cabs to get around town. But these new taximeter cars, with their decidedly faster pace and clearly marked odometers — charging 30 cents for the first half mile and 10 cents for every quarter of a mile after — quickly replaced horse-drawn hansom cabs as popular transport. “The hansom cabbies were curious at first” about the cars, remembered Tom Clifford, a Plaza doorman who was there that first day, “but it was plain to see that trouble was coming.”

In only a few short years, the calls of “Cab, cab, cab!” from hansom drivers perched high upon their platforms were replaced with insistent honking and belching from the new red cars. In 1912, when a *New York Times* reporter stood outside the Times Square newsroom to count traffic, he found that of the forty-eight vehicles that passed by, just five were driven by horses, while nearly one-quarter were taxis. Ironically, today the only place one can find horse-drawn cabs is directly across from the Plaza, where the New York City taxis that marked their death knell were first introduced.

The advent of the Plaza ushered in other new behaviors, besides the use of modern taxis. In the wake of the hotel's opening, for instance, wealthy New Yorkers began embracing a wider public life. Those who had long maintained enormous Manhattan mansions, with their large staffs and expensive upkeep, began moving

instead into hotels. The term “hotel” is a bit of a misnomer, since the terms “apartment” and “hotel” were often used interchangeably. Guests like Vanderbilt, Gates, and 90 percent of those who checked in that day were permanent residents with plans to stay indefinitely; some would remain for a lifetime. By living in hotels, these new apartment dwellers avoided what was dubbed the “servant problem,” or finding and keeping affordable, well-trained help. *The New York Times* marveled at “the large number of suites to be occupied by people who have hitherto had their own private residences.”

There was also the draw of the Plaza's unsurpassable modern amenities. Guests could order exotic dishes like turtle soup and enjoy the ease of such conveniences as thermostats, telephones, and automatically winding clocks. “Certainly, no private house, however expensively equipped can, as yet, show the appliances for making life not only comfortable and easy, but also hygienic,” the fashion magazine *Vogue* wrote in an early review of the hotel. Guests didn't have to hire decorators, as every one of the Plaza's eight hundred rooms came replete with the most elegant of furnishings, including dark wood armoires and sofas upholstered in rich brocade. There were three-button panels that allowed guests to call for a bellboy, maid, or waiter, who were stationed on every floor. And room service was delivered through an elaborate system of pneumatic tubes and dumbwaiters, so it would arrive still warm from the cavernous kitchens below.

Of course, not every guest appreciated the modern conveniences. When the famed tenor Enrico Caruso first moved into his suite at the Plaza, the loud ticking emanating from the automatic clock in his room interrupted his vocal training. In a fit of pique, he put the annoyance out of commission with a blow. But he failed to realize that each clock was connected to a master clock, and the destruction of one machine ruptured the entire system. Sleepy guests who awoke “to glance at the room clock, discover[ed] that the day evidently was standing still,” noted a dispatch in the *Baltimore Sun*. “Those who had luncheon engagements were assailed by ennui as they waited for the hour that came not.”

Irate guests began hounding the front desk, and a manager was dispatched to investigate. When he arrived at the door of Caruso's suite, he was told by the tenor's servant that “Chevalier Caruso” could not be interrupted since “such annoyance was disconcerting to the aesthetic soul.” The manager insisted, and when he eventually won entrance, he was confronted with the necessary proof. There, “beneath the embarrassed face of the clock in the Caruso suite hung a mass of broken and twisted wires.”

The opening of the Plaza also influenced fashion and social patterns. Since the 1890s, the elite of society had paraded their finery along Peacock Alley, a three-hundred-foot marble corridor that ran the length of the fashionable Waldorf-Astoria hotel. It was a grand



FIRST PLAZA: The first Plaza Hotel was an eight-story structure with a brick-and-brownstone facade, 400 guest rooms and a famous painting of a lion by Massachusetts artist Alexander Pope Jr. It was, for a time, considered one of New York's grandest hotels. Here it is in 1894.

H.N. TIEMANN & CO. / MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BYRON COMPANY (NEW YORK, N.Y.) / MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK



WHITE BEACON: The Plaza was designed as a French château in skyscraper proportions, with a facade of marble and white terracotta, and a copper mansard roof that reflected the green of nearby Central Park. Here it is in 1920, dominating the skyline.

spectacle that epitomized the excesses of the Gilded Age. But now, with the Plaza, this behavior became a broader phenomenon. It became popular to go out to restaurants and eat among strangers, and to spend evenings ballroom dancing to an orchestra with hundreds of other couples. The Plaza and its compatriots became preeminent places to show off, enjoy one's wealth, and cement one's status in high society. At the Plaza, you could march through the lobby in the latest fashion and be assured of appearing in the society column, the hotel hallways being clogged with reporters in search of gossip to fill the next day's papers.

The Plaza also offered new levels of celebrity, a precursor to reality stars like the Kardashians. For instance, when one of New York's wealthiest society matrons, Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, arrived at the Plaza one evening dressed in a broadtail fur cloak fastened with a conspicuous diamond brooch on the outside of her coat, it caused a flurry of copycats. "In a flash this innovation had sunk deep into the hearts of other women,"

detailed one columnist, in a piece titled "Jewels Outside Your Furs."

Even those with less wealth could successfully leverage the publicity offered by a hotel. As one reporter archly noted, all you had to do was host a relatively inexpensive party, "amounting to no more than afternoon tea," and you would find yourself the exalted subject of an item such as: "Mrs. So-and-So entertained 50 guests at luncheon at the Plaza Hotel, the company afterwards playing bridge."

And long before the Beatles drew frenzied fans to the Plaza, highly anticipated celebrity sightings were attracting crowds. A year after the Plaza opened, word leaked out that Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, sister of Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, and her betrothed, the Count Laszlo Szechenyi, would be having tea at the Plaza's Palm Court. They were to arrive at the same time as Miss Theodora Shonts and her fiancé, the Duc de Chaulnes, and the public, anxious to catch a glimpse of the titled royalty, began swarming the hotel.



BYRON COMPANY (NEW YORK, N.Y.) / MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PLUNGERS: The Plaza was sumptuously outfitted with lavish furnishings in brocades of rose and green, more than 1,000 crystal chandeliers and elevators featuring glass doors through which the mechanical pistons could be seen. Called “plungers,” these elevators were a technological feat, and remained in use well into the 1970s. Here, the lobby on opening day in 1907.

“Within half an hour the corridors were impassible. Visitors took possession of bellboys’ benches and every available chair,” noted the *New York Times*. The hotel closed the Palm Court’s glass doors against the throngs, but “the crowd was undismayed and courteously stormed” the room, forcing the maitre d’hôtel to use his “broad shoulders” to “resist the advances of a flying wedge of well-dressed women.” In the end, when the famous guests arrived, one couple was surreptitiously escorted to their table by way of the hotel’s ground-floor pantry, while the other snuck in through a lobby brokerage office.

Another draw of hotel life was the dining. It was from hotels that Parker House rolls, Waldorf salad, and the Manhattan cocktail originated. The Plaza’s popular subterranean Grill Room, located beneath the lobby, featured a glass refrigerator from which patrons could pick their own steak or pork chop. As an added bonus, the restaurant unexpectedly offered ice-skating during the warm summer months. As June rolled around, the hotel flooded the Grill Room’s tile floor with water they then froze, so that customers could while away the time between courses skating, a full orchestra dressed in white tuxedos providing the musical accompaniment.

As notable as ice-skating in the summer was, the service that the Grill Room offered to patrons who had pets was even more astounding. The restaurant featured a “dog check room,” presided over by a French maid who provided her pampered pooches with a selection of large and small padded baskets, pans filled with water, and an unending supply of dog biscuits. In fact, at any one time, the Plaza was home to nearly three dozen dogs, “many of them imported and virtu-

ally every one of them well pedigreed,” according to *Life* magazine, which later published a multipage feature on the phenomenon.

“Like their owners, Plaza dogs tend to be exceptionally well dressed and well fed. They find life at the hotel unhurried and pleasant,” the magazine noted. There was Nana, a French poodle who boasted her own room featuring a miniature bath, a dog tutor, a dog nurse, and, of course, a specially designed dog-food menu. There was also Pelleas, a chic Pekingese owned by a famous Belgian author; and Bonzu, who at thirteen was the hotel’s oldest canine inhabitant. Given the wealth of its residents and the life of ease many enjoyed, it made sense that the Plaza was known for its dogs. As Thorstein Veblen, the economist who coined the phrase “conspicuous consumption,” noted, the dog, unlike the mouse-chasing cat, “commonly serves no industrial purpose.” A dog is merely “an item of expense,” its “unquestioning subservience and a slave’s quickness in guessing his master’s mood” making it an ideal showpiece for the rich.

Not all dogs, however, were showpieces. A tiny Pomeranian named Digi would prove Veblen wrong when he accomplished what even a New York City police detective could not. Digi’s mistress, Patricia Burke, a socialite visiting from Los Angeles, had lost a diamond-and-pearl ring somewhere in the vast reaches of the hotel. Employees were dispatched to look for it, and a detective was called. But it wasn’t until Digi, who had been following his mistress about the hotel all day, began making strange noises that she finally paid



COURTESY GREGG SALOMONE

MCCARTNEY MOMENT: While countless young fans tried to sneak up the Plaza’s back staircase into the Beatles’s 12th-floor suite, Gregg Salomone, whose father managed the hotel, strolled through the front door of the musicians’ rooms. Here, a 6-year-old Gregg stands with Ringo, Paul and George, as well as his sister Lourdes and her friend Bunny Castalano. Gregg’s hand is hovering because moments earlier, Paul had pointed out that his fly was open.

BYRON COMPANY (NEW YORK, N.Y.) / MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK



TEA TIME: The tea room, later named the Palm Court, featured a curved ceiling made of colored glass that let in daylight, and oversized palm trees and rubber plants, lending the room a garden-like ambience. It was here that British actress Mrs. Patrick Campbell scandalized patrician patrons by lighting up a cigarette shortly after the hotel's opening.

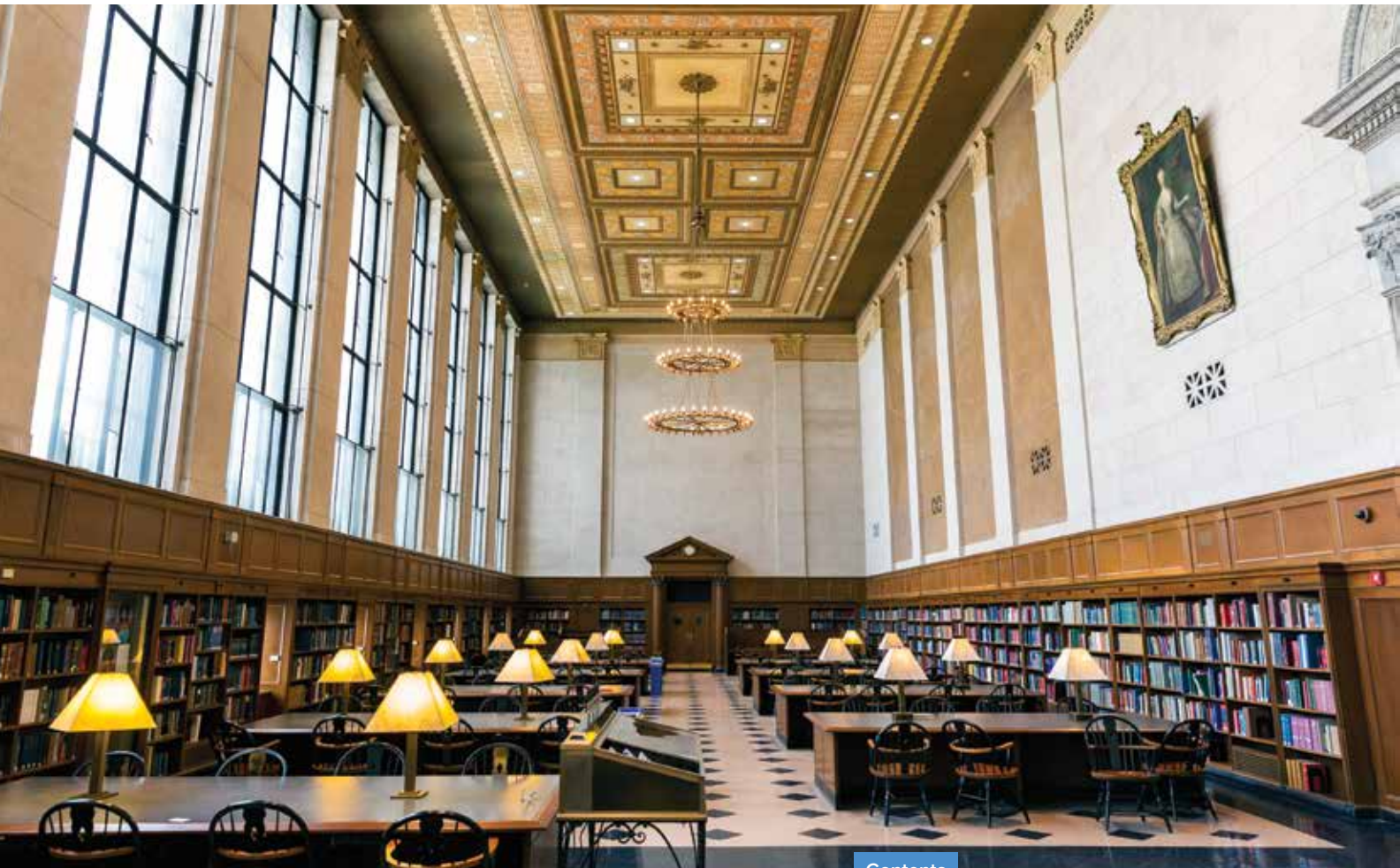
him some heed. “Miss Burke looked at Digi, and there, to her amazement, was the ring gripped tightly in the teeth of the Pomeranian,” reported the *Washington Post*. Another useful dog was Captain, a bulldog who belonged to Plaza resident Mrs. Benjamin Kirkland. Every evening, Captain appeared at the front desk to collect a leather case filled with valuable jewels, which he would then carry — “never did anyone touch the bag in the Boston bull’s mouth” — to Kirkland’s room in time for her to dress, according to one retelling.

A multitude of employees was needed to care for these pets and serve the Plaza’s exacting guests. If a team of ironworkers striving in unison was necessary to erect the hotel, then a collaboration of hundreds of staff was critical to the Plaza’s operations. When it came to dining, for instance, the heart of the enterprise was the subterranean kitchen, a maze of white-tiled rooms located in the building’s lower reaches. It was overseen by Monsieur Lapperraque, a French master chef, the “Grand Poo-bah in this underground land of saucepans,” who surveyed eighty-three cooks from a glass-enclosed office “like a watchful spider in the midst of his web.” There were separate rooms for storing meat, fish, dry goods, and green groceries, and in

what sounded almost like a nursery rhyme, each cook was tasked with a specialty, including a bread baker, an ice cream maker, and a candy creator. It wasn’t unusual for the kitchen to prepare such fare as kangaroo meat or to string up giant game or oversized tortoises on racks to ready them for the ovens.

Even the Plaza’s air was rarefied. The hotel used an elaborate ventilation system to purify the oxygen pumped into the building, and a network of thermostats ensured “there is no annoyance with furnaces that will not burn, with steam radiators that refuse to be hot, or that persistently compel us to endure either a tropical heat or dangerous draughts from windows opened in despair,” *Vogue* wrote approvingly. The refrigeration equipment was also a modern wonder, used not only to produce ice for tea and cocktails, but to circulate brine all the way up to the hotel’s seventeenth floor, above the guest rooms. There, it was used to cool a storage room for guests’ fur coats.

From the book *THE PLAZA: The Secret Life of America’s Most Famous Hotel*. Copyright (c) 2019 by Julie Satow. Reprinted by permission of Twelve/Hachette Book Group, New York, NY. All rights reserved.



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HITTIN' THE BOOKS

Class is in session, and Butler beckons. The library, originally named South Hall, was built in 1934 to replace Low Memorial Library, which had run out of space for its growing collection. In 1946, South Hall was renamed to honor Columbia President Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882, who had retired the previous year. The largest of Columbia's libraries, Butler houses the University's collections in the humanities, with a particular focus on history, literature, philosophy and religion.

SCOTT RUDD

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Celebrating Core Stories

By Michael Behringer '89

This academic year marks one of the most meaningful milestones in Columbia College's history: the 100th anniversary of the Core Curriculum. It will be a year of celebration and reflection on the defining element of our Columbia experience — and on something that is uniquely ours as College alumni.

Beginning with the Centennial launch event on Friday, September 27, alumni and students will have the chance to participate in special programming, along with other opportunities to relive and celebrate their Core experience. I encourage you to join as many events as you can.

As part of the College's commemoration, the Columbia College Alumni Association is asking alumni to share their "Core Stories" — reflections on and memories of their Core experience and the influence it has wielded in their lives. You can submit a Core Story (which can be as short as one sentence), read others' accounts and learn more about the centennial on the Core Centennial website, core100.columbia.edu.

My own Core Story began in high school. For me, the Core and Columbia were one and the same, and it was what attracted me to attend. I had very little prior exposure to the Core texts, and intimately studying these great works seemed to me what the ideal undergraduate education should be. What I remember and cherish most were our passionate small-group discussions. I went to a large, Catholic high school, and it didn't have many classes smaller than 30 or 40 students; unsurprisingly, most of our backgrounds and worldviews were similar.

In the Core classroom, we learned to disagree without being disagreeable. The Core emphasized the value of listening to differing viewpoints and challenging personal assumptions to better under-

stand the world around us. It was exhilarating, and I developed skills that have served me well in my professional and personal life. Some 30 years later, my Core textbooks still hold a prominent place on my bookshelves. Worn and tattered, they are a regular reminder that the lessons of the Core are indeed lifelong.

The Core is about more than what happens in the classroom. It's a vital piece of the collective Columbia College Journey, pushing students outside their comfort zones, celebrating their curiosity, and allowing them to engage in discussions and tackle subjects that they might not have been exposed to anywhere else. The Core prepares College students for not only a life of engaged citizenship, but also a life of greater enjoyment.

As we reflect upon the Core's 100 years, it's also important that alumni look to the future. Operating the Core is no small feat. It requires substantial financial, intellectual and physical resources. Consider the following:

- the Core comprises more than 25,000 hours of instruction, with more than 120 Lit Hum and Contemporary Civilization instructors *per semester*;
- the College's class size is substantial (the Class of '23 totals 1,406), yet the College is still committed to teaching Core classes in seminars of no more than 22 students; and
- Core instructors come from departments such as history, classics, philosophy, political science, art and music, and are asked to teach a multi-disciplinary course outside their primary field of expertise. Coordinating the talent that teaches Core classes takes extraordinary effort.

All of which is to say that maintaining the Core is a massive undertaking. It's also an expensive one, because each and every student is a guaranteed participant. Columbia relies upon alumni contributions, including gifts to the Core through the Columbia College Fund, to help underwrite those enterprise costs as well as to fund innovative programming and events for students.

I hope the Centennial serves as a call to arms for Columbians to ensure that the Core remains vibrant and impactful as it enters its second century. There are so many ways alumni can invest in the Core, and gifts of all sizes are both needed and welcome. To learn how you can support the Core and be part of this exciting effort, please visit core100.columbia.edu.

This year promises to be a momentous one for Columbia and the Core. I look forward to both hearing your Core Story and celebrating this anniversary together.

ROAR!

Michael Behringer



Behringer still has many of his Core books at home.



ANDREW BURTON / GETTY IMAGES

The Champions' Champion

By Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80

The electrifying performance of the U.S. women's soccer team this summer furnished **Jeffrey L. Kessler '75, LAW'77** with something unique in his career as a high-profile sports lawyer: the thrill of watching a beloved team compete for international glory while vying for an historic legal breakthrough under his guidance. While the players' talent and swagger was catching the world's eye, Kessler was masterminding the team's pursuit of pay equity and equal treatment, a cause that reverberates far beyond the soccer world. "I can honestly say I've never been involved in a sports matter that has had such pervasive, widespread public support," he says.

A top member of the international law firm Winston & Strawn, Kessler has long operated on the front line of athletes' rights and interests as individual competitors, employees, union members and citizens. Some of his earliest heroes, he notes, were sports figures who bucked the establishment to follow their conscience and assert their rights. "I was inspired to become a lawyer in part by people like Curt Flood, Muhammad Ali, John Carlos and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and the idea of using the law to achieve social justice

objectives," says Kessler, who specialized in antitrust law before his practice became increasingly involved in sports. "So in a strange way my childhood inspirations have come to roost in my career, totally unplanned and unexpectedly."

Among many key episodes to be found on Kessler's career highlight reel, he litigated the 1992 case *McNeil v. NFL*, which resulted in free agency in the NFL; negotiated the current salary cap/free agency systems in the NBA and NFL; and challenged the amateurism provisions of the NCAA. He represented Patriots quarterback Tom Brady during the Deflategate controversy, defended the right of NFL players to take a knee during the national anthem and argued for the right of double-amputee track stars Oscar Pistorius (years before his murder conviction) and more recently, Blake Leeper, to compete in the Olympics despite their use of prosthetics.

The heart of the women's legal fight is a lawsuit Kessler filed in federal court this past March on behalf of all 28 team members, accusing the sport's governing body, the United States Soccer Federation, of years of gender discrimination, in violation of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The

federation not only compensates the women's team considerably less than the U.S. men's team, the suit charges, but also spends less on coaching, training, medical personnel, marketing and travel.

Compensation for the national teams is not a straightforward process; it is determined by a tangle of collective bargaining agreements, payments from FIFA (the sport's international governing body), sponsorships and other factors. Some have argued that men's soccer generates far greater revenue worldwide, justifying the pay differentials. Kessler counters not only that the U.S. women's team generates greater revenue than the U.S. men, but also that, under law, the federation cannot compensate players unequally based on gender. As of late July, the case appeared headed for mediation.

All along, public opinion has weighed heavily in favor of the U.S. women's team. The throngs who cheered them at a tickertape parade along the Canyon of Heroes three days after the World Cup victory — chanting “Equal pay! Equal pay!” — certainly understood that the event was both a celebration of sports heroics and a rallying cry for women's rights at a time when they are felt to be under assault. After the final horn sounded on the United States' 2-0 victory over the Netherlands on July 7, tennis legend and feminist icon Billie Jean King tweeted: “These athletes have brought more attention, support, & pride to women's sport than perhaps any other team in history. It is long past time to pay them what they rightly deserve.”

“They're inspiring,” Kessler says of the U.S. team. “They are maybe under more pressure than any group of female athletes has ever been. And they not only performed amazingly throughout the tournament, but they also did so well handling the media and the world on this important issue of equal pay. So to be able to do both of those things at the same time in the fashion they did is really just incredible.”

Viewing the World Cup final live from France on a 65-inch plasma TV in his Manhattan apartment, Kessler allowed himself to set aside the legal briefs and enjoy the drama.

As the match got underway, he was confident. “I just felt in my heart that they were going to come through, because they always have,” Kessler says. Yet as the 60-minute mark passed with the American and Dutch squads locked in a scoreless tie, he admits, “I was glued to my seat.” And then, when U.S. co-captain Megan Rapinoe banged in a penalty kick in the 61st minute, followed soon afterward by an insurance goal by midfielder Rose Lavelle, “I jumped up and shouted for joy,” Kessler says, “even though no one else was in the room.”

*Former CCT editor **Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80** has held senior editorial positions at People, Vibe and Latina magazines and contributes to Smithsonian Magazine and other publications. His feature on Wab Chen '92, “Small Business with a Social Conscience,” appeared in the Summer 2019 issue.*

Katherine Katcher '07 Advocates for the Formerly Incarcerated

By Molly Shea

Katherine Katcher '07 says she was never quite sure what she wanted to do after graduating. “I've always leaned toward advocacy, and have always admired people whose role in life has been to fight for justice and stand up for people who've been oppressed,” she says. “I admired Jewish attorneys who went to the South and fought in the civil rights movement. I've felt like my calling is to figure out, what are the biggest human rights issues of our time? How can I fight for justice today?”

As she fumbled for the answer, Katcher, an anthropology major, found herself in an offbeat class: “Literature of the Sea,” with Professor Robert Ferguson.

“We spent a whole semester reading *Moby Dick*, then rereading it — dissecting it. What is the whale? What is the sea? Who are the foes, and who are the allies?” she recalls. “[Ferguson] was a law professor, so he used literature as a vehicle to go more deeply into some of these questions of how we define good and evil.”

The class proved eye opening and helped propel Katcher into a career as an advocate for prison reform — as the founder of the Oakland, Calif.-based criminal justice reform nonprofit Root & Rebound. “I work with a lot of people who are both victim and offender,” she says. “Most perpetrators of crime have suffered immensely in their lives, and that course taught me to look at people in a new way.”



JOSIE DIETHER-MARTIN

Katcher spends her days leading a team of lawyers and advocates working on behalf of the formerly incarcerated. Her organization helps released offenders reenter society, guiding them through the parole system while educating the public on the ins and outs of hiring employees with a prison record. “Though [the law] has often been used against certain communities, we use it as a support,” Katcher explains of her organization's approach to helping end mass incarceration.

Katcher worked at nonprofits after graduating, but kept bumping up against frustrating policies she couldn't change without legal training. "I wanted to do more in terms of fighting for justice," she says. "I wanted to get to the root of these issues on a systemic level."

She founded Root & Rebound in 2013, almost immediately after graduating from UC Berkeley's law school, hiring a classmate as her first staff attorney. Together, they developed the team's three-point strategy: educating people and families affected by mass incarceration on how to reintegrate into their communities post-prison, providing legal services directly to the currently and formerly incarcerated and their families, and advocating for policy reform on a state and national level. "Six years later, we have 24 people on our team; offices in Oakland, Fresno, Los Angeles and San Bernardino; and we recently launched a sister site in Greenville, S.C.," Katcher says.

The plan is to continue working with grassroots organizations that are already established but could use some legal support.

"We're lawyering alongside communities that are most impacted," she says.

And 12 years after leaving Morningside Heights, Katcher is eyeing a return to her Columbia roots. She's in talks with the Business School's Tamer Center for Social Enterprise to create a guide for hiring people with criminal convictions, and working with the school's Justice Lab to analyze data on opportunities for success within parole and probation policy reform.

Her overarching goal, Katcher says, is to help others act on what they know is right, like she did. "I did not grow up in any way directly affected by mass incarceration, and I still feel like all of us have a role to play in undoing a lot of these harms."

Molly Shea is a journalist based in Brooklyn, N.Y. Her last article for CCT was "Who Wants To Live Forever?" in the Winter 2018–19 issue's "Bookshelf" section.

For This History Teacher, There's No Time Like the Present

By Rebecca Beyer

There was a time when **Sari Beth Rosenberg '97, TC'02** had to dig deep into her well of storytelling skills to create enough dramatic tension to hold the attention of her New York City public high school history students.

No longer.

Now, their interest is piqued on a daily basis by what they see on the news and read on social media, and Rosenberg uses those current — and often controversial — events as touchstones for the relevant topics she covers in her U.S. history courses.

"Everyone's arguing about history," Rosenberg says of the pundits and politicians who dominate the news, "including a lot of people who shouldn't be because they don't know what they're talking about. Kids are more interested than ever before. They have an incentive to learn."

For the past few years, Rosenberg has been part of a small team of teachers hired by the city's Department of Education to remake the U.S. and global history curriculum. The goal: to move students away from rote memorization and toward a more active engagement with historical events — in other words, not just "this happened," but "this happened *because*." There's also a renewed focus on providing multiple perspectives, especially when talking about marginalized people.

"It's doing something with the history versus just gazing at it," she adds.

Rosenberg's efforts are getting noticed. Earlier this year she received the Paul A. Gagnon Prize from the National Council for History Education, which recognizes efforts to promote and protect history in the K–12 curricula. The city's DOE also selected her as one of its #DOESHEoes for Women's History Month, in part for her work co-leading a feminist club at her high school (the group's other leader is Alexander Marx '98).

Rosenberg studied history at the College and says in her early teaching years she tried to emulate one of her favorite professors, Ann Douglas, who taught a popular course on the Beat Generation, and then followed her love of literature into publishing before earning a master's in social studies education. In 2002, she joined the staff of NYC's High School for Environmental Studies.

She says she never thought she'd still be teaching nearly two decades after she began, but she finds the work too rewarding to leave behind.



MAXIMILIAN RE-SUGIURA

"I'm not saying it's all *To Sir, with Love* moments," she says with a laugh. "It's not all magical. A lot of the time, it's just, 'Everyone put your phones away and stop talking.'"

Outside the classroom, Rosenberg consults with New-York Historical Society curators, sitting in on focus groups and offering notes on written materials for its exhibitions, including the recent *Hudson Rising*, which focused on industrial development, commerce, tourism and environmental awareness around the Hudson River. She also has

written for A+E Networks's #SheDidThat series (and was hired for the job by Lea Goldman '98) and appeared in an episode of the Travel Channel's *Mysteries at the Museum* to discuss arsenic in wallpaper.

All that "definitely aligns with my overall goal of sneaking [history] into the mainstream," she says. "It's just so important to being a citizen right now."

Rebecca Beyer is a freelance writer in Boston.

Noël Duan '13 Creates a Doggy Domain

By Molly Shea

Noël Duan '13 remembers sitting in her freshman Literature Humanities class, analyzing *The Odyssey*, when a particular topic of discussion really sank in.

"Odysseus comes home after 20 years, and no one recognizes him in his home city, not even his wife," Duan recalls. "His appearance has changed that much. His dog Argos, who was a puppy when he left, is the only one that recognizes him."

"We studied *The Odyssey* because it was supposed to teach us about human civilization, but what I remember was realizing, oh, that's really representative of the human-dog relationship."

That light-bulb moment stuck with Duan through the rest of her degree in sociocultural anthropology, a master's in women's studies at Oxford and her first full-time journalism job. After being laid off from said job, her first decision was to adopt a dog. Artemis, her now-4-year-old pup, opened her eyes to a new New York — and her next career move. "Suddenly I started meeting my neighbors. I would take Artemis to the park and talk to other dog owners. I realized that having a dog is a great way to get to know people."

Inspired by her new way of seeing the world, this past spring Duan launched Argos & Artemis, an online community for dog people. The site features conversations between Duan and prominent dog-owning New Yorkers, including makeup mavens Bobbi Brown and Linda Rodin, Columbia classics professor Marcus Folch, indie magazine founder Verena von Pfetten '05 and gallerist Lauren Wittels '89, GSAS'92. "Dogs are a great entry point to intimacy," says Duan, who notes that in talking about their furry friends, people often reveal a lot of themselves.

Duan also pens humorous essays for the site (e.g., "All the Men Who Pretend to Have Dogs on Dating Apps"), offers practical tips and generates a newsletter, The Dog Park.

Plans for the site include events for dog owners, and, down the line, an e-commerce rollout for pet (and human) products. "I've been lucky in that I've had access to a lot of cool dog people, and I've seen what they're buying," she says. "I do think there's a big need for a curated hub."

This isn't Duan's first project launch — she started Columbia's first fashion magazine, *Hoot*, her freshman year. "It taught me a lot about plunging forth and being entrepreneurial, and doing things before you get permission," she says. (Duan and her fellow editors once draped *Alma Mater* in balloons for a photoshoot. They were chased down by campus security, but got the shot.)



SYLVIE ROSKOFF

And nothing prepares you for the shock of entrepreneurship like adopting your puppy. "There's no handbook for getting a dog," Duan says with a laugh — though writing one might lie somewhere on her list of what's to come.

Molly Shea is a journalist based in Brooklyn, N.Y. Her last article for CCT was "Who Wants To Live Forever?" in the Winter 2018–19 issue's "Bookshelf" section.

The Sound of (Faked) Music

By Jill C. Shomer

The premise sounds like the best cocktail party story you ever heard: An amateur violinist gets hired by a professional classical music ensemble led by a mysterious, messianic conductor and tours the country for four years, giving fake concerts. The musicians play quietly while speakers blare music from prerecorded CDs. And hardly anyone ever finds out.

But **Jessica Chiccehitto Hindman '03, SOA'09's** riveting debut memoir, *Sounds Like Titanic* (W.W. Norton & Co., \$25.95), turns out to be much more than a gossipy exposé. Her fascinating personal story is intertwined with bigger-picture observations about American notions of success, what is “real” and “fake” in our culture, and the challenges of making ends meet and navigating young womanhood. “What are one’s options in America, land of the exceptional, if one is born average?” Hindman writes.

Hindman grew up in the Appalachian mountains of West Virginia and Virginia. As a child, she was turned on to the violin after hearing Vivaldi’s “Winter” in a cartoon movie, and begged her parents to get one for years before they gave in. She began lessons at

age 8 — the nearest teacher was a four-hour round trip — but despite years of practice, Hindman never felt accomplished as a violinist.

Her story is driven by her attempts to support herself at the College. Before joining the ensemble in her senior year and meeting the man referred to only as The Composer, Hindman joined the Air Force ROTC for the benefits; then, after quitting, she sold everything from long-distance telephone scams to massage oils to her own eggs. Struggling to pay tuition and dogged by feelings

of mediocrity, she colludes with The Composer’s scam (“the classical music version of Milli Vanilli — ‘Milli Violinni’”) not only for the money, but for the praise of the listeners. “As someone who had only worked menial jobs, being seen as a successful musician was extremely alluring,” she says. Ultimately, Hindman spirals into an identity crisis and disillusionment as she “plays” for audiences who

are genuinely moved by the performance, unable to differentiate real from fake.

Feeling psychologically destroyed, she left the tour in 2006 and got a job at CUMC that offered a tuition benefit for grad school. “My negative experiences as an undergrad were mostly tied to money, and once that was taken out, getting my M.F.A. was the best educational experience of my life,” she says.

Hindman is now a professor of creative writing at Northern Kentucky University, where she recently won the Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. “College was the time in my life when I most needed help, but was least able to ask for it,” she says. “Now I try to look out for students who might be going through similar things.

“I certainly have a different perspective now on what it means to succeed and what it means to fail,” Hindman says. “The illusion of ‘perfection’ or immediate success is in fact an illusion — people who seem to ‘have it all’ may still be struggling in some way.

“I also used to think that if you worked hard enough, you could achieve whatever you want. But now I see that there are huge societal forces at work that just *stick* people, and it has nothing to do with how smart they are or how hard they work. I know it’s not very uplifting, but I think an important takeaway is that ‘failure’ is not always a personal failing.”

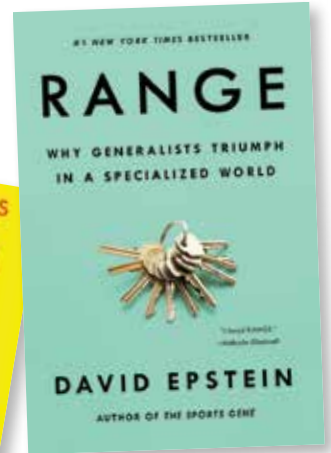
Titanic is narrated in second person, partly, Hindman says, as a way to distance herself from some of the more painful parts of her story. The “you” also helped her to universalize her experience. “It was a way to say this book is not just about me or this guy; it’s about other people,” Hindman says. “I think by using different pronouns, you can make some kind of psychological switch — you can see yourself better as a character on the page.”

And though exposing the identity of The Composer could have been a juicy hook, Hindman opted to keep him anonymous. “What I was trying to do was bigger than just him,” she says. “Having the Internet piling on this guy didn’t need to happen. These were charity concerts, so it wasn’t out-and-out fraud, and really — people just loved the music.”

Hindman is similarly tender with herself in hindsight. In her epilogue, she writes that after a few semesters of teaching, she had a revelation: “Faking is pedagogy. Faking is teaching and faking is learning, from babies faking speech to teenagers faking coolness ... It’s in the faking of other people’s writing that one learns to write. Faking is the way that all human beings grow.”



VANESSA BORER



Misfire: The Tragic Failure of the M16 in Vietnam by Bob Orkand '58 and Lyman Duryea. Orkand, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, combines insider knowledge of weapons development with firsthand combat experience to tell the story of the oft-malfunctioning firearm that was rushed into troops' hands in 1965 (Stackpole Books, \$29.95).

