


CCCT

Columbia
College
Today 

Fall 2023

**EMILY DRABINSKI '97
BATTLES BOOK BANS**

"LIBRARIES ARE IN THE
CROSSHAIRS RIGHT NOW"

SCHIST HAPPENS

GEOLOGIST STEVEN L.
GOLDSTEIN '76 TAKES US
ON A FIELD TRIP

**COLUMBIA VS.
ARMY, 1947**

A 100-YEAR-OLD PLAYER
RECALLS AN AGELESS
LIONS TRIUMPH



**Blondel
Pinnock '90
is leading a
new era of
community
development
in Central
Brooklyn**

Building Blocks

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Building Blocks

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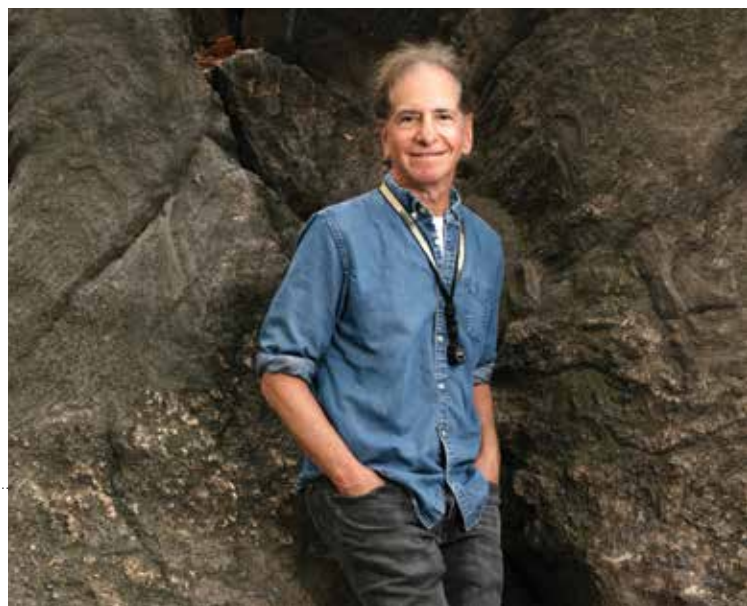
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Within the Family

Those Special Campus Spaces

As a graduate student in the School of the Arts, my life revolved around Dodge Hall — through the Broadway Gates, I would go just a short distance on College Walk before hooking left and left again, up two flights to reach Dodge's tree-shaded corner. Nearly all of my classes were there, but I lived and did my writing in Brooklyn, so my routines gave me little reason to venture out and explore campus. It was only when I began working for this magazine, going on photo shoots and hearing others' affinity for certain spaces, that I began to discover them for myself. My introduction was further helped along by the exigencies of reunion, which calls for staff to lead activities in just about every campus nook and cranny. I remember being impressed by the stained-glass majesty of the windows in the C.V. Starr East Asian Library the first time I welcomed attendees at a dinner there.

Starr Library appeared on *CCT*'s 2021 list of favorite campus places, culled from alumni recollections and social media polls. This fall we've done another roundup, with a focus on less-traveled locales. But what makes something a favorite space? Often it's tied to community, the places we gather to spend time together both purposefully and serendipitously. The Steps of course are an ideal instance of that, as is Butler despite its more hushed character (and no surprise, they earned the top two spots the last time around).

This newer list, though, feels defined by a different quality. It's a bit like being let in on delicious inside intel, the way you send a friend to a favorite city with the advice, "*Here's* where you really need to go." Yes, some are places to find community, but they also offer opportunities for creativity and beauty and contemplation, if only you know where to look. We suggest starting with the Amsterdam Avenue bridge, shown in our Big Picture, on page 6. (The complete list can be found at college.columbia.edu/cct.)

Our cover story focuses on the formidable Blondel Pinnock '90, CEO of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp. Restoration, for those who might not be familiar, was the first community development organization in the United States and is widely recognized as a national model. Pinnock, who is charged with leading Restoration at a critical moment in its evolution, was thoughtful about how the College inspires students to do "the good work." We're proud to introduce her to readers.

Elsewhere in the issue, we see more of the good work Columbians are involved in, including that of Emily Drabinski '97, current president of the American Library Association. Drabinski is an important and ardent voice



SCOTT RUDD

for library workers on the front lines in the increasingly urgent battle for the right to read, and we welcome her leadership. Then we take a field trip to Central Park with Professor Steven L. Goldstein '76, GSAS'86, who showcases the geological history that can be found right in New Yorkers' backyard.

I'd also encourage you not to miss our "Roar, Lion, Roar" feature about Al Kachadurian BUS'48, likely the last surviving member of the celebrated Lions football team that beat Army in 1947. Kachadurian, who caught an interception in that game, recalls what it was like being part of one of the great upsets in College football history. It's a fun account, and we thank the excellent Charles Butler '85, JRN'99 for bringing it to our pages.

And speaking of campus and community, we welcome our newest Lions, the Class of 2027, to Morningside. We know this fantastic group of first-years will be finding their own favorite places soon.

Enjoy the issue!

Alexis Boney

Alexis Boney SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

Stunning stained glass windows make C.V. Starr East Asian Library a campus favorite.

A Piece of Iconic History

I was not in the photo on the cover [of the Summer 2023 *CCT*], but this was the most interesting issue you have produced in a while. I was friends with two of those pictured, and I spent much time on the Steps and on the lion perches on either side. In a way, nights there were more interesting. There was a fraternity whose members used to practice their dance moves in front of the Steps, giving all an impromptu free show. And I had many conversations there with people I am still friends with to this day.

I became a political science professor with a specialization in political theory because of the Core Curriculum. Contemporary Civilization in particular influenced my entire life.

It was wonderful to receive such a piece of human interest, nostalgia and iconic history. This was an excellent call, and I thank you for it.

Diana M. Judd '91
Bayonne, N.J.

A Path to Social Justice

I must admit I am not a consistent reader of *CCT*, but the cover of the Summer 2023 issue caught my eye. I realize, after reading some back issues, this letter probably would have been a better fit after the May/June 2008 issue. I am just a bit late in my response!

Contact Us



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



The cover was connected to a *New York Times Magazine* article, “Columbia Recovered,” which I located in the *Times* archives. It referenced the reunion of alumni who had been present for the events of April 1968. The author, Morris Dickstein '61, described how “one of the largest student uprisings in the history of American universities” not only led to protests at other universities but also to the creation of African-American studies, women’s studies and radical history curricula at Columbia College and many of those other universities.

Dickstein interviewed Tom Hurwitz, who commented on how many of those present at the reunion had not been depoliticized and were still involved in socially committed work. He also interviewed alumni and faculty who noted how the occupation of buildings and the police riot (my description, not his) changed the trajectory of their lives. That was true for me. Watching how

much the Tactical Patrol Force relished beating students on the South Lawn, many of whom were not part of any protest, shook my view of the world to its core.

I came to Columbia from a conservative family in Denver intending to major in chemical engineering. At the time, I could not understand how occupying buildings, essentially breaking the law, could lead to positive change. I was not a participant in the protests. Fortunately, the intense campus discussions that were stimulated by the protests helped me to understand that laws and institutions can only be changed if they are challenged and called into question, and that there are many ways to do that.

After the events of April 1968, I changed my major to economics, which seemed more socially relevant. Like many of the alumni at the 1988 reunion (which I did not attend), I have dedicated my life to social justice work. I taught university-level economics from a left perspective for 36 years. In retirement, I continue my work with the faculty union.

Like many of the writers in the 2008 issue, I have mixed feelings about my time at Columbia, so I find it a bit difficult to relate to the idyllic cover photo in *CCT*. But it is true I have my Columbia experience, including that of April 1968, to thank for putting me on the path to a fulfilling and rewarding life working for social justice.

Doug Orr '71
Berkeley, Calif.

The Lessons of '68

The *New York Times Magazine* article “Columbia Recovered,” shown on the Summer 2023 cover of *CCT*, implied that the “shattering event” of 1968 was not what students needed; Columbia needed a “recovery.” Our actions in April 1968 stopped what many now see as mistakes, or worse: building a “gym crowd” gym in Morningside Park with a separate entrance for Harlem residents, and the war in Vietnam and the University’s involvement in it.

On a personal level, being beaten, arrested and jailed by the NYPD at the behest of the University taught me more about “legitimate authority” than all my readings of political theory. Seeing the NYPD walk past me and other white students to beat bloody the few Black kids from Harlem sitting in with us was racism in action. Being in jail for a week, about the only white kid among hundreds of

Black and Brown inmates, many of whom were in for “walking while Black,” was a lesson in racism I would not have had without the “shattering event” of 1968.

I and my fellow students liked to hang out in the sun, too. We did plenty of that. We also believed we had an obligation to right some wrongs. So rather than a “recovery,” let us take a deeper look at the lessons of 1968.

Michael Jacoby Brown '69
Arlington, Mass.

I'm There, Too!

You guys missed me on the cover of *The New York Times Magazine* [Summer 2023]. I am in a white T-shirt, under the “N” in “New,” sipping a Bartles & Jaymes wine cooler from a paper bag.

My coed fraternity siblings, Martin Prince '87 and Cheryl Hone '89, are flanking me, sitting on the steps. Marty is in a white T-shirt and his face is blocked by another person wearing sunglasses and a light blue T-shirt.

Weeks later, we were out downtown late in the evening of May 14 and somebody bought a *Times* as we boarded the subway at 42nd Street. “Hey, Van! Hey, Cheryl! You guys are on the cover!” our Iota Epsilon Pi brother shouted out.

Oh yes, there I was, caught skipping music class on the first nice day of spring 1988

EveAnna “Van” Manley '90
Altadena, Calif.

An Inspiring Intellectual

I was impressed by your ability to track down some of the students in *The New York Times Magazine* cover photo, featured in the Summer 2023 issue.

You noted but said nothing else about the author of the *Times* article that accompanied that photo. Morris Dickstein '61, a literary critic and cultural historian, was, according to a *Times* obituary, “among the last of the first generation of Jewish public intellectuals reared on the Lower East Side.” He passed away two and a half years ago at 81.

On a personal note, he taught my section of Literature Humanities in spring 1967, just months before the 1968 upheaval that led to his *Times* article 20 years later. His teaching inspired a classroom brimmed with insight and wit.

Ralph Bien '69
Greenbrae, Calif.

The Attraction of Activism

I enjoyed the article “Blast From the Past” [Summer 2023], featuring *The New York Times Magazine*'s spring 1988 photo of Columbia students on the Low Steps around *Alma Mater*. The photo reminded me of the day I visited Columbia in May 1969 to decide whether to accept the College's offer to attend.

Having grown up in the suburbs, the same vision of students enjoying the city sun told me this was where I had to be. But like Sandy Steinberg Harris BC'90, I was attracted to Columbia because of the activism shown by students the prior year, recounted so well in James Kunin's *The Strawberry Statement*. Like Sandy, many of us felt we could challenge those whom we felt were leading our country down the wrong road.

Yes, it is daunting that we are still facing many of those same issues (now compounded by sexual identity politics). Having just celebrated a sobering 50th reunion, though, I remain hopeful.

Marc Gross '73
New York City

Something Missing

I understand *CCT*'s enthusiasm for an article about *The New York Times Magazine* cover depicting happy students in 1988. Something “light” is good in a magazine now and then. And yes, I'm glad Columbia recovered from the 1968 conflict. However, there was not one word about the content of Morris Dickstein '61's article in that magazine, and I wonder what he wrote. I knew Morris, and he was a wise man.

Also, your article truly trivialized the 1968 events by not describing them at all. I was one of 800 people arrested. I was among several alumni who had participated in the building occupation, and unlike students, we alumni had to pay a fine for trespassing. Oh well, I accept that. I'm glad I wasn't another alumnus I know whom was badly beaten by police.

Allen Young '62, JRN'64
Orange, Mass.

Editor's note: To read more about the events of 1968, please see CCT's Spring 2018 issue or May/June 2008 issue, both under “Past Issues” on our website. The 1988 New York Times Magazine cover story that accompanied the iconic Steps photo can be found online at bit.ly/47vtpsQ.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Alexis Boncy SOA'11

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Lisa Palladino

DEPUTY EDITOR
Jill C. Shomer

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
James C. Katz '72
Alex Sachare '71

ART DIRECTOR
Eson Chan

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ADDRESS
Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl.
New York, NY 10025

PHONE
212-851-7852

EMAIL
cct@columbia.edu

WEB
college.columbia.edu/cct

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Let's Cross That Bridge

David Bakalar's 1988 bronze, *Life Force*, on Revson Plaza directly above the center of Amsterdam Avenue, offers a long southern view toward Midtown. The bridge that connects the Law School to the College is one of seven spots included in our latest roundup of alumni's favorite campus places; see the whole list at college.columbia.edu/cct.

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Message from the Dean

The Pursuit of the Good, Beautiful and Just

On August 27, at Convocation, I addressed the incoming Class of 2027. What follows is an excerpt from my speech, exploring the enduring values of the Core Curriculum and mission of Columbia College.

On the occasion of this new beginning, I'd like to share words from the Greek poet Sappho, taken from Anne Carson's translation, *If Not, Winter*, which first-year students will encounter this fall in Lit Hum. The poems of Sappho survive in fragments, leaving tantalizing gaps and blank spaces with only the reader's imagination to fill them. The fragment I'd like to focus on reads as follows:

I want to say something but shame
prevents me

yet if you had a desire for good or beautiful things
and your tongue were not concocting some evil to say,
shame would not hold down your eyes
but rather you would speak about what is just.

Goodness. Beauty. Justice. Perhaps the most important thing one does as an undergraduate is engage with and build a thriving community among peers from different backgrounds, with divergent life experiences, and with many of whom you may appear to have little, if anything, in common.

More than any major you choose, club you join, internship you land or research project you pursue, learning from each other, living with each other and navigating the unfamiliar and unpredictable will be the cornerstones of your College life. I can say with confidence that what you encounter and confront here on this campus, during these years, will definitively shape the paths you make for yourselves in the decades to come.

Our job is to ensure that all of our students have spaces and language to ask questions, that you are invited and empowered to take risks and make mistakes as you pursue your curiosity, and that you recognize your value to one another and to the larger community. Facilitating this holistic experience — encompassing the curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular — is a defining feature of the College's mission.

We live in a time of change and upheaval, where many things taken for granted are being challenged. But there are some things that do not change, that must not change. The convergence of disparate ideas, cultures, religions, ideologies and identities you represent is an essential source of strength for our community — and our commitment to fostering and sustaining such an environment is unwavering.

The locus and living embodiment of this commitment to diversity of thought, dialogue and exploration is the Core Curriculum. Each of you will encounter and debate ideas — about equality, authority and difference — that challenge both you and your professors. Your views of yourself and the world will evolve. But none of this will happen in a vacuum.



You will not, and cannot, do it alone. The Core does not work without forthright collective engagement with difference of opinion, of viewpoint and interpretation. It is not easy, and the individual achievement many of you are used to striving for will not be the mark of success in this arena.

Across the syllabi of the Core Curriculum one finds competing ideas rather than a clear consensus. Students and faculty are invited to join in a culture of free inquiry, and to forge an informed independence of mind. Even still, in the face of these fragments, a clear theme recurs: The proper context, and end, for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge is community. The Core, at its best, both raises this query and models this ideal.

The pursuit of knowledge in community is not the pursuit of certainty, but the pursuit of more questions. You must get comfortable with multiple conflicting interpretations and an ability to live in — or move through — a grey, liminal space where there may not be an obvious right or wrong answer. Only more questions.

The enduring value of your liberal arts education will be the habits of mind you develop, and the skills for critical, creative and collective intellectual inquiry that you hone. These skills cannot be quantified with grades or test scores, much the same way it is impossible to quantify the value of each member of the community that will help you build them. If we do our jobs right, these habits of mind will become a living part of your intellect and a framework for engaging with the world long after you leave campus.

Like the fragments of Sappho's poetry, it is for you to fill in the blank spaces of the future where there are rarely certain answers. You must fill them with your own imagination, your own experience and your own curiosity — and marvel at the myriad and often surprising ways that others choose to fill in those same blanks.

I implore you to revel in your differences, celebrate the power of the new ideas they can reveal and recognize each other's unique contributions to our community. Hold fast to your curiosity, and the questions that drive you. Respect and nurture these same qualities in others, and remember that you need never be ashamed to hold your head high and look forward with clear eyes in the pursuit of good, beautiful and just things.

Josef Sorett

*Dean of Columbia College and the Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor
Vice President for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Religion and African American & African Diaspora Studies*

Around the Quads

Words of Wisdom

The University's new president, Minouche Shafik, along with College and University leaders, welcomed undergraduates to campus during Convocation on August 27.



EILEEN BARROSO

Left to right: Engineering Dean Shih-Fu Chang, College Dean Josef Sorett, President Minouche Shafik, Executive Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Amy Hungerford and interim University Provost Dennis A. Mitchell.

Van Amson To Be 2023 Alexander Hamilton Medal Honoree

The 2023 Alexander Hamilton Medal

will go to financial services executive George Van Amson '74, managing director of institutional equity sales and trading at Morgan Stanley. Van Amson is currently the head of The Americas Analyst and Associate Advising and Development Programs in Morgan Stanley's Institutional Equity Division.

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.

An economics major at the College, Van Amson is a

45-year Wall Street veteran with expertise in domestic and international markets as well as in organizational leadership. He joined Morgan Stanley in 1992 and held various senior trading roles before becoming manager of the sales trading service desk for global wealth management clients. Prior to that, Van Amson was a VP at Goldman Sachs in the Trading and Arbitrage Division. He earned an M.B.A. with honors from Harvard Business School in 1982.

"George's journey has been nothing short of extraordinary, marked by a

resoundingly successful career and decades of dedicated service to both Columbia and the community more broadly," says Dean Josef Sorett. "He stands as a beacon of inspiration, an exceptional role model not only for our students but for the entire Columbia community."

Van Amson has received numerous awards during his career, including being named to *Black Enterprise's* "Top African Americans on Wall Street" list three times (in 1992, 1996 and 2006). He was also the recipient of the 1993 World Economic Forum Global Leader award; the 2007 Racial Harmony award, presented by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding; the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award from Brooklyn Technical H.S.; and the 2017 Harvard Business School Alumni Professional Achievement Award.

He has also been extremely active in his community. Van Amson was on the board of Harvard Business School Alumni Association and president of the HBS African American Alumni Association. He has been a member of the Riverside Church Council; chair of the United Negro College Fund Wall Street Campaign; a board member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and on the investment committee of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. He is currently vice-chair of the board of the Amsterdam Nursing Home and on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Opera.

As an undergraduate, Van Amson was the president of his first-year and sopho-

more classes, a varsity football and baseball player, a leader of Alpha Phi Alpha and an active member of the Black Students Organization. A dedicated alumnus, he visits campus often to mentor students and attend Lions football and basketball games.

Additionally, Van Amson remains connected to Columbia as a University Trustee emeritus and as a chair emeritus of the Columbia Alumni Association. He is also the director of Community Impact, a service organization that sends student volunteers into New York City neighborhoods, and has also been on the Columbia College Board of Visitors. Van Amson was honored with a 2000 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement, a 2009 Columbia Alumni Achievement Award and a 2013 Varsity C Alumni Athletic Award.

"Columbia gave me so much," he told *Columbia* magazine in 2011. "It gave me confidence, an intellectual foundation to build my career on and lifelong friends. I'm very loyal. And I love coming back here. I love being around the people here, participating in life on campus, and making the institution an even better place."

A Bronx native, Van Amson resides on the Upper West Side with his wife, Wendy PH'83; they have three children, Alexandra '13, Victoria '15 and Schuyler '17.

The 75th annual Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner will take place on Thursday, November 16, in Low Rotunda.

In Memoriam: Peter R. Pouncey, Ninth Dean of the College, Was Instrumental in Its Move to Coeducation

Peter R. Pouncey GSAS'69 — classicist, author, dean of Columbia College from 1972 to 1976 and a leading proponent for its move to coeducation — died on May 30, 2023. Pouncey, who also was president of Amherst College from 1984 to 1994, was 85 and lived in northern Connecticut.



Pouncey was one of the early leaders in Columbia's revival from the turmoil of the Vietnam War era. He was a strong proponent of admitting women to the all-male College, a move he considered vital to that revival, and often clashed on that issue with the University's more cautious central administration.

Possessed of a quick British wit and with a penchant for nicknames — “Pounce Dog” is the moniker he preferred for himself — Pouncey also was wary of technology, avoiding cellphones and approaching computers with caution. “They really do smell fear,” he once told an interviewer from *The New York Times*.

Pouncey was born in Qingdao, China, on October 1, 1937. His father was British commissioner of Chinese customs until the Communist revolution in 1948; his mother was half French and half British, born in Shanghai to parents who were silk merchants. During WWII, Pouncey's mother took her three children to live in Vancouver while her husband remained in China. Following the war, the family reunited in

England, where Pouncey attended boarding schools and earned a B.A. in classics in 1964 and an M.A. in 1967, both from Oxford.

After briefly training to become a Jesuit priest, Pouncey moved to New York to fill in for a professor on leave at Fordham. In 1969 he earned his Ph.D. in classics from Columbia and was appointed an assistant professor of Greek and Latin in the Classics Department.

It was a time of turmoil on many college campuses, including Columbia, where the Spring semesters in both 1968 and 1970 were abbreviated following widespread student protests over the Vietnam War and other issues. When Pouncey became dean of the College in 1972, he called himself “the cannon fodder dean” in reference to the upheaval on the Morningside campus.

Those challenges did not stop him from making his mark, especially with regard to coeducation. In 1975, Pouncey issued a report recommending the merger of the College, the School of General Studies, Barnard and the undergraduate division of Columbia Engineering into one dedicated undergraduate school for all Columbia students. Later that year he held a vote among College faculty on making the school coeducational, to the displeasure of President William J. McGill, who did not want to upset Barnard and thus rejected the proposal. However, that only delayed the decision; in December 1981, the University Trustees voted to make the College coed.

In 1976, Pouncey resigned as dean and returned to teaching in the Classics Department. His book *The Necessities of War: A Study of Thucydides' Pessimism* was published in 1980 and a year later won the Lionel Trilling Book Award for best new book by a faculty member, as determined by a panel of College students. “My main man is Thucydides,” he told the *Times*. “He is very image conscious; he makes the reader attend, fix focus, slow up and see.”

In 1984, Pouncey left Columbia to become president of Amherst, which was undergoing turmoil of its own following the sudden death of its president, Julian

Gibbs, and a decision to abolish the fraternity system, the main form of social life on the rural campus. Pouncey's priorities were creating a robust post-fraternity social life on campus and attracting a more diverse student and faculty population. He thought Amherst needed to recruit students from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, first-generation students and others who might not see themselves as a natural fit in order for the school to have “a full sample of the nation's talent.”

In addition, he strongly encouraged interdisciplinary programs and breaking down barriers between departments and established both the Department of Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies and the Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought Program. During his tenure, the endowment grew from \$132 million to more than \$320 million and a new student center, gymnasium and dormitory were built.

After Pouncey stepped down as president in 1994, he remained at Amherst as the Burnell-Forbes Professor of Greek until 1998, when he returned to Columbia to finish his teaching career as an adjunct at The Heyman Center for the Humanities and a member of the Society of Senior Scholars.

He published his only novel in 2005. On the day after Christmas 2003, Pouncey began to pull together the notes, musings and ruminations he had been keeping in a box since 1981. Seven weeks later, he had edited them into a 200-page manuscript version of *Rules for Old Men Waiting*, the story of Robert MacIver, whose life spans three wars and a 40-year marriage. The book won the McKitterick Prize in 2006 and was nominated for the Commonwealth Writers Prize the same year.

In 1985, Pouncey was presented the College's highest honor, the Alexander Hamilton Medal, along with other former deans Lawrence H. Chamberlain, David B. Truman, Carl F. Hovde '50 and Arnold R. Collery.

Pouncey is survived by his son, Christian (Victoria); daughter, Maggie '00, SOA'08 (Matt Miller); stepdaughter, Emily Liebert (Vlad Kobzar); and five grandchildren.

— Alex Sachare '71



DidYouKnow?

Columbia Has Its Own Cookbook

During WWII, a group of women married to Columbia faculty decided to raise money to support the war effort by creating a cookbook. The result, *What's Cooking at Columbia: A Recipe Book*, showcased the wives' favorite recipes and kitchen techniques; the proceeds from the book went to the University Committee for War Relief. A few Columbia-affiliated men participated as well — Dean Harry Carman included his recipe for “Harry's Own Griddlecakes” and, in the updated 1948 version, then-University President Dwight D. Eisenhower contributed a recipe for vegetable soup. Check out the time capsule of recipes — for everything from vintage salads (some featuring gelatin or marshmallows) and desserts (like a cherry cake and chocolate-lemon wafers), to main dishes like pot roast and salmon loaf — at news.columbia.edu/content/whats-cooking-columbia-recipe-book.

StudentSpotlight

Teji Vijayakumar '24 and Chukwuma Orji '24

Meet **Teji Vijayakumar '24** (*she/her*), president of the 2023–24 Columbia College Student Council Executive Board, and **Chukwuma Orji '24** (*he/him*), VP policy of the 2023–24 Executive Board. CCSC members are elected to serve as representatives on the students' behalf and to advocate for those students to the wider University community. *Vijayakumar is a double major in computer science and visual art and Orji is a cognitive science major with a concentration in computer science.*

What are you hoping to accomplish with CCSC this year?

Vijayakumar: We have a lot of goals! I'm so excited about making healthcare more transparent and accessible on campus — a lot of students don't really understand how medical insurance works or what is or isn't covered. We want to address and try to expand this as much as possible. I'm also really excited for smaller events that I hope will build spirit and community. Little seasonal events, like Easter egg hunts or snowman-making contests or a Butler haunted house!

Orji: We're looking at class registration and how we can make that an easier process; we're in our senior year, and sometimes people are still getting in to only one class that they need, which can be frustrating and stressful! And we're also continuing conversations about how we can improve mental health on campus, like how we can make resources more accessible and how we can raise awareness of the options for seeking help.

What's been your favorite class so far?

Vijayakumar: I took a class last Spring, “Epic India: The Rama Story in Visual Art,” taught by Professor Subhashini Kaligotla. It was amazing. We basically spent the whole semester talking about and looking at one Hindu epic, the *Ramayana*, and ways it has been portrayed in paintings, cartoons, movies, animation and so on. Alongside the visuals, we also read a bunch of essays and several translations and retellings of the *Ramayana*. So, really just becoming extremely familiar with this one story has been super, super rewarding and engaging.



EMMA ASHER

Chukwuma Orji '24 and Teji Vijayakumar '24

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

Orji: I'm a fiend for restaurants and cafes; if I have a free hour or two, I will pick a random location and just see what's there. I love how many different options there are for food and drinks in New York, so I just like to see as many as I can.

Outside of CCSC, what extracurriculars do you participate in on campus?

Orji: I'm part of the Columbia Bartending Agency, which is super exciting. You take a mixology class, and you can get certified and do different gigs with a lot of alums.

Vijayakumar: I'm on a dance team called Taal. It's a South Asian classical fusion dance team, and I love it. It's so much of my life! We choreograph everything together and are a really tight-knit group!

The Core's Great Community

By Larry Jackson

One of the joys of being the director of the Witten Center for the Core Curriculum is getting to delve into the history of this unique academic program, now in its second century. This past summer, I read articles about the Core by Columbia faculty that CCT published through the decades. They provided updates about the Core as well as summaries of the authors' visions for the future of this ever-changing curriculum. In the spirit of those earlier articles, I'll be offering a glimpse into the Core from time to time in these pages.

Perhaps the greatest influence on the early history of the Core Curriculum was philosopher John Dewey, who taught at Columbia for 25 years. In his 1927 book, *The Public and Its Problems*, Dewey argued that democracy as a way of life could survive only if we could foster a “great community” in the midst of a vast society in which we

are increasingly alienated from one another. I like to think that this is what we are doing today in the Core. Our great community begins in small groups of 22 and grows outward as class discussions continue in dining halls, residence hall lounges and on the Steps of Low Library. This

year, we will have around 5,000 students enrolled each semester in Literature Humanities, Frontiers of Science, Contemporary Civilization, Art Humanities and Music Humanities. They will

be taught by nearly 250 faculty from 25 academic departments.

And, of course, this community is not restricted to Morningside Heights. It extends across generations and continents to include all of you, our alumni.

I had a chance to see just how large and influential our Core community is during a recent visit to Sabancı University in Istanbul. For 25 years, Sabancı has offered a unique liberal arts education to students in an academic context that often stresses specialized professional training over free curricular exploration. I spoke with one of the university's founding deans, a Columbia College alumnus, who told me that he and his colleagues were inspired by our Core to develop a similar general education program for Sabancı's undergraduates, which they named the Foundations Development Program. It was moving to meet their students and hear how much the liberal arts education that we often take for granted at Columbia has opened their minds and changed their lives.

Something else we too often take for granted at Columbia is academic freedom. A little more than a decade ago, 1,000 Turkish academics, including 30 professors at Sabancı, signed a petition calling for the government to peacefully resolve its conflict with the Kurds. The signers of the Academics for Peace petition were investigated and hundreds were charged with terrorism. Public universities were forced to fire petitioners, but Sabancı stood firm, and the faculty members who signed the petition kept their jobs.

Sabancı is one of several universities that we are now partnering with as we carry on the Core's tradition of grappling with the challenges and debates taking place in higher education. When the College established the Core in 1919 as a single course, Contemporary Civilization, the idea

BETTMANN / GETTY IMAGES



Philosopher John Dewey thought democracy could survive only if we foster a “great community.”

was to prepare students for “the insistent problems of the present.” These included the catastrophic fallout of WWI, a deadly flu pandemic, a political crackdown on dissent and immigration in the United States, and anti-Black violence at the hands of vigilantes and police. But the Core also grew out of a newly emerging debate about the aims and methods of education. In the early years of the 20th century, educators and social reformers considered how best to teach the youth of a modern democratic society that was facing increasingly complex problems that would require new forms of expertise, innovation and, most importantly, social cooperation.

Today, we grapple with similar crises, and debates about the role of education in democratic life continue. Books are being banned in schools and libraries. Humanities programs are being shuttered. Artificial intelligence threatens the honest and original development of ideas. These are the kinds of problems that we will discuss in our classes and faculty meetings, and with partners like Sabancı, this year.

After returning from Istanbul and seeing the twin pressures of specialized professional training and anti-democratic politics that liberal arts universities there are facing, I am especially appreciative of the kind of education that we are able to offer at the College, and for the kind of community that it fosters — one based on the respectful exchange of diverse ideas and perspectives.

It is also clear to me that the stakes of what we do here could not be higher, that the simple act of sitting in a classroom with 20 peers discussing ideas can be the beginning of a great, democratic community that can have an impact on the wider world.



EMMA ASHER

Core Curriculum director Larry Jackson

ROAR, LION, ROAR

At 100, Recalling One for the History Books

Footballer Al Kachadurian BUS'48 looks back on Columbia's timeless triumph over Army

By Charles Butler '85, JRN'99

One morning this past summer, Al Kachadurian BUS'48 sat at a dining table in the senior living center he's called home for the last 15 years and watched a video of a football game played 76 years ago. It was in black and white, the quality spotty and with no narration. But every few seconds Kachadurian would lean in and say, "There I am."

He pointed to the player wearing number 43. On the day of this game, October 25, 1947, at Baker Field, Kachadurian was 24,

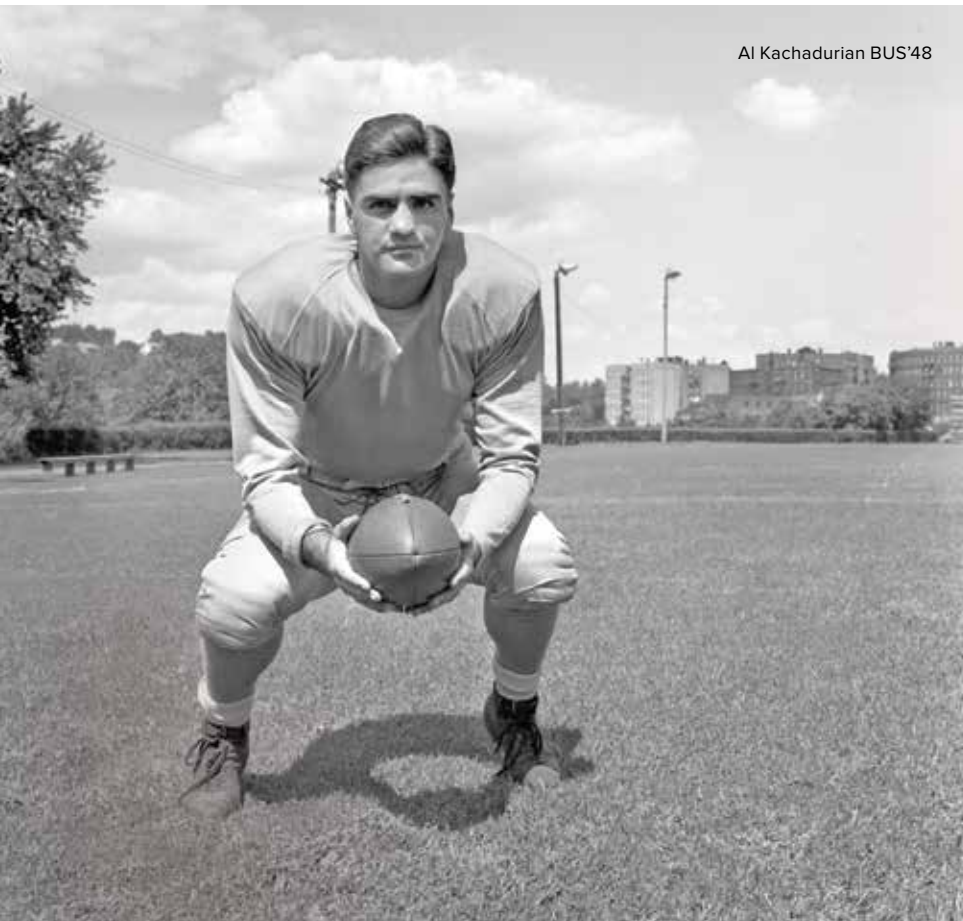
married with a baby daughter, and a Lions defensive back playing in a game that would become ageless: Columbia, soundly beaten by Ivy League opponents in its two previous games, versus Army, ranked sixth in the nation and owners of a celebrated 32-game unbeaten streak.

When he wasn't spotting his own number, Kachadurian was reliving the crunching tackles he and his teammates made that day. "Don't forget: no face masks and no mouthpieces," he reminded a visitor viewing alongside. "And we hit as hard as hell. We didn't care; when you're that age, you don't give a damn." Later, he watched as quarterback Gene Rossides '49, LAW'52 dodged Army tacklers for a key first down. And, like the 35,000 fans packing Baker Field that afternoon, Kachadurian admired once more the swooping fourth-quarter receptions made by Bill Swiacki BUS'48 that would be talked about for years. "He made a lot of great catches," Kachadurian said.

What he really wanted to see, though, was his interception — a play that helped secure one of the great upsets in college football history: Columbia 21, Army 20.

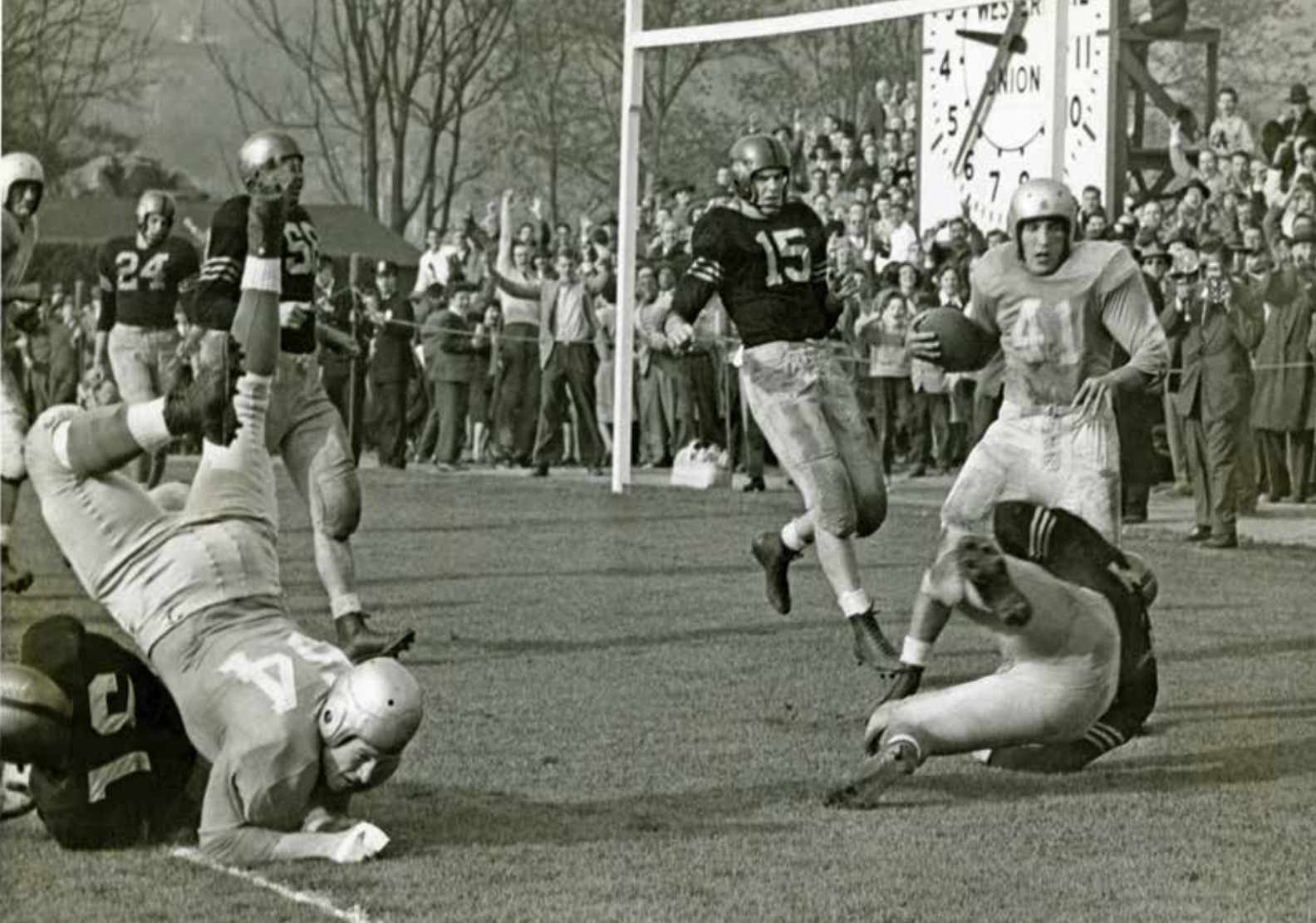
Kachadurian watched this video a few weeks after he had turned 100, on May 12. The day before his birthday, his teammate on defense Robert Lincoln '49 had died at 96. With Lincoln's passing, according to Columbia Athletics, Kachadurian was likely the last surviving member of the famed team.

He had taken a circuitous route to Columbia, which wasn't unusual for players of that era. Like several of his teammates, Kachadurian served during WWII. An all-state quarterback as a high school senior in Paterson, N.J., Kachadurian played one year at Lafayette College before enlisting in the Navy. He was stationed on a ship in the Brooklyn Navy Yard when the war ended. At the request of his wife, Janet,



Al Kachadurian BUS'48

PHOTOS COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



Lou Kusserow '49 (#41) scores Columbia's first touchdown against Army; it was the first time in 1947 the Cadets' goal line was crossed.

Kachadurian decided to stay close to his New Jersey home to finish college. One day, before the 1946 season, he made an unannounced visit to the Upper West Side apartment of legendary Columbia coach Lou Little. "I introduced myself and he said, 'Let me see your grades at Lafayette,'" Kachadurian recalled. "My grades were good — not great but good. I showed him my credentials and he said, 'OK, I'll see if I can get you in.'" A week later, Kachadurian was enrolled as an undergraduate in the Business School.

