


# CCT

Columbia  
College  
Today 

Spring 2020

VIDEOGRAPHER ON  
THE VANGUARD  
FRANCESCA TRIANNI '11,  
JRN'13 DOCUMENTS A  
HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

DETROIT ROCKS!  
NIA BATT'S '07 BRINGS  
GOOD HAIR AND GOODWILL  
TO HER HOMETOWN

BRIAN DE PALMA '62  
THE FAMED FILM DIRECTOR  
WRITES HIS FIRST NOVEL

## 100 YEARS *of* THE CORE

PLATO · Thucydides · *Bach* · W.E.B. DU BOIS · Jane Austen · **Raphael** · *Duke Ellington*  
**Le Corbusier** · *Ruth Crawford Seeger* · FRANTZ FANON · Molière · PATRICIA J. WILLIAMS  
THOMAS AQUINAS · *Verdi* · John Milton · *Berg* · HANNAH ARENDT · **Andy Warhol** · Ovid  
*Schubert* · MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT · Montaigne · *Clara Schumann* · JOHN STUART MILL  
ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE · Boccaccio · *William Grant Still* · EDMUND BURKE · Spinoza  
*Reich* · JOHN JAY · Euripides · *Saariaho* · THOMAS JEFFERSON · *Berlioz* · AL-GHAZĀLĪ  
Monet · JAMES MADISON · *Louis Armstrong* · ALEXANDER HAMILTON · Aristophanes  
ARISTOTLE · Rabelais · **Michelangelo** · *Monteverdi* · AUGUSTINE · Herodotus · GALILEO  
Picasso · IBN TUFAYL · *Pérotin* · Goethe · *Beatriz de Día* · SOJOURNER TRUTH · *Haydn*  
Swift · *Aaron Copland* · GANDHI · Dostoevsky · *Cage* · DESCARTES · *Charlie Parker* · Woolf  
Rembrandt · MACHIAVELLI · Aeschylus · *Handel* · HOBBS · Sophocles · HUME · *Mozart*  
KIMBERLÉ WILLIAMS CRENSHAW · *Mahler* · **Vincent van Gogh** · FRANCISCO DE VITORIA  
*Beethoven* · Virgil · JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU · **Bruegel** · ADAM SMITH · *Mussorgsky*  
Shakespeare · *Chopin* · MARX · Bernini · DARWIN · Cervantes · *Wagner* · NIETZSCHE  
SIGMUND FREUD · *Stravinsky* · CARL SCHMITT · *Fielding* · FOUCAULT · **Jackson Pollock**  
*Josquin des Prez* · VOLTAIRE · *Arnold Schoenberg* · Lucretius · ROBESPIERRE · Apuleius  
HEGEL · Sappho · Frank Lloyd Wright · *Claude Debussy* · HARRIET TAYLOR MILL · *Brahms*  
**Leonardo da Vinci** · ELIZABETH CADY STANTON · *Puccini* · CATHARINE MACKINNON  
Homer · *Hildegard of Bingen* · JOHN LOCKE · Dante · Goya · KANT · Toni Morrison



I support the Core because **it is the cornerstone** of lifelong curiosity, passion and engagement.

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti CC'12

Photo by Tammy Shell

When you support the Core Curriculum through the Columbia College Fund, you help to provide resources necessary to **sustain a vital centerpiece** of the College experience. Your gift symbolizes a commitment to this century-old foundation of a College education.

**MAKE YOUR GIFT AT [COLLEGE.GIVENOW.COLUMBIA.EDU](https://college.givenow.columbia.edu)**



**COLUMBIA  
COLLEGE  
FUND**

# features



16

## Voices of Wisdom

What's it like to teach the Core?  
Eleven faculty members tell us it's inspiring,  
intense and exhilarating.

*By the Editors of CCT*

22

## A Directorial Debut

Videographer Francesca Trianni '11, JRN'13  
puts a human face on the Syrian refugee crisis.

*By Jill C. Shomer*



26

## “Range” and Higher Education

Almost two decades after Lit Hum, a student and  
professor reunite to discuss fast versus slow learning.

*By Jill C. Shomer*



30

## Nia Batts '07 Blows Away Expectations

A Detroit entrepreneur reinvests in her hometown.

*By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09*





## departments

- 3** Within the Family
- 4** Music to Our Ears
- 6** Letters to the Editor
- 8** Message from Dean James J. Valentini  
The Core Curriculum, like the Grand Canyon, is “absolutely unparalleled.”
- 9** Around the Quads  
This year’s John Jay Award honorees, a Centennial celebration on campus, the Audre Lorde Community Space, Roar briefs and more.
- 34** Columbia Forum: *Are Snakes Necessary?*  
by Brian De Palma ’62 and Susan Lehman  
Master of suspense De Palma’s newest project? His first novel.