Artistic Collaboration Today: Profiles of Creative Teams in Diverse Media by Victor M. Cassidy '62. A report on more than 40 collaborating sculptors, painters, printmakers, photographers, architects and performers who have worked in tandem with other artists (McFarland, \$45).

Simmelweis, The Women's Doctor by Anthony Valerio '62. The life and work of pioneering feminist physician Ignaz P. Semmelweis, known as "the Father of Antisepsis," who discovered the causes and means of prevention of childbed fever (Amazon Digital Services, \$9.99).

The Last Days of Paul Rimbaud by Thomas C. Lewis '63. The last novel in a trilogy about Rimbaud, a Vietnam veteran who has buried his memories of the war (340 Press, \$19.95).

Big Cabin by Ron Padgett '64. A new collection of poems about mortality, consciousness and time, written over three seasons in a Vermont cabin (Coffee House Press, \$16.95).

Learning to See, and Other Stories and Memoirs from Senegal by Gary Engelberg '65. Engelberg, a co-founder of Africa Consultants International, an NGO that promotes cross-cultural communication, health and social justice, has lived in Senegal, West Africa, for more than 50 years (BookBaby, \$25.19).

The Complete Poetry of Giacomo da Lentini translation and notes by Richard Lansing '65. The first translation of the complete poetry of da Lentini, the first major Italian lyric poet, and the inventor of the sonnet (University of Toronto Press, \$24.95).

You Say You Want a Revolution: SDS, PL, and Adventures in Building a Worker-Student Alliance edited by John F. Levin '65 and Earl Silbar. Former members of the Worker-Student Alliance recount and evaluate their participation in the struggles of the 1960s and early 1970s (1741 Press, \$18.95).

Turkey Shoot by Geoffrey Dutton '66. Dutton's debut novel is an international conspiracy thriller set in Greece and Turkey in fall 2015, as a young Iraqi refugee takes part in a terrorist mission (Perfidy Press, \$15.99).

Entrenchment: Wealth, Power, and the Constitution of Democratic Societies by Paul Starr '70. Pulitzer Prize-winner Starr describes politics today as a struggle over entrenchment — efforts to bring about change in ways that opponents will find difficult to undo (Yale University Press, \$28.50).

The Next Republic: The Rise of a New Radical Majority by D.D. Guttenplan '78. Guttenplan, a national political correspondent, profiles nine activists who are changing the course of American history (Seven Stories Press, \$23.95).

A Rosenberg by Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America by Kirsten Fermaglich '92. This first history of name changing offers a window into American Jewish life throughout the 20th century (New York University Press, \$28).

Handbook of Student Engagement Interventions: Working with Disengaged Youth edited by Jennifer A. Fredericks '92, Amy L. Reschly and Sandra L. Christenson. The authors pull together the current research on

engagement in schools and empower readers to implement interventions (Academic Press, \$87.58).

The Daughters of Temperance Hobbs: A Novel by Katherine Howe '99. A New England history professor must race against time to free her family from a curse (Henry Holt and Co., \$28).

The Obsoletes: A Novel by Simeon Mills '00. Mills's debut follows two teenage brothers as they navigate high school while hiding a secret: They're actually robots (Skybound Books, \$26).

Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World by David Epstein '02. A *New York Times* bestseller that makes a case for breadth and late starts (Riverhead Books, \$28).

An October to Remember 1968: The Tigers-Cardinals World Series as Told By the Men Who Played in It by Brendan Donley '15. Donley traveled the country to gather the accounts of the remaining players of the famed Tigers and Cardinals teams (Sports Publishing, \$24.41).

Trillion Dollar Coach: The Leadership Playbook of Silicon Valley's Bill Campbell by Eric Schmidt, Jonathan Rosenberg and Alan Eagle. Management lessons from legendary football coach and business executive Bill Campbell '62, TC '64 (HarperBusiness, \$28.99).
— Jill C. Shomer

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

classnotes



SCOTT RUDD

Golden fall leaves contrast beautifully with Columbia blue as the seasons change on campus.

1942

Melvin Hershkowitz
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In early June, I had a phone call from Daniel Albohn '81, son of our late classmate **Arthur Albohn** SEAS'43. Daniel is a telecom exec and is devoted to our athletics teams. He commented on the Spring 2019 issue of *CCT*, and was enthusiastic about Columbia's increasingly competitive status in the Ivy League, especially in football and basketball.

Arthur was a chemical engineer by profession, and also a longtime

member of the New Jersey State Legislature, where he was a steadfast Conservative member for several years. This writer, whose political views were different from Arthur's, was friendly with both Arthur and his wife, Regina, who attended many alumni events and were loyal Lions. Best wishes to Daniel and his family.

Dr. Gerald Klingon (98), a retired neurologist living in NYC, frequently calls me to discuss Columbia affairs. He recently reminded me of the historic 1939 baseball game versus Princeton at Baker Field, which was the first televised sporting event. Columbia lost to Princeton, 2-1. Gerald, then a freshman, saw the game. Our pitcher, **Hector Dowd** '40, graduated from Harvard Law School in 1943

and established a law firm in New York. This game was announced by **Bill Stern**, now deceased, one of the preeminent sportscasters of that era. Gerald became the varsity first baseman at Columbia and once hit a home run into the Harlem River.

Kind regards to all classmates.

1943

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
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From **Bernie Weisberger**: "Hello, classmates of 1943. I just read my last entry, in the Summer 2019 issue,

written to cover the final days of 2018, which were somewhat dismal. Alas, winter of the current year wasn't much of an improvement: 'If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.'

"Don't worry, though, I will spare you all howls of despair — but the brute facts aren't that pretty and there is redemption in a happy ending. In short, just at Christmas week my wife, Rita, fell and broke an ankle and perhaps other foot bones, which initiated a long winter, first in surgery, then in a rehabilitation facility learning to walk safely again, and finally with home care, which only ended recently. Plans for a winter cruise had to be scrapped, leaving us at the mercy of a really bitter winter. OK, OK, it should end there, but it didn't.

"It was my turn to wrench an arm practically out of its shoulder socket in an unlucky descent from a Chicago Metra (suburban) train, and only a short while later to fall backward, landing precisely on that shoulder. Which meant that all the weeks since then passed with me unable to use my right arm, requiring up to the present day the help of a couple of aides to shave, shower and dress me, and make breakfast and perform other household chores for us both. Likewise, I need a walker to get around and one or the other of the caretakers to accompany me in case it slips out of my control and dumps me on the pavement again, to be rescued. It destroys all possibility of accomplishing any work before noon.

"Such is life in one's 90s, so I know many — if not most — of us in the Class of '43 could match these stories and more, though I hope you haven't.

"However, there is a happy ending. I can't travel alone, or at least not without daunting difficulty, but toward the end of May, helped by my daughter and son-in-law, I attended the graduation of my 'middle' granddaughter, Miriam Rich, from Harvard with a Ph.D. in history and a job as a lecturer at Yale in hand. And while exercising my grandfatherly bragging rights, I point again to Miriam's older sister, Abigail, who is in San Francisco providing legal aid to asylum seekers, which, if I were more religious, I would say was surely the Lord's work.

"So there's my report. Please, all of you out there, don't leave me to be the sole and therefore lonesome contributor to this column."

1944

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
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CCT, and your classmates, would love to hear from you! Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

1945

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
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No news this quarter! Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

1946

Bernard Sunshine
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No updates for this issue, but please do take a moment to share an update with the class. Wishing you a happy and healthy fall season.

1947

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
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Nothing to share this time! Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

1948

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
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Dr. Alvin N. Eden writes: "I am happy to report that I have been very lucky — still able to practice pediatrics and teach third-year medical students at my age. Next project is writing my memoirs without delay. I would like to hear from any classmate whether they remember me."

CCT, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you, too. Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

1949

John Weaver
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William Chinowsky, Arthur Feder, Joseph Levie, Marvin Lipman, William Lubic, Richard Sachs and

John Weaver: That is the roster of attendees at our 70th reunion. Jane Billings (guest of William Chinowsky), Ruth Lubic and Naomi Lipman, steadfast members of our dwindling group, joined us for a warm and loving journey down memory lane.

We had a stimulating visit by and discussion with Dean James J. Valentini. The focus was on the admissions process and the growing diversity of the College student body. The impression with which I was left is one of admiration for the dean. He provided a reassurance that the College is in good hands and is approaching the rapid changes in demographics with a positive and constructive attitude. I think we can all take heart that the Core is in safe hands. And, if you share my conviction

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tion regarding the importance of the Core, the political future of our land will be well tended by the next and future graduating classes of our beloved alma mater.

I am writing this in the midst of the July heat wave and am conserving energy with the aid of a fan and the classic “window” AC. By the time you are reading this, cooler heads and hearts — to say nothing of armpits — will prevail and we can look forward to the changing seasons as well as the growing intensity of the 2020 election season. Let us all hope for sanity, intelligence and integrity to prevail as we make the choices that may well determine the continued existence of the pursuit “to form a more perfect union.”

1950

REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact
ccaa-events@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
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Happy fall, Class of 1950! Please take a moment to send in your news for a future issue, and be well.

From **David Berger**: “After 25 years in Madison, Wis., we’re still enjoying all this university town has to offer. Here’s a status report, in the form of a short poem I recently wrote:

Ambling

My body is ambling
toward the end of
its useful life.

Not all the structure and hydraulics
are in topflight working order.
Sometimes the end is in sight.

But life is good:
every friend is a blessing,
and each day a gift.

From **Arthur Thomas**: “In 1947–49 I rowed in competition in Columbia College crews in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and

Pennsylvania. I rowed in lightweight crews with the exception of one race.

“I remember the positive influences of all the coaches: Stan Smith, Ed Taylor, Bill Hayer and Hube Glendon. I remember, too, that the University chaplain, Chaplain Knox, was a great oarsman on the Hudson River.

“In the morning I would take classes at Amsterdam Avenue and 116th Street at the Van Am Quad, and in the spring and fall in the afternoon I would be practicing with my confrères on the waters of the Spuyten Duyvil and Harlem Rivers. At least two of the members of the crew had Dutch surnames.

“My last employer before I retired was a Dutch company for whom I worked for a time in Hoboken and on Park Avenue.

“My life, one may say, started with the Dutch when in 1943 as a student in school on 91st Street off Amsterdam Avenue I received a *Times Current Events* book prize, *Van Loon’s Lives* by Hendrik Willem Van Loon, who also autographed my copy, ‘Arthur Thomas, his book. Hendrik Willem Van Loon May 1943.’”

1951

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

From **David Kettler** GSAS’60:
“Two items of news. First, I retired from my post-retirement employment — which lasted 29 years — at Bard College on my 89th birthday, July 1, 2019. And second, I finished a book (with a collaborator, Thomas Wheatland) on my Columbia teacher in political theory, Franz L. Neumann, which was scheduled to appear toward the end of July. It is the monumentally long sequel to an article on Neumann that I published a few years after his death. He was a major figure for my generation, but he also has much to teach us all in the age of Trump. I hope the book will be read and discussed.”

Edgar “Yogi” Coghlin sent a nice handwritten letter: “I enjoyed the Class Note from Howard Hansen ’52 in the Summer 2019 issue depicting that great 1950–51 basketball team. I remember that team, as I was a ticket-taker for most of

the home games. It brought back fond memories of the 1951 baseball team. We were honored with a trip to Brazil and Puerto Rico that summer. The mission was to promote the game at these locations, plus a ‘free’ weekend in Rio. Andy Coakley was the head coach, but Johnny Balquist CC 1932 was head coach for this trip. The lineup was Don Kimtis ’52, catcher; Tony Misho ’52, first base; Jack Rohan ’53, second base; Bobby Walker ’52, third base; Lee Guittar ’53, shortstop; Walt Mitardy ’53, left field; me, center field; **Tom Powers**, right field; Kermit Tracy ’52, pitcher; and Gordie Martin ’52, pitcher.

“As I recall, we were undefeated, or close to it! I remember a phone call I received while in Puerto Rico, from my dad, wanting to know my return home date. I told him, ‘Thursday.’ His reply: ‘Good, because you have been drafted and must report this Monday.’

“I became a Marine Corps private that Monday, followed by Parris Island, San Diego and Pendleton, ultimately becoming an officer candidate (Quantico), for possible selection to officer training. Survived one month of ‘hell,’ and made the grade. Spent eight months in Korea and received an award for valor in combat. Was active duty for two and half years and reserve for 10 years. Retired as a major, USMC.

“Would love to hear from any of the old teammates. Forgive me if I left anyone out!”

CCT, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you, too. Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

1952

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

From **Howard Hansen**: “In the Summer 2019 issue I mentioned that the 1967–68 basketball team was inaugurated into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame prior to the 1950–51 undefeated team’s acceptance. As previously stated, the 1967–68 team had

a 16-point average victory over opponents, but I left out that the 1950–51 team had a 21-point average margin of victory!

“The travel team included Jack Molinas ’53, **Bob Reiss**, **Al Stein**, **Howard Rosenfeld**, John Azary ’51, Bob Sullivan SEAS’51, Paul ‘White’ Brandt ’53, Stan Maratos ’53, Lee Guittar ’53, Jack Rohan ’53, Frank Lewis ’51, Tom Powers ’51, coach Lou Rossini, trainer Red Romo and manager Gerry Evans ’51.

“Other facts of interest: They averaged 16 more rebounds than opponents. Three of the top-10 scorers in the Ivy League were Azary, Molinas and Reiss. The New York All-Met team, which was the center of college basketball in those days, listed Azary, Molinas and Reiss among the top 10 players. Azary, the team captain, was voted ‘Most Valuable’ in the Ivy League and ‘Most Outstanding’ in the Metropolitan area as the Haggerty Award winner. This team’s main component was that they epitomized that there was no ‘I’ in ‘team.’

“Us football guys gave out and sold programs at the home games and can vouch for the skilled team effort.

“Red Romo was also an outstanding trainer for football. He ended his long career at the Naval Academy, spending a good 30 years at Annapolis, and was honored with a building in his name.”

1953

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Bridgeport, CT 06604
lewrobins@aol.com

Greetings, Class of 1953. Share your stories, news or even a favorite Columbia College memory by sending a note to either of the addresses at the top of this column. Your classmates would love to hear from you!

1954

Bernd Brecher
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It was grand seeing and celebrating with nearly two score classmates, including many wives and four widows of classmates, the 65th



LYNN SAVILLE

Members of the Class of 1954 (and four widows of classmates) at their 65th reunion on campus.

anniversary of graduation over the long weekend of May 31–June 1. As requested by class members, our events and activities were concentrated on CC'54-specific interests and speakers over two-plus days. While many “regular” reunionites attended, it was gratifying to our 11-member Reunion Committee that several “never before” or “not-for-many-years” classmates attended. Our mission was to connect, reconnect, and self-assess how some Class of Destiny members may have fulfilled their destinies. (The Summer 2019 CCT Class Notes covered major events of our reunion.)

We used a dedicated hospitality and meeting room in Alfred Lerner Hall both for events and presentations and for our meeting and greeting headquarters. Highlights included an open mic session at which we heard from several classmates about their lives and challenges; two sessions with panels of Columbia students and CC'54 classmates, one on facing the realities of today's world, and one on the values and significance of a Columbia education then and now; a dramatic presentation by the director of Columbia's Center for Climate and Life; and presentations at two dinners by two special guest speakers who took their turn on the rostrum with several of our classmates.

At long last, we launched our Class of '54 Bicentennial Ladies Club (see letter later in the column), comprising classmates' widows who have always felt “part of the class.” We were joined by Regina

Kenen BC'54, GSAS'74 (**Peter Kenen**), Phyllis Skomorowsky (**Peter Skomorowsky**), Marilyn Talal (**Norman Talal PS'58**), and Eleanor Frommer (**Herb Frommer DM'57**). Several other interested ladies were sorry they were not able to participate this time. The concept for the BLC was based on a hoped-for class/College family relationship and continuity that would be valued by all involved. (Note: We will gladly share our process and likewise solicit recommendations from other reunion classes.)

A special treat at our 65th was one session arranged with the cooperation of the United Nations Association of New York, meeting with two extraordinary, just-graduated Columbia alumni, Ji-Young Kim SIPA'19, recipient of a UNANY Summer Scholars Fellowship (for Egypt), and Erick Regalado SIPA'19, recipient of a UNANY Summer Scholars Fellowship (for Belarus). The discussions and Q&A covered the world, and all attendees concluded that the world might soon be in good hands.

Closer to home, another special event was a “super panel” of our classmates (**Larry Scharer PS'58** and **Jack Blechner**) joining with two just-graduated alumni (Jordan Singer '19 and Adam Resheff '19) and one student (Joon Baek '21) to discuss the significance, advantages, and challenges of a Columbia education 65-plus years apart. I moderated both programs, and all of us at both sessions were impressed by what we learned from young adults

the ages of our grandkids. The College panelists were enlisted with the help of *Spectator's* editor-in-chief.

Our opening speaker at Friday's welcome dinner in Lerner Hall was Roosevelt Montás '95, GSAS'04, a frequent guest speaker at our reunions who began teaching in the English department in 2004 and who later was director of the Center for the Core Curriculum for 10 years. Currently, Roosevelt is senior lecturer in American studies specializing in Antebellum American literature and culture, with a particular interest in American national identity. He addressed the challenges to keeping the Core relevant in the 21st century and on the cutting edge of liberal education in a rapidly changing world.

Roosevelt was followed by Dean James J. Valentini, who also is vice president for undergraduate education and who personally welcomed our attendees. Our concluding speaker on Friday evening was our valedictorian, **Henry Buchwald PS'57**, who came from Minneapolis with his wife, Emilie BC'57; daughter, Amy; and her husband, Danny Woodburn, a well-known TV and movie actor. Henry delivered his update, “Valedictory 2.0,” and we noted that similarities 65 years apart were numerous while differences in American life — externally and technically — have dramatically evolved. Henry is working on a project on which I tried unsuccessfully to assist him, and about which I quote a recent letter of his: “Thank you for researching the information about the percentage of graduates going into medical school from Columbia College at various time spans. I am dedicating several of my columns in *General Surgery News* to the question of the doctor-patient relationship and how it has been destroyed in the current world of medicine as business. This would have been a nice piece of information. I believe that today's young doctors, who so readily accept being employees in a job, do not have the same enthusiasm of my generation and those before us. I believe this status will eventually lower health-care standards in this country.”

Now there's a challenge to the scores of CC'54 doctors and others who may want to weigh in.

Henry, thanks for never having stopped being provocative.

Our farewell gala dinner on Saturday night, in Butler Library, was highlighted by **Saul Turteltaub LAW'57**, who regaled us with his take on Hollywood wit, and the Hon. **Alvin Hellerstein**, who sent us off, citing some of his cases, with a reinforced and nuanced understanding of the law.

Stanely Fine PS'57 wanted us to know that “it was wonderful seeing some of my old friends at reunion. **Hank Buchwald** and I go back many years and we try to see each other whenever he comes to town. On Sunday we visited with **Simeon Pollack PS'57**, who wasn't able to make the reunion, and had a wonderful afternoon.”

Thanks, Stan, for reconnecting. Want to sign up for our 70th?

Ted Spiegel, photographer extraordinaire and chronicler of today's West Point, once again shared one of his special productions with all our reunion attendees. His annual wall calendar, this time of the Hudson River Valley, was a “take home” appreciated by all.

Richard Bernstein SEAS'55, taking a breather from his medical practice and diabetes specialty, wrote — and distributed in the hospitality room — a story called “Big Ben,” about his time as a student in Benjamin P. Dailey's advanced chemistry course and his subsequent life leading to medical school (announced at our 25th reunion at Arden House) and his career as physician, innovator, and researcher. Dick will be glad to send you a copy on request.

On Friday afternoon we were wowed by a presentation with video and charts that might well have made an impact even in the White House on the doubters about climate change. The Thomas Alva Edison/Con Edison Professor, Dean of Science, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Director of the Center for Climate and Life in Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Peter B. de Menocal educated and enlightened a capacity audience of classmates about the undeniable threat of man-made enhanced climate catastrophe that the world is facing.

Ron Sugarman, who expedited and introduced the Lamont-Doherty event, thanked Professor de Menocal for “a most personable and extraordinary presentation ... bringing insight, facts, and data to share with us, and responding to our

questions with great clarity and a teacher's desire to connect."

The professor's coverage addressed topics such as, "Where are we on the continuum? What are the principal contributors to the accelerating rate of temperature increase? How long can temperatures continue to rise unabated before the world would be facing catastrophic consequences? Can the rise still be mitigated, halted, reversed? What needs to change *now*? Where is the point of no return?"

"I am happy that you enjoyed the book that took me 60 years to make. I thought that you of all people would appreciate the images made by a very young and innocent American ..." writes **Stanley Fellman** in acknowledging my appreciation for his gift, a slim volume titled *Europe Then*, containing some of the most memorable black and white photographs I have seen in a single collection.

They were taken during 1957–59 while Stan was a dental officer in the Army, stationed in Germany. Stan practiced dentistry in Hartford, Conn., for more than 50 years, but his passion has been and continues to be black and white image making, and he continues to work in his darkroom. He writes, "Thank you and the Reunion Committee again for taking all the time and effort to make anniversary number 65 very special."

Thank you, Stan, for your service and your art. (Some of the images in the book are in the permanent collection of the New Britain Museum of American Art, in Connecticut.)

David Bardin LAW '56 reports that **James Taaffe** of Tuscaloosa, Ala., died on July 3, 2019, as per information from his widow, Allison, who said, "Jim always praised his Columbia professors as model teachers and scholars. English was his subject and John Milton his forte. He earned his master's ('56) and Ph.D. ('60) in English at the University of Indiana. He taught English at Williams, Vassar, Case Western Reserve University and the University of Alabama. He co-authored the *Milton Handbook* (with Holly Hanford) in 1970."

Jim is also survived by daughter Lauren and son Patrick. He had entered Columbia from his hometown in Ohio.

One of our class widows, Eleanor Frommer, who attended the reunion, wrote in response to my request

for suggestions, "... my thanks for including me in the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the Bicentennial Class of 1954, on behalf of Herb. He would have loved every moment of it. I would be interested in meeting regularly, formally or informally, as Regina (Kenen) mentioned. Is it possible to come up with a different designation? 'Ladies' Clubs' went out with the Fifties ... Perhaps there are others who would like to join us."

You bet, Ellie, and beginning with you four, you all now "own" the BLC, which was a working title, and we hope you will be represented on our 70th anniversary Reunion Committee.

That's it for this Fall issue, gents. Thank you all for your input and support for our 65th. Join our 70th Reunion Committee. Meanwhile, as always, write, email, and/or call, and be well, do well, do good — help cure the world. Excelsior!

1955

REUNION 2020
JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact
ccaa-events@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

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Next year promises to be a terrific one for our reunion. You won't want to miss out on the 65th anniversary of our graduation. We expect classmates from far and wide and near and far. You will be part of exciting speeches, awards, the dean's noteworthy update and more. We expect classmates such as **Barry Pariser**, **Stan Zinberg**, **Marv Winell**, **Jesse Roth**, **Harry Scheiber**, **Ed Lubin**, **Doug Lasher**, **Matt Loonin** and, of course, **Herb Johnson** from Black Mountain, N.C., and **Dan Wakefield**, the noted author from Indianapolis. From the West Coast are **Richard Mazze** and **David Gordon**. We will have locals like **Chuck Garrison**, **Bob Brown** and **Norm Goldstein**, who tells us he is still busy and loving it. **Jerry Catuzzi** and his buddy **Ben Kaplan** are expected as well. **Jack Stuppin** has been in touch with us in the planning stages of some of his paintings.

The special class luncheons are still being held at Faculty House. Recent attendees have included **Anthony Viscusi**, **Roland Plottel** and **Allen Hyman**.

We have dinners being put together by **Dan Laufer** and **Alfred Gollomp**.

Bob Schoenfeld reminds us about his father, who was an outstanding basketball referee. Bob lives on Long Island, and we expect him to be at the festivities.

Sad news to report about the passing of **John Naley** in early July; among the funeral attendees were **George Raitt** and **Jack Freeman**.

The class will be advised about reunion events and speeches. Start planning now; you don't want to be left out. Let the good times roll.

Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

Robert Siroty
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Alan Broadwin, **Al Franco SEAS '56** and I met for breakfast in Low Library on June 1, during Reunion Weekend, followed by the Dean's State of the College Address, then the Reunion Keynote in Alfred Lerner Hall. **John Censor** was there as well, but we couldn't find each other. **Ralph Kaslick** and **Barbara** and **Jerry Fine** joined us for a barbecue lunch on South Field, followed by lectures in the afternoon. Always seems like we feel 20 years younger walking on campus. We started our summer program of tennis and luncheons at **Dan Link's** club in July.

Please keep the good news coming. It is time to start planning our 65th reunion, which will be held in less than two years. We need volunteers, particularly from areas outside of the immediate Tri-State area.

From **Bob Lauterborn** we learn of his visit with **Jordan Bonfante** and **Len Wolfe**. Bob reports that Len and his wife, Ruth, have moved from New Haven, Conn., to Pennsylvania. He also reports that, although retired, he still lectures at UNC Chapel Hill, and recently met with **Steve Easton** and his wife, Elke, at a get-together he described as a "lightweight football reunion."

I took my grandson from Columbia, S.C., to the New Jersey State



Steve Easton '56 (left) and Bob Lauterborn '56 met up in North Carolina.

Museum in Trenton and found a metallic print on display by **Arthur Rothstein CC 1935 (1915–85)**, who founded the University Camera Club.

Sadly, I have learned of the passing of **Robert Cabat Ph.D.** His obit in *The New York Times* noted that from Columbia, which he entered as a Ford Scholar, he went on to a life fostering Spanish language and culture, and was the author of class textbooks. He also served as NYC director of foreign language education.

Keep the news coming!

1957

Herman Levy
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hdlleditor@aol.com

A report from **Mac Gimse**: "On June 4 I brought home a new bronze from the foundry. I got to suit up in leathers and help pour about 240 lbs. of 1,000-degree hot metal. It's a blast. The finished product is called *Moses in a Mushroom Cloud*. Moses saw the burning bush that did not disappear, so here he is standing in the atomic blast but he is not consumed. It's because he is holding a third set of tablets that have the Nuclear Law, or the 'New Clear Law,' to love your neighbor or kiss the world goodbye. The key is that nuclear energy has not been used in warfare since those explosions in August 1945. And we still live in dangerous times.

"The poetry that follows is *Never Again... Evermore, Children of the*

Nuclear Holocaust, which I began writing at age 10, when we all were kids and heard about the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Well, that was the first jolt. I've taken students to Hiroshima six times since 1977 and each time it got more raw. The poem was set to music by my composer friend, Daniel Kallman, for the St. Olaf Choir to sing in Japan and South Korea in summer 2017. It premiered in the Ordway Concert Hall in St. Paul, Minn. It had solo and spoken parts and when it ended there was silence. It made me shiver."

**Never Again...Evermore,
Children of the Nuclear
Holocaust**

Coils of clouds toss megatons of
snarling chaos down onto streets
swept dry by flames, of people
stilled, fear-frozen in a flash.
Watch...watch playgrounds drain
of joy.

Never Again no more hurting.
Evermore bring me shelter.

Cover me with your arms
of embrace.

Never Again...Evermore

All life stops with thunders of
hot ash blowing.
A singe of odor breathes of melting
leather onto hairless flesh.
Touch...touch tiny fingers as they
reach for coolness.

Never Again...no more burning.

Evermore...bring me balm.
Lay on me your hands of healing.

Never Again...Evermore

Humans fall in heaps of
walls, tumbling,
scattered over stains of ground,
each body
etched into shadows of amber halo.
Listen...listen as kindergartens fade
to their final breath.

Never Again...no more suffering.

Evermore...bring me gentleness.
Sing me your songs of soothing.

Never Again...Evermore

Nothing remains but eternity to
stretch into, leaving
the last terror shown forever
shouting on my face.
Hear...hear little ones sobbing
inside their screams.

Never Again...no more crying.

Evermore...bring me quiet.
Give me angel's wings to fly away
from tears.

Never Again...Evermore

Child-angels lie in wait for the
embers of their
sintered lives to cool inside their
wounded souls.
Dream...dream of children dawning
to rekindle their youthful glow.
Never Again...no more nightmares.
Evermore...bring me
dancing into a world with joy in life.

Never Again...Evermore

With memories of the nuclear
holocaust, I pledge **never again**
to harm the sweetness of my child in
laughter, **evermore**.
Feel...feel the infant heartbeat
pulsing through my veins.
Never Again...no more heartache.
Evermore...bring me love unending.
Promise me peace to last beyond
this day.

Never Again...Evermore

1958

Peter Cohn
c/o CCT
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petercohn1939@gmail.com

Once again, we begin on a sad
note. **Art Radin** died suddenly and
unexpectedly on April 24. His wife,
Miriam Katowitz BUS'74, shared
some thoughts with us: "Art had
continued to go to the office four
days a week working with clients
as an accountant, having given up
doing audits about four years ago.
While Art claimed to have had
the same job for 66 years, having
started working at 15 in his father's
CPA firm, he in fact had a long and
rich career doing everything from
audits of large and small entities
(both public and private), to taxes
for corporations and individuals, to
writing manuals, and reviewing and
writing articles for *The CPA Journal*
on a variety of accounting topics.
The latter ranged from overload
of requirements to sustainability
reporting. I had the pleasure of writ-
ing some of the articles jointly with
him. He continued to learn new
topics, including tax law, but still
found time to be on the editorial
board of *The CPA Journal*. He had
many clients for more than 30 years,
asking only that his clients be nice

folks, offer interesting work and pay
his reasonable rates.

"Aside from his work, Art had a
variety of interests, including singing
in many choral groups, attending a
history book club (and two James
Joyce book clubs), reading lots of
magazines and newspapers, biking,
skiing and spending time with his
family. The family included three
children, a son-in-law and daughter-
in-law, and four grandchildren. Art
was pleased to say that he had the
privilege of wiping seven bottoms!
Finally, I want to add that he much
enjoyed seeing his classmates, espe-
cially at the monthly lunches that he
hosted at the Princeton Club."

Ernie Brod comments on
Miriam's last remark: "Many years
ago — nobody remembers exactly
how long ago — Art took on the job
of coordinating the monthly Class of
1958 lunch, which he carried out with
his patented wit and style. It was only
appropriate that 16 of us attended the
May 14 lunch (organized and hosted
by **Tom Ettinger**) to reminisce about
him. Miriam joined us, giving her the
opportunity to see where and how the
lunches took place and to hear our
stories about a friend whose cheerful
manner and offbeat humor will be
sorely missed."

To that we can only add, "Amen."

Other attendees at the May
lunch, in addition to Tom and


they had done in 2018 against Yale.
Perhaps this fall will see football
as competitive as the spring teams
were. Let's hope so.

As noted, the Class Lunch is
now hosted by **Tom Ettinger** and
is held on the second Tuesday of
the month in the Grill Room of the
Princeton Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31
per person). Email Tom if you plan
to attend, even up to the day before:
tpe3@columbia.edu.

1959

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Our class held its 60th reunion May
30–June 1. Our reunion began with
a well-attended Class of '59 recep-
tion in the Dodge Fitness Center's
Lou Gehrig Lounge, near the site
of the old University Hall. The
next morning, breakfast was served
in John Jay, where the strength of
the CC'59 contingent seemed to
outnumber several of the younger
anniversary classes. Friday morning
activities were an individual's choice.
Lunch was served under a tent on
South Field. This was followed



**Core
Haiku**

**Analytic Freud,
Synoptically wed
to Wealth of Nations**

— Paul Kantor '59

Ernie, were **Joe Dorinson, Harvey
Feuerstein, Peter Gruenberger,
Paul Herman, Dave Marcus,
Bernie Nussbaum, Howie Orlin**
(and his wife, Anita), **Shelly Raab,
Howard Presant, Bob Waldbaum,
Eli Weinberg and Mark Weiss**.

We end this report on a brighter
note: As predicted, the tennis team
won the Ivy title (the streak is now
five in a row) and the baseball team
finished second in the league stand-
ings, thereby qualifying for the Ivy
championship playoff series against
first-place Harvard. Unfortunately,
our lads could not win the title, as

by the first of two sessions titled
"Looking Back, An Opportunity to
Hear from Each Other," in which
classmates were offered the oppor-
tunity to describe, in most cases,
their lives after graduation and the
impact of the College on their lives.
After attending, or not, one of many
receptions or lectures that followed,
we gathered at V&T for pizza, wine
and good conversation.

Saturday began with breakfast
in the Low Rotunda, with other
anniversary classes, and hosted
by Dean James J. Valentini. We
then retired to the C.V. Starr East

Asian Library in Kent, where we resumed the “Looking Back” open mic presentations by classmates, followed by lunch. It is my intention over the next few issues of the Class Notes to include the presentations that people sent to me. You need not have attended reunion or presented at the open mic sessions to send a contribution to me. It might take a while to be published, but if I am successful in setting up a location on the web, all your contributions will be available online.

The final event of our reunion was our class dinner, held in Faculty House on Saturday. After dinner, the chair of our Reunion Committee, **Steve Buchman**, made some remarks and then read the speech prepared by **Steve Trachtenberg**.

reunion. Leading them has been, yes, a challenge, but also a privilege. Someone has said chairing a reunion committee is like herding cats: true, but in this case those cats are Columbia lions and that makes all the difference.

“Special thanks to **Joel Rein**, who suggested having open mic sessions as the format for our class events and for his Solomonic direction of one of those sessions; he brought tact, patience and humor to the challenge.

“There is one more major thank you, and that’s to you, our classmates, and your spouses, significant others and guests. It’s really all of you who deserve our thanks for your energy, enthusiasm and sharing these last two and a half days. You are the real stars of his show. From

and have them thank you, the Class of 1959, for being here, being you, and making this 60th reunion one of the great memories of our Columbia experience.”

Steve then read the talk prepared by **Steve Trachtenberg**. (I will do my best to make the text of his talk available to all.)

The dinner, and the reunion, ended with a rendition of *Sans Souci*.

I think that most, if not all, who attended the reunion had a very good time. I know that at least some who were unable to attend the reunion were unhappy with their inability to come. Let us wish a full recovery to **Dave Clark, Ted Graske, Ben Miller, Steve Trachtenberg** and **Bill Zangwell**, and anyone else whose medical problems prevented them attending, so that they can join all of us at the next reunion.

I hope to print the shorter presentations in our Class Notes as well as submissions from classmates for whom time did not permit to make oral presentations, as well as from classmates not able to attend the reunion. I hope to be able to make all written submissions online.

Bob Nelson contributed this to the conversation: “*The Individual*: We were all very bright; our mothers told us so. In fact, we would not have been admitted if we were not. The Core Curriculum opened our eyes to a world that, for the most part, was unfamiliar to us. Yes, we may have had some exposure to literature, politics, philosophy, art or music, but this was different and did change us.

“We made good friends during those years but were always expected to work on our own, not to cooperate in our work products. It was all individual and no teamwork unless you were involved with extracurricular activities or athletics.

“This attitude persisted for the most part into grad school, or what I call ‘vocational training’ (otherwise known as engineering, law or medical school). Not until these studies were completed did we begin to work as teams.

“*The Team*:’ As we moved along in our careers we were exposed to different worlds, different cultures. For me it was Virginia and Cincinnati of the early ’60s. Neither were strongholds of civil liberties but there were liberals as well as conservatives. Naval service was another

opportunity to learn from a society to which you had not been exposed. You had to learn to keep your eyes and ears open and learn!

“*Student and Teacher*:’ As a resident physician I learned from my seniors and attending physicians. I also taught junior residents and medical students. After beginning my own practice, I continued to ‘teach’ resident physicians over the next several decades. I say ‘teach’ because I was always learning from them. I was also learning from my patients and my colleagues.

“*Our Future*:’ We can all continue to learn from those around us. Many have retired from their profession but can still stay involved in learning and teaching. Mentoring students, volunteering in libraries or hospitals, working with community service organizations and so forth are great ways to continue to give back some of the gifts that Columbia has given us.