Kachadurian knew playing for Little could pay off; the coach had elevated the football team's national profile after coming to Columbia in 1930. First came a 7–0 upset of mighty Stanford in the 1934 Rose Bowl. Then, with his revolutionary wing-T offense, he helped mold quarterback Sid Luckman '39 into a future Hall of Famer. At times, Columbia was even ranked among the top football schools; early in the 1947 season it had risen to number 11.

But few gave Little and his Lions much of a chance when they faced the Cadets, a powerhouse during the war years. A year earlier, Army had run over the Lions 48–14. "They beat the crap out of us," Kachadurian put it bluntly. Still, Baker Field sold out. Among the fans was Janet, who used one of four tickets given to players. "You come in with one ticket and sell the other three," Kachadurian recalled telling his wife. "I was living with my in-laws. We needed the money."

Through the first half, Janet and the Columbia faithful had little to cheer. Army led 20–7. But during halftime, quarterback Rossides, who would go on to hold positions in two White House administrations, exhorted his teammates. "I just said, 'We can do this; we gotta do this,'" Rossides recalled in a 2013 interview. "I went around the room to the players, these veterans who are three and four years older than me."

Kachadurian and his fellow defenders got the message. They held Army scoreless

in the second half. (The Lions, as it turned out, gave up just 8 points over the final four games of the season.) Meanwhile, Columbia's offense, using what Red Smith of the *New York Herald Tribune* called "a forward passing attack so versatile that it destroyed the Cadets' habitual poise," picked Army apart. In the fourth quarter, two improbable connections between Rossides and Swiacki — the first, a sprawling touchdown grab; the second, a diving catch setting up a short touchdown run by Lou Kusserow '49 — delivered a win to rival the Rose Bowl victory.

Kachadurian didn't head back to Morningside Heights for the post-game celebration, where, according to *Spectator*, "a sizeable aggregation of celebrants held libations nightlong" at the popular West End bar. He had a family at home. "I was the only married guy on the team," Kachadurian said. (He and Janet, who died in 2011, later had two more children.) Graduation came the following spring, as did a couple of NFL offers,

ROAR, LION, ROAR

but they didn't pay enough. Eventually Kachadurian took over a family business. He kept up with many of his old teammates, and recalled that at one reunion Rossides spotlighted him. "I'm bragging a bit, but he said one of the reasons Columbia had a great team in '47 was our defense," said Kachadurian, who had a team-high six interceptions that season.

All these years later, he has not lost his competitive spirit. He's on a bocce team in his New Jersey senior living community; they play a few times a week. And, as he keeps watching the video of the Army win, he keeps searching for his interception; it stopped an Army scoring drive.

He never spots the play. It doesn't matter. The memory remains fresh.

Charles Butler '85, JRN'99 is a journalism professor at the University of Oregon. He is researching a book on Lou Little.



Bill Swiacki BUS'48 makes "The Catch" that would be talked about for years.

AN APPRECIATION

Al Bagnoli Brought Back Lions Football Pride

By Alex Sachare '71

Twenty years ago, I was sitting in Low Library with a longtime member of the Athletics Department, awaiting the start of a news conference that would introduce head football coach Bob Shoop. My friend turned to me

and quietly asked, "How many of these have you been to?"

At the time I was five years into my tenure as editor-in-chief of *CCT*. "Five or six," I said, "but remember, before I took this job I was away from Columbia for more than 25 years."

He smiled and shook his head. "Yeah, you missed a few in between."

In any business, frequent turnover often is a sign of failure, stability a mark of success. When Al Bagnoli took over in February 2015, he inherited a program that had churned through three head coaches in a dozen years (10 since I'd arrived on campus as a first-year in 1967). But Bagnoli, who announced his retirement from coaching in August for health reasons, brought much-needed stability to the Columbia football program. At the time, it seemed like an impossible dream — those Lions were a non-competitive, dispirited football team that was losing games at an alarming rate and losing players as fast as they could be recruited.

Coming off consecutive 0–10 seasons under Coach Pete Mangurian, the team seemed poised to do the unimaginable: make a run at the infamous 44-game losing streak of 1983–88, then the longest in college football history.

Bagnoli, meanwhile, was at Penn, having been moved upstairs following two losing seasons at the end of a stellar 23-year run during which the Quakers had won nine Ivy League championships. But Bagnoli, who had compiled a 148–80 record at Penn, had grown antsy as an administrator and jumped at the opportunity to return to the sidelines at Columbia.

His success was by no means a sure thing. Unlike perennially powerful Penn, Columbia had a losing tradition, with just five winning seasons since the Ivy League began football play in 1956. Skeptics questioned whether Bagnoli, then 62, would be able to inject the necessary energy and enthusiasm into the program or whether he was taking the job for one last big payday before retirement.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS / MIKE MCLAUGHLIN

Bagnoli proved them wrong. It took two years to scrape off the barnacles, but by the time his second full recruiting class arrived on campus in 2017, Bagnoli had planted the seeds for a successful culture change and was about to reap the rewards. His mantra: Make football fun again.

The 2017 team offered a peek at things to come. In its season opener, against Wagner, the Lions drove 54 yards to set up Oren Milstein '20's 29-yard field goal as time expired for a 17-14 win. Spirit and confidence seemed to grow by the week, and by the time the Lions rolled into October's Homecoming game — coincidentally against Bagnoli's old team — they'd added three more wins for a 4-0 record.

The first three quarters belonged to Penn but seemingly out of nowhere Columbia scored three touchdowns to take the lead. A Quakers touchdown with 1:21 to play forced overtime, but Columbia's defense held Penn to a field goal on the opening possession and then Anders Hill '18 completed a pass to Josh Wainwright '21 for a 24-yard touchdown and a 34-31 win. Hundreds of students, alumni and fans poured onto the field to join players and coaches to celebrate the victory.

The difference between that joyous scene and the atmosphere that had surrounded



Making football fun again: The Lions celebrate after their 34-31 Homecoming win over Penn in October 2017.

the team in Bagnoli's first two seasons was striking. As co-captain and defensive back Landon Baty '19 said, "For so long, football has been a blemish on Columbia University. But now, it's something to take pride in."

Most importantly, that 8-2 season was not an anomaly. Bagnoli led the Lions to a 6-4 record in 2018 and to winning slates in four of the last five seasons (the 2020 campaign was cancelled due to the pandemic). Not since the 1930s Lions teams coached by Lou Little, including the squad that won the 1934 Rose Bowl, had Columbia compiled a similar string of success.

When Bagnoli, now 70, announced his retirement, he had unfinished business at

Columbia. Despite a stellar career won-lost record of 269-134, he never led the Lions to the Ivy League championship, and his record at Columbia was 35-35, just one win shy of a winning mark, something even the legendary Little did not achieve.

But one of the time-honored measures of success is leaving a place in better shape than when you got there. Bagnoli did just that as the Columbia's 20th head football coach.

Alex Sachare '71 is a former sports editor of Spectator and a contributing editor to and former editor-in-chief of CCT.

Athletics Hall of Fame Names 2023 Class

A pair of Olympians from the past decade, swimmer **Katie Meili '13** and fencer **Nicole Ross '13**, are among the 22 individuals and four teams that will be inducted to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame this fall. A black-tie dinner and ceremony will be held at Cipriani 25 on Thursday, October 12.

Meili is one of the most decorated student-athletes in Columbia history. She earned All-America honors in five events and back-to-back Most Outstanding Swimmer awards at the Ivy League Championships, and captured two medals at the Rio Olympics in 2016 — a bronze in the 100m breaststroke and a gold as a member of the 4x100m medley relay squad. Ross, meanwhile, was a three-time All-American in foil, won the 2010 NCAA Individual Championship and competed at the 2012 Olympics in London.

On the men's side, the honorees include football's **Josh Martin '13**,

a three-time All-Ivy League selection who played in the NFL from 2013 to 2020; baseball's **Dario Pizzano '13**, who played three seasons with the Lions before being drafted by the Seattle Mariners; and basketball's **Ricky Free '79**, a three-time All-Ivy selection who ranks in the program's top five in career field goal percentage and rebounding.

Among the staff members being inducted are men's tennis head coach **Bid Goswami**, whose 37 years at the helm saw the Lions take 14 Ivy League team titles, and former Athletics Director **M. Dianne Murphy**, who was with Columbia from 2004 to 2015. Among her accomplishments, she oversaw the planning and construction of the Campbell Sports Center at the Baker Athletics Complex and the creation of the Women's Leadership Council.

For the complete list of honorees, visit gocolumbialions.com.



Katie Meili '13



Nicole Ross '13

THE IVY LEAGUE

A full-page photograph of Blondel Pinnock '90, a woman with long braids and glasses, wearing a blue dress and high heels. She is standing on a sidewalk in front of a modern building with a teal glass facade. In the background, there is a street with a brick building, a traffic light, and a white truck. The sky is bright with some clouds.

**Blondel
Pinnock '90
is leading a
new era of
community
development
in Central
Brooklyn**

Building Blocks

By Alexis Boney SOA'11

Photographs by
Jörg Meyer



Fulton St
Nancy St

TAK KING RESTAURANT & CHINESE FOOD

CHINESE RESTAURANT

TAK KING RESTAURANT & CHINESE FOOD

DELICIOUS DELI GROCERY

TAKESE PREP
SANDWICHES & MORE

BALLY'S CAPS

Le Froid Deli

NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



Last year, on a sweltering Thursday in late July, hundreds of people packed into Central Brooklyn's Billie Holiday Theatre to hear Vice President Kamala Harris reveal a historic effort — the formation of the Economic Opportunity Coalition (EOC), a 24-member partnership committed to investing billions of dollars in underserved communities nationwide. The coalition included philanthropic leaders such as The Rockefeller Foundation and Ford Foundation, alongside big-name businesses like Netflix, McDonald's and Bank of America.

The choice of location for the announcement wasn't just — well, theater. The Billie, as it's affectionately known, is located in Restoration Plaza, a sprawling mixed-use space superintended by the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., the nation's first community development organization. Restoration was founded in 1967, when its namesake neighborhood had become a national symbol of urban blight and racial disparity; in the years since it has served as a major force for economic, cultural and educational improvements. Put another way, the nonprofit was a pioneer in exactly the type of public-private partnership the EOC is pursuing.

"All across our nation there are places like Bed-Stuy — reservoirs of ambition and aspiration — just waiting to be tapped," Harris said. "Because of [Restoration's] success it remains not only the first, but a model for all the rest."

For Restoration CEO Blondel Pinnock '90, who introduced the Vice President at the event, being in

the national spotlight crystallized the significance of the role she'd begun less than a month earlier. "Before, I'd viewed it as, 'I'm up to this challenge. All the things that Restoration touches are in my toolchest,'" Pinnock says. "Then you have a moment like that, which reminds you of the greatness of this organization and its history — and what it means to sit in this seat."

Pinnock, the first woman to lead Restoration in its 56 years, has come to the nonprofit at something of an evolutionary moment. While its mission has remained the same since its inception — to close the Black-white wealth divide in Central Brooklyn — the context in which it operates has changed dramatically. The Bed-Stuy of the 1960s was synonymous with crime and poverty and was periodically destabilized by racial tensions, including a terrifying four-day riot in summer 1964. Restoration's origin story begins two years later, when Sen. Robert F. Kennedy took a walking tour that brought him face to face with the neighborhood's decline: dirty streets, piles of refuse, abandoned buildings and run-down housing. Afterward, Kennedy met with community members who challenged him to put his ideas for community and economic revitalization into practice. The more cynical residents derided him as "another white guy that's out here for the day." But by the end of the year, Kennedy had joined with Sen. Jacob Javits and Mayor John Lindsay to launch the anti-poverty program that became Restoration.

These days, Bed-Stuy is one of the fastest gentrifying neighborhoods in the United States, with escalating rents and home values that are becoming untenable for long-term residents. Pinnock's predecessor Colvin Grannum recognized that Restoration needed an economic mobility platform for the current era, one focused on generating Black wealth at a level that was livable for the area.

Pinnock is charged with steering the plan Grannum initiated to fruition. It's



ABOVE RIGHT: Sen. Robert F. Kennedy announces a new model of community development, circa 1967.

BELOW: Children gather for Restoration's annual Easter Egg Hunt in 1973.



ARCHIVAL PHOTOS COURTESY BEDFORD STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORP.

headlined by an ambitious renovation and expansion of Restoration Plaza, creating an 840,000-square-foot site to be called Restoration Innovation Campus. The design is by architect David Adjaye, whose credits include the National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C. It reflects a commitment to four pillars: putting arts and culture front and center, offering employment and educational opportunities for young people, maintaining open space, and having meaningful retail that will benefit the community.

A new tower will be dedicated to technology jobs training, which Pinnock believes is a necessary emphasis. “We have tech hubs now in downtown Brooklyn, in the Navy Yard, in Industry City,” she says. “We’re saying we should have a technology ecosystem right here in Central Brooklyn, and that it could be a catalyst for the creation of Black wealth.” Pinnock notes that the racial wealth gap, which has long existed, was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic; in Brooklyn, it’s currently estimated to be \$40–\$50 billion.

“We know that we need to help this community make a difference and try to bridge that the best that we can,” she says. “These are the opportunities that young people in this community need.”

Restoration’s first CEO was also a Columbia graduate, the late Franklin A. Thomas ’56, LAW’63. A philanthropic leader and advocate for social and economic justice, Thomas is perhaps most well known as the first Black president of the Ford Foundation. But 12 years before taking that role, when he was a deputy commissioner in the NYPD, he was tapped by Kennedy and Javits to lead the nascent Restoration. (Thomas had the additional qualification of being born and raised in Bed-Stuy.) He agreed to serve for two years, and held the job for a decade.



Pinnock brings up this connection during our interview in Restoration’s headquarters: “It makes me wonder, what is it about Columbia that makes us want to do this type of work? I think it says a lot about what we’re taught and why we do some of what we do.

“When I look at some of my College peers and the work that they’re doing, it all seems to be this good work — ‘the good trouble,’” she continues, quoting Rep. John Lewis. “These are people who could be anywhere and do anything, but clearly we want to make sure that we’re having an impact on our communities, on our neighborhoods, in some cases on our cities — that we’re using our talents to make sure that people are receiving equity.”

“We’re saying we should have a technology ecosystem right here in Central Brooklyn, and that it could be a catalyst for the creation of Black wealth.”

Pinnock originally thought she’d do that good work as an attorney. The native Bronxite chose the College because it was “the best local school” and she wanted to be near her parents, Jamaican immigrants who were older and relied heavily on her. She pursued her career interests outside of class, notably interning for Law School professors Kendall Thomas LAW’83 and Kellis Parker.

“Kellis was really at the forefront of creating race in law,” Pinnock says. “It was the beginning of what people now call critical race theory.” She recalls seeing legal scholars and civil rights activists Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw and Lani Guinier come through his office. “They’d all be talking about the work they were doing in this space; I was privileged to be sitting there,” she says. At Columbia Pinnock also revived the defunct Charles Hamilton Houston Pre-Law Society, wanting to do her part to encourage minority representation in legal careers (Houston was the NAACP’s first general counsel).

Pinnock went to Hofstra Law, the only time she has ever lived outside of the city. But after graduation and several years of law firm life, she was surprised to discover a new love: real estate. She took the first of several leaps of faith, as she puts it, and landed at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. “It was one of the best decisions I made,” she says, “because I had the opportunity to learn about city government and how to use public policy to shape the creation of neighborhoods from an economic development standpoint.”

After three years, much of it spent working with affordable housing developers in Harlem, Washington Heights and the outer boroughs, Pinnock wanted to

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Franklin A. Thomas ’56, LAW’63 (right) tour Design Works, a Restoration program created to amplify the talents of artists living in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Photo circa 1970.



ABOVE: Pinnock oversees a \$15 million budget and about 105 full-time employees.

LOWER RIGHT: Restoration renovated the Sheffield Farms milk bottling plant for its headquarters, seen here circa 1975.

understand more about loans: “How do developers get money, and who makes the decisions?”

To answer those questions she took another leap, this time into banking. She spent 10 years each at Fleet (which later merged with Bank of America) and Carver Federal Savings Bank. The experience was a little bit David and Goliath, says Pinnock, “going to one of the smallest banks from a major, multinational institution. But at that time [Carver] was the largest Black-managed and Black-run bank in the country. It had been around for 55 or 60 years — it was known in the community as the bank for Black people.

“I was able to be part of so many projects and programs,” she adds, “in particular in Harlem, the Bronx and Brooklyn, and to see how developers and the city

community-building organization in Queens. She was there almost three years; its mission was similar to Restoration’s — so much, notes Pinnock, that when the opportunity to apply came along, “the former CEO there was the one who said, ‘You should go for it.’”

Restoration Plaza occupies a full square block on Fulton Street, between New York and Brooklyn Avenues. It was once the site of the Sheffield Farms milk bottling plant; looking up at the main building, you can see details of cow heads and bottles on the columned façade. The plaza, completed in 1972, is home

“I appreciate that in the beginning — whatever was being discussed about community building — that there was a voice that said, ‘You also need the arts.’”

come together to fix blight and to create communities and neighborhoods. I loved being part of that community development ecosystem.”

Pinnock eventually started her own consultancy, then entered the nonprofit world for the first time as COO of the Greater Jamaica Development Corp., a



to locally owned businesses, nonprofits and government offices that deal in health, financial and social services. There's an art gallery and the Billie Holiday Theatre, alongside staples including a bank and post office. Pinnock notes that several neighborhood firsts opened here, including the first supermarket and the first sit-down restaurant, an Applebee's.

"Restoration really became this convening spot," she says, reflecting on its place in the life of the neighborhood. "Everyone I meet and talk to about Brooklyn has a story about it — this was where they had their first dance, their first job, where they met their mother after school. It was that safe place, where everyone knew that they could come and gather."

For those who prefer data to anecdote, Restoration's success can be illustrated with any number of statistics: It has found jobs for more than 24,000 youths and adults, constructed or renovated more than 7,500 housing units and provided \$60 million in mortgage financing to nearly 1,500 homeowners. (At its height, Restoration was the second largest real estate owner in Brooklyn, after the City of New York.) Its scope also encompasses financial empowerment and youth services, health and fitness, environmental awareness and small business assistance.

Pinnock is especially proud of Restoration's commitment to arts and culture, evidenced most prominently through its stewardship of the Billie. Opened in 1972, the theater has its own storied history, with a mission of offering artistic freedom to artists of African descent and providing audiences with complete and authentic portrayals of Black experiences worldwide. Debbie Allen, Samuel L. Jackson and Smokey Robinson have all performed there. In March, Pinnock traveled to the White House to accept a National Medal of Arts from President Biden on the Billie's behalf, "for being an artistic jewel of the nation."

"I appreciate that in the beginning — whatever was being discussed about community building — that there was a voice that said, 'You also need the arts,'" says Pinnock, herself a talented singer and former pianist (she attended the music and arts school that became LaGuardia H.S.). "You need to have an outlet for people to be able to see themselves on stage and to be able to experience and share their stories." She welcomes the perks of proximity. "We had Nikole Hannah-Jones, from 'The 1619 Project,' here the other day, doing a talkback. When you're having a hard day, to be able to go downstairs and see a play or performance, that can be a real highlight."

Pinnock has all the responsibilities that come with overseeing a major nonprofit: It has a budget around \$15 million and about 105 full-time and 20 part-time

employees. "We have to do all the things to make sure the organization stays relevant in this community and that we are providing the programming that's needed," she says. She ticks through a few examples including tax prep, workforce development and home weatherization programs. "Restoration falls into this space where, if there's a community need, we have been there to fill it."

Pinnock has also spent the past year on something of a local listening tour. When the plans for Innovation Campus began in 2019, a series of community focus groups were held to learn what residents wanted and needed in the neighborhood. Then came the pandemic. "From 2019 to 2023, in the world of Covid, is a lot of years," she says. "Part of my remit is to talk to the community about what's changed — is there anything else they would like to see us do on this campus in addition



The Applebee's in Restoration Plaza was the first sit-down restaurant in the neighborhood.

to the things that were said before? We can't assume we know what they want. But really take a pulse and find out what the community is looking for today."

Restoration is still a few years from breaking ground on the new campus, but Pinnock is unfazed by the timeline. "The work that we're doing on the ground *today* is what's going to get that project done," she says. "Almost every week we're talking to the project management team, the architectural team, our counsel, our fundraisers. We have timelines and deadlines that we need to make to move this project forward. I welcome that work — that's the visionary piece.

"It's exciting. One of the reasons I took this job is to be part of the new era of Restoration."

The Battle Over Books

By Jill C. Shomer

American Library Association president Emily Drabinski '97 is fighting for the right to read

We might not yet be living *Fahrenheit 451*, but book bans are definitely heating up. The national media has made it hard to miss the measures being taken by conservative groups like Moms for Liberty and politicians like Florida's governor Ron DeSantis to remove books from school libraries. In February, a Pensacola school board voted to ban a children's book about two male penguins raising a chick; last fall, *The Bluest Eye*, by Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, was pulled from shelves in a school district outside Dallas-Fort Worth.

American Library Association (ALA) president Emily Drabinski '97 is on the front lines in this increasingly contentious battle for the right to read. "Libraries didn't choose to be the terrain of struggle, but here we are," she says.

There is reason for concern — instances of book bans are multiplying, and they're not just happening in schools. The number of attempts to remove or restrict books doubled in 2021 and nearly doubled again in 2022, according

Photographs by Jörg Meyer





Drabinski has strong connections with library leaders at Columbia. "I'm grateful for Emily's courageous leadership and persistent vocal support for library workers whose brave efforts uphold the essential value of intellectual freedom," said Ann Thornton, vice provost and University librarian. "We must strengthen our resolve to ensure that libraries are for everyone."

to the ALA. Its Office for Intellectual Freedom documented 1,269 demands to censor public and school library books and resources last year, the highest number of challenges since the ALA began compiling data in 2001. Forty-eight percent of those targeted materials in public libraries.

A record 2,572 unique titles have come under fire, most by and about LGBTQ and BIPOC authors and experiences; a snapshot of challenged books includes *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe (LGBTQ content, claimed to be sexually explicit); *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky (depiction of sexual abuse, LGBTQ content, drug use); and *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (profanity, violence, thought to promote an anti-police message and indoctrination of a social agenda).

Drabinski assumed the leadership role on July 1, serving a one-year term during a critical moment in the history of American libraries. “Public libraries have only a teeny fraction of most city budgets, which makes them very vulnerable,” says Drabinski, an associate professor at Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. “Library workers need support — they need media training and advocacy training to talk about what’s happening. And we have to make sure the public sees that the library is an anchor institution in their communities.”

She is the first publicly gay ALA president, which is relevant at a time when LGBTQ life is under attack. Of the 13 titles on the ALA-compiled “Most Challenged Books of 2022” list, seven (including three of the top four) were singled out for having LGBTQ content.

Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, said the list “sends a message to the LGBTQ community as a whole that they’re not considered full citizens with full rights to participate in community institutions like the library.”

Significantly, Drabinski campaigned on a pro-labor platform that emphasized the importance of organizing library workers. “I come out of unions, and that’s shaped my theory of change,” she says. “If we want to win, we need mass movements and density — I think a densely unionized sector is crucial to the survival of libraries. Because the people who are fighting back against book banning every day are the people who work at the library. The project for me is to help more library workers understand and build their own power, which we can exercise collectively for the world that we want.”

“Emily is a strong and passionate advocate for library workers, libraries and the ALA,” says Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada, ALA president from 2022 to 2023. “She lives her values and I am excited to see how she continues leading the ALA, bringing a focus to library worker rights in addition to fighting for intellectual freedom and communities.”

The ALA reports that prior to 2020, the vast majority of banning attempts were made by individuals who sought to restrict access to a single book their child was reading. But the group found that 90 percent of recent challenges were directed at multiple books, and nearly 20 percent were made by political or religious groups. The ALA considers the sharp increase in book bans as evidence of an attack “by a growing, well-organized, conservative political movement, the goals of which include removing books about race, history, gender identity, sexuality and reproductive health from America’s public and school libraries that do not meet their approval.”

Drabinski chuckles when she says she is “popular” with the right-wing media. After she was elected in April 2022, Drabinski tweeted that she couldn’t believe “a Marxist lesbian” would be the next president of the ALA. It got around. (The tweet has since auto-deleted; Drabinski doesn’t keep messages longer than 30 days.) Two weeks into her presidency, the Montana State Library Commission voted to leave the ALA because of her comment.

“It’s been a wild ride,” Drabinski says. “I mean, I knew there would be some backlash about me. But we’re just going to keep going. Libraries are in the cross-hairs right now in ways I never could have anticipated. We need leadership that’s loud, that can make people see that the ALA is a leader on these issues that are coming at everybody.”

Drabinski references *kairos*, the ancient Greek word for time; specifically, an opportune time to do a particular thing. “This is a Kairotic moment, which requires a certain kind of action,” she says. “I’m loud — I’m really loud. So I’m hoping to just be really fucking loud for a year.”

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Drabinski’s first library job was organizing the card catalogs in Butler.



The number of demands to censor library books (such as *And Tango Makes Three*) peaked in 2022, according to the American Library Association.

Drabinski is from Boise; she never learned to drive, so she applied to colleges in cities with good public transportation. She was a recipient of the Gideon Oppenheimer [’47, LAW’49] Scholarship Trust, for students from Idaho; coincidentally, her identical twin, Kate Drabinski BC’97, also landed at Columbia.

Though she majored in political science, Drabinski dreamed of becoming a writer (she credits Logic & Rhetoric for honing her skills). After graduation, she became a fact checker at *Lucky*, the now-defunct shopping magazine. “I was in the doghouse for a week because I listed the wrong phone number for a department store; I thought, ‘I can’t live my life this way,’” Drabinski says.

She got a job at the New York Public Library, which came with an opportunity to supplement her education in library science; she earned a master’s in library and information science from Syracuse in 2003, and a second master’s in composition and rhetoric from Long Island University in 2011 (“a degree for people who teach writing,” she explains).

Drabinski was coordinator of library instruction at LIU for seven years before becoming a critical pedagogy librarian at CUNY’s Graduate Center in 2019. “Critical pedagogy is about teaching students how to determine what types of knowledge and information are worth engaging with, while teaching them to use them well enough to pass their classes. That’s what librarians do — we teach people how to use systems.”

She is understandably passionate about the role libraries play in society. “Librarians select and acquire knowledge on behalf of our communities, and we facilitate equitable access to those resources,” Drabinski says. “It’s a big job. And I think it’s really important.”

No doubt most people would agree; pre-internet, the local public library was often the only game in town for research and reading material. Libraries still provide that vital service, along with access to computers, bathrooms, a drink of water and children’s story hours (“Imagine if you had to buy every single picture book that you wanted your kid to read!” Drabinski exclaims). And so it’s distressing that these generally benevolent spaces have become subject to witch hunts and harassment. In Drabinski’s home state, legislators passed a bill that would allow anyone in the community to sue a librarian for \$2,500 if they felt the librarian had circulated inappropriate materials (Idaho’s governor vetoed the bill; an attempt to overturn the veto failed by a single vote).

“The people who are fighting back against book banning every day are the people who work at the library.”

“I’m an Idahoan through and through,” Drabinski says. “People there deserve to read; they deserve to be able to go into the library and see some book about themselves. Everybody does.”

The good news is, the majority of Americans aren’t down for this. The ALA reports that 71 percent of voters oppose efforts to have books removed from their local public libraries, including a majority of Democrats (75 percent), Republicans (70 percent) and Independents (58 percent). President Barack Obama ’83 recently lent his support, sending an open letter to the ALA in July that condemns “profoundly misguided” right-wing efforts to ban books in public school libraries.

This year’s Banned Books Week, the ALA’s celebration of the freedom to read, is October 1–7. The annual event draws attention to current and historical attempts at censorship in libraries and schools, and brings the entire book community — librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers and readers of all kinds — together in solidarity.

Still, the battle rages on. Drabinski has spent much of the past year traveling around the country, talking to librarians about their challenges and promoting the great work they’re doing. She recently returned from Marion, Iowa, where she met a librarian who had started his job just three days before a deadly derecho hit the state.

“The town was completely flattened, and this guy steps in and sets up a computer lab in the park, running off a generator, to help

people connect to their insurance plans and get other information they needed,” Drabinski says. “I’m trying to gather as many of these stories as I can so that people understand the roles that libraries play in their own communities.” At the end of her term next June, she hopes to drive a pro-library tour bus from Rhode Island to the ALA Annual Conference in San Diego.

Drabinski expects the book banning issue will intensify in the run-up to next year’s presidential election, and she says she is more than ready for the fight. “The right really wants to attack libraries for their so-called ‘corrupting influences,’ and they’re trying to make libraries about me, specifically,” she says. “The right-wing press thinks I’m terrible, they’ve attacked me for being queer — but I’m not the first and I won’t be the last. I’ve been pilloried in public from my time in unions. I’ve had cancer.” Drabinski shakes her head.

“They’re not going to kill me. I’m really kind of bulletproof.”



GEOLOGY

Professor Steven L. Goldstein '76, GSAS'86 started our first Zoom call with a simple question: "How much do you know about geology?"

When I responded that I only knew the barest basics and gave him a weak description of plate tectonics, he was prepared. A quick screenshare later, I was getting a crash course from Goldstein's class (which he co-teaches with Professor Sidney Hemming) "Earth's Environmental Systems: The Solid Earth," flying through a billion years of Earth's history in 30 minutes. For the uninitiated:

- **~1.3–0.9 BILLION YEARS AGO:** Rodinia, an ancient supercontinent, covers much of Earth.
- **640 MILLION YEARS AGO:** The Iapetus Ocean opens up near Rodinia's proto-North America landmass.
- **500–440 MILLION YEARS AGO:** The Iapetus Ocean closes and a large volcanic landmass collides with what is now the Eastern coast of North America.
- **~330–260 MILLION YEARS AGO:** The Pangea supercontinent is assembled.
- **200 MILLION YEARS AGO:** Pangea begins to break up.
- **180 MILLION YEARS AGO:** The Atlantic Ocean begins to form.
- **160 MILLION YEARS AGO:** Africa drifts away from North America.
- **20,000 YEARS AGO:** Northern North America is covered by a glacier during the last Ice Age.

And then we come to the present, a beautiful August day in New York City. Goldstein and I met in person a few days after our call to take a field trip to Central Park, where this billion years of movement, creation and destruction is on full display, if only you know where to look. And Goldstein, the Higgins Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, knows *exactly* where to look.

Raised in Maryland, Goldstein describes himself as "a totally accidental Columbia student"; he transferred to the College in his junior year, looking for the perfect blend of a strong science department and good general studies. After a brief stint at Harvard to earn an M.A., he returned to Columbia to earn an M.Phil. and a Ph.D., and, after a decade at the Max-Planck-Institut für Chemie in Germany, joined the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in 1996. On August 1, the longtime Columbian added another feather to his cap: He began as interim director of LDEO, the scientific research center of the Columbia Climate School.

In a message to the LDEO community announcing Goldstein's appointment, interim dean Jeff Shaman spoke to Goldstein's unique qualifications, including his deep background in research — he has published more than 170 peer-reviewed papers — and awards celebrating "his outstanding contributions to the fields of volcanology, geochemistry and petrology." Goldstein's popular teaching methods were also noted: "... he has been recognized for excellence in teaching across Columbia and received the 2022 Great Teacher Award from the Society of Columbia Graduates," Shaman wrote.

"What I really like to do is go out in the field, look at the rocks and learn about the rocks," says Goldstein. I asked him to take me on one of the same excursions he leads for students, to showcase the geological history that can be found right in New Yorkers' backyard.

To kick things off, it's important to know that Central Park is full of schist — "Manhattan Schist" to be exact, a type of rock made of metamorphosed sand, silt and mud. The Manhattan Schist was formed roughly 500–440 million years ago from sediment dumped in the Iapetus Ocean. You also need to know that the Hudson River is technically a fjord, carved by a glacier during the last Ice Age.

Armed with my newfound geologic knowledge and Goldstein's decades of expertise, we headed into the park. "It's going to be like riding a bike," says Goldstein, adding that once you know the secret history hiding in the rocks, "you're going to see it everywhere."

A Central Park field trip with Professor Steven L. Goldstein '76

ROCKS!

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09 | Photographs by Jürg Meyer

SEDIMENTARY BEDDING AND CONTINENTAL COLLISION, MAGMATIC DIKES AND GLACIAL STRIATIONS

Standing on Umpire Rock, a short walk from the park's Columbus Circle entrance, you can see evidence of sedimentary bedding in the rocks' lines. The sedimentation was cyclical, with coarse, sandy layers alternating with fine clay layers, slowly eroding over millions of years into the Iapetus Ocean.

Goldstein: *"The way erosion works is that when it rains, it erodes stuff that's above the ocean and deposits it into the ocean. That's how the Manhattan Schist formed. When you deposit stuff into the ocean, it settles down in flat, horizontal layers below the water line."*



▲ **Goldstein:** *"These rocks were just happily sitting beneath the ocean in flat, horizontal sheets — like a piece of paper — and then the ocean closed about 450-500 million years ago and a continent roughly the size of present-day Japan slammed into North America. It buried those sediments. Imagine what would happen if a continent slammed into something; it would mangle things. So here we see evidence of both events: the deposition of these rocks as flat sedimentary rocks, and folding of the sedimentary layers from the continental collision."*

After the soft sediments were deeply buried, heated and baked into hard rock, molten rock (magma) cut dikes (sheets of rock that cut across older rock beds) in the rock. You can see the lines of the lighter-colored magma cutting across the sedimentary bedding.

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Goldstein: *"This line is actually coming from a magma that formed below, came up through here and went right across it after the entire area got folded up [in the continental collision]. You can follow it as it goes right across the layers."*





Glacial Striations can be seen along the sedimentary bedding, where the slow flow of glacial ice from the last Ice Age carved out paths in the rock.

Goldstein: *“These are my favorite glacial grooves in New York City; you can see that they are long, wave-like, wide grooves. If you look closer, you can see smaller grooves all going in the same direction. What was formed here 20,000 years ago is still pretty much the same.”*

ERRATIC BOULDERS

Erratic boulders are rocks that were transported from somewhere else; the erratics in Central Park are evidence of the glacier that covered Manhattan during the last Ice Age. Erratics can be easily identified; they are clearly different from the schist that comprises most of lower Manhattan.

Goldstein: “Glaciers can carry things long ways — even if they’re heavy — because glaciers don’t care how heavy these things are. So glaciers can carry rocks and then when glaciers melt, they deposit them. You can see that this boulder is totally different; you don’t see any indication of sedimentary layering — that rock came from somewhere else.”

ROCHE MOUTONÉE AND PLUCKING



A Roche Moutonnée is a geological feature formed by glaciers moving over rocks, characterized by a smooth, shallow sloping backside and a steep drop-off.

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Goldstein: *“This is a small example of this glacial feature that we can see in lots of different places, like Camel’s Hump in Vermont or Lembert Dome in Yosemite National Park. The shape of it slopes gradually upward, in the direction of glacial movement, and then falls into a cliff.”*



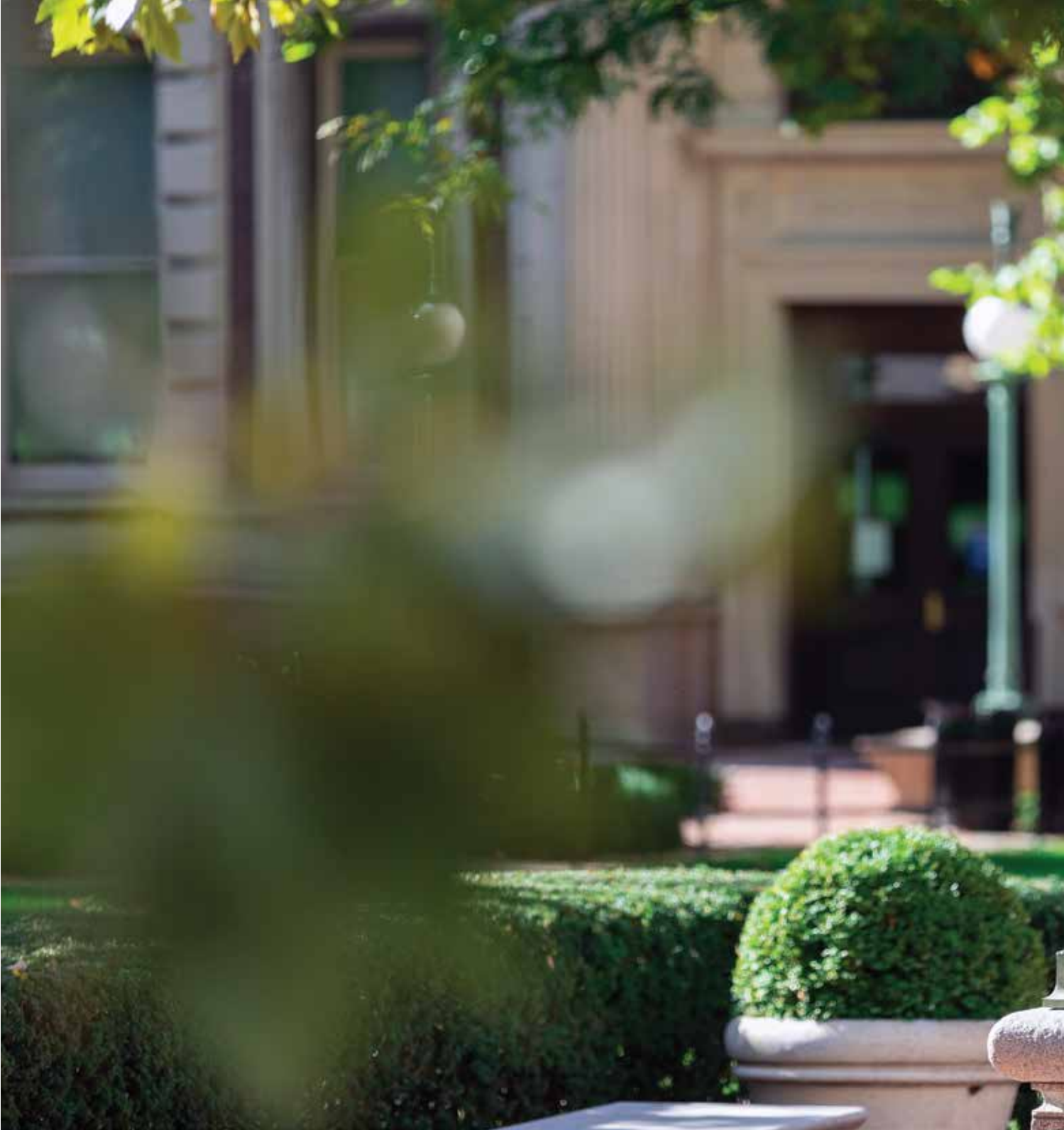
A Roche Moutonnée is also defined by its craggy frontside and “plucking” — pieces of rock ripped off the stone.

.....

Goldstein: *“During the Ice Age, the glacier was moving right across this rock going over our heads; there was a downslope here and the bottom of the glacier was actually water. When the pressure decreased because there was more space from the downslope, the water turned into ice, then the ice filled these crevices and expanded in the cracks. As the glacier continued moving forward, it plucked the rocks off.”*



*alumni*news





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Nusrat Choudhury '98 is the first Muslim woman to be appointed to a federal judgeship.

THE MANE ATTRACTION

Sculptor Greg Wyatt '71 hid a small mouse within the locks of his bronze *Scholar's Lion*, an allusion to Aesop's fable and the self-growth that happens through education.

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY



For the Love of Reunion

By Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

What is your favorite part of a Columbia reunion? I live in Boston, so every year I attend, I am drawn by the chance to reconnect with classmates and see the bright lights of New York City.

This year, a highlight for me was experiencing a newer tradition — the all-class event at Chelsea Piers. It was wonderful to celebrate with my husband, Doug Wolf '88, and 1,200 fellow alumni from the Classes of 1958 to 2022. I met newly minted graduates, danced to music from all decades and made new memories with longtime friends.

In the bigger picture, reunion is a time to focus on all that we learned and loved during a transformational period in our lives. You can revisit old neighborhood haunts, hear fascinating lectures and see all that has physically changed on campus (as well as all that has remained the same). It's also a chance to inspire and be inspired by classmates through simple, casual conversation — best enjoyed with some fries with gravy or a slice from your favorite pizza place. There is something for everyone, and plenty of nostalgia to go around!