Now on **CCT Online**



### PRINT EXTRAS

- Book excerpt from Monique W. Morris ’94, GSAPP’96
- Michael I. Sovern ’53, LAW’55’s video reflection

 Like Columbia College Alumni  
[facebook.com/alumnicc](https://facebook.com/alumnicc)

 View Columbia College alumni photos  
[instagram.com/alumniofcolumbiacollege](https://instagram.com/alumniofcolumbiacollege)

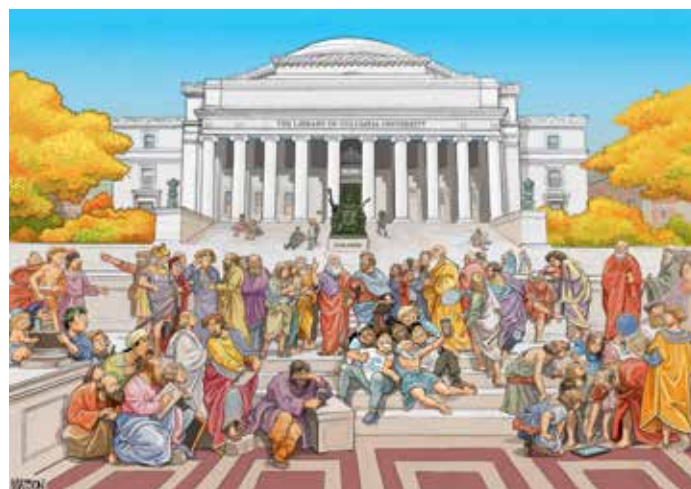
 Follow @Columbia\_CCAA

 Join the Columbia College alumni network  
[college.columbia.edu/alumni/linkedin](https://college.columbia.edu/alumni/linkedin)

[college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct)

## alumni news

- 38** Spring into Action
- 39** Message from CCAA President  
Michael Behringer ’89  
How an essential aspect of the Core continues to resonate.
- 40** Lions  
Monique W. Morris ’94, GSAPP’96; Kasia Nikhamina ’07; Richard Maimon ’85; Isaiah D. Delemar ’93
- 44** Bookshelf  
*Shakespeare in a Divided America: What His Plays Tell Us About Our Past and Future* by James Shapiro ’77
- 46** Class Notes  
Just Married!
- 86** Obituaries  
Michael I. Sovern ’53, LAW’55
- 88** Core Corner  
Our Core Centennial cartoon caption contest continues with an illustration by Dr. Ben Schwartz ’03, PS’08.



*“French vanilla chia seeds at ƒƒ’s Place!  
We’re not in Athens anymore, P.”*

The winner of our second Core Centennial cartoon caption contest is Tom McNamee ’99! Thank you for all your submissions. This issue’s cartoon is on page 88.



## Within the Family

# On the Centennial Beat

We've crossed the midway point in *CCT*'s year of Core Centennial coverage. On the feature front, we've spoken with the University's president about the enduring importance of the Core, and done a deep dive into the origins of Contemporary Civilization, the curriculum's inaugural course, launched in 1919. When considering our next big piece, it seemed like high time to go to the faculty members themselves, and to ask for their perspective on what it's like to teach the College's signature classes.

Of course, this was in December; the professors were busy, in the midst of grading end-of-semester papers and preparing for final exams. But they graciously took time out for some thoughtful conversation. Faced with our icebreaker about how long they'd been teaching the Core, more than one confessed to being nervous when they started. But all have been teaching the curriculum for years, and some for decades.

They've stayed with it because teaching the Core is energizing and challenging, because it connects them to something greater than themselves, because of the students and because of the opportunity to impart something lasting — an expansion of worldview; an introduction to the basic questions of human existence; the tools for a lifelong appreciation of art, music and literature.

The enduring influence of professor on student can be seen more directly in our roundtable with writer David Epstein '02, JRN'04, GSAS'04 and Julie Crawford, the Mark Van Doren Professor of the Humanities and former chair of Literature Humanities. The two met in the Lit Hum seminar room almost two decades ago, and we got them together again to talk about Epstein's latest book, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*. The resulting conversation, which originally appeared in our website's "Like Minds" department, discusses fast versus slow learning, and how embracing a liberal arts education might pay dividends over a quick commitment to a particular path.

Elsewhere in the issue, we interview *TIME* videographer Francesca Trianni '11, JRN'13, who recently made her directorial debut with the documentary *Paradise Without People*. The film, which sold out at DOC NYC 2019, offers a window onto the Syrian refugee crisis through the eyes of two women who have just given birth. We also learned how Nia Batts '07 is bringing an impressive one-two punch of innovation and community impact to her hometown of Detroit: Her salon, Detroit Blows, has broken new ground with its all-inclusive approach to hairstyling, with a portion of sales going to support local projects by female entrepreneurs.