“And always remember to ask the question that I would ask my patients and you should ask those around you: ‘How can I help?’”

1960

REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

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Congratulations to **Terrence McNally**, who was honored on June 9 at the 73rd Annual Tony Awards with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Described as “a probing and enduring dramatist” and “one of the greatest contemporary playwrights the theater world has yet produced,” not only has Terrence’s career spanned an extraordinary six decades, but his work also has been remarkably diverse, including plays, musicals and operas. In his acceptance speech, Terrence noted that “the world needs artists more than ever to remind us what kindness, truth and beauty are.”

In 2018 Terrence was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is a recipient of the

Core Haiku



Netted butterflies
Morningside in Plato’s shoes
Apple core consumed

— Edward R. Wolpov ’59

Steve Buchman delivered the following remarks: “Hello again. After two days of reunioneering, reminiscing and moving across the campus of our memories, we’ve come to the final class event of our 60th reunion weekend — the closing remarks of Steve Trachtenberg. But this year there’s a twist: Steve was not able to join us, as you know. He’s in London, recovering well, and, as he says, looking forward to joining us at our 65th reunion. He has, however, been a presence at this reunion and in our thoughts each day.

“It’s been an honor and a pleasure chairing the Class of ’59 Reunion Committee in organizing our program for you, all with the goal of making this a special and memorable 60th ... and there are people to thank.

“Our Alumni Office planners and ‘handlers’: they’ve guided us since last September with ideas, logistical support and their presence at each of our events. Please thank them with your applause.

“I want to again acknowledge the Reunion Committee and ask them all to stand and be recognized for their contributions, efforts and commitment to their classmates and this

our rain-soaked Thursday evening reception, when you shed your sodden raingear and discomfort in the lobby and moved into Lou Gehrig Lounge for our first meeting: the vitality in the room was infectious and ran us over schedule by about an hour. At the opening John Jay breakfast on Friday, when the audience was asked for a show of hands of classes present, our 60th attendees far outnumbered the 10th, 25th and 50th grads who were there. At Friday’s lunch on South Field, the three tables we’d had set aside for the Class of ’59 were insufficient; we needed to commandeer two more to hold us all. Our open mic sessions were more than we’d hoped for: participation, patience and attentive audiences made these very special gatherings and provided more shared memories. Our dinner at V&T last evening showed no lessening of the weekend’s energy.

“The alumni staff who attended our events continued to express their amazement at our engagement and liveliness and left their registration desks to join us.

“So, I’m going to ask the Reunion Committee to stand, once again,

Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award and the Lucille Lortel Lifetime Achievement Award. He has won four Tony Awards: two for the plays *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Master Class* and two for the musical books for *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Ragtime*. He also has written numerous TV scripts, including *Andre's Mother*, for which he won an Emmy Award. Terrence has received two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Rockefeller Grant, four Drama Desk Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards, two Obie Awards and three Hull-Warriner Awards from the Dramatists Guild. In 1996 he was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame.

He wrote the libretto for the operas *Great Scott* and *Dead Man Walking*, both with music by Jake Heggie. Terrence's many plays include *Mothers and Sons*; *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*; *The Lisbon Traviata*; *A Perfect Ganesh*; *The Visit*; *The Full Monty*; *Corpus Christi*; *Bad Habits*; *Next*; *The Ritz*; *Anastasia*; *It's Only a Play*; *Where Has Tommy Flow-ers Gone?* and *The Stendhal Syndrome*.

Terrence has been a member of the Council of the Dramatists Guild since 1970 and was VP 1981–2001.

And, not to be forgotten, in 1992 Terrence was presented by the College a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.

Distinguished achievement, indeed.

Tom Hamilton reflects on his work in 1963 at Grumman, which had received the contract to build the lunar module intended as the spacecraft to carry the first people to the moon. Tom had just started work at a well-known computer manufacturer with a commitment that he would work in Manhattan, thus enabling him to continue his pursuit of graduate studies in astronomy. Soon after he started, however, he was told that he would be reassigned to its Poughkeepsie, N.Y., office. One of his colleagues forwarded his name to an engineer at Grumman, who was recruiting people to work on an Apollo Project contract to build what was then referred to as the Lunar Excursion Module. Tom's educational background in astronomy made him an attractive candidate and he was invited for a job interview at the Grumman headquarters in Bethpage, N.Y., to be followed by a security clearance procedure.

The job interview went well; the security clearance, a tad less smoothly. The lengthy security questionnaire inquired whether the applicant or any family member was or had been a member of any of a list of organizations deemed security threats, or of any organization not listed that advocated the violent overthrow of "the government." Tom, committed to responding truthfully, acknowledged having relatives who had engaged in activity to overthrow the government. The head of security suggested that he delete the entry as "it would cause trouble." Tom refused, whereupon the head of security said, "It's on your head, dammit; go ahead." Tom got the job, and security clearance, despite the conduct of grandfathers several generations removed who had fired at the king's troops in April 1775 as they marched toward Bunker Hill.

Tom was assigned to a group that included draftsmen, computer programmers, a mathematician and a variety of engineers. He was the only one with an astronomy background. His main job for the three years working on Apollo, as he explains it, "was determining a back-up technique for lunar orbit rendezvous, radar accuracy requirements for the on-board radars during the return of the LM from the Moon to the orbiting CSM (Command and Service Module), fuel usage for the RCS (reaction control system) and a few other minor issues."

One of Tom's singular experiences was a simulated test flight. Situated on the roof of one of the Grumman buildings was a large blue sphere. Tom describes it: "The inside had been adapted for a 'full mission simulator' that astronauts were expected to use in training. But first, select Grumman employees were sent to test it, and test themselves. Someone decided my work on the planned lunar orbit rendezvous of the LM and CSM made my flying the simulator a good idea. It was truly impressive, with a view of a shrinking lunar surface as I ascended into space to link up with the CSM. I felt embarrassed when the control panel showed I had rammed into the CSM at 19 feet per second, when the limit was under 10 feet per second. But I was told most people missed rendezvous and had the LM wander off in lunar orbit, while a few crashed back on the moon. I was congratulated for an excellent first (and only) flight."

Neil Markee submits the following synopsis of his post-Columbia life. As a member of NROTC, Neil spent the six years after graduation on active duty: the first three on an old LST ("landing ship, tank") and the next three putting a new LPH ("launch and recovery platform, helicopter") into service. As Neil describes the latter assignment, "I worked for some of the best officers around. Working directly for the XO [executive officer] during commission provided a seminar on leadership. As the radio officer on the amphibious forces flag ship during the Cuban Missile Crisis, I was offered a ringside seat for some of the events."

After separating from the Navy, Neil joined Educational & Institutional Cooperative Services, a nonprofit purchasing and contracting cooperative serving the needs of higher education. For the ensuing seven years he was responsible for E&I's activities in the Northeast, from Maine to Pittsburgh. During that time period he married Susan Haley, an elementary school teacher, and their daughter, Jennifer, was born.

"Seven years later," Neil continues, "I moved to higher education's professional association for campus purchasing officers as its CEO. Although we were based on Long Island I spent a good bit of time in Washington, D.C., where many of the other higher professional associations are based. Together we represented the business side of higher education in dealing with the federal government and other organizations."

"Twenty-five years later, Susan and I announced our early retirement — only for me to be offered an attractive position with a San Francisco-based dot-com. Working from home and the Bay Area as an advisor was an interesting experience. As my two-year contract was winding down, we were acquired by SciQuest and I again planned to retire for the second time, only to learn that the online publication we had launched had been acquired by the two nonprofits I had worked for earlier, and they offered me a position as editor-in-chief and a major content provider for the publication. The job was to be from home, part-time. I held the position for 22 years until earlier this year I again retired."

"Susan and I live roughly six months a year in Port Jefferson on

Long Island and six months in Palm City on Florida's east coast, adjoining the towns of Stewart and Jupiter. We plan to eventually become full-time Florida residents. Our daughter, Jennifer, is heavily involved in the professional show jumping equestrian community, based in Wellington, Fla., to our south."

Keep in mind that the Class of 1960 has a 60th reunion coming up. Sixty years? Is that possible? Good health to all; send me your notes; and hope to see you at the 60th.

1961

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Tom Lippman's latest book was recently published: *Crude Oil, Crude Money: Aristotle Onassis, Saudi Arabia and the CIA* is the story of a little-known Cold War drama with a big cast of colorful and ethically dubious characters. The king of Saudi Arabia gave Aristotle Onassis a contract that would have broken the American monopoly on the Saudi oil industry and disrupted the maritime shipping business worldwide. Seeing this as a possible opening to Soviet meddling in Saudi Arabia, Eisenhower ordered the Dulles brothers to make sure the contract never took effect. This book is about how they did it.

Tom is a Washington-based author and journalist who has specialized in Middle Eastern affairs and American foreign policy for more than three decades, and is an experienced analyst of Saudi Arabian affairs and U.S.-Saudi relations. He is a former Middle East bureau chief of *The Washington Post*, and also was that newspaper's oil and energy reporter. Throughout the 1990s, Tom covered foreign policy and national security for the *Post*, traveling frequently to Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East. As an independent writer, he has visited Saudi Arabia every year but one in the last decade. Tom discussed his new book at the New York City class lunch in July; it's available on Amazon.

Tom is an adjunct scholar at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., where he is the principal

media contact on Saudi Arabia and U.S.-Saudi relations. He was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and was formerly an adjunct senior fellow there.

A project **Gene Milone** has been working on for the past six years has come to fruition with the acceptance of a paper on the project by *The Astronomical Journal*. The work involved running more than 70 models and exploring nearly every physical nuance that can affect the motions and brightness of an eclipsing binary star. This one, DS Andromedae, lies in a star cluster some 1,500 light years from Earth. The work permits us to obtain its distance, among other properties, to high precision and reasonably high accuracy, and to understand a little better the age and distance of the star cluster as well.

Gene was keen to finish this work and have it published before eye problems and the inevitable consequences of aging take their toll.

Bob Pollack continues as a professor of biological sciences at Columbia, a position he has held since 1978. He hopes to write at least one book during his academic-year-long sabbatical, which began July 1. But just in case, he will continue to co-teach a course on human identity with his daughter, Dr. Marya Pollack '87, PH'92.

Bob and his wife, Amy, sold their Vermont schoolhouse when the commute got to be too much — six hours! Currently, they escape up the Hudson to Saugerties, N.Y. — two hours and they are in the woods. Their motto: Everyone alive is

equally part of the future. That's one of the reasons Bob has not retired; sharing ideas with people the age of their grandson is exciting, he says, and also it lifts the burden of being in charge. And as a professor, getting paid to do it is a gift!

Bob Salman is teaching a course on the history of impeachment this fall at Brookdale Community College. It's open to political science students and is part of Brookdale's Lifelong Learning Program.

Bob and his wife, Reva, saw **Stu Sloame** and his wife, Ellen, when the Sloames were in New York City in June.

On a sad note, I report the passing of two classmates.

Norm Kurnit GSAS'66 passed away on February 6, 2019. After the College, Norm went directly to GSAS, where he earned a master's in 1962 and a Ph.D. in 1966, both in physics. He spent the majority of his career working at Los Alamos National Lab and lived in Santa Fe, N.M. Norm is survived by Ellen, his wife of 50 years; two children; and two grandchildren.

Dave Schwartz DM'65 passed away on July 7, 2019, after a nearly seven-year battle with multiple myeloma. Dave practiced oral surgery for more than 50 years in Queens. He was on the Board of Trustees of both the Queens County Dental Society and the New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

An avid golfer, tennis player, skier, guitarist and singer, Dave was a longtime member of the Bonnie Briar Country Club, where he was the Super Senior Club Champion

in golf in 2017. He also maintained a summer home in Wellfleet, Mass., where he requested to be brought, one last time, a week before he died.

Dave is survived by his brothers, Michael and Larry; wife, Isabel; daughter, Beth Jones, of Alexandria, Va., and son-in-law, Jamie Jones; granddaughter, Isabel; grandson, James; son, John D., of New York; daughter-in law, Amy Kean; and grandsons, Kean and Oliver.

1962

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All's too quiet on the 1962 front. Please help me avoid making up stories by writing in.

Anthony Valerio has published another acclaimed book, *Semmelweis: the Women's Doctor*. It's an intimate biography of a great mid-19th-century scientist. Anthony explores Semmelweis's complicated character, his research uncovering the causes and means to prevent childbed fever, which was then considered unpreventable and killed nearly 30 percent of new European mothers who delivered their babies in maternity hospitals. Semmelweis correctly determined that the disease was caused by doctors' failure to wash their hands effectively, and prescribed that they scrub in a solution of chlorinated lime.

Nevertheless, Semmelweis's obstetrical colleagues disdained his work and ostracized him. In 1865, he supposedly suffered a nervous breakdown and was treacherously committed to an asylum by a colleague. He died — or was he murdered? — at 47 from a gangrenous wound after being beaten by the asylum guards.

Burt Lehman wrote that he is reading a fascinating new book, *Trillion Dollar Coach: The Leadership Playbook of Silicon Valley's Bill Campbell*. Burt says "the book focuses mostly on **Bill Campbell** TC'64's extraordinary influence on some of Silicon Valley's stars and his way of coaching them how to deal with their underlings, in particular. There is a section on Bill's undergraduate and coaching days at Columbia, which are nostalgic."

Three Google executives — Eric Schmidt, Jonathan Rosenberg and Alan Eagle — are the authors.

Here is an excerpt from the book: "As [Columbia President] Lee C. Bollinger says, 'Bill had the highest capacity to understand the people he was working with. He had an intuitive sense of people and what motivated them and how to move them forward.' He accomplished a lot of this by looking for tension, the smoke to a problem's fire ... People would simmer, and Bill would spot it."

"Listening to more than words requires keen observation. Not just listening ... but noticing the body language and side conversations. So many of the people we talked to commented on Bill's ability to sense when people were frustrated. This is not a natural skill, but one that can be developed. You have to listen and watch."

"Jim Rudgers, who was on Bill's coaching staff at Columbia, recalls Bill's remarkable ability to see the entire field of 22 players as a play unfolded. 'Hold up a finger and look at it,' Jim says. 'That's how most of us watch football; the finger is the player with the ball. But Bill could see, recall, and assess the things that happen on the periphery as well. He brought that skill to team meetings. He wouldn't just see the speaker; he could see the entire field and gauge reactions and intents even with the people who remained silent, the ones without the ball.'"

1963

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I joined **Henry Black**, **Doron Gopstein** and **Lee Lowenfisch** to march in the Alumni Parade of Classes on Class Day on May 21. As always, it was a great event — it's a pleasure to see the happy graduates and their families, as well as greet old friends as we proudly hoist our class banner. Join us next year.

Gary Rachelefsky writes, "Retirement is a word that was never part of my vocabulary; I thought of it as an end-of-life word. The brief stop before the undertaker came calling. Boy, was I wrong. After a successful and satisfying 46-year career in medicine, I was ready (and

Holler at Us in Haiku!

Core, one hundred years!
What's a fun way to note it?
Poetry from you.



We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku**. Send your 5-7-5 recollections to cct_centennial@columbia.edu, and we'll run our favorites in the next three issues' Class Notes.

luckily healthy), with my wife, Gail (married 52 years), being supportive. I could not be happier; my advice is to spend lots of time planning it and doing activities you never had the time or the energy to do. So I learned to cook, play golf (exercise and 'boy friends'), joined a couples book club (so I now read books), go to the sports club, talk to my wife, be a real poppy to my eight grandchildren, travel, spend a social evening without my patients calling and/or falling asleep. I even read *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* each morning. I volunteer at two Native American reservations helping in the care of children and adults with respiratory and allergic disorders. I still only sleep five to six hours but I need all that awake time to complete my day. I am available for free consultations."

Henry Black sent me the following historical footnote about how he got mentioned in Andrew Roberts's most recent biography, *Churchill: Walking With Destiny*. Henry writes, "I've been a student of WWII and an admirer of Churchill for decades. With that in mind, my wife, Benita, gifted me with an autographed letter from the great man written to Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882 in

Because of this 'discovery,' Roberts, whose book was still in galleys, added the information to Chapter 15, and thanked [my wife and me] in Footnote 51 for the world to see!"

Phil Satow writes, "My wife, Donna GS'65, and I had the pleasure of visiting Israel during the last part of June and attending the Genesis Prize Ceremony in Jerusalem. On June 20, the prize, a \$1 million award, was granted to **Bob Kraft**. The Genesis Prize is given annually to Jewish people who have attained recognition and excellence in their fields. Bob brought 25 NFL players and their spouses who had not visited Israel before. It was a well-attended and exciting evening, and the prize was awarded to Bob by Bibi Netanyahu. The next day I attended an American football scrimmage at the Kraft Family Sports Campus in Jerusalem, where the NFL players coached two Israeli teams."

Ed Collier writes, "There is an annual public affairs lecture named for my parents at the Hillcrest Jewish Center in Flushing, N.Y. (the 50th is this fall). Jim Shenton '49 spoke in 1986, and he chose immigration as his topic. Near the end of the lecture he said that his analysis of demographic trends led him to believe that if immigration policies



Four members of the Class of '63 marched at the Alumni Parade of Classes. Left to right: Doron Gopstein, Henry Black, Lee Lowenfish and Paul Neshamkin.

that last week. I hoped the summer's heat and humidity would abate and then I could reach 25,000 soon."

Hey, gang, can any of you match Don's record? I sure can't.

Paul Gorrin writes, "Our oldest son, Dan, and his wife, Leah, who teaches high school math, have a new baby, Max Michael, and a daughter, Bailey (4), who loves being a big sister. Our younger son, David, and his barrister wife, Sally, have an 8-month-old daughter, Eleanor. Our oldest daughter, Ellen, teaches middle school in Millsboro, Del. Our youngest daughter, Emily, is finishing a mental health nurse practitioner program at the University of Delaware. My wife of 39 years, Ann, after being for 14 years the Sussex County coordinator for the non-profit Read Aloud Delaware, which arranges for volunteers to read one-on-one to at-risk children, now is a program manager for Delaware Health and Social Services.

"I've retired from an internal medicine and an allergy practice, am a member of the Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild, a life member of the Delaware Medical Society and a founding member of the Seaside Jewish Community in Rehoboth Beach, Del. I met my wife in Vermont shortly after completing a fellowship at the University of Vermont in chest disease, which became a lung cancer suppressor cell study. It was this introduction to the immunology of the respiratory system that I brought to my medical practice, but that seems so long ago."

Charles E. Miller GSAS'66 reports the filing on July 22 in the U.S. Supreme Court of the first *amicus curiae* brief of the Association of Amicus Counsel in a case, *Peter v. NantKwest, Inc.*, involving one of the legal profession's favorite topics: court-awarded attorney fees in administrative law cases involving patent and trademark applications. The AAC, of which Charles is president and one of its founding members, is an independent nonprofit of lawyers having diverse affiliations and law practices and who, by training, scholarship, experience and breadth of discernment in their respective areas of the law, are possessed of the requisite abilities in appellate advocacy and proficiency in producing and submitting *amicus curiae* briefs as may be helpful to courts and other tribunals in cases involving issues of contention. Such briefs are designed to call attention to pertinent matters and viewpoints not previously recognized or addressed by the parties or the decisionmaker(s). Neither the AAC, nor any of its members or their other affiliations who participate in or whose name(s) appears on a brief of the AAC, will have represented a party in the case or will have otherwise had a direct financial stake in the outcome. In addition to parties supported by the AAC, non-parties represented are those wishing to express their views on issues in precedent-setting adjudications whose outcomes will affect the public interest, including their own and of others similarly situated.

Core Haiku



**Mukasey and Barr
Grooved on Machiavelli
Holder skipped that class**

— David G. Hitlin '63, GSAS'68

1931, and typed on Waldorf-Astoria stationery. The contents seemed bland and unimportant at the time (and only about three sentences long). One evening last fall, we attended a lecture by Roberts at the New-York Historical Society, where he is scholar in residence. Afterward, while dining at the restaurant, Roberts passed by our table and I had a brief moment to tell him about our letter. He handed us his card and asked us to send him an image of the letter, which we promptly did. Turned out that the three sentences in the letter contained a tiny factoid heretofore unknown by Churchill biographers (there are about 1,005 biographies of the great man).

remained the same, sometime in the early 2000s the population would be on the brink of being less than 50 percent white and that there would be a major movement to essentially close the doors to non-white immigrants and a real battle of conscience over how sincerely we believed in the myths of being the open door to the tired and poor. He then went on to brilliantly make the case for keeping the doors open. The guy called it 33 years ago."

Don Margolis reports, "I have been riding my bike for the last 17 years and targeted 25,000 miles when someone told me that was the circumference around the equator. Then I saw that it was only 24,901 and I reached

It is for these reasons that the AAC was conceived, established and exists: to promote and assist in advancing the science of jurisprudence through amicus briefs that advocate the correctly informed judicial development of the law in the time-honored tradition of *amici curiae* — “friends of the court.”

If you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Princeton Club. The next lunches are on September 12 and October 10.

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

1964

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Who would have thought there is a connection between our 55th reunion and the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing? Well, our classmates who organized reunion did.

In a joint reunion effort with Columbia Engineering, the speaker at the first of two dinners was **Larry Kuznetz SEAS'64**, SEAS'65, a central figure at NASA's Mission Control in 1969. In a fascinating after-dinner talk, Larry (with accompanying PowerPoint presentation and videos) touched on topics ranging from the trial and error in making a space suit to the hierarchy at Mission Control (only one person was autho-

rized to speak with the astronauts once the flight began). He also touched on the afterlife of the mission — his two appearances on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson* (were any of you on this show?) and the different complexities and risks of a trip to Mars (for example, the distance from Earth to Mars is so great that a distress call from Mars may take too long to reach Earth, or the response from Mission Control may take too long to reach Mars).

Reunion began with a Thursday evening reception in the art-filled Manhattan apartment of Maya and **Larry Goldschmidt LAW'67**, and over the next two days there were lunches on South Field and a range of tours and lectures from which to choose. Reunion concluded with a Saturday dinner at which **Phil Lopate** gave a witty, insightful and poignant reminiscence of his College experience. A standing ovation of appreciation followed, and I and others there hope Phil will reprint his talk in a future book of his essays.

Bob Liss and his good friend Diane Levy flew in for reunion from San Francisco, where Bob is a psychoanalyst. He earned a J.D. at Yale and a Ph.D. at NYU. On the website First of the Month, Bob contributes articles on basketball. His most recent (as of this writing) begins, “Damn! Those NBA playoffs take forever!” For more of that refreshing angle, go to firstofthemonth.org/author/bob-liss.

After decades with Columbia, **Howard Jacobson LAW'67** has retired as deputy general counsel of the University. All sorts of legal issues arise for a major university like Columbia, and for many years Howie was at the center of things. He writes, “I retired on December 31, after 40 years working for Columbia. Before I came to Columbia, I served as a law clerk to federal judge William B. Herlands, and then worked for about 10 years at [what was then the] Kaye Scholer law firm, in New York.

“At the General Counsel's Office, I worked with every in-house general counsel in the University's history, beginning with the first one, John Mason Harding, through the current one, Jane E. Booth LAW'76. (Before Harding, all general counsels were members of outside law firms.) When I began there were three attorneys in the General Counsel's Office; today there are 20. Through

the years I worked on many different areas of the law, including litigations, gifts and estates, compliance with the increasing complexity of governmental regulations, and University governance and real estate. In addition, for many years I served as parliamentarian of the University Senate. What no doubt was the highlight of my work at Columbia was participating in seeking the regulatory approvals and numerous property site acquisitions needed to create the overall Manhattanville campus.

“After retirement, I have continued to serve on the board of the University-affiliated Community Impact, a nonprofit that annually serves more than 9,000 low-income residents of Harlem, Washington Heights and Morningside Heights through the work of about 900 University student volunteers.

“My wife, Kathryn, and I have planned a cruise to Alaska. We are spending more time with our children and grandchildren.”

Howie is also a regular presence at Columbia basketball games. We wish him and his family much happiness in retirement.

After attending reunion, **Dan Nussbaum**, who is at the Department of Operations Research at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., made his way to Baku, Azerbaijan, for a seminar on energy security. Dan writes: “At the seminar, the new U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan made his first public statement on U.S. energy policy in the Caspian region, and I and my team were invited to attend the July 4 celebrations at our embassy. While it was an honor to attend the celebrations, and the food and music were good, the moving moments for me were the conversations I had with foreign diplomatic, military and commercial personnel, who uniformly expressed their strong appreciation for the consistent and principled leadership that the United States provides in this strategic and highly contested part of the world. I know that we hardly ever hear conversations about the Trans-Caucasus and Caspian regions, but historically they are important, and they are even more important now as a region of great power competition — for their energy content, and for their location as gateway to Central Asia.”

Remember, our informal class lunch is the second Thursday of each

month, and don't forget to send in your answer to the questions: “What do you wish you had known when you were 18?” and “What advice do you have for the members of the College's next graduating class as they face becoming ‘adults?’”

1965

REUNION 2020
JUNE 4–6

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Gene Feldman sent me a fascinating note triggered by his temporary stay at the King's Crown Hotel. I was one of the “handful of us.” Gene writes, “At the start of our first year, a handful of us were temporarily housed in the King's Crown Hotel on 116th Street due to a snafu in dormitory planning. I became friends with a few men such as **Don Norris** and **Richard Taruskin**. And I tried cheap Chianti for the first and last time. A few weeks later, I relocated to a suite in New Hall, the high-rise dorm awaiting a benefactor to name it.

“I barely recalled the episode until I learned this history. In 1939, Enrico Fermi fled fascist Italy. Professor George B. Pegram of the Columbia physics department wisely recruited him. When Fermi arrived, they put him up at the King's Crown Hotel. Leo Szilard, another refugee nuclear scientist, serendipitously met Fermi in the hotel's lobby. The two geniuses collaborated intensely, despite their oil-and-water temperaments. They soon realized that a nuclear chain reaction was possible.

“Szilard argued that this reaction should be used to build a uranium super bomb to stop Hitler's war machine. Their fortuitous partnership lead Fermi to create the first controlled chain reaction in a secret laboratory on December 2, 1942. The immigrants got the job done. Now an atomic bomb seemed possible. A phone call announced success to President Roosevelt's advisor, cryptically saying, “The Italian navi-

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college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.

gator has landed in the new world.' Everyone in the lab celebrated with a bottle of good Chianti, and all signed the basket.

"The Los Alamos team then built a few bombs intended for Germany. But after Hitler's defeat, Japan became the target. Fermi still had the President's ear. He and Szilard urged FDR to detonate the bomb in the Pacific, demonstrating its fear-some power to the Japanese while sparing civilians. The politicians and generals had other plans.

"While most physicists had chosen narrow specialties, Fermi mastered all the major areas. He was dubbed 'The last man who knew

mobile methods to screen patients for cardiovascular risks and raise awareness about heart disease.

"In 2011, he received the National College Football Foundation's Distinguished American award. In 2018, he received the John F. Kennedy Award from Holyoke's St. Patrick's Day parade committee."

Bob Yunich also gave us an update: "Over the past few years, I've enjoyed a wonderfully unrestrained life. I've become more active in volunteer work; my wife, Joanne, and I have been traveling and taking advantage of our second home in Andes, N.Y.

"For more than five years, I have been a credit crisis counselor/

tion. Every day was a new chance to see Iceland's natural wonders — geysers, geothermal mud pools, waterfalls and volcanic lava fields — and become acquainted with the daily lives of Icelanders. On July 4, our ship, the *National Geographic Explorer*, cruised north to Grimsey Island, crossing the Arctic Circle. Due to the island's geophysical attributes, it produces inexpensive hydroelectricity, which has fueled an immense aluminum smelting industry (aluminum ore is imported, converted to aluminum ingots or rolled stock, which then is exported). This is the story line of the 2018 movie *Woman at War*.

"This summer, we had planned to go on an Abercrombie & Kent safari to Botswana, but had to cancel due to health issues. We are confident Botswana will always be there and that we can go another time. In the meantime, we're planning a trip to London around Christmas and maybe Croatia and Lisbon in the late spring.

"I have scaled back my financial advisory practice with a view toward fully retiring in the next few years. I am looking forward to our reunion next year and hope many, many classmates can participate."

Your correspondent and your classmates would like to hear more from you. As Gene's note suggests, you can even write about a thought triggered by Columbia. Whatever you write, it will be eagerly consumed by your classmates.

1966

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
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Greetings for fall, Class of 1966! From **Calvin Johnson**: "I teach tax at the University of Texas School of Law, and jump valiantly into the intellectual fray. My last articles said that Elizabeth Warren's wealth tax was constitutional, because the defining aspect of direct tax was that it had to be reasonably apportionable. Before that I said that under-valuation of property transferred at death means estate tax captures only 25 percent of what the statute says it is supposed to collect. Then I said the Trump deficits needed to be

funded by taxes on wealth, because tax deficits funded by harm to lower tiers maximized the damage that tax does to human happiness. Then I said rewrite the 'dividend' rules so that the dysfunctional earnings and profits account doesn't matter, and so that there is not a tax without gain. Then I said taxpayer has no capital gain, unless the taxpayer has basis. Then I took down four Harvard professors, a Stanford Law professor and the president of the American Economic Association. I expect an email telling me 'the veil has fallen from my eyes' any day now. I am writing an autobiography with technical tax talk, which of course my kids won't understand. But I am still having fun."

Michael Garrett writes that, within the last year or so, he spent a month in Japan, a month in the Baltic region and a month in Australia/Indonesia/Singapore, and will spend the September in Spain and Portugal, January in the Galapagos and Amazon, May in New Orleans and August in eastern Europe. When you add to that a 50th Law School reunion, a variety of interesting activities and projects at Columbia College, the Business School, the Law School, the Libraries, University Seminars, Colloquia and Alumni Singers; some grandparenting, photography, piano, theatre and classical music; and events at the University Club and the Chautauqua Institution, it all results in a very stimulating and most rewarding retirement that — on the sound theory that this life is not a dress rehearsal — he plans to continue as long as his and his wife's Sandy's health and energy level can support it.

From **Jeff May**: "My wife, Connie, and I moved after 40 years in Cambridge to Tyngsborough, Mass. Our daughter (who went to Smith College) and her husband (who went to UMass) have given us two wonderful grandchildren, Gabriel (3) and Eliza (1). Our son, Ben SEAS'00, works at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center in IT; he and his wife, Ola, run a cat rescue in Washington Heights.

"We recently sent off the second edition of our first book (of four!), *My House is Killing Me! The Home Guide for Families with Allergies and Asthma*, to the press.

"I continue to do indoor air quality investigations with the

Core Haiku



Along with my boys
Hamilton & Obama
A proud College grad

— Gerald Kruglik '65

everything,' the title of a biography by David N. Schwartz from which I learned some of this story. David is the son of the late Columbia professor Mel Schwartz '53, GSAS'58, who, like Fermi, was a Nobel Laureate. Professor Schwartz inspired my love of physics and my career."

Last October, *The Republican*, a local newspaper for Chicopee, Holyoke, South Hadley and Granby, Mass., reported that Holyoke H.S.'s first Hall of Fame class was inducted. **Archie Roberts** was one of the inductees. From the article: "The Class of 2018 honorees also include a father-son duo, 20-year football coach Archie Roberts and Archie Jr., who excelled in three sports. In 1959, his father's last season as head coach, Archie Jr. quarterbacked Holyoke to a 9–0 record and its first AA Conference title. He also starred as a basketball point guard and baseball shortstop. At Columbia, he broke 17 passing records and also played basketball and baseball as the university's last three-sport athlete.

"After a brief time in the NFL, he completed studies for a medical degree, and went on to a career as a renowned heart surgeon. After retiring in 1997 as an active surgeon, he founded the Living Heart Foundation, which uses

financial coach with the Community Service Society of New York. I have been helping people in one-on-one meetings deal with problems such as adverse credit reports, stifling credit card debt, default judgments arising from delinquent debt obligations and the quagmire around — and crippling amounts of — outstanding student loans.

"For the past year, I've been working with Trout Unlimited to increase funding for an awesome program, 'Trout in the Classroom.' TIC is a hands-on, STEM-focused, environmental K–12 education program that enables students to raise trout from eggs to fingerlings in an aquarium in their school classroom. Following eight months of care and observation of their trout, students release their fish into streams and participate in a day of outdoor stewardship activities, forest hikes and stream studies. In New York City, many of the students are from inner city schools and wouldn't otherwise be exposed to the environs outside the five boroughs. I would be delighted to hear from classmates who are interested in learning more or supporting TIC.

"In June, 2018, we took the National Geographic/Lindblad 'Circumnavigate Iceland' expedi-

unbelievable assistance of Connie, who quit working at the Cambridge School of Weston (after 30 years of teaching and administration) to help me in the office. We love our new digs but the best part of moving was landing a five-minute drive from Princeton Station, where we try to go rock 'n' roll dancing to live bands every weekend."

From **Barry Nazarian**: "Three out of the four children I raised as a single father have been in California for the last 15 years, so after 66 years of living within 10 miles of Columbia I decided to join my kids and grandkids and moved across the country: I am now completing my ninth year in San Diego.

"I think the move was a good one as it's pretty stimulating to switch cultures after six and a half decades, and change is a good form of mental exercise for those of us now confronting aging.

"I have made a lot of new friends and for a pretty serious bicycle racer, I could not have picked a better place to be living and training.

"Sitting in occasionally with my son's rock band and enjoying the fact that there are several Columbia people around my class who long ago moved to this ideal climate, I am also doing the heap of sitting required to make a house a home with many of my neighbors who share what is labeled an 'active senior community,' which I think is an appropriate description.

"I lost my incredible lifelong friend **Charlie Pitchford**, with whom I roomed all four years at Columbia; I was the best man in his

wedding. Also miss my friend **Rich Forzani**, whom I met during freshman football and who, being a Jersey boy, remained a friend I would see on occasion during the decades following our graduation.

"I am hoping to get a few more novels out, particularly since I am in a situation where I have the time to do just that without being played out from a long day at work.

"My best to my classmates out there with hopes that we will gather again at least once in decent numbers before that final dismissal."

Mike Gengler writes, "I have published a book about school desegregation in my home town of Gainesville, Fla.: *We Can Do It: A Community Takes on the Challenge of School Desegregation*. To my knowledge, after extensive research (thank you, **Walter Metzger GSAS'46** and others, and my mentors at *Spectator*), this book is the only one that details adjustments in schools during and after desegregation. Despite Brown, the South continued under lower court rulings to operate its side-by-side separate white and black schools as long as black students could choose to attend the white schools ('freedom of choice'). Not until 1968 and 1969 did the Supreme Court put an end to the South's dual school systems. In Gainesville, two-thirds of African-American students and many teachers chose to remain at Lincoln H.S. Its students struck for 11 days in 1969 to protest its closing. Desegregation was a process, not an outcome. White and black communities had to work together to bring their public-school systems through this crisis. For more information, please see wecandoitbook.com."

1967

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The 1967 version of the lightweight crew had a reunion at the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges Sprints on May 19 in Worcester, Mass. In May 1964, the freshman crew culminated its undefeated season at this event. The crew has remained close through the years. **Eric Dannemann** supplied the



The 1967 lightweight crew had a reunion at the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges Sprints on May 19 in Worcester, Mass. Left to right: **Jon Jarvik '67**, **Jeff Brensilver '67**, **Bob Malsberger SEAS'67**, **David Blanchard '67**, **Gerry Botha '67**, **Richie Miller '67** and **Eric Dannemann '67**.

nearby photos and a brief update on our classmates.

Jon Jarvik is a cellular and molecular biologist at Carnegie Mellon.

Jeff Brensilver PS'71 has had a long career as an internist/nephrologist/educator/departments chair in teaching hospitals in the New York metropolitan area and still loves his work.

Bob Malsberger SEAS'67 became a career engineer, starting in aerospace and mutating to biotech. Along the way he somehow managed to be part of an energetic family.