I am not alone in my love of reunion. Here, three alums who were on their Reunion Committees share what they love about planning and attending this special event. Next year's reunion will be Thursday, May 30–Saturday, June 1. Find out more at college.columbia.edu/alumni.



RICK NARDIS '98

Oddly enough, my favorite moment was pulling up to 117th and Broadway and finding a parking spot immediately, as that never happened

when I was an undergrad commuting from Yonkers. Since I didn't live on campus, I spent a lot of time in the libraries and on the Steps. Walking the campus again as if time had not passed was definitely an emotional moment.

This last reunion wasn't the first time I was involved. The team effort of planning reunion — which itself helped me reconnect with classmates and meet new people — was very rewarding. Still hard to believe 25 years have passed. I'm eager to see where everyone is in another 25!



KAREN LOPEZ '18

Our Saturday class dinner is my favorite memory. I enjoyed reconnecting with classmates I hadn't seen since graduation, and especially hearing

about the different paths they've taken. Some are married, some have made career pivots, others are starting companies and some are going to or were finishing grad school. While our paths might differ, I loved that I could have optimism for our future.

It was also my first time seeing so many classmates in one place since graduation. I could sense there was an appreciation for the Columbia community. At one point in the night, I had a moment when I looked up at the "Welcome Back Alumni" projection lit up on Low and felt immense pride to be surrounded by so many wonderful individuals.

I have always been vocal about Columbia being a transformative experience for me. It was during my time on campus that I discovered I enjoy fostering a sense of community in the different groups I'm a part of. I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to do that for our five-year reunion. I look forward to continuing to be an active alum!



JOSÉ RICARDO MORENO '13

My favorite memory was moderating the "LGBTQ+ Activism in the Early '80s" panel, featuring Dante

Alencastre '83, Carl Birman '83 and Brad Gooch '73. At the center of these stories are kids coming to Columbia, trying to find themselves in an ever-changing world.

I was deeply moved by the memories the panel shared of the joyful, spicy moments of the early '70s, how they continue to honor their friends lost at the height of the AIDS epidemic in the '80s and their commitment to live vibrant, queer lives in the present. I can say without a doubt that I would not be the man I am today without their bravery and the work they put into making Columbia a more welcoming place for queer students.

Behind the scenes, we were focused on creating moments where alums could not only step back into a nostalgic late night at Columbia but also highlight how much growth there has been since graduation. Our class bar crawl went to Mel's, The Heights and 1020. I was surprised by how many of us reverted to our younger selves and how quickly friendships picked up after 10 years. The most rewarding part was what I didn't expect — how many new friends I'd make along the way.

bookshelf



Get the Damn Story: Homer Bigart and the Great Age of American Newspapers

by *Thomas W. Lippman '61*. This comprehensive biography of an influential journalist demonstrates the value of a free press to a democratic society (Georgetown University Press, \$29.95).

Dot by *Ron Padgett '64*. Padgett's latest collection of poetry illuminates how wonders can be found even in mundane experiences and unremarkable objects (Coffee House Press, \$16.95).

The Kafka Studies Department

by *Francis Levy '69*. Inspired by Franz Kafka, this set of interconnected short stories is infused with dark humor and insight about the human condition (Heliotope Books, \$18.50).

Save Me a Seat!: A Life with Movies

by *Rick Winston '69*. Film lover Winston details the challenging but rewarding work of creating one of Vermont's leading cultural institutions, the Savoy Theater in Montpelier (Rookstock Publishing, \$18.00).

Building a Unified American Health Care System: A Blueprint for Comprehensive Reform

by *Dr. Gilead Lancaster '79*. Lancaster proposes a system run by health-care professionals that would offer univer-

sal coverage and access (Johns Hopkins University Press, \$39.95).

The Room at the End of the Universe: True Stories About the Struggle

Against Brain Disease by *Dr. Anthony Adamo '82*. Through the stories of patients struggling with life-threatening neurological diseases, neurologist Adamo conveys the lessons that can be learned from adversity (Outskirts Press, \$21.95).

Rewired: Protecting Your Brain in the Digital Age

by *Dr. Carl D. Marci '91*. Marci, a psychiatrist and neuroscientist, reviews the mounting evidence that overuse of smart phones and social media is rewiring our brains (Harvard University Press, \$27.95).

Petrushka by *Keith O'Shaughnessy '94*. In these absurdist poems and fables, characters toil under the glare of a violently subversive Petrushka puppet in a quasi-Russian dreamscape (Ragged Sky Press, \$20).

Education Restated: Getting Policy Right on Accountability, Teacher Pay, and School Choice

by *Elliot Regenstein '94*. In his first book, Regenstein, a partner at the law firm Foresight Law + Policy, offers a pragmatic approach to education policy change in three hot-button areas (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, \$38.95).

Dear Chrysanthemums: A Novel in Stories

by *Fiona Sze-Lorrain '03*. The debut novel from poet and translator Sze-Lorrain features Asian women reckoning with the past, violence, trauma and exile (Scibner, \$18).

A Sweet Lowcountry Proposal: A Novel by *Preslaysa Williams '03*. In this Charleston-

based romance, the second in Williams' Lowcountry series, a wedding dress designer finds love with the archivist of a Black history museum (Avon, \$16.99).

My Flawless Life

by *Yvonne Woon '06*. Woon's YA thriller is set at an elite private school in Washington, D.C., where a "fixer" named Hana makes her classmates' secret problems go away (Katherine Tegan Books, \$19.99).

Running While Black: Finding Freedom in a Sport That Wasn't Built for Us

by *Alison Mariella Désir '07*. Désir, an athlete and activist, draws on her experience to explore why the sport of long-distance running has never been truly open to Black people (Portfolio, \$27).

The Jockey & Her Horse: Inspired by the True Story of the First Black Female Jockey, Cheryl White

by *Sarah Maslin Nir '08 and Raymond White Jr.* Pulitzer Prize-nominee Nir's children's story about White and her horse, Jetolaro, is the second in the Once Upon a Horse series (Harry N. Abrams, \$16.99).

This Won't Help: Modest Proposals for a More Enjoyable Apocalypse

by *Eli Grober '12*. A collection of satirical essays about the chaos of our times from Grober, a *New Yorker* and *McSweeney's* regular (The Experiment, \$25.95).

Take the Lead: Hanging On, Letting Go, and Conquering Life's Hardest Climbs

by *Sasha DiGiulian '16*. World champion climber DiGiulian tells her story and shares the power of perseverance and positivity (St. Martin's Press, \$29).

— *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

Jessica Chi '15

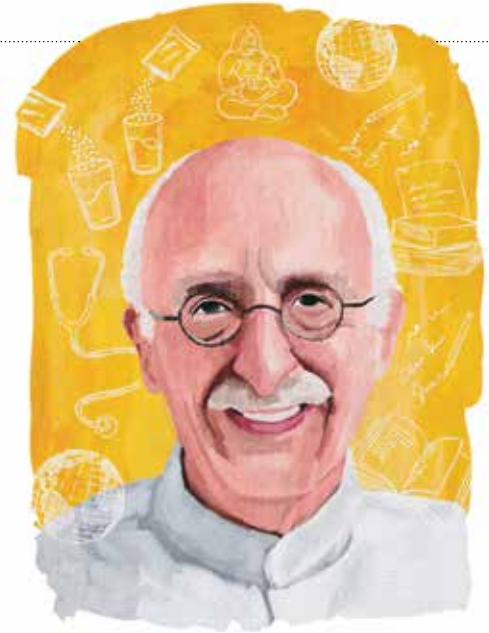
“I believe beauty is one of our greatest tools for self-expression; it gives people a sense of power over how they present themselves to the world,” says **Jessica Chi '15, BUS'21**, global marketing director of singer Rihanna's Fenty Skin. “I think I've always loved working in the beauty industry for that grander reason.”

And the beauty industry loves her back. In 2022, Chi landed on *Forbes*' 30 Under 30 list in the Marketing & Advertising category for her creative work promoting Fenty Skin. Before starting her current role, Chi had spent nearly five years with L'Oréal's marketing department and interned with L'Oréal while a student.

Fenty Beauty — Rihanna's first foray into cosmetics — launched in 2017 and immediately made waves with its mission to meet the needs of a diverse array of skin types and tones (its groundbreaking foundation is currently available in 50-plus skin tones). Following the beauty line's success, Fenty Skin launched in 2020 to focus

on skincare; Chi joined the brand early the following year. Says Chi, “Fenty Skin in particular is dedicated to providing skincare for all, so it has always felt like a perfect match with my personal mission to work with a brand that represents my values.”

Managing a global powerhouse keeps Chi busy; she leads the creation and execution of global marketing strategies and campaigns, spending her days coordinating product launches and collaborating with departments across the brand. Under Chi, the brand's popularity has continued to skyrocket; she headed up the marketing for the August 2021 debut of Fenty's Eau de Parfum, which sold out twice in its first year.



Dr. Norbert Hirschhorn '58

In 1964, Dr. **Norbert Hirschhorn '58, VPS'62** joined the United States Public Health Service and was assigned to what is now Bangladesh. While there, he treated cholera and other diarrheal diseases, which left his patients with critical levels of dehydration. Facing a shortage of intravenous fluid salts, at the time the standard treatment for dehydration, Hirschhorn gave patients water with added glucose and salts to quickly rehydrate them. This revolutionary process was not only fast acting but also widely accessible.

As a pioneer of oral rehydration therapy, Hirschhorn went on to work around the world in areas facing health challenges, including Arizona's White River Apache Indian Reservation, Egypt and Indonesia.

Since then, Hirschhorn's therapy is estimated to have saved more than 50 million lives. Among his many accolades, he was recognized by President Clinton as an American Health Hero in 1993 and was presented the Michael Pupin Medal for service to the nation in science, technology or engineering earlier this year by the University.

Hirschhorn is also a prolific writer of poetry and essays; his most recent book of poetry, *Over the Edge*, was released in June.

“One of my favorite stories is from going back to Egypt some 20 years after I'd finished up there,” he recounts. “I was sitting in a taxi talking to the driver and I asked him, ‘Do you remember the programs advertised on television and radio, the program for rehydration?’ He said, ‘Oh yes, it saved my little boy!’ I asked, ‘Where's your little boy now?’ And he's studying computer technology in Florida. That's the thing about international development — you realize that the good you do may come long after.”

Linda Appel Lipsius '93

Linda Appel Lipsius '93 wants people to get dirty. As CEO of Denver Urban Gardens, the largest independent community garden organization in the country, she helps ensure that thousands of Coloradans have access to green space to grow their own fresh, organic produce in a hyperlocal food system.

Spanning six counties and comprising 193 community gardens (and roughly 17,500 gardeners) DUG is all about individuality. Gardeners can plant whatever they want, from tomatoes to tomatillos, beets to bok choy. “We’re not prescriptive about what the garden needs to look like,” says Appel Lipsius, “so in every garden the personality of the gardeners comes through.”

Appel Lipsius joined DUG in October 2020 as interim CEO and stepped into the position permanently in January 2021. Going forward, she wants to continue DUG’s mission of regenerating urban green spaces and providing resources for people to grow healthy food in their communities. She also has big plans for ongoing growth: planting community orchards that will increase Denver’s tree canopy; building better composting initiatives across the city; and creating a resource and support network that can help smaller community gardens across the country succeed the way DUG has.

“Gardening has a transformational power — not just physical benefits, but also emotional,” says Appel Lipsius. “There is a direct line between community gardening and mitigating depression, anxiety and isolation. It’s a simple way to activate people around food, community and climate.”



Ravi Iyer '96

As the managing director of the Psychology of Technology Institute (PTI) at USC’s Marshall School of Business’ Neely Center for Ethical Leadership and Decision Making, **Ravi Iyer '96** is trying to improve technology’s impact on society.

With a Ph.D. in social psychology from USC — in addition to his double major in political science and computer science from the College — Iyer is uniquely equipped to tackle difficult questions around technology and psychology. He is now using that expertise to try to create better tech solutions for how social media platforms approach divisive content.

Prior to his current position, Iyer spent four and a half years at Meta (formerly Facebook), where he led data science, research and product teams to improve the societal impact of algorithms on elections, polarization, hate speech, misinformation and harassment. The Sisyphean experience led to an epiphany: “I started in integrity work,” he says, “effectively, what’s known as content moderation. I worked on things like clickbait engagement, misinformation and hate speech.

“I realized I could remove all the hate speech in the world and not actually remove the divisiveness,” Iyer says.

“You can remove the misinformation, but there are a lot of ways that people mislead without actually lying to you. And so I realized that content moderation was never going to be a scalable solution to those problems.”

That realization led him to advocate for design-based solutions, using technology to shape how users interact with and respond to content. In his role at PTI, which he began in October, Iyer crafts suggestions for

making social media more effective and practical, aiming to create approaches to technology design that improve users’ online experiences and their overall well-being.



classnotes



EILEEN BARROSO

Student volunteers from NSOP jumped at the chance to welcome the Class of 2027 and their families to campus on Move-In Day, August 27.

1945–52

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. David Ross '80 sent a note about the passing of his father, Dr. **Lawrence S. Ross '45, VPS'51**: "Shortly after his note in the Winter/Spring 2023 issue of *CCT*, we lost our dad and grandfather, just short of his 96th birthday.

"A brilliant youth (graduated from Columbia College at 18; won a ton of fine art awards as a teen), a responsible young man (served our country for two years in immediate post-war SCAP Japan as a reporter), an empathic physician (graduated from VP&S at 24 and Cornell-NYH pediatrics residency by 28; privately practiced pediatrics for 15 years in his two

burgeoning offices on Long Island, having made hundreds of house calls before doctors stopped doing that; was president of the Suffolk Pediatric Society; then shifted into radiology after another Cornell-NYH Residency; practiced that for 30 years on Long Island and in rural Florida, and retired at 74); a devoted husband (to stunning Marilyn, for 50 years; they traveled the world before her untimely death due to cancer, and he tenderly cared for her at home until her last breath); an accomplished artist (sold dozens of his sculptures and paintings; gave dozens more away; drew hundreds upon hundreds of pencil and pen sketches of colleagues during his first 85 years; sculpted and painted friends and family many times over; exhibited in the Met twice, among dozens of other group and solo shows, and galleries, in New York and Florida);

and caring father and grandfather (we have an endless number of character gifts for which to thank him!), he will be sorely missed.

"Larry was quite proud of his Columbia legacy — the books, the stories, the opportunities and the activities. Of this he spoke in his Class Note in *CCT*. Grandson Ben Ross '26 recently discovered this year's *Guide to the Libraries* brochure sitting buried among Lit Hum tomes on his desk. He showed us, on the inside right triptych panel, a photo of an old *Jester* cover. 'Look closely,' he said, excitedly. There was grandfather Larry's usual artistic signature, 'L.Ross,' as always in the righthand lower corner (this time, of the statue). A quick online search revealed that his artwork also sits prominently on the Columbia University Archives *Alma Mater* webpages in the Bibliography

section, as the 'two-toned color cover of *Jester*, 1945, Volume VLIII, no. 4, depicting *Alma Mater* as a servicewoman.' To be found in the Columbia University Archives Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

"Ben quipped, 'We lost grandpa, but his artwork is forever right alongside cuneiform tablets in the archive!'"

"Though we hoped he'd live another four years so he could, as he said, tell his mother in heaven, who would always ask when he brought home his 98s and 99s, 'Why couldn't you get a 100?' that he finally had! such was not the case. Mentally intact until the very end, he died prematurely at 95, having outlived all his peer friends and family.

"Among his many legacies, we are gratefully imbued with Columbian history, and with glasses high say: 'This is today! Long may Columbia stand!'"

"Love you and miss you, Larry! RIP."

תמא וייד ךורב

"David W. Ross '80, Benjamin M. Ross '26 and Audrey M. Ross '27."

CCT has also learned that

Howard N. Beldock '49, LAW'53, an attorney and mediator-arbitrator, died in Litchfield Conn., on June 1, 2023; **Willard B. Brown Jr. '49**, a businessman who lived in Brewster, Mass., died on June 20, 2023; and **William J. Lubic '49**, an attorney who lived in Red Bank, N.J., died on July 18, 2023.

Arthur L. Thomas '50, of Greenwich, Conn., writes, "In early June 1947, the Columbia crew invited me to the Krum Elbow boathouse as a spare oarsman. Because of illness and injuries to other oarsmen in the ensuing days at the facility, I rowed bow on the JV crew as a participant in the three-mile JV race at Poughkeepsie in the first Poughkeepsie Regatta since WWII, on June 21, 1947. On June 5, 1947, Gen. George C.

Marshall announced his plan for the economic recovery of Europe."

Claudewell Thomas '52, of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., received his second Distinguished Psychiatric Alumnus Award from the Yale Department of Psychiatry, on May 22. His first was in 1997.

Robert A. Gottlieb '52, a renowned book editor and a balletomane who lived in New York City, died on June 14, 2023. Please go to "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct, to read more.

Please reach out to us with your news, updates and/or College memories via the email at the top of the column or through the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Wishing you a good fall season.

1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

We heard from **Peter Fauci**, who writes: "In recent years I have responded to the invitation from the Alumni Office to participate in Class Day festivities by marching in the Alumni Parade of Classes. This follows the grand entrance of the graduates, and alumni classes march in chronological order, led by the oldest year represented. I was usually accompanied by classmate and friend from high school days, **Jay B. Kane**. Unfortunately, Jay passed away in 2021 and I did not attend that year or the next. However, as our 70th anniversary approached, I realized that there might be no one there to carry the Blue and White banner of 1953, so I half-planned to try to attend. The day dawned sunny so I grabbed my cane and drove in rush-hour traffic from Westchester to Morningside, arriving after the 8 a.m. arrival time. Cars were double parked on both sides of West 113th Street, but a legal space appeared out of nowhere, beckoning me. I rushed to the starting point but a metal gate blocked my way. A sympathetic guard cleared a path and I pushed past groups from the '80s, '70s and '60s to the head of the line. A single alum stood there carrying the banner for 1954. The procession was about to begin. When a staff member heard me repeating '1953! 1953!' she ran back

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
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
VPS	Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

to the starting point to retrieve the appropriate banner. Seemingly, only a few moments later, she arrived and together we lifted it and marched 1953 to the head of the parade! The graduates seemed to appreciate the significance of the 70-year difference and greeted every wave of my cane with a cheer.

"Where did those years go? I can still remember the feeling of awe upon first seeing the campus; I can recall the friends made; hear the voices of Gilbert Highet and Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920; and recall the acerbic Donald Barr '41, GSAS'50 (a clone of his son, William Barr '71, GSAS'79, or vice versa) — mostly happy memories despite commuting from Brooklyn for four years. After graduation, medical school, surgical training and two years as a U.S. Army surgeon in Landstuhl, Germany. After that, 50 years of surgical practice in New Rochelle and retirement in my 80s.

"I am married to Linda Kelly Fauci TC'65, and we have traveled extensively and often. I also have been a regular at Robert K. Kraft Field since my first game in 1949. That's it in a nutshell."

CCT has learned that **Richard D. Beckman**, an English professor who lived in Philadelphia, died on March 7, 2023. Read more in

"Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Thank you to Peter for reaching out! Please share your news by emailing us at the address at the top of the column, or use the online Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). We welcome your news, general thoughts and/or College memories.

1954

REUNION 2024

MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Fall greetings, Class of 1954!

Thank you to **Burton Cooper** for writing in! He shares, "All that talk of classmate death in the CC'54 Class Notes finally got me to write a few words about how I lived my life."

"After graduation, I spent a semester at the University of Wisconsin Graduate School of English, then went into the Army for two years with a year in Korea. After that

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I worked at the NYC Department of Welfare, then studied at Union Theological Seminary, earning a Ph.D. in systematic theology in 1968. I taught in religion departments at Wooster College in Ohio and Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va., then taught for 28 years at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary as professor of philosophical theology.

"I published a bunch of articles and three books. The only one that's readable is *Why, God?* I wrote it after the death of my wonderful 12-year-old child, Samuel. I have three living children and five grandchildren, and I've gotten so old I have four great-grandchildren. My wife of 66 years, Blanche Cogswell, died last July. In our long retirement years, we'd been living in an old farmhouse in the hills of east central Vermont, with 80 acres of woods and field in which to walk the dogs. If there are any CC'54ers or even CC'55ers living in the area, maybe we can meet for lunch in Hanover, N.H., and talk about how much more worrisome it is to live today than it was in 1954.

"I am forever indebted for the great education I received at Columbia. It made me a better teacher than I would have been otherwise. And I had two great teachers: Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38 at Columbia and Reinhold Niebuhr at Union. They were lifelong models for how to be a teacher and thinker, and their books informed my thought all my life."

Joel Belson GSAS'64's family sent in the following: "Joel Jay Belson GSAS'64 died on July 10,

2022, at 89. Joel graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College, where he was chancellor of his fraternity, Beta Sigma Rho. He earned his master's and Ph.D. in English. Because of his profound love of both literature and education, he pursued a career as an English professor. He spent more than four decades — 1958–99 — teaching English at SUNY Maritime College, serving as chair of the Department of Humanities there 1975–92.

"Joel was known as a dedicated teacher. When his grandson Ross Goluboff '15 began his career in college teaching, Joel's counsel to him was to do as Joel had always done, both when teaching his own children and grandchildren and when teaching his students: Inspire your students with confidence, whatever their aspirations, he told Ross. 'Raise them up.'

"As Joel loved to teach, he loved to learn — from people and experience, as well as from books. His passion for learning was truly lifelong — from his earliest days to his very last — and it was broad. He treasured reading, not just literature and about literature, but also about a great variety of disciplines. He read about history, philosophy, religion, art, music, math, science, the economy, technology. He was greatly admired for his well-informed and considered opinions — and for his willingness to change his mind.

"Joel is remembered by family, friends and colleagues not only for his keen intellect, but also for his tremendous kindness, sensitivity and fairness, and for the support

and encouragement he offered other people for their projects and goals. Whether it was an interdisciplinary conference a colleague wanted to organize or the science or crafts project a family member wanted to undertake, Joel provided all the resources, assistance and time he could. He would learn new skills himself to facilitate the realization of someone else's vision — even figuring out how to construct a primitive loom to help his wife make a rug. He would read, not only with his own interests in mind, but also with the interests of others in mind. He would clip book reviews and articles for each member of his family on the particular topics that excited them most — health and

"They are and will always be immeasurably grateful for all he taught them — and for his infinite kindness, most of all."

Please reach out to us with your news, updates and/or College memories via email or through the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1955

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

It was wonderful to receive a few notes for this issue. Please keep it up! Please email us at the address above, or use the online Class Notes

William "Bill" Kronick '55 is based in Los Angeles and is working on completing his seventh novel.

plants for his wife; math, Greek and Latin, opera, theater, computers and technology for his grandchildren; law, philosophy, religion, literature, home maintenance and politics for his daughters; art, architecture, archeology and medicine for his sons-in-law. No matter the subject, if it moved someone he knew, he wanted both to help them learn more about it and to learn about it himself.

"A strong aesthetic sense accompanied Joel's powerful intelligence. He cared as much about the arrangement of foods and variety of colors on a plate as he did about the taste of the dish. A visit to magnificently curated gardens would move him no less than exquisite poetry. His own cooking — as well as the wood and tile work with which he adorned the furniture and walls of his home — all reflected his great appreciation for beauty. He added much of it to the world with his mind, hands and heart.

"Joel is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Abby Avin Belson BC'56; their daughters, Gabrielle Belson Rattner BC'80 and Nicole Belson Goluboff '87, LAW'90; their sons-in-law, Donald Rattner '79 and Erik Goluboff '86; and their grandchildren, Ross Goluboff '15, Isaac Goluboff and Remy Rattner.

webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note) to send in your news, general thoughts or College memories.

William G. Langston writes, "After more than 30 years of two months in Europe every year, my wife and I are now anchored at Long Beach, Calif., awaiting the return of our youth. Our passports are new and unstamped, alas."

William "Bill" Kronick shares, "Out here in Los Angeles all are grateful we've so far eluded the floods, fires and heatwaves that have compounded the economic inflation and political turmoil affecting all us! I'm closing in on completing my seventh novel while my son, Max, has been picketing for the last few months with fellow Writers Guild of America members. The first film I made, a 26-minute short, *A Bowl of Cherries*, played in 1,000 theaters and launched my career. It was (and is!) a romantic comedy. I try to keep its spirit in mind during my modest comings and goings!"

Warren Cohen notes, "Sorry; nothing new to report. Wait for my 90th next year."

Richard Ravitch, a powerhouse in New York politics — a "public citizen who helped rescue New York City from the brink of bankruptcy

Send Us Your News!



If you don't see a column for your class, it means we have not heard from you or your classmates. You can change that! Please share news, updates, and College memories and stories with us for inclusion in a future issue. Email us at cct@columbia.edu, or use our webforms to send in a Class Note (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note) or a photo (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). We hope to hear from you!

and its decaying subways from fiscal collapse,” as noted in *The New York Times* — and a former New York State lieutenant governor, died on June 25, 2023. Please go to “Obituaries,” online at college.columbia.edu/cct, to read more.

1956

Robert Siroty
rrs76@columbia.edu

Stephen Easton attended the Dean’s Scholarship Reception on March 28, where he met Dean Josef Sorett, along with one of our five scholarship recipients, Jonny Gonzalez ’24. In June, Stephen went on a tour of the Manhattanville campus and was particularly impressed with the new Business School building that is replacing Uris Hall, which housed his classes on the Morningside campus. Stephen lives in North Carolina and makes frequent trips to New York. He “hopes all our class members are aging gracefully.”

Dan Link represented us at Class Day on May 16 (see a photo in this column online: college.columbia.edu/cct). We were the fourth-oldest participating class. By the way, Columbia Reunion is open to us every year, prior to our 70th in 2026.

H. Michael Grant, who practiced psychiatry in New York for 63 years, died on March 26, 2023. His obituary in *The New York Times* noted that he told his granddaughter “there was never a day when he was not excited to go to work.” [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries,” online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

We note the passing of **Al Franco SEAS’56** on May 2, 2023. Al participated in many of our events, including most of the luncheons. He was a good friend, and will be sorely missed.

Please forward your news.

1957

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

“I recently realized that the informative clippings from *The Washington Post* that **Herman Levy** had reliably mailed me about various African-American matters since our 50th reunion had stopped, which I inno-

cently attributed to his traveling, not illness or worse,” Dr. **John H. Norton III** writes. “I was therefore stunned to learn in the Summer 2023 issue of his death on May 7, 2023, and mourn the loss of a friend and the end of many pleasant visits and discussions in San Francisco. Herman was considerate, thoughtful, committed to equality for all, an exceptional class correspondent and devoted to the Class of 1957.”

John G. Scandalios echoes that thought: “Sorry to hear of Herman’s passing. I enjoyed his concern for our class.”

Eugene “Gene” Wagner writes in a poetic style, “how sad it is as I read obituaries of old friends who have passed i so clearly remember each and every one of them enjoying the best of their college days so many years ago”

An invitation from **Martin Brothers**: “I enjoy emails and occasional get-togethers with **Alan Brown**, and now and then with **Rabbi Alvin Kass**, and on occasion with **Sal Franchino**, and would be pleased to connect by email or in person with alumni in the NYC area, who can reach me by phone or text via my mobile number: 914-715-3367.”

Karl Fleischmann writes, “By spring of senior year my roommate **Martin Cohen** and I had completed all the courses we needed to graduate. We enrolled in Dustin Rice’s Friday afternoon modern art course, which offered an off-ramp from the work of the week. I learned a lot about art although as the lights went down and the slides came up, I regularly fell asleep. Rice instructed us to go to MoMA and memorize the collection. As absurd as that assignment seemed, we ultimately came to realize that memorizing a collection permits you to compare the images in your mind with other works you come upon in other museums, year after year. And too, we have the memory of Monet’s *Water Lilies*, an enormous mural that was lost to a fire a few years later.

“Two years after graduation and before I had finished law school I married Muriel Rosenblum, whom I had met after junior year. We celebrated our 64th anniversary this past June. We have lived for all that time in West Hartford, Conn., and I have

practiced law and been involved in business here. I am almost fully retired but still handle matters for a few clients. We have three sons and six grandchildren. Muriel and I have together been to more museums than Rice would have predicted of a somnolent student.”

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada resident **Daniel Younger SEAS’63** says, “Strains of ‘Sans Souci’ and ‘Who Owns New York’ echo through my brain as I recall Orientation at Columbia 70 years ago. These memories are stimulated by my granddaughter Scarlett, who is this fall looking forward to her own orientation to university life.

“It leads me back to my last days at Columbia, when I conceived a minimax equality, whose study would dominate the next 10 years of my life, taking me to Ontario and the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo. This past summer I was sorting through academic papers and course materials, keeping those close to my heart.

“I planned to visit New York in September, where my daughters Kirsten and Meredith live and work, one not far from Morningside. Strains of Columbiana will likely course through my head once again.”

Thank you to those who wrote. Please keep the news coming! Email us at the address at the top of the column, or use the online Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note) to send in your news, general thoughts and/or College memories.

1958

Peter Cohn
petercohn1939@gmail.com

Although our class had no formal activities scheduled at Columbia Reunion 2023, held June 1–3, several members did attend the festivities: **Joe Dorinson**, **Carl Stern**, **Eli Weinberg**, **Ira Carlin**, **Steve Jonas** and **Ernie Brod**.

Kudos to **Bert Hirschhorn VPS’62!** He is the recipient of the 2023 Michael Pupin Medal, conferred by the University in recognition of his “longstanding service to the nation in science, technology, or engineering.” [Editor’s note: Read more about Bert in this issue’s “Lions” section.]

At another gathering in June, five members of AEPi fraternity (and their wives), who had been holding biweekly Zoom meetings during the pandemic, finally met in person at an Upper West Side restaurant: **Peter Barth** (Nancy), **Bob Levine** (Anne), **Walt Lipow** (Giselle), **Carl Stern** (Joy) and yours truly (Joan). **George Ehrenhaft** (Peter’s friend since elementary school days in Queens) also joined the group. A good time was had by all!

An addendum to our note of praise in the Summer 2023 issue for the women’s basketball team and its Ivy League championship season. The team capped off its regular season heroics with four additional post-season wins in the Women’s National Invitation Tournament and advancement to the finals before a narrow defeat on the road against the University of Kansas and 10,000-plus spectators. What a season to remember, especially for those alums who attended the WNIT home games and/or watched them on television or computers. Unfortunately, the WNIT magic did not extend to the spring teams; no titles this year for tennis or baseball, so women’s basketball was not only a champion but is also our only one. Now, it’s on to the fall and a new season.

See you at Robert K. Kraft Field!

1959

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@hotmail.com

I have room this issue to include the rest of **George Mann GSAPP’62’s** contribution: “I am fortunate to have won numerous awards, made national and international presentations, written numerous articles, and produced and coordinated 81 videos on health facility design for PBS since 2018: go online to bit.ly/46MSTsj.

“I have taught health facility design to more than 4,500 students at Texas A&M University; as a visiting professor at Columbia 1974–76; as the Lady Davis visiting

professor at the Technion, Israel Institute of Architects, in Haifa; as the first American visiting professor at the University of Tokyo, Department of Architecture, Nagoya City University; at Southeast University in Nanjing; and as a consultant to Temple University. I have been invited to present research and design projects around the world including in the United Kingdom, Holland, Stockholm, Berlin, Italy, Greece, Warsaw, Israel, Guatemala, Honduras, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Moscow, Beijing, Dalian, Manila, Hong Kong, Sydney, Perth, Tunisia and South Africa.

"In 2002 I founded Global University Programs in Healthcare Architecture with Dr. Yasushi Nagasawa of the University of Tokyo to encourage more colleges of architecture to create similar health-focused graduate programs. From 2012 to 2013 I was the elected director of the International Union of Architects — Public Health Group after being the official representative of the United States for the American Institute of Architects 2007–18.

"I am currently involved in the research and design impact of tele-medicine, as this is a new frontier and will be a major driver of change in health facilities design.

"As a result of these involvements, I have stayed in touch with many of my former students, collaborating on numerous projects, and have been energized by the growing needs as well as the successes of many. Due to the lack of interest by most colleges of architecture, our unique program has grown enormously, and

I cannot describe the satisfaction I have had in undertaking these projects in a context of such demand and changing needs.

"Wishing all CC'59 classmates and families good health and peace, and that they enjoy each day that we have left. Ever forward and onward! Best wishes to the younger generation, as they will have to do much better than us — they have more issues to deal with."

Joe Bearman writes, "After graduation I went to Europe and studied medicine at the University of Geneva. This was followed by a residency in pediatrics. I practiced in a variety of settings, including visits to Bolivia. For the last 40 years we have lived in Central New York State, currently in Fayetteville, a Syracuse suburb. The last 20 years of my career were as a founding member of Pediatric [now Child Health] Associates of Madison County in Oneida and as a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse.

"Upon leaving my office practice I attended the Pediatric Clinic and taught first-year medical students.

"While working in New Haven, I met and married Mirta Delgado, a native of Argentina. She went on to have a long career as a professor of Spanish at Colgate. We have three highly accomplished sons and five grandchildren.

"We traveled a great deal in Europe and South America but in retirement we visit family in Cordoba, Argentina, and the boys in Virginia and Washington, D.C. I remain quite active, swimming almost daily and walking, though I cannot do the ambitious hiking I used to do. I sing in a couple of large groups in the second bass section. Like so many of us, a lot of time is spent in medical offices as I realize that getting old is a bit of a contact sport."

From **Bernie Pucker** we hear, "Still here! Today, June 15, 2023, my wife, Sue, and I celebrate our 64th anniversary. Amazing grace!

"We have two grandchildren marrying in August and September.

"The gallery continues to host many amazing artists, including Saul Steinberg and Samuel Bak, and we are working on the Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center, on the campus of the University of Nebraska, Omaha, where he has donated 512 works and it has



Paul Kantor '59 (left) visited with Bennett Miller '59 in the Washington, D.C., area in early June.

opened a Phase One space, attracting hundreds of visitors already.

"We hosted an exhibition of the Hamada family — three generations of Japanese pottery. The first-generation Shoji Hamada was designated a Living National Treasure in 1955.

"After 54 years at the gallery, it seems to get better and better! "All the best."

Jerome Charyn is still active. He tells us, "My new novel, *Ravage & Son*, about a Jewish Jekyll and Hyde on Manhattan's Lower East Side at the beginning of the 20th century, was to be published in August. *A Dangerous Diva*, my novel about opera star Maria Callas, will appear in 2025. I am working on *Silver Wolves*, a novel for young adults. My reminiscence about Balanchine and the New York City Ballet appeared in *The American Scholar*."

Paul Kantor and **Bennett Miller** write, "In early June, **Paul Kantor** and his wife, **Carole**, had a chance to visit with **Bennett Miller** and his wife, **Pat**. (See the nearby photo of Paul and Ben.) The Millers live now in a community about 30 miles south of Washington, D.C., where, as Paul will attest, the food is very good. But the conversation was even better, as we recalled our days at Columbia, and recalled brilliant classmates: **Roald Hoffmann** was probably first, and then **Uriel Nauenberg**. And also **Mike Tannenbaum** and **Norm Gelfand**.

"Ben and Paul have each had career paths that were not at all what we expected on graduation day,

but they have been good to us, and we choose not to complain. We're all now at an age where, as they say, 'If you wake up and nothing hurts, you've died!' A bit more technically, we note that having exceeded life expectancy as it was in 1938, we are 'actuarially dead.' Being alive is a whole lot better."

I am sure that we all agree.

Norman Gelfand informs that his youngest son, **Sammy** is now an assistant coach/analytics with the Washington Wizards.

Our 65th reunion is next spring. Planning is underway, so if you have an idea or suggestion, please let me know and I will share it with the Reunion Committee. Or, contact either of the Columbia College staff offices noted at the top of the column. We should all make plans to be there.

I am sorry to inform you of the death of **Uriel Nauenberg** GSAS'63 on December 31, 2019. I only learned of his death recently. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1960

Robert Machleder
rmachleder@aol.com

The dominant theme of this note, all too recurrent but inescapable and quite essential, is remembrance of and reflection on our recent losses of colleagues.

Larry Rubinstein wrote, "At our class Zoom call **Irwin Sollinger**



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:
college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.

informed us that **Bruce Ettinger** had died. He passed away in June 2020 of a heart attack in San Francisco. I believe he was Phi Beta at Columbia and went on to Harvard Medical School. He was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity.”

Indeed, Dr. **Bruce Ettinger** passed away following a heart attack on June 15, 2020, at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center, where he had a distinguished career. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, Bruce completed his internship and residency in pediatrics at Boston City Hospital. He then saw service in the Army with a tour of duty in Japan.

Bruce arrived in his adopted hometown of San Francisco in 1968, joined the Permanente Medical Group in 1970 as a senior physician in internal medicine specializing in endocrinology and maintained his practice for more than 30 years. From 1980 to 2003, he chaired the chiefs of the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Endocrinology Group.

A dedicated and patient teacher, Bruce retired as clinical professor (emeritus) of medicine and radiology at UC San Francisco. He was remembered for his reassuring presence, good humor and accessible way of explaining complicated issues. Bruce was a beloved physician and mentor for Kaiser/UCSF residents and colleagues.

In the early '70s, Bruce chaired the patient services committee, which developed a Patients' Bill of Rights adopted by Kaiser Permanente San Francisco. Subsequently, it was the template for Kaiser's Northern and Southern California region hospitals. When he chaired the Patient Services Committee, which was started by nurses, he met Vivian, who became his wife. Bruce and Vivian worked together at Kaiser for decades.

From 1992 to 2003, Bruce was a senior investigator at Kaiser Permanente's Division of Research. He continued, after retirement, as a mentor and was an adjunct (emeritus) investigator — 50 years of service to Kaiser Permanente.

Bruce made significant contributions to research in kidney stones and in women's health, specifically around menopause, osteoporosis and fractures. He developed a web-based fracture risk calculator designed to provide fracture risk results in an understandable manner for patients.

Bill Tanenbaum advised that **Ernie Kaiman** GSAS'67 died on November 1, 2022, in Sarasota, Fla. He writes, “Ernie and I became friends in 1956 as freshmen at Columbia. Later in life, my wife, Ronna, and I used to visit Ernie and his wife in Sarasota and for special occasions they would visit us in Boca Raton. One must cherish the good times because time passes quickly.”

Harvey Brookins died on November 4, 2022. His passing was brought to the attention of the class Zoom attendees by **Bill Host**, who wrote: “Sorry to miss this Zoom especially. I was traveling to Pittsburgh ahead of services for the passing of Harvey Brookins. They were held in his hometown of McDonald, Pa. He passed on November 4, peacefully, in his sleep. He was quite open about his labile diabetes and hypertension. His family was far flung and they all came to his tiny hometown rather than Detroit.”

Harvey will be long remembered as captain of the varsity football team, noted for his prowess as a running back who in our final season sparked the opening game victory over Brown, carrying the ball for 124 yards with two touchdowns and a conversion, and in the last game victory over highly-favored Rutgers, carrying the ball for 125 yards and two touchdowns.

Andy Feuerstein informed me of the March 22, 2022, death of **Michael Sohn**, in Northwest Washington, D.C. They had been classmates at Harvard Law School. Andy provided the details regarding Michael's legal career.

Michael was the longtime chair of the Arnold & Porter law firm, perhaps the most prominent firm in D.C. He was a nationally recognized expert in antitrust law. In 2008, he was honored at the 30th Anniversary of *Legal Times* as one of “30 visionary business leaders who turned the Washington legal community into an international powerhouse.”

He was one of our many Stuyvesant H.S. graduates and attended Harvard Law, graduating with honors.

After serving in the Air Force, Michael began his legal career at the National Labor Relations Board, where he practiced 1964–69. “I got to argue 8–10 cases a year in federal appellate courts,” he recalled. “I loved it.”

He then joined Arnold & Porter and made partner in 1972.