*CCT* is breaking a little new ground ourselves — we're thrilled to be hosting our first event, an evening with famed film director Brian De Palma '62, here on the Columbia campus on Thursday, March 26 ([college.columbia.edu/alumni/events](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/events)). The talk celebrates De Palma's debut novel, *Are Snakes Necessary?*, excerpted on page 34. The twisty, noirish book marks an apt next step for a man who's made his career as a master of suspense. De Palma will be joined on the 26th by his co-author, former *New York Times* editor Susan Lehman; School of the Arts film professor Annette Indsorf will moderate.

We hope to see you there!

Meanwhile, if you haven't yet submitted a Core haiku, there's still time. And the latest installment in our Core Centennial cartoon caption contest series can be found on the back page. Submissions for both of them can be sent to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu).

We're also putting out a call for readers to show us their LGBTQIA+ pride. Send your hi-res digital photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu) (at least one person in the photo must be a College alum). We plan to run a selection of favorites in the Summer 2020 issue — the first of what we hope will be many "billboards" showing different sides of our vibrant Lions community.

Spring Forward!

*Alexis Boney*

**Alexis Boney SOA'11**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Featuring the Core: This issue, we highlight faculty voices.



# MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Honoring the Core composers  
we've listened to,  
learned from and loved.



SCHUMANN



DEBUSSY



BEETHOVEN



MOZART



ELLINGTON



CHOPIN

illustration by  
Patrick Morgan





CORLAND



ARMSTRONG



MONTEVERDI



HILDEGARD OF BINGEN



BACH

*"Music gives a soul to the universe,  
wings to the mind, flight to the  
imagination and life to everything." - Plato*

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Alexis Boncy SOA'11

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

Lisa Palladino

**DEPUTY EDITOR**

Jill C. Shomer

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

**FORUM EDITOR**

Rose Kernochan BC'82

**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR**

Thomas Vinciguerra '85

**ART DIRECTOR**

Eson Chan

Published quarterly by the  
Columbia College Office of  
Alumni Affairs and Development  
for alumni, students, faculty, parents  
and friends of Columbia College.

**CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS  
AND MARKETING OFFICER**

Bernice Tsai '96

**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

ISSN 0572-7820

Opinions expressed are those of  
the authors and do not reflect  
official positions of Columbia College  
or Columbia University.

© 2020 Columbia College Today  
All rights reserved.



## Letters to the Editor



## Sources of Insight

Thanks so much for the Core Curriculum origin story (Winter 2019–20, “First Class”). Fifty years have passed since I took CC, Literature Humanities and Art Humanities. These three courses were among the most valuable experiences of my intellectual development in college. The other was organic chemistry, a foundation of my education and work as a physician. All four have remained at the core of my intellect throughout my adult life.

I have thought back to CC, Literature Humanities and Art Humanities thousands of times. They ground me. They are a source of reflection and insight. Especially now, they help put the political circumstances of our nation in perspective.

No work of literature has meant more to me than Plato’s *The Allegory of the Cave*. The story is so simple that at the time I wondered what the fuss was about. Yet many events and relationships of my life have recalled this allegory of the difference between appearance and reality, and the awakening of understanding.

Something else: In the years since, I have learned that I am slightly dyslexic. I suspect that in the early 1960s, when I took CC and Humanities, few people knew about dyslexia, much less understood what it is. Though mine is mild, it still dramatically reduces my reading speed. You can guess how this affected my participation in CC and Humanities.

After college, I continued to read portions of the assigned works. Yet even though I have read in full almost none of them, I think I understand today much of what the works are about, and I continue to refer to them, often opening the volumes I bought back then.

Only Art Humanities was unaffected by my dyslexia, and to this day I love art, attend lectures on artists and paintings, and go to art museums frequently.

*Richard Kapit '67*  
Rockville, Md.





### Delightful Discovery

Upon receiving the Winter 2019–20 issue, I immediately turned to the article on the origins of Contemporary Civilization (“First Class”) where, to my delight, on page 23, I found a photograph taken by my father, Bernard Sunshine ’46, of sailors ascending the steps to Hamilton Hall.

My father, now 92 and going strong, got a kick out of seeing it, too. The picture was taken during WWII, though, not WWI, as the caption suggests.

**Andrew Sunshine ’79**  
New York City

*[Editor’s note: CCT is also delighted to learn who the photographer was — one of our former class correspondents, in fact! Thank you for the ID, and we apologize for the caption error.]*

### Lifelong Learning

I write in response to Dean James J. Valentini’s invitation in the Winter 2019–20 issue’s “Message from the Dean,” “We want to hear how the Core has informed, guided and enlightened your life journey.”