David Blanchard grew up in Texas, went to graduate school at Brown and lived in California, Mexico and Vermont for the last 40-plus years, homesteading, potting, parenting, paddling, special educating and soaking up the beauty of the mountains.

Gerry Botha SEAS'68, SEAS'70 started out with AMF in Connecticut; went to business school in Massachusetts; worked at Ford in Illinois, West Virginia, California and Scotland; was with Ferranti in Scotland, New York and Georgia; was with a consulting group in Atlanta; worked with Ametek in South Carolina and Florida and Nilfisk in Minnesota, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Italy; settled down in Vermont, with consulting, property management, grandchildren and endless to-do lists!

Richie Miller retired from a 30-plus-year career with AT&T and the USAFR to become a full-time grandpa.

Eric Dannemann was in the Navy, and later went to business school. After various management assignments, he has spent the past 30 years in the art business. Retired in Connecticut with the love of his life and three great kids.

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

1968

Arthur Spector
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Wishing the members of the Class of 1968 a happy and healthy fall. Please take a moment to share your news or a favorite Columbia College memory with the class by sending an email to arthurspector@gmail.com.

1969

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Our milestone 50th reunion, held May 30–June 1, was by overwhelming consensus a grand success. We had both class-specific events, as well as the events open to all alumni, as described elsewhere. Our goal in planning the reunion was to create ample opportunity for classmates



Contact CCT

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

to reconnect, and also to provide some content and entertainment. On Thursday night, we had a reception at the Columbia Alumni Center, which — despite heavy rain — still generated a crowd that filled the room. On Friday night, we had a capacity-crowd reception in the C.V. Starr East Asian Library in Kent Hall. These opening events allowed classmates to spend extensive time together, sometimes with no contact in many a year, and even to meet classmates previously unknown to them.

Initially, we had no class-specific daytime activities scheduled for Friday. However, responding to requests from classmates, **Dick Menaker** organized a tour of the Manhattan campus, including a brief look at the interior of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center and a visit to the other two completed buildings. Dick led a hike back to campus along the Hudson River Greenway for those wishing to hike.

On Saturday, we were joined for our lunch and dinner programs by Columbia Engineering alumni. The lunch programs were held at Faculty House. Following a brief reception and time for lunch, Dean James J. Valentini welcomed the class back to the campus. **Rich Wyatt** then moderated a lively open mic session, where memories were shared (many arising from the blackout). A common refrain was the benefit of learning from classmates having a different background. We paused to recall those of our classmates (sadly, now more than 80) who have passed away.

Bill Bonvillian, who teaches at MIT, led a panel on climate change, joined by Sir Alex Halliday, director of Columbia's Earth Institute; **Scott Anderson**, former curator at the Museum of the Amazon (Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi) in Belém, Brazil; and **Marc Rauch**, now with the Environmental Defense Fund. As **Dick Menaker** aptly put it, "I have rarely seen so many key issues handled so swiftly in so little time."

Mike Rosenblatt then anchored a panel of doctors, which he had put together, focused on the need for innovation in improving health care. Mike focused on the topic "Where will new medicines come from?"; **Gary Rosenberg** addressed "Can we optimize treatment for both the individual and the population, and can we afford it?"; **Jerry Avorn's** topic was "How my years at

Columbia shaped my deviant career in medicine and what we need now to fix health care" (for many years, Jerry has focused on the economics of pharmaceuticals); and **James Coromilas SEAS'69** talked about "Heart disease — will we tame it?" Then **Steve Valenstein** gave us "Insights from analysis of health policies," and finally, **David Sokal** addressed "Male contraception: challenges and impact." Here, too, there was much substance of interest and importance from a policy and personal perspective.

The weekend culminated with a reception and dinner in Low Library for both the College and Engineering 50th reunion classes; with guests and spouses, we had more than 150 for the dinner. Ahead of dinner, the official class photo was taken on the Low Steps. The Alumni Office has posted Reunion Weekend photos on its Facebook page (facebook.com/alumnicc/photos). During dinner, **Dick Menaker** gave welcoming remarks, then turned the microphone over to **George Baker**, who portrays John Adams in a variety of venues, as he did for us. (Staying in costume, he really stands out in the class photo.)

Our main speaker was Professor Ken Jackson, the authority on the history of New York City; he gave lively and informative comments on the city at the time of our births, during our College years and now. And there have been many changes. To close out the evening, the Alumni Singers performed *Roar, Lion, Roar* and *Alma Mater*, with extensive selections from Gilbert and Sullivan before that.

Who attended? This list of classmates was compiled based on those who registered and/or checked in at a class specific-event; if you've been left off the list or included by error and you'd like a correction, please let me know: **Lawrence Aaron, Michael Agelasto, Dominick Agostin, Ron Alexander, Jim Alloy, Scott Anderson, Bob Appel, Jerry Avorn, George Baker, Larry Berger, Richard Berger, John Bernson, Chuck Bethill, Bill Bonvillian, David Borenstein, James Boyce, Eric Branfman, Michael Braudy, Andy Bronin, Michael Jacoby Brown, Peter Buscemi, Ira Cohen, Steve Ditlea, John Erickson, John Fogarty, Miles Freedman, Robert Friedman, Robert**

Gabel, Bill Giusti, Jerry Gliklich, Sam Goldman, Jesse Goldner, Neal Handel, Fred Harbus, Edwin Harnden, John Herbert, Michael Ingrisani, Bill Kelly, Marty Konikoff, Joseph Kushick, Dwight Lee, Mark Leeds, Hal Lemberg, Hal Lewis, John Van Dusen Lewis, Woody Lewis, George Lindsay, Jim Lo Dolce, John Lombardo, Andy Markovits, Joe Materna, Dick Menaker, Jerry Nadler, Jerry Nagler, Fred Neufeld, Michael Oberman, Michael O'Connor, Peter O'Hare, Manny Organek, Gary Otsuji, Fred Pack, Bob Papper, Harold Parker, Hart Perry, Richard Prouser, Norbert Rainford, Richard Rapaport, Marc Rauch, Alan Romanczuk, Oren Root, Dave Rosedahl, Gary Rosenberg, Mike Rosenblatt, Irv Ruderman, Eric Saltzman, Jack Schachner, Joel Scharfstein, Don Schenk, Mike Schnipper, Jeff Schwartz, David Silverstone, Bill Sleeper, Dave

college, and wish I had known them sooner. The Reunion Committee did an excellent job of combining time to socialize and time for lectures."

From **Larry Berger**: "The reunion surpassed my expectations. More classmates turned out than I had expected, and I was able to spend considerable time with some. Sadly, 10 percent of our class are no longer with us, clearly indicating we should make a constant effort to take advantage of these reunions. There were two events that I particularly enjoyed. The Art Humanities course was skillfully managed by our professor, who, using the Socratic method, immediately engaged us in lively discussion and highlighted points made by the participants who were plentiful. Also the Reunion Keynote [featuring actor Maggie Gyllenhaal '99 and screenwriter Beau Willimon '99, SOA'03], from both big and small screen, and their perspectives as actors and directors, as well as their Columbia experiences and relevance to their

Core Haiku



In Plato's dream cave
we see only shadows of
whom we're yet to be.

— Rabbi James B. Rosenberg '66

Sokal, Alan Sparer, Alan Sullivan, Mike Teitel, Dave Turner, Steve Valenstein, Mark Webber, Jeff Weintraub, Julian Wheatley, Eric Witkin, Rich Wyatt and Joel Ziff.

I invited those who attended to help frame a sense of the event. From **John Bernson**: "The reunion was totally swell. The class-specific events were congenial — I ran into some long-lost classmates and old friends. The intellectual content was excellent. A high point for me was the tour of The Met Cloisters, which was led by a brilliant professor who is writing a book about Genghis Kahn. Finally, the campus looked beautiful — a vast improvement, and also a great time of year to see it."

From **Don Schenk**: "The reunion was a great success. I reconnected with so many great friends and wish so many more of my crew and swimming team [friends] had come. I also had the pleasure of meeting several classmates whom I had not known in

profession. Panels in which classmates participated on climate change and health care were enlightening both for content as well as appreciation of the expertise and knowledge offered in these areas by classmates!"

From **Michael Jacoby Brown**: "It was good to reconnect with some people I knew and have not been in touch with for 50 years. I saw some people I knew slightly and had some good conversations. I assume different people want different experiences from a reunion. I was looking forward to hearing what classmates had learned over 50 years. ... I think the open mic session lacked the kind of serious reflection I was looking for, although I assume others wanted just to have fun. Like **Jerry Avorn**, I was surprised that there was no mention of the events of Spring 1968, and as Jerry said, there seemed to be a 'blackout' of this time, although there were lots of memories spoken about the electricity blackout."

From **Jim Lo Dolce**: “I very much enjoyed seeing some old acquaintances, as well as talking to classmates whom I did not recall knowing. I was energized to hear about all the interesting lives and adventures our classmates have had. I was impressed that a lot of us are still working and contributing to society. I think our class as a whole has had a big impact on the world.”

From **Hal Lewis**: “Thoughtfully arranged and well-timed events were a good backdrop for learning more about classmates who were casual acquaintances and reengaging with longtime friends. Greatly enjoyed extended time with former roomies **Michael Agelasto** and **Richard Rapaport** and reencountering other Lewises, **John Lewis** and **Woody Lewis**. Pleased our class seemed more focused on the value of our undergrad experience in navigating a seismically changed world than on the minutiae of our years here. Maybe a sign of our collective general health and well-being despite early senescence?”

From **John Lombardo**: “In my view, the reunion was a complete success. One could feel the wonderful spirit of community at all of the events. It was remarkably free of all the negatives that others describe with respect to their school reunions. What stands out? First, the self-critical humor of the beloved Woj, and the great spirit of togetherness. I think I was correct in insisting that the event remain apolitical. For me, the reunion has also generated an invitation to a 50th anniversary wedding party of a classmate, who got married in our chapel. It was a wedding I was privileged to attend.”

From **David Turner**: “So great to see you and our classmates at the great and grand reunion. The feeling of connection and recollection remains strong. Among so many wonderful and meaningful conversations, the moment I cherish and will long celebrate was at the banquet, at the end of Professor [Ken] Jackson’s speech on the living history of New York City, when he asked for questions. He called on Rep. **Jerry Nadler**, and we had the opportunity to stand and applaud one of our own, a man at the very point of our nation’s discourse and labors. Columbia College and we of the Class of ’69 can take pride in what we learned and shared, and aim to do as well when we are called upon.”

One further benefit of reunion planning that some classmates noted: Even among those classmates who could not attend, many of us got to visit with them by phone or email as we tried to see if they could come — and to catch up in the process.

Lastly, there is one important item to report: the success of our Class Gift. In total, we had 157 donors, 32 at the John Jay Associates level, with direct contributions to the Columbia College Fund of more than \$293,000, and total donations of more \$1.38 million. A great way to cap Reunion Weekend.

1970

REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

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Your class correspondent was absolutely overwhelmed by the Class of 1970’s response to my solicitation of news! In fact, I received so many notes that they can’t all fit in the print magazine! Go online to college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall19/article/class-notes and type “1970” in the search bar to read news from **Michael Aeschliman**, **David Lehman** and first-time contributor **Bill Moore**.

I start with **Vladimir Danyilevich**, with whom I was friends throughout my undergraduate years. Vladimir is a computer project manager and systems integrator. He is also an ordained Eastern Orthodox priest who baptized my youngest daughter, Shirley, 30 years ago. Vladimir reports: “Son Andre lives in Los Angeles and is a post-production manager for the Fox sci-fi series *The Orville*. Daughter Theodora ’03 has finished a Ph.D. in English, is married and teaches at Georgetown. Daughter Ksenia is married and teaches at the Bethesda Waldorf School. Daughter Elizabeth has been tonsured a nun in Greece and is now Sister Ionia. Finally, youngest daughter, Anna, is painting icons.”

Martin Newhouse: “I am soldiering on as president of the New England Legal Foundation in Boston (NELF; nelfonline.org). My big news is the arrival of a grandson, Herman Katz Newhouse, last October. He is the son of our son Sam Newhouse and his wife, our daughter-in-law, Samantha Mitchell. That happy couple, and little Herman, live in Philadelphia.

“In January I completed a five-year term on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court’s Clients’ Security Board (the body that recompenses clients who have had their money stolen by their lawyers; Massachusetts is unique I believe in having no cap on the amount that we pay back to the defrauded clients). Having completed that duty, I was appointed to and am serving on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court’s Standing Advisory Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct. Finally, in addition to my duties at NELF I teach professional responsibility and transactional skills at Suffolk University Law School.”

Joseph Spivack: “Enjoying my third year of retirement! Busy as an angel investor in New Jersey and elsewhere. Traveling a good bit. Hiked in Scotland and Patagonia this year. Volunteering as a trail builder on the Appalachian Trail in Harriman State Park and elsewhere. Helped celebrate **Richard Polton**’s 70th birthday in Montclair. Renovating a studio apartment in Manhattan. Busier than ever!”

First-time contributor and nature enthusiast **Tom Barrett** writes: “I’m getting a jump on 50th anniversaries later this summer by heading to Yosemite National Park, where I first worked as a seasonal ranger at Tioga Pass in 1969. (In later years, with some interruptions, I worked my way up to garbageman, sanitation worker, gas station attendant, trail-crew laborer, trail-crew cook and surveyor’s helper.) The park, and in particular its wilderness high country, to which I’ve returned again and again for long, often solo, for backpacking trips, has formed the bedrock of my mental landscape ever since. We’re planning a 50-miler this year — me and one of the many lifetime friends I made 50 years ago — into the north end of the park, which encompasses one of the largest roadless areas in the lower-48. It’s been some years since I’ve been that way. Fortunately

for me, my fellow traveler is a world-class mountaineer. Best wishes to you and the Class of ’70.”

Philip Roath notes: “My wife, Kathy, and I both recently retired and moved to Pearland, Texas (south of Houston), from North Dallas. We are closer to our grandchildren (2 and 4), our two daughters and son-in-law. We live in an active 55-plus community on a golf course. Life is good.”

Arthur “Wickies” Rossiter writes: “I believe this is my first correspondence with the Class of ’70 and, amazingly, a lifetime has passed by since we graduated. I practiced as a C.P.A. for many years (Arthur Young & Co., now Ernst & Young, among others) then moved to an industrial equipment and supply company in Needham, Mass., as treasurer and general manager. I retired in June 2018 to Scarborough, Maine. I was sorry to read in the past year of the deaths of George Stade GSAS’65 and Wallace Broecker ’53, GSAS’58, two particularly memorable teachers. I visited Columbia for the first time in many years in May year to attend our daughter’s graduation from Teachers College and was reminded how much I regret the chaos that prevailed on campus during our four years there. I wish I could start again as a freshman (probably minus the blue beanie!).”

Professor **Sam Estreicher** says that in January he received the Brooklyn Technical H.S. Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Alumnus. The association plans to dedicate the school’s moot courtroom in his honor.

Dan Feldman sent a happy note: “I had a wonderful sabbatical year in 2018, in which I spent the spring semester as a full-time graduate student in philosophy at the CUNY Graduate Center and the fall semester in Rome as an associate at the Institute for Regionalism, Federalism, and Self-Government of Italy’s National Research Council, studying the efficacy of Italian anti-corruption institutions (results to be published shortly as a chapter in a book). Shortly after returning to my teaching responsibilities at John Jay College in 2019, however, I was guilt-tripped into accepting the directorship of our MPA–Inspection and Oversight Program, which makes up about 40 percent of our 800-student overall MPA program. When I left full-time government work in 2010, I had hoped not to

have to run anything anymore. No such luck. However, I have made it clear that when my term expires after another two years, I will not accept reelection and will return to teaching and writing.

"Better news: our son got an M.P.A. from NYU in May and is a senior manager for data analytics and strategy (or something like that) at NBC News. Our daughter got her master's of marine affairs degree from the University of Rhode Island, also in May, and started a two-year stint in the coastal management section of the New York State Department of State as a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration fellow."

Joel Mintz reports: "In June, **David Sokolow, Ted Wirecki** and I got together for another of our annual guys' getaway weekends. This time we spent three relaxing and enjoyable days in the Rockies near Vale, Colo. A great time was had by all! I recently semi-retired from my job as a full-time professor of law at Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law, where I had taught environmental law and related courses since fall 1982. My employer was kind enough to appoint me as the C. William Trout Senior Fellow in Public Interest Law. This fellowship allows me continued use of my office, student research assistance and an annual stipend to cover my expenses in participating in professional conferences. I have also continued working on some writing projects and serving on the boards of two environmental NGOs. None-

theless, I now have lots more time to travel with my wife, Meri-Jane Rochelson BC'71, and to work on some visual arts projects, swim, visit my kids and grandkids, and read for pleasure. No complaints here!"

Dov Zakheim reports: "Recently returned from Mexico City, where my grandson Max and his basketball team won the gold medal in the Pan American Maccabi Games. I work 'half-time' — 40 hours a week. In the last few months I have been to London (twice), Paris, Rabat and, of course, Mexico City. Still racking up those miles."

Good news from **Leonard Levine**: "I had successful colon cancer surgery in August 2018, followed by chemotherapy."

Another first-time contributor, Professor **Michael P. Link**, says: "I am a pediatric hematologist/oncologist, and have been a faculty member at Stanford for 40 years. I've had a pretty good professional run. Happily married with two girls, and we enjoy living in the San Francisco Bay area. We are avid skiers, and we love the beauty and opportunities (mountains, wine country, Pacific Coast and great weather) that California offers. Contemplating retirement, but I still have a few irons in the fire. New York is a wonderful place to visit to catch up on opera and so on, so I am grateful for my Columbia years that allowed me to feel at home in the Big Apple. But we are stuck on the West."

Steve Boatti and his wife, Linda, are happily retired and the proud grandparents of two grandchildren. They live in Riverdale, the Bronx, and spend time traveling

and visiting their country house in Connecticut. Steve was a corporate lawyer and Linda was a private school teacher.

Robert A. Leonard GSAS'82 reports: "As the 50th anniversary of Woodstock approached, our creator, my brother George Leonard '67, and the 11 surviving members of the original Sha Na Na, 10 of whom are CC grads, had been asked for a lot of interviews. For example, 'How did a group of Columbia undergrads go from campus performances straight to one of Andy Warhol's nightclubs, where we were discovered by Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin, and wind up, only a few months after George gold-lam'd and choreographed us, opening for Jimi at Woodstock?'"

"Our hit TV show, Jocko Marcelino '72 tells me, was syndicated in 33 countries. Three of us still tour more than 30 gigs a year. **Elliot Cahn** became Green Day's formative manager, and Ed Goodgold '65 did the same for Phil Collins and Genesis.

"The press also likes to write about how many of us went on to unusual careers outside of rock. Just to mention two, Alan Cooper '71 and I were the original basses in Sha Na Na (né the Columbia Kingsmen). Alan sang lead in the one song we got in the original Woodstock movie ('My Teen Angel' was added in the later director's cut). Alan got a Ph.D. at Yale and became the provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary. I got my Ph.D. at dear old Columbia and became a forensic linguist, teaching at Hofstra and working with the FBI, British intelligence, Joint Terrorism Task Force and counter-terrorism units worldwide — especially the FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit-1 (counterterrorism and threat assessment). My civil suit clients include Apple, Facebook and the Prime Minister of Canada. Very dear to my heart is the Forensic Linguistics Capital Case Innocence Project I started, where my grad students and I reanalyze language evidence that has put people on death row for murder. In 2012 *TIME* magazine deemed me the second smartest rock star in history, behind Brian May of Queen, who is an astrophysicist; I think I shall sue. Know any good lawyers?"

Don't forget to go to college. columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall19/article/class-notes to read updates from **Michael Aeschliman, David Lehman** and **Bill Moore**!

1971

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c/o CCT

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Hello, Class of '71. This is my first column, so please, bear with me as I work out the kinks.

I remember our class's orientation and our first days on campus in fall 1967. Even though I had been on College Walk many times before with my family, at that moment, I stood on those red bricks feeling isolated even while surrounded by a crowd of 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds. The familiar atmosphere, changed forever at that moment: I was a Columbian and Columbia was family. Very few of us knew any of the others, and yet, more than 50 years later, we have bonded through common experiences. We arrived from Kansas, or California, or Massachusetts, or wherever we had lived before, but this was no longer Kansas, Toto — this was college and we were on our own. We were adults. I'm getting flashbacks of that experience as I write our class's column for the first time. It makes me a little nervous and a lot excited. Please send me information about your lives so we can share it between us: l.a.preschel@gmail.com.

Robert Mayer reports on a continuing tradition that started in summer 1980. Anticipating Billy Crystal's *City Slickers*, Robert struck on the idea of New Yorkers going off the grid in the great outdoors for relaxation. He and his brother Alan Mayer '72 backpacked the Wind River Range in Wyoming that summer. They enjoyed it so much, it became a tradition. This summer was the 40th annual hike/trip. The group includes Dr. **Larry "Spider" Masket** and **Elliot Cahn** '70, who sang with Sha Na Na (photo at college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall19/article/class-notes). Robert also gives a shout out to **Lloyd Emanuel, Phil Nord, John Jaeger** and **Terry Kogan**. He is glad to have the friends he made at Columbia.

Arthur Engoron is an elected New York State Supreme Court justice, sitting in Manhattan. He commutes to Centre Street from

Holler at Us in Haiku!

Core, one hundred years!
What's a fun way to note it?
Poetry from you.



We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku**. Send your 5-7-5 recollections to cct_centennial@columbia.edu, and we'll run our favorites in the next three issues' Class Notes.

Great Neck, N.Y. He is married with four children, one of whom became a lawyer. The others are 13, 11 and 10, so their occupations are pending, as are their tuitions. Arthur formed and runs the Wheatley School Alumni Association for his high school.

Lambert Chee is practicing cardiology in Walnut City, Calif.

Ray Stricker PS'78 practices medicine in San Francisco, specializing in tickborne diseases, which are a worldwide epidemic. He recently spoke at a large medical conference in Sonora, Mexico, about these diseases. When his work allows, Ray and his wife, Gina, travel. His daughter is traveling in Asia while authoring the next Great American Novel. His son works for a drug design company.

Ray poses the question that has puzzled Columbians since Jack Rohan '53, TC'57's team won the Ivy League Basketball Championship: "Why did the Princeton team line up at midcourt and stare at our players during warm ups, before the championship playoff game in 1968?"

Ray, if Princetonians are so intelligent, they would have used the time to warm up, too. They needed to locate the basket. We beat them and made the NCAA tournament. The final answer to the question is: Coach Rohan prepared his team for everything. Any stare generated by a Princeton player could not come close to "the ghost" Jack gave to our guys when they did something foolish on the court. He gave it to them in practice and during many games, so they were ready. Go, Lions.

As reported in *The New York Times* on June 6, **Rocco Commisso** SEAS'71, BUS'75 purchased the Serie A soccer club ACF Fiorentina. Rocco has always given to the sport he loves, and as his teammate on the undefeated Columbia freshman soccer team of 1967, I know firsthand his determination to win and be the best. Rocco has received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, is the chairman of cable provider Mediacom and was the chairman of the New York Cosmos soccer team. He is quoted in the article, "... given the fact I was born in Italy, my love for Italian soccer and what soccer has done for me, I wanted to eventually buy a quality team here in Italy, and I'm very proud, happy and honored to buy Fiorentina, a club that's got great traditions."

Now our class has to watch Serie A football on cable. We have a rooting interest.

Juris Kaža lives and works in Riga, Latvia, although he is technically retired and collecting unspectacular pensions from Sweden, the United States, Latvia and Germany. From 2006 to 2013 Juris worked for the Latvian news agency LETA. Subsequently, he became a stringer for *The Wall Street Journal* in Riga. With the economy of Europe as it was, he was kept busy. During this time, he also became a stringer for the Spanish news agency EFE.

Juris's youngest son, Matiss, graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts last spring. He spent a semester at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles, but suspended his studies to make a film. He received funding from the Latvian National Film Centre to do a feature-length fiction film, a Western set in Czarist time with gunfights, an anarchist and the Czar's armed forces. Matiss also produced the documentary *One Ticket Please*. It was entered in several festivals and won some prizes. He is completing his second documentary, which is set in multiple locations around the world.

Juris's oldest son, Davis, is married and the editor of a Swedish newspaper in Umeå. Number 2 son, Nils, has provided two grandsons: Dante (4) and Elliot (10). They live in Stockholm.

Juris's wife, Una, works for a call center in Riga. She is also a filmmaker, having trained at the Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography in Moscow.

Last year, **Louis Rossetto** visited Juris in Riga, and they spent several days catching up while they toured the shady bars in town.

As a group, we were selected in spring 1967 and thrown together on 116th Street in the fall. For years we walked by each other on campus; some of us stopped and talked, others continued on to study at Butler Library or play pool in Ferris Booth. We drank with each other in The West End or elsewhere. We watched Sha Na Na under the stars in front of Low Library. We went to mixers (remember when they had mixers or socials and people did not find a date online?), dated Barnard women, saw Broadway plays and watched our football team lose so often, it eventually set a national record. These are

common experiences. Tell me about yours. I cannot write this column without your information. Please help me: l.a.preschel@gmail.com.

1972

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No reason why you should know this, but the high school that sent the largest number of students to our class at Columbia was my alma mater, Stuyvesant H.S. in New York. Hence, one of the reasons I was so looking forward to my Stuyvesant class's 50th reunion (only a year late) was having a chance to catch up with many of our Columbia classmates. So one evening this past June at the Princeton Club (sorry about that), my wife and I sat down for dinner at a table that included three other members of the Class of '72.

Next to me sat **Doug Weiner** GSAS'84, who summarized life since graduation this way: "Before resuming doctoral studies in Russian history (Columbia), I took three years off, driving a taxi (night shift) and working in the Post Office. After a postdoc at Harvard, I taught at Indiana and Tufts before assuming my current position at the University of Arizona. An extreme nationalist Russian daily, *Zavtra*, credited me with bringing down the USSR, but this is surely an exaggeration. A pioneer in researching Russian environmental history (my first two books), I was president of the American Society for Environmental History."

Doug has lots of interests, including the piano and birding — I saw some great photos on his phone — and he's a devotee of the excellent Arizona Theater Company in Tucson.

Steve Bellovin, who sat next to Doug, is the Percy K. and Vida L.W. Hudson Professor of Computer Science at Columbia, and an adjunct faculty member at the Law School, where he teaches a seminar, "Cybersecurity: Policy, Legal and Technical Aspects." Steve, who earned a Ph.D. from UNC Chapel Hill and has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering, lives on Morningside Heights.

What was particularly nice about the mini-reunion is that

Doug, Steve and I all grew up in Canarsie and spent 10 years in school together, from seventh grade through graduation at Columbia, but we hadn't all been together since our Columbia days.

Across the table from us, with his wife, Susana, was **Ron Weigel**. After getting a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Illinois, and doing a post-doc at UCLA, Ron spent 28 years at Illinois as professor of epidemiology and biostatistics in the College of Veterinary Medicine. After retiring in 2015, he and Susana — who met while ballroom dancing and are Argentine tango enthusiasts — retired to Athens, Ga., where Ron had done some research early in his career.

At other points during the evening, I had the pleasure of speaking with a couple of other classmates, including **Sherwin Borsuk**, who entered with us but, with the magic of advanced placement courses, graduated two years early. Sherwin lives in Meriden, Conn., with his wife of 46 years, Ruth, and is now retired from the practice of radiology, having led a 10-person radiology group. Their children, Ethan and Amaranth, are a cameraman and college professor, respectively. Interesting tidbit: Sherwin holds two patents/trademarks for a digital book.

Walter Zaryckyj GSAS'78, who stayed at Columbia to get a Ph.D., is executive director of the Center for US Ukrainian Relations, "an informational and cultural platform for representatives of the political, economic and cultural establishments of the U.S. and Ukraine to exchange views on issues of mutual interest." Walter taught for 30 years at NYU and says he "was married to the most marvelous angel in the world (I might be biased) who wandered the planet with me," his wife, Marta, who died in 2010. As for the next generation, "I have a terrific youngster pursuing a master's in gastronomy in Italy."

One of the reunion's organizers was **Al Sheiner**, who greeted me at the registration desk. Al practices prosthodontics on Manhattan's Upper East Side, although he lives in New Canaan, Conn. At Columbia, Al played freshman football and lettered in heavyweight crew; he's still an active guy, now the rides director of the Sound Cyclists Bicycle Club. He's also a member of the executive

committee of the Columbia Alumni Association of Fairfield County. Al and his wife, Shean-Mei Sheu, “live with an Italian poodle named Etro, who also functions as a therapy dog for my patients.”

During the reception, Al said to me, “You’ve got to include all the Columbia people here in the next Class Notes.” So I did.

1973

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“Time it was, And what a time it was. It was ... a time of innocence. A time of confidences. Long ago ... it must be ... I have a photograph. Preserve your memories. They’re all that’s left you.”

So wrote Paul Simon 50 years ago this year, as we were preparing to enter the College; how did he know?

Stew Sterk has reached the 40-year milestone as a professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, and “continues to enjoy all aspects of the job.” He was honored at William and Mary last year for property law scholarship, and has been named a “Best Professor” at Cardozo 15 times. He and his wife, Carol, enjoy kayaking in Mamaroneck, N.Y., and skiing in Vermont with their two daughters.

Bill Miller sent a pic (that we could not include here) of the summer 1969 WKCR-FM Program Guide, on which he was featured. He also muses, “It does not seem possible that it was 50 years ago.” This was the start of his career in broadcasting and media, which continues today.

Barry Kelner sent greetings from sunny Minnesota, where he’s spent his career in financial services; he’s now at U.S. Bank in Minneapolis. He is hoping for a repeat this year of the Twins’ 1991 World Series win! His son Malcolm is an actor and writer in Los Angeles, son Jackson is an i-banker in NYC and daughter Sage is at Penn Dental (their first “Penn-tist,” he quips). Barry’s wife, Nancy, is an estate-planning attorney in suburban Minnetonka.

Mike Jellinek left his last job running community hospitals and services after a merger and started a CEO/senior management consulting

firm. He is still seeing patients as a general and child psychiatrist. He’s happiest about his three adult children, who all live near him and his wife, Barbara, in Newton, Mass.; they have four grandchildren, ages 6–12. Mike and Barbara are both 70 (!), and have been married 49 years. Now *that* is something to shoot for!

From **Jose Sanchez**: “My colleagues and I were able to get a street named for **Angelo Falcon** in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, at the intersection of Havemeyer Street and 1st Street. This is the neighborhood where Angelo spent most of his youth and the last 15 years. This is the same street where his father owned a bodega and his uncle owned a barber shop. This was an acknowledgement by the city that Angelo was a great contributor to city and national politics. This honor was bestowed on June 18. The skies were threatening rain all morning. A downpour came at the end of the ceremony, as we removed the cover over the street sign. It was almost as if Angelo had influenced the clouds to delay until we finished.”

Hasta, all.

1974

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“Columbia knows how to do it right! A wonderful reunion with old friends,” started the email from **Roger Kahn** (managing director at Capstone Headwaters in NYC).

“This is the best reunion we’ve had — so far!” said **Dewey Cole** (lawyer, librarian, professor — depending on the day).

These are typical of the reviews from most classmates who attended our 45th reunion, May 30–June 1. They told how they enjoyed the challenging Mini-Core Classes and panel discussions on current topics. They enjoyed the Broadway shows, ballet at Lincoln Center and tours of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, the Hamilton Grange National Memorial (Alexander Hamilton CC 1778’s homestead) and a guided tour of the Whitney Biennial 2019. I especially liked seeing the “Core Curriculum Treasures” in Butler Library’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

The greatest excitement came from the gatherings of classmates at beautiful venues around campus: The Friday night cocktail party on the top floor of Faculty House; the Saturday luncheon on a beautifully manicured South Field; the reception and dinner in the World Room in Pulitzer Hall (it was called Journalism in our day). One classmate commented on how little of the interactions were about careers. Instead it was much more of personal questions — how the kids are doing, health challenges and plans to retire. Few in the class seem to have already retired, but at my table at the Saturday luncheon I heard Dr. **Steve Schonfeld** (a neuroradiologist at University Radiology in East Brunswick, N.J.) say he was gradually cutting back under a department program that he had designed. Dr. **Larry Stam** (a nephrologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital) was also reducing his hours in a more freeform way. By the time we gather for our 50th reunion, I bet we will hear of a lot more who have fully retired.

On the wall at both the Friday and Saturday events was the somber “memorial board,” which listed our classmates who have passed away. Around four dozen names were listed — about 10 percent of our graduating class. While this first seemed shocking, it is probably typical for a group now in its mid-to-late 60s, but it still was disturbing. Reading through the names brought back memories of classmates who were not with us.

Two classmates who did not know they are neighbors in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., met at the Saturday night reception: **Jean-Pierre “J.P.” Van Lent** (an attorney with the law firm Cullen and Dykman in Manhattan) got together with Dr. **Peter Zegarelli** (a dentist in Tarrytown, N.Y.). We learned that Jean-Pierre has the unique achievement of being the father of twin 7-year-olds. Peter said he is planning to retire later this year and looks forward to having more time to tend to his bees and his gardens — and to dote on his one grandson. He will also be kept busy with his new company (Emanate Biomedical), which is manufacturing a drug delivery device.

With reunions only happening every five years, sometimes we gather “news” that isn’t so new. For instance, we learned that **Richard Briffault**

(professor at the Law School) is chair of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, which enforces rules on NYC government officials and employees. Nearing the end of his five-year term, Richard will soon step down. Richard’s wife, Sherry Glied, became the dean of the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at NYU two years ago. We also had a chance to meet up with **Joel Almquist** (an attorney with the Kirkpatrick & Lockhart law firm in Boston) and his wife of two years, Tanya Chermak. Tanya does leadership training for physician groups. Those of you who missed the Saturday dinner missed Joel’s rendition of one of the bawdy limericks from his days with the Marching Band. He also told us he now has three grandsons: newborn Edmond joins Henry (3) and Charlie (5), all children of Joel’s son, David.

Dr. **Alan Rosenberg** (a VP at WellPoint) made it to reunion from the Chicago area. At the Saturday dinner, he told us how busy he and his wife, Debra, have been: going to art galleries, plays and the Whitney tour, as well as the class events. He also passed on that Debra has been taking classes at Chicago Dramatists for the past few years. Her latest play is expected out this fall.

There you have it. A few of the tales of a great reunion of guys who met in September 1970 — nearly a half century ago! More to follow in future columns.

1975

REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

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Fernando Castro and Ta’Yer Productions presented his version of *Eva Peron* at the Hudson Guild Theatre in Hollywood in July. From the ad for the show, I don’t think it was the standard production!

Posting on Facebook, **Dan Deneen** wrote, “Yes, I know it’s kind of pathetic to leave Vermont

for NYC and head straight to the Ramble. But great news — there are hermit thrush in Central Park.”

I had to remind Dan to beware of other “wildlife” in the Ramble, with emphasis on the “wild.” He replied to me, “Careful; you’re dating yourself!” LOL!

In a later post, Dan bemoaned the passing of *Mad* magazine. Dan has such a way with words, and his words in this case probably apply to many of us — it is just too good not to share in full. He posted: “So, there’s been all this coverage of *Mad* magazine shutting down. I didn’t even know it still existed. In the 1970s, I didn’t know it still existed.

of what commas were for, then the meaning of ‘What, me worry?’ would have been seen as the anodyne shrug it really is.) (And, of course, I’d have been robbed of one of my childhood’s primal mysteries)

“So, I’ve been reading the various obits this week, grudgingly agreeing with pronouncements of *Mad*’s claim to cultural significance over the decades ... also, lots of thinking, ‘Wait a minute. If *Mad* was a war, then I’m a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. I was there! They’re talking about me and my idiot friends! But it was just *Mad* magazine. That’s all. And Alfred was just a geeky loser with a runny nose who picked

real and personal property financing. Shortly after, Bob and his wife, Regina Mullahy BC’75, came to Baltimore for a visit. We toured the American Visionary Art Museum and the National Aquarium in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

Do you want a Bobfather ESB? If so, head to Wynkoop Brewing Co. in Denver. The ale is brewed with the oldest beer yeast strain in North America, isolated by **Bob Sclafani**.