In 1977, Michael became general counsel of the Federal Trade Commission, where he was known for his vigorous efforts to keep commission investigations free from political interference. In a 1980 *Washington Post* article, Michael was described as a “Lawyer's Lawyer” who played a major role in protecting the commission's legislative mandate.

Michael returned to Arnold & Porter in 1980 and was active in law firm leadership throughout his career, chairing the antitrust practice and becoming firm chair in 1996.

Throughout this time he maintained a busy and broad-based antitrust practice in litigation, investigations and merger reviews. During Michael's tenure as chair, the firm launched a first of its kind on-site childcare center, leading *Working Mother* magazine to honor Arnold & Porter as one of the “100 Best Companies for Working Mothers,” the only law firm on the list.

In 2010, Michael retired from Arnold & Porter after 41 years due to mandatory age limitations at the firm. Thereafter he joined Davis Polk & Wardwell, where he continued to practice antitrust law until the age of 77.

Vince Russo notified me of the death of **George J. Camarinos**.

“It is with a heavy heart that I must report that another classmate has passed. George died peacefully with his family in attendance on February 16, 2023. He was living in Saint Petersburg, Fla. He was a physician specializing in gastroenterology until his retirement a few years ago.

“I met George in freshman year at DeWitt Clinton H.S. in the Bronx. We were so happy to gain acceptance to our first-choice college, Columbia, as pre-meds.

“He went on to New York Medical School and a successful St. Petersburg gastroenterology practice.”

George's son added some further detail regarding his father's life. “He was the first gastroenterologist to do colonoscopies in the Tampa Bay area. He practiced medicine both in New York and then in Florida. During his time at Columbia, he had a successful music career as an entertainer, where he was not only an amazing pianist, but also wrote and performed his own songs. His talent in music and performing culminated

in numerous record deals with major labels, having a top 10 hit in Colorado, performing at ‘hops,’ as well as starring in a movie that premiered worldwide, *Girl Fever*. During his music career, he went by several different names in show business, such as George Cameron and George Camarinos III. Although he was growing in popularity in show business, he decided to give all that up to focus on his medical career but kept writing music throughout his life.”

[Editor's note: Read more about some of these classmates in “Obituaries,” online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1961

Michael Hausig
mhausig@yahoo.com

Bob Pollack retired on July 1 after 45 years as a biology professor at Columbia. A celebration of his retirement was held in Faculty House on May 23.

After earning a Ph.D., Bob returned to Columbia in 1978 as a professor in the biology department. He has been dean of Columbia College, director of the Center for the Study of Science and Religion, an editor at Columbia University Press, co-chair of the Columbia Senate's Faculty Affairs Committee and a member of numerous boards and committees, and for 10 years was director of the University Seminars. During that time, Bob raised millions of dollars for the University. He was instrumental in the creation of Columbia/Barnard Hillel (The Robert K. Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life). As dean (1982–89), he pushed successfully to have women admitted to the College starting in 1983. He was a leader in bridging the gap between science and religion, and more broadly in interrogating scientific research from an ethical perspective.

Bob's research into reversion in malignant tumors in the 1980s was far ahead of its time, and has been cited recently as a practical approach to therapy. He was the first professor from the natural or physical sciences to lead the University Seminars, and has been a leader in dismantling barriers between STEM disciplines and the humanities. Along the way, he taught thousands of students,

mentored hundreds of graduate students and early-career scientists, introduced service-learning programs to the College and was active in educational outreach programs for high school students interning on campus.

Carl Saviano has retired from the practice of psychiatry and is very busy. Hard to understand! He is working to get a speaker for the class discussion group and has found someone to speak about transgender issues, a complicated subject.

Don Savini SEAS'63, after 52 years, has returned to become a citizen of the Keystone State. They sold their residence in Illinois and now live on their farm in central Pennsylvania.

Tom Lippman's 10th book was published in May. *Get the Damn Story: Homer Bigart and the Great Age of American Newspapers* recounts the life and times of the greatest war correspondent of the 20th century, working first at *The New York Herald Tribune*, then at *The New York Times*. When Bigart began his journalism career in the late 1930s, New York City had more than a dozen daily newspapers. Tom saw Bigart in action when Tom was a news clerk at the *Times* right after graduation, so he put a bit of himself into the story.

David Konstan GSAS'67 returned in June from Brazil, where he spent two and a half months as a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Campinas. There, he gave a series of eight lectures on "Revenge, Retribution, and Reconciliation."

Bob Salman LAW'64 and his wife, Reva, celebrated their 60th anniversary in June. Bob continues to be an active member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, which is working on this year's election of the entire State legislature. He is also chairing a Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (aka FINRA) arbitration and working on decisions for bail reform and insurance registration as a member of the New Jersey Council on Local Mandates.

Bernie Muench SEAS'62, BUS'65 spent most of his career at Ford Motor Co. as a product and business planner. He led the naming and the development of the F-150, the number 1 selling truck in America. After retiring, he formed a consulting company, Process Solutions, for project and process management and engineering analy-

ses. For the last 15 years Bernie has followed what he expects will be a fantastic transformation as we think about and address population and resource (oil, water, clean air, land) limits and climate consequences. Bernie's comments to address the vehicular side of the fossil fuel dilemma are as follows.

"Eight billion people producing tons of emissions contribute to the unprecedented CO₂ in the atmosphere, resulting in climate chaos. So while we learn more, let's do something about it today. A small plug-in hybrid will have the largest impact in the shortest time. A PHEV will get you to Florida in the same amount of time for half the emissions and half the fuel cost that a two-and-a-half-ton SUV requires. Your weekly emissions and fuel bill should be less than half as you commute and charge overnight.

"It does not matter if you accept that fossil fuel emissions are causing weather chaos. We live in a capitalistic system that functions to align costs with causes. Substantial numbers of our decision makers have become convinced. So auto executives see an opportunity to provide their customers with alternative transportation modes not subject to the fossil-fuel monopoly. From an energy-efficiency perspective, electric fuel is two times more efficient than fossil fuel. If you were an auto executive with an opportunity to become independent of a monopolistic supplier and gain energy independence and efficiency for your customers, would you take it?"

A note on invalid email addresses: As classmates retire or change internet providers, some email addresses are no longer valid. If you have changed your email address, please alert the CCT office (via webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info or via email: cct@columbia.edu) and they will tell me, so I can include you on our mailing list.

1962

John Freidin
jf@bicyclevt.com

Seven classmates responded to my query, "Should Donald Trump (a) never have been indicted and why or (b) be convicted and why." Five

thought he should be convicted; one thought he should have been reprimanded, not indicted; and one thought the question had "absolutely no place in our news." I also asked for reading recommendations, which follow.

Armando Favazza writes: "As a psychiatrist I'm not supposed to diagnose anyone unless I've done a personal evaluation. I believe, however, that I've seen Donald Trump so often on television that I can reliably diagnose him. He should be indicted and sent to prison. He is a narcissistic psychopath, poor role model and disgraceful human being who cheated thousands of people and instigated the attack on our Capitol. Dante would encase him in ice in the lowest realm of hell.

"On a better note, Sicilian author Andrea Camilleri writes terrific detective novels that put me in a happy mood. Humor, good plots and mouth-watering Italian food."

Russ Warren recently stopped operating but continues to consult, train residents and do research on cartilage replacement. Looking back, he modestly writes: "Been a fun run." Russ, his wife, Laurie, their two children and eight grandchildren all live in Greenwich, Conn. Russ mentions an article in *The Wall Street Journal* by Andrew Delbanco, Columbia's Alexander Hamilton Professor of American Studies. Delbanco asserts that a core curriculum stimulates discussions that make college students better despite differences and heated argument. Amen.

One of **Bob Umans'** favorite authors is Louise Penny. She writes police procedurals that take place in a rural Quebec town. Armand Gamache, her chief inspector, advises an overeager assistant of the four statements that lead to wisdom: "I'm sorry.' I was wrong.' I don't know.' I need help."

Charlie Nadler continues to live in the Erickson Senior Living development in Highlands Ranch, Colo., and provides pro bono legal services to his fellow residents. He has established numerous listservs to build community. (For those of you like me who aren't sure what a listserv is, it's an online discussion that facilitates email messages to and from a list of subscribers.) Charlie also teaches in his community's resident-run Learner's Club. His first effort was "What Do Lawyers

Do and How Do They Do It?" His next, "What Are Conservatism and Liberalism?" will focus on Edmund Burke and John Stuart Mill.

He writes: "Having long been a federal criminal defense lawyer, I think, on the basis of news reports, that Trump was properly indicted. He must not be placed above the law, but he must have the best representation possible so there will be no doubt about the validity and fairness of his trial."

"Speaking of justice," **Gerry Sorin** writes, "of course Donald Trump should be convicted. He's a criminal who has committed multiple felonies. If he's not convicted it will demonstrate that whatever is left of our justice system is destroyed."

Gerry recommends Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, which, he says, "I ought to have read years ago, and, you might be surprised, James Hannaham's *Didn't Nobody Give a Shit What Happened to Carlotta*. There's a connection."

Gerry is still writing. His ninth book, on Saul Bellow, will be published in April 2024. Meanwhile, he is writing a 10th book: "I'll figure out what it's about when I get to the end. "Good luck to all of us in the ninth decade of our lives."

Rich Rothenberg recommends *The Wolf Hall Trilogy* by Hilary Mantel.

Phil Lebovitz belongs to a study group of Chicago psychoanalysts who for years have discussed many topics. In recent months they've focused on racism. This prompted Phil to write: "The best book of my past year is *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson, a remarkable writer; an enlightening book."

During the pandemic, Phil spearheaded an initiative for frontline personnel such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, firefighters, police and others engaging very ill patients. The program offered each person up to eight free sessions of therapy and additional sessions at a negotiated fee. The low-fee clinic of the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute, where Phil had been president/director, administered the program, and psychoanalytic faculty members volunteered their time. "This year," writes Phil, "a pressing issue for me and my colleagues is when to resume in-person meetings with patients. People are all over the landscape on that one. I hope all of

you who contracted Covid-19 have recovered and are healthy now.”

Writing from Washington, D.C., **Andy Jampoler** SIPA’81 reports, “Suzy, my wife of 58 years, and I remain well and happy here, as do our children and grandchildren. I continue to work on my memoir, *The Road to Here, Growing Up and Growing Old in Interesting Times*, which, if I ever get to the end, will be my ninth and last book. I volunteer weekly at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Survivors Desk, where I speak about my childhood and improbable survival in Poland. Hordes of young students from all over visit the museum.

“Trump should be tried for his crimes, convicted and jailed. That said, I fear it won’t happen, and he’ll be on the ballot, again threatening our democracy.”

As he’s done for most of the last 16 years, **John Kater** spent the spring teaching at HKSKH Ming Hua Theological College in Hong Kong. He continues to be distressed by “the apparent U.S. vendetta against China, which seems to be at the center of American foreign policy. I wish,” he writes, “everyone could hear what I have been hearing from old friends in Hong Kong. They register both alarm and bewilderment at the saber-rattling and distortions in the American media. Many people have close ties to the United States — some are graduates of American universities, others have American family members or professional ties to American corporations. Nevertheless, out of fear and to signify their disagreement with American policy toward China, they have opted not to visit the U.S., which they see as heightening the danger of war, whether intended or not.”

Although he is “no fan of Trump,” **Roman Kernitsky** feels Trump “should have been reprimanded, not indicted. To indict a former President and possible future opponent is worthy of a banana republic. It’s a case of selective justice, following the non-prosecutions of Hillary Clinton and Hunter Biden. It is a radical and horrible overreach and will further polarize the nation. Aside from that, I am hoping that Ukraine will reclaim some of its lost territory from the monster Putin.”

The best book Roman has read this year is *Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux*.

“It is,” he says, “a fascinating story of how a person faced death from tuberculosis, and it is particularly relevant for me, as I treated tuberculosis and leprosy as a military medical officer.

“I recommend *The Overstory*, by Richard Powers, a dazzling novel that dramatizes the interdependence of human beings and the earth’s flora and the power of data analysis.”

Howard Relin — father, husband, great-grandfather and Monroe County, N.Y.’s longest-serving DA — died on December 7, 2022. Please read this wonderful, extensive obituary online (bit.ly/3PTbbev), which calls Howie “one of the community’s most popular elected officials, an administrator-politician known for his effortlessly outgoing demeanor.”

Please go to our column online (college.columbia.edu/cct) to read news from **Richard Schwartz**.

1963

Paul Neshamkin
pauln@helpauthors.com

Our 60th reunion was wonderful. Thank you to all our Reunion Committee members and classmates for making it successful and fun! We have decided not to wait another five years — let’s all plan to gather again next year.

David Pittinsky writes, “I regretfully missed our 60th reunion because my dear wife and I were in Paris May 28–June 2, and we had to attend the wedding of a dear friend’s daughter on June 3. We are, however, looking forward to the 65th.

“I am a commercial litigator in Philly and we take numerous vacations to Paris (16 times) and the South of France (19 times). This year we will also visit Italy and Croatia. One of the delights of travel is the people you meet during your trips. This year we were having dinner outside at the wonderful seafood restaurant Girafe, in the Trocadero across the Seine and opposite the Eiffel Tower, and who should be sitting at the next table but Jonathan Schiller ’69, LAW’73, former chair of the Columbia Board of Trustees, current managing partner of the Boies Schiller Flexner law firm and what he most likes to be remembered for, guard on the legendary Jim McMillan ’70 basketball team.

Jon was having dinner with another Columbia lawyer, and we had an engaging conversation about all things Columbia.”

Steve Barcan writes, “Our 60th reunion was wonderful. Held June 1–3, it had just the right combination of New York City culture, education and socialization. Most importantly, classmates were genuinely happy to see each other!

“For the past few years our class has ‘met’ twice monthly on Zoom, and it was very nice to see and talk to classmates in person. **Phil Satow** and Donna Satow GS’65’s welcoming party was wonderful, as it always is. We toured several museums and attended several classes. And of course, there were a number of lunches and dinners with excellent conversation. I’m sure everyone is very much looking forward to our 65th!”

Conrad Levenson GSAPP’66 writes, “It was great seeing so many of my ‘old’ classmates at the reunion reception. I enjoyed reconnecting and engaging with so many intelligent, accomplished and entertaining folks. I live in rural upstate Stanfordville, N.Y., with my partner of 26 years, Amy Singer. I retired from the practice of architecture in 2008 and resumed my artistic pursuits as a full-time sculptor. My country property includes my home, studio and sculpture garden. I have four grown children, two of each gender, and five grandchildren ranging from 17 months to 21 years. My oldest is, alas, at Yale, followed this fall by her younger sister. I look forward to more years of artistic production, spending time with my growing family and keeping in touch with as many of my old College buddies as possible. See you all at the 65th reunion.”

Elliott Greher writes, “After 54 years living in the Washington, D.C., area (including nearly 30 years of federal government employment) and more than 45 years in a wonderful, forever house in the most beautiful part of Silver Spring, Md., Elliott Greher and family are moving to New Jersey to a small, rapidly growing, overly religious town, Lakewood.

“We will live in a gated senior citizen community of 1,400-plus, in 23-year-old single-floor houses. No more four floors with a chairlift to help. No more three-fourths-mile walk on Shabbos and Yom tov, up and down lovely hills, to the local

synagogue. Now the very small synagogue is directly across our residential street. Much easier on me with my necessary walker/rollator. Big change in culture, cultural attractions and available government services. But great for kosher restaurants. Great volunteer driving services.

“Trading daily delivery of *The Washington Post* and internet delivery of *The New York Times* for daily delivery of the *Times*. (Is there a good New Jersey newspaper?) But still able to join CC’63 twice each month for wisdom and fun.”

Harley Frankel writes, “I learned something that is worth sharing. New research from Nobel Laureate James Heckman shows that the children of the original Perry Preschool Project participants are now showing long-term benefits, as are their parents.

“As director of the Child Development and Day Care Bureau in the former Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now Health and Human Services), I provided the primary funding for the Perry Preschool Project for five years during the 1970s. The Head Start budget was less than \$500 million at that time. The Perry Preschool results allowed us to significantly increase the budget, and it currently is at \$12 billion. Tens of millions of kids and their families have benefited from these services.”

Steve Stollman writes, “I am working on a prototype of a standing, solar/human powered, wheelchair-carrying vehicle that might end up as a pedicab, a business I started in NYC 30 years ago. I’m thrilled that more of us now understand the peril that our entire society is in, from decades of indulging in unconscious, self-centered, dangerous and destructive habits. We have been so fortunate to live in a time with a cornucopia of opportunities but must also acknowledge that those who follow us are going to face an unending series of challenges to both our physical and spiritual survival. Plenty has also brought us plenty of problems. Meanwhile, still searching for the Humanity in Contemporary Civilization.”

Michael Lubell writes, “Our 60th reunion prompted me to reflect on some of my life experiences, among them my encounters with the CIA. The agency began following me in the mid-1980s when I had top-secret

(Q) clearance. Whenever I returned from frequent business trips abroad, an agent would come to see me and ask what I had encountered in each of the locations I had visited. He always knew all of them. The game ended after six years when I said no to an offer to work undercover.

"A few years later, though, shortly before the Iraq invasion, I was managing the Washington office of the American Physical Society when a courier delivered an unmarked envelope to me after hours. Inside was a sheaf of classified CIA documents indicating there were no WMDs remaining in Iraq. At the time, George Tenet, the director of central intelligence, was telling Secretary of State Colin Powell that the CIA concluded Saddam Hussein still had a stash of them. Thinking about Daniel Ellsberg and being certain that leaking the documents would have no effect on the invasion decision, I finally shredded them. The decision still haunts me.

"Those experiences and others have prompted me to write a novel quasi anchored in reality. The protagonist is a spy who has reached the end of his career and is facing the uncertainties of life after retirement. The science in the story deals with quantum cryptography and its use by a global network of ultra-nationalists bent on destroying democracy. The working title is *Dangerous Entanglements*. I am doing this in my spare time, as I am still fully employed at CCNY."

I sadly report the death of **Michael David Nolan**. Michael was the pillar of his community,

Bernal Heights in San Francisco. **David Alpern, Doron Gopstein** and I joined his many friends, including Nancy Pelosi, at his recent Zoom memorial service. Rest in Peace. [Editor's note: Read more in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

We continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Let me know if you'd like to join us, and I'll send you an invite.

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

1964

REUNION 2024

MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Norman A. Olch
norman@nolch.com

The two major political events of our years at the College were the Cuban Missile Crisis, October 16–28, 1962, and, of course, the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963. I asked for recollections or comments on their 60th anniversaries.

On the Missile Crisis:

John Langbein writes: "On the night that Kennedy's ultimatum to Khrushchev was set to expire, and nuclear war was the predicted outcome, I found myself standing in the queue for a movie running at the Paris Theatre on West 58th St. I was in company with a companion from Barnard, and we were having a somber conversation about the odds of whether we would be alive by the end of the evening. I have never forgotten that moment's feeling of abject vulnerability and helplessness. I think that what spared the world from more of these confrontations was Adm. Hyman G. Rickover's development of the ultimate weapon, the nuclear-powered submarine. It was effectively undetectable and thus invincible, which deterred a potential attacker by subjecting the attacker to the certainty of unbearable retaliation."

Andy Russakoff: "Cuban missiles an ill wind. Vietnam tore the heart out of U.S. military, morality and idealism."

On the assassination:

Steve Stander: "Late on that Friday afternoon, I was in a classroom with several other students meeting with a representative of Stanford Law School. Far away, but a good school. Someone knocked on the door and said 'The President's been shot.' Total shock! To his credit, the Stanford rep said, 'Let's find out what happened,' and we all left. One guy had a portable radio and concentric circles of students, faculty and others passed the worsening info back to the outer edges of the growing crowd. I went home (to Yonkers) and experienced the tragic but binding events of that weekend on television, marveling at Jackie's poise, horrified at the Jack Ruby murder of Lee Harvey Oswald and the indifference of the Texas lawmen, and sensing that something more than a young President had died in America."

Joe O'Donnell: "Will always remember Nick Norcott '65, LAW'68 — the sole Black player on the football team — shocked like all, fearing the assassin would be Black, a statement on race relations in 1963.

"P.S. Postponed Rutgers game a week: a 35–28 win, ensuring the Class of '64 had three winning seasons. Last team to accomplish that."

Richard Muller: "I was walking toward Ferris Booth Hall when Monika (a fellow student whose last name I can't recall but who also worked at WKCR) was walking the other way, sobbing. 'President Kennedy has been shot,' she said. I went to the WKCR newsroom where I and a small group watched the ticker-tape (no internet back then) for updates. Much repetition; he was in the hospital, surgeons were working on him. All fake news; he was dead from a gunshot wound deep in his skull. Finally the ticker told the truth, and said that Vice President Johnson would soon be sworn in. 'They had delayed the news for national security reasons. For the next few days radio and TV stations cut out their advertisements and played the Siegfried funeral music from Wagner's opera *Götterdämmerung*."

On both events:

Bill Ravreby: "I will never forget watching JFK address the Missile Crisis in the TV room of the freshman 'dorm with no name.' The room was packed and most I suspect were quite frightened. Kennedy never

appeared anxious in public. But I have this recollection, real or fantasy, that a rivulet of sweat ran down his forehead when he said, '... even the fruits of victory would be ashes in our mouths.'

"I was a JFK groupie. His murder broke my heart. I and my girlfriend at that time went to Washington, walked by the bier and later stood on Potomac Bridge as the caisson rumbled sonorously by. People I think don't remember well that he had no interest in the Black revolution. He thought it could only hurt him badly. Bull Connor's dogs and firehoses apparently revulsed him, and he found his political voice. His murder and the civil rights acts that followed per LBJ spirited by momentum of Kennedy's death is a significant legacy. I realize these are the recollections of a very young and impressionable youth. Much has been written about the 'what ifs' had he not been murdered. I think we can all agree that his eloquence has rarely if at all been matched. The balance is guesswork."

Lionel Etra: "My memories of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Kennedy assassination are mundane. I remember watching JFK's address when he announced the blockade of Cuba. I had no significant immediate reaction and only focused on the implications after I spoke to Professor Richard Morris GSAS 1930 the following day. He said that he was surprised by his own composure (numbness would probably be more accurate) in the face of such imminent peril.

"Regarding JFK, in the early afternoon of that fateful Friday, I returned to the campus after bowling at Riverside Church just before going home for the weekend. I noticed small separate clusters of people near *Alma Mater*. Each cluster surrounded a small transistor radio. I had never been aware that so many people listened to radios routinely when out of doors, a little like cellphones today. I learned of the shooting immediately, but there was a considerable delay before the announcement of the death. The days that followed, which included the killing of Oswald (in real time on TV) and the funeral, were surreal. What remains most vivid was the endless tattoo of the drums and the sight of the horse-drawn gun carriage moving at a glacial pace."



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.

Steve Case: “Cuban Missile Crisis? Wisely or unwisely, I never got the heebie-jeebies that nuclear war was imminent. It was no doubt much scarier than I thought, but, happily, by luck, I was correct in my response. JFK? That Friday, I was walking to Low Library for my part-time job stuffing envelopes for the Summer Session. I noticed anxious-looking people in small groups, all seemingly distressed about something. On walking into the office, the first words off everyone’s lips were ‘Did you hear? Someone just shot Kennedy in Dallas.’ Electrifying. Just a month or so before then, I had seen JFK from a CU window whizzing down Broadway in an open-top car with Robert Morgenthau, that fall’s Democratic candidate for governor of New York. Nobody could do any work, so, with permission, all the staff went home. At the time I was living in an apartment on the 10th floor of 609 W. 114th St. My roommate and I had no TV. We wanted one for that weekend but, owing to cost, buying one was impossible. There were a dozen old, abandoned TVs in the apartment house basement. We tried to fix them (e.g., swapping vacuum tubes), but to no avail. So, we followed events as best as we could on the radio and with phone calls. Even without TV it was all unforgettable and so, so sad.”

In other news: **Phillip Lopate** has been inducted as a member into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which honors the nation’s leading architects, artists, composers and writers. Phil is on the faculty of Columbia’s Graduate Writing Program in the School of the Arts.

Please go to this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct) to read notes from **Howard Levine** and **Garth Hallberg**.

1965

Leonard Pack
leonard@packlaw.us

Allen Brill BUS’68, LAW’68 sent me a report on the impressive generosity of our late classmate **Michael Tapper** GSAS’66, VPS’70: “On May 5, as an executor of the Estate of Michael L. Tapper MD, who died on March 6, 2020, I attended the Metropolitan Opera premiere of a new production of Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, which was

underwritten, in part, by Michael’s estate, which also made substantial bequests to various charities, including the Metropolitan Opera, Doctors Without Borders, the American Civil Liberties Union, Southern Poverty Law Center and Planned Parenthood, with the balance of his estate going to Columbia College to supplement and improve the College’s mental health and suicide prevention program.

“A portion of the bequest to the Met was used to increase the Met’s general endowment fund as well as underwrite the new production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, which premiered in the 2022 season. Other individuals affiliated with Columbia who attended the opening of *Don Giovanni*, both advisors to the Tapper Estate, were Stephen Case ’64, LAW’68 and Dr. Jeffrey A. Lieberman, the Lawrence C. Kolb Professor of Psychiatry and the Lieber Professor in Psychiatry at the Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons.

“Stephen, an opera buff, has attended numerous other productions of *Don Giovanni* and told me that he found the new modern production underwritten by the Tapper Estate to be wonderfully well sung and at all times entertaining. He prefers in operas to focus on the singing and how the voices and the orchestral blend together. The modern dress in this production did not in the least detract from his enjoyment. In fact, he felt it made the story, here in the present era of #MeToo, all the more relevant as a great and always-relevant work of musical art from the past.”

Remember it from Music Humanities?

Allen continues: “On a personal note, in June 2021 I merged my firm, Brill & Meisel, where I practiced law for 45 years, into Phillips Nizer, and continue to practice in the areas of real estate law and litigation.”

Bob Kronley informed me that he had recently learned of the death of **Steve Merrill**, who died almost three years ago. Those of you who attended our 50th reunion will remember Steve’s informed and erudite political and economic analysis at an economics session.

Read Steve’s obituary from the November 15, 2020, *Washington Post* online: bit.ly/3DbjURY.

Mike Cook continues to publish articles on bankruptcy law at an astonishing rate. Here are his titles as

listed on the Schulte Roth & Zabel website since the start of 2023:

“Second Circuit Affirms Slashing of Unreasonable Fees in Dismissed Involuntary Bankruptcy Case,” *The Bankruptcy Strategist*, July 2023;

“Second Circuit’s Purdue Pharma Ruling: Third Party Releases Remain a Question of Geography,” *SRZ Alert*, June 20, 2023;

“Third Circuit: Pre-Bankruptcy Commercial Lease Termination Not Fraudulent Transfer,” *Commercial Leasing Law & Strategy*, June 2023;

“Innocent Business Partner’s Fraud Liability Survives Bankruptcy,” *The Bankruptcy Strategist*, March 2023;

“Eleventh Circuit Stops Plan Confirmation Stampede,” *The Bankruptcy Strategist*, February 2023;

“Bankruptcy Court Slams U.S. Trustee’s Attempted Disqualification of Investment Banker,” *Journal of Bankruptcy Law*, January 2023; and

“Appellate Review of a Bankruptcy Court’s Preliminary Injunction,” *The Bankruptcy Strategist*, January 2023.

Please let Mike’s productivity inspire you to share your news with your class correspondent and classmates, who are all waiting to hear from you! Please send me your latest news, and I’ll include it in a future issue. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting your photo to ensure it is eligible for publication.

1966

Martin Lee
martinlee3615@gmail.com

Greetings, CC’66 classmates.

Tom Chorba, of Allendale, N.J., had a delightful visit with Sue and **Bob Meyerson**, who were in town for their world-famous artist son **Jim Meyerson’s** exhibition. Sue and Bob came in from Minnesota. Tom reemphasized the need for in-person contact with classmates to maintain the bond of friendship.

Daniel Friedlander, of Lexington, Mass., writes: “In June 2019, I

retired after 44 years of clinical practice in gastroenterology (Gi). The last several years were capped with a teaching appointment at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. There, as a member of the Gastrointestinal Motility and Functional Bowel Disorders section, I was involved in clinical patient care and instruction of Harvard Medical students and Gi trainees. My wife, Elizabeth ‘Beth’ Friedlander, retired that same year from her nurse practitioner position in Gi at Massachusetts General Hospital.

“We are a blended family with five children and are busy in the lives of our five grandchildren. Since 2016, I have participated in the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement. At HILR I have been both a student and an instructor, conducting several seminars in European history. Perhaps the most sustained and important connection with Columbia has been with the Double Discovery Center. Project Double Discovery, established in summer 1965 under the auspices of **Steven Weinberg** and former Dean of Students **Roger Lehecka ’67**, GSAS’74, continues to provide a broad range of educational services to New York City high school students. I have also had the good fortune to maintain contact with several classmates including **James Rosenberg**, **William Steinberg**, **Gary Kopf**, **Howard Blank** and **Joseph Albeck**.”

Please send me your latest news. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting your photo to ensure it is eligible for publication.

1967

Albert Zonana
azonana@me.com

We heard from a several classmates for this issue.

Edwin Schlossberg GSAS’71: “After getting a doctorate from Columbia, I started a design company, esidesign. Had about 13 one-man art

shows. I am married and have a family and a new grandson. And I look back on Columbia with gratitude.”

Paul Gewirtz: “**Al Zonana** has reminded me that I’ve been invisible on our page for about 50 years, and has asked me to change my ways. I’m sending this along as at least a way of thanking him and all of you who’ve kept me updated about yourselves.

“I’ve been teaching at Yale Law since 1976, and haven’t retired. I’ve kept my professional life interesting by constantly changing the subjects I teach and write about. But constitutional law has been a constant field of work. With many steps in between (including government service in the Clinton administration, work on discrimination law and on our judicial system, and a book on law and literature), I am now also the director of Yale’s Paul Tsai China Center, an institution I founded, which focuses on U.S.-China relations and also helps to advance China’s legal reforms. I’ve been extremely lucky to have had what feels like many different jobs, but almost all in the same building. As a joke about professors goes, we’re always getting older but our students stay the same age. Yet the endless variety of immensely talented and interesting young students is another way my job has remained joyfully ever-changing.

“I have two sons, aged 33 and 27, who remain central to my life and to my happiness about my fortunate life. My years at Columbia College were formative in every way, and I’m regularly startled to realize that things I’ve read and things I know were from my College days, and that a high percentage of formative human and emotional experiences I’ve had at least had their origin in those undergraduate years. At our age, we cannot ignore the finiteness of our lives. But I am one of those people who considers the opportunity to live what is a finite life to be a miraculous wonder, the very opposite of a meaningless journey to nowhere. The pain and sadness that are part of living haven’t destroyed my sense of the wonder about the life we have, and I try to experience at least my own version of the best of life as much as possible. I hope that continues to the very end.”

Robert Levine: “The further we get from those years at Columbia, the more I seem to cherish them.

The friendship, support and good times we had at Phi Epsilon Phi helped me so much in coping with the rigors of a Columbia education. Sadly, too many of my brothers have passed away. Their memories will always be in my heart.

“I live in Montclair, N.J., with my wife, Mana, of 50 years. We have two sons, both married with two beautiful children. Our granddaughter Sophie recently had her bat mitzvah in the same temple in which Mana and I were married 50 years ago.

“I have had a wonderful career as a psychologist and psychoanalyst. I earned a Ph.D. and post-doc certificate in psychotherapy and psychoanalysis from NYU. I work three days a week seeing patients and doing supervision; all virtual. I would be happy to hear from any of my Columbia friends.”

David Hillis VPS’72: “After graduation and a year in graduate school at the University of Texas-Austin, I entered P&S in 1968. While in Austin, I met my future wife, Nancy, and we married in 1968, 55 years ago. We have no children. I was chief medical resident at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. From 1975 to 1978, we lived in Boston, where I was a fellow in cardiology at the Brigham & Women’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School. In 1978, we returned to Dallas, where I joined the faculty of UT-Southwestern. We were there for 30 years; 15 of those as vice-chair of the Department of Medicine. In 2008, I was recruited to chair the Department of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio.

“I was elected to several honorific societies in internal medicine; I coauthored almost 400 scientific papers and book chapters, including 35 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. I retired in 2014, and we continue to live in San Antonio. We travel to Europe and New York several times a year. I cycle every day, averaging 1,200 miles each month. In 1990, Nancy and I began to endow a scholarship at the College. I am pleased that the corpus of the scholarship is now of sufficient size that we totally support two College students each year. The only requirement is that the students must be from Texas. For me, leaving a relatively small town in Texas (Tyler) to attend Columbia was a life-changing experience, which I am eager to help other Texans to experience.”



Chun-Min “Tony” Kao ‘68 (left) and Arthur Spector ‘68 with several of the musical stars who “joined” the class on June 3 in Low Rotunda at its 55-year reunion dinner, which featured a performance by the Cotton Club All Stars.

John Boyd: “After graduation, I avoided the draft by enrolling in SIPA. Grad school deferments ended, so I got married. Marriage deferment ended, so I joined VISTA and went to Northern New Mexico, where I got a wonderful education of a different, but equally important sort. Darcy and I had a son. I turned the magic age of 26 and went straight to University of New Mexico School of Law. Graduated in 1973 and hung out a shingle a year later with my dear classmate David Freedman ‘66. Four of us, now close to 80, are slowly closing down the firm after 49 years. My partner Nancy Hollander and I got the religious use of hallucinogenic drugs OK’d by a unanimous Supreme Court vote, additionally opening the way for research with LSD and other hallucinogenic drugs. However, that case also became, to our dismay, the battering ram for the Hobby Lobby decision and other travesties. We also represented ‘The Holy Land Five.’ Four of them are serving what are effectively life prison terms for the crime of providing charitable assistance in The West Bank and Gaza.

“Now remarried, for 35 years, to Roberta Price. Three wonderful boys from three marriages; two lawyers, one banker. Still in touch with pals **Jon Howland** (retired professor of epidemiology at BU) and **Jon Buller**. Say it isn’t so that The West End is no more.”

Jim Bourgart reports that as of late 2022 he has finally, officially and fully retired. His career has been approximately half in the public

sector in California and half in the private sector, mostly working on transportation issues and projects. His last assignment was for San Mateo County, but previously he was on staff for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California and the State Legislature. Jim and his wife, Arielle, are enjoying retirement and international travel — this year a Rhine River cruise and last year a cruise around Ireland. At home, he still dabbles in local politics and is an admitted “political news junkie.”

Please see the online version of this column (college.columbia.edu/cct) for news from **Leopoldo López** and **Josh Leinsdorf**.

Be well, all of you, and do write.

1968

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor’s note: *CCT* thanks **Arthur Spector** for his 21 years of service as class correspondent. This is his last column. If you are interested in taking on this role, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line “CC’68 class correspondent.” In the meantime, please send your news, updates and/or College memories to *CCT* using the email above or through the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Our 55th reunion (held June 1–3) was a big celebration with a record turnout for a 55th reunion. We were by far a record reunion for our 50th,

so I am going to just make a few observations about our 55th. I had planned to joke about how we were sitting in Low Library 55 years later and having dinner but I didn't.

We had a very good Welcome Reception/cocktail party on Friday in Butler. On the way to there — the party was held in the Lawrence A. Wien Main Reading Room — I walked past a picture of Dwight David Eisenhower. I hadn't noticed it before.

Dean Josef Sorett spoke at our luncheon on Saturday, held in the Faculty Room in Low, followed by three professors and health experts — **Cliff Andrew**, **Bill Chin** and **Nigel Paneth** — who talked about staying healthy. The dean was wonderful and our classmates were impressive. At lunch I saw many, including my roommate and fellow philosophy major **Robert Brandt**, whom I hadn't seen in decades, it seems. That is what reunions are about, for sure!

If I may back up for a moment, Peter Hiebert '71 and I (he lives nearby in Miami Beach and is a big Columbia football fan, like me) talked a lot about this reunion. Peter thought we should invite his class to join us as well as some other classes — “overlap” classes, so to speak: CC'67, CC'69, CC'70 and CC'71.

Peter and I conceived of getting the Cotton Club All Stars 13-piece swing band and singer for our Saturday dinner, and we did! They were so much fun and were just great. And yes, we had Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong.

The dinner, held in the Low Rotunda, began with Ted Gregory '74 singing a gospel piece; he was extraordinary. He added some Columbia football moments from the past to the mix.

The tables were set up like a nightclub, with cutouts of Frank Sinatra up front for pictures. I was so happy to see so many but so disappointed not to have enough time to chat with many.

Brian Krisberg '81, LAW'84, one of the College's great alums, came by for drinks before our dinner, and to say hello to me, for which I was especially grateful. I saw two former heavyweight rowers, **Tom Sanford** and **Arthur Kaufman**. Tom is still rowing and Arthur swims daily. Art's wife, Susan BC'68, also was there. **Bill Henrich** and his wife,

Mary, were seen hanging out with Sinatra and both looked great. I believe I have run into them a few times at the Metropolitan Opera, a long way from San Antonio! **Frank Costello** and his wife, Cynthia, were in from Los Angeles and were celebrating a wedding anniversary in the city. I was so happy to see **Neil Gozan** and **Rich Ahearn** at the cocktail party. They looked the same to me. **Roger Nott**, in from rural Georgia, told me about his love of whitewater canoeing. He's into danger, for sure! Also there were **Tony Kao**, in from Sudbury, Mass., and **George Ting**, in from Palo Alto (friends from Tokyo a long time ago); **John Grant**, a playwright; and **Michael Haggiag**, a sculptor, in from London. A few, like **Randy “Beirut” Vaughan**, met with Tony and George for a short visit when he was in Paris for his daughter's wedding. **Paul de Bary** and his wife, Stefana, were in Brussels for a big family event, going back hundreds of years, and “will be at the next one.” **Ken Tomecki** has also committed to the next one.

I saw **Ira Goldberg** and **Buzz Zucker**, both of whom had been reunion focused. **Seth Weinstein** was so pleased to be there from his home in Florida. Also joining were Bob Costa '67, BUS'69 and his wife, Joan, from Naples, Fla., and Jenik Radon '67 from the Upper West Side. **Jim Shorter**, and **Mike Stone SEAS'68**, who came in from Boston, had big smiles (as did everyone, it seems!). I think I heard that **Andy Herz** had lunch at Tom's. Again, I felt bad that I didn't have more time to chat. There are so many others are on the list for the future already, for example, **Frank Dann** and **Joe DiBenedetto**.

With some sadness, we had a list of those who have passed away. It seemed long to me, but I am told we have done better, mortality wise, as a group. I missed a number of those classmates, for sure. On a happy note, the Saturday night crowd was in good humor, spirited, cheerful and ebullient, and looked great to me. And I bet Low Library has never had a Big Band playing there.

Our dinner ended with **Mas Taketomo**, in from rural Minnesota, spontaneously leading the congregation in singing “Sans Souci,” and many joined the initial group at the stage to join in the singing, like **Ross Ain**. At the end of the band's

performance, it played “When the Saints Go Marching In,” and to my amazement, everyone got up and danced the conga. What a way to end the night!

As usual, the Class of 1968 is able to try new things, as we did during our time on campus. Peter Hiebert '71, along with his wife, Elaine (Princeton, hmm), have many thoughts about reunion activities that will be shared with the dean.

Hope to see you at a Columbia football game, and I continue to recommend Lions women's basketball head coach Megan Griffith '07 as the Ivy League Coach of the Year.

Take care. **Bill Chin** reminded us all to focus on our balance! I will always take Bill's advice. And I do want to salute **Tom Sanford** for his efforts on all the reunions!

1969

REUNION 2024

MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Nathaniel Wander
nw105@caa.columbia.edu

Irving Ruderman writes that he “and **Richard Rapaport** ... carried our 1969 class banner in the Alumni Parade of Classes [on Class Day, May 16], as we were the only ones from our class. The students cheered us. Some told me they study us in history. There was one alumnus from the Class of 1953 and one from the Class of 1954 at the front, and numerous others after them, but we keep getting closer.”

Irv also reported that on May 23, “a beautiful spring day, we held our second class get-together — aside from reunion every five years — by meeting for lunch at the Bryant Park Grill. There were nine of us in attendance, some who came to the first one in November, and some new faces: **Dick Menaker**, **Rich Rapaport**, **Irv Ruderman**, **Rob Friedman**, **Chuck Bethill**, **Dwight Lee**, **Fred Pack**, **Rod Reef SEAS'69** and **Sam Goldman**. A good time was had by all.”