I entered Columbia College with the Class of 1958, but after one year left to spend four years rising to the rank of sergeant in the Marine Corps. I was readmitted, as a member of the Class of 1962, but actually graduated in September

1961 after completing a three-credit summer class while working full-time for the *New York Daily News*.

My fragmented attendance record left me without the supportive network of longtime classmates that many graduates enjoy. But I carried away something even more valuable.

When I returned to the College after leaving the Marine Corps, my roommate and I were both taking Contemporary Civilization, but with different instructors. We would discuss the readings and arrive at a point saying, “I get the basic idea here, but what about this?” We’d go to class the next day and ask, “What about this?” That issue would be addressed in the next reading. Uncanny, no? Of course not — CC was designed to lead you from one idea to another.

I reluctantly signed up for Music Humanities, which turned out to be taught by an associate conductor of the New York Philharmonic. He would fill the blackboard with scales and notes, play a bit of Beethoven, then jab at the blackboard with a long pointer so could we *see* the notes that were thundering through the room. I now have nearly 200 operas on CD.

Through the years, I have slowly reread all of the classics I raced through to meet Literature Humanities deadlines, and they have enriched my life.

Most of all, I remember my writing teacher, George Knobbe. Midway through

the year, he broke his leg. Instead of turning the class over to a substitute, he had us meet in his Morningside Heights apartment. We would sit on the carpeted floor of his small living room and learn how to put our thoughts into our own words.

The valuable jewel that I carried away from Columbia, and the truth that Columbia taught me, is that learning is fun. I’ve been a student ever since.

**Donald C. Dilworth ’61**  
Silver Spring, Md.



PIZZERIA LOLA

### Taste Test

How superb that chef Ann Kim ’95 (Winter 2019–20, “Fire Power”) is spicing up Midwestern cuisine. Within minutes of finishing the article, we turned off the stove and raced to Pizzeria Lola. We can report the pizzas are as fine as any we’ve tasted in New York, New Haven and even Naples. Brava!

**Dr. Norbert Hirschborn ’58, PS’62**  
Minneapolis

### 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. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and CCT style. Please direct letters for publication “to the editor” via mail or online:

[college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus).



## *Message from the Dean*

# The Grandeur of the Core Curriculum

A 100th anniversary is particularly special, because there are so few things that persist that long. This is why we are having a special celebration of the Core Curriculum all this year. But the Core is not the only institution now having a 100th anniversary. The Grand Canyon National Park is another. I mention it because its founding in 1919 was guided by a vision of value at once both very similar to and very different from the vision we have of the Core.

Theodore Roosevelt said: “The Grand Canyon fills me with awe. It is beyond comparison — beyond description; absolutely unparalleled throughout the wide world ... Let this great wonder of nature remain as it now is. Do nothing to mar its grandeur, sublimity and loveliness. You cannot improve on it. But what you can do is to keep it for your children, your children’s children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see.”

We feel that the Core, too, is “beyond comparison” and “absolutely unparalleled throughout the world.” And we do want to keep it for our children, and our children’s children and all who come after us, as the great experience of Columbia College. We want to do nothing “to mar its grandeur, sublimity and loveliness.”

But, we do not want it to “remain as it is now” and we do not believe that “you cannot improve on it.” Unlike the Grand Canyon’s grandeur, “a wonder of nature,” the product of the action of natural forces across millions of years, the Core is the product of the action of conscious human forces, with a most decidedly human value in mind, and that value is realized in a human context that is constantly changing. The Core is not a national monument. It is not a Columbia College monument. It is alive and responding to that changing context.

Like the Core itself, this Centennial is alive — alive with questions about the past, the present and the future of the Core. These questions are of particular importance during this Centennial, but they should be considered and answered every year. What are some of them?

I have said that the Core is always the same and always changing, and I believe that is accurate, but how do we elaborate that? Its objectives seem to remain the same, but the way in which we work to achieve those objectives must change as the circumstances of the world in which we live change, as they have done and will continue to do.



JEAN BEAUFORT

How should we explain the objectives in a way that makes clear the continuity of purpose, while ensuring a contemporary approach that continues to give value to the Core? How should we assess success in achieving what we aim to?

How do we make sure the Core will remain successful for every student in the future? How do we ensure that the Core empowers students to engage with a world neither they nor we can predict? How do we explain to students the importance of the Core in their development of the 13 competencies within My Columbia College Journey ([college.columbia.edu/journey/home](http://college.columbia.edu/journey/home)), our guide for students to obtaining the most value from the entirety of their College experience?