Siege: Trump Under Fire is **Michael Wolff**’s account of the second year of the Trump administration. Published in June, it is a sequel to *Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House*, which was a bestseller in 2018. Michael claims that Steve Bannon described the Trump organization as a criminal entity and predicted that investigations into the President’s finances will lead to his political downfall, when he is revealed to be “not the billionaire he said he was; just another scumbag.”

Recent reporting by *The New York Times* and other sources seem to support Bannon’s claim and Wolff’s reporting of it. Will we have another Wolff account of the third year of the Trump presidency?

In closing, do you believe it is almost that time again? Our 45th reunion is next year. A small Reunion Committee, including **Jim Dolan**, **Steve Jacobs**, **David Stein** and yours truly, **Randy Nichols**, and led by **Ira Malin**, has begun preliminary planning. Stay tuned for details. We hope to see lots of classmates on campus next spring!

1976

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No music this time. Not in the mood. **Terry Corrigan** reached out just after the last issue closed with the news that **Pedro Mencia** passed away in April 2019 of esophageal cancer. Pedro was an ob/gyn for 39 years and practiced in Pennsylvania and New York. Terry’s email brought back great memories of our junior and senior years, when the south balcony of 2 Hartley was the location of Terry and Pedro’s great three-room suite, where there were many parties and long nights of Hearts and/or

Risk with a group of dedicated ’76ers. Most of all, I remember Pedro’s outrage when anyone else would dare to build their Risk Army on the continent of Australia. Pedro’s lasting legacy, to me, is certainly bringing many newborns into this world that he long ago conquered by starting his journey from the continent of Australia on 2 Hartley. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, three sons and many grieving friends.

In more joyful news from summer 2019, I had a great trip to Cooperstown, N.Y., where I went to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the Fenimore Art Museum and the GlimmerGlass Opera performance of *Show Boat*. The trip ended up with a stop in Syracuse to see Mika the dog and the couple (**Linda and Dennis Goodrich**) whom Mika allows to live in her house. Also, Mika is barking a lot about Washington, D.C.

Also heard from **Rich Rohr** about what used to be called Dean’s Day, then was briefly called All-Class Reunion and now is simply part of Reunion Weekend, with no special name: “Reunion Weekend featured two days of events open to all classes, including ours. ‘Dean-tini’ [Dean James J. Valentini] was pleased to note that no one bribed their way into the Class of 2023. More seriously, he described a new initiative, *My Columbia Journey*, with 13 specific competencies that students should seek to develop over four years. These are not degree requirements but are intended to help students plan their studies.

“Contemporary Civilization turns 100 this year. CC was an outgrowth

Core Haiku



At just eighteen years
Like eating your vegetables —
Core Curriculum

— Mark Steven Denardo ’75

But in the mid-’60s I read every issue, like every other boy I knew — maybe the girls were reading it, too, but how would I have known? Then I outgrew it, along with brush cuts and going to Mass, and like an imaginary friend who vanishes without a trace, *Mad* disappeared.

“And the fact is, I was happy to let it go, because something about *Mad* and the rituals of reading *Mad* scared the shit out of me. It was ‘kewl,’ and funny, sure, and naughty enough that it seemed weird that Mom and Dad actually let us read it. And it was intimidating. I could never really be sure I was in on the joke — was in fact pretty sure I wasn’t. And it was really creepy, it made me want to not be a kid anymore. At 10, 11, 12 years old in the world of suburban Detroit boys, what was in each new issue was necessary, vital information. I wanted to be 30, so I could ignore it without the worry that I’d miss out on some essential shared snickering. Alfred E. Neuman’s viciously smug and stupid look wasn’t funny to me; it was scary. ‘What, me worry?’ represented some opaque meaning that I never grasped, beyond knowing that it would be really stupid to ever admit it. (If *Seinfeld* had been on TV back then, or if I knew any people like *that* back then, or if I’d had any understanding

on smaller kids. For most of us, *Mad* magazine was just a phase that came after comics and before *Playboy*. ‘What, me still clueless?’”

By the way, I saw a stack of the magazine at a recent flea market, and purchased one to send to Dan to help him work through his grief.

Jim Dolan and his wife, Yasmin, spent time in May in their new favorite city, Copenhagen. Jim describes it as “totally chill ... heard no sirens or truck noises ... hell, the cars all shut down at intersections and only restart when the light turns green.” Quite different than the street noises in Philadelphia, their hometown. Jim proposed to Yasmin and they became engaged at the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and then married 15 years ago, during a monsoon, in Baltimore.

The Dead Don’t Die, the latest from **Jim Jarmusch**, kicked off the Cannes Film Festival in May, 35 years after his landmark 1984 feature, *Stranger Than Paradise*, played the same festival and won the Caméra d’Or prize for best first feature.

After 22 years with Cuddy & Feder, **Bob Schneider** retired as special counsel in July. He had handled commercial and public finance transactions, long-term and revolving credit loans and commercial,



Ken Howitt ’76 (left) and Dennis Goodrich ’76 with Goodrich’s dog, Mika.



Several members of the Class of 1976 met in July for dinner on Morningside Heights. Left to right: John Connell, Mark “Wojo” Wojciechowski, Steve Davis, Robert Erlanger, Mozelle Thompson, Ken Howitt and Jon Margolis.

from a course offered during WWI to educate ROTC students about the issues leading to war in Europe. The focus switched to maintaining peace and became the course that you remember.

“The Reunion Keynote featured actor Maggie Gyllenhaal ’99 and screenwriter Beau Willimon ’99, SOA’03 talking about the challenges of telling stories in films and television. Ms. Gyllenhaal appeared for a 9:30 a.m. session after working until 2 a.m. filming the next season of *The Deuce* for HBO, indicating marked devotion to alma mater.

“I spent a night in Wallach Hall; it was called Livingston in our time and has been extensively renovated and modernized. The rooms are small, bathrooms are in the hall (but quite nice) and the furnishings are spartan, but for \$99 a night with free parking, it’s a great bargain for a New York vacation. It’s not too far from our 45th reunion, and I hope to see all of you there.”

I had a great dinner in July with **Steve Davis, Robert Erlanger, Jon Margolis, Mark “Wojo” Wojciechowski, John Connell and Mozelle Thompson.** We all were interested to hear Mozelle’s views on the presidential race and he was very reluctant to share his opinions (NOT!). But more importantly, we talked about Steve on 7 Carman, me on 10 Carman and Mark, Mozelle and Rob on 13 Carman during our first year at Columbia. John and Jon started as commuters and ended up in John Jay (appropriately!) before the end of our freshman year. Lots of laughs, good food at Pisticci and great memories. The only downside for me was that I had to spend two and a half hours with six lawyers.

Side note on the dinner: This was the first time that ’76ers had an ad

hoc gathering outside of a formal university setting. I have been suggesting just this kind of gathering since taking over Class Notes, and now we have a core group and a great place. With the stories, conversations, laughs and drink, it was just like a night on 2 Hartley almost 45 years ago. Be in touch if you want to enlarge the Magnificent Seven! We will do it again before the end of 2019.

A few classmates sent regrets that they were not able to join us: **Mike Yeager, Steve Mackey and Robert Siegfried.** Robert sent this update: “I’m at Adelphi University, and my wife, Kathy, and our son, Jason, and I live in Oceanside, N.Y. (Long Island). Jason is due to finish his bachelor’s after this semester as a computer science major with a history minor. And as long as my mind/body permits me, I’ll keep teaching.

“A former student of mine, Kathy Herbert, is married to John Berger, one of Professor Koji Nakanishi’s former post-docs. I had Professor Nakanishi for Organic Chemistry 2 and while I struggled to understand his English (the acoustics of 309 Havemeyer didn’t help), I found him to be quite gracious in my limited direct contact with him. John and Kathy were at his 90th birthday celebration. It’s humbling and awe-inspiring to realize that I had the good fortune to be taught by people like Ronald Breslow, Koji Nakanishi and Arthur Nowick GSAS’50. (Nowick was in what is now Columbia Engineering). We had the opportunity to walk in the shadows of giants.”

When I sent an email requesting updates, I mentioned my recent sign-up for Medicare. **Tim Teeter** is also a Medicare team member and sent this: “First, I am myself starting Medicare but still work and am not planning to retire quite yet — but I

can see it over the horizon. I teach in the Department of History at Georgia Southern University and live in Savannah, Ga.

“My wife, Toni, passed away last December — I met her through a connection in Butler Library some 35 years ago and our first date was at Symposium on West 113th Street. I’m doing the usuals — giving papers, attending conferences (next one is in Lecce, Italy), conducting study-abroad programs and the like. Anyone who remembers me is welcome to give me a heads up if they’re going to be in Savannah.”

In closing, let’s keep reconnecting. Homecoming is Saturday, October 19, and I hope to see you all at the pre-game barbecue. Look for the table that has the Leo the Lion puppet (seriously!). It will be great to see you.

Most importantly, stay in touch, and let us know how you, your career and family are doing.

1977

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Some of us are retired now; others, not so much.

In the first category is **Peter Beller**, who retired in June from Hartford Hospital, where he was for 12 years medical director of the Women’s Ambulatory Health Services. “Now playing golf, riding my bike and paddling my kayak. Also doing per diem coverage at Planned Parenthood clinics,” he reports. “So far, so good.”

In the second category are **Mike Aroney and Greg Ball.** In 2014, Greg moved from Johns Hopkins to the University of Maryland College Park to become dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. Having finished a term and gone through the review process, Greg reports that he has “been informed by the provost that I will have a second five-year term that has just started. So my academic life will continue.”

At least until 2025, if I’m counting right. Greg adds, “I’m always happy to welcome fellow Columbians in the D.C. area.”

Meanwhile, Mike wrote in July that he’d just returned from seven

months in the United Arab Emirates, where he was working on an engineering project. He, his wife, Kathy, and “our two large dogs and I made it home just before the oppressive summer heat descended on Abu Dhabi. My current work assignment will keep us confined to North America and presents the opportunity to make it to Homecoming once again this year, with the usual bribe of a Broadway show so Kathy will join me at the game on Saturday, October 19.”

I was also glad — and impressed — to hear from **Jon Fraser** that his play *The Last Box* was included in *Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2019*, and that his latest one-act play, *Ms. Thule Won’t Be Coming Back*, was produced by New Circle Theater Company as part of its Inferno Project: Greed & Wrath festival at The Chain Theatre in New York City in June.

Please take a moment to send in your news, and have a great fall!

1978

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It is clear to me that climate change has finally impacted the class column — what else can explain the pitiful lack of enthusiasm to share precious news with your classmates? I chalk it up to the 100-degree weather across much of the country that holds vast numbers of 1978ers. While you were deciding it was too hot or humid to bother with dear old Columbia, I was in the always-seasonable Galapagos Islands learning about the finer points of evolution and seeing what sort of natural vegetation led to stronger alumni participation on one island versus another. Something to do with bar stool height at The Gold Rail as opposed to average room size in John Jay or Carman. Or was it the color of the ivy on Hamilton Hall? But I digress.

Kevin Vitting, when he’s not doing the things you do in the Nephrology Group in Ridgewood, N.J., has other pursuits and reports that he’s been “enjoying my summer reading sessions with the Masterwork Chorus — so far we’ve sung Mendelssohn’s ‘Elijah,’ Vivaldi’s ‘Gloria’ and Haydn’s ‘Lord Nelson Mass.’”

From a longtime, first-time (as I think WFAN still allows people to self-identify) classmate we hear, one hopes not for the last time, from **Daniel Kohn**: “I am the rabbi of the town of Bat Ayin, Israel, for close to 28 years. I have seven children; five are married with children. I teach, facilitate psycho-therapeutic groups, conduct Jewish meditation seminars and host musical evenings at which I play and sing. My wife, Batya, runs a school for young women seeking to deepen their Jewish spiritual life.”

And finally, from the man who introduced me to sports radio many decades ago, **Tom Mariam** notes, “Excited to report that my son Michael graduated from Blind Brook H.S. and is now at Emory University.”

Not one to pass up a chance at an easy pun, when commenting on the Yankees’s chances, Tom weighed in:

requirement. What a relief I didn’t have to take Russian like Sid Holt ’79. Too hard! But on May 13 I was formally made a Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres at the French Cultural Services in New York, so I guess I’m more French than I realized. Naturally, in my speech, I thanked my mother, Christiane, who is 94 and an alumna of Columbia’s American Language Program, where she learned English and fell in love with the novels of John Dos Passos. I’m sure her Columbia connection had a lot to do with my wanting to go to the College.”

I want to recognize that our class’s prodigious talent at leading journalistic enterprises continues: in addition to *Harper’s* (Rick) and *The New York Times* (**Dean Baquet**), **D.D. Guttenplan** has now taken the helm at *The Nation*. This is from his introductory letter a few months ago,

1979

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Ethan Heisler reports: “After retiring from Citi in May 2016, I launched a paid subscription newsletter and ran it for 22 months, then got hired by Kroll Bond Rating Agency last year to continue publishing my newsletter on its platform. I work from home on Long Island and, at 62, found a gig I can continue for, I hope, years to come. Regards!”

Allan Hoving updates us: “Two years ago, we dropped off our youngest at Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., and I wondered why we were heading back to Connecticut, especially after driving down along the coast between Los Angeles and San Diego. In May, we relocated to a little beach town north of La Jolla and we’re not coming back (except for periodic dental cleanings; that hygienist is a keeper!). My digital marketing work has turned freelance/remote; I’m an online instructor in the graduate program of the S.I. Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University, and my agent is trying to sell two novels to the movies or streaming TV. Sorry I missed the 40th, but sending regards from the Golden State.”

Michael P. Kelly is finishing his 10th year as chair of McCarter & English in Wilmington, Del. He shares, “My daughter Joanna graduated from the College in 2014. I am happy to report that I am cancer-free after being diagnosed with stage IIIB gall bladder cancer in 2017. Thanks — from the bottom of my heart — to my fellow CU alums who offered their prayers and encouragement. Hope to see you at the next reunion.”

Karim H. Karim writes, “I hadn’t planned to write my memoirs in any form, but was interviewed recently about my career studying Muslims for the forthcoming book *The Production of Islams*. The questions inevitably took me back to my years studying at Columbia for a major in Islamic studies. I went on to earn a master’s at McGill’s Institute of Islamic Studies and then crossed the campus for a Ph.D. in communication studies, examining the depiction

of Muslims in mainstream media. The thesis was published a few months before 9-11 as a book, *Islamic Peril: Media and Global Violence*, for which I received the 2001 Robinson Book Prize. I am a professor at Carleton University’s School of Journalism and Communication in Ottawa, Canada, and director of the Carleton Centre for the Study of Islam. The interview will be published as the chapter titled ‘Unpacking the Production of ‘Islams’: My Journey of Forty Years.’ My email address is karim_karim@carleton.ca.”

Fernando Koatz attended our 40th reunion and writes, “I am practicing law in my own firm, keeping busy with work, lecturing and traveling when necessary. My kids are out of college; one working in San Francisco for LinkedIn, the other one here in New York doing marketing and social media. My wife is an assistant principal in a public school in Forest Hills, Queens, where we have been living for nearly 30 years.”

Thomas A. Kligerman’s update: “We recently sold our house in New Jersey and are now full-time residents of New York City. We have bought an apartment in Murray Hill and are about to embark on a total renovation. Given that I see construction up close on a daily basis, I am filled with excitement tempered by a good dose of trepidation.

“Our youngest daughter, Magdalen, is in her second year at The American University of Paris. Katherine, our middle daughter, is entering her final year at the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture. Our eldest, Rebecca, lives in Brooklyn and does PR for various companies to New York City.

“As I write this I am sitting in a shingle-style cottage in the seaside town of Weekapaug, R.I. We take this house from June 1 through the end of August every year. It is the perfect antidote to Manhattan. I have been coming here since I was 10 and have friends here that go way back — more than half a century. As we all know, time flies.

“Work at the Ike Kligerman Barkley architecture firm is very busy. I feel incredibly lucky to have great clients who want houses in an array of beautiful places. We have projects underway in Martha’s Vineyard, South Carolina, Canada, California and the Hamptons, as well as New

Core Haiku



Hidden in a wing
of The Met, I read Ovid;
Bird-like diva trills

— Richard Stukey ’78

Yes, they are good, “though it’s hard to Judge.”

During the almost-as-hot summer of 1978, **John R. “Rick” MacArthur** and I drove to Washington, D.C., where he was about to start an apprenticeship at the old *Washington Star*, back when it was a good paper and a classic “front-page” type opportunity — he worked every beat, including police and obits. I was working for Sen. Abe Ribicoff (D-Conn.) that summer. A few years later when I was working at the *Washington Monthly*, our paths crossed again, and I tried to recruit Rick to join the *Monthly* as an editor. Just about that time, Rick’s grandfather died and the rest is, as they say history, as Rick convinced the subsequent foundation’s board to purchase *Harper’s Magazine*, where he has remained (I assume) the longest-serving publisher in America.

Rick writes, “When I was a freshman I thought the best thing about growing up in a bilingual household was placing out of the language

“Though I’ve been an editor-at-large and contributor to this extraordinary publication for many years, serving its vaunted legacy as editor makes me even more keenly aware of the critical role reader support plays in our strength and independence.”

My new company, Budderfly, is doing well; we raised \$55 million to expand our energy efficiency as a service business to areas such as governments, commercial properties, assisted living and the businesses that actually use the most electricity per square foot of any in the country — fast food.

It turns out that America wastes about a third of its commercially used electricity, or about \$60 billion worth a year. And so, we end where we began. While some of you are writing about the end of the world on a daily or monthly basis, our company is trying to save the world for a few more years. Which means that some of you will have to keep writing in to the column, because this is the one place that will always be very cool.

York City and other places. A lot of travel but a lot of great experiences!

"Periodically, I walk around the Morningside Heights campus. The architects who designed the campus, McKim, Mead & White, are a constant source of inspiration for me, as are all the things I learned at Columbia and my memories of this great university."

Robert C. Klapper: "Today's Columbia memory actually comes from this column. I got a nice note from legendary baseball writer **Bob Klapisch** about his new book, *Inside the Empire: The True Power Behind the New York Yankees*. As I put together this column, it occurred to me that I have never met or spoken with Bob. Truth be told, during the four years on Morningside Heights, I got some of his mail, and I'm sure he got some of mine.

"I couldn't help but let him know that I have hosted a radio show on ESPN for eight and a half years and that I would love to have him on as a guest to talk about all things baseball — and maybe a little bit about his memories of playing baseball at Baker Field. If you recall, in our yearbook there is a full page devoted to Bob. He's on the pitcher's mound wherein the four-sequence photo you see him winding up, throwing the pitch, then realizing *ooo!* the ball's been hit and then seeing him looking up at the home run he has just given up, without ever showing you the batter. It's a classic.

"I found out that Bob's given name is Roberto, and that many of his friends have called him Robby Klapper, which really made me smile. (I reminded him that I had the only Jewish mother who did not throw away her son's baseball cards; she had saved my shoebox filled with the entire 1968 Topps set and, in addition to Nolan Ryan's rookie card, my favorite card is of Roberto Clemente, the legendary Pittsburgh Pirate from Puerto Rico.) This is my favorite card in the set because his name is listed as 'Bob' Clemente, because in America in 1968 they were not going to call him 'Roberto.' Bob reminded me that his mom is Brazilian and he has a whole other life as Roberto Klapisch, where he writes for a Spanish-speaking audience.

"I've interviewed hundreds of guests on my show — from Dick Butkus to Isaiah Thomas — but Bob was, by far, one of my favorites. You can hear the interview on the ESPN podcast for *Weekend Warrior*. Bob's gift as a storyteller is second to none.

"He very heavily credits his four years at the College with helping him see the beautiful connection of art and sports. It made me once again appreciate the value of the Core Curriculum on my life these 40 years after graduation. Bob's story of riding the subway to Baker Field for the first day of baseball practice and encountering a violent gang who took over the subway car, and how he survived the train ride, made

it clear to all of my listeners what a special talent he really has. Who knew that in creating this column, such a beautiful reunion on the radio would be possible?

"Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

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Fall is almost here. Lions Head Football Coach Al Bagnoli has the team competing at the highest levels, and let's hope that **Dave Maloof's** Jets are playing well. I hope to see many familiar faces at Homecoming on Saturday, October 19, enjoying the tailgating experience.

It's hard to believe that in 2020 we will celebrate our 40th reunion. Seems like only yesterday that we were ascending upon Morningside Heights, full of energy and big ideas. Keep an eye on our Facebook page, "Columbia College Class of 1980 Reunion," for details.

Best to all, and drop me a note at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

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I heard from **Daniel Gordis**, who has spent the last 21-plus years in Jerusalem, where he helped found Israel's first liberal arts college, Shalem College, based (in part, and not surprisingly!) on the Core Curriculum.

On the eve of turning 60, Daniel and his wife are taking a short break from daily Jerusalem life and have relocated to Cambridge, Mass., for a couple of months. Their daughter is living in the United States while studying at MIT, and their son-in-law is at Harvard (this explains the Cambridge sabbatical, I guess). They

are celebrating the birth of a second granddaughter, and being close by, this involves helping with childcare, carpools, shopping and so on. Daniel is working remotely for Shalem, and is back into the world of child raising (an exhausting and humbling reminder of why they had children decades ago!). Daniel recently published his 12th book, *We Stand Divided: The Rift Between American Jews and Israel*.

As it's the class correspondent's task to share both good and bad news, what follows is certainly the latter. I learned from **Ed Klees** that **Stephen McPartland** passed away last year. Steve had many health issues, moved to Florida decades ago and pretty much kept to himself. He was a beloved member of Fiji, and when word got out, we swapped memories of being with Steve McP many years ago.

Those who knew him all had a favorite Steve McP story. Steve was described by his classmates as extremely smart, funny, kind/gentle, with keen powers of observation — he wasn't pushy or loud, and was an extremely genuine guy. There was a bit of mystery to Steve McP; he was dubbed "the James Bond of Bayside."

I thank Ed for letting us know, and for Jason Zweig '82, **Jeff Pundyk**, **Brian Krisberg**, **Jeff Haberman** '80, **Jon Dahl** '80, **Louis Napoli** '83 and **Mike Kinsella** for sharing stories about his life. To attend Columbia in the late 1970s was to be exposed to true individuals such as Steve McP, and for this I'm incredibly grateful.

1982

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Greetings, gents. After a two-issue respite — due in part to my email going on the fritz and a general malaise experienced by all of us — we're back in business.

I've decided to get the ball rolling with an update of my own. It was bound to happen: In June I turned 60. The wife, Jody (née Abramowitz) BC'84, SIPA'85, and I have now been married for 33 wonderful years and we celebrated my birthday by riding our bicycles from Vienna to Prague. Amazing time, and I highly



Longtime friends (left to right) Shawn FitzGerald '80, Mike Brown '80, Eric Blattman '80, Joe Ciulla '80, John Hall '81 and Scott Ahern '80 met up on the North Fork of Long Island this past summer.

recommend you put this on your bucket list!

After three years, my term as president of the Society of Columbia Graduates came to an end. It was an amazing and fulfilling experience to have the opportunity to present the Great Teacher Award three times. The award ceremony occurs during Reunion Weekend; it's open to all and well worth 90 minutes of your day to celebrate our talented and generous professors.

Jody and I were blessed with three wonderful children. Our oldest, Hannah, is now putting the final touches on her doctoral dissertation at the London School of Economics. Our middle one, Izzy, completed a year as a graduate fellow with the National Nuclear Security Administration while doing research at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. She recently started working for "Z-Division," a joint venture between the Department of Energy and the CIA. How scary is that? Your guess is as good as mine as to what she does there. Our youngest, Henry, finished Regis Jesuit H.S. here in Denver (interesting choice for a bar mitzvah boy, don't you think?) and is now at Colby College in Maine. If any of you get to Denver, look me up — dinner's on me!

A couple of folks checked in this period. **Mark Monane** says hello to everyone and bemoans the recent lack of classmate participation. **Larry Braverman** checked in with some serious concerns about the meager funding of the Columbia University Marching Band and its fight over their appearance in Butler Library on Orgo Night; clearly that cherished 40-plus year tradition must be protected!

Last but not least, our devoted classmate **John Mastrodimos** checked in: "In 2014, I moved in with my parents to be primary caregiver. They were under hospice care at the same time for a year and a half. It was a difficult time in my life. I found solace in The Stanhope House. The S.H. is a legendary roadhouse and blues establishment in Stanhope, N.J. On Tuesday nights I would venture to the club for its open mic night. The club is 10 minutes away from my parents' home. I could go out for the evening knowing that if my parents needed me, I was but 10 minutes away.

"I play percussion: drums, bongos and timbales. Playing at the open mic was one of my few pleasures.

Another pleasure was seeing the club's house band, the Stanhope House Rhythm & Blues Revue, perform. The Revue featured a dozen top-notch musicians, including a three-piece horn section. Every Tuesday, after the open mic, I would stay up into the wee hours, watching the Revue rehearse. I was an audience of one, and they didn't seem to mind my being there. They were my favorite band.

"Recently, I've made a niche for myself playing percussion, especially bongos, at the open mic. Occasionally, I will sit in with some of the Revue's members, and I've become bold enough to start playing with them regularly, which brings me great joy! I recently played an entire set with the band on their home turf. We were scheduled to play again two weeks later, and yes, I'll be playing with my favorite band again!

"The band is fronted by Jon Kline, the 75-year-old owner, with a voice like sandpaper and glue. This man lives and breathes the blues. I owe my place in the band thanks to his kindness and big heart.

"My parents have passed away, but my frequenting the club regularly, and sitting in with the Revue, continues. My parents were always supportive of my music. I know that they would be pleased that I am now pursuing my passion for music, and especially, my playing at the S.H., with great approval!"

John, thanks for the wonderful update!

Now let's all chip in and send news!

1983

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From **David Lyle**: "Paul Lerner and I got together for lunch at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in Pasadena. My husband, Douglas Murray, and I and our daughters, Mary and Frances, were visiting Los Angeles from Nashville. Paul's husband, Stephen Reis, was part of the company, too."

Bill Spiegelberger: "After 15 years in Moscow, I left Russia in December 2017 to rejoin my family in Vienna. The timing turned out to

be good. In April 2018 my former employer RUSAL was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department, at which point it would have been impossible to continue working there. But I didn't leave Russia because of anticipated sanctions. I left because the thrill was gone; Russia had become grimly predictable. In Vienna I've taken up writing about Russian domestic and foreign policy. The Foreign Policy Research Institute recently published two of my articles: *The Sources of Post-Soviet Conduct* (Russia is aggressive abroad because it is weak at home — neurotic, really) and *Anatomy of a Muddle: U.S. Sanctions against RUSAL and Oleg Deripaska* (United States was pressing buttons like a monkey at a typewriter). I'm now halfway through writing a book about the Russian political protests from a few years ago. Working title:

in freshman year. I sometimes stay with him and his husband, Stephen Reis, when I'm in Los Angeles.

"I am a musical director, conductor and vocal coach for Broadway performers. Through the years, I've amassed one of the larger privately held collections of sheet music around. I get requests for that obscure piece of sheet music that no one can find every day. My teaching has taken me all over the world. For the past 10 years, I've been teaching twice a year all over Australia in its conservatories. I've also taught in Singapore, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Lausanne (Switzerland), Italy, India and many more places. I love traveling. I've been Executive Platinum on American Airlines for many years, which shows my obsessiveness with mileage! I'm in my 30th year living across the street from Juilliard/Lincoln Center. I don't get to Columbia

Core Haiku



Gloomy freshman year
 Reading books I cannot pronounce;
 My mind freezes over.

— Kevin Cronin '83

The Ephemeral R/Evolution. The Art of Russian Civil Protest 2011–2014. My next project will be a musical comedy about terrorism and assassination, *No Polonium, Please. We're British!* In this dark, Merovingian-like age we live in, I think it's best to have a martini and a laugh."

Michael Lavine: "I have such fond memories of my time at Columbia. Two of my favorite professors were Wallace Gray and Peter Awn (who passed away on February 17, 2019). When I took my junior year abroad in London, I found myself in Dublin on James Joyce's 100th birthday. I picked up copies of all the local newspapers and gave them to Professor Gray. He then gave them out as prizes to his star students in his great 'Eliot, Joyce, Pound' class.

"I can picture Sam Steinberg sitting outside Ferris Booth Hall like it was yesterday with his chocolate bars shouting 'I've got the big ones!' I actually have three or four original Sam Steinberg drawings on rectangular cards. I'm in touch with **Paul Lerner**, whom I met my first week

that often, but when I do, I love just walking through the campus. I'd love to hear from fellow alumni. I'm at broadwaymhl@aol.com."

Victor Cha: "It's a year of anniversaries for me. This year, I have tallied 25 years of teaching at Georgetown University where I hold the D.S. Song-KF Chair in Government and am vice-dean of faculty and graduate affairs in the School of Foreign Service. I also completed 10 years as senior advisor and Korea chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. My work as an NBC News and MSNBC contributor brings me back to New York frequently, and I enjoy occasionally sneaking up on the 1 train to 116th street and sitting on the Steps for coffee and reminiscing. One of my sons was a campus organizer for John Delaney '85!"

James Lo: "I've been creating compositions and sound designs for downtown contemporary dance, the last three of which were for Donna Uchizono at The Joyce Theater, Neil

Greenberg at The Chocolate Factory Theater and Molly Lieber/Eleanor Smith at New York Live Arts. I also develop interactive props and set pieces for theater, and am excited to be adding basic robotics to my bag of tricks. There are days I miss the big enterprise software tools I used to use, but I never miss the pressure, arbitrary engineering trends or politics of my old job. I'm happily married to Amy Chin BC'83, whom I hope to be more like someday. I ran into **Michael Azerrad** seven years ago at the Pitchfork Music Festival, which was coincidentally the last show I played as a drummer. Time appears to be accelerating; can you feel it?"

Eddy Friedfeld: "I'm getting a second bite at the apple on this entry since *CCT* inadvertently left out my good friend and now longtime doctor, the brilliant dermatologist and Mohs surgeon **David Kriegel**. We're going to do this until we get it right: 'On September 29, 2018, I had the honor of performing the wedding ceremony of **Tracy Klestadt** to Esther Duval in Bridgehampton in a sunset wedding on the beach. Since graduating from Columbia, I have also had the privilege of alternatively officiating, being best man, groomsman, toastmaster or writing about the weddings of **Adam Bayroff, Paul Ehrlich, Neal Smolar, Danny Schultz, Roy Pomerantz, David Kriegel, Len Rosen, Steve Arenson, Jon White '85** and Allison White BC'86 (née Breitbart), and Judy Landis BC'85 (née Enteles), honors I hold dear, and all of whom remain close friends."

Tom Licata: "After 25 years in the semiconductor industry, I retired from that sector, earned a Series 79 investment banking certification, and now do ad hoc work with start-ups, and some consulting. I also vigorously participate in musical activities. I've gotten back to my roots with the Columbia Glee Club, singing with the Oregon Chorale for the past few years, performing a broad repertoire including classical masterworks by Mortan Lauridsen, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Heniyk Gorecki and so forth, and occasional performances with the Oregon Symphony and Beaverton Symphony Orchestra. We recently completed a tour of Eastern Oregon to support the local groups there."

"Through 2018 I was executive producer for my older son's first pro album, *Thom Moot – Moot Points*, which can be found on bandcamp.com. I also provided the keyboard work for the song 'Autumn.' I don't currently have a hobby band up and running, but some previous instances can be found on Soundcloud including Cats and Jammers, Port4 and RainTrek. These are all live recordings made just for fun."

"Best wishes to the Columbia community! The light of truth and sound governance are needed now more than ever!"

Jon Ross: "I went to Indonesia for June and July to do an assessment on Lombok and to visit our [MicroAid] projects in Nepal. Please let me know if you want to visit or if you have contacts in Indo."

David Hershey-Webb: "I first came to NYC to live 40 years ago

this past summer. Somewhere there's a photo of our white Saab with a roof rack crammed with my stuff, including a bike, parked in front of Beta Theta Pi, with its red, white and blue columns, on West 113th Street, off Broadway. Dave Humor, a friend of my high school buddy Stephen, had found a room in the run-down, rat-infested, trash-strewn, alcohol-soaked fraternity for the summer. The three of us lived there that summer, across the street from campus. The night we got here Stephen and I rode our bikes from West 113th Street to the Battery, where we stood and looked out across the harbor at the Statue of Liberty."

"We had loft beds, which the rats couldn't reach. We listened to Some Girls (rats on the west side/bedbugs uptown/this town's in tatters/look at me!). We followed the Sandinista Revolution, rooting for the Sandinistas. NYC was dirty and dangerous and loud with graffiti all over the subways and muggers everywhere and weed and coke and music and beggars and squeegee men and ceilings falling in and no heat or hot water and sirens and scammers and sweaty dancers and sex — in other words, heaven for three 19-year-old boys."

"I must have lost my bike because I bought another at Metro Bikes on West 96th Street, next to the plant store, and got a job with mobile messengers. For the next couple of months I rode up and down the avenues carrying packages to modeling agencies and ad agencies and taking in the street scene."

"At night we sat on the Low Steps and drank and talked about history and philosophy and revolution and music. We were Marxists and idealists and hedonists."

"One evening that summer Jimmy Carter gave what came to be called his 'malaise' speech. I watched it with the frat boys. I agreed with much of what Carter was saying and was not a little frightened by the drunk frat boys screaming 'fuck you' at the TV screen. A little more than a year later they'd bring us Reagan, and later the unnamable one."

"I was in Love. With NYC. But it was an odd kind of love. I loved it in part because it was bad. It was gruesome murder and the stench of poverty. It was greed. It was scamming. It was heartbreak. It was broken glass. A car smashing into a light post. A man walking

up to a woman on the street and slapping her. A man walking up and down Broadway sticking a needle into people. I loved it all because I carried so much pain inside and it expressed what I felt."

"And there were the little flowers pushing through the pavement. The camaraderie of friends. A soulful street singer. Block party dancers. Merengue and salsa. Lovers on Sheep Meadow. Ninety-year-old communists in a basement clubhouse, with a beautiful dream still. The afternoon light on the ornate old buildings of the Upper West Side. The determination and passion in the faces of every complexion. The clothes, the clothes, the clothes, wild hats and crazy coats and white gloves and plaid shorts and red fish net stockings and black leather pants and feather boas and platform shoes and alligator boots and the girl with the faraway eyes and Puerto Rican girls just wanna and it doesn't matter and when the whip comes down and shattered shattered and you're so respectable and the White House lawn and I'm so hot for you and you can't give it away on Seventh Avenue, in 1979."

1984

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With thanks to the Reunion Committee and the Alumni Office staff, our 35th reunion was great fun and a huge success. The stories! The reminiscences! The career updates! The interactions with old (and new) friends. Simply put, a real pleasure for all who attended.

Events included a get-together with many Barnard alumnae at La Palapa (with thanks to owner Barbara Sibley BC'92); various classes; lunches; a wine tasting; a joint reception with the Classes of '74 and '79; our class dinner; and a final chance to "dance under the stars" on Low Plaza and College Walk.

In attendance: **Jon Abbot, David Adler, Madhu Alagiri, Paul Auwaeter, Michael Bozzo, Paul Burke, Newt Burkett, Antonio Cancio, Evelyn Chaleki, Tom Chaleki, Daniel Cohen, Patrick**

Holler at Us in Haiku!

Core, one hundred years!
What's a fun way to note it?
Poetry from you.



We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku**. Send your 5-7-5 recollections to cct_centennial@columbia.edu, and we'll run our favorites in the next three issues' Class Notes.