He also reminds: “It is time to start planning for our 55th reunion.”

Vaud Massarsky writes; “My salient fact is that my wife, Felicia, and I have relocated for the foreseeable future to Menton, France, on the French Riviera. It is called ‘The Pearl of France,’ as it sits at the point that the Alps come crashing to the sea. It is a 15-minute train ride to Italy, and it has a microclimate that supports orange and lemon growth in profusion. The aesthetic values — visual, musical and climatic — are limitless, as it is next to Monaco and 20 minutes from Nice.”

Vaud also responded to the query about what a Columbia degree has meant for him. “Columbia's imprimatur always carries symbolism depending on where the recipient sits: can be envy, disdain, appreciation, New York City association and so on. But never an association of dullness or the humdrum.”

Hart Perry SOA'71 reports an unanticipated consequence of the National Education Association-funded artist-in-residence program he administered at Bard College through his holography lab: “The young woman who received the grant and my 27-year-old son Michael fell in love, got married and are expecting a child.”

Peter O'Hare writes: “I advise those who knew us, or of us, that Rita Castora of Finch College and I have celebrated our 50th year of marital bliss. This is significant, as our first encounter took place at the Son of October 14th mixer (10/14/66)! There were a number of classmates and football teammates who enjoyed our years at Columbia with us at mixers, frat parties, Finch cocktail parties and Dean's Day dinners. While I certainly appreciated our fine faculty, superior classes and my interaction with many good men who went on to fine careers in myriad areas, this relationship, with all those who ran with us, was the best part of my Columbia experience! Best regards to **Gary Otsuji**, **Ron Mangione SEAS'69**, **Rick Marsella**, **Jim O'Connor**, **Alan Romanczuk**, **Rick Lounsbury** and **Jim Alloy**, among others. While we now spend six months alternatively in North Palm Beach, Fla., and New Jersey, I would love to spend some time reminiscing with classmates! I'm in the phone book! Hey, we really ‘Owned New York!’”

Henry Jackson writes: “My experience has been that my

Columbia degree has brought more intangible rewards than material rewards, except when I worked in Germany. The name Columbia meant a great deal there and caused people to overlook my physical handicap. Unfortunately, that has not been the case here. That is why I became a freelance translator. The anonymity of working from home made it possible for me to earn a living and to travel to most of the places I wanted to visit.

“Now that Anno Domini has crept up on me, I can look back at my life with a certain degree of satisfaction. What more can one ask?”

Ira Stollak notes: “At 75, I’m still the incorrigible eco-anarchist who joined the Math Commune in April ’68. After graduation I married my high school sweetheart and earned an M.A. in comparative literature at UC Santa Cruz. We eventually settled onto a homestead on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. Blew up the TV, planted a garden and orchard, built us a home. (John Prine, how we miss you.) Later we went our separate ways but co-parented our son, Jesse.

“I gardened, carpentered, ran a small nonprofit serving at-risk adolescents, taught college English, climbed, hiked and skied, coached kids’ baseball and soccer, and anchored my sanity in a Zen practice. After my son graduated from college, I became a ‘digital nomad,’ working on public health projects in Alaska, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Bolivia, Haiti, Liberia, Kenya and India, and earning an M.P.H. at the U. of Washington. I helped marginalized rural communities understand and respond to their own epidemiology and improve their health. I just recently retired.

“My beautiful wife, Martha, and I live in magnificent Colombia, up in the Andes. She’s plunged into the country’s exciting political transformation with the election of Gustavo Petro, and when I’m not supporting her I’m doing typical retiree/grandpa stuff: birding, hiking, reading, maintaining my disintegrating skeleton, writing, doing pro bono work, and visiting and video-chatting with our kids and grandkids. Fond memories of ’60s Columbia: Rimbaud, Marx and Lennon; transcendent music; Sundial rallies and the strike; and inspiring teachers — Michael Wood, Howard McP. Davis, Ralph

Holloway and Kenneth Koch come to mind. A magical time.”

Martin Konikoff offers that “June always means Columbia Reunion and another chance to get together with the Columbia Alumni Singers. This year we serenaded the Barnard Class of ’68 at its Friday dinner, and then sang at the Performing Arts Groups Reception on Saturday afternoon. Always great to sing ‘Sans Souci.’ Looking forward to singing next year at our 55th reunion. I hope many classmates who were members of the Glee Club, Barnard-Columbia Chamber & Chorus Choir, etc., will join the fun.”

Speaking with **Dr. Randy Mound** in June got me wondering about how meaningful work sustains us, especially late in life. (He, as did I, graduated behind the class after taking leave in spring ’67 to travel to Israel in advance of what came to be known as the 6-Day War.) Randy always said there was nothing else he ever wanted to be but an M.D. He took a break after retiring in 2014, but volunteered with a nonprofit to answer consumer Medicare questions. In 2022, he returned to occasional work as a physician with Denver Health — he is a radiologist — and this year, began working for Kaiser Permanente. As he closes in on 75, he is seeking the balance between how much professional work is invigorating and how much is exhausting. As I reached 75 by the end of June, I can confirm how delicate that balance has become.

How about you? Have you returned to work post-retirement? In your previous career? But, perhaps in a different direction? Or along a new pathway entirely? Why did you make that choice? What’s been the outcome?

1970

Leo Kailas
lkailas@reitlerlaw.com

I thank the many classmates who send me kind notes thanking me for the Class Notes that I circulate. As I have said, I am a junkie for your good news so please keep sending me emails.

I begin with news of the birth of my third grandchild, Calliope Anne, to my daughter Arianne and her husband, Andy Vitrano. Callie

is the sweetest baby to come into the Kailas family — of my three children, only Arianne approached Callie’s sweet disposition.

Sam Estreicher LAW’75 reminded me of his nuptials to Abby Burman after the passing of his wife. If you know Sam, please send him a congratulatory note.

Dov Zakheim, a distinguished government service classmate, reports, “I recently became a columnist for, and chairman of the advisory board of, a new journal, *Jerusalem Strategic Tribune*, published by a prominent Moroccan and inspired by the Abraham Accords. I was named to the congressionally mandated National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology.”

My friend from high school, Professor **Robert Launay**, shares, “I am writing from Berlin, where I am finishing a two-month fellowship at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (Center for the Modern Orient), which includes Africa. I have been giving a talk on racializing Islam and the French colonial notion of a specifically Black Islam, not only in Berlin but also in Geneva and Bayreuth. I recently was appointed executive editor of the *Journal of Religion in Africa*, which came as a total surprise. Apparently, it is not yet time for me to retire!”

Robert was a scholar in high school and he has gone on to a remarkable career at Northwestern.

Bob Dreyfuss reports: “I’ve recently semi-retired as an independent, investigative journalist after 30 years writing for magazines such as *Rolling Stone* and *The Nation*. After living in New York, Alexandria, Va., and Cape May, N.J., my wife of 53 years, Barbara BC’70, and I have settled in Maplewood, N.J. As a reporter, I’ve visited Iran, Vietnam, China and Tanzania, among other places, though I’ve mostly worked from D.C. and New York. However, I’m actively considering un-retiring to write about the dire challenges to our democracy that we all face. We have two grown offspring, Justin (38) in Chicago and Anna (29) in New York. I often hang out on campus when there are events that interest me.”

My longtime friend **Frank Motley LAW’74**, who clearly holds the class record for grandchildren (19) and great-grandchildren (11), gave me his update: “Not much new. **Mark Clark** is a happily retired cardiologist

in Hampton, Va., and I teach part time in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University. Commuting between Bloomington, Ind., and West Palm, Fla.”

Professor **Peter Novalis** (perhaps a first-time contributor), notes: “I have recently published two books on psychotherapy: *Clinical Manual of Supportive Psychotherapy*, 2nd ed. 2020, authors: Peter N. Novalis, M.D., Ph.D., Victor Chavira, Virginia Singer, Ph.D. and Roger Peele, M.D., and *Psychotherapy in Corrections: A Supportive Approach*, 2023, authors: Peter N. Novalis, M.D., Ph.D., Virginia Singer, Ph.D. and Carol M. Novalis, M.A.”

Congratulations, Peter, and keep us in mind!

Peter Gordon thanked me for the Class Notes and also for not reporting on the ravages of our age.

Fellow lawyer **Michael Braun LAW’73** writes: “At our age there is very little interesting for most people to report. I recently took my granddaughters (13 and 11) and grandson (2) to the Turks and Caicos for some (unbleached) snorkeling. The girls asked me whether I enjoyed the vacation as much as they did. I said I did but also told them that because I’m retired every day is a vacation. Hope you are well. I see you are still working. Retirement/vacation is also fun.”

Rip Wilson reports: “After a late-in-life marriage to Susan Feagin GS’74, we are moving back to the city. New address: 155 W. 68th St., Apt. 34F, New York, NY 10023.”

Professor **Larry Rosenwald GSAS’79** wrote: “Well, I’ve now retired. Not big news by itself, admittedly. Maybe more interesting is that preposterously enough, my colleague Thomas Nolden put together a two-volume *Festschrift* in my honor (a collection of essays on the theme of translation understood broadly, some directly about me but most not). The first volume, *Beyond the Textual*, has been published; the second, *In the Face of Adversity*, is available through Open Access (online at bit.ly/3PQxX6O). Meanwhile, we’ve moved, downsized, been flooded, have more or less recovered and live a 10-minute walk from our local daughter and her 7-year-old, Matthew. Recently finished a set of verse narratives for Cavalli’s opera *Erismena*, which I performed at the



CC'71 friends and their significant others (left to right) Linda Bantel, Jeff Weinberg '71, Dave Hollenberg '71, Myra Weinberg, Joan Shapiro, Susan Silverman BC'72, Mark Silverman '71 and Ed Gartenberg '71 held a mini-reunion at Knickerbockers on June 2.

Amherst Early Music Festival in early July, maybe my 50th show of this kind."

Paul Rosen: "I am a doctor now working part time doing a mix of primary care, medicine, psychiatry and neurology, my multi-board specialties. I work primarily with underserved populations. I hope that I can continue to work for a few more years.

"It was my privilege to volunteer for Columbia's Odyssey Mentoring Program, whereby I was assigned an undergraduate to mentor. It is a good program, and I recommend it for other alumni (college.columbia.edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring?src=vol). It involves talking on the phone with your assigned undergraduate and when possible meeting them for lunch at Columbia. It gives them an opportunity to meet with, and get advice from, a professional working in the field that they are considering entering upon graduation.

"I have wonderful grandchildren, and I would list being a grandfather as the high point of my post-Columbia life. I attended last year's graduation reunion, as Class of '70 members were invited. Unfortunately, I was the only one from our class in attendance, but I was adopted by other classes and had a very nice time. I am looking forward to our next official reunion, in 2025, and I hope to see many of my alumni friends."

Finally, **Steve Boatti** writes: "I am long retired from a career as a corporate lawyer. My wife, Linda, a retired teacher, and I have lived since 1978 in Riverdale, in the Bronx, where we raised two sons and now also have two grandchildren. We've recently happily revived our pre-pandemic

travel habits with two European trips this year. (Our last trip was a glorious sojourn in Moscow and St. Petersburg in 2019 — a trip that Americans won't be able to take again in our lifetime, I fear.) In the spring we took a terrific Met Museum tour of southwest France and Paris that focused on Medieval art and architecture. And in June we spent a week in Tuscany with our sons and their families followed by a week on our own in Puglia and Rome.

"I am still bummed that Covid-19 robbed us of our 50th reunion. That couldn't be helped, but it's a shame the College made no effort to host a delayed reunion in the year or two after. I hope we'll all make it to the 55th!"

Paul Rosen and I second that suggestion!

1971

Lew Preschel
l.a.preschel@gmail.com

Mark Silverman joined **Dave Hollenberg**, **Jeff Weinberg** and **Ed Gartenberg** LAW'74 to hold a mini-reunion before the formal one that was held on campus in early June. He provided the nearby photo of the event. They met with their significant others at Knickerbockers for a few drinks.

The 52nd class reunion was an event that **Peter Hiebert** helped plan and carry out. In order to be efficient, a cluster of five class years were grouped together. Because the Class of 1968 was having its 55th-year reunion, they co-ventured it with our class under the direction of Peter and Art Spector '68. This created a large group of friends

to congregate, reminisce and get reacquainted. Eighty alumni from the five classes attended events. Our class generated 16.

Cluster-specific events included a wonderful reception in Butler Library and a luncheon in the Faculty Room in Low Library at which Dean Josef Sorett and three prominent physicians from the Class of 1968 educated the audience on how to age gracefully. A reception and dinner in Low Rotunda allowed the alumni and their guests to be entertained by the house band of Harlem's iconic Cotton Club, accompanied by their lead singer in a medley of Frank Sinatra songs. The Manhattanville campus abuts that famous jazz club. Ted Gregory '74, a member of the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame, sang an a cappella gospel song beautifully.

Among classmates who attended the festivities in part or whole were **Ken Lehn** LAW'74, **Len Reney**, **Josh Rubenstein**, **Tony Dupee**, **Julio Rivera**, **Rey Bonachea**, **Richard Squires**, **Paul Arnest**, and Peter with his wife, Elaine Chan.

Ken and Len were members of our undefeated freshman soccer team, as was I. Len was particularly talented in the sport and went on to play professionally for many years. Ken remains in law practice in New Jersey. Tony played freshman baseball with Len and me. Rey was a member of the basketball team and went on to a distinguished career at Bell Labs. He is now retired. Richard is a world-renowned playwright and director who has acted on stage and in movies. He founded several theater companies. Richard recently completed a new play and published a book of poetry.

Len had an interesting conversation with Josh, who has written nine books on Stalin, the last of which, *The Last Days of Stalin*, was critically acclaimed and widely translated.

Dean Porter BUS'76 communicates that he is setting up a company to provide psychiatric-managed psychedelic treatment centers that will provide a paradigm shift in the treatment for mental health. He is involved in the family office space. In addition, he provides legal counsel in South Carolina for the Forward Party, a new centrist political movement founded by Christie Whitman and Andrew Yang. Dean expresses amazement at the number of New

York and New Jersey license plates arriving in Charleston, S.C. He understands why, as he moved there 20 years ago. He welcomes anyone coming to South Carolina and would love to know about your visit.

It has been more than 50 years since we graduated. More than 105 of us went on to medical school, became physicians, and provide healthcare and treatment to our communities. Some of these same doctors went into research, advancing the frontiers of treatment. Many classmates became lawyers who earned justice and fair treatment for their clients. Some became judges adjudicating laws and promoting equality without regard to social status. Others went into politics, creating laws and making America what it is today. Yet others became teachers and professors at schools and universities across our nation. They transfer knowledge to and prepare a new generation of students to lead and create. We have classmates in the arts who have worldwide reputations, while others have become successful entrepreneurs and developed industries and markets with significant economic effects. Several have joined professions about which I can claim no knowledge, but they have commanded their fields with respect from their peers. Our class has affected the world and made its mark. We have one thing in common: four years spent at Columbia College. Events that filled those years have changed our nation as well as our lives. I speak without fear of contradiction — those years directed the paths that our lives followed. I have always been interested (nosy) in how classmates followed their life paths and the outcomes of their journeys.

If you would like to answer that question for classmates, please drop me a line at l.a.preschel@gmail.com or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1972

Paul Appelbaum
pappel1@aol.com

Don Peters, who says, "I'm the guy no one can remember" (sounds like a challenge to me — anyone want to rise to the occasion?), updates us on his last 50 years. Don went



Allan Solomon '73 and Nick Lubar '73 at their 50-year reunion dinner on June 3.

to law school at the University of Texas, Austin, and then moved to Phoenix, where he met his wife and had “three delightful offspring.” He was a partner at Peters, Cannata & Moody, and was an adjunct professor at the law school of Arizona State University. “Eventually, although not soon enough,” he says, “I retired from practicing law. Kenneth Koch’s writing classes have come in handy, as I still write poems. All in all, I’ve had fun and have no regrets.”

As those of you who were at reunion last year will recall, **Armen Donelian** is still active as a jazz composer and performer. This past summer, his schedule included performances in a variety of venues, from the 17th annual Hudson JazzWorks concert in Hudson, N.Y., to the Hotel Congress in Tucson, to the Union of Architects in Yerevan, Armenia.

Go, Armen!

“Nothing earthshaking to report,” writes **Steven Schacter LAW’76**, “but my wife and I took a party of 27 to Israel for Passover — us, our four daughters and their husbands, and their combined 17 children, aged 6 weeks–21 years. And we all celebrated the bar mitzvah of a grandson. And damned straight I’m still working, to pay for our larger-than-normal family.”

And speaking of bar mitzvahs, my wife, Dede, and I were in Washington, D.C., in June to proudly celebrate the bar mitzvah of our grandson Joshua, with our son Yoni '03 and his wife, Emily SEAS'03, SEAS'04 (née Pressman).

Please reach out if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes Class Notes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1973

Barry Etra
barryetra@gmail.com

Our 50th reunion has come and gone; would love to hear more about it from any who were present. Please let me know!

Douglas Andrews GSAS’76 weighed in from the United Kingdom. He launched his latest venture, DoubleWing Health & Beauty, which provides a tech-enabled omnichannel marketplace for foreign cosmetic and personal care products in the \$70 billion Chinese market.

Erik Bergman retired in 2017, and is following his passions — birding and Toastmasters International. He leads field trips for Portland Audubon and the Oregon Birding Association, and recently returned from seeing nesting Great Gray Owls in the Blue Mountains. He and his wife, Susan, were on safari in Kenya and were “awed by the magnificent mammals of the Masai Mara National Reserve, as well as the warm welcome of the native Masai people, who shared

their culture with us.” Erik is president of WE Toasted Toastmasters Club in Lake Oswego, Ore.

Mike Byowitz had the honor of representing our class at Commencement, held on May 17, where he placed hoods on those receiving honorary degrees, one of whom was Bob Woodward. Mike was a partner at Wachtell Lipton in New York and is now of counsel; he is also active in the American Bar Association, helping lead a pilot program that aids Afghan legal professionals in becoming lawyers in the United States. To date, 12 law schools have agreed to provide one or more full-tuition scholarships; the program is expanding to help judges and prosecutors (especially women) who made it to this country with living expenses and housing. Tax-deductible contributions may be made at ambar.org/donate/ITL.

That’s the lot; not a lot! Take the hint, y’all ...

1974

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Fred Bremer
fbremer9@gmail.com

As I write this column, the Supreme Court is scheduled to release its determination on whether to reverse its decision to ban the use of affirmative action in college admissions (known as the “Bakke precedent” after the student who was refused admission due to racial quotas). Few of us probably realize that this ruling came 50 years ago, shortly after some of us benefited from so-called “reverse discrimination” to gain our own admission to the College. It made me remember a recent *Wall Street Journal* article on the importance of diversity, which said, “Colleges need more programs where students of different backgrounds can wrestle together with the big questions posed by the humanities.” The headline on the article was “Great Books Can Heal Our Divided Campuses.” It should come as no surprise that there was a picture of students

of different ethnic groups sitting on Low Steps.

Like many classmates, **Brad Higgins LAW’78** tells us he is doing a “fade” rather than abruptly quitting his career. He continues to work in venture capital and says he manages his existing investments but claims he is not taking on new ones. In the meantime, he is chairman of three companies that are all involved in businesses that have a positive impact on health and the environment.

Brad notes, “I miss my time in government as the chief financial officer of the State Department during the Bush II administration, but the hyper-partisan nature of D.C. in 2023 makes me glad to be that goldfish that escaped the piranha pond before getting eaten.” He adds, “Looking forward to our 50th reunion next year. I now know what the Class of 1924 must have been feeling when we graduated — scary how fast the time went!”

I emailed back that the years do seem to zip by quickly, but at least the vitality of classmates seems to not pass as fast. Good trade-off!

Joel Almqvist (who lives in Jamaica Plains, Mass.) writes that “mixing some work, family time and creativity (art) makes for a good life.” He is also kept busy with his four grandchildren (four boys, aged 2–8). Joel says “staying employed as a lawyer (at K&L Gates) allows me to be in denial about how old I am!”

Not Bruno is still working.

Frank Bruno BUS’76 retired in 2020 after a 41-year career at the Sidley Austin law firm. However, he manages to find time for reading, tennis and spending time with five grandchildren. I frequently see Facebook posts from **Peter Zegarelli DM’78** (retired dentist living in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.) talking about his gardening and how he uses the fresh ingredients for cooking triumphs. **Tony Barreca** (who lives in Santa Barbara) has been retired from a career as an engineering executive for more than two years. Living only 10 miles from the ocean, he and his wife (of 45 years!) frequently trek to the waves. He tells us their daughter has been rumbling about moving to Morningside Heights.

There you have it. Classmates working full time, part time and some not working at all. By the time we gather for our 50th reunion, it is likely the proportions in each group will be very different!

1975

Robert Katz
robertdkatz@gmail.com

Here is some news about **Michael Gordon**, who recently retired from the practice of environmental law in New Jersey:

“Michael Gordon, a pioneer in New Jersey plaintiffs’ environmental law, was amongst the group of first-ever *New Jersey Law Journal’s* lifetime achievement award winners, recognizing his lifetime of work shaping the environmental legal landscape in New Jersey. Upon retirement from Gordon and Gordon, the law firm he founded with his brother, he continued his work as senior policy advisor to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

“As part of his work for NJDEP, Michael recently was one of the principal authors of the first-in-the-nation Environmental Justice Law, which is the first law passed to specifically protect low-income, minority and non-English speaking communities from the opening of new polluting facilities in these already overburdened communities.”

Of note, in addition to his brother, our late classmate **Tim Haley** was also a founding member of his firm.

Dan Mauzy has monthly Zoom meetings with 10–15 members of the class. I am not one of them, so

I asked to join. Thus far, I have not received an answer. Hmm. 🤔

Start thinking about the 50th reunion and what special class events you would like to include. We want it to be a memorable weekend.

Please reach out if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1976

Ken Howitt
kenhowitt76@gmail.com

Starting this column as usual with the turntable humming. This time, with the afternoon sun streaming over my laptop, I picked a Haydn symphony and relived those windowless studio afternoons in Ferris Booth Hall engineering WKCR’s “Afternoon Music.”

Updates came in fast and furious. Pardon the brevity, but I only have so much space, so here goes!

George Freimarck GSAS’81 leads off. George helped formed an alumni group, the King’s Crown Rowing Association, which supports crew with its annual awards dinner. The KCRA also annually races in Boston in the Head of the Charles Regatta. See the nearby photo from last October’s event.

Gordon Bock SIPA’77, JRN’77 checked in from Vermont, where he is proud of his daughter Gabrielle, who was one of only six eighth-



Left to right, Robert Kaminski, Louis Anon ’76, Kimberly Santamaria and Dr. John Santamaria ’77 enjoyed a dinner dance at St. Charles Yacht Club in Fort Myers, Fla., on February 25.

graders statewide selected as a legislative page in the Vermont State Legislature. In her spare time, Gabrielle plays soccer and ice hockey, and participates in track and field.

Sounds like Gordon will come to our 50th reunion with Gabrielle on her Columbia College visit.

John Markowitz GSAS’78, VPS’82: “I’m still trying to do clinical research at Columbia/New York State Psychiatric Institute and recently published a book, *Brief Supportive Psychotherapy*, which we developed as a kind of psychotherapy placebo but turns out to work very well in treating major depression.”

Auggie Ong PH’91 was among the attendees meeting with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in May “to provide the commissioners with updates on the National Materials Program and the emerging fusion technologies. A great learning experience was had by the attendees, in-person or remotely.”

Auggie belongs to the Organization of Agreement States (regulators of use of radioactive materials) and its sister organization, Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. Auggie (who looks great!) also included a photo of all the attendees. Auggie was the only Columbia attendee pictured, so we can’t include it in these pages, but his email sign off indicates how that Morningside Heights sense of humor is always present: “Yours truly is the wise guy, who grew up in Bklyn, in the middle of the photo

with a grin on his face, while trying to ham it up.”

I do enjoy this job!
Joe Graif BUS’78 reports from Virginia that the 2023 concert season of the Susan A. & Joseph N. Graif Foundation had five concerts. Susan and Joe and are working hard to fund the 2024 season and ask interested classmates to get in touch through the foundation website: graiffoundation.org.

Barney Schwartz occasionally checks in from Israel. We have had some fun exchanges, but updates are usually not part of it. Like many of CC’76ers, he is in touch with alumni, but as he says regarding news, “I have been scanning my brain, but I haven’t come up with anything.”

I mention Barney, as this worldwide network really impresses me!

Michael Gilbride remembered Dean Peter Pouncey, who passed away on May 30, 2023 (college.columbia.edu/news/peter-r-pouncey-ninth-dean-college-was-instrumental-its-move-coeducation), talking about Columbia as the last all-male and smallest college class size in the Ivy League and calling our Bicentennial Class “a special class.”

Michael and his wife, Providencia, went to Spain and Ireland during the summer. In the fall, he is going to Greece and will take his fourth trip to the Cave of the Apocalypse in Patmos. Michael also has a book coming out in November: *Memoirs of Thirty Years in the Classroom: Public, Private and Parochial*.



At the October 22, 2022, Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, the King’s Crown Rowing Association raced in honor of the 1971 lightweight crew, which made it to the quarter-final round of the Henley Regatta that year. Left to right: Paul Gruber SEAS’72, John E. Mulligan III ’72, George Freimarck ’76, Al Mediolli ’73, Terence Waldron SEAS’82, Carl C. Eierle ’88, James Murphy ’88 and Scott MacCormack ’89, with coxswain Conan Hom, from MIT, in front.

Michael concluded with, “Life is an Odyssey!”

Go to this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct) to see a photo of Michael and Tim Butler ’75, who got together to celebrate birthdays.

Rich Rohr has “come to realize that retirement is the time to do things that you think are important, but no one will pay you for. I am now an assistant professor at New York Medical College, where I went after Columbia, helping the next generation of doctors understand how to generate value in healthcare. I am also helping the YMCA here in Philadelphia develop its future leaders.”

Rich also mentioned the necessity of planning for the 50th reunion. More on that follows.

Here is my personal update: Recently, I decided to leave a legacy gift with the 1754 Society of Columbia University. Through the Office of Alumni and Development, the 1754 Society provides the opportunity for a bequest to the University that can be included in your estate planning or other vehicles (the number of options rivals the menu at Moon Palace!). I chose a deferred annuity, which I felt made sense. Even in the annuity option, there are many choices. Our class is very fortunate to have **Dan Baker** as our 1754 Society Class Ambassador (rumor has it that the development office thinks that Dan was born in 1754, not 1954). Dan’s guidance was critical in helping find the right individualized gift form for my needs. Dan is amazing and I encourage all of you to reach out to him (dan.baker1954@gmail.com) to learn about this opportunity.

During Columbia Reunion 2023, held June 1–3, there was a reception for the 1754 Society, and afterward I drove Dan and his wife, Rebecca, to their Manhattan apartment. I actually found street parking! So, I received a spur of the moment invitation for wine and cheese. We had a great time reminiscing, talking about family and laughing.

The benefits of driving people home never cease to amaze me.

Just a heads-up on some events: The Homecoming game will take place at Robert K. Kraft Field when Columbia plays Penn on Saturday, October 14. The day’s events are family friendly, with activities starting in the morning that include a barbecue. Homecoming is part of

Family Days (Friday, October 13–Sunday, October 15), sponsored by Columbia College and Columbia Engineering (cc-seas.columbia.edu/family/events/family-days).

Then, of course, you will be hearing from me and other Columbia College Fund Class Agents about Columbia Giving Day, Wednesday, October 25. I owe the class a big thank you for putting up with my shameless harvesting for the College Fund. Living in Hoboken, I try to get to campus often and to meet a lot of incredible current students, who always make me proud of our Columbia heritage. Your support creates such great opportunities and has a lasting impact through these incredible young people.

Finally, we are beginning to ramp up our 50th reunion plans, as usual under the stewardship of **Steve Davis LAW’79**, our longtime Reunion Committee chair, who always gets the class that invitation to the chocolate fountain at the Barnard reunion. We have had our first disagreement of the year, as Steve and Dan want to have Big Papi as our dinner speaker, and I want to get Mookie Wilson.

We need your input to make the event terrific. Please reach out to me with requests or ideas. Usually, reunion begins on the first Thursday night in June and extends to Saturday night. So, lightly pencil that in for 2026. If you have ideas for events around the city, or speakers, or subjects to discuss, please send them in, or if you have time, join the Reunion Committee.

Thanks again for making this column what it is. Hope to see you at Homecoming!

1977

David Gorman
dgorman@niu.edu

This summer I heard from **Barry Bergdoll** GSAS’86, the Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia. He reported spending the spring at Columbia’s outpost in Paris, Reid Hall, as a fellow of the Institute for Ideas and Imagination. Barry described his time there as “productive and nostalgic at the same time,” since he first stayed at Reid in the summer before junior year, 1975. He

is back in New York now, as director of undergraduate studies in art history, and he “would be happy to see any classmates on campus, to tell each other that we haven’t changed at all!”

I was sorry to learn that Peter Pouncey died on May 30, 2023. Most of us in the Class of 1977 will remember vividly that Pouncey was dean of the College 1972–76. Dean Pouncey, who taught classics, was an articulate and charismatic leader, and a maverick in the eyes of the administration. As I recall, he made us undergraduates feel good to be Columbians. In fact, I had a course with him (a colloquium, which he co-taught), and now almost 50 years later I am trying to remember who else from our class was in it. The words of Pouncey’s that I most remember were uttered in an interview that I did with him for *Spectator*, just before he stepped down as dean. The question was, “What is the worst part of the job?” He answered, “Having your life chopped up into 15- and 30-minute segments.” As a carefree undergrad, this did not make much of an impression on me, but years later, struggling with career-type duties and obligations, it came back to me, as a profound truth.

[Editor’s note: Read the College’s obituary for Pouncey, online at college.columbia.edu/news/peter-r-pouncey-ninth-dean-college-was-instrumental-its-move-coeducation.]

Please send me your latest news, and I’ll include it in a future issue. You can contact me at the email

at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting your photo to ensure it is eligible for publication.

1978

Matthew Nemerson
matthewnemerson@gmail.com

About 40 of us made it to campus for our 45th reunion on a lovely New York late spring weekend.

While a “to-do” list for fine-tuning the 50th is being developed by many, including **Robert Blank**, **Tom Bisdale**, **John Flores**, **Bruce Steinberg** and others who wrote in, noted later in this column, and led by our unofficial class activity leader-in-chief, **Nick Serwer**, who, once again, made flying in from Singapore seem as effortless as grabbing a drink at The West End (Rob flew in from Sydney, even further, but his hair showed signs of the trip, so Nick gets the prize), the class dinner featured a spectacular opportunity to hear a powerful triumvirate.

We started with Dean Josef Sorett trying to assuage our fears that the College is once again at the mercy of the central administration, then moved on to Hon. **Joe Greenaway**, a sitting Columbia trustee, regaling



Enjoying their 45th reunion dinner on June 3 were CC’78 classmates (left to right) Hon. Joseph Greenaway, Tom Reuter and John Flores.

GRACE M. REUTER BC’78



Left to right, Elliott Rosenstein '81, Roger Rosenstein '71, Lindsay Rosenstein, Jake Levey, Dwight Rosenstein '75 and Fred Rosenstein '78 (father of the bride, posing here with his brothers) at Lindsay and Jake's wedding, held on July 2 at Fairmont Le Château Frontenac in Québec City.

us with inside stories about the selection process that led to the new University president. We finished with dessert and a remarkable "in the room where it happens" review of the situation in Ukraine from Ambassador **Chris Dell**, whose insights on Putin, NATO and the history of the fight for European peace was laced with the experiences of someone who helped brief the likes of James Baker and Colin Powell on military policy in Eastern Europe after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Great stuff, and I wish 200 more of you had been there. See the nearby photo, and more in this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct).

I spent much of the weekend palling around with dear friend and 'KCR buddy **Tom Mariam**, who notes, "I am proud to report that my son Michael graduated [this past spring] from Emory University with distinction. Sitting at his commencement ceremony made me feel like I was still sitting at ours yesterday, even if it was 45 years earlier."

Tom added, "Thinking about what one thing that surprises me the most about the last four decades, as a media guy, I have to say the iPhone. Columbia did not prepare me for the possibility that everything I needed to know or have would fit in my pocket!"

Timothy Burnett, who was a close friend during his time in New Haven in the 1990s writes, "After I graduated, I did English major stuff, taught and worked in publishing, and eventually became an architect working for years, before going back to school in 2014, this time to become a nurse!

"Health care has been interesting, especially in Los Angeles, where I live near my son and his family. I dote on my grandson, Colin (5), and enjoy Mammoth Lakes, a ski area.

I have now successfully taken up fly fishing in the Eastern Sierras. I was in Thailand last fall and almost saw our humble scribe in New Haven. Next time.

"California can be infuriating, but it's beautiful, diverse and has great food. Charms. I'm trying to combine health, architecture and the mountains in some grand project, like a boutique hotel. I've run a bunch of marathons and am thinking about a triathlon. Stop by to visit before the 50th!"

Philip J. Vecchio weighs in on things he regrets since graduation: "Why has Columbia chosen to emphasize partisan politics over academics? In the process I think it has alienated far too many alumni.

"In the meantime, we have witnessed a breakdown of Western Civilization in our lifetime due to the abdication of Judeo-Christian mores. To paraphrase John Adams, without these mores, America is ungovernable. Reading the classics was important, especially the *Federalist Papers*. We need to emphasize what Adams wrote, '... to each new generation the virtues without which free societies cannot survive: basic honesty, integrity, self-restraint, concern for others and respect for their dignity and rights, civic-mindedness, and the like.'"

From **Robert Muirhead** comes news: "I fully retired from my career in finance a year ago last February and have filled the time since traveling with my wife, Susan, to some beautiful destinations including Alaska, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and most especially our lake house in Northwestern Rhode Island. I take great joy in watching the five grandkids swim, fish and kayak around our little cove.

"Wish I had been able to attend the 45th and miss laughing with

everyone about the onset of late middle age and the aches and pains that accompany it. I've already had both a knee and a hip replaced and find it takes longer to hike the trails in Zion than it used to.

"I'm grateful to my time at Columbia for arming me with the critical thinking skills necessary to cut through the dangerous nonsense spewed out on the various social media platforms."

Victor Leong writes, "My daughter Hunter graduated from Elon University and is moving to Washington, D.C., to work at PwC. My youngest son, Max, graduated from high school and headed to NYU in August. So, at last I am an empty nester, in my mid-60s. What a ride it has been!

"Looking forward to participating in our 50th reunion. I would say we were very fortunate to attend Columbia and we are very lucky to be in good health to attend reunion. Looking back, I would say the greatest social change I've seen would be the degree of racial diversity in our civic institution and yet my greatest disappointment would be the continued resistance to racial acceptance in our society. My greatest fear is that we are heading toward embracing fascism."

And we close where we began, with some notes from **Chris Dell**: "It was great to see folks at reunion, and even though I retired from the State Department 10 years ago, I seem unable to escape the gravity field of world events, and Ukraine in one way or the other dominates my life. My wife, Tedi, had left to begin a two-year assignment with USAID in Kyiv. My work with the Joint Chiefs of Staff brings me often to the Army training facility in Bavaria where Ukrainians are being trained. It's quite moving to meet these guys, knowing that it's 'for real,' and they'll soon be very much in harm's way.

"Given the news of our dear Peter Pouncey's 'transition' (to quote his successor) I've been wishing I'd had the chance to study Thucydides with him.

"And consider this, when I got home from reunion, I found Pouncey's novel *Rules for Old Men Waiting* on my bedside table. I have no memory of how it got there or why. But I'm reading it now and finding it more and more enjoyable.

It's a novel about writing a novel on WWI, a special interest of mine since I read Vera Brittain's *Testament of Youth* in the wake of a personal loss in the 1980s.

"Yes, youth and old men waiting are indeed the bookends of life."

Thanks again for all of the work done by the Reunion Committee, and especially **Chuck Callan**, who took on the role of fundraiser for the class and brought in a healthy six-figure total with the support of so many of you. As they say, 'You can't have everything; where would you put it?' but all things considered, reunion was just fine.

Go to this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct) to read notes from **Joel Levinson**, **Jonathan Freedman**, **Amittai Aviram** and **Ted Farone**.

1979

REUNION 2024

MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Robert C. Klapper
robertklappermd@aol.com

After managing the supply chains of several consumer electronics/semiconductor companies, most recently Lam Research, **Rich Witherspoon** retired in April 2022.

Since graduating, and making several corporate relocations, Rich has finally settled on the West Coast in San Jose. He has been married for 37 years to Betsy and has two daughters and two granddaughters. With all his spare time, Rich is a frequent traveler and continues to work on his golf game. Look him up when you're in the Bay Area (richwitherspoon@gmail.com).

Robert C. Klapper: "Today's Columbia thought comes from a visit to my orthopedic surgery office by an injured skier. Unfortunately, this young lady tore her ACL, but what made the MRI finding significant to me was the subtle changes seen in the bone after a ligament injury. In this modern day, 45 years since we entered the College, I'm here to tell you that all of the X-rays, CT scans and MRI studies

are no different than they were our freshman year. What I'm saying is the beautiful world of radiology — as an ortho surgeon, I'm dependent on it — still uses black and white imagery. Can you imagine in this world of artificial intelligence I am still trapped in a radiological world that is still black and white? What's fascinating and where the magic of medicine happens is in those shades of grey, and in the subtleties of a bone contusion, bone edema, stress fracture and the occasional patient who thinks they have arthritis or tendinitis, and I must tell them, 'No, this needs a biopsy because I'm worried about cancer.' All of these special cases come from reading deeper into that black-and-white study.

"You might now ask, what does this have to do with our years at the College? My Columbia thought comes from our yearbook. We as a class were so fortunate to have Steven Gerst '81, VPS'86, PH'87, not even a member of our class but who decided we, the Class of 1979, should have a yearbook to remember what life was like on Morningside Heights. I suggest, if you haven't looked at the yearbook in a while, as we get closer to our 50th reunion, that you dust off the old hardcover and take a look because the editorial expertise that Steve used was in a section called "A Day in the Life," where he had photographer Arnold Browne '78 document in black-and-white photographs a 24-hour period in 1979 at the College.

"There is one photograph that reminds me of that unfortunate skier's MRI, where, sadly in 2023, knowing that her anatomy is actually bright colors, the yellow of the fat, the red and purple of her blood vessels — to coin a phrase, we are in Living Color, despite the black-and-white study — those subtleties that I must see in the shades of grey are similar to me when I look at the black-and-white photograph in our yearbook of the Greek waiter at Tom's Restaurant, mouth open, with an Athens accent saying 'tuna fish' to the student at the counter. It might be a black-and-white still photograph of a world that is moving and in color, but I would argue there is more information in that picture and the mind games you must make bring it more to life than if it was shot in color.

"How blessed are we to have a yearbook that allows us to put in

perspective our lives 50 years later? Let me know what your favorite photograph was. Roar, lion, roar."

1980

Michael C. Brown
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

"Don't you love New York in the fall? It makes me want to buy school supplies. I would send you a bouquet of newly sharpened pencils if I knew your name and address."

— *Nora Ephron, You've Got Mail*

The Columbia Alumni Association elected new board members; it's nice to see our class represented by **Lanny Breuer** SIPA'84, LAW'85, super lawyer and a 2020 John Jay Award recipient. Lanny was named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America, giving this bio: "Lanny A. Breuer is the vice chair of the law firm Covington and one of the leading trial and white-collar defense attorneys in the United States. He specializes in helping clients navigate financial fraud, anti-corruption, money laundering, securities enforcement, congressional, environmental, and other criminal and civil investigations presenting complex regulatory, political, and public relations risks."

Congratulations to **Dennis Costakas** on starting a position as medical chief of staff at the Mayo Clinic Health System. Given the size and scope of the Mayo Clinic, Dennis will have his hands full!