I encourage you to think about these questions and share your answers with us; they can be emailed to [core100@columbia.edu](mailto:core100@columbia.edu).

**James J. Valentini**  
Dean

The Grand Canyon —  
an “unparalleled” vista.



## John Jay Awards

On March 4, Columbia College celebrated the 42nd annual John Jay Awards Dinner, honoring six accomplished College alumni for distinguished professional achievements in a variety of fields ranging from finance, law and media to education, real estate and business. The dinner, held at the iconic Cipriani 42nd Street, raises money for the College's John Jay National Scholars Program, which provides financial aid and special programming to enhance the academic and extracurricular experiences of outstanding students. This year's awardees were Michael Barry '89 (president and CEO of Ironstate Development); Lanny A. Breuer '80, LAW'85 (vice-chair of Covington & Burling); Anna Fang '04 (partner and CEO of ZhenFund); Poppy Harlow '05 (anchor of CNN Newsroom); Wanda Marie Holland Greene '89, TC'91 (head of school at The Hamlin School); and Victor H. Mendelson '89 (co-president of HEICO Corp.). See photos at [facebook.com/alumnicc/photos](https://facebook.com/alumnicc/photos).

.....

## A Surprise Donation



Dr. George D. Yancopoulos '80, GSAS'86, PS'87, the 2019 Alexander Hamilton Medal recipient, wowed the crowd at the November 21

ceremony by announcing a \$10 million commitment to create a "Beginner's Mind" institute at Columbia. In addition to Yancopoulos's gift, the dinner raised a record-breaking \$2.35 million in support of the College, with \$1.35 million specifically earmarked to support College students pursuing scientific research.

Beginner's Mind, a concept often discussed by Dean James J. Valentini, speaks to the value of approaching people, interactions and ideas with an attitude of openness and eagerness, and with a lack of preconceptions.



EILEEN BARROSO

**TABLE TALK:** More than 450 people turned out for the Dean's Scholarship Reception, held February 11 in Roone Arledge Auditorium. The annual event brings named scholarship donors and College student recipients together to meet, share advice and swap stories about their College experiences.

"I believe that there is nothing more important than helping the next generation to face and conquer the truly existential threats, the challenge[s] of humankind," said Yancopoulos, the co-founder, president and chief scientific officer of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, at the dinner. "Listening to the dean, it became so clear to me that Beginner's Mind defines both the key to uniting humanity to do great things as well as the key to using science to address the most devastating threats to humanity, from disease to climate change."

.....

## Praising Lorde



Poet and activist Audre Lorde LS'60's name now graces Multicultural Affairs's home in Alfred Lerner Hall; the dedication marks the first time a

space on the Morningside Heights campus has been named after a black woman.

The Audre Lorde Community Space, a resource for both College and Engineering students, will establish a home for identity-conscious community building. Lorde —

a graduate of the School of Library Science (which closed in 1992) — was a self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet." Born in New York City to West Indian immigrant parents, she had her first poem published in *Seventeen* magazine while a student at Hunter College H.S. Throughout the 1960s Lorde was a librarian in New York City public schools, and went on to be a professor of English at John Jay College and Hunter College, as well as poet laureate of New York State (1991–92).

.....

## Centennial Celebration on Campus

A Century Celebration, marking the Core Curriculum's 100th anniversary, will take place on campus on Saturday, April 4. The keynote conversation will feature two prominent public intellectuals, Cornel West and Robert P. George. West is Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy at Harvard, and a professor emeritus at Princeton, and George is the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton.

The day will also include the premiere of a Core documentary, a collaboration with director Ric Burns '78; family-friendly workshops; interactive sessions such as art studios and science experiments; and more. For details, go to [core100.columbia.edu](http://core100.columbia.edu).

# The Baseball Hall-of-Famer Who Wore “Clean Sox”

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

Quick — who was Columbia's greatest baseball player? Lou Gehrig CC 1925, right? Not necessarily. Consider Eddie Collins CC 1907.

A good chunk of Collins's fame rests on his having been one of the Chicago White Sox players who did *not* infamously throw the 1919 World Series to the Cincinnati Reds. He remains celebrated as one of the “Clean Sox,” as opposed to the corrupt “Black Sox.”

There was more, however, to “Cocky” Collins than that. He was a hard-charging, canny infielder, solid hitter, fast

runner and expert base stealer. One of the best second basemen ever, he had a lifetime batting average of .333. When he died in 1951, only three others had surpassed his total of 3,313 base hits — Honus Wagner, Tris Speaker and Ty Cobb, legends all.

“As a ball player he had no flaws,” eulogized *The New York Times*. “I dreamed of becoming another Eddie Collins,” wrote author James T. Farrell, whose “Studs Lonigan” trilogy of novels was a hit during the Great Depression. “It was as though he played ball for me. In my imagination, I lived his career.”