Conroy, Christine Cronin, John Feeney, Robert Feinstein, Lawrence Finkel, Thomas Gilman, David Godfried, Langham Gleason, James Gorton, El Gray, Mark Green, Michael Hall, Eric Hansen, Reggie Henderson, Ronald Hubsher, Patricia Huie, Larry Kane, Brian Kennedy, Dennis Kleinberg, Frank Lang, Rupert Li, Douglas Lindgren, Elias Lolis, Douglas Mintz, Christopher Nollet, Najmuddin Patwa, Nathaniel Polis, Ben Pushner, Tom Samuelson, Steven Saunders, Michael Scherz, Peter Schmidt, Karl Schmuck, Paul Schwartzbaum, Phil Segal, Chip Seibert, Larry Silo, Mark Simon, John Stackfleth, David Stewart, Edwin Trayner, Wayne Weddington, Jim Weinstein, Carlton Wessel and Barak Zimmerman. Special guests at our class dinner included Beth Knobel BC'84, David Filosa '82 and spouses/partners/children/friends.

Kudos and many, many thanks to our riveting and simply amazing guest speaker, **Michael Massimino SEAS'84**, an accomplished engineer and astronaut, and now a professor at Columbia Engineering.

Special thanks to **Tom Gilman** and **Carl Wessel**, who were the co-chairs of our Class Gift Committee.

Looking forward to seeing you all in five years, or at Homecoming (Saturday, October 19) or at one of our old stomping grounds (V&T, Symposium, Mondel, The Hungarian Pastry Shop, Koronet, Tom's), or one of my new favorites (Le Monde, Mel's Burger Bar, Dinosaur BBQ, The Heights and other great neighborhood venues.)

Roar, Lion, Roar!

1985

REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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James Walsh is directing a new show, *As Much As I Can*, at Joe's Pub/The Public Theater in NYC

in September. He writes, "It is a powerful piece, about the hidden HIV/AIDS epidemic in the black community, which I co-created with pharma giant GlaxoSmithKline (see more info at bit.ly/2LUV7J8). *As Much As I Can* is regarded as a seminal work of theater based on personal stories of the subjects of a five-year ethnographic study, as profiled in this *New York Times Magazine* cover story from 2017: nyti.ms/336WJVx.

"There's an interesting story in the saga of how *As Much As I Can* came to be from a corporate commission — from a drug company, no less — and the creative journey we've taken over the past two and a half years from Jackson, Miss., to Off-Broadway.

"Our show won a Cannes Lion, one of several prestigious media, creative and social consciousness honors that have been bestowed upon the piece since our New York run in Harlem last May."

My wife, Allison, attended a swearing-in for new citizens in Suffolk County, and saw Magistrate **Gary Brown** officiating. I was told (to my complete non-surprise) that Judge Brown did an amazing job overseeing the ceremony and offering wonderful words of wisdom and congratulations. Even more exciting, Gary has been re-nominated to serve as a district judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Gary has served in the Eastern District since his selection in 2011 and also serves as an adjunct professor at St. John's University School of Law. He served on the Committee of Administration Magistrate Judges System, appointed to manage more than 1,400 Superstorm Sandy cases. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Gary served as the director of litigation and chief compliance officer of CA Technologies and as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of New York for more than 15 years, concluding his service as the chief of the Long Island Criminal Division.

In this 50th anniversary year of the Apollo 11 moon landing, **Tom Vinciguerra JRN'86, GSAS'90's** most recent *New York Times* piece was appropriately titled, "How 'The Twilight Zone' First Saw Man on the Moon." The 1959 pilot episode, airing a decade before the first moon



Four track teammates and a friend went to London in January to watch some Premier League soccer games. Left to right: Chris Erker, Andre O'Reggio '87, Ward Bobitz '86, Doug Teasdale '89 and Dave McCarty '86.

landing, bore what would become the series' hallmark: narrating Cold War anxieties through a mix of science and superstition.

And speaking of anniversaries years, our 35th reunion will be celebrated Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6. Please mark your calendar and try to be there for some, if not all, of the weekend. Just as importantly, please volunteer to be on the Reunion Committee. There's not a ton of work involved — one big goal is to maximize our attendance, and to do this we will want to get a wide range of ideas about what kind of venues might be fun. To help get classmates here, we would love to have plenty of folks to reach out to classmates and encourage them to attend. Aside from the usual phone/email lists, the best way to do that is through clubs or teams or dorm floors/suites that were part of your Columbia community. I have found that this is consistently the best way to increase the size of our group.

Even if you can't help out with the planning, feel free to shoot me an email with your ideas about our class-specific events. The "big events" are pretty much locked into the overall reunion schedule (class dinner, certain evening receptions, lectures and tours). However, there are a few class-specific opportunities in which we can plan unique events. We have had dinner at V&T a few times — should we go back, or is there another place to go to reminisce? (Unfortunately CDR, Cannon's and The College Inn are gone — if you haven't been back to Morningside Heights in a while, you won't recognize the neighborhood!)

If any classmates have a space we can use/tie into an event, or a neat connection for a lounge area for a party, please let us know (in past years,

we had a reception in **Brian Cousin's** law firm's office, and we went to the New York City Ballet and saw **John Phelan's** amazing daughter).

Just hold the reunion dates, and details will be forthcoming.

Even if you can't attend, help in the planning or suggest an event, at the very least you can send me a nice long update about where you are, how Columbia still has an impact on you 35 years later, what your most memorable moment is and so on.

1986

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Congrats to **Ben Schmidt** on his daughter, Isabel Schmidt, joining the Class of 2023. Ben is the Giovanni and Amne Costigan Endowed Professor of History at the University of Washington in Seattle. Ben, who earned a master's and Ph.D. from Harvard, teaches some interesting-sounding classes at UW. Last winter, he taught "Spain and Its Golden Age, 1469–1700," and last spring, "Exploration and Empire: The Art and Science of Global Power, 1300–1800."

Ward Bobitz sent us a nice update: "I have been in Richmond, Va., for nearly 23 years, working the entire time at Genworth Financial, where I now am general counsel. My career at Genworth, the world's largest underwriter of long-term care insurance, has been extremely interesting. In addition to confronting the societal challenges of funding the long-term care needs of our aging population, I have also been exposed to a variety of geopolitical

issues, as we have been operating under a merger agreement to be acquired by a Chinese company, China Oceanwide Holdings Group, since October 2016. We continue to seek the required regulatory approvals to close the transaction. The stamina that I developed running cross-country at Columbia is truly being put to the test by this deal!

"On the personal side, my wife, Kelley (Brown '87), and I have three great kids, Jack (20, a junior at Brown), Sam (18, at Michigan) and Cate (16). I frequently see many of my track teammates, including Jon Sycamore '85, SEAS'85; Terry Jones '85; **Dave McCarty**; Andre O'Reggio '87; and Doug Teasdale '89. Nearby is a photo of Dave, Doug, me, Andre and a non-Columbia friend from our January trip to London to watch a couple of Premier League soccer games. Most of us are too old to do any serious running, but we do enjoy watching soccer, which is probably influenced by our enjoyment of the great Columbia soccer teams of our era."

Michael Goldfischer reports on a fun Columbia-themed party: "On June 29, **Jeffrey Ammeen**, along with his daughters, Jade and Aja, hosted the family's Fifth Annual Summer Solstice musical celebration — 'Jeffapalooza,' a day of family, friends, live music, Columbia blue spirit and Fiji purple brotherhood. The Dude count was high at this one, and you can't tell me there was a better party going on anywhere. In attendance were fraternity brothers **William Golden BUS'93**; **Paul Marshall '85**; **James Hirshfield SEAS'87**, who attended with son Jack and

fiancée, Regina; **Mark Foss '87**; **Andrew Upton '85**; **Arthur Ajzenman '83** and his wife, Lisa; **William Flick '87**, with his wife, Leslie, and kids, Will, Charlie, Max and Nina; **Dominic DeCicco SEAS'84** and his son, Dante; **Bob Watson SEAS'86** and his wife, Sandy; and **Michael Goldfischer** with his sons, Jacob, Jared '21 and Noah. The Columbia spirit was enhanced by other alums, including **Edward Zahos** and his wife, Marilen, and kids, Alexander and Isabel; **Joe Policastro '87** and his daughter, Alessandra; and Columbia Lions Living Legend **Danny Upperco '85**.

"The musical entertainment consisted of Jeff playing lead guitar with his newest band, Charlie Don't Surf; **Michael Goldfischer** on lead electric mandolin with his band The Outside Band; and musical chairs with other great musicians hopping up and jamming, including Dominic's son, Dante. Nothing could prevent the day from being a rousing success, not even a torrential downpour, which almost blew down the stage. Dominic once again provided commemorative T-shirts, this year's in Columbia blue. From retelling old stories from 114th Street, to catching up on growing families, sharing a few cocktails of Clyde May's Whiskey, Prospero Tequila and Nemiroff Vodka, it was a day to remember. For those of you who can't get enough of CC'86 live rock and roll, the second annual Winterpalooza is scheduled for March 7 at the Stanhope House in Stanhope, N.J. The night will once again feature three bands fronted by CC'86ers: Jeff and The Doctor's bands mentioned earlier, opening for the headliner, and **Sherman Ewing**. Now Roar, Lion, Roar and Rock, Lion, Rock."

Our class's Jacques Cousteau, **Steve Klotz**, headed to Beqa Lagoon, Fiji, this past summer to observe and study inter-species shark feeding behaviors. His son, Daniel, studied at a summer program in Saint Petersburg and Moscow. His daughter, Alyxandra, started law school at The George Washington University in D.C.

Mark Goldstein updated us from Thousand Oaks, Calif: "Exciting transitions for our family. Shira is a freshman at University of Northern Colorado, and Risa is a junior in high school at the Besant Hill School in Ojai, Calif. My wife, Julie, is purchasing manager for Minimus,

specializing in all things travel and individual sized, from baked goods and snacks to personal care products. I protect the intellectual property of technology and business innovators at SoCal IP Law Group."

Many of us knew Alex Navab '87 and were shocked and saddened to learn of his death on July 7, 2019, while on vacation with his family in Greece. He was a star at KKR for 24 years, and had launched Navab Capital Partners in April with a fundraising goal of \$3 billion. Alex was a class act and a mensch, and will be missed and remembered. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

1987

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At press time, the shock waves are still reverberating from the tragic, sudden death of **Alex Navab**. There are many moving tributes and reminiscences elsewhere, but I am hoping that some of you will send in stories over the next few months. It would be lovely to publish a collection. Please consider contributing to the column. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Recently, my father, Alvin Kass '57, and I ventured to Mamaroneck, N.Y., to pay a visit to our former professor **Henry Graff GSAS'49**. We had read the previous week of the passing of his wife, Edith, and learned there would be a shiva in the assisted living facility where Professor Graff and his wife had been living. What a wonderful visit! Despite some physical infirmities, Professor Graff (97) seemed as sharp as ever, discussing with us topics ranging from baseball to politics. Professor Graff once told my father and I that we were possibly the only father-daughter pair that he had ever taught; he had taught many fathers and sons, but as far as he knew, we were the only father and daughter. (If anyone knows of other father-daughter pairs he taught, I'd love to hear about it!) While we were there, we also had a lovely chat with Dr. Allen Hyman '55. All in all, a wonderful and meaningful Columbia experience!

Ralph Stone, my next-door neighbor in Carman (literally on

the other side of my wall), wrote with news of our friend and fellow Carman 5 denizen, **Hugh Cushing**. Ralph writes, "In January, Hugh and his wife, Louise Dubin '92, had a baby girl. Hugh, who started with our class but graduated in 1988, has already started planning for their daughter to join the Class of, let us say, 2039."

I was also so happy to receive a note from **Michael Rubin**. He wrote: "By now, all of us are 'of a certain age' and given to reflecting on our Columbia experiences from a distance. In my case, however, although we live in the Boston area, I've been quite happy to stare at Columbia regularly. In early 2019 I dropped my younger daughter off on campus for her freshmen spring semester. And my first daughter graduated from the College in May 2018. Of course, in 1983, at the College's inaugural coeducational Class Day, I would never have predicted I'd have two daughters, and both would go to Columbia."

"On the home front, I've been interviewing prospective Columbia students as part of the Alumni Representative Committee, and I'm on the board of the Kraft Family Center for Jewish Student Life (Columbia/Barnard Hillel). It's great fun to be involved with the next generation! When not writing checks to Columbia, I'm the CEO of an augmented reality start-up and baking sourdough. I would love to hear from 'old' friends from McBain and Carman 8 (has everyone recovered by now from experiencing a dead body wrapped in a carpet on our floor?). You can reach me at rubinmichaels@yahoo.com."

1988

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Professor **Graham Dodds** of Montreal's Concordia University writes that in June, "A half dozen CC'88ers got together for a barbecue in Trumbull, Conn." Dr. **Stephanie Sudikoff** of the Yale School of Medicine hosted the gathering. Others attending included **Al Bundonis**, **Nikos Andreadis**, **Shari Hyman** and **William Woo**. "The first five of those six all lived on Carman 9 back in the day," says Graham. "It was great to



Bill Flick '87 (left) and Michael Goldfischer '86 enjoyed music at "Jeffapalooza."



Some CC'88ers got together in June for a barbecue in Trumbull, Conn. Left to right: Stephanie Sudikoff, Al Bundonis, Nikos Andreadis, Graham Dodds, Shari Hyman and William Woo.

see so many friends from Columbia at an event other than a reunion, wedding or funeral."

Stu Kaplan PS'92 writes that he "recently obtained an M.B.A. at the University of Amsterdam and came back to the States (Bay Area) to become the executive director of Okizu, a cost-free camp for children, siblings and families affected by childhood cancer." According to Okizu's website, "The mission of Okizu is to help all members of families affected by childhood cancer to heal through peer support, respite, mentoring and recreational programs."

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to hearing from you.

1989

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More than 150 of us gathered in May to celebrate our spectacular 30th reunion as only CC'89 could, with classmates traveling from all over the world. There is nothing like reconnecting with people who loved us before we had careers and property and titles and domestic imperatives like soccer games and dirty dishes. Being with our dear old friends helps us remember and appreciate who we were at 19, and the stories recounted of our youthful selves are strengthened through our collective memories.

I asked classmates for their remembrances from the weekend. Here are some:

From **Jeff Udell**, who has been practicing law for the past few years at Walden Macht & Haran, a boutique firm in Manhattan: "Reunion Weekend never disappoints, as it is always great both to reconnect with old friends and to spend time with folks who share that bond formed in Morningside Heights some 30 years ago. The Thursday night off-campus outing was a ton of fun; I caught up with **Chris Della Pietra**, **Steve Metalios** and his wife, Joy Metalios SEAS'90 (née Kim), who explained that the reason Steve appeared in every single one of the photographs on the bar television slideshow was because he was the only one who answered the request to supply them.

"Also was great speaking with **Tajlei Levis**, a writer of books and lyrics for several musicals (see glimpsesofthemoon.com); **Dan Futerman**, who described his research process for his *The Looming Tower* miniseries, which is based on the rivalry between the FBI and CIA prior to 9-11; **Julie Jacobs Menin**, who in her position with the NYC Office of the Corporation Counsel helped successfully challenge the Trump administration's proposed 2020 Census citizenship question (later stricken by the U.S. Supreme Court); and **Luis Penalver**, who is a corporate lawyer at Cahill Gordon & Reindel.

"The highlight for me on Thursday night was a post-event,

late-night diner hang with Adina Safer BC'89, who is a healthcare consultant in San Francisco, and my former roomies **David Streitfeld**, a computer programmer with Intuit, also visiting from the Bay Area, and John Libertino '88, who came in from Philadelphia to surprise everyone. Speaking of roomies, I was sorry that **Michael Schrag** and **Erik Price** could not make it, as Erik was celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary in Spain, and Mike and Dr. **Andrea Franchett** were otherwise enjoying life in the Bay Area as soon-to-be empty nesters, with their second and third kids heading off to college soon. Saturday night was equally fun, catching up with (among others) Dr. **David Kooby**, an oncologist at Emory University; **Laura Dower** (née McTaggart), a writer of children's books; **Alix Pustilnik**, a lawyer who most recently was general counsel of the Battery Park City Authority; and **Tom Kamber**, who has lived on a boat on the Hudson River and now runs a group that helps senior citizens get online and navigate technology."

Michael Barry, who works at Ironstate Development and lives in Short Hills, N.J., writes that he "enjoyed [Dean] Jim Valentini's address and his clear affinity for the Class of '89. I spent most of the night catching up with a few friends, interspaced by a few conversations with classmates I didn't really know that well. A fun night all around."

From **Stephanie Spencer**, who traveled from Washington state: "I really enjoyed my time in the city. I only get to NYC every five years, for reunion. I always enjoy balancing my time between reunion events and touring. I very much enjoyed visiting with old friends and acquaintances, and I also really enjoyed the Mini-Core Classes and lectures. I loved being on campus and staying in Wallach — it only took 30 years to land a room in Wallach. I never did have much luck in those housing lotteries."

For the last four years, Stephanie has been director of teaching and learning on Vashon Island, Wash., where she oversees professional development for staff, writes and manages grants, and works on policy and procedures. Stephanie's son is in the sixth grade, and last summer, "the two of us restored my grandfather's 100-year-old, cedar-strip canoe, and we've been enjoying it

on the sound around Vashon Island ever since."

Raymond Yu SEAS'90, who recently returned from an extended trip through Europe (Madrid, Barcelona, London and Paris), writes, "Two highlights of reunion: reunited with all of my Carman 8 suitemates (813) and ended Saturday night by going to Koronet and then drinking and playing darts at Mel's!"

Wid Hall SEAS'89, SEAS'91 has been to every one of our reunions and traveled from Germany to join us again. Wid writes, "My favorite part of the 30th reunion was that so many people attended. I think the 30th was at least as big as the 25th!"

Alix Pustilnik, who was mentioned by **Jeff Udell** earlier, writes that reunion "was especially meaningful to me. I felt a lot of gratitude and joy simply to sit on the Steps in the sun and reconnect with folks and see how much the Core still resonates in our conversations."

Roger Rubin, *Newsday* senior reporter, wrote that he was thrilled to connect with classmates and dear friends including **Greg Watt**, who came in from the Boston area; **Dave Winter**, an attorney in D.C.; and **Rusty Kosiorek** (I promise to write more about Rusty later). Of reunion, Roger writes, "Our class continues to astound me with the way its members are drawn to one another and cannot wait to be reunited. I expected that after the 25th, the passion and intensity of the 30th would in some way pale in comparison but this reunion was as much fun — possibly an even better time — than the last."



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.

Ellen Vaknine writes, “As at past reunions, not only did I enjoy spending time with friends and acquaintances from my time at Columbia, but I also ended up speaking at length with several classmates whom I hadn’t previously known. It’s great to learn where we’ve all ‘landed’ and the varied paths we’ve taken since Columbia.”

Ellen lives on Long Island and recently sold her kosher catering business to focus on real estate investing/property management.

Andy Baehr BUS’96, who has attended our 20th, 25th and now 30th reunions, comes to reunion to reconnect and proudly reminisce about being part of the gang that carried the goal post after our famous streak-breaking football win over Princeton in 1988. Andy works at a finance startup, after 20-plus years in banking. He earned an M.B.A. from the Business School and lives in Tribeca with his wife and two children.

Carol Remy, who brought her 11-year-old daughter to reunion, loved revisiting “our old haunts — Koronet, The Hungarian Pastry Shop” and cherished “a slow walk through the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine,” and showed her daughter Carman, where Carol lived freshman year. Carol writes, “My daughter remembered where the owl was immediately upon arrival. She found the owl when she was 6, at our 25th reunion, and remembered it at our 30th. Maybe we have a CC’30 in our midst!”

Daniel Halberstam, who came in from Ann Arbor, where he is associate dean for faculty and research at Michigan Law, the Eric Stein Professor of Law, and director, European Legal Studies Program, writes, “I was especially struck by how cozy the campus felt, given its vast intellectual expanse. It was a nice reminder of what a punch Columbia packs into that incredible campus.”

Eliza Armstrong, a math teacher at North Star Academy in Newark, N.J., writes, “The highlight of reunion for me was getting time with **Lisa Carnoy** and **Wanda Holland Greene**, two of my dearest friends. I brought one of my daughters to the opening cocktails on Thursday night, and another to the events on Saturday. They also love Lisa and Wanda, and it is always special when my kids get to spend time with such

amazing, smart, interesting and funny women whom I’m lucky to have as friends. Another highlight was getting to spend a couple of hours with **Shaquan Nelson** SEAS’19, a former student of mine. He’s a remarkable young man, and it is such a joy to see how he has grown since I taught him seventh-grade math. Columbia was lucky to have him, and I’m so proud of the person he is.”

For those who haven’t connected with our Class of ’89 Facebook group, please do. **Thom Chu**, an estate attorney in New York, created a great post there that I recap here with his permission: “Great memories made over our 30th reunion weekend: classmates at the John Jay Associates celebration; seeing rare works on paper at Avery Library, including some by Frank Lloyd Wright; connecting with former work-study supervisee Ben Jealous ’94, the youngest CEO to serve the NAACP; enjoying rainbow-hued Jell-O shots at the LGBTQ reception; Dr. Alexis Pauline Gumbs BC’04, Lambda Literary Award nominee, with her collage of the Rev. Pauli Murray, a queer civil rights activist and first African-American woman to be ordained in the Episcopal Church; four Hunter College H.S. Class of ’85 and Columbia University Class of 1989 undergraduates, including **Alix Pustilnik**, **Paul Radvany** and **Steven Chulik** SEAS’89; and dancing under the stars by Low Library. Thanks to all for making a memory for a lifetime!”

Please send more updates and reunion memories for future columns!

I wish I could focus only on the joyful recap of our reunion, but days after we were mingling our group grew smaller, as we lost **Tony Augello** SEAS’89, who passed away in Southern California, where he was an engineer. Tony attended Purdue University for a master’s and then UC Berkeley for a Ph.D. Tony was an avid Boston sports fan throughout his life. He lived in Newport Beach, Calif., and worked for Group Delta Consultants. Tony was a dear, sweet friend to many and will be greatly missed. Of Tony, **Michael Behringer** wrote, “You’ll remember Tony for his happy smile, gentle soul and love for his friends, fraternity (Fiji), football team and Columbia. He was one of the best and will be missed.”

1990

REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

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What a fun summer I had seeing classmates on my travels. In June, work took me to San Francisco for a conference, where I had the great, annual pleasure of hanging out with Larry Momo ’73 and Liz Pleshette ’89. If there are any other Columbia alumni who do college counseling, please identify yourself!

I also spent some time visiting with **Joel Tranter** and his son, Ellison (7). The three of us hit the Alameda County Fair one of the days of my visit. Joel has a jockey friend who was racing that day, and he made quite an impression on Ellison. After we watched his first race, **Brian Timoney** kept us updated via text from Colorado on the jockey’s six other races that day while we took in the rest of the fair.

My timing in the Bay Area coincided with **Peter Neisuler**’s family’s return from their State Department post in Amman, Jordan. They are spending two months road-tripping in the United States before reporting for duty at their next diplomatic post, in Tel Aviv. Peter is working in the political section on Iran, and Mariana is in the economic section covering energy and cyber issues. Luckily, we were all able to meet for dinner before I headed back east.

Back on the East Coast, **Joy Metalios** SEAS’90 (née Kim) is making a name for herself — on TV! She’s the host of *The American Dream* TV show in Connecticut, a national real estate show that airs in about 40 cities across the country. Her local segments explore different neighborhoods, businesses and trends in the local market, showcasing lifestyle, community and real estate. You can catch all her shows on Apple TV, Roku and Amazon. Joy’s first episode aired in early June and — as exciting as that was — her daughter’s high school graduation was even more exciting. Zoe ’23 lives in Carman and plays on the field hockey team. Her

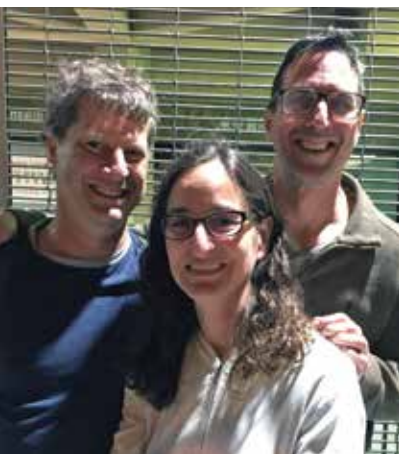
brother, Max, is a junior at Penn and on its lacrosse team.

Stephen Winick took me on a stroll down memory lane when he sent me a link to a January story about Ken Hechtman. You should read it online (bit.ly/2YysDGN) if you didn’t catch the story on the news.

As for Steve, he’s staying out of trouble. He shares, “I continue to be the editor in The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, our national folklore archive and study center. I write and edit our blog, *Folklife Today* (blogs.loc.gov/folklife). A couple of years ago I authored the fourth edition of our fieldwork manual, *Folklife & Fieldwork: A Layman’s Introduction to Field Techniques*. Since then I’ve steered it through the process of being translated into Spanish and Chinese.

“This year I created a podcast for the Library of Congress, *Folklife Today*; you can listen online at bit.ly/2KkySZD. It tells stories about traditional culture and the people who keep it alive. For example, did you know that Ralph Ellison was a folklorist? He collected folklore for the WPA in the 1930s before becoming a celebrated novelist. In his manuscripts I found a story he collected in Harlem from someone named Leo Gurley, about a man nicknamed ‘Sweet the Monkey.’ Sweet the Monkey was an African-American man in South Carolina who was able to turn himself invisible. This story is clearly one part of the inspiration for Ellison’s novel *Invisible Man*. That story is in the episode ‘Hidden Folklorists.’ We also have episodes about Agnes Vanderburg, a Salish elder in Montana who ran a school for traditional Indian ways; about our Civil Rights History Project, which collects narratives from leaders of the civil rights movement; about the complicated history of the spiritual ‘Come by Here,’ better known as ‘Kumbaya;’ and about lots of other topics. I co-write, co-produce and co-host the podcast.”

Professional news about **Dean Sonderegger** SEAS’90, SEAS’91: In May, he was appointed senior VP and general manager of Wolters Kluwer Legal & Regulatory U.S., a company he joined in 2015 as head of Legal Markets & Innovation. In his new position, Dean continues to spearhead the company’s focus on customer-focused innovation, with a



Joel Tranter '90 (left), Rachel Cowan Jacobs '90 and Peter Neisuler '90 enjoyed dinner together in June in the Bay Area.

strong emphasis on the rapid development of advanced digital products and services to enhance legal professionals' efficiencies and workflows. Very exciting times for Dean!

1991

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Wishing the members of the Class of 1991 a happy and healthy fall! Please take a moment to share your news or a favorite Columbia College memory with the class by sending an email to margiekimkim@hotmail.com.

1992

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Hello, Class of 1992!

Jonathan Henick wrote from his perch at the State Department (25-plus years) to say he "wrapped up a job as the deputy coordinator for the Global Engagement Center, where I helped stand up our efforts to counter Russian, Chinese and Iranian disinformation."

Jonathan is now a few months into his gig as deputy assistant secretary for South and Central Asia, with responsibility for Central Asia and press and public diplomacy.

"More importantly, of course, I am celebrating 19 years of marriage to my bride, Dominique Freire, and

amazed at how our kids, Oskar (17) and Carmen (13), are growing up into amazing people despite our lack of parenting skills," Jonathan shares, adding that he "would love to hear from old Columbia pals!"

Andrew Vladeck has a new album, *Visions and Revisions*. Keep track of his work on andrewvladeck.com! (It's how I found out about the album.)

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** SIPA'93 opted not to join the crowded field competing for the 2020 Democratic presidential nod. I thought I should flag that Eric has hired a new communications director, Dae Levine BC'92.

Please keep writing in! This column doesn't work unless you do!

1993

Betsy Gomperz
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Greetings, classmates. I only have one update this time, and it comes from **Jenny Hoffman**, who is returning to Morningside Heights! Jenny is a lecturer/adjunct professor at the School of Professional Studies in the Master of Science in Enterprise Risk Management program. She writes, "I am excited to be back on campus and would love to reconnect with any of you in New York. Aside from the Columbia gig, I am also senior VP at Global Risk Intelligence, a boutique risk advisory firm in Washington, D.C."

Hope you all had a great summer! Please take a moment to send in a note!

1994

Leyla Kokmen
lak6@columbia.edu

On the way uptown to Reunion Weekend (complicated by the 1 train not running all the way to 116th Street that weekend), I shared an amusing text exchange with **Mary Killackey** and **Marina Groothuis** (née Gurin), the crux of which revolved around wearing comfortable (but still cute) shoes. Because who do we need to impress anymore, anyway? That was, perhaps, apt branding for our 25th (25th!) reunion, a delightful weekend of comfortable reminis-

ing with people who pretty much looked exactly the same as they did a quarter-century ago. (Does that mean we're all aging gracefully, or did we just look like 40-somethings in college?) So, permit me a few random ramblings from reunion:

Catching up outside Ferris Booth Hall (is it even called that anymore?) with Marina, **Jen Cohen-Glasser** and **Brian Orefice**, talking about the sobering stats on admissions rates shared at an afternoon panel ... Chatting with our unrivaled social media class cheerleader **Penelope Kliegman** at the Wine Tasting ...

Rave reviews for the talks by **Derek Fairchild-Coppoletti**, **Camilla Jones** (née Jackson), **Rebecca Oppenheimer**, **Elliott Regenstein** and **Lavinell Savu** ...

Talking with **Milos Naumovic** and **Alex Rosenstein** about the perils of introducing *The Breakfast Club* to our kids ...

Shawn Landres insisting that all photos be taken in portrait mode — he's right, they're better! — and listening as he, **Matt Eddy** and **Ocean MacAdams** reminisced about high school ...

A trip to Koronet with **Kay Bailey** and **Danny Franklin**, which led to an existential crisis for me: The slices were SO BIG! I honestly did not remember that. Did I somehow never go to Koronet? Or did the intervening 25 years erase knowledge of these slices? ...

Sitting on Low Steps, hearing about the sports consulting business **Stephanie Geosits** has launched in Toronto, and then heading over with her, Elliot and Kay to Tom's for egg creams (another thing I never had in college; who knew no eggs were involved?) ...

Delightful conversations during the Friday night reception at the Manhattanville campus with **Sofia Dumery**, **Estelamari Rodriguez** and **Shelley Schneiderman-Ducker**, among many others ...

More delightful conversations throughout the Saturday class dinner at Faculty House with **Amit Bose**, **Ben Grant**, **Erik Groothuis**, **Alfredo Jollon**, **John Katz**, **Mason Kirby**, **Lillian Koo**, **Allegra Lowitt** (née Wechsler), **Negar Nabavi**, **Steve Ruddy** and **Andrew Russo**.

It was a special treat to catch up with some of our far-flung classmates, like **Jessica Craig**, who lives in Barcelona and is a literary agent.

Or **Josh Shannon**, who was about to head off to the Free University of Berlin for a year.

Throughout the weekend, there was ample opportunity to remember and relive. And yet, there still wasn't enough time. If I missed you there, or if I missed you in this column, my sincerest apologies.

But that's all the more reason to send in an update! Even more so if life events conspired, preventing you from making it to reunion at all. Because one thing is certain: Even 25 years later (or maybe because it's 25 years later!), the Class of 1994 likes to stay connected.

Until next time.

1995

REUNION 2020
JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact
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Janet Lorin
jrlf10@columbia.edu

Our class counts a star in the wine world, **Dan Petroski**, named wine-maker of the year in 2017 by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for his Massican label. Jon Bonne '94 is an influential wine writer. And now, the prestigious James Beard Foundation has recognized the culinary talents of **Ann Kim**.

In May, Ann won the James Beard Award for Best Chef: Midwest for her Minneapolis restaurant, Young Joni. The competition included chefs in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. (Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana are in the "Great Lakes" grouping.)

Ann has two other restaurants: Pizzeria Lola opened in Minneapolis, and Hello Pizza followed. They were partly inspired by her pizza-eating days at Columbia; Koronet ranks as her top choice.

Ann arrived at Schapiro Hall our freshman year from Apple Valley, Minn., south of Minneapolis, drawn to the school for its proximity to theater.

She remembers seeing Broadway shows with groups of students and a professor and buying discounted tickets at TKTS. "For me, it was mostly soaking in whatever New

York had to offer," Ann said in a phone call this past summer. "I saw a lot of music, jazz and theater."

Ann's first Broadway show was *Les Misérables*, and she saw it again — about five more times.

She's still in touch with her crew of friends, many of whom have made the trip to Minnesota to sample her fare.

Young Joni, where pizza is a staple and a wood-fired grill offers other dishes that look delicious on its website, was named best new restaurant in 2017 by several publications, including *Esquire*.

Ann and her husband live with their dog, Lola, for whom she named her first restaurant.

I hope to see Ann and many of you at reunion. If you are interested in helping to plan it, please get in touch.

1996

Ana S. Salper
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Dear classmates, where, oh where, did you all go? I am disappointed to say that I have no notes this time around. Weren't there around 800 of us in the class? There have to be at least some of you who have some news to share! Please send in notes so that our column is not devoid of news.

I wish you all the best for the fall and look forward to hearing from you! I leave you with this:

"In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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Dear classmates, I hope you all enjoyed a fun-filled summer!

Our first update comes from **Natasha Goldberg** (née Bartolf). We met during our final semester at the College, when by chance we took the same class in Hamilton Hall. It was a seminar on the writings of the famous 19th-century Russian writer Nikolai Gogol, held in a cozy classroom with one long table. This seminar, comprising around half a dozen students, was led by one of the world's preeminent Gogol scholars,

Professor Robert Maguire SIPA'53, GSAS'60. Natasha recalls that I always sat to her left, by a window that overlooked College Walk, and she fondly reminisces: "It was a memorable class. Reading Gogol's hilarious play *The Inspector General* might have been the apotheosis of my Columbia experience. It was like we were members of an esoteric club. I remember the feeling of camaraderie in the room, 25 years out."

Well put, Natasha — I thoroughly concur with that sentiment!

Natasha also sent the following update: "For the past 15 years, I have been the middle school librarian at The Chapin School, a wonderful gig that allows me time in July and August to pursue drawing at The Art Students League of New York, and a pleasantly geeky/intellectual life year-round."

"I am married to Josh Goldberg BUS'97, with whom I probably rubbed elbows at some point at the Uris Caf (which we agree offered the superior sandwiches on campus). It took us until 2009 to actually grab lunch, though. We now share a home on Pierrepont Street in Brooklyn Heights, with our daughter, Mila (7), who, like her parents, loves to go to a lot of shows (most recently, The Losers Lounge tribute to ABBA at Joe's Pub!).

"My favorite memories of Columbia involve the pecan pie at John Jay, discovering a ton of new music, books and movies (remember when *Pulp Fiction* came out?), and discovering the East Village, back when there wasn't a bank on every corner.

"In terms of my CC'97 network, I appreciate keeping in touch with **Heidi Kirk** (whom I visited in Shanghai in '05, and who is presently Berlin's coolest tour guide), and with **Avideh Moussavian** and **Elizabeth Chiles** (who, post-McBain, are kicking butt in the worlds of immigration advocacy and the visual arts, respectively).

"For those of you with middle-school-aged kids in need of book recommendations, or who just want to reconnect, you can find me at @finelibrarian. Hope everyone's been reasonably happy, healthy and well-behaved!"

Rebekah Gee PH'98 shares that she is still the secretary of health for the state of Louisiana. Recently she was named one of *Modern Healthcare Magazine's* "Ten Women To Watch"

for 2019. Rebekah enjoys seeing **Athena Bendo Ole** every Jazz Fest. Her twins, Elizabeth and Eva, are 6.

Carl Pavel is practicing pulmonary and critical care medicine in the Chicago suburbs. In their spare time, he and his wife, Sarah, and his four children enjoy trying new playgrounds, exploring the state parks system and driving into the city.

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, as I wrap up this column in mid-July, I've been thinking about how much fun I've been having this summer with my 2-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Amara. A few months ago we moved from our house, which at 4,000 sq. ft. was far too large for just the two of us. We remain in the Orlando area, but have downsized to an apartment in a brand-new building. Each

train and began strolling through the lobby of the Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, heading toward our car, we noticed the charming sounds of a live, vintage-style jazz orchestra, comprising mostly elderly musicians, playing wonderful jazz standards from many decades ago in the hotel lobby. Hearing the music made me really miss living in New York City, when in my dancing days I frequented the famed Rainbow Room (late 1990s/early 2000s) with my friends and we would spend hours on the magical revolving floor of the 65th floor of Rockefeller Plaza while dancing the foxtrot and swinging to a live jazz orchestra. As those memories began flooding my mind, Amara excitedly turned to me and exclaimed, "Mama, let's dance!"