On a sad note, **Matt Kennedy** GSAS'82 passed away the past spring. Matt played lacrosse and majored in history. He had a long and successful career on Wall Street and coached lacrosse through the years. He is survived by his wife, Nichole, and daughters, Anna and Clara. Matt lived a rich, colorful and eventful life. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Drop me a note at mcbcu80@yahoo.com or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1981

Dan Albohn, Kevin Costa and Rich Gentile
daniel.albohn@gmail.com
kevinyc@icloud.com
r.gentile@snet.net

Remember those paper desk blotters that used to appear at our dorm rooms every year? During a recent lively exchange with your correspondent **Dan Albohn**, **Paul O'Donnell** SIPA'82 (Montgomery Village, Md.) and **Dan Butler** (Wareham, Mass.) recounted stories of their longtime partnership, which started with those blotters (see the nearby photo). The two met in the John Jay Dining Hall during Freshman Orientation and became a team at Columbia Student Enterprises. Paul remembers CSE as an "umbrella for student entrepreneurship," which included the Columbia Bartending Agency and the student-run subscription service for *The New York Times*. It was Paul and Dan who conceived, designed, printed and distributed the blotters. The two continued their work some years after college at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and remain friends.

"The desk blotter grew out of a series of conversations between us," Paul recalled. "Dan suggested some sort of advertising agency. He had sold ads during high school in San Diego, and I was working for a small outfit with an office above Madison Square Garden that sold advertising in the sports publications of colleges

and universities. The idea of selling ad space held much more appeal than my dreary work-study job at the American Museum of Natural History, where I worked in solitude, surrounded by hundreds of specimens and artifacts, including animal skins, mounted heads and furs — many of which had been donated by President Theodore Roosevelt — along with associated odors." Paul and Dan can't recall exactly how they settled on the blotter, but other schools had similar ones, so they donned their ad sales hats and burrowed into the Big Apple to recruit sponsors.

"Pitching ads was the main part of our job," noted Paul. "We did this every which way, mostly through face-to-face visits to merchants along Broadway, Amsterdam and other nearby locations. But we also hit destinations beyond Morningside Heights, and other sales were made over the phone." They persisted even though "rejection was commonplace and expected," said Paul. "On one occasion, Dan and I were turned down by an optician shop on Broadway. We left the store, discussed what went wrong, and Dan promptly did an about-face and marched back in to give it another shot. I think the store owner admired Dan for his persistence. He ended up buying ads for each of the three years we published the blotter."

"We hit pay dirt early on with a big ad from the city distributor for Miller Brewing that paid for all the printing," said Dan. "Every other ad was pure profit, which was a godsend as we scrambled to make tuition payments. I vividly recall



Paul O'Donnell '81 (left) and Dan Butler '81 met up in New London, Conn., on May 17 for the graduation of O'Donnell's eldest son, Bobby, from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. They took the opportunity to showcase the original 1978 Columbia University desk blotter, which they created and then produced for three years.



Michael Schmidtberger '82 (center) was honored as a "Community Quarterback" at the United Way of New York City's 30th Annual Gridiron Gala, held on May 2 at The Glasshouse. Left to right, his wife, Margie Sung; daughters, Callee SEAS'22 and Mollie '24; and sister, Ann Pagano.

pitching Greyhound at its Manhattan headquarters. The problem was it didn't have a ticket agency in the Columbia vicinity. I asked if that was the only reason he wouldn't buy space, and the guy said, 'Yup.' That was the day the Columbia Bus Ticket Agency was born!"

Paul recalls "visiting the 'printing district' in the 30s on the Lower West Side. There was a wide area of large-scale production shops that did the printing for large Broadway posters and much more. We presented the blotter concept and discussed color, typeface, thickness and absorbency of the paper, size, cut and more. The blotter was an easy job for them."

Paul extolled Dan's entrepreneurial streak. Some of our readers will recall going to Bermuda on one of the trips organized by Dan, or perhaps having their hair cut by Dan in his John Jay dorm room.

Paul and Dan both fondly recall Eugene Kisluk Jr. '71, GSAS'91, director of CSE, who took great interest in their work. Paul recalls Gene as "a wonderful and intriguing guy, with a slight Polish accent and an impish grin. The CSE gig seemed more a placeholder job for him. He was a scholar with a history Ph.D. from Columbia, and his primary occupation was as an appraiser of rare books and manuscripts." Gene died in 2018. Dan remembered that he "tolerated my incessant, irreverent teasing, and he loved Paul's big personality, endless optimism, and infectious laugh. I'm so sorry he's gone. He's one of my Columbia friends I would so much enjoy sharing a beer with today."

Another early supporter of the Butler-O'Donnell team was Roberta Campbell TC'69, the assistant dean of residence halls. Dan remembers her as "the 'keeper of the keys' to

reaching the audience. Without her, we couldn't distribute 10,000-plus blotters directly to students. She granted us access before students arrived for the Fall semester, 1978. We hand delivered across the main campus, and with Roberta's assist, also to dorms at Barnard, Teachers College and beyond." Upon entry, residents found the blotters, also known as desk pads, which bore the advice, "Use this pad to cushion your gouged desktop or to cover a barren wall and brighten up a dingy room."

"The blotter appealed to advertisers," said Dan, "because it remained on students' desks." Mostly. Some blotters were turned into props for card stunt sections at football games at Baker Field. (Now rare, card stunt sections date back to the Cal-Stanford game in 1908. Often at halftime, the student section of the crowd would flash cards on cue, typically coordinating with the marching band and cheerleaders.) And "later one Spring semester, the quad (Livingston, Hartley, John Jay) erupted in an unaccountable nighttime frenzy with students yelling and throwing everything imaginable out their windows — books, food, fixtures and other sundry items. Some fashioned their blotters into large airplanes and sailed them into the quad. The following day, the quad looked like a war zone, with blotter airplanes among the piles of wreckage," said Paul.

Paul and Dan published three annual blotters but can't recall if anyone continued the effort. Securing ads for the second and third iterations was much easier. "We made a point," Paul said, "that after a store owner bought an ad, to send students to that establishment and tell the owner they had seen the ad in the blotter. That always worked and gave us a high percentage of repeat customers."

Paul, who also played on the freshman basketball team, is now senior marketing and communications principal for national security at MITRE Corp., following 20-plus years with NCIS. He came to NCIS at the encouragement of Dan, who at the time was deputy assistant director. Dan soon left NCIS for a career spanning special investigations and intelligence with the Air Force and Coast Guard, from which he is now retired.

During their short overlap at NCIS, Paul and Dan talked about the possibility of a television show featuring NCIS and its unique mission, even though it was, Dan said, "a tiny, backwater governmental agency." After Dan moved on, Paul kept the idea alive and reached out to Hollywood. The rest is history. Now entering its 21st season, CBS Television's *NCIS* franchise is going strong and retains a huge following. Dan credits Paul, "who was relentless in his marketing of the concept within the agency and to producers. No one heard of *NCIS* until Paul made it a household name."

Dan joined Paul, his wife, Robin, and the entire O'Donnell family in May in New London, Conn., to celebrate the graduation of Paul's eldest son, Bobby, from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Perhaps a tear or two was shed — and if so, we're sure that Paul and Dan were ready to blot them.

1982

Andrew Weisman
columbiacollege82@gmail.com

Greeting, gents! As I draft this note we have just passed the longest day of the year, i.e., the Summer Solstice, not the last Saturday you spent with your in-laws.

On a personal note, on July 8, my daughter Isabelle married Dr. James Busch at the Woodstock Inn & Resort in Vermont. I don't have a lot more detail than that, as I was technically a non-voting member of the finance committee. My wife told me it would be awesome.

This period we received a heartwarming update from the good Dr. Jeffrey Lautman.

"Teri Heubner BC'81, BUS'84, floor counselor of 3 Furnald, room 315, and Jeffrey Lautman, room

301, were married 39 years ago by Rabbi Charles Sheer, whom we still see when we visit Riverdale. Jeffrey owns a nephrology group practice in Cleveland and Teri has been running it. We have been fortunate to have had a successful marriage and business partnership all this time.

"We are blessed to have four children and 10 grandchildren, G_d willing going on number 11. Our children live in Florida; Silver Spring, Md.; and soon Raanana, Israel.

"We started ballroom dancing when we were at Columbia and continue to this day.

"Jeffrey gives several classes on weekends at the local synagogue and is active in the distribution and upcoming documentary 999, about the first transport to Auschwitz concentration camp, of which his mother was prisoner number 48.

"Teri is the glue that keeps everything together, and I still have a crush on her.

"Thank you, Columbia, for my education, and a wonderful experience with friends and my wife!"

What a wonderful update, Jeff. I'm now 37 years into my marriage to my Barnard sweetheart. Since you have more experience in these matters than I, I'll be coming to you for advice.

Sending in an update this period, on behalf of **Mike Schmidtberger LAW'85**, is our kind and responsible classmate attorney **Steven Koppel**:

"Mike Schmidtberger, chair of the Executive Committee of law firm Sidley Austin, was honored as a 'Community Quarterback' at the United Way of New York City's (UWNYC) 30th Annual Gridiron Gala, the organization's annual event hosted with the New York Giants and the New York Jets. The gala was held on May 2 at The Glasshouse with more than 900 members of the business, NYC government and not-for-profit communities in attendance.

"Mike was recognized among this year's honorees for continuing 'to support UWNYC's community initiatives and provide resources that make a real difference to children and their families across the five boroughs.'"

The other 2023 honorees were CEO of the Brooklyn Public Library Linda E. Johnson, chief operating officer of BMO Capital Markets Brad A. Rothbaum, Jets defensive lineman Solomon Thomas and Giants placekicker Graham Gano.

Mike has been a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of New York City since 2016. **Joe Cabrera**, a vice-chair of the board and a co-chair of the gala, introduced Mike, and arranged for “Roar, Lion, Roar” as Mike’s walk-on music. In thanking the Jets and Giants for their long partnership with UWNYC, Mike quipped, “While I am honored tonight to be called a quarterback, let us be honest — in every photo op, I look like the water boy!”

Also in attendance were Mike’s wife, Margie Sung, and their daughters, Calee SEAS’22 and Mollie ’24; Lisa Carnoy ’89, a former co-chair of Columbia’s Board of Trustees; New York City First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright ’90, LAW’94, previously UWNYC president and CEO; Columbia football coach Al Bagnoli; and Sidley partners Brian Krisberg ’81, LAW’84 and **Steven Koppel**.”

Such wonderful news! Anyone who has had the chance to get to know Mike knows how well deserved this is! See the nearby photo!

Also checking in this period is retired attorney turned educator **Edward Harris** GSAS’89, LAW’95.

“I recently finished my 16th year of teaching at The Kinkaid School in Houston, following my retirement from practicing law. I’m excited to be sending two of my best students to Columbia, Kate Consoli ’27 and Jessica Fu SEAS’27. While Kate is undecided on her major, based on her outstanding performance in my classroom, I’m encouraging her to continue studying economics. Kate was a key player on Kinkaid’s nationally ranked field hockey team, and she will be a tremendous addition to the Lions’ field hockey program. Jessica will major in computer engineering and applied physics. Columbia is fortunate to welcome Kate and Jessica to campus this fall, and I’m thrilled they are joining the Columbia family.

“Roar, Lion, Roar!”

Ed’s commitment to education is quite inspiring and a great use of a Columbia education!

Gents, I do have some sad news. Lourdes López BC’80 wrote to let us know of the passing of her husband of 31 years, our esteemed classmate **Victor F. Lopez**. Here is the obituary she provided:

“Victor F. Lopez, systems analyst, New York City, on October 30, 2022. Victor was born in the Dominican Republic and grew up in Columbia,

Mo., Rochester, N.Y., and Danbury, Conn., where Victor’s father trained and worked as a neuropathologist. A lifelong student and avid reader, Victor’s passions included coding, family trips to Europe and Latin America, long bicycle rides in and around Manhattan, preparing elaborate meals and being a father to Amanda, now a second-year medical student. Victor is survived by his extended family; his daughter, Amanda; and his wife of 31 years, Lourdes López BC’80.”

Victor will be very much missed.

Last but not least, **Eric Laursen** SIPA’84 checked in to mention his recently released book.

“My latest book, *Polymath: The Life and Professions of Dr. Alex Comfort, Author of ‘The Joy of Sex,’* was to come out at the end of August. Most people remember Comfort for his 12-million-copy international bestseller, one of the most recognized titles in the history of publishing, but he was much more than that one book suggests: a British biologist, gerontologist, poet, novelist, anti-war and anti-nuclear activist, phenomenologist, public intellectual and one of the most influential anarchist thinkers of the postwar decades. Working on this book has been great fun: an adventure and a fascinating excursion into 20th-century history as well as a remarkable mind. I’ll be touring in support of publication this fall.

“I live in Buckland, Mass., one of the Massachusetts Hilltowns, with my wife, Mary V. Dearborn GSAS’84, and our pesky parrot, Lucas. I write for a living as well as for my own satisfaction: journalism, research reports and surveys, webinars, video projects, conference programming and the occasional book review. July 4 this year was a bit of a CC reunion, with Jesse Nahan ’81, **Nick Romanenko** and Ian O’Brien ’87 among our guests.”

Very exciting news! Looking forward to grabbing a copy of Eric’s new book!

Keep those notes coming in! You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the “Just Married!” section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.



Rich Garden ’83 (left) and Brad Gluck ’83 met in Huntington, N.Y., on February 4 to commemorate 56 years of friendship.

1983

Roy Pomerantz
bkroy@msn.com

Our 40th reunion, held June 1–3, was attended by more than 75 classmates and was a huge success.

Jeff Walker hosted a “Freedom and Citizenship: The Core Beyond Campus” event in his office, featuring Professor Roosevelt Montás ’95, GSAS’04, senior lecturer in American studies and English, and former head of the Witten Center for the Core Curriculum. **Andy Gershon** hosted the cocktail reception at his home. **Carl Birman** and **Dante Alencastre** represented our class in the panel “LGBTQ+ Activism at Columbia in the Early ’80s.” **Mark Momjian** was the master of ceremonies for the Saturday dinner speaker, Professor Kenneth Jackson. I have a backup of notes now that will be included in the next few issues.

Robert Kahn: “The week before reunion, eight old friends from the Class of ’83 rented a house in Upstate New York for a pre-reunion reunion. We hiked, swam and played tennis, and prepared and ate gourmet meals. There might have been some drinking involved, as well. It was a blast seeing old friends and celebrating our friendships. The attendees were me, **Bob Gamiel**, **Bob Montay SEAS’83**, **Bruce Robertson**, **Marty Avallone**, **Paul Saputo**, **Mark Darlington** and **Simon Hall**.”

See the nearby photo, as well as a bonus one in our column online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Thomas Holoka: “I ran into **Mike Pagnani** and **Mike Fortine** ’85 at the Columbia-Georgetown football game in September.” See the nearby photo!

Mark Darlington: “I moved from Redding, Conn., to Aiken, S.C., in 2020, mainly because my wife, Eileen, has three horses, and taking care of them during Connecticut winters wasn’t much fun. Since I know practically nothing about horses, I told her there had to be lots of tennis courts and players in Aiken. Fortunately, check and check! I usually play tennis four times a week, and practice Bikram yoga in a 105-degree room twice a week.

“I have many fond memories of Columbia College. Most of them involve doing things with classmates that shouldn’t be repeated (at least not in writing), but here are a few that can be published:

“Rowing in the tanks under Low Library; taking the 1 train to Baker Field at 5:30 a.m. for crew practice; working for the Office of the General Counsel, which required traveling all over (and exploring) New York City; singing with the Glee Club at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center; traveling with the Glee Club to New Orleans to sing for Columbia alumni; going to Koronet Pizza for ‘The Big One’; and throwing peanut shells on the floor at The Third Phase.

“Memorable professors: John Kender (the one to blame for my current profession), Jonathan Gross and Joseph Traub GSAS’59, professors of computer science; Genevieve Cerf SEAS’86, professor of electrical engineering; Niels Ostbye, associate in the Music Performance Program; and Karl-Ludwig Selig, professor of Spanish and Portuguese.

“My wife and I are partners in Trilogix, an IT consulting company. We travel back to the tri-state area often to visit family, friends and customers. Unfortunately, there are few (if any) direct flights from nearby Augusta or Columbia airports, so we

need to go to Charleston, Charlotte or Atlanta, all two and a half hours away.

"I stay in touch with **Marty Avallone, Bob Gamiel, Simon Hall, Joe Harary, Robert Kahn, Mike Melkonian '84, Bob Montay SEAS'83, Bruce Robertson, Jon Ross and Paul Saputo**, and was looking forward to seeing many more in early June [at reunion]!"

Howard Guess: "Dawn's rosy fingers pull back the night's black velvet curtain to welcome the new day as days turn into years and we strive forward post-graduation. It's hard to believe that four decades have passed so quickly.

"Becky and I attended this year's swimming homecoming in January, against Brown. We enjoyed ourselves, but it was weird sitting in the stands as opposed to poolside. She got to see the campus, where so many of my shenanigans occurred. We are considering a 21-day river cruise from Amsterdam to Bucharest next year.

"We sold our California house two years ago and are in the middle of extensive renovations and remodeling of our historic 18th-century Pennsylvania homestead. We are currently living with my mother in my childhood home in New Jersey but later this year will be back in our home once all the work is finished.

"My mother's dementia has progressed and her needs related to the activities of daily life have increased exponentially. She needs residential care as opposed to home care with me as caregiver.

"Our family has bounced back and forth from California to Pennsylvania

and New Jersey for the last two years. While it has been the 'best of all possible worlds' in some ways, it has also been absolute insanity. It is well past time to settle down in one place and to paraphrase Voltaire's *Candide*, 'just tend the garden.'"

Peter Fumo: "I am a nephrologist in Philadelphia and am chair of medicine at Temple Health-Chestnut Hill Hospital. I have become a huge listener of podcasts covering history, politics, current events and sports. I stay in touch with **Andrew Botti** and **Rich Rodriguez '84, GSAPP'87**. I absolutely treasure the time I had at Columbia and really appreciate the Core Curriculum. I am hoping my son Matthew goes there. He will be graduating from high school in 2024. My favorite professor was Ron Breslow. I also have twins, Peter and Julia, in their freshman year of college. Julia wants to follow in her father's footsteps as a physician."

Robert S. Drew: "I live and teach in Michigan with my wife, Amy BC'84, and with two wonderful children nearby: Charlotte (27) and Daniel (25). Still in close contact with **Bill Carney** and **Darren Staloff**. Recently finished revisions on my second book, *Unspooled: How the Cassette Made Music Shareable*, in production. Still enjoy swimming and basketball, weekend crosswords and most recently, singing with a grandpa rock band in Midland, Mich."

Brian Jones: "It's hard to believe that it has been more than four decades since we were in Immaculada Dobkin's (de los Habsburgos) Spanish class together."

Victor Cha: "... is vice dean and professor at Georgetown University. He is serving a term on the Biden administration's Defense Policy Board, and has a book that came out in June, *Korea: A New History of South and North*."

Frank Messina: "I had every intention of going to our 40th reunion; I have never attended any reunion. Life got in the way. A long way of saying, please continue to keep me posted, and I will make it to a reunion although it might not be a milestone, like this one was, in the near future."

Love to all, everywhere!

1984

REUNION 2024

MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Dennis Klainberg
dennis@berklay.com

Paul Schwarzbaum: "I lead an aviation ground support equipment manufacturer, Tronair. My son Ezra Schwarzbaum '20 is pursuing an M.B.A. at Wharton starting this fall, and my daughter Dalia graduated this past May with a B.S. in architecture from the University of Michigan; she started in September at an architecture firm in Bangkok. My wife, Bea, and I are looking forward to taking several trips back East and farther East to visit them and other family."

Doug Mintz VPS'88 and his husband, Lloyd, live happily in New York, even more so now that their son Nilson is now gainfully employed at Bank of America/Merrill Lynch — and out of the house! With our 40th reunion less than a year away, Doug looks forward to attending and could even be persuaded to play a part on the Reunion Committee. Let us not forget his most gracious hosting of our class' 30th at their East side home with honoree Karl-Ludwig Selig holding court. (Pictures available on request!)

Glenn Ramsdell: "Hi from Seattle, where I've lived for eight years. While distant from Morning-side Heights, I return often to happy

memories of time spent on campus, especially with the fine singers of the illustrious Glee Club (**Dan Berick, Ari Brose BC'84, Cathy Cotton BC'83 and Harvey Cotton '81, Jon Abbott, Beth Knobel BC'84, David Lyle '83** — the list goes on and on!); fellow English majors (notably **Rob Rubinson** and the most holy reverend **Robert M. Zecker GSAS'85**); and various gourmards who also frequented Professor Pizza. Life since '84 seems never to have slowed. Currently, we're renovating a 1904 house on Volunteer Park, which is quite the 'adventure,' as anyone who's lived through such a project would know all too well. If you're ever in the Pacific Northwest, please say hi!"

David Gormley — residing in Pittsburgh with his wife of 25 years, Siti Nurbaida — says hello to all classmates and is pleased to report that his older son David William, Allegheny College Class of 2024, has been named a Distinguished Alden Scholar and majors in computer science, and his second son, Daniel, was named All-WPIAL, All-State in soccer and All-State Choir, and has received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for the Class of 2027 and reported for R-Day on June 26. Another view of the Hudson.

See you all at Homecoming 2023!

El Gray: "Our daughter Kyra is now a Lioness, having joined the Business School Class of '25 this fall."

Kenny Tung LAW'87 recently started as the independent outside compliance monitor for a multinational company in China. Separately, he has also commenced as an advisor to an international law firm in developing business opportunities to serve clients in special situations. Kenny continues to work with lawyers and adjacent sectors in finding and implementing strategic framework and applications in the space.

David Prager Branner: "In brief, during the last academic year I spent about six months in New York, preparing to donate the archive of my late father, Robert Branner (1927–73) to Columbia. He was a specialist in French Gothic architecture. Preparation involved detailed inventorying of his work — a real slog — but the archive is now in Columbia's hands at last, 50 years after his death. Extensive correspondence with two of his senior



The week before Columbia Reunion 2023, eight old friends from the Class of '83 rented a house in Upstate New York for a pre-reunion reunion. In attendance were Robert Kahn '83, Bob Gamiel '83, Bob Montay SEAS'83, Bruce Robertson '83, Marty Avallone '83, Paul Saputo '83, Mark Darlington '83 and Simon Hall '83.

colleagues is in the hands of two scholars whom I hope will edit and publish the material in short order. There also remains an anthology of 40 of my father's papers in his field, compiled and edited by my mother and a student of my father's, and which I have typeset, for which I hope to have a publishing agreement later this year. Most of my own scholarly work has been on hold during these months."

James Satloff: "Recently seen at the NYC wedding reception of **Stuart Cane** were **Frank Sommerfield**, **Ron Adelman** and me, all sophomore-year Livingston Hall suitmates, and several as freshman suitmates in Carman. All were in good spirits sharing stories of 40 years past."

Three bits of news from **Mark Binder**: His offspring, Maya Lehrer-Binder '18, completed an M.Ed. from Brown University. And the first two books in Mark's Groston Middle series, *It Ate My Sister* and *The Zombie Cat*, have been released as audiobooks.

Raul Trillo BUS'02: "My wife and I recently relocated to Orlando from Miami. My company, Vyluma, is developing a treatment for pediatric myopia and recently submitted our NDA (new drug application) to the FDA. If all goes well, we hope to be approved in Q1 2024. Fingers crossed!"

Dennis Klainberg: "Last August our daughter Emma Klainberg

TC'19 married Daylen Orlick near our home on Long Island. Both are administrators at George Mason University in Virginia. Her 'Irish twin,' sister, Sydney Klainberg, announced her engagement to Charlie Robertson with a wedding set for next July. Sydney is a school psychologist in Middletown, Pa., while completing her doctoral work at Penn State, and Charlie works in financial services."

See you at our 40th in June!

1985

Jonathan White
jw@whitecoffee.com

We begin with our judicial branch classmates. **Tim Tomasi** LAW'88 was back on campus in June for his Law School reunion "and was happy to see Tom's and Koronet still up and running with few changes to the menus, other than the prices. We had the first family wedding last summer when my eldest daughter got married on a beautiful day in Maine. I'm in touch with **Barry Ableman**, **Joel Feldman**, **Dave Ordan** and **Chuck Karparis** '84. They help me keep alive the memories of all the great times we shared when we were young."

After a three-year delay from his confirmation by the Senate to serve as a U.S. District Judge in the Eastern District of New York, **Gary**

Brown finally got to have an investiture, which featured a speech by Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and performances by a troupe from the National Circus Project. Judge Brown reports that the job is going along well, and his youngest graduated from high school this past spring.

"Perhaps the more interesting news is this," Gary writes "After decades of active involvement in performance magic, in March I was featured on an episode of Penn & Teller's *Fool Us*, demonstrating a trick of my own devise. Did I fool them? Well, I'm not allowed to say, but the performance is available on YouTube (bit.ly/3OhhZS8)."

David Zapolsky is still enjoying Seattle and Amazon, "and taking every opportunity I can get to go hiking in the mountains. I'm about two-thirds of the way to my goal of hiking the Washington State section of the Pacific Crest Trail. My job at Amazon expanded last year beyond general counsel to cover global public policy, which brings me into meetings with government representatives and leaders all over the world. It's a new but fun challenge, and I find it energizing. I'm also energized by the opportunity to work with my colleagues in person again. So no sign of retirement on the horizon for me; I'm having too much fun.

"Like many classmates, I turn 60 this year, and my son Ian '15 is 30 years and 12 days behind me. We celebrated both 'big birthdays' by hiking together in Chamonix this past August along with our extended families. Meanwhile, Ian and his wife, Sophie Mann '15, are moving from San Francisco to Brooklyn this fall, so my wife, Lynn, and I should be visiting NYC much more frequently than in recent years, which is the consolation prize for their move away from the West Coast."

John Poros recently completed his 25th year of teaching at the School of Architecture at Mississippi State University. "My child, Izzy, is a ceramics major at the Mississippi University for Women and in their senior year, after which my wife, Leslie, and I are hoping to retire in Albany, N.Y. I published a book last fall, *Marcel Breuer: Shaping Architecture in the Post-War Era*."

CC'85 was represented in the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day on May 16 by **Serge Ozerov** BUS'89 and **Seth Schachner**

BUS'90. Serge had two graduates in the class, Anthony '23, the class salutatorian (off to UC Berkeley for a Ph.D. in statistics), and Max '23, who will join Société Générale in NYC in structured credit. Seth's son, Miles '23, was *Spectator's* sports editor, and is now a sportswriter at the *New York Post*.

Seth noted, "It was a great day — lots of emotion and pride. My daughter, Liv, is doing great at BU and is in her sophomore year. I welcome hearing from classmates coming through Los Angeles. I'm good, still running my consulting business, and commenting on television about media and tech frequently."

Go to this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct) to see a photo of Serge and Seth.

Barry Kanner is an interventional radiologist at Columbia University Irving Medical Center—New York Presbyterian. Just after turning 60 he celebrated the marriage of his daughter, Pamela, to Tomer Porian. The wedding took place in Israel and thankfully Barry (with his wife, MJ, and other kids, Joe and Benny) was able to celebrate with many of his friends from Columbia and Barnard. After the wedding, Barry joined Eve Leibowitz BC'85 (née Horowitz) and **David Leibowitz**, Lynn and **Steven Farber**, and Michelle Avigan BC'85 and **David Avigan** for a side trip to northern Italy, where they retold countless stories from college and the decades since those amazing years. "These friendships last a lifetime!" Barry noted. See the nearby photo!

After retiring from government work in 2017, **Len Genova** decided to pursue his original passion, sports management. "I earned a master's in sport management from Ohio University in 2020, but due to Covid-19 there were no opportunities to break into college athletics so I decided to pursue a Ph.D. I am entering my third year at the University of Georgia and pursuing a doctorate in sport management and policy. I am a TA and teach several classes. It has been both a challenge and blast to get back into the academic arena. The technology part of it has been enormously challenging but the younger members in my cohort have been so kind and always willing to provide a helping hand. I never thought I'd be taking advanced statistics courses at



Celebrating at Barry Kanner '85's daughter Pamela's wedding in Israel on June 19 were Elisa Bash BC'88 (née Schein); Robert Bash; Steven Farber '85; Lynn Farber; Michael Bayme; Moe Hartstein '86; Steven Rappaport; Tamar Krongrad BC'85; Kanner, Eve Leibowitz BC'85 (née Horowitz); Kanner's wife, MJ Kanner; David Leibowitz '85; Abby Dishi BC'85 (née Weidenbaum); Kanner's son Benny Kanner; Zia Rose BC'85 (née Jaffe); Roberta Schwartz; Boni Moskovitz BC'86 (née Loebenber); Barry Schwartz '85; Michelle Avigan BC'85 (née Reiman); Linda Friedberg BC'85 (née Pardes); Tamar Rappaport BC'85 (née Landes); and David Avigan '85.



Kevin Townley '85 (in uniform) retired after 27 years at the Connecticut Air National Guard and was joined on May 6 in Orange, Conn., by Lions football teammates (left to right) John Plaisted '87, Paul Myers '85, Pat Conroy '84, Carlo Bruno GS'87, Dan Uppercroft '85, Mike Novotnak '85 and Eric Dill '85.

this point in my life, but it has been invigorating. I'm a long way from retiring and look forward to this second chapter of my career."

Kevin Townley retired after 27 years as a satellite communications technician at the Connecticut Air National Guard and brought along a good contingent of the 1985 football team to celebrate (see the nearby photo). Kevin is now a field engineer at Unisys.

After many years scraping by as a substitute teacher and office temp, in March 2022 **Larry Rogers** took a full-time job at the Schenectady County Public Library. "It has meant the world to me to have finally achieved 'professional' status. I work full time, am a California School Employees Association member and have a real retirement to look forward to. This is the future I should have been planning for when I was at Columbia! Of course, I don't remember any of my English professors encouraging me to explore a career as a public librarian. Indeed, I don't remember any of the old-timers (Wallace Gray, Carl Hovde '50, Howard Schless) encouraging me to explore any sort of career at all. None of them ever talked about the rewards of helping others, on or off campus.

"Every day at Schenectady County Public Library, where most of my library patrons are very poor with little knowledge of computers, I go out of my way to help them make the right choice, neither ignore their problems nor treat them with contempt, and treat them the way they should be treated."

Larry also thanked me for reporting on my eye issues. "It meant a lot to me because last September I had a sudden cloud of floaters in my right eye and had to rush to the VA eye

clinic for treatment. As it happens, it was just a couple of small tears in my right retina that had to be repaired. But I was really scared. Your story made me feel how lucky I was!"

My eyes are coming along, after multiple doctors/prescriptions. Thanks for the good wishes.

Finally, best wishes to **Tony Pagán SW'87**, who is recovering from a serious fall and has resumed his duties as director of administration and operations at Columbia World Projects during the summer.

Enjoy the rest of 2023! Please reach out any time if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1986

Everett Weinberger
everett6@gmail.com

Congrats to **Edward Law** on the graduation of his twins from Columbia College! He writes: "Happy to report that my identical twin sons, Christian '23 and Jackson '23, both will be conducting orthopedic research in advance of applying to medical schools, Christian working at Columbia and Jackson at Hospital for Special Surgery."

Congrats to **You Sung Sang**, who also had two graduations! "Busy year for my wife, Jen, and me. Both boys graduated — Brendyn from Worcester Polytechnic Institute; he will be working for MIT Lincoln Laboratory.

And Jason from Northfield Mount Hermon School; and he is now at NYU (his mom's alma mater). We were chilling with them this past summer in East Lyme, Conn."

Congrats to **Kevin Toner** on the admission of his son, Namkha, to the Class of '26!

Eric Pomert spent the summer in Newport, R.I., with family and is a semi-retired film editor as he prepares for a new chapter in service by completing a degree in library sciences to work part time in California's great public library system. His latest comedy feature film collaboration (donnaandally.com) with writer-director Chi Cannon was wrapping post-production and has been invited sight unseen to premiere at the Indie Memphis Film Festival. A film project about a great Tulsa Jewish immigrant-turned-philanthropist is now in preparation to become part of an exhibition at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art in Tulsa.

Bob Zifchak had a busy June. Between officiating track meets, moving one daughter in and out of apartments at the University of Delaware, assorted construction and maintenance projects at three houses and the IT service transformation at work, he barely had time to squeeze in the Sweet 16 Party for his other daughter but with a wrinkle in the time/space continuum he was able to get everything done perfectly.

Since Covid-19, I've been spending winters in Miami Beach, and so I took my own advice to look up classmates. I had a great lunch with **Sergio Akselrad BUS'90** at the Coral Reef Yacht Club in Coconut Grove. Sergio lives in Coral Gables with his wife and three boys. He recently left Goldman Sachs after 25 years and is now at JPMorgan, where he heads a wealth management team. I also had a fun lunch with **Michael Gottdenker** at Sadelle's in Coconut Grove. Michael has had an interesting career path: Salomon Brothers, Revlon, a telecom company in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., heading another telecom company in Maryland for Quadrangle Group, then successfully selling the company during Covid. He and his wife split their time among Coconut Grove, New York City and Aspen. Michael is an impressively skilled pilot and zips around the country by plane.

Let me know if you'd like the list of classmates by city.

1987

Sarah A. Kass
sarahann29uk@gmail.com

Lots of news this issue, so we'll start with **Luis Duany TC'92**, who wrote that after trips to Eastern Africa and Argentina, he started a position at CUNY's Early College Program, which supports 20 non-selective New York City public high schools where students graduate with an average of 18 college credits, and many of them with an associate's degree. Luis visits campus occasionally and loves to stay in touch with College classmates.

Omid Arabian lives in Los Angeles and conducts classes in philosophy and mysticism at YOUiversal Center, a nonprofit he founded in 2014. His third children's book, *You Are Everything* (based on a poem by Rumi), is scheduled to be published in November.

Richard D. Simonds Jr. is back living in New York City and has been moved from partner to senior counsel at his law firm, Alston & Bird. In addition, his son Charles Simonds LAW'25 finished his first year at Columbia. Richard is still writing and submitting poetry and fiction, and has had several poems published in *Overtly Lit*.

As usual, **Magaly Colimon** has some amazing projects going on. Her arts company, Conch Shell Productions, is the recipient of A.R.T./New York's FY24-FY25 New York City Small Theatres Fund, which is made possible with support from the Howard Gilman Foundation. The funding will support its mission to develop, produce and present new plays and screenplays by Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora writers (Instagram/YouTube/Facebook: @conchshellproductions). Magaly also received the 2023 NYFA Queens Arts Fund New Work Grant to support the development of her play *Access Granted*, a mixed-media play with music that will explore a Haitian American woman's quest to heal generational trauma and the impact of immigration.

Creativity just abounds in our class. **Garth Stein SOA'90** has a new book, *Book Two* of his graphic novel series, *The Cloven*. He writes, "It's about New World Order conspiracies, billionaire fetishes and

mutant goat people who live among the homeless population in Seattle's notorious Jungle encampment."

And speaking of creative people, **Steven Drachman** LAW'93 writes, "I've been married for 33 years to a BC'87 grad I met during Freshman Orientation, I'm the dad of two grown daughters and I've lived in the same apartment for 25 years.

"I was briefly employed in the publishing industry and as a film critic just after graduation, but as of the early '90s I was a lawyer and compliance officer at many financial institutions, with a bit of novel writing when I had time. My 'Watt O'Hugh' historical-fantasy trilogy remains in print, and the podcast dramatization based on the book is still available. Now I'm resting on my laurels. I'm out of ideas! I'm completely retired. I'm a retired compliance officer, retired lawyer and even a retired novelist.

"I'm using my leisure time to scratch some to-dos off the list, like hiking the Appalachian Trail and the mountains near Almaty, finally achieving fluency in French, getting my Brooklyn garden just the way I've always wanted it, learning physics, editing my grandfather's papers (he was an essayist, poet of some long-ago note and Clifford Odets' earliest writing mentor), de-rusting my clarinet-playing, reading the 100 greatest books and watching the 100 greatest movies and visiting every room in the Metropolitan Museum, among many other things. I don't really like being retired, but I like it better than working."

Turning from literature to music, **Farah Chandu** saw **Lee Ilan** at Columbia Reunion, held June 1–3, where they joined the (relatively new) Alumni Choir. Farah said that any alum who wants to sing is free to join the fun, as there is no time commitment involved. "We just organize right before and disband right after," she said. "It's a great way to check in with music friends!" Those who are interested should contact the Alumni Office (ccalumni@columbia.edu), and they will connect you.

Suze Kim Villano sent the following from Indiana: "As the singing community is reemerging this year, I have had the chance to sing more, including *Carmina Burana* and an all-Korean sacred music choral concert.

"I am blessed to still be the administrative director of the Notre Dame Children's Choir. We recently returned from an amazing bus tour to Virginia and Washington, D.C., where the tour choir of more than 30 10–19-year-olds sang in nine liturgies and concerts, including at the National Cathedral and the National Basilica!

"In May, my husband and I were blessed to spend a couple of fun (and tasty!) weeks with our son and his family in Seoul, Korea; Singapore; and Ubud in Bali, Indonesia; and then with my mom's family in Cancún.

"Now, I am enjoying time with our newest (6 months) grandchild, who lives only five minutes away, and looking forward to seeing all three grandkids (and, of course, our own kids!)"

Please reach out to me with your news, updates and/or College memories via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

1988

Eric Fusfield
eric@fusfield.com

Daniel Goldberger LAW'93 was one of many classmates who attended our 35th reunion in early June and enjoyed catching up with other alums. In addition to the scheduled events and class dinner, Daniel and others gathered informally at familiar haunts like V&T and Tom's. See the nearby photo!

Brendan Mernin attended another reunion, this one for the 1988 Columbia Ultimate Frisbee team. "We were national semifinalists that year and ranked number 1 in the country," Brendan proudly recalled.

Shari Hyman reunited with her Carman 9 floormates at the reunion reception. She also joined a small dinner with classmates in Chelsea. Shari wrote, "In 2019 I went to work for Turner Construction and am VP of public affairs. As a nice dovetail, Turner built Columbia's new Busi-

ness School building, so it's nice to know my connections continue."

Keep the updates coming! We look forward to hearing from you, including any reunion reminiscences you want to share. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the webform before submitting your photo to ensure it is eligible for publication.

1989

REUNION 2024

MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Emily Miles Terry
emilymilesterry@me.com

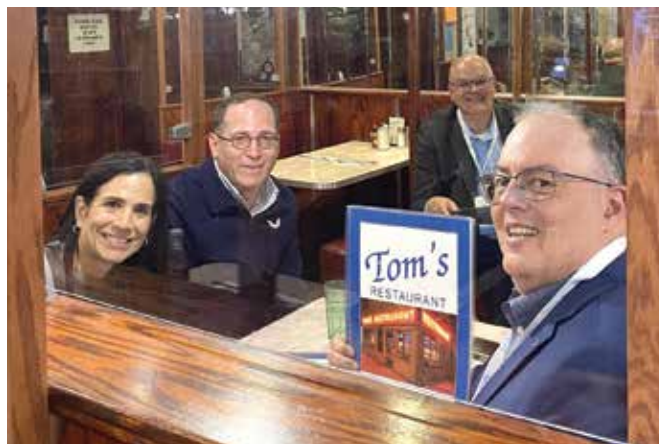
A few months ago I heard from **Isaac Castenada**, who wrote, "In 1999, Maggie Miquero '93 and I got married, quit our jobs in New York in the law and investment management, respectively, and moved to the Dominican Republic to pursue a business opportunity in the industrial sector. We envisioned a five-year tour, tops. Instead, we fell in love with the country and its people and made it our home for 22 years.

The Covid-19 pandemic forced us to rethink the past, present and future and we decided to partially divest from our interests in the DR and relocate to the United States."

Isaac, Maggie and their children, Jacobo (15) and Teo (14), are now in Tenafly, N.J. Isaac adds, "Now our children are where they can enjoy their grandparents, a wonderful local school and easy access to the city. Maggie and I are excited to begin a new chapter in our lives and are looking at various opportunities."