Collins's own baseball philosophy was simple. “I like being a player,” he said.

Hailing from Millerton, N.Y., the 5-foot-9 Edward Trowbridge Collins Sr. initially went out for Columbia football, becoming the starting quarterback. But he was also a Lions shortstop with a sharp arm. One winter's day, he reportedly knocked a freshman's decidedly unfashionable brown derby off with a snowball he threw from 75 yards away.

In his junior year, Collins started playing semipro ball and signed with the Philadelphia Athletics. Not long after graduating, he began making a name for himself. By 1910, he had already stolen 81 bases in a single season — the first Major Leaguer to exceed the 80-mark. (Altogether he stole 744 times, including six in one game — a feat he accomplished twice.)

Collins's other statistics remain astonishing. He played 2,826 career games, batted in 1,300 runs and established a Major League record of 512 sacrifice bunts. He was on six World Series championship teams.

But “he was a lot more than a set of numbers on a slotted card,” wrote Rick Huhn in *Eddie Collins: A Baseball Biography*. Collins was known for tough yet fair play, integrity and intelligence. He was a

rare college graduate in the roughhouse, locker-room atmosphere of the era. When he signed to the Sox in 1915, it was for an annual salary of \$15,000 — substantially more than anyone else on the squad. Collins was able to command such a sum from the team's miserly owner, Charles Comiskey, because “Commy” knew “Cocky” was worth it.

Admittedly, Collins's high pay, coupled with his tendency toward aloofness and independence, didn't make him especially popular. Nonetheless, in the end he was a committed cog in the Sox machine. “We may not have been each other's ‘dearest friends,’” he said of the notorious Black Sox lineup, “but once we took the field we suddenly gelled into a formidable unit.”

Collins established his public image for probity when the infamous “Eight Men Out” of the White Sox were indicted (though never convicted) for conspiring with professional gamblers to lose the 1919 World Series. Collins had nothing to do with the fix; indeed, his conniving teammates did not even approach him. And he spoke against reinstating any of those under suspicion:

“It would be a blow to the team and upset playing. I hardly think it possible for any of the indicted men to mingle with their former mates again. ... You must also regard the effect it would have on the public. ... The fans would never tolerate it. The whole team, honest players and indicted players alike, would be under a cloud.”

At the same time, he said, “I feel sorry for some of the players whose careers have been cut short by the scandal.” He especially felt for the uneducated “Shoeless Joe” Jackson of “Say it ain't so, Joe!” fame. “I pity Joe,” said Collins, “for he is a man easily led and could have been swayed by good advice as well as the voice of the tempter.”

Collins returned to the A's in 1927, retiring as a player following their 1930





World Series victory. After coaching the A's for two seasons, he joined the Boston Red Sox as general manager. He helped turn around a deteriorating team, leading them in 1946 to their first pennant in 28 years.

But Collins's biggest single stroke with Boston may have been spotting and sign-

ing Ted Williams. It was a no-brainer: "Your Aunt Susan could have picked Teddy out of 1,000 players," he quipped. In 1939, the year after he signed Williams, Collins was inducted into the newly dedicated National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. "I'm glad to be the bat boy for such a team as this," he said wryly.

In an exclusive statement to *Spectator* in 1915, as he was already cementing his reputation, Collins said, "I wish to emphasize three reasons why a Columbia man should devote some time to athletics and to baseball in particular. In the first place, pleasure; second, honor; and third, duty to himself and his college."

## Student Spotlight

### TOP CORE MOMENT

"I loved W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk*. When I read it in sophomore year I was also taking 'Introduction to African American Studies' and 'Introduction to Comparative Ethnic Studies,' and we read that book in both. I had three different settings in which I was reading the same text!"

### MY FAVORITE SPOT

"As cliché as it is, I really like sitting on the Steps. I think different parts of the day have a different feeling — when it's a sunny day, it's very crowded and it feels like the campus is alive and spirited. It's also nice at night when it's not so crowded, you get to look out at all the lights — it's very serene in those moments."

### CLASS ACT

"I'm taking 'The Social World,' which I decided to get into on a whim — I'd never taken a sociology class. We've been reading a lot of texts that describe the development of the self — that you're not actually able to develop without being socialized and interacting with others. We brought that into discussions of more modern topics like race and gender. I think it's really interesting; that concept definitely stuck with me."

### NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

"In my free time, I like to explore the city and art museums. I really like the Frick; it's where I take anyone who visits me!"



Meet **MADISON HARDEN '20**, an economics major from Philadelphia who will work for L'Oréal after graduation.