Core Haiku



Core Curriculum.
Protested. Got arrested.
Son reads Plato now.

— Red Delicious '97

morning we are greeted by a dozen gigantic and colorful hot air balloons that magically float down from the sky and land right before our eyes in the field across from us. Amara has been helping me select the new furniture, fixtures and furnishings for our home (she loves letting me know what she wants!). I am trying to brush up on my feng shui knowledge, with the goal of perfecting a harmonious arrangement of the décor.

As usual, it was a very hot summer here in Florida, and we cooled off in the evenings at our clubhouse's saltwater swimming pool, which is walking distance from our apartment. During the day we met up with Amara's little friends for fun activities; I've also been homeschooling her in reading, writing and geography. She's amazingly good at geography, for only being two and a half — she can already locate and identify all the states on her puzzle map of the United States, as well as find a bunch of countries on her world globe, which she loves to spin.

Recently we were heading home from having spent a few hours at the Magic Kingdom, where we have annual passes. As we exited the

and insisted that we start dancing together, right then and there. Ah, luckily the apple does not fall far from the tree!

As I sign off now, let me end with a song that my daughter and I like to dance to and sing along with at home. It's the waltz song from the Minnie Mouse episode of a TV series called *Mickey Mouse Clubhouse*. The lyrics are

"Come on, let's dance together!
We'll be best friends forever!
Oh, who else could it be ...
But you and me!"

Blessings to all, and please do send me your updates. Keep in mind that they needn't be just about the usual topics like career/marriage/birth announcements — they can be on your exotic travels, your exciting adventures, your fascinating hobbies, your philanthropic endeavors, your charming children, your daring projects, your poetic musings and/or your flowery reminiscences. Or simply tell us about some delightful local event that you attended or a family vacation that you went on. If nothing else, you can always write us just to say hello! It would

be splendid to hear from as many of our classmates as possible. I look forward to hearing from you. *In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Happy fall, CC'98! Hope you all had a wonderful summer. Please take a moment to send a note — travel, work, family, favorite Columbia memories, anything you want to share. Your classmates want to hear from you!

1999

Adrienne Carter and Jenna Johnson
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jennajohnson@gmail.com

Dear classmates, on a gorgeous Saturday night in June we made the journey back to those beloved old Steps for a bit of catch-up and reunion. It's been 20 YEARS. Some folks are still spry enough to dance under the stars (though it is, more than ever, ill-advised to wear heels on College Walk). Among those spotted in attendance: **Laurent Vasilescu, Martin Mraz, Brad Neuberger, Chris Schettino, Sameer Shamsi, Andrew Chen, Laura Colarusso, Sahil Godiwala, Wendy Liu, Stephen McGrath, Andrew Park, Anna Remet, Dominique Sasson, Stacy Rotner, Adam Spiewak, Nina Tannenbaum, Sally Woo, Caitlin Schrein, David Schach SEAS'99 and Jason Saretsky.** Everyone was in good spirits, though many were missed. We toasted every one of you and hope you'll make the trek for the 25th.

In non-reunion news, **Patrick Radden Keefe** has another book to add to his "also by" page. *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland*, was published by in February and has received raves from a range of readers and reviews — from Gillian Flynn to Colum McCann to the *Wall Street Journal* to *Entertainment Weekly* to *The New York Times*. [Editor's note: See "Columbia Forum," Spring 2019.]

At reunion, we caught up with **Brad Neuberger**, who started a

short research fellowship at the NASA Frontier Development Lab, a research accelerator that brings together machine learning specialists and space scientists. He is on a team as the machine learning specialist applying deep learning to heliophysics, or the study of our sun. He lives in San Francisco in the Mission District with his wife, Abby, and their daughter, Cameron (1 and a half).

We also chatted with **Laura Colarusso**, who has been the digital managing editor at WGBH News for two and a half years. She and her husband, **Jason Saretsky**, have two children, Olivia and Owen.

Also, now seems a perfect time to mention that our esteemed correspondent, **Adrienne Carter**, is going to be making a big move. As of this fall, she'll head up the Asia desk for *The New York Times*, and so she'll be moving to Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, we've been filing these reports for about four years, so it's about time we graduate and pass the duties to some fresh-eyed classmate. Our goal was to reach out to all of you listed in the current class contacts spreadsheet, and we're very nearly there. So we've earned our graduation, yes? If you're interested in becoming the class correspondent, send a note to us at the email addresses at the top of this column, or to CCT's Class Notes editor, Annie Sirju, at cct@columbia.edu.

2000

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Prisca Bae
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Nick Dierman has lived in Los Angeles for 16 years, practicing as an in-house attorney. He recently left his role as senior corporate counsel at Westfield, the shopping center development company, to join Maryland-based Federal Realty Investment Trust as its chief West Coast counsel, based in El Segundo, Calif. Nick's partner, James, and their blended family of three dogs live in Miracle Mile. Nick is in touch with **Lauren DeMille, Jennifer Glaser,**

Stephen Del Percio SEAS'00 and **Laura Hertzfeld BC'01.**

Also in L.A. is our resident sock mogul **Erica Easley**, the founder and owner of Gumball Poodle, a sock company famous for its knee-high Obama socks and "gangsta" socks worn by Beyoncé in a music video. Her socks are sold everywhere — check her out at gumballpoodle.com and @gumballpoodle on Instagram!

If there are any classmates who have started their own companies, please let me know so we can support your entrepreneurial ventures!

I'm excited to report that I joined the board of The Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center, a Columbia-based nonprofit whose mission is to increase high school graduation rates and college enrollment for low-income and first-generation college-bound students in Harlem and Washington Heights. Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74, our former dean of students, helped found DDC in 1965, and it has since helped more than 15,000 students! Each year, 90 percent of DDC high school seniors graduate on time and attend college.

Please consider supporting DDC. A gift to DDC will count as your annual gift to Columbia. You can learn more (and make a contribution) at ddc.college.columbia.edu.

Thanks, and look forward to hearing from you!

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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Hello, CC'01 — hope you all had an excellent summer! Please take a minute to share your news. Your classmates want to hear from you!

2002

Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani
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Hope everyone enjoyed the summer! **Albert Lee SEAS'02** was selected as a 2019 NextGen institutional investor by *Chief Investment Officer* magazine (formerly its "40 Under 40" list).

New book alert! *Reclaiming Her Time*, is a deep dive into the life, wisdom, wit and legacy of American icon Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), and is

authored by **Helena Andrews-Dyer** and the incomparable R. Eric Thomas.

Kimberly Blumenthal is an allergy specialist and researcher at Mass General in Boston and an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. Her research is on drug allergies, and how over-claiming a penicillin allergy is contributing to antibiotic resistance. Recently, *The New York Times*, *The New York Post* and *The Wall Street Journal* did articles covering her research. Kimberly's husband is a cardiologist and they live in Wellesley, Mass., with their boys, Jonah (7), Eli (4) and Ari (2).

Ksusha McCormick (née Boutov) has lived in Harlem for six years and works for an investment firm specializing in distressed and niche credit. With Sean she has two daughters, 4 and a half and 1 and a half. "Our eldest is starting kindergarten this fall at P.S. 145, a Russian dual-language elementary school on the Upper West Side," Ksusha writes. She never imagined her kids could get a Russian language education in a public school, "but living in New York is a gift that keeps on giving!"

In engagement news, congratulations to **Andres Zuleta**, who proposed to Christina Soto in San Diego with a surprise all-female mariachi band.

Genevieve Thornton lives in the West Village with her 3-and-a-half-year-old identical twins (Class of 2038?) and continues to be involved with the Columbia College Alumni Association. She encourages everyone to donate to Columbia and to mentor a current CC student (college.columbia.edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring)!



**Submit
Your
Photo**



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

2003

Michael Novielli
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Our classmates continue to have an impact on a variety of industries, including higher education and entertainment. We are also excited to learn about additions to a number of classmate families. Please remember that I'm happy to include an update about anything that's new in your lives — it need not necessarily be a new job or baby; you can share about a new volunteer gig, a recent trip you took or even restaurant/bar recommendations. I hope to hear from you soon!

Adam Libove writes, "I'm delighted to report that on April 28 at 7:09 a.m. my wife, Barbara, gave birth to our daughter, Maya Sasha, who weighed in at 7 lbs., 6 oz., and was 19 inches long. Mom, baby and brother Aaron are doing great!"

Oscar Chow writes, "My wife and I welcomed twin boys, Axel and Elliott, on September 21, 2018. Our daughter, Kiva (3), now loves her brothers very much."

Andrea Paul (née Herbst) writes, "My husband, **Jacques Paul SEAS'03**, and I live in Somerville, Mass., and I am in-house corporate and securities counsel at Akebia Therapeutics in Cambridge. We have two young daughters who just started at a French-English bilingual school. We would love to reconnect with classmates who come through the Boston area!"

Beth Mickle writes, "I'm the production designer on a (pretty big!) movie for Warner Bros./DC Comics, *The Suicide Squad* — a reboot of the comic book movie franchise. James Gunn is our director. And in November, I have another movie coming out that I production designed last year, *Motherless Brooklyn*. It was written and directed by Edward Norton, who is also the lead actor in the film. It's based on the Jonathan Lethem novel by the same name."

Amy Phillips writes, "I recently celebrated four years of marriage to my husband, Elia Einhorn. Our daughter, Alana Conwy Ann Phillips (we call her Conwy), is 2. We live in Brooklyn."

"August 1 marked my 14-year anniversary at the music website Pitchfork. Earlier this year, I was

promoted to managing editor. When I started in 2005, I was one of five employees in a small office in Chicago. Today, Pitchfork is part of Condé Nast and has a staff of 50. I have an office in One World Trade Center, overlooking the Statue of Liberty."

Stacey-Ann Johnson writes, "My husband, Yves Noel, and I were blessed with a little girl, Maya-Simone Noel, in December 2018. We got married in October 2017. Also, **Gladys Chang** got married in May of this year to Andrew Ho. The wedding was officiated by **Simone Sebastian** and attended by **Diane Webber SEAS'03**."

Paul Morton writes, "I received a Ph.D. in cinema studies from the University of Washington last year. I will soon be a lecturer at the University of Washington. I frequently publish my work at the *Los Angeles Review of Books*."

Mark J. Mann is an assistant professor in the urology department at Thomas Jefferson University.

Katie Benvenuto BUS'12 continues to serve alma mater as the senior executive director for development for Columbia College, Arts & Sciences and Athletics.

2004

Jaydip Mahida
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I hope this issue finds everyone well and that those of you who were able to attend Reunion Weekend 2019 had a great time. It was fun catching up with so many old friends — and I think we will all fondly remember **Steph Lung**'s speech for many, many years to come.

Christine Luu writes, "Recently moved to Agoura Hills, Calif., with my wife, Lindsay, and started a job at DC Entertainment (home of DC Comics and a subsidiary of Warner Bros.) in Burbank as a director of business affairs. I can't believe it's been 15 years since we graduated. Hope to catch up sometime. Sending everyone good wishes."

Rachel Neugarten writes, "After seven years living and working in Washington, D.C., I am moving to Ithaca, N.Y., to begin a Ph.D. program in the natural resources department at Cornell University. I welcome any CC alums to visit; let's hike some gorges!"

Please send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but also feel free 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 address at the top of the column or through the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact
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Development Contact
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Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Happy fall, CC'05. The 15-year reunion will be here in June, so mark your calendars now!

Brendon-Jeremi Jobs writes, "I have had so many opportunities to really drive my inclusion work to some unexpected spaces since attending Harvard's Graduate School of Education's Race Equity & Leadership workshop in the spring. I sat for two podcast interviews related to the work of equity, inclusion and social justice in schools. The themes I've been thinking about are 'Practicing Habits for Engaging the Racial Elephant' and 'Storytelling as Empowerment in Schools.' The first — with German-town Radio's 'The (Not So) Hidden Agenda' — focused on storytelling as empowerment in schools. The second — on Third Space with Jen Cort — offered space for me to reflect on the role of the diversity director in schools. This past summer I attended the Teachers College Reimagining Education Conference before heading to San Diego with my partner to visit my littlest sister, who is training in the Navy."

From **John Kluge**: "In June, I formally launched the Refugee Investment Network, the first impact investing and blended finance collaborative dedicated to durable solutions to forced migration. This is truly a global, all-hands-on-deck effort, so I'd love to extend

an invitation to the Columbia community to engage with us! Learn more at refugeeinvestments.org."

From **Tanya Franklin**: "I'm running for school board for Los Angeles Unified. Los Angeles Unified School District is the second-largest school district in the country, and it's where I grew up, where I taught for five years with Teach For America after graduation and where I've been working since 2011 with the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, aiming to transforming some of the highest-need schools in the district."

Please take a moment to share your news. We would love to hear from you!

2006

Michelle Oh Sing
mo2057@columbia.edu

Wishing the members of the Class of 2006 a happy and healthy fall. Please take a moment to share your news with the class by sending an email to mo2057@columbia.edu.

2007

David D. Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your exciting news. Now for exciting updates from our classmates!

Rebecca Boti (née Liu) shares, "With heavy heart we left our perfect Brooklyn apartment and made the great migration to the suburbs of Westchester this year. As we settle into our new existence and plug into the local network, we would be excited to connect with fellow alums and families here. Please reach out!"

David Greenhouse writes, "My wife, Emily, and I are happy to report the birth of our daughter, Elleda Louise, on May 29 in Berlin."

Philippa Warodell writes, "We continue to live happily in Stockholm, and I am working for H&M's new advanced analytics and AI function. Hoping to get to New York during my maternity leave, but traveling with two children under 3 is looking daunting"

Josie Raymond JRN'08 (née Swindler) shares "I finished my first session as a Kentucky State



FRANK BAEZ

Eric Bondarsky '07 (left), Ezra Dweck '97 (center) and Bashar Mourad in December at an event hosted by NYU Langone Orthopedic Pulmonary Associates.

Representative both more frustrated and more determined than ever. The majority passed unconstitutional bills that will be struck down in court and did little to improve the daily life of the average Kentuckian. I continue to build a coalition supporting pre-K for all and full-day kindergarten, the single most important investments we can make for stronger communities."

2008

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Happy fall, CC'08!

Congratulations to **Vedia Eidelman** (née Biton) and **Vlad Eidelman SEAS'08**, who welcomed a baby boy in August 2018!

Also congratulations to **Jia Guo BUS'15**, who shares, "My husband, Wei Ke SEAS'03, BUS'09, and I are very excited to announce the arrival of our baby boy, Theo, born on June 27 at over 7 lbs. and 20 inches long. He is happy, healthy and eagerly exploring the world."

Alex Gartenfeld is artistic director at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami. He recently organized major exhibitions and catalogues for Ettore Sottsass and Paulo Nazareth. Forthcoming are first museum surveys for Sterling Ruby and Allan McCollum. Alex has edited 20 catalogues during the past two years, added 100 works to the museum's collection and led a successful campaign for ICA Miami's launch.

Great work, Alex!

Thanks to all who wrote! Please take a moment to share your news in an upcoming issue by writing to the email address at the top of the column.

2009

Chantee Dempsey
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David Derish (who earned an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2015) is the recipient of a 2019–20 award from the inaugural grant program of The Cooper Union to develop a multimedia resource to assist students in establishing an independent, environmentally responsible studio art practice. He is the studio manager for the Painting Department.

Michael Emerson and Adina Bitton BC'08 are moving to Jerusalem, Israel, with their daughters, Maayan, Lital and Keren. Michael spent three years working for The Wexner Foundation as director of the Wexner Service Corps, a teen service-learning fellowship in Columbus, Ohio. Look them up next time you're in Israel and schedule a coffee date to catch up.

Ashleigh Aviles earned a master's in human development and family science from the University of Texas at Austin in her doctoral program this past spring.

Dan Amrhein is moving with his wife, Melissa, and infant daughter from Seattle to Boulder in October. Dan spent the last decade (!) researching the physics of the oceans and climate, which included a couple of swashbuckling sea voyages but mostly involved using climate models to study Earth's geologic past. In Boulder he will work at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. He is looking forward to hiking the Rockies, building a pizza oven and somehow morphing into a ripped triathlete, like everyone else in that town.

Ralph DeBernardo and Kaitlyn Busler DeBernardo '10 welcomed Charlotte Mia into the world on April 14. Ralph shares, "Charlotte came in at a solid 8 lbs. and almost 21 inches long, solidifying her as a future Columbia Lion volleyball player — Class of 2042! We celebrated her baptism along with godfather **Gene Kaskiw** on July 14 at home in New Jersey. We had multiple CC grads in attendance, including **Gary Mesko** and **Megan Donovan '10**."

Please send any life updates to be included in an upcoming issue!

2010

REUNION 2020
JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact
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ccfund@columbia.edu

Julia Feldberg Klein
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

Jordan Fraade and Emma Curran Hulse '09 were married on June 2 in Brown County, Ind., near Emma's



JOE DEBERNARDO

Kaitlyn DeBernardo (née Busler) '10 and Ralph DeBernardo '09 at their daughter's July 14 baptism at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Washington Township, N.J.

hometown of Indianapolis. The couple met after college through a mutual friend from Columbia, and worked backward to figure out they'd attended all the same dinner parties at Potluck House. Alumni in attendance included **Rahel Aima**, **Becky Davies**, **Megan Eardley**, **Kabita Parajuli**, **Kate Redburn**, **Laura Seidman**, **Salman Somjee**, **Jonathan Battat SEAS'09**, **John Klopfer '09**, **Jardine Wall '09** and **Dave Plotz '06**.

Laura Weldon writes, "I still have one more year to go to finish my medical degree, but I received an M.S. in integrative mental health this past June! I am a neurodiversity advocate and am researching autism."

Kaitlyn DeBernardo and **Ralph DeBernardo '09** welcomed their first child, Charlotte Mia, on April 14, weighing 8 lbs. and measuring 20.75 inches long. On July 14, she was baptized in New Jersey, where **Gene Kaskiw '09** was named her godfather. Charlotte is already measuring off the charts and her parents are hoping she will be a Columbia athlete like they were!

Morgan Parker's debut young adult novel, *Who Put This Song On?*, will be published in September. Her third collection of poetry, *Magical Negro*, was released earlier this year.

In June, **Michael Bossetta** completed a Ph.D. in the political science department at the University of Copenhagen. His research examines social media's impact on politics and elections. Michael will continue his research during a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Lund University in Sweden, where he is

Holler at Us in Haiku!

Core, one hundred years!
What's a fun way to note it?
Poetry from you.

We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku**. Send your 5-7-5 recollections to cct_centennial@columbia.edu, and we'll run our favorites in the next three issues' Class Notes.



leading the project “Self-Effects on Social Media and Political Polarization.” Using data from the 2019 European elections, the project investigates whether posting about politics on social media encourages the polarization of public opinion. The project was awarded a Seal of Excellence from the European Commission and is funded by Sweden’s Innovation Agency. You can find out more about Michael’s research by checking out his podcast, *Social Media and Politics*.

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
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Hey, 2011. It’s with a heavy heart that we report the loss of **Trevis Glenn Welcome-Joyner**. Trevis, ever the loving force, was a remarkable classmate. The void created by his death this past May will be felt in our community for a lifetime. We remember Trevis by dedicating this column to his memory. The following (from which excerpts were pulled) was originally published on the website for the Cremation Society of Georgia. The excerpts have been reprinted with its permission.

“Trevis Glenn Welcome-Joyner had the kind of warmth of personality that inspired and changed the people around him, from small children to people decades older. ‘He is magnetic,’ his mother, Tracie Joyner,

said. ‘People are just drawn to him. He is an extraordinary human being.’

“Trevis, 30, passed away Thursday, May 9, 2019, at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., after years of living his life joyfully and valiantly in the face of a terrible cancer and in defiance of its attempt to define him.

“If you knew Trev, I know you loved him,’ his wife, Maxine Welcome-Joyner, wrote. ‘My heart is breaking for all the people who will be saddened by the passing of him. Let grief take you where you need to go, but also be joyous. He was joyous and laughing to the very end, and I know he would want everyone else to be.’

“Trevis was not only a son, husband, and brother, but also a teacher, mentor and friend. He was a graduate of Lithia Springs H.S. in Douglas County, Ga., and Columbia University in New York, where he double majored in computer science and psychology. He also attended Culver Academy in Culver, Indiana, which introduced him to the sport of fencing. He later went on to fence in college and was a member of the Columbia Fencing Team when they won the Ivy League Championship in 2008.

“Trevis was a dedicated teacher and most recently worked as a second-grade intervention specialist at KIPP Strive Primary School, a public charter school in Atlanta’s Westside neighborhood. He began his career in education at KIPP AMP Elementary School in Brooklyn, New York, where he was a Founding Kindergarten Teacher, followed by a Founding First Grade

Teacher and then a Founding Science Teacher for grades K-2. He later worked as a Second Grade Teacher at KIPP Ignite Academy in South Los Angeles after moving to California. Throughout his teaching career, Trevis made a point of reaching out to the students who needed him most. The mother of one of his students commented, ‘Trevis meant the world to me and mine. He is forever in our hearts. Know that his time here in New York was well spent impacting so many young minds. He is forever a part of our family.’ Another parent wrote, ‘Trevis was my daughter’s kindergarten teacher in 2013 at KIPP in NYC. She loved him and had a special bond with him. He was so good to her. When she heard the news he had passed, she was sad and calmly said, ‘He taught me how to read. I am going to miss him. He just got me.’ She was a shy student and he definitely had an impact on her.’ ...

“Throughout his life, Trevis never lost his thirst for learning. He was a deep thinker with an intellectual curiosity that drew people in and encouraged dialog. When others spoke, Trevis let them know he was listening. ...

“It was hard for anyone to meet him and not love him right away,’ wrote Helen Werbe, one of Trevis’s close friends from college. ‘In fact, I have so many friends and family he met over the years on who he made such positive impressions that they, even if they had only met him once, would continue to ask how he was doing. To me, this was incredible. No one else would be remembered like that.’ ...

“Trevis faced a devastating diagnosis in the fall of 2015, but rather than allowing it to shatter him, he chose to embrace a new phase of life. He moved to Los Angeles with Maxine, he traveled, read, ate and loved. When he and Maxine moved home to Atlanta, he drove cross country with his younger brother, Hayden. To the delight of friends and family, he and Maxine were married in December 2018 in a ceremony that the two of them created. Trevis’s vows to Maxine were largely improvised. When he spoke from his heart, Maxine’s tears were joined by those in attendance, many of whom traveled across the country to witness this special union.

“In an online remembrance, Claire Turner, another college friend



Columbia varsity soccer teammates Nick Faber ’12, Zach Glubiak ’12, Will Young ’13, Nick Scott ’13, Ronnie Shaban SEAS’12, Jesse Vella SEAS’12, Francois Anderson ’12, Henning Sauerbier ’14 and Michael Shazzullo ’12 (along with some friends) met up to play in New York City.

and former co-worker, described Trevis as ‘the rock of our friend group’ whose boundless love and enthusiasm for food, music, and children left a deep impression on all who knew him. ‘Eight years was not enough time to have known you, my friend. We had a lot more living to do,’ she wrote. ‘In his honor, talk to a stranger, try a new food, laugh with your children, dance. Live life to the fullest, because we know that’s what he would be doing.’

“After his passing, Tracie received this message from someone she had never met, ‘You don’t know me, but I recently heard the news about Trevis. What I will always remember about him is his joy – his joy in people, his joy in food, music, dance, everything. Trevis inspired everyone he met to be a better person, and also to live life with joy. He inspires me! I will live my life as joyfully as I can, because that’s what Trevis would do!’”

2012

Sarah Chai
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Hey, all! Hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to fall!

A core group of some Columbia varsity men’s soccer teammates play in New York every Saturday, but on one summer weekend some additional guys were in town for a wedding. **Nick Faber, Zach Glubiak, Will Young ’13, Nick Scott ’13, Ronnie**



A group of CC’11 classmates at graduation (left to right): Dave Feig, Jonathan Tanners, Dhruv Vasishtha, Louis Fisher, Trevis Welcome-Joyner, Javed Basu-Kesselman, Ben Berger, Mujib Mashal and Sam Frank.

Celebrations

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform. In this issue, we also highlight three engagements of couples in which both alumni are College grads. Congratulations!



SWEETWATER PORTRAITS



JINNY K PHOTOGRAPHY



MICHELLE VARELA OF OCEANLAB STUDIOS



1. James Glynn '15 and Lisa Harshman '15 recently got engaged.

2. Jeanine Alvarez '14 and Mycheal Crafton SEAS'14 got engaged in June at the American Museum of Natural History. In attendance to celebrate were friends Nelson Castaño '14, Cathi Choi '13, Johnny Fells III SEAS'16, Akinyele Jordan '15 and Jachele Vélez '11.

3. On August 25, 2018, Alisa Parker '07 (née Gross) married Hal Parker in Philadelphia. Top row, left to right: Chris Danzig GS'05, Sari Linson Danzig SEAS'06, Ellie Bernick BC'11, Carey Gibbons '03, Max Talbot-Minkin '07, Risa Chubinsky '07, Susan Millenky '07, Roger Stefin '75 LAW'79, Katie Kluger Kenigsberg BC'07, Kwame Spearman '06 and Laura Lariu Roberts '06. Bottom row, left to right: Ruth Gross (Alisa's niece), the bride, Professor Emeritus Jonathan Gross, Rena Gross '02 and Andrew Napier LAW'13.

4. Taylor Willis (née Troutt) '18 married Titus Willis '18 in Gadsden, Ala., on August 11, 2018. Left to right: Jesse Thorson '18, Saúl De La O Villa SEAS'18, the groom, the bride, Rebecca Ohaeri '18 and Rachel Lipski BC'18.

5. Many CC alumni gathered at the August 2018 wedding of Jenieve Guevarra-Fernández '12 and Amín Guevarra-Fernández '11 in Elizabeth, N.J. First row, left to right: Christina Ortiz '12, Alejandro Ortiz SEAS'15, Melanie Ortiz, Ximena Fonseca BC'15, Jasmine Ruiz BC'15, Christina Gee BC'14, the bride, the groom, Steven Martinez '11, Robert Taronji, Eric Kay Kyere '12 and Richard Parraga SEAS'14. Second row, left to right: Christian Morales SEAS'14, Ernesto Jacobs SEAS'13, Johanna Miele '12, Julian Vigil SEAS'17, Andrew Padilla, Doric Sam and Lucelys Popoter BC'14. Third row, left to right: Carolina Stairs GSAS'13, Emmanuel Arnaud '13, Juan Carlos Garcia SEAS'12, Brian Velez SEAS'14, Gilbert Nunez '13, Elizabeth Angeles '13, Michael Barrientos SEAS '12 and Michael Elias SEAS'15. Forth row, left to right: Jibreel Adekiigbe SEAS'14, Jason Tejada '13 and Jose Escano.

6. Andrew Ren '15 and Sida Li '15 got engaged on April 26.



VICTOR N.

Shaban SEAS'12, Jesse Vella SEAS'12, Francois Anderson, Henning Sauerbier '14 and Michael Mazzullo were able to catch up over the game!

I hope to hear from the rest of you soon. You can submit updates by writing to me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Until next time!

2013

Tala Akhavan
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It is with a heavy heart that we dedicate this quarter's Class of 2013 column to the memory of **Brian DeVeau**, who sadly passed away on June 23, 2019.

Brian was a beloved member of the class and a devoted player on the varsity football team. He majored in economics and, in football, he played defensive back and offensive slot back. Many classmates remember Brian's signature bright smile lighting up our campus. He was an investment analyst with Merrill Lynch before becoming an associate investment banker with Mizuho Bank. Most recently, Brian was the managing director of mergers and acquisitions at Taylored Services, a portfolio company of Saybrook Corporate Opportunity Funds, while pursuing an M.B.A.

In memory of Brian, we've collected thoughts, memories and short stories about him from members of the Class of 2013. He will be deeply

missed and remembered by the Columbia community.

Robert Sigmon: "I'm confident there has never been anyone quite like Brian DeVeau. I was fortunate enough to befriend Brian as an incoming freshman at Columbia when he was still entrenched in his phase of oversized sweatpants, buzz cuts and carrying around a gallon of water everywhere he went. It didn't take long for him to become one of the most beloved individuals in the program and one of my closest friends. He didn't need many words (and even fewer over text messages) to make his mark on those he cared about. He led by example on and off the field by showing an unbreakable commitment to his teammates, friends and family. He was the ultimate teammate and a brother to many on the team, including me. Through college and two years of rooming together afterward, he taught me the value and importance of being authentic. Brian was never afraid to be himself, and that's what made people gravitate toward him. You will always be missed and loved, Bri."

Sean Brackett: "Brian was a great friend, teammate, roommate and even better person. We 'grew up' together, from 17/18-year-old public school freshmen with no idea about our futures, to Ivy League graduates. Literally every time I saw Brian, he brought a smile to my face. Whether it was his choice of style/fashion (or lack thereof as an underclassman!) or his unique phrases and sayings that he was so known for, he was always in good spirits and showing his positive light to others. He was a fierce competitor in everything he did; football, working out, in the classroom. Brian was always going to give his absolute best. I will miss his laugh, his positive energy and just talking to my boy. I'm blessed to have made so many great, crazy, hilarious, awesome memories with him. He will always live on through these memories. Rest easy, my brother. I love you. Roar, Lion, Roar forever."

Andrew Weiss: "Because we both played football, Brian was one of the first people I met at Columbia. We grew up about 15 minutes away from each other in New Jersey and even played football against each other when we were younger. When you spend nearly every day with someone for four years, you cannot help but acquire countless memories and



Left to right, Shad Sommers '13, Seyi Adebayo '14, Cameron Ross '13, Ryan Murphy '13, Xander Frantz SEAS'13 and Brian DeVeau '13.

stories, and I probably have enough anecdotes to fill the magazine. I will summarize by saying that I will always remember Brian as three things: a great teammate, a special person and an incredible friend.

"Brian was a tremendous teammate. He loved football, always put the team first, and displayed a tireless work ethic. In the locker room, he was revered and loved by all of his teammates. He even saved my butt (and his!) one day when we both walked to the bus together for practice, only to realize that there was no bus and that none of our teammates were standing at 116th and Broadway. While I was already running through the many different horrible scenarios of how we would be penalized for being late, Brian hailed a cab for us and told the cab driver we were late to practice. Incredibly, we somehow made it to Baker on time to quickly get dressed along with our teammates, many of whom were already in their pads. I can say I was never late for anything in four years because of Brian!

"Beyond football, Brian was a special person and a terrific friend. He was a great man from a great family. His trademark smile and vibrant laugh will not be forgotten by those who knew him. He was incredibly selfless and eventually I came to realize that his frustrating text message exchanges — with one-word questions or comments — were simply his way of checking in on those he cared about.

"But above all, my college experience, and my life, would not have

been the same had I never met Brian. I cannot think about my time at Columbia without thinking of Brian's presence in all of it. From our first days of moving in to Carman Hall to going out to Senior Nights together, Brian was an integral part of everything on and off the field. Among the many memories, I will always remember living down the hall from him in Broadway over the summer going into our senior year, hanging out on Saturday nights after wins and losses with our teammates and the time spent at his family's home in New Jersey. I will always treasure the countless hours we spent together and our friendship over all these years. Brian represented the very best of Columbia and I know I join all of my classmates and all of my teammates in saying that we will miss him deeply."

Nicholas Mills: "Brian and I were Carman 12 suitmates; we shared the suite with both **Steve Santos** and **Sean Brackett**.

"One of my first memories of Brian was teaching him how to do laundry in the sub-basement of Carman. I recall him knocking on my door to ask for help; he took me to the washer he had previously run a batch of clothes through and asked why they weren't clean. I then asked if he put laundry detergent in before he ran the washer, to which he responded 'no.' I knew right then I had my work cut out for me.

"Brian and I hung out when we could; I remember he had originally started college as a pre-med student and we had similar class schedules.



Submit
Your
Photo



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.



JJ5 freshman floormates met up at their fifth reunion this past June. Left to right: Alexander Pensler '14, Suhas Thalapaneni '14, Kevin Zhang '14, Nick Parker '14, Jonathan Hofman '14, Solomon Hoffman '14, Joel Camacho '14, Dana Benami '14, Yaas Bigdeli SEAS'14, Anthony Ramirez '14, Nim Gumaste '14, Sarita Patankar '14, Rebecca Fattell '14 and Vikas Vavilala '14.

We definitely spent a NYE together in NYC, though I can't recall the locale. He had his group of football players and I had my group of wrestlers but we were certainly friends. He honestly didn't go out much, but I do remember one night at the now-throwback Campo; he wasn't afraid to dance but he was wonderfully awkward at it. His smile was absolutely contagious and he laughed a sort of laugh that was distinguishable from thousands. He

had a natural curiosity about things, albeit I had a hard time discerning when he was being genuine or sarcastic. I assumed the latter almost always yet entertained his inquiries. He was a good friend."

Cameron Ross: "Brian was a great classmate, teammate and friend. His strong work ethic built through sports carried over into his personal life. He was loyal to a fault once you got to know him and a genuine person who was always

there for you. His smile and laugh could brighten up a room and he will be deeply missed by many."

Bob Hauschildt '12: "Brian was one of the hardest working people I've ever met. He would put his heart and soul into every single thing he did. His intensity was unwavering, whether it be on the football field, in the classroom or simply tossing a ball around. But the thing I'll remember most is he did all of this with a massive smile that went from ear to ear. Brian smiled with his whole body and that will always stay with me. Brian was a great teammate and a better friend and he will be sorely missed."

Maria Sulimirski: "I will always remember Brian's kind eyes and big smile. He had the same sweet presence in our elementary and middle school classrooms in Kinnelon, N.J., as he did when we crossed paths again moving into Carman a few years later. Sending all of my love and prayers to his beautiful family."

Andrew Heinrich: "Brian was, above all, a great teammate. He cared deeply about all of us, and was always fun to be around. What I remember most about Brian is how he continued to be a great 'teammate' even after our final game. Brian always took interest in what we were doing and did his utmost to support us. Nothing epitomizes Brian more than the texts I would get with ideas he had for me to use at work or when he would show up to my work events just to show his support. I think my ultimate memory of Brian is him tracking me down in Ferris our junior year with notes he had written out with ideas for how to take something I was working on to the next level."

Ashley Zambito: "Brian, you always made a room shine, and you will forever shine down on us. Your caring heart exhibited such brilliance and you were loved just as much, if not more, in return."

"I for one, will always remember our special times at Columbia. I enjoyed learning more about you each year as our major, sports and general interests fueled our friendship. As you tended to keep quiet around most, I knew you to be incredibly caring and that you were always there for me, your teammates and your friends. From our fun trips downtown, to our almost daily study sessions, to doing our best to enjoy all of our econ classes, words can't

explain the laughter and moments we shared, but I will always hold them close to my heart."

"I am sending my prayers, love and best Brian smile to you and your family. Nothing will replace your loss, but you filled us all with great joy that we will have forever."

Sabaah Jordan: "Sending all my love to the friends and family of Brian DeVeau. He was a truly awesome guy, always kind and funny, always working hard in the gym. He was one of the people who made my Columbia experience memorable in the best way. I am deeply saddened and know his loss will be a heavy weight on everyone who knew him."

2014

Rebecca Fattell
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It was wonderful to see so many of you at our five-year reunion! It's hard to believe that five years have passed since graduation. Our JJ5 freshman floor did an excellent job of finding each other for a picture, and I got to see **Alexander Pensler, Suhas Thalapaneni, Kevin Zhang, Nick Parker, Jonathan Hofman, Solomon Hoffman, Joel Camacho, Dana Benami, Yaas Bigdeli SEAS'14, Anthony Ramirez, Nim Gumaste, Sarita Patankar and Vikas Vavilala.**

Roniquee Marksman had a great time catching up with classmates at reunion! After three years at Ember Charter School in Brooklyn, she will be pursuing a master's in Chicago. If



Karina Braggalla '15 (left), Chris Canales '14 (center) and Nora Rose BC'15 played trivia in El Paso, Texas.