Some of you were lucky enough to join in the V&T vs. Koronet taste-off last April, organized by **Kaivan Shakib** and **Jared Goldstein**. Of the event, Carl Schaerf '88 wrote, "One of the best parts of any reunion is the realization that for all the great people you knew, you missed plenty of people whom you would have liked just as much. Thank you, Kaivan and Jared for a terrific evening." **Kyle Loudermilk SEAS'89** also attended and writes that it was "wonderful" and "low key" and "nice to have a group of folks get together for pizza and conversation." Kyle's son Grayson joined the feast. Kyle writes, "He's my oldest, at 22. He graduated a semester early from UGA and studied for the semester at Columbia Law School while awaiting acceptances to law schools. He will attend University of Texas Law on full scholarship! I am thrilled for him."

Congratulations to Grayson! Though an official tally of votes was never taken, it was a super gathering that also raised money for a generous donation to Columbia



Enjoying a meal at Tom's Restaurant on June 3 during their 35th reunion were CC'88 classmates (left to right) Stefanie Katz-Rothman, Jonathan S. Lavine, Carl Schaerf and Daniel Goldberger.

Community Service, a joint mission of Columbia and Barnard. Also in attendance were **Tom Kamber** and his wife, Whitney (thanks for the great pics!); **Steve Metalios, John MacPhee, Donna MacPhee, Stephanie Falcone Bernik, Lisa Landau Carnoy, Roger Rubin, Jill Tannebaum, Jeff Udell** and many more. If you're on Facebook, you probably saw all the great pics, but if you're not, I'd say that the Columbia University Class of '89 Undergraduates Facebook group is a really excellent reason (maybe the only good reason!) to get on Facebook. If you need help finding it, email me and I'll send you the link.

Thomas Dineen also wrote, "Although being a securities regulator at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (aka FINRA) consumes much of my time, I'm happy to announce that I was elected VP of the American Ju-Jitsu Association and chair of its National Standards and Certification Board."

Thomas also founded **Defensive Canes For All**, a nonprofit that offers self-defense-adapted walking canes and training to seniors, the disabled and veterans, as well as to experienced martial artists who wish to explore the cane's potential as a weapon.

This past spring **Thom Chu** spoke on estate and business exit planning at a Columbia Reunion panel, "Lives in Transition: How to Navigate the Next 50 Years." And speaking of reunion, **Matt Engels** is already talking about reunion planning so please consider being on the Reunion Committee — it's a lot of fun. Our next ugly big number reunion is this coming spring (let's not do the math) and we'll begin getting organized this fall. We'd love any ideas or thoughts and suggestions from our creative class.

Also, can't close the column without another big thanks to **Renny Smith** for writing an outstanding Class Notes column in the Summer 2023 issue. Please contact me if you're interested in being our next guest columnist!

And do reach out any time if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum

— if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
younggrache@hotmail.com

Eric Horwitz still runs the Columbia Career Coaches Network and says if there are any aspiring coaches in the community, please contact him. His daughter, Elizabeth SIPA'23, graduated in the spring; his son, Zach, is a campus rabbi for Columbia; and his granddaughter, Nomi, is often found playing on the grass near Furnald.

Sounds like a full Columbia family to me!

Carol "Kate" Guess will have two books published by the end of 2023. Look for her short story collection, *Sleep Tight Satellite*, to be published in October, and her collaborative poetry collection (co-written with Rochelle Hurt), *Book of Non*, which was published in July.

Paul Estuar recently started as litigation director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California, the nation's largest civil rights organization for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. His work focuses on cases involving anti-Asian violence, voting rights, language rights and labor trafficking. On the home front, he reports, "Both my sons graduated from college in 2022. One is a sustainability engineer for an energy consulting firm in New Jersey. The other is in public health administration, working for a nonprofit in Hawaii that serves individuals with mental illness. I am just so proud and happy that both children are off my 'payroll!'"

Paul also gets together a few times a year with **Ruben Garcia**, a judge in Los Angeles County Superior Court assigned to oversee probate matters.

In June, **Rick Minnich** attended the Moldox Documentary Film Festival for Social Change in Moldova. He traveled by train with two of his sons from his home in Berlin to Bucharest via Vienna. From there, they went by car another five hours to the festival in Cahul, Moldova, near the Romanian border. His film *The Strait Guys* was screened at the festival. It tells the



CC'91 classmates walking in the Alumni Parade of Classes on May 16's Class Day were, left to right, Dr. Sandra Lora Cremers, Patricia Labrada, Michael Camacho and Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese.

story of a Czech-born mining engineer who dedicated his life to connecting the United States and Russia via the world's longest train tunnel beneath the Bering Strait. This was the first screening of the film in the former USSR. He has another film ready to launch about the Holocaust survivor and presidential tailor Martin Greenfield, a Brooklyn legend. Keep your eye out for *The Presidents' Tailor*.

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
heatherhj@yahoo.com

Greetings, classmates! Autumn is upon us and soon the holidays and the end of the year will be as well! Please keep sending me your news and updates to include in future issues! It has been so wonderful to hear from so many of you!

Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese submitted the nearby photo from Class Day, held on May 16. She walked with Dr. **Sandra Lora Cremers, Patricia Labrada** and **Michael Camacho**, showing their Columbia spirit! Make plans now for next spring to carry the CC'91 banner and join in on the fun! I have participated and it is a really wonderful event and fantastic opportunity to reconnect with classmates!

Thanks, Laurel, for sharing this photo!

Joseph Farca reached out: "Hi classmates. I am excited to

share with you that I have been nominated as a candidate for New Rochelle City Council District 6 in the general election on November 7, 2023 (with early voting October 28–November 5).

"I am proud to call New Rochelle my home. It's a beautiful city with a rich history, diverse population and excellent opportunities. I have lived in District 6 for nearly 20 years, and I welcome the opportunity to share my vision for my community and explain why I am the right candidate to represent my district. If you live in New Rochelle or know someone who does, I invite you to reach out to me and help spread the message about my candidacy."

Best wishes to Joe on his City Council bid.

Melanie Jacobs submitted: "I have some belated news. On July 1, 2022, I started a job as dean of the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law. This has certainly been a big transition for my husband, Shane Broyles, my son, JB Broyles (12) and me, but we are enjoying life in Louisville (especially our first Thunder and Derby season). This is a great city to visit, so I hope that alums passing through Louisville will reach out!"

Congratulations to Melanie on her new position! If there are any other CC'91 alums in the Louisville area, please touch base with Melanie.

Justin Kerber reports: "My son Eli Kerber graduated from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School

in Indianapolis this past spring. He started at American University in August, so I'd love to reconnect with any Columbia people living in the area. Our younger son, Danny, is in sixth grade, and will miss his older brother terribly. We think Danny has some talent for performing musical comedy. He's hoping to get into sportscasting.

"I am very excited that **Chris Front** is now head of school at Park Tudor School in Indianapolis where my wife, Hope, will be teaching. I love my rabbinate at Congregation Beth Shalom here in Indy, especially since we moved in with a Conservative congregation, Shaarey Tefilla. It's working out well for both congregations."

It is so great to see classmates connecting in different cities across the country and around the globe!

Reminder to all that Columbia Homecoming 2023 is Saturday, October 14. Save the date!

Please take a moment to send me your latest news and happenings, and I'll share them in a future issue.

Write to me at the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos of 750 kb that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum for "Just Married!" as long as a member of the couple — should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Looking forward to receiving more notes and seeing your amazing photos in the next issue!

1992

Olivier Knox
olivier.knox@gmail.com

I heard from **Cliff Blaze** and **Ana Castillo Blaze**, who hosted "Gimme Shelter '23," which they described as "a much overdue five-day get-together of CU friends from all over the country. (As an editorial note, Carman 7 1998–89 was well represented.)"

In attendance: **Scott Kitzman**, who came in from Illinois; **Will Strong**, who lives in Austin; **Philip Fisher**, local to NYC; **Tom Linton SEAS'92**, who flew in from London; and **Mike Fischer SEAS'92**, from Dallas. Across classes, **Chris Beach '91** came from Florida, and **Andrew McFarland '91** and **Chris Tessin '93**, **BUS'98** came from Seattle.

Scanlynn Daniel sent a generous Class Notes contribution, and I'll start with the last line: "Shoutout to fifth floor McBain 1988/89!" (If you haven't visited CC recently: The dorms have been reorganized to create a kind of first-year "quad." Furnal and Wallach now house first-years.)

"With the exception of 1998–2000, when I worked in the Middle East, I have been in New York since graduation," Scanlynn wrote. "Although times and the city have changed, I still find everyday magic here and am still very much entranced with the diversity and energy of the city."

Scanlynn was part of "The Great Resignation of 2020/21," leaving a 30-year career in fintech behind in favor of "my dream job" in public healthcare: "an IT system administrator with MetroPlus/NYC Health + Hospitals, New York City's public healthcare system."

She has lived in Sunnyside, Queens, for more than 15 years, currently in a one-bedroom apartment "with my dog, Abby, and my person, Rajesh Bose."

Scanlynn recently went to Jazz Fest in New Orleans for the (Covid-19-belated) celebration of her 50th. "I was in frequent electronic contact with **Dave Kunian**; we were both so busy with our various Fest-related music activities that we didn't meet up in person, but we did our best under busy circumstances to be in regular touch and well-wish." She's also in touch with **Jessy Randall**, a "fabulous poet" and "constant inspiration."

"I genuinely hope everyone is staying well and happy, and holding on to at least a tiny bit of our undergrad wonder and enthusiasm for big questions, community service, and gathering for hangouts large and small 🥰," Scanlynn wrote.

Kevin M. O'Connor recently was part of "a total Columbia U project" as the agent on **Jenny Laden BC'92's** young adult book "loosely based on her dad contracting HIV in the '90s. *This Terrible True Thing* comes out in September." **Daniel Ehrenhaft '93** was the acquiring editor.

That's it for now. Please write in — via email or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note — with personal and professional updates. Anyone able to fill me in on the whereabouts and doings of my Carman 7 roommate, **Ben Weaver**?

1993

Neil Turitz
lovematza@aol.com

Well, that was certainly something. For those who attended our 30th reunion, the first weekend of June, you know of what I write. For those who didn't? It was a blast, and you should already be making plans for the 35th, tentatively scheduled for (checks notes) the first weekend of June 2028. Seems like a long way away, doesn't it? That doesn't mean you can't mark your calendars now.

Why? Well, because if the 35th is even half as much fun as the 30th, you won't want to miss it. The festivities began Thursday night at the Spiral in Hudson Yards. **Andrew Ceresney** hosted classmates for a cocktail party in his law office. More than 70 attended, and I got the chance to catch up with a bunch of old friends, like **Amanda Aaron**; **Amy Ahn**; **Eric Alto**; **Frank Ballabio SEAS'93**; **Luis Barcelo**; **Deborah Cook**; the husband-wife teams of **Dan Gillies SEAS'93** and **Rhanda Moussa**, and **Arthur Weise** and **Kristina Nye Weise**; **Isabel Kallman**; **Jacob Kramer**; **David Lerner**; **Joel Lusman**; **Diana Morales-Bories**; **Kathryn Morris**; **Steve Rivo**; **Amanda Schachter**; **Khadijah Sharif-Drinkard**; **Andy Schmeltz**; **Adam Shore**; **Michael Taylor**; **Chris Wiggins**; **Peter Wilson**; **Jonathan**

Zellan; and bestselling author **Brad Stone**, who shared with my wife, **Jessica** (Dartmouth '03), a charming story about how much he hated me when we met on the pre-orientation camping trip known as COOP. You will all be relieved to know that we eventually became good friends. I even read his latest book, *Amazon Unbound*. Pick it up. It's excellent.

Friday evening, the school-wide event at Chelsea Piers began with a walk along the High Line (something I had planned to attend, but the rainy weather put the kibosh on that), and a little pregaming with old friends **Drew Stevens SEAS'93** and his wife, **Ha**; **Joseph Calcagno**; **Allie Towle**; **Sandra Johnson**; **Julie Davidson Hassan**; **Betsy Gomperz**; **Patti Lee**; **John Trbovich**; **Jenny Hoffman**; and **Joel Cramer**, before we all headed over to connect with **Robyn Tuerk** and the rest of our classmates at the rollicking party.

Rita Pietropinto-Kitt arrived with her husband, **Tom Kitt '96**, who brought a special guest with him. Oscar-winning filmmaker **Cameron Crowe**, the man behind *Say Anything ...* and *Almost Famous*, among others, had no other plans before a Saturday flight home to Los Angeles, so he tagged along and closed the place down with a gaggle of our classmates, charming us all in the process.

The famed writer-director was only part of the fun, though, as a host of first-timers were in the house, showing up for their first reunion. People like **Ruben Fontes**, **Nkem Okpokwasili**, **Matthew Mosca**, **Jason Doolittle** and **Andy Blitz '94** all made their presence known, partying like it was 1993 again.

I also caught up with **Ben Besley**, **Nandita Kamdar SEAS'93**, **Nick Kottak**, **Doug Meehan**, **Seth Pinsky**, **Joseph Saba**, **Pete Sluszk** and **Chris Tessin**, many of whom stayed well into the wee hours.

One of the weekend's high points came on Saturday afternoon, at a special panel discussion hosted by our class. Put together and introduced by Reunion Committee co-chair **Alan Freeman**, it was called "Lives in Transition: How to Navigate the Next 50 Years," and was hosted by Dean Emeritus **James J. Valentini**. Split into two parts, the first featured four classmates who have walked different career paths since graduation,

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while the second half featured three experts on, well, navigating the next phase of life, just as advertised.

Act One included **Rit Aggarwala**, commissioner of environmental protection for the City of New York; **Jennifer Anglade Dahlberg**, an author; **Diego Hoic**, advisor: innovation and growth, disruption, business/corporate strategy and currently running for City Council in Summit, N.J.; and **Marielena Villar**, associate professor, Department of Communication and Journalism at Florida International University. Listening to classmates talk about their particular journeys was utterly fascinating, and kept a full Havemeyer lecture hall completely rapt in attention.

Act Two included Thomas Chu '89, "Estate and Business Exit Planning"; Len Elmore, former NBA star and senior lecturer in the discipline of sports management at SPS; and Kavita Sharma, dean, administration and planning, with Columbia's Center for Career Education, all of whom offered wonderful advice on both mid-life transitions and also on how to plan for the future. As retirement age creeps ever closer, it's good to be prepared.

The panel is available online (bit.ly/3rnPgBV). You can't link to it from a print magazine, but you can from this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct). You'll be glad you did.

Unlike the 25th reunion, the weather Saturday night was lovely. Cool and comfortable, it was the perfect setting for the class dinner, once again held on the fourth floor of Faculty House. Essentially a three-hour cocktail party, attendance equaled that of the last reunion (though total attendance for the weekend far surpassed that of any previous reunion, which is pretty impressive for a bunch of 50-somethings, right?), but the fun quotient was even higher.

As folks gathered around high tops and seated at proper dinner tables, old friends got the chance to catch up; talk about marriages and divorces; and talk about children, with some now empty nesters and others just starting their families. It was great to see other compadres, like **Jessie Auth**, **John Bales-triere**, **Alyson Berliner**, **Elena Cabral**, **Tom Casey**, **Alan Cohn**, **Kevin Connolly**, **Christine Coster**, **Matt DeFilippis**, **Joe Del Toro**, **Sean Doherty**, **Sandra Fahy**, **Jen**

Friedman, **Addison Golladay**, **Molly Sellner-Harris**, **Nina Abraham Lieberman**, **John Matthews**, **Carlo Romero SEAS'93**, **Eric Roston**, **Sharad Samy**, **Abe Shahim**, **Tammy Smulders**, **Oliver Staley** and **Mar Wolf**, and these are just the ones I spoke to. Plenty of others were there, as well.

The best-represented first-year floor, my own Carman 11, took a group photo that included me, Calcagno, Gomperz, Schachter, **Jill Kateman Glashow**, **Blake Carter** and **Daniel Donshik** (also making his first appearance at a reunion), and though he arrived too late for the photo, **Lorenzo Wyatt** also attended.

We sang happy birthday to Doolittle, who turned 52 that day, announced that we raised more than \$25,000 for the Class of 1993 Rachel Mintz Memorial Fund and also celebrated the fact that **James Mitchell**, mistakenly declared dead by the University at both the 25th reunion and the 30th (despite our repeated attempts at corrections), is very much still alive. When he stood to acknowledge that, yes, he is still breathing and plans to continue to do so for quite some time, the place erupted.

Of course, after the delightful time at Faculty House ended, we all retired to the Steps, where the band played until midnight, and there was more hanging out, celebrating and catching up. The afterparty at the Dublin House featured a couple dozen folks who were not ready to end the night, but eventually, the proverbial clock did strike midnight (closer to 3 a.m.), and we all went our separate ways, each of us professing our love for each other and the college that brought us all together in the first place.

The weekend was planned by a large group of volunteers, each of whom offered their time to help put it all together, but special recognition should go to my Reunion Committee co-chairs. Along with the aforementioned Mr. Freeman were **Rebecca Boston** and **Antoine Mitchell**, both of whom spent many hours putting together a weekend that was universally loved. We also loved it, and will be meeting regularly to start planning the 35th.

This issue was easy on you all, but since we don't have reunions very often, I'm now going to need you to start sending in your updates. So reach out! I'm easy to find.

1994

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Kathryn Hudacek Harlow
kathryn@columbiacollege1994.com

By this phase of life, teaching and sharing wisdom is bound to be part of your lives, be it to your children, work subordinates, mentees, athletes, congregants, team members or society at large. Indeed, I'm sure you have experienced the joy of supporting an up-and-comer reach a new height of potential. Or, you have guided someone through a troubled trajectory. Think back: Had a Columbia professor imprinted an enduring impact on your life and choices? Does a quip or quotation from a Lit Hum colloquium resonate in your memories? Many classmates have deployed their research, talent and passionate effort into educating the next generations of doers and leaders. At the University level, **Katerina Harvati**, director of the Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Paleoenvironment at the University of Tübingen, in Tübingen, Germany, will be officially inducted in the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, for her contributions to evolutionary science. She was elected a member last year after a series of groundbreaking academic research, multiple recognitions in Germany and decades of grueling work that she deems "fun!"

Tenured UC Davis professor **Joseph Biello** has devoted the last 18 years to teaching applied mathematics and is highly esteemed by his students and colleagues. As an educator with humility and purpose, he is "living the good life." He poses this thought experiment: "What is more painful — raising two teenage daughters, or falling off a roof while doing a DIY project?" Recovered from the fall and shuttling one of his daughters to her competitive swim meets, he researches tropical atmospheric dynamics (wind, waves) and models for thunderstorm feedback on climate and water. As part of his

research, Joseph's undergraduates use vortex cannons inside a rotating water tank that serves as a model for tropical thunderstorms on the rotating earth. If you're in the San Francisco Bay area and need some of the best weather you'll ever experience, he invites old friends to visit him in Davis.

Also in California, **Matt Eddy**, a mostly-born-and-bred Angeleno, is still in Los Angeles, still writing and producing movies with his brother. He reaches youth culture "... in the kids and family space, working most recently with Nickelodeon on the live action *Monster High* features. I recommend them to those with 7–12-year-old kids," he says. Matt has been collaborating with **Mike Jeon** and **Jonathan Mooser** on a new business app that has absolutely nothing to do with kids and family movies. "It's been a nice counterbalance to Hollywood (especially now that we writers are on strike) and a really joyful opportunity to work with old friends," Matt says.

More on **Jonathan Mooser**, who has been living in the SF Bay Area for the last 13 years with his wife, Sara; daughter, Cielle (13); and son, Gregory (10). Until late last year he had worked at Meta (née Facebook) as a senior software engineer. Since leaving that job, Jonathan is expanding his wife's fitness and meditation business and growing the aforementioned startup.

Speaking of Columbians who collaborate, **Matt Wood** and **Marsha Goodman-Wood** have been married since 1996 and in Washington, D.C., since 2001. They contribute to the Class Notes for the first time in a few years.

Matt maintains his position as general counsel and VP of policy at the progressive nonprofit Free Press, where he works on a wide range of tech and telecom issues before the Supreme Court, Congress and federal agencies.

Marsha, a cognitive neuroscientist by training, now funnels that passion into "kindie" ("kids' indie") music. She writes and records fun songs about science and how the world works, with positive social messages. Her third album dropped on September 1, available like the previous two on your favorite music platforms plus on the website for her band, Marsha and the Positrons. Her latest single, "Ghost Forest Investiga-

tors,” was released in April, and an earlier track, “Hey Pluto” hilariously consoles the demoted celestial body that all of us growing up in the ‘80s loved as the legit ninth planet.

Matt and Marsha’s daughter is a junior at Oregon State and their older son is a sophomore at Wisconsin (a year behind **Elliot Regenstein’s** daughter). Their youngest, a son, started middle school this fall. Matt and Marsha and worked at WKCR, where Matt called the Lions’ games, while Marsha sang in the Barnard-Columbia Chorus long before becoming a professional musician and teaching artist.

Fellow art professional **Susannah Rosenstock** chimes in from our neighbor to the north: “I have been living in Toronto since 2007 and am one of the founders of the Toronto Biennial of Art.” Susannah is deputy director, director of exhibitions at the festival focused exclusively on worldwide contemporary visual art. “The next Toronto Biennial of Art is Saturday, September 21–Sunday, December 1, 2024. We launched the first edition in 2019. I don’t meet a lot of Columbia alumni in Toronto! If there is an alum group here, we’d be happy to welcome them for an event or tour during the biennial.”

Brad Zelnick took a moment to describe himself as “a boring, hard-working family man.” Hardworking? Yes, he’s spent almost 20 years in finance. Boring? No, he’s the managing director of Software Equity Research at Deutsche Bank. Family? Aren’t we talking about educating the next generation? Even though Plato argues in *The Republic* — we’re going back to CC, folks — that family is an obstruction to duty, educating the children in your life is the most important job. Plato contends that children belong to the state and need to be educated by the state to become functional citizens. There is nothing boring about breaking apart that argument. Some people say, “It’s what it’s all about.”

Please reach out if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the “Just Married!” section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1995

Janet Lorin
janet.lorin@gmail.com

I was thrilled to hear from **Marie-Carmelle Elie**, who shared an update from Alabama. I have fond memories of meeting Carmelle when she came to visit my roommate **Kimberly Benson** during summer 1994, when we lived in Rome together.

Carmelle left the University of Florida after spending 10 years in various leadership roles, including as director of emergency medicine and critical care research. As chief medical officer of one of the largest palliative care and hospice organizations in North Florida, Haven Hospice, she led an effort to deliver care in community settings during the Covid-19 shutdown when elderly and chronically ill patients were in seclusion in their homes. Then, the University of Alabama’s Heersink School of Medicine in Birmingham came calling, recruiting her in 2021. She became the first African-American woman to be appointed permanent chair, just in time for the second wave of the pandemic, when the vaccination rate was 20 percent in the state.

“In the same year the nation was confronted with one of the largest waves of crowds in emergency departments due to rising mental health, complex disease and trauma,” she writes. “I’ve worked with local and state leadership to propose the funding of a multi-million-dollar expansion of the busiest emergency department in the state of Alabama, supported by Gov. Kay Ivey (R). It’s a tremendous opportunity to advance the current innovative state-of-the-art care to more patients in the Deep South.”

Carmelle was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Medicine last year for her work in the intersectionality of emergency medicine, critical care, and hospice and palliative medicine.

Her husband, Newton, is a tennis pro coach and instructor with a tennis rating of 5. He keeps their busy family on track. Their three young boys, Nathaniel, Noah and Nicholas, enjoy soccer, basketball, chess and a newfound interest in traveling. “We have been so blessed, and enjoy the gorgeous Alabama hillsides and exceptional food,” she writes.

Speaking of eating and drinking, congratulations to Jon Bonné ’94 on the publication of his book, *The New French Wine: Redefining the World’s Greatest Wine Culture*, published in March.

I connected with **Arthur Kim** on May 16 at Class Day. He and I had the honor of marching in the Alumni Parade of Classes as his son, Ethan Kim ’23, graduated; we held the CC’95 banner. Ethan graduated with a double major in film and media studies and in financial economics. He was social chair for Sigma Nu, president of CU Sketch Show and involved with NSOP. Ethan now is an institutional equity analyst within the sales trading division at RBC.

Arthur and his wife, Christine Ku, established the Arthur Dae Kim Family Scholarship Fund to support students needing financial aid to follow their dreams and career ambitions focused on the fine arts. When Arthur started at the College in 1991, he received substantial financial aid and was a recipient of the Leo Blitz Memorial Scholarship.

“Establishing our fund was another way of giving back to alma mater, as my Columbia experience provided me with great opportunities that lifted me from financial insecurity/poverty,” Arthur writes. He and Christine have been empty nesters “down the shore” in Bay Head, N.J., since their other son graduated from Morristown Beard School.

Arthur heads healthcare ABL underwriting for Webster Bank, and his family actively volunteers and supports various charities and community causes. Christine is a co-founder and partner of Zoku Salon in Summit, N.J.

Arthur also is an investor in the 116 Street Ventures fund, which led him to connect with Kevin Dailey GS’95, a colleague during junior year (they interned at Smith Barney). Kevin is co-founder and CEO of Remedy Technology.

Thanks to Arthur for this wonderful update!

In June, I left my office on the third floor of Pulitzer Hall after a meaningful year as a Spencer Fellow at the Journalism School. I still felt like a college kid, not wanting to miss anything. I sat in on “The South After Reconstruction” with Professor Barbara Fields, and classes on book writing and podcasting.

I took out more books from Butler Library this past year than I did in five years as an undergrad and (for sure) as a graduate student. In the course of a few weeks, our family moved from the West Side to the East Side, our daughter celebrated her bat mitzvah and I turned 50.

Happy 50th birthday, everyone. Please keep the news coming via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for “Just Married!”).

1996

Ana Salper
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Happy fall, classmates!

Khalina Mohammed Khalili writes that since graduation she had been teaching and furthering her studies while living in Saudi Arabia and in her home country, Malaysia. She completed a Ph.D. in Islamic philosophy in March 2021 and is working to publish a book, *Islamic Philosophy of Science from the Perspective of Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas and Seyyed Hossein Nasr*. Last December, Khalina was back in the United States, presenting at an Islamic Philosophy seminar at Harvard organized by the American Society of Islamic Philosophy and Theology. She writes, “It was good to be back in Manhattan and at Columbia, especially while enjoying a mild snowstorm and the festive mood.” Khalina offers in-person and online training and a forum on philosophy and Islamic studies through her company, Citra Ilmu Resources, which serves international school students and the public, and publishes a digital newsletter for Southeast Asian teachers, Citra Guru. She asks that interested classmates contact her to collaborate in these areas.

Adam Schweber VPS’23 matched into a six-year physician scientist training program in internal medicine and nephrology. His research focus is in using big

data to improve clinical decision making. Adam hopes to integrate into his medical career his training in mathematics from his time at Columbia and his prior work as a statistician at Pfizer.

Ben Ashfield and Tammy Tiranasar started a homeschool learning center a couple of years ago, The Village Electric learning center, because they were dissatisfied with their local New Jersey school options. Ben writes: “When we were touring schools for our then-kindergarten-age daughter, we found ourselves asking, ‘Why aren’t there better options out there? With all the innovation happening in technology and other areas of society, why does education feel frozen in time?’ That’s when it clicked for us. What we really wanted was a school for our daughter that could combine the best of a private school (a big local community, professional educators, dedicated staff) with the best of homeschooling (curriculum tailored to each individual student). We imagined a place where we could access all the innovation that’s happening in education today in a way that was personal, social and affordable. We imagined a supportive nurturing village that could help usher in the future of learning. And The Village Electric was born.” Connect with Ben and Tammy at thevillageelectric.com!

Ann Zipkin headed to Pratt for an M.S. in communication design. She worked in the NYC area for a couple of design firms before moving to Westchester and then to Connecticut. Ann is now in her

22nd year of working for herself as a graphic designer. She writes: “I have been fortunate to have had work flowing from different industries through the years, from working in small book and gift packaging, to logos, corporate materials and annual reports, then with Shazi Visram ’99, BUS’04 on her Happy Baby ‘baby,’ and now am working primarily on alumni magazines, admissions and development materials for colleges and independent high schools, and for my husband’s company, Tradewind Aviation, a Connecticut-based private charter and scheduled service operator serving destinations in the Northeast and the Caribbean.”

Ann and her husband have two sons, one in college at Wesleyan and another in high school at Hopkins in New Haven. In her free time, Ann is a private pilot. She stays in touch with some CU volleyball team members but sadly has lost touch with many. Get in touch if you are around!

Hussein Rashid was a content consultant for the Academy Award-nominated short documentary *Stranger at the Gate*. He writes that he “didn’t get to go to the big show, but I had fun watching it on TV like the member of the 99 percent I really am. However, as a board member of the Interfaith Center of New York, I was able to nominate the film to receive an award for fostering interfaith relations.”

Timothée Verrecchia is back living in France after 10 years living in New York City and Los Angeles. His consulting business, tv&xp, advises clients like Apple, Universal and

LVMH on cultural, social and public policy, and has supported artists and nonprofits globally and curated art projects around the world.

Stephanie Morris has been directing the tutoring company Metro Academic Prep for many years and teaching hot yoga at Yoga Synergy in Fairfield, Conn. Steph has two teens who dance competitively, which keeps the whole family traveling, especially in the spring.

I have a couple of updates of my own. I spent some time with **Mila Tuttle** SIPA’05 at the Society of Columbia Graduates’ Great Teacher Award ceremony at Columbia Reunion 2023, at which the College honored James J. Valentini, dean emeritus of the College and a professor of chemistry, with a 2023 Great Teacher Award. Mila’s elder son is in his second year at Columbia. I also recently hung out with **Barbara Antonucci**, who was in town visiting from San Francisco. Barbara, an employment litigator, is now the partner in charge of the San Francisco office of Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete. Lastly, I recently had the good fortune to have a splendid meal at Sartiano’s, a newly opened Italian restaurant in the Mercer Hotel in Soho (former Mercer Kitchen space), owned and operated by Scott Sartiano ’97 (but honorary CC’96er). You should all go as soon as you can. It is truly special.

Have you noticed how robust our columns have been lately? That is thanks to all of you! I really appreciate you writing in, and encourage you to keep the notes coming so classmates can continue reading about all of the wonderful things you are all doing! I leave you with this:

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.”

— *Maya Angelou*

1997

Kerensa Harrell
kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope that you are all settling nicely into autumn after having enjoyed a fun-filled summer. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class.

Kathryn O’Neal writes: “I am a mother, an international finance attorney and an advocate for

women’s empowerment. My now-24-year-old son was born while I was a student at Georgetown Law, which might explain his love for legislative history but does not explain his love for physics. Since graduating from Columbia, I have gone dancing on five continents, and my poetry has been published in four literary journals. Find my poetry on Instagram [@wordsbykathryn](https://www.instagram.com/wordsbykathryn).”

Bryan Ferro writes: “I am the owner of Ferro Jewelers and am going on 18 years in the business in Stowe, Vt. Ferro Jewelers is a high-end jewelry store specializing in estate jewelry, rare gemstones, luxury brands and custom-designed jewelry. Fellow alumni should stop by the store when they are in Stowe, or go to [ferrojewelers.com](https://www.instagram.com/ferro_jewelers_stowe) or [@ferro_jewelers_stowe](https://www.instagram.com/ferro_jewelers_stowe) on Instagram.”

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I recently obtained my K-12 teacher certification to teach Russian and German in Florida schools. I am working on getting my teacher certification in French and Spanish as well, as I am considering becoming a teacher now that my own daughter (6) is in school.

This summer I enjoyed a fun-filled Caribbean cruise with my daughter. It was just the two of us. Last summer I took her on her first cruise, shortly before she started kindergarten, and after doing it again this summer we have decided to make it our annual mother-daughter tradition during each summer break. Living in Florida near the cruise port, it is the most convenient type of trip for us because it doesn’t require us to fly anywhere to leave the country.

One of the things we liked best on the ship was the ice skating rink, where we watched professional ice dancing shows in the evening and then as passengers we could skate during the daytime when there were no shows. We also enjoyed watching a couple of theatrical productions in the ship’s traditional red velvet theater. Aside from the ice rink and theater shows, we had fun hunting for rubber duckies that other passengers hid all over the ship, listening to live jazz, stopping in a couple of ports in the Bahamas (CocoCay and Nassau) and daily elegant formal dining (my daughter’s table manners are a work in progress, but she loves dressing to the nines for the ship’s formal dining room!).

As I wrap up this column, it is late June and I can’t believe how



On April 21, ColumbiaDC, in partnership with Columbia College Women and the Asian Columbia Alumni Association, hosted “A night at Woolly Mammoth,” featuring playwright/director/actor Aya Ogawa ’97’s *The Nosebleed*. Left to right, Nancy LaVerda PH’86, a ColumbiaDC volunteer who arranged the outing; Ogawa; CCW programming co-chair Elizabeth Yuan ’96; and Carol Han ’96.

this past school year has flown by and how my daughter will be in the first grade by the time we read this magazine. I hope you are all doing well, and please write with updates. We would love to hear from you, even if it is just to say hello.

As I signoff, I will cue the song that we always sing at the end of my daughter's Girl Scout troop meetings while holding hands in a circle:

*Make new friends, but keep the old
One is silver and the other gold!*

Now that it's been more than a quarter-century since we graduated from Columbia College, our class friendships are getting quite gold!

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

It's our post-reunion Class Notes! Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend but thanks to a bunch of you on the scene, here's what I've gathered.

Anne Ugarte had so much fun catching up in person with old friends, like her freshman-year roommate **Lisette Camilo** and close friend **Brigit Greeson-Alvarez**. She also loved making new connections with classmates. She got to share the experience with her older sister Rose Ugarte-Gee '93, who was enjoying her own milestone reunion, and her brother-in-law Ron Gee SEAS'91, SEAS'95. Anne is also happy to announce that she's celebrating a new job as operations manager at Bard Press, which publishes books in the business, personal development and self-help categories. She says she's excited for the opportunity and to work directly with books again!

Elizabeth Arbuckle wrote in with her recap of the weekend: "It was wonderful to see familiar faces and classmates! It was a special treat to see two of my Carman suite-mates — **Suehyun Kim** and **Julie Yufe**. (**Rekha Reddy**, you were missed!) **Natalie Carlson** came in from Paris, where she does classical interiors for chateaux. **Courtney Strand** is in Bogota working for the U.S. Embassy. **Megan Kearney** juggled kids' graduations and made it down from her home in Greenwich, Conn. **Cheryl Buccì** leads HR at the SPCA and lives in Jersey City. **Joe Rini SEAS'98** and **Alison Rini**

came in from Florida; they're excited for their eldest, who has started at Columbia this fall. **Tom Sanford** lives near Columbia and modeled a sample from his shoe contract on Friday night."

Elizabeth added that **Andy Topkins** moderated a TED Talk panel with classmates that was wonderful. The Reunion Committee also thanks **Amol Sarva** and **Matt Grossman** for hosting events leading up to the weekend.

Erwin Dweck wrote with the wonderful news that his daughter Beverly BC'27 started at Barnard this fall! He and his family live in Brooklyn and spend summers "down the shore" in Monmouth County. Erwin is the practice group leader for the Real Estate Group at Milbank.

Congratulations, Erwin and family! Speaking of real estate, **Scarla Pineda's** real estate brokerage, Peace of Mind Realty, recently expanded its operations to Long Island and is in the process of expanding to New Jersey. All Columbia graduates looking to buy or sell in New York receive a discount.

Tanya Landon wrote before attending reunion to note that she lives in a small town in the French Alps, close to Geneva, Switzerland, where she is a lawyer for a U.S. firm. Her specialty is international arbitration. Tanya has been married to Bruno (whom she met her sophomore year) for 19 years, and they have two daughters: Chloé (15) and Charlotte (13). Usually when they come to North America it's to visit Tanya's family in Canada, but she was looking forward to reuniting with classmates at reunion.

Many thanks to classmates who emailed me updates. **Camilla Feibelman** lives in Albuquerque, where she grew up, with her husband, Xavier Obando, who is a green architect. She has a stepdaughter (11) and a son (7). Camilla is celebrating her 10th anniversary as the director of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. Before that she was the founding staffer for the Puerto Rico Sierra Club Chapter, where she spent eight years. "It's not easy, but we're just trying to keep this planet a livable place," she says.

Ann Kansfield was also unable to make reunion but does have an update! Ann wrote a book, *Be the Brave One*, which came out in 2021. According to Ann, it's kind of a

spiritual memoir but based around the idea that living out our values helps us live more fully. Ann also is a chaplain for the FDNY, which she considers the gift of a lifetime. She says she is also blessed with a wife who's a pastor and marriage/family therapist, and together they have two children: one in high school and one in middle school.

April Henry also emailed a brief update. She's still Los Angeles-based with her partner, Stu, and son, Christian (9). April leads her own management consulting business, Hawkeye Digital, while sitting on several public and private boards.

More than 150 classmates registered for reunion, which was spearheaded by Reunion Committee co-chairs **Sherrie Deans**, **Matt Grossman** and **Ricky Nardis**.

Thank you for your hard work, Sherrie, Matt and Ricky! Time to save the date for our 30th reunion in 2028! If you have a special update to share in honor of reunion, it's not too late — it will simply go in the next issue! (Reach out to me via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.)

Lastly, please keep the family and friends of **Michele Hyndman-Hodge** in your thoughts. Michele died on May 22, 2023, according to classmates who wrote with the news. In a public social media post, Michele's sister-in-law shared that her memorial service was held on July 8 in Weston, Fla., and that Michele was "an accomplished and fierce lawyer, entrepreneur and an attentive sister and aunt."

Rest in power, Michele.

1999

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
creunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Lauren Gershell
lauren@gershell.com

Happy fall! I was so happy to receive the following professional and personal updates from classmates; please keep the news coming via email or via the Class Notes

webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note!

After spending nine years in the Infectious Diseases division at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan, my daughter's godmother, **Elizabeth Robilotti PH'91**, moved across the street to join the ID team at the Hospital for Special Surgery. She says she is excited to still be practicing ID at a subspecialty hospital and hopes to only see classmates at reunions and other Columbia events!

Dominique Sasson shared the exciting news that she had a beautiful, healthy baby girl in December 2022, and was promoted earlier this year to director and senior underwriter at Citibank.

Congratulations on both fronts!

In her spare time, **Nina Tanenbaum** has been working with College undergraduates on investment management career exploration, education and financial literacy. She says she was honored to join the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors, through which she will continue to drive the Summer Investment Fellowship (college.columbia.edu/alumni/content/summer-investment-fellowship), a program she created with Kim Lew, president and CEO of the Columbia Investment Management Company and VP for investments of the University, and her staff, and Sherri Pancer Wolf '90, CCAA president, along with support from Columbia College Women. Nina would love to hear from classmates who would like to get involved with this wonderful program.

2000

Kavita Shah Bafana
ks286@caa.columbia.edu

No news to share this issue. Please reach out to me with your news, updates and/or College memories via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2001

Jonathan Gordin
jrg53@columbia.edu

Jamie Rubin BC'01 and I recently got back from a great trip to the East Coast, where we reconnected with some great friends. We saw **Dina Epstein** (née Levisohn) and her 10-year-old daughter, Talya, for some awesome sightseeing in Boston and Cambridge (including a cameo from Dina's 4-year-old son, Leor). After Boston, my family headed to the Cape. Even though we didn't see her, **Nancy Perla** provided the most incredible recommendations for her favorite local haunts, and **Marc Dunkelman** assisted with his best Martha's Vineyard recommendations! We ended our trip by dropping our younger daughter, Jesse, at the camp bus in NYC. It was such a fun trip — even the less than 24 hours we spent in Manhattan energized us!

This past spring I attended the Citizens of the World charter school gala, where **Marissa Berman** was honored as a founding principal of the Hollywood campus. She holds a leadership role where she is responsible for curriculum and learning for the entire CWC system, with

Miriam, and kids, Isaac (8) and Sylvie (11). I'm an anesthesiologist at Duke, where I spend about one day a week taking care of brain and spine surgery patients in the operating room, and the rest of my time doing research on mechanisms of postoperative delirium in older patients. My group also studies APOE-e4, the most common genetic risk factor for late onset Alzheimer's Disease. Although APOE-e4 was discovered in the early '90s (while CC'01 was still in high school), it's still not fully clear how and why it increases the risk for Alzheimer's. That's what we (and many others) would like to find out, in the hopes that this knowledge could help lead us toward drugs or other strategies to prevent Alzheimer's. Meanwhile, we usually make it back to NYC about once a year to visit my sister, who lives in Brooklyn, and take advantage of the city. Hope everyone is doing well and in good health!"