*"This year I've gotten heavily involved with alumni activities — I'm president of Columbia College Student Ambassadors, so I help plan a lot of events with alumni. I've gone to a lot of different events where I interacted and talked with people in really cool occupations."*

### LAST CHANCE

"I'm using this semester to try to take classes in any last area I haven't gotten to try."

### COFFEE BREAK

"I try to go out once a weekend to a coffee shop with my homework; I think it's nice to be in a different environment."



SCOTT RUDD

DidYouKnow?

## The East Asian Library Features Law-Themed Stained Glass

The C.V. Starr East Asian Library, on the third floor of Kent Hall, is home to “one of the major collections for the study of East Asia in the United States, with over 1,000,000 volumes of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, Mongol, Manchu, and Western-language materials and almost 7,500 periodical titles, and more than 55 newspapers,” according to the Columbia University Libraries. It also features a large stained-glass window on its east side depicting the concept of Justice, a memento of Kent Hall’s time as the home of the Law School (from 1910 to 1960). The stained-glass windows were donated by Anna Chesebrough Wildey in 1913 in memory of her husband, Pierre Westcott Wildey CC 1860, LAW 1863.

## ROAR BITES

### A Legendary Dedication

Columbia’s basketball players are now squeaking their sneakers on a newly dedicated floor: In February, the center court in Levien Gymnasium was named in honor of Jonathan D. Schiller ’69, LAW’73.



COLUMBIA ATHLETICS / MIKE McLAUGHLIN

Even before the dedication, Schiller’s name had long been synonymous with Columbia basketball. A three-year letter winner, he was a member of the 1967–68 Ivy League men’s basketball championship team, which was ranked fifth in the country and was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006. Schiller, a

frontcourt player who competed alongside future NBA players Jim McMillian ’70 and Dave Newmark ’68, was named to the inaugural class of Legends of Ivy League Basketball in 2017.

“For more than 50 years, Columbia basketball has been a constant and transformative element in my life,” Schiller said. “I have been privileged to work with many committed alumni in support of the basketball program, including through the last decade

with Columbia’s Board of Trustees and President Lee Bollinger. The dedication of this beautiful gym floor is a great honor for my family.” Schiller, a commercial litigator and arbitration law-

yer, has been a trustee since 2009; he received a John Jay Award in 2006 and the Alexander Hamilton Medal in 2012.

“I look forward to our women’s and men’s teams nailing 3-pointers from the spot where the ‘D’ is on the floor in pursuit of Ivy League championships,” Schiller said. “Go Lions!”



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

### Women Fencers Finish First

Columbia fencing continues to dominate the competition, as the women’s fencing team again captured the Ivy League crown — their third consecutive outright title, and the fifth time in six seasons that they’ve topped the podium.

The team went a perfect 6–0 at the Ivy League Championships, held in Boston in early February. The men’s team, meanwhile, took second place with a 4–1 record.



For the latest, download the Columbia Athletics app or visit [gocolumbialions.com](http://gocolumbialions.com).





# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

## IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



## Summer Programs

### Visiting Students

#### Undergraduates & Graduates

Students enrolled at another institution.

Session I: May 26–July 2

Session II: July 6–August 14

*More than 50 areas of study to explore and endless opportunities to discover.*

#### Adults & Professionals

Individuals with a bachelor's or higher degree.

### High School Students

#### College Edge

An opportunity for high school students to take for-credit courses on Columbia's campus with undergraduate students

Fall, Spring, & Summer Offerings

#### Summer Immersion

Immersive programs for domestic and international high school students interested in living and studying in New York City

Session 1: June 29–July 17

Session 2: July 21–August 7

Session 3: August 10–August 14

[sps.columbia.edu/summer20cct](https://sps.columbia.edu/summer20cct)

[sps.columbia.edu/hs20cct](https://sps.columbia.edu/hs20cct)

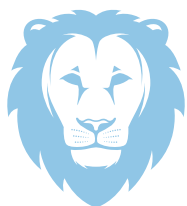
# REUNIO

LET'S ROAR IN  
THE '20S AT  
COLUMBIA  
REUNION!

JUNE 4-6

All alumni are invited for an unforgettable weekend, with special events for milestone years that end in 0 and 5, and the Class of 2019.

[college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion)



COLUMBIA  
COLLEGE  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION





# N2020

**OVER 100 EVENTS  
TO CHOOSE FROM!**



# VOICES OF WISDOM

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO TEACH THE CORE? ELEVEN FACULTY MEMBERS TELL US IT'S INSPIRING, INTENSE AND EXHILARATING.