Holler at Us in Haiku!

Core, one hundred years!
What's a fun way to note it?
Poetry from you.



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CC'15 friends recently traveled to Chicago to visit Bitania Wondimu. Left to right: Wondimu, Vishal Alluri, Kareem Carryl and Mihika Barua.

you are in the area and would like to connect, let her know.

Sam Kazer and Julia Sayles BC'14 were married overlooking the Long Island Sound in New Rochelle, N.Y., on July 13. The couple met at a Musical Mentors party thrown in Sam's Ruggles suite during their junior year. Sam taught Julia how to play beer pong, and the two bonded over playing Cards Against Humanity. Now living in Boston, Sam and Julia fill their time outside lab and teaching with pub trivia, *MasterChef*, home brewing and making music.

Jeanine Alvarez and **Mycheal Crafton** SEAS'14, SEAS'17 got engaged this June at the American Museum of Natural History. There to celebrate were a few of their closest friends, **Nelson Castaño**, Cathi Choi '13, Johnny Fells III SEAS'16, Akinyele Jordan '15 and Jachele Vélez '11, LAW'17.

Finn Vigeland graduated in May from the Harvard Graduate School of Design with a master's in urban planning and moved to Washington, D.C., in July, where he lives with Jay Rappaport '18. Finn is a transportation planner at Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning in Rockville, Md. He hopes to fix the MTA someday, but for now is looking forward to meeting Lions in the D.C. area!

Eric Ingram is completing a master's degree/teaching credential program at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Education to become a high school English teacher in California.

Chris Canales is chief of staff to Rep. Cissy Lizarraga in El Paso, and a professional soccer referee in the USL Championship (the second division in the United States and Canada, one level below Major League Soccer). He recently got engaged to Nora Rose BC'15, and they plan to tie the knot in NYC next year. They've also formed a pub trivia triad, Updog, with Karina Brasgalla '15, and they love to host visiting Columbia friends in the Borderland to help them crush the competition.

2015

REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

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Hello, Class of 2015! By the time you read this, we will be less than one year away from our five-year reunion. I cannot wait to see you all there and learn more about what you all been up to! But do not wait until then — as we start to see more graduations, new jobs, engagements and other life happenings, please write to me, or feel free to nominate someone for me to reach out to! We would love to have more stories and photos for Class Notes!

Here's what some of our friends have been up to lately:

Another reason to thank Columbia Housing: **Sida Li** and **Andrew Ren** got engaged in New York City on April 26. They met on campus and were RAs together!

Lisa Harshman and **James Glynn** have also recently gotten engaged! Congratulations!

Courtney Garrity is 700 miles into thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail! She writes, "I did the first 550 on my own and am now hiking the next 400 with a research group conducting avian, herptile, vegetation and eDNA surveys through the southern Sierra Nevadas."

Stella Zhao let us know that **Esme Levy** founded a clothing company that mainly designs yoga pants that makes leg prints of insects as the yoga pant print to raise awareness for vulnerable ecosystems. Stella also let us know that **Kristine Musademba**, **Chloe Durkin** and **Esme Levy** flew to Houston for 48 hours to cheer her on for her first crochet competition. Fun fact: The event lasted 14 hours with 68 meters of yarn. Her friends stayed for the whole event!

And a quick update from me: I recently traveled to Chicago with **Mihika Barua** and **Vishal Alluri** for a weekend of fun visiting **Bitania Wondimu**, who is attending Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

As always, your classmates want to hear from you. Please be sure to

submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
liukrason@gmail.com

Hey, CC'16! From talking to many of you at Reunion Weekend 2019, it seems we've all been pretty busy! Here are some highlights:

From **Tyler Huyser**: "Being biracial, I've always been asked, 'What are you?' Confused by the question and the frequency with which it was asked sparked a desire in me to learn about the racialized and cultural experiences of others from an early age. After completing my film degree at Columbia and moving south to begin a career in the burgeoning Georgia film industry, this fascination was transformed into action when the hateful dialogue of the 2016 election grew deafening. I sought to compile the stories of others with the intention of creating a platform to share them with the world."

"The project morphed from a simple interview series (à la Humans of New York) into a virtual reality project, Walk In My Shoes. It has since blossomed into a media company that links innovative technology with storytelling media in order to create high-impact platforms



CC'16 alumni met in April to support Madison Ford at the NYC screening of *Nathan's Kingdom*, in which Ford stars. Left to right: Grayson Warrick, Dan Multer, Ford, Brandon Martinez and Lily Liu-Krason.



Phantila Phataraprasit '16 and Caitlin de Lisser-Ellen '16 co-founded the sustainable furniture company Sabai Design.

that inspire inclusivity. We recently launched on social. Follow us on Instagram @walkinmyshoesmedia to check out our stories."

Shen Qiu successfully hit five continents in a month on a work trip helping Uber Eats grow its business globally. He lives in San Francisco and is looking for a language buddy to practice French, Spanish and Japanese — let him know at sq2145@columbia.edu if you're interested!

Phantila Phataraprasit and **Caitlin de Lisser-Ellen** launched their sustainable furniture company, Sabai

Design. Inspired by the movement to rethink excessive consumption in other entrenched industries, Sabai aims to challenge the fast furniture model and make pieces that are sustainable, beautiful and work with a flexible lifestyle. The "Closed Loop" program will extend the lifecycle of the pieces through a buy-back program, where any Sabai sofa can be purchased back at a discount and sold secondhand. Follow them on Instagram @sabai.design or email them at general@sabai.design.

In April I went with **Grayson Warrick**, **Dan Multer**, **Madison**

Ford and **Brandon Martinez** to support Madison in her leading role in the film *Nathan's Kingdom* at its New York screening.

What have you all been up to? As always, write in to say hello!

2017

Carl Yin
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Elle Wisnicki moved to San Diego and became a homeowner!

Karisma Price recently completed a master's program at NYU and graduated with an M.F.A. in poetry. This fall she is a visiting assistant professor at Tulane University.

It's been a wild year and a half since **Marina Chan's** last Class Note, thanks to a casual lunch with her former theatre professor, Hana Worthen. That lunch ended up launching a one-year series of panel discussions conceived, curated and organized by Marina, in collaboration with the Barnard Theatre Department and the Asia Society's Performing Arts Department. The series, "Asian Americans in Theatre: Art and Activism," consisted of three panels involving theater professionals and scholars discussing Asian-American theater, artistic identity and activism, with an eye to expediting awareness and change. The series (and a corresponding lecture Marina gave at Barnard) came at a ripe time, filling in dire gaps in Marina's knowledge and coinciding with what turned out to be a watershed year for Asian-American representation in entertainment. Ideally the momentum will continue, for all minorities.

Now, with the series completed and having recently returned from a family trip (worst part: purse theft in Stockholm; best part: Rovaniemi, Finland, gateway to the Arctic Circle and home of Santa Claus and his reindeer!), Marina will strive to contribute to that momentum through playwriting and she hopes performing, as well, if she isn't too rusty (seeing as her first role was the Tin-"Gal" in *The Wiz*, in middle school!).

Nate Barasch is moving to Tokyo for a year at the end of September to work in the IT innovation department in the head office of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. He would love for classmates who live there or will be visiting to reach out, as he will not

know anyone there going in. よろしくお願ひします!

This fall, **Brian Manzo** will start in the statistics Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan.

Brynn Harris writes, "After graduating with an M.P.H., I moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, where I'm the administrative fellow for the University of Utah's Hospitals & Clinics. I'm enjoying the mountains and can't wait to take my baby pug, Vegas, hiking with me."

And a note from me (**Carl Yin**): I am moving to the Bay Area in the fall, and would love to connect with anyone out there!

2018

Alexander Birkel and
Maleeha Chida
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Thanks to everyone who sent us their exciting updates! As always, keep us posted about your adventures, big or small.

Antonia Georgieva writes, "I am based in London, working on an M.F.A. in advanced theatre practice at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Recently, I founded the female-led Aslant Theatre Company, and we performed our debut production, *MUSE*, as part of the Camden Fringe Festival in London in August. The show will transfer to the Tristan Bates Theatre



Perry Kerner '18 (left) and Dylan Cooper '18 met up in Nyhavn, Copenhagen.

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Members of the crew of the upcoming film *Glance from the Edge*, filmed in Bulgaria, posed in a lavender field. Included in the photograph are Kosta Karakashyan '19, Lora Beltcheva '19, Stephanie Handjiiska, Kevin Chiu SEAS'17 and Julien Leitner '20.

for a weeklong run in November. We would love to see any Columbia alumni there!"

Perry Kerner and **Dylan Cooper** started medical school in August at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University and Hofstra University, respectively. Before all the hard work began, they met up in Nyhavn, Copenhagen!

Kelly Powers is getting a Ph.D. in classics at Florida State University. She originally enrolled in the master's program there but switched into the Ph.D. program during her second semester. Her degree track focuses on ancient Greek and Latin language and literature. Kelly's areas of interest are Greek and Latin poetry, gender and sexuality in ancient poetry, and reception of poetry (how later writers interact with and respond to earlier writers).

This past June, **Maleeha Chida** returned from a year in northern Spain as a Fulbright Scholar. She taught English at a secondary school in La Rioja, Spain's wine-growing region. While she misses her school and the beauty of the northern Spanish landscape, she is excited to be back in New York City, where she is an analyst at the law firm Kobre & Kim.

2019

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Congratulations, Class of 2019! We are officially alumni and are excited to stay in touch. Send Class Notes for future issues to **Emily Gruber** and **Tj Aspen Givens** to either of the email addresses above. We will miss you all during back-to-school season on Morningside Heights!

Here are our first updates as alumni!

Alan Blaesser is teaching sailing lessons on the Cape.

Elise Fuller recently moved to New Jersey and is a consulting analyst at Accenture.

Heidi Hai sends an update from Paris: "In preparation for attending NYU Law in the fall, I decided to

go to Paris to better my French and do some 'soul searching,' as self-help handbooks would probably term the sum of my museum-going, cinema-hunting and historic site excursions of ambiguous nature. I enjoy the immediate, sentimental reactions paintings and sculptures have been giving me. Walking in the streets of Paris, seeing a largely similar picture of the city as Parisians during the Belle Epoque and stepping into palaces that housed kings and queens 400 years ago, I sense how history elevates me from a relatively mundane version of life. Two months after graduation, I feel readier for my future, and I hope you do too."

Dancing alumni **Kosta Karakashyan** and **Lora Beltcheva** are collaborating on the film *Glance from the Edge*, which wrapped up filming this past summer across 12 cultural/historical sites in Bulgaria — Sofia, Plovdiv, Prohodna cave, the Black Sea coast, Ovech Fortress and many others. Kosta is directing and choreographing the film in collaboration with fellow Bulgarian dancer/choreographer Stephanie Handjiiska after they worked together on a project in Egypt last year, and Lora is their invaluable line producer, making sure the budget, travel and filming logistics are all in order.

Glance from the Edge is a Bulgarian-American collaboration between co-directors and choreographers Kosta and Stephanie, DoP Kevin

Chiu SEAS'17, composer Julien Leitner '20 (stage name Jude Icarus) and line producer Lora. The project is supported by the National Culture Fund of Bulgaria, Derida Dance Center, and is an associated project for Plovdiv 2019 - European Capital of Culture. *Glance from the Edge* is a short film about six individuals who find themselves swept across a tapestry of 12 Bulgarian landscapes as they struggle to establish relationships, place and belonging. Through the medium of dance, their interwoven stories of growth and loss offer a glance from the edge of the human condition and its inherent dangers.

Kosta and Lora graduated with their degrees in dance and economics/sustainable development, respectively. "We can't wait for the premiere to be presented in Sofia and Plovdiv in autumn 2019," they shared, "The team is looking for a partner for United States and European distribution."

Matthew Petti writes with a career update: "I recently got a job as a national security reporter at *The National Interest*. My first two articles were about the British ambassador's row with Trump, and British-Iranian tensions over oil tankers."

Josh Schenk spent the summer surfing and working with Cory Booker on his presidential campaign.

Solomon Wiener and several CC friends traveled to Thailand and visited Ayutthaya, an old Siamese capital.



Solomon Wiener '19 (second from left) and several CC friends traveled to Thailand and visited Ayutthaya, an old Siamese capital.

obituaries

1941

Arthur D. Taplinger, retired engineer, Fort Lee, N.J., on February 12, 2019. Taplinger entered with the Class of 1941 but earned three degrees from Columbia Engineering: a B.S. in engineering in 1943, an M.S. in chemical engineering in 1944 and an M.S. in mechanical engineering in 1947. During his career as an instrumentation engineer, he worked for companies such as American Can Co., DuPont, Lever Brothers and Lockwood Greene designing control systems for plants that made pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, coke (a grey, hard and porous fuel with a high carbon content and few impurities, made by heating coal or oil in the absence of air) for steel mills, and beer, among other things. During WWII, he worked on the Manhattan Project. Taplinger loved classical music, played the violin, painted and for a while in his youth flew piper cub airplanes. He was a longtime resident of Englewood, N.J., and for the last five years of his life lived in Fort Lee. Taplinger was predeceased by his wife, Estelle Pine Taplinger, and his partner later in his life, Edith Woods. He is survived by his son, Michael '79; daughter, Susan; and the many friends, acquaintances and strangers whose lives he touched with his kindness, generosity and optimism.

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.

1945

George T. "Ted" Wright, professor emeritus, Louisville, Ky., on May 1, 2019. Wright was born on Staten Island, N.Y., on December 17, 1925. He earned an M.A. in 1947 from GSAS and a Ph.D. in English literature in 1957 from UC Berkeley. Wright had a distinguished teaching career, beginning at the University of Kentucky as assistant professor, 1957–60, and continuing at the University of Tennessee as associate professor, 1961–68. He then began a long tenure at the University of Minnesota, where he was professor, Regent's Professor, chair of the Department of English and finally Professor Emeritus. Wright received two Fulbright awards, an NEH Senior Research Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship, among other honors and awards. He authored six books about poets and poetry, including the works of Eliot, Yeats, Pound and Auden, but his specialty was the examination of the metrical qualities of Shakespeare. Wright wrote dozens of articles in professional journals of English, published about 80 poems in periodicals and published a volume, *Aimless Life*. Wright was predeceased by his wife, Jerry Honeywell Wright; brother, Lawrence; his sister-in-law, Joyce; sister, Norma Weaver; and brother-in-law, Robert Weaver. He is survived by his nephew, Raymond; and nieces, Pamela Rehman, Colleen Long and Sharon.

1946

Baruch S. "Barry" Jacobson, retired professor, Wynnewood, Pa., on February 29, 2019. Jacobson graduated from Bronx Science at 16 and enrolled at the College before serving in the Army in Germany at the close of WWII. Upon returning stateside, he moved to northern California and farmed chickens, then earned a Ph.D. in physics from UC Berkeley. Jacobson became a professor at the University of Texas, University of Minnesota and Central Michigan University (CMU), where he was on the faculty for 20

years. He published his final academic paper at 80. The last decades of Jacobson's life were rich and varied, even after his wife of nearly 50 years, Guadalupe Savedra, passed away. With Betty Owen, he toured the Western states that she'd grown up in. Political activism was one of the key values that he shared with his progeny. Raised in a questioning Jewish household and married to a Catholic, Jacobson was for 70 years a Unitarian. He is survived by his sons, Carlos and Ramon; daughters, Mercedes BC'82, PS'87 and Raquel; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. They provided him new audiences for his old jokes, and in return, they were tech support for his phone. Memorial contributions may be made to Union of Concerned Scientists and CMU's Department of Physics.

1948

Alan S. Kuller, real estate executive, Rye, N.Y., on December 7, 2018. Kuller graduated from Erasmus Hall and won a Randolph Hearst American History Award. At the College, he edited *Spectator* and the *Columbia Law Review*, and was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. Kuller served in the Navy during WWII. He earned a degree from the Law School in 1949 and became senior VP and head of real estate for Caldor for many years. Intellectual curiosity, humor and irreverence marked his attitude toward life. Kuller loved to travel off the beaten path. He was active in his local synagogue and played a significant role in its adult education program. Kuller was predeceased by his wife, Nancy Schoenbrod Kuller; and leaves his longtime, devoted partner, Myra Lehman; brother, Lewis; daughters, Debora Shuger, Judith Verhave and Lisa Kuller (Dalezio); six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Community Synagogue of Rye Adult Education Program, 200 Forest Ave., Rye, NY 10580.

Marshall W. Mount, art professor and researcher, Jersey City, N.J., on November 25, 2018. Mount was

a zoot-suited teen covering NYC jazz for his high school paper and became a serious art history student at Columbia, from the College through his 1966 Ph.D., earned at GSAS. In 1960, Mount was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship to do field research on post-WWI African art in sub-Saharan Africa. His book *African Art: The Years Since 1920* was the first volume of contemporary African art published in the United States. Mount was an art history professor and department chair at Finch College, NYC, and the University of Benin, Nigeria. He also taught at the Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY) and Washington Square College (NYU), among other institutions. With an FIT George T. Dorsch Endowed Fellowship he spent several months researching traditional art in the cultural festivals of Cameroon's Grassfields, leading to an exhibition/catalogue at the QCC Art Gallery (CUNY). Mount also loved music, far-flung travel, films and cooking. His is survived by his wife, Caroline Katz Mount; son (from his previous marriage), Christopher '85, and his wife, Stephanie; and grandson, Julian. Memorial contributions may be made to the African Wildlife Foundation.

1949

Dominick P. Purpura, physician, professor, researcher and academic administrator, New York City, on May 16, 2019. Even prior to graduating magna cum laude from Harvard Medical School in 1953, Purpura was the lead author, as a medical student, on a paper examining the neurophysiology of spinal neurons. After training at Columbia's Neurological Institute of New York, from which he graduated in 1954, Purpura devoted himself to laboratory research and integrated a wide array of techniques and approaches to study the nervous system. His exceptional technical abilities combined with his keen intellect allowed him to tackle difficult and pressing questions in brain sciences, including pioneering work on epilepsy and

intellectual disabilities. Purpura was instrumental in establishing the Society for Neuroscience, and the second free-standing neuroscience department in a medical school. He also introduced the first modern medical school and post-graduate neuroscience curriculum, which quickly became a national model. Purpura's scientific accomplishments secured him membership in the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine. He was dean of Stanford University and of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Throughout his career, Purpura was remarkable for his love of science, his approachability and his mentorship.

1951

Arthur S. Verdesca, retired physician and corporate medical director, Morristown, N.J., on August 11, 2018. Verdesca earned an M.D. from P&S in 1955. While doing post-graduate training in internal medicine at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City, he served as a captain



Dr. Arthur S. Verdesca '51

in the Air Force at Stewart AFB in Tennessee; he was chief of medical service 1957–59. From 1961, when Verdesca finished his training at St. Luke's, until 1985, he worked for Western Electric in New York as headquarters medical director. From 1985 to 2005, he was corporate medical director for American International Group, also in New York. During his service in Tennessee, and until 1968, Verdesca broadcast a one-hour classical music program, *Mostly Mozart*, on several radio stations in the New York metropolitan area. In 1980, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. published a collection of his

medical articles for the layman, *Live, Work, and Be Healthy: A Top Medical Director's Common-sense Advice and Observations for the Working Person*. Verdesca was a crossword puzzle constructor, publishing almost 50 puzzles a year at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ann; son, Stephen '85, and his wife, Patricia Durner; daughters, Julia Lucivero and her husband, Philip Joseph, and Edith Kaplan and her husband, Christopher; and five grandchildren.

1952

Albert Ackerman, retired ophthalmologist, Arcadia, Calif., on July 16, 2019. Ackerman made significant medical advances as a leading ophthalmologist in the Tri-State area. He was a charter member of The Retina Society (founded in 1967), whose mission is to reduce worldwide visual disability and blindness, with particular emphasis on vitreoretinal diseases. Ackerman established retinal services at several hospitals in New York and New Jersey, including the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai. He was on the faculty of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, as well as other medical schools that are affiliated with teaching hospitals. Ackerman was a warm-hearted, generous, loving and caring person



Dr. Albert Ackerman '52

who would reach out to his patients under any circumstances. He is survived by two children and his long-term partner.

Daniel C. Seemann, retired university director of student activities and professor, Sylvania, Ohio, on September 3, 2018. Seemann was born on April 29, 1930, in Wal-

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.

- 1951 **Richard B. Morron**, retired business manager, Madison, Conn., on April 18, 2019.
- 1954 **James G. Taaffe**, professor of English, Tuscaloosa, Ala., on July 3, 2019.
- 1955 **Merritt Chandler Nauts Jr.**, retired educator, Ann Arbor, Mich., on July 2, 2019.
- 1962 **John V. Pellarin**, retired dentist, Andover, N.J., on July 4, 2019.
- 1965 **William L. Goring**, antiquarian book dealer, Torrington, Conn., on July 31, 2019.
- 1969 **Thomas T. Rapp**, retired attorney, Phoenix, Ariz., on July 28, 2019.
- 1975 **Peter S. Zisson**, retired, Austin, Texas, on August 7, 2019.
- 1999 **Lea Kronenberg (née Miller)**, attorney and real estate entrepreneur, New York City, on July 30, 2019.
- 2011 **Trevis G. Welcome-Joyner**, elementary school teacher, Atlanta, on May 8, 2019.
- 2013 **Brian T. DeVea**, managing director of M&A, Kinnelon, N.J., on June 23, 2019.

bridge, Ohio. He excelled at sports at Waite H.S.; he was All-City in basketball and continued the sport at the College. Shortly after marrying Rosemary, in 1952, he was deployed to Korea while in the Marine Corps. After his discharge, he pursued a master's in educational psychology at the University of Toledo. This started a 40-year career at the university as director of student activities. In 1980, Seemann completed a Ph.D. in educational psychology and became a psychology professor. He remained in the Marine Corps Reserve, attaining the rank of colonel. He also had a lifelong love of music and playing the bass; he founded The Dan Seemann Quintet with friends and played locally for years. Seemann was predeceased by his wife, and by his siblings Bob, and Patti Jones. He is survived by his brother John and John's wife, Carol; sister Joan Gannon and her husband, Lee; children, Jeff and his wife, Nadine, Greg and his wife,

Mary, Mitch and his wife, Sharon, and Anne Hammersmith and her husband, Don; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Charles W. Young, medical oncologist, New York City, on December 31, 2018. Young graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1956. During his 42-year tenure at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he was chief, Developmental Chemotherapy Service (1979–92); head, Clinical Pharmacology Laboratory, Sloan-Kettering Institute (1979–93); and Professor of Medicine, Cornell University Medical College (1982–99). Young was also an advisor to the American Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute. To his patients, Young was caring and kind. To his colleagues, he was known for his innovative approaches to cancer treatment. To his family, he was a source of

strength and wisdom. Young is survived by his wife, Helene; sons, Stephen and his wife, Sara, and Matthew; and stepchildren, Bonnie, and Benjamin and his wife, Lily. He was predeceased by his eldest son, Michael, and sister, Jean. Memorial contributions may be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (pollocke@mskcc.org).

1954

Michael R. Naver, retired government public affairs specialist, Baltimore, on March 29, 2019. Naver was born on February 15, 1933, in New York City. He graduated from Stuyvesant H.S., where he had his first bylines as a reporter on the school newspaper. With a New York State Scholarship, he enrolled at the College, where he earned a liberal arts degree. Naver joined *Spectator* and rose to news editor by his senior year. He earned a master of liberal arts degree from the Johns Hopkins University and in 1958 joined the staff of the *Baltimore Evening Sun* as a local reporter, where he stayed for 10 years. In November 1968, Naver became a public affairs specialist at the Social Security Administration in Woodlawn, Md. His career lasted 30 years, and he received several agency awards, including its highest award, the Commissioner's Citation. Naver retired from government service in 1999. He married the former Irid Bucci in 1965; she survives him, as do their children, Richard and Meg; and two grandchildren.

1955

Ronald P. McPhee, retired insurance executive, Somers, N.Y., on June 25, 2018. McPhee was born on May 13, 1933, in Manhattan. He grew up in the Bronx, graduated from Cardinal Hayes H.S. and was awarded a scholarship to Columbia. He was captain of the varsity basketball team in 1955. After the College, McPhee joined the Air Force, became a pilot and rose to the rank of captain. Following his military service, he found work with TIAA-CREF, where he worked for 40 years and from which he retired as a VP of insurance services. Throughout his adult life McPhee was an avid tennis player and plat-

form tennis player, actively involved with various community organizations at Heritage Hills of Somers, N.Y., and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his wife, Carol (née Frueh); son, Ronald Jr., and his wife, Donna; daughter, Carolyn Doan, and her husband, Jim; and two grandchildren.

1956

Robert Cabat, retired educator, Staten Island, N.Y., on June 5, 2019. Cabat began his career as a middle and high school teacher of Spanish and French in Brooklyn, N.Y. He then became chair of foreign languages at New Utrecht



Robert Cabat '56

H.S. in Brooklyn; it was during this period that he received a Ph.D. in Spanish literature from NYU. Cabat eventually became head of foreign languages for the entire New York City DOE, and after retirement was a professor at several institutions. He was the co-author of several popular secondary-level textbooks, and was the president of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. He was extremely proud to have been able to use his Columbia education to help improve the lives of thousands of students and dozens of teachers across the years. Cabat is survived by his wife, Janet; children, Joshua '86 and Abigail; and three grandchildren.

1957

Michael Gold, retired attorney, Harbor City, Calif., on January 30, 2018. Born in New York City in 1935, Gold grew up there and in Hillside, N.J. At Hillside H.S. he

was class president and an Eagle Scout. While at Columbia, Gold pledged with the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, and met his first wife, Lucienne "Lucy" Kacew, whom he married the summer after graduation. They lived in Jersey City while Gold attended Rutgers Law School. After graduation, Gold worked for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and was an assistant state prosecutor before founding his own law practice in Flemington, N.J., with his brother, Stephen. Gold participated in Democratic politics, including serving as Hunterdon County Democratic chairman. He married Virginia D'Andrade in 1979 and relocated to California in 1980, where he designed a computerized Worker-Right-to-Know system, a database used to settle asbestos liability cases, and a litigation support business. With his wife, he also established the Virginia M. Woolf Foundation, which converts written materials into large type for the visually impaired. Gold is survived by his daughters, Pamela Gold and her husband, Jay Brandt, Kathrine Gubner and her husband, Kenric, and Jennifer Minotti and her husband, Tod; four grandchildren; stepchildren, David D'Andrade and Anne McNally; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Gale and Fred Driver.

1959

Vincent H. Demma, retired military historian, Lanham, Md., on September 18, 2018. Demma was born on December 9, 1937, in Brooklyn, N.Y. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he moved to Washington, D.C., in 1962 to be a military historian for the United States Army Center of Military History, where he served until his retirement in 1999. As a historian of the Vietnam War, Demma was widely consulted and contributed his expertise to several documentaries and books. He is survived by his wife, Stephanie (née Lippman); children, Matthew, Rachel, and Sarah Klein; children-in-law, Rachel Demma (née Shapiro) and Philip Klein; four grandchildren; brother, Peter; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

1961

Norman A. Kurnit, physicist, Santa Fe, N.M., on February 6, 2019. After graduating from the College, Kurnit went directly to GSAS, where he earned a master's in 1962 and a Ph.D. in 1966, both in physics. He spent the majority of his career working at Los Alamos National Laboratory and lived in Santa Fe, N.M. Kurnit is survived by Ellen, his wife of 50 years; two children; and two grandchildren.

David Schwartz, retired oral surgeon, Larchmont, N.Y., on July 7, 2019. Born on May 2, 1939, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Schwartz was raised in White Plains. He received an academic scholarship to attend the Dental School and graduated in 1965, second in his class. Schwartz completed his oral surgery training at The Roosevelt Hospital in 1968 and immediately joined in private practice with Dr. Bertram Blum. He, along with Dr. Debra Blum (in 1985), practiced oral surgery at Blum, Schwartz & Blum for more than 50 years in Queens. Schwartz served on the Board of Trustees of both the Queens County Dental Society and the New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. An avid golfer, tennis player, skier, guitarist and singer, he was a longtime member of the Bonnie Briar Country Club, where he was the Super Senior Club Champion in golf in 2017. Schwartz also maintained a summer home in Wellfleet, Mass. Schwartz had said, "The best part of my job is getting to know my patients and feeling that I've helped them to feel better." He is survived by his brothers, Michael and Larry; wife, Isabel (née Clippinger); daughter, Beth Jones; son-in-law, Jamie Jones; son, John; daughter-in-law, Amy Kean; and four grandchildren.

1967

Robert G. Segel, retired investments executive, Key Biscayne, Fla., on September 6, 2017. Segel earned an M.B.A. at the University of Michigan. He started his career at Tucker Anthony and rose to become managing director. Segel founded Park Street Capital in 1997, initially

Alex Navab '87, University Trustee, Former BOV Chair, Prominent Financier

Alex Navab '87, a University trustee and former chair of the Columbia College Board of Visitors (BOV) who recently formed his own investment firm, died on July 7, 2019. He was 53.

Navab was born in Isfahan, Iran, on November 24, 1965, to Dr. Ali and Katina (née Armenakis) Navab. The family — Navab was one of four children — fled to Greece after the Iranian revolution in 1979 before moving to the United States.

Navab worked at Goldman Sachs from 1987 to 1989 before earning an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 1991; he graduated as a Baker Scholar (High Distinction) and was presented the Edna E. Wolfe Award. He then worked at the investment bank James D. Wolfensohn, Inc., before joining KKR — then known as Kohlberg Kravis Roberts — in 1993.

Overseeing numerous leveraged buyouts at KKR, including the takeovers of the Nielsen Company, Yellow Pages and Borden, Navab

by 2008 had become co-leader of the firm's North American private equity business. He took sole leadership of the division six years later, and as head of North American buyouts helped the firm raise nearly \$14 billion for its 12th North American private equity fund, one of the biggest of its kind. Navab left KKR in 2017 and announced in April 2019 that he had formed Navab Capital Partners.

Navab, who lived in New York City, was an involved and generous Columbia alumnus; his giving of his time and energies began as president of his sophomore class and continued as president of the Columbia College Student Council his senior year. An outstanding student who graduated Phi Beta Kappa, Navab also captained the varsity lightweight crew team, and maintained close ties as a benefactor. He donated two shells in summer 2018 and was presented the 2018 King's Crown Rowing Association honor this past December.

While on the BOV, where he was a member from 2005 to 2017, with terms as vice-chair from 2011 to 2014 and chair from 2014 to 2016, Navab led the effort to develop a strategic plan for the College; this became the foundation of the Core to Commencement campaign, the first campaign uniquely dedicated to Columbia College students and faculty. In partnership with Dean James J. Valentini, Navab helped shape a plan that would focus on strengthening the student experience, enhancing the Core Curriculum and supporting faculty committed to teaching undergraduates as priorities for the College's success.

Navab became co-chair of the Core to Commencement campaign; he and his wife, Mary Kathryn — who survives him, along with their three children and his parents — gave \$6 million to Columbia to create the Navab Fellowship Program, announced this past December, to fund internships for students. Navab was also a board member of



NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and the Robin Hood Foundation, among many others. He was elected a University trustee in 2017, was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement by the College in 2011 and was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, a national award that recognizes recipients' public service and patriotism as well as their connection to their ethnic heritage, in 2016.

as a joint venture with Tucker Anthony Sutro. Following the Royal Bank of Canada's acquisition, Segel left the company to allow his private equity business to become an



Robert G. Segel '67

independent entity. He worked tirelessly for 40 years in the investment business, committed to excellence and treasuring his close relationships with his partners. In addition to his professional pursuits, Segel was civic-minded and generously sup-

ported numerous organizations. He served on the Board of Trustees of his children's schools, Buckingham Browne & Nichols in Cambridge, Mass., and Ransom Everglades in Coconut Grove, Fla. A devoted husband to Janice Sherman, Segel was also the father of Julia and Michael. He especially loved and was loved by his dogs, Callie and Wilma. Segel's sense of humor, genuine warmth and ability to talk with anyone allowed him to create lifelong relationships with everyone he met.

1969

Roy S. Feldman, retired chief, dental service, and professor of dental medicine, Jamison, Pa., on March 8, 2019. Feldman spent eight years at Columbia, majoring in Greek at the College while fulfilling a journalism urge as editor of the 1969 *Columbian*, and then as a predoctoral student in the Dental School, from which he graduated in 1973. From 1973 to 1980, Feldman attended the

Harvard School of Dental Medicine, earning a D.M.Sc. and then continuing as an assistant professor. From 1980 on, Feldman was chief, dental service at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center and a professor at Penn's School of Dental Medicine. He was an active alumnus with the College, the Dental School and the Columbia Club of Philadelphia. Feldman enjoyed his retirement with his wife, Nadia Rosen, who survives him and was his co-manager of Night Sight Farm, a horse farm in Bucks County, Pa. He was first married to Barbara Abrams, now deceased, and is survived by their daughters, Lauren and Emma; and Nadia's children, Louise and Oliver.

Ronald R. Rosenblatt, retired financial executive, West Des Moines, Iowa, on February 24, 2019. Born in New York City on January 31, 1947, Rosenblatt graduated from Scarsdale H.S. At the College, he played on the varsity basketball team. Rosenblatt earned a B.A. and M.A. (in 1974 from TC) in art

history, economics and education. After teaching high school science in NYC, he earned a Ph.D. in economics and education from the University of Idaho and then taught at Kansas State University. Rosenblatt then moved to Des Moines and had a distinguished career in mortgage banking before retiring as a principal partner at Fortress Wealth Management. He was a world traveler and an avid golfer, and served on the boards of Tifereth Israel Synagogue, the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines and Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. Rosenblatt is survived by his wife, Susy; daughters Betsy Beck and her husband, Paul, and Katherine; brothers, David and his wife, Robyn, and Larry and his wife, Linda; sister, Ann Arbeit, and her husband, Stuart; and many nieces and nephews. Rosenblatt was predeceased by his brother, Bill. Memorial contributions may be made to The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines or the Southern Poverty Law Center.

— Lisa Palladino



CORE CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

In honor of the Centennial, we asked four artistic alums to take inspiration from the Core; for this and the next three issues, we'll provide a cartoon in need of a caption. We're kicking things off with longtime *New Yorker* contributor Edward Koren '57.

The winning caption will be published in the Winter 2019–20 issue, and the winner will get a signed print of Koren's cartoon. Any College student or College alum may enter. Submit your idea, along with your full name, CC class year and daytime phone, to cct_centennial@columbia.edu by Friday, November 1.

ILLUSTRATION BY EDWARD KOREN '57



“

Being at Columbia has opened a plethora of doors, allowing me to explore all the avenues of who I am and who I want to be, while **providing me with the resources to push myself beyond** what I once thought possible.

— Maryam K. Hassan CC'20

Gifts to the Columbia College Fund provide funding for vital student life initiatives, which enrich the Columbia College journey for Maryam and so many students like her.

In addition to supporting student life, the Columbia College Fund supports financial aid, internships and the Core Curriculum.

MAKE YOUR GIFT AT [COLLEGE.GIVENOW.COLUMBIA.EDU](https://college.givenow.columbia.edu)



**CORE TO
COMMENCEMENT**
COLUMBIA COLLEGE

"Paid internships for students focused on non-traditional or non-linear career paths can be hard to find. Regardless of a student's financial circumstance, they should all have access to summer experiences in art, culture, media and tech that could set them up for future success in these areas and beyond."
— Abby Pucker CC'14



Abby and others like her have funded thousands of summer experiences for College students as part of the Core to Commencement campaign. Join her in creating opportunities for students to explore their interests and passions through global experiences, research fellowships and internships.

Support Students Beyond the Classroom
college.columbia.edu/campaign



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COMMENCEMENT**
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