Jessica Baran entered the Ph.D. program in art history at Washington University in St. Louis this fall. She was awarded the Lynne Cooper Harvey Fellowship in American Culture Studies. "In 2020, I received an Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant for short-form art criticism. And in 2019, I married Nathaniel Farrell '00, GSAS'13, a

Johansson, including an adaptation of the podcast *My Aryan Princess* and *Bride*. We first worked together on *Black Widow*, when Johansson brought me on as a writer. My work has been selected for the Blacklist twice. I live in Los Angeles with my wife, Michèle Ouellet Benson."

Best wishes for a wonderful fall ... and don't forget to keep in touch with your Columbia classmates.

And please reach out any time if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2002

Sonia Hirdaramani
soniahird@gmail.com

Joseph Moreno and his wife had their first baby, Sebastian David Moreno, on March 28.

Ariele Morkowitz lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, David Hain, and their four children. Ariele recently founded SVIVAH - Life in Sisterhood, a nonprofit dedicated to revolutionizing the way Jewish women (broadly defined) come together in community. She frequently thinks back to her days on campus and the feelings of camaraderie and closeness that developed at campus gatherings, leaning on those memories for inspiration in her work today.

Cassie Mogilner Holmes lives in Santa Monica with her husband and two kids and is a professor at UCLA's Anderson School of Management. This year, she published her first book, which is a *Wall Street Journal* bestseller: *Happier Hour: How to Beat Distraction, Expand Your Time, and Focus on What Matters Most*. [Editor's note: See CCT's Winter/Spring 2023 cover story.]

Ginger Gentile recently released the fourth documentary she directed, *Exclusion U*, which premiered at Lincoln Center and is now streaming. The film investigates the business model of the Ivy League and questions if it is using

its endowments for the greater public good.

Please reach out any time if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2003

Michael J. Novielli
mjn29@columbia.edu

I'm still savoring the great memories from our 20th reunion — it was so nice catching up with so many of you back on campus, and I hope to see those of you who weren't able to make it back to campus for our 25th. It was great to work with **Kimberly Grant** and **Tamar Simon** on reunion, like back in our CCSC days. Kim really went above and beyond to ensure things went smoothly, so I would like to personally express my gratitude here.

On the Thursday evening before reunion, our class celebrated at an alum-owned bar/restaurant on the Upper West Side, ASSET. It was nice to chat over drinks with classmates like **Crissy Monterrey**, who is enjoying her life practicing law in Little Rock; **Jason Paez**, co-founder and CEO of HVN Travel Group (a professional marketplace for private home and villa rentals); **Jessica Macari** (née Slutsky), who is the assistant attorney general at NC Department of Justice, Human Services/Medical Facilities; and **James Thompson**, who is the special counsel for Second Amendment litigation at Office of the New York State Attorney General.

On Friday we enjoyed a panel discussion during which classmates who are crushing it in the arts scene shared about their experiences; the panel was moderated by former senior class president **Kimberly Grant**, and the panelists were Tony-nominated actor, singer, and theatrical producer **Brandon Victor Dixon**; *New York Times* bestselling author **Jill Santopolo** and renowned musician **Michael**

Ned Benson '01's second movie feature, The Greatest Hits, is set to be released this fall.

responsibilities across six campuses, serving grades TK–8. I'm very proud to have known Marissa for so many years and to report that both my kids have thrived under her leadership at this amazing charter school in Hollywood.

Marissa and her spouse, Yale (Chasin), "are enjoying Los Angeles life with Tovah (5 1/2) and our new baby, Cy, who arrived in February."

Congrats to Marissa and Yale!

Elisa Tustian is a supervising attorney at Volunteers of Legal Service. She works with pro bono attorneys to serve seniors throughout New York City.

Miles Berger wrote: "I live in Chapel Hill, N.C., with my wife,

lecturer in Washington University's College Writing Program."

I heard from writer-director **Ned Benson** with exciting updates: "My directorial debut feature, *The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby*, starring Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy and Viola Davis, premiered at Cannes Film Festival's Un Certain Regard and the Toronto International Film Festival, ahead of its theatrical release in 2014. My second feature as a writer-director-producer is *The Greatest Hits*, starring Lucy Boynton, Justin H. Min and David Corenswet. The movie is set to be released in September.

"I have a number of film projects in development with Scarlett

Gallant. I enjoyed catching up after with Hindustani vocalist **Priya Purushothaman** and author and dramatic storyteller **Peter Neofotis**.

Classmates participated in a variety of reunion events during the weekend, but our Saturday class dinner under the tents of Hamilton Lawn was particularly memorable.

Over dinner it was nice to catch up with so many classmates including **Michael Foss**, **Marva Brown**, **Melissa Medina**, **Andy So** and **Mike Chee**. Melissa is a client partner at Facebook and Marva is running in a special election for judge of the New York City Civil Court Kings County.

After the class dinner **Andy So** and I met Jeff Tsai '04 and Ed Yung '04 at the Starlight Celebration and then crashed another class' event at Tom's Restaurant. I also was able to catch up with **Eaton Lin**, who stopped by the Starlight Celebration.

More updates to come in the coming issues. If you're interested in helping with our 25th reunion or have an update to share with our class, please do drop me a line!

2004

REUNION 2024

MAY 30 – JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

Well, the “Best Class in the College’s History” (unofficial title) brought the heat this issue, with plenty of updates:

Brian Cabezas and his wife, Grace, welcomed their first child, Hugo, in March. Brian was recently promoted to a program manager role at the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority.

Nhon Ma writes, “I remember my senior-year econometrics class. It was tough. I got free group tutoring provided by CU, but there were too many other students there. I couldn't get the help I needed. This experience, along with countless others, drove me to create Numerade. We recently launched the first multi-model AI tutor. Generative AI has

accelerated our vision of scaling the benefits of tutoring to all students.”

Annie Pfeifer is an assistant professor in the Department of Germanic Languages at Columbia, “which means I work in the office (Hamilton Hall) right next to my freshman dorm (Hartley Hall) — so many memories! I recently wrote a book, *To the Collector Belong the Spoils: Modernism and the Art of Appropriation*, published this year. I work on 19th- and 20th-century literature, culture and theory, and teach classes on the Frankfurt School, modernism, fascism and fairy tales.”

Sophia Beal shares, “I’ve had a glorious run of visits with Columbia friends. Last summer, Nuria Net '03 and I met in Lisbon. In January, I saw **Anna Bulbrook** and **Emily Shin** in Joshua Tree. In May, Petra Costa BC'06, Himali Dixit '06 and I spent time in New York. If you're ever in Minneapolis, let me know.”

Christina Tobajas Schmid and **Logan Schmid** are both in new jobs this year. Christina wrapped up her tenure teaching computer science at The Spence School and joined the CS department at Dalton in September. Logan recently accepted a role at Jane Street, where he'll help develop its proprietary trading systems. The couple, their two kids and two dogs continue to call the Upper West Side home.

Carly Goodman updates us, “I published my first book this spring, *Dreamland: America's Immigration Lottery in an Age of Restriction*, and am enjoying having it out in the world after a decade of research, writing and life in between. In addition to finalizing the book last year, I had my second daughter, Rose (1), who joins Sylvia (6).”

Adie Strickler (née Moll), **Janine Golub** (née Sutton), **Ellen Lowrey** and Kristin Kaderli '03 (née Connors) recently met up in the New York Finger Lakes for a weekend of “a little hiking, a lot of wine tasting and even more reminiscing. After way too many years apart, it was wonderful to be together in person again.”

Tara Cornberg (née Posner) writes in, “Friends! How have the years flown? I've been busy as a federal administrative law judge for five-plus years after nine years apart, as an attorney practicing complex civil litigation. My real full-time job and love

is raising our three young children, who hear stories of our days at CC. In my spare time I've found myself coaching my girls' youth lacrosse teams, volunteering in our community and hitting up the golf links when I can find an extra five minutes! I carry many fond memories and lessons learned at CC with me daily, as I'm sure you all do. Hugs!”

Colin Brinkman and **Julie von Zumbusch** welcomed son Peter in November. They live in Alexandria, Va. Colin works at the Department of State and Julie is a licensed architect.

And, **Andrea E. Channing Kung Starrett** writes, “Wishing everyone hope and joy in the coming season. Earlier this year, I had my second child, a girl. She's just as cute as her brother was!”

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always great, but please reach out to share fun anecdotes, memories or any other updates! You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Sallie Touma
sallie@salliemathtutor.com

Hi Class of 2005!

For recent births, we have special congratulations. **Tanya Ortiz Franklin** welcomed her first child! **Mike Vary** and his wife, Jaclyn Matayoshi Vary '06, welcomed their fifth, Victoria Elizabeth Vary, last December. **Evette Stair-Radlein** and her husband, Gordon Radlein '06, welcomed baby boy number 3 on June 14.

Kaveh Dabashi and his wife, Caitlin, had an exciting summer road trip planned in France! Kaveh's an employment attorney at Paul Hastings in New York City. He and Caitlin live on the Upper West Side with their French bulldog, Tank, not far from campus.

Rebecca Brehoney GS'16, VPS'21 (née Warner) shares exciting news! “After 10 years of dancing professionally, I made a big professional change and went to medical school. I am now in my third year of psychiatry residency at NYP Weill

Cornell. My husband, a jazz musician, and my twin 5-year-old daughters, who love to sing and dance, keep me connected to the arts.”

In bar association news, **Erica Yen** is president of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County this year. The recent 25th Installation Dinner “had California Supreme Court Justice Kelli Evans as a keynote speaker and several other honorees and dignitaries.” Read more: bit.ly/44K6xDH.

In professional news, **Andrea Cortes-Comer** started a role as organizational change management lead at IPG Mediabrands. She was also recently named to the Events Programming Committee at the Association of Change Management Professionals.

Alex Dika Seggerman was promoted to associate professor of art history with tenure at Rutgers University–Newark. **Stephen Vargas** lives and works on Long Island as a consumer financial services and real estate attorney. **John de Bary** has a new book, *Saved by the Bellini: & Other 90s-Inspired Cocktails*. It is his second cocktail book and he states, “It should be pretty obvious that it's a cocktail book all about the '90s. It's a healthy dose of nostalgia along with 65 original cocktail recipes ranging from non-alcoholic to hellah strong.”

Pamela Vanderberg SPS'12 (née Quinlan) shares that after more than eight years of public service at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, most recently as chief of staff, she left government work and launched a consulting company, GQ New Energy Strategies, with former FERC chair Rich Glick. Together, they bring extensive experience and expertise across the energy industry to help clients successfully navigate shifting policy and regulatory environments while unlocking new opportunities to capitalize on the clean energy transition. Pam says that this is an exciting new work adventure while raising her two young kids with her husband, Eric, in Chevy Chase, Md.!

In relocation news, **Anna Lee** moved to Woodbury (Long Island), N.Y., with her husband, Joshua, and kids, Dean, Pierce and Quinn.

As for me, I launched the website store.salliemathtutor.com to brighten up office spaces with art during this WFH era. It was inspired by the MasterClass “Annie



ERIC BONDARSKY '07

G'osh Berliner '06 (left) and Eric Bondarsky '07 at the Pollution Solutions Engineering Fair in Teaneck, N.J., on March 21.

Leibovitz Teaches Photography” during the Covid-19 lockdown.

As always, if you're in NYC, on Long Island or in the Hamptons, please reach out! It would be great to meet for coffee or ice cream and reconnect: 516-368-6001.

2006

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

A very happy autumn and Fall 2023 semester to my CC'06 classmates! Now that I'm coming up on a year back on the East Coast, I'm hopeful to make it to Robert K. Kraft Field for my first Homecoming in more than a decade (Saturday, October 14), and to catch up with as many of you in person as possible. Until then, here are some updates from our classmates around the globe:

Armond Adams married Dr. Elaine Barfield on May 13 at the Lighthouse in Chelsea Piers in New York City. The couple met while Armond was in the College and Elaine was in her first year of medical school at NYU. Though they'd lost touch over the years, they reconnected during the pandemic, and celebrated their wedding with friends and fellow alumni, including **Porter Leslie**, **Mica Wilson**, **Christopher Jones '07**, **Marques Torbert**, **Amanda Houle BC'06** and **Sy Carbia**. See “Just Married!” for a photo.

Steph Hagio Chin recently moved to Honolulu, where she began a role as VP of marketing for

Servco Pacific. After 13 years in the San Francisco Bay Area, she fulfills a longtime dream of returning to her home state and raising her children in Hawaii. From Steph: “Please reach out if you're planning to visit — it'll be great to meet up.”

It's been a busy several months for **Lisa I. Speransky**, which includes the continuation of a venture started 20 years ago, while she was an undergraduate! Lisa's company, Ivy Tutors Network, acquired Atlanta-based Alexsander Academy in March. She and her husband also bought an 18-acre property in Wilmington, Vt., where they are developing a unique, contemporary community, Chateau Mooremont, which includes three homes that are each more than 150 years old.

Sam Schon and family have traded in the Texas summer heat for the mountains of Pennsylvania. From Sam: “Give a shout if you're near the I-81 corridor, as we seem to make the drive annually.”

Isabel Estrada-Jamison can be found leading a weekly Afro-Cuban Dance class at Rod Rogers Dance Company & Studio on the Lower East Side. She invites any interested alumni to join her on Monday evenings as she guides students through an exploration of Afro-Cuban dances, from the dances of the Orishas to Arará, congo, rumba and the Franco-Haitian dances found on the Eastern part of the island.

Asa Merritt is delighted to share a project of his five years in the making that is now available on Audible. *Six Sermons* is a 12-episode podcast starring Academy Award

nominee Stephanie Hsu as a young pastor who must lead a church through a crisis after her predecessor dies. New York theater heavyweight Sarah Benson directed the piece, which also features Bill Irwin and many notable Broadway performers bringing the work of fiction to life.

Congratulations to these classmates on their new endeavors, their unions and their achievements!

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2007

David Donner Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I hope everyone is doing well, and thank you to those who shared updates.

Tom Lightcap and his wife, Amanda, welcomed their first child, Ethan Thomas, in March.

Negar Kordestani shares, “I moved back to the Washington, D.C., area from West Virginia and I am an AUSA in D.C. Superior Court, which is interesting, because it's the only court system in the country in which federal prosecutors handle the state or local side of prosecution. I'm glad to be back home and would love to see anyone if they're rolling through D.C.”

Elizabeth Miller (née Epstein) writes, “After many years of city living, **Jonathan Miller** and I bought a house in the suburbs! In August we began calling New Rochelle, N.Y., in Westchester County, our home. Please visit!”

Please send me your latest news via email or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Please read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting your photo to ensure it is eligible for publication.

2008

Bradley Blackburn
blb2104@columbia.edu

It was great to see many CC'08 classmates back on College Walk for our 15th reunion in early June! A few updates to share — and please send your news or notes for the next column!

Julie Raskin writes with some wonderful personal news: “My husband, Matt, and I welcomed baby Benjamin (our first human baby) in November. I enjoyed weekday walks during my maternity leave with **PJ Berg**, who was also on leave caring for his second baby, Cassie, and was pleased to reconnect with Rachel Brujis '09, whom I encountered at a weekly brewery parents and babies meetup. We awkwardly stared, trying to place each other, until we realized we knew each other from Lit Hum.”

Brian Grossman was selected by the Aspen Institute as a fellow for the sixth class of its Finance Leaders Fellows. The 23 leaders of the 2023 class join more than 100 finance fellows around the world who are committed to forging a new cultural paradigm in the finance industry that marshals the industry's global influence to address urgent societal challenges and promote sustainable economic growth. They join a wider community of more than 3,500 values-based leaders in more than 60 countries as part of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

Chas Carey was named town administrator of Brookline, Mass., in September 2022, assuming responsibility for day-to-day operations of a community of more than 63,000 residents with an annual budget of more than \$400,000,000. He is the fifth, and youngest, person to hold the position since its creation in 1943.

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Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



1
ADA STUDIOS



2
SINI CHOI



3
ANDRE MAIER



4
AUSTIN RUFFER



5
GIRISH GUPTA



6
ANGELO GHISLANI



7
CORNELIA ZAISS



8
LEAH WENDZINSKI

1. Patricia Rojas-Guerrero '12 and Christopher Guerrero SEAS'09 (center) were married at The Watermill in Smithtown, N.Y., on January 8, surrounded by close family and friends. Left to right, Johanna Lee '12, Grace Urena '10, Christina Ortiz '12, Natalee Rivera '13, Cindy Estevez BC'09, Andrew Racine BUS'25 and Yesenia Miranda SEAS'07.

2. Left to right, bridal party members Joy Chang '17, Grace Kim '15 and Julie Hoffman '16 flanked Tiffany Kim '16 at her April 15 wedding, held at Rule of Thirds in Brooklyn, N.Y.'s Greenpoint neighborhood.

3. Porter Leslie '06, Mica Wilson '06, Armond Adams '06, Christopher Jones '07, Dr. Elaine Barfield and Marques Torbert '06 (left to right, back row), and Amanda Houle BC'06 and Sy Cabria '06 (front row), celebrated at Adams' and Barfield's wedding, held at The Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers on May 13.

4. Jonathan Hill '11 (left) and Stephen Davan '12 were married on April 30 at St. Paul's Chapel, where they met, on the 13th anniversary of their first date.

5. Joseph Warton and Linnie Jiang Warton '19 married in Woodside, Calif., on June 25.

6. Drew Feldman SEAS'17 and Julia Davis-Porada '17 (center) were married on April 29 at Hampshire Country Club, Mamaroneck, N.Y., joined by top row, left to right: Sarina Perera '17, Mark Pietrogiacono '17, Natalie Davis-Porada '19, Sam Canning '17, Lauren Riddiford SEAS'17, Madison McCarthy '17 and Ben Ribovich; and bottom row, left to right: Faith Yu SEAS'17, Christie Corn '17, Shawn Yuan '17, Erina Shan and Katy Su '17.

7. Carly Stiles '16 (left) and Allison Henry '16 were married at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Fla., on April 1.

8. Unyimeabasi Udoh '17 (left) and Adelaide Young SEAS'17 were married at Firehouse Chicago on April 15.

2009

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Shira Burton
shira.burton@gmail.com

Hello, classmates! I write to you during maternity leave after having my daughter, Naomi, this past spring. We're doing well and enjoyed our first summer together!

Just two updates this time, both from Texas. Looking forward to hearing from more of you, whether you're in Texas or anywhere else in the world.

Joanna Smolenski writes: "I accepted a position as assistant professor and clinical ethicist at the Baylor College of Medicine's Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy in Houston, starting in July. I'd be happy to connect with any Columbia alumni working at the Texas Medical Center or in Houston more generally!"

And **Casey Smith** shares: "I recently took a leap and joined Walmart, where I am rounding out my first year leading our Customer Experience Analytics and Quality team for Contact Center Operations in Fort Worth. Prior to joining Walmart, my first love was the aviation industry (with a stint at Haas Group Intl. supporting Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, and eight years with American Airlines in CX Program Management).

"I am a novice fabric designer by night, usually gaining inspiration from my 2-year-old daughter and travels. I was teaching my daughter to swim this past summer, bringing back fond memories of my time swimming for Columbia. Go Lions!"

"I joined the Columbia Alumni Association Dallas Fort Worth Board of Directors in April as secretary. Please join us for an event if you're in the area for travel or if you're local!"

Please feel free to reach out any time if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also

welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2010

Billy Organek
william.a.organek@gmail.com

Hi, Class of 2010! I hope you had a fun and relaxing summer.

Lauren Casey Hayes-Deats recently joined the Contemporary American Theater Festival as its general manager. Making theater in West Virginia is a long-held dream of hers, which she once tearfully recounted to her Lit Hum professor. She still calls Washington, D.C., home 10 months of the year, but is spending summers home in the mountains. Lauren had great summer plans, with a trip in August to Denmark and Sweden with her children (aged 5 and 2).

I hope the international flights went well and you enjoyed the trip!

Dean Forthun SPS'13 offered a detailed recap of 2023: "I made a career change into the financial planning world in fall 2022, and within my first six months I set a record for most new clients onboarded. On March 23, my wife, Ellie, and I welcomed our second child, Josephine, just shy of our son Lorenzo's second birthday. A few weeks later we shot out to Phoenix to introduce Josephine to some of my wife's family while mixing in a very cool concert at Talking Stick Amphitheater to see Dead & Company, a band featuring former members of The Grateful Dead, along with John Mayer (requested by my son, believe it or not). From there we hit the road through beautiful Sedona to see Red Rocks and Monument Park, ultimately stopping in Pagosa Springs, Colo., for some time soaking in the natural hot springs. On our way back we stopped in Durango, Colo., to jump aboard the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, hit the Four Corners and then cruise on home. It was quite the memorable road-trip for our young family! Upon returning, we had Josephine baptized at our local Catholic

Church by the same priest who baptized our son and married Ellie and me. That was pretty cool! We enjoy living in beautiful Yorba Linda, Calif., with our children and Basset/Beagle, Sambuca. God has blessed us immensely and we continue to praise Him for the gifts we have."

That all sounds incredible; thanks for the update!

Please don't be strangers, 2010ers — take a few moments to update the rest of the class on the great things going on in your lives! You can email me or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
nurielm@gmail.com
sean.udell@gmail.com

Greetings 2011! We got a number of wonderful updates this season, and we are glad to hear that so many of you are doing well and thriving.

Your correspondents are both pleased to report that they've completed their medical training and are on to attending physician life. In June, Sean finished his chief residency in psychiatry at Penn Medicine and Nuriel his fellowship in multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology at Keck Medicine of the University of Southern California.

As things wrapped up in Philadelphia for Sean, he had the pleasure of welcoming many visitors to the Cheesesteak Capital. Among them were best friends — and Ruggles and East Campus roommates — **Lia Bersin SEAS'11** and **Ali Krimmer**. The trio explored Philadelphia's many neighborhoods and consumed lots of incredible food, including cheesesteaks at Angelo's (Lia's first!), cannolis from Termini Brothers and Israeli fare from Laser Wolf.

Kavitha Surana, who lives in nearby New Jersey, joined the crew for Sunday breakfast and a trip to FDR Park. Now in Park City, Utah, Sean looks forward to welcoming

more visitors to his new digs with substantially better views.

Jonathan Hill and **Stephen Davan '12** were married April 30 on campus (!) at St. Paul's Chapel in a cozy ceremony officiated by Alex Hare '13. The party continued downtown at their favorite West Village gay bar/civil rights landmark/burger joint, Julius'. St. Paul's was where Jonathan and Stephen met years and years ago, at weekly meetings for *The Blue & White Magazine* held in the basement. And April 30 was the 13th anniversary of their first date at — where else? — the now-defunct Abbey on 105th. See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Sam Laskey has been joining fellow screenwriters on the Writers Guild of America picket lines. Fortunately, he already has multiple projects in production. His second Netflix show, *Captain Laserhawk*, based on the video game *Far Cry* and other Ubisoft intellectual property, premiered at the Annecy International Animation Festival in June and will drop on the streaming service later this year. *Ick*, a horror-comedy feature written by Sam and directed by music video maestro Joseph Kahn (Taylor Swift's "Bad Blood," Britney Spears' "Toxic"), filmed this summer in Texas. Sam has some other fun stuff in the works that he can't talk about yet.

Sam and his wife, **Becky Gimple BC'11**, celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary on July 5 with a trip to sunny Santa Barbara. They brought along their yardful five-month-old foster daughter. Sam and Becky have been raising this little princess since she was born. Sam decided to become a foster dad after spending three years as a court appointed special advocate for children in the Los Angeles dependency system. Sam encourages classmates to consider volunteering with a CASA program in their area.

Kate Taylor LAW'14 (née Durnan) recently moved to Summit, N.J., and she and her husband celebrated their son's first birthday in April. Kate is a partner in the Mergers & Acquisitions group at Debevoise & Plimpton, which moved its offices to Hudson Yards in January.

Anna Ultvedt Malkan sends an update from sunny Stockholm. On May 6 she married Dror Asaf in an (initially small) ceremony in the

Stockholm archipelago that ended up being attended by 55 guests including **Claire Bullen**, Kai McKinnon SEAS'13, Jimmy Nugent '13 and Alexander Lopez SEAS'13. The big celebration is tentatively planned for November 2024 in Mendoza, Argentina. She also recently started a job as country manager - Sweden for Norwegian electric vehicle charging company Amina Charging. She says she'd love to connect with others in the EV space and reminds everyone to please let her know if they find themselves in Sweden.

Shira Schindel and Ron Gejman '10 are moving back to New York City with their daughter, Adi (2!). Ron will begin an oncology fellowship at Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian. Shira will launch Kinder Kids Media, a children's media company centered on audio storytelling.

In the last 12 years, **Katie Lupica** has toured the Northeast and Midwest's many fine theatre fellowships, living and working in NYC, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Ithaca, Cleveland, Buffalo and (finally) Chicago. This past summer, after completing an M.F.A. at Northwestern, she was to move with her partner, Nathan, and their cat, Clementine, to Knoxville to begin a dual dream job as assistant professor of directing at the University of Tennessee and associate artistic director of the

Clarence Brown Theatre! In the past two years, she has spent lots of time in Chicago with the wonderful **Meghan Coppoletti**; enjoyed visits from her bestie, Kieron Cindric '08; and embarked on a Willa Cather-themed road trip to Nebraska with the one and only **Annie Minoff**. Last summer, she visited the incredible **Adina Levin** in Barcelona while in Europe on a research grant.

Katie says she is excited for the next chapter and welcomes visits in the coming years from any Lions who want to experience Dollywood and the Great Smoky Mountains. Go Lions/Wildcats/Vols!

Please send us your latest news, and we'll include it in a future issue. You can reach us via email or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting to ensure your photo is eligible for publication.

2012

Pat Blute
pblute@gmail.com

As the trees on College Walk flip to a new hue and welcome a new

cohort of Columbian Lions, we remember fall memories on campus. The dwindling of summer light illuminated new opportunities to celebrate the sparks those moments have ignited!

Stephen Davan and Jonathan Hill '11 were married on April 30 at St. Paul's Chapel, in a cozy ceremony officiated by Alex Hare '13. The party continued downtown at their favorite "West Village gay bar/civil rights landmark/burger joint," Julius'.

St. Paul's was where the two met years and years ago, at weekly meetings for *The Blue & White Magazine* held in the chapel basement. (And April 30 was the 13th anniversary of their first date at the Abbey on 105th and Broadway.)

Congratulations, and a beautiful Columbia story and ceremony! See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Stephanie Hart GS'15 started her second year of residency in pathology at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. She and her husband, Baxter Matthews, welcomed their first child, Emilia Quinn Hart-Matthews, on November 22.

Best to your family, Stephanie, Baxter and Emilia!

Be sure to stay in touch. Enjoy, and I look forward to hearing where your adventures take you next! Please reach out to me by email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

One note to share this time: **Jacob Snider**, who lives in Los Angeles, writes, "I am composing the original music for the feature film *Common Ground*, along with Jim Fairchild. It world-premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in June, and won the annual Human/Nature award. It stars Academy Award winner Laura Dern, Academy Award nominee

Woody Harrelson, Donald Glover, Rosario Dawson, Ian Somerhalder, and Jason Momoa."

The Tribeca Film Festival press release noted, "Sobering yet hopeful, *Common Ground* exposes the interconnectedness of American farming policy, politics and illness. Follow the solution-driven plight of Regenerative Farmers as they make a case for soil health across the continent and beyond."

"In particular," Jacob adds, "I wanted to mention my gratitude to Chris Washburne GSAS'99, Ben Waltzer JRN'10, George Lewis and Maura Spiegel GSAS'93, whose impressions on me as an undergraduate have stayed with me."

Please reach out to me with your news, updates and/or College memories via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2014

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Rebecca Schechter Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

Bruno Rigonatti Mendes is back in the United States at Stanford GSB for an M.B.A. He interned at McKinsey in NYC this past summer.

As always, please reach out with any updates you wish to share! You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting to ensure your photo is eligible for publication.



LAURA SACHS

Alex Powell '12 (left) and Negin Navab '12 became engaged on June 17 on campus.



EMILY CHANG

CC'16 friends (from top) Lily Liu-Krason, Angel Wang and Sonya Li hung out in Los Angeles on March 6.

2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello Class of 2015! Hope you enjoy the change of season and have a good fall.

One bit of news to share this time: **Theodore Macioce** was awarded a Ph.D. in physics from Caltech in June for a dissertation on clusters of galaxies and silicon lenses. He is pursuing a career in quantum computing at a physical science and engineering research laboratory in California.

As always, 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. Photos are welcome, too! Send those right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
lliukrason@gmail.com

Happy fall, 2016. 'Tis wedding season. Read on for some love stories from classmates and an endorsement of the PE requirement. If you want to see your friends or your story in CCT, please submit! It's a great memory and/or surprise. That being said, to encourage y'all to also write in with any and

all updates, I'll share two quick "success" stories from the updates!

Samantha Duncan recently mentioned to me that she met up with other alumni working in film art departments in Los Angeles who happened to read this column, and I was recently able to reconnect with a CC'15-er visiting NYC who read that I am in New York!

I'm in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and always happy to reconnect with you. I'm working on a book about fries so please message me if you're interested in hearing more or have had any delicious potatoes.

With that, please enjoy some Lion love:

Amy Li went to **Julie Chen's** wedding with many other CC'16-ers.

Tiffany Kim writes: "Kevin (Duke '16) and I met in San Francisco a month before lockdown, in February 2020. We moved to NYC at the end of 2022 and got married in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, on April 15 at Rule of Thirds, a venue that felt most like us. The bridal party consisted of all Columbia archery alumni, including maid of honor Grace Kim '15, and bridesmaids Julie Hoffmann '16 and Joy Chang '17." See "Just Married!" for a photo.

From **Allison Henry**, "Allison and **Carly Stiles** met through PE hiking class and grew their relationship through both being WBAR DJs and Woodbridge residents. They were married among family and many friends from their shared time at Columbia." See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Please reach out to me with your news by email or through the Class

Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Karisma Price's poem "The Art of London Firearms" won the 2023 Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize for Younger Poets and will appear on the feature page of the September/October issue of *The American Poetry Review*.

Ian Covert graduated with a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Washington, where his thesis work was titled *Transparent Machine Learning: Theory and Computation*. He traveled during the summer, beginning with a pre-wedding engagement party for **Ankit Shah SEAS'17** in Orlando, and later visiting Korea and Taiwan with Jae Kwon SEAS'18. He's now continuing to work in machine learning as a postdoctoral researcher at Stanford.

Bianca Guerrero finished a residency at CUNY City College, where she taught an undergraduate course, led an independent study and managed a fellowship program for students interested in social justice. She has been exploring fiber arts (quilting specifically), taking writing classes and trying to learn to take good photos on film. Bianca still resides in New York and started a job at Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice in July.

Dr. **Chris George** was recently selected to participate in the esteemed American Medical Association's Foundation Leadership Development Institute, a testament to his commitment to the medical field. Attending the AMA's annual meeting, Chris says he had the privilege of engaging with national leaders in healthcare, delving into challenging subjects that affect physicians across the country. These included crucial issues like Medicare reform, reproductive rights and scope creep. Driven by a deep pas-

sion for medicine and a desire to effect positive change, Chris intends to actively contribute to the AMA's initiatives and play an integral role in shaping the organization's stance on these important matters.

Please reach out to me with your news, updates and/or College memories via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2018

Alexander Birkel
and **Maleeha Chida**
ab4065@columbia.edu
mnc2122@columbia.edu

A hello from your friendly neighborhood class correspondents! It was great to see so many familiar faces at Columbia Reunion 2023 in early June, as well as reconnect with old friends and meet classmates that we surprisingly never got the chance to know! Shoutout to our Reunion Committee co-chairs, **Maya Ho** and **Karen Lopez**, for putting on a spectacular dinner, and thanks to each and every one of you for making our fifth-year reunion so special.

See the nearby photos, and a bonus one in our column online (college.columbia.edu/cct).

Stay in Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:
college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.

In this edition we highlight **Tiffany Troy SOA'22's** debut poetry collection, *Dominus*. Tiffany is also co-translator of Santiago Acosta's forthcoming *The Coming Desert/El próximo desierto*.

Please continue to share photos, stories or memories (especially from reunion) with us so we can remember the special moments we had together! You can email us or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple— for the “Just Married!” section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2019

REUNION 2024

MAY 30–JUNE 1

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Tj Aspen Givens and Emily Gruber
tag2149@columbia.edu
emilyannegruber@gmail.com

We hope that everyone is enjoying the start to fall! We look forward to sharing any updates that you send



CCT class correspondents Alexander Birkel '18 and Maleeha Chida '18 met up at Columbia Reunion on June 3.

to us in the coming months. You can reach us via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Khiehm Chau shares: “My wife and I moved back to New York City after four years in California. I finished my service in the Marine Corps and will pursue an M.B.A. at NYU Stern School of Business.”

Itamar Klein wrote in June: “I’m an artillery officer in the U.S. Army on rotation in Europe for the last seven months. The mission has been really motivating but can’t wait to get home.”

2020

Stephen Cone and Kyra Ann Dawkins
jsc2247@columbia.edu
kad2196@columbia.edu

Kyra Ann Dawkins is now attending the School of the Arts, pursuing an M.F.A. in creative writing with a fiction concentration.

Sabrina Reichert (née Lautin) started a Ph.D. in geophysics at UT Austin’s Jackson School of Geosciences, with a focus on marine seismic tomography. She is the president of the Texas Geophysical Society, UT’s student chapter of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

Thank you to those who submitted notes, and we look forward to



Posing at their CC'18 reunion dinner on June 3 were (left to right) Sorangel Liriano, Karen Lopez, Yanlin Wu and Neyanel Vasquez.

hearing from more of you soon enough. Please email either of us, or submit them through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the “Just Married!” section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2021

Mario A. Garcia Jr.
mag2329@columbia.edu

Hey Class of 2021! I hope the summer was a great time for rest and relaxation for everyone! For me, it was a great time to connect with friends still living around the city and around the country. No matter how far we get from College Walk, there will always be a fellow Lion just around the corner. If you would like to share your own Class Note or update, please feel free to reach out to me by email at any time, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Send photos directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Michael Van Duinen is in his third year of his chemistry

Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago and is feeling better than ever! He went through some rough patches, eventually passing his candidacy examination, but both his research and life in general have taken off since. This past summer he was looking forward to two conferences and, shortly after, a personal trip back to New York City, with all of these trips wrapping up just in time to celebrate his birthday at home in Chicago. He can only hope his Class of 2021 peers are faring as well or better. Roar, Lion, Roar!

Eleanor Chen has some cool entrepreneurial news! She writes, “I’m excited to share that I’ve started my own pickleball paddle business, Pickleberry, with **Kathy Lau SEAS'21**, my friend and previous roommate at Columbia.

“After completing our studies at Columbia, we were inspired to combine our entrepreneurial spirit with our passion for sports to create a brand that could have a meaningful impact on the world of pickleball, a rapidly growing sport known for its blend of tennis, badminton and ping pong that has been gaining immense popularity across the country. Drawing upon the knowledge and skills acquired at Columbia, we have meticulously crafted a range of high-quality pickleball paddles that offer exceptional performance and durability (available on Amazon: bit.ly/45rNC0H). As a token of my

appreciation, I would be delighted to offer a special Pickleberry discount exclusively for Columbia alumni and their referrals.”

2022

Mark Anthony Torres
mat2223@columbia.edu

Hey CC'22! I cannot believe it has been more than a year since we graduated! I definitely miss hanging on Low Beach with friends to relax after class. Now that Low Beach is far away, I find myself unwinding after work with a long run in preparation for the Chicago Marathon, which will take place on my 25th birthday, in October. As we move on to our next chapter in life, I hope you have found a new hobby, unlocked more talents or done

something fruitful for your physical and/or mental health.

Emese Marka is continuing her medical doctoral studies in Hungary. When she is not studying, she is involved in PET Kupa, a Hungarian project whose aim is to get rid of trash pollutants in various rivers and other bodies of water throughout the country. So far, the project has collected 3.6 tons of trash from the Maros River and 6.5 tons from Lake Tisza. This summer she took part in two expeditions, on the Tisza River and the Bodrog River.

If you would like to share amazing news or life updates, please feel free to reach out to me by email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Send photos directly to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2023

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Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Ashley Yu
ashley.yu@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: CCT welcomes new class correspondent **Ashley Yu!** Here, a few words from her.]

“Hey, Class of 2023! It is hard to believe we graduated just a few months ago and are already CC alumni! I hope we can all find meaningful ways to stay connected. I am so excited to learn about

everyone's new adventures, whether that is starting a job, continuing on to graduate school or embarking on other exciting journeys. Through submitting Class Notes, each and every one of you can share what you have been up to recently and any exciting life updates — small or big!

“Please reach out to me via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. I will be sure to incorporate your update in a future column! Photos should be sent directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for “Just Married!”).

“Also: Columbia Homecoming is Saturday, October 14. Watch for emails from the Alumni Office!”

obituaries

Columbia College Today has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. You can read more about their lives and find featured obituaries for **Robert A. Gottlieb '52**, **Rabbi Harold S. Kushner '55** and **Richard Ravitch '55** online at college.columbia.edu/cct. To submit an obituary for a Columbia College graduate, please use the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_obituary.

1945 **Lawrence S. Ross**, physician and artist, Voorhees, N.J., on April 15, 2023.

1948 **Norman M. Levy**, psychiatrist, New York City, on March 2, 2023.

1949 **Howard N. Beldock**, attorney, Warren, Conn., on June 1, 2023.

Willard B. Brown Jr., businessman, Brewster, Mass., on June 20, 2023.

William J. Lubic, attorney, Red Bank, N.J., on July 18, 2023.

1953 **Richard D. Beckman**, English professor, Philadelphia, on March 7, 2023.

1956 **H. Michael Grant**, psychiatrist, New York City, on March 26, 2023.

1959 **Stephen A. Kallis Jr.**, public relations executive, Temple Terrace, Fla., on March 29, 2023.

Uriel Nauenberg, physics professor, on December 31, 2019.

Norman Vieira, law professor, Myrtle Beach, S.C., on August 11, 2022.

1960 **George J. Camarinos**, gastroenterologist, St. Petersburg, Fla., on February 16, 2023.

Michael N. Sohn, attorney, Washington, D.C., on March 22, 2022.

1963 **Barry M. Austern**, biochemist, Cincinnati, on April 11, 2023.

Michael D. Nolan, community organizer, San Francisco, on April 8, 2023.

1964 **Lewis M. Gardner**, writer and actor, Lake Hill, N.Y., on August 3, 2020.

Peter K. Machamer, educator, historian and philosopher of science, Pittsburgh, on May 31, 2023.

1968 **Charles T. Lindholm**, anthropology professor, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., on June 30, 2023.

1973 **Stephen F. Pellino**, attorney, Ridgefield, N.J., on May 13, 2023.

1980 **Matthew P. Kennedy**, banker, Harrison, N.Y., on May 18, 2023.

1988 **Michael J. Kennelty**, global volunteer, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on January 7, 2023.

1991 **Rachel J. Porter**, special education teacher, Brooklyn, N.Y., on February 27, 2023.

2001 **John K.C. “Kimball” Payne**, reporter and investment banker, Virginia Beach, Va., on February 25, 2023.



TOM WILLIAMS / GETTY IMAGES



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college.columbia.edu/cct

NUSRAT CHOUDHURY '98 MAKES JUDICIAL HISTORY

The U.S. federal court system was established with the Judiciary Act of 1789, but it would take nearly 235 years for a Muslim woman to be appointed to a federal judgeship. This past June, the U.S. Senate confirmed civil rights lawyer **Nusrat Choudhury '98** to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Her lifetime appointment is historic in more ways than one: Choudhury is the first Bangladeshi-American, and just the second Muslim person, to serve as a U.S. federal judge.

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