No celebration of the Core Centennial would be complete without the voices of those who teach the curriculum. In any given year, the classes are led by close to 200 instructors representing more than 20 departments. It's a collective effort that, as one longtime professor put it, means that working at Columbia College is about something — that teaching the Core instills a sense of purpose, joins the instructors in a common cause and imparts to the entire College community a sense of tradition and shared intellectual history.

We asked 11 faculty members for their reflections and perspective on the Core. What was it like preparing to step outside of their specialties, and how has teaching the different courses shaped them as professors and scholars? What do they see as unique about the curriculum for students, and how is it different from the classes they elect to take? What meaningful or inspiring moments have stayed with them?

Though the professors were united in their belief in the Core, their words underscored the variety of insights that come from participating in this unique educational endeavor. And they affirmed that — for all the many times they've gathered at the seminar table — the experience is never the same twice.

— The Editors

ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
ALYSSA CARVARA

## SUSAN BOYNTON

PROFESSOR OF MUSIC,  
HISTORICAL MUSICOLOGY

Boynton started teaching in the Core shortly after she joined the Columbia faculty in 2000. Her research interests include liturgy and music in medieval Western monasticism.

**“Preparing for Music Hum has continually led me to make connections between different periods of music history. Thinking about music in broader terms has given me new ideas about composition and performance, as well as insight into relationships between the arts and humanities.”**



She thinks a unique essence of the Core is the opportunity for discussion-based focus on primary sources:

**“Rather than approaching them through**

**layers of commentary and interpretation, students address primary sources — texts, music and images — directly (some in translation, of course). The learning is collaborative; faculty and students create an intellectual community.”**

In summer 2015, Boynton and Art Humanities professor Robert E. Harrist Jr. began teaching a combined Art Hum/Music Hum program at Reid Hall in Paris:

**“Teaching the two courses in conjunction brings out the alignment of music and visual art. For example, Impressionism forms a useful background against which to consider the music of Debussy; the same is true for Picasso and Stravinsky. The juxtapositions bring out meaningful intersections that shaped how the arts were experienced historically.”**



# NICHOLAS DAMES

THE THEODORE KAHAN  
PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES

Dames joined the College faculty in 1998; his area of specialty is the history of the novel in Britain and Western



Europe. He says teaching in the Core is “an experience that you just don’t get anywhere else.”

**“My first semester of Lit Hum was intense, but weirdly triumphant, too, for surviving it. There’s almost nothing like it, when you bond with that first group, when you’re all doing it for the first time. ... After a few years of doing it you**

**realize there’s a kind of openness to that classroom that’s greater than when you’re teaching in your own discipline.”**

Dames says “the immersiveness” is what’s most special about the Core for students:

**“To be with the same 22 people for four hours a week all year long is unlike anything they would have here or anywhere else. It’s not stale familiarity, but productive familiarity, an intimacy. They have enough time to get used to you, to get frustrated with the limits of what the professor does, and to push at it a bit. If it works well, by the second half of the second semester you’re not running it in the same way anymore. That’s very much about the structure and not the content, and that to me is irreplaceable.”**

And he thinks that humor in the classroom can be a productive mode of thinking:

**“Finding something funny can really open texts up — and also make them stick.**

**I have so many memories of levity, moments when the class really frees itself. It’s not a successful term without a few laugh-out-loud moments!”**

# NOAM ELCOTT ’00

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MODERN ART  
AND MEDIA AND THE SOBEL-DUNN CHAIR  
FOR ART HUMANITIES

Elcott has chaired Art Hum since 2018, coming full circle from when he took the course in the first semester of his first year. He credits his own Art Hum professor, Stephen Murray (an expert on the Amiens Cathedral), with sparking his passion.

**“It’s likely that even if your emphasis is 17th-century still life painting or Roman coins or 20th-century sculpture, you will inspire students to pursue the most extraordinary topics and ideas and experiences within and beyond the Art Humanities curriculum.”**

Elcott tells graduate students who are preparing to be first-time preceptors that teaching the course involves a certain amount of letting go.

**“It is both humbling, as it should be, and liberating, because no one expects you to be an expert. Sometimes undergraduates mistakenly think that you can possibly know all of it, when of course you can’t.”**

He says that Art Hum students, similarly, need to experience the class as a safe space to engage with and question art, and that the aim of the course is not mastery of material, but rather openings onto new worlds:

**“The number 1 goal is to spark the passion, provide the critical tools and transmit enough of the knowledge necessary to fuel a lifelong engagement with art.”**



## WALTER FRISCH

THE H. HAROLD GUMM/HARRY AND ALBERT VON TILZER PROFESSOR OF MUSIC



Frisch is a specialist in Austro-German composers of the 19th and 20th centuries. He says that Music Hum is an opportunity to guide students' hearing and thinking toward a deeper understanding of music, and to expand their experience of something that's already very present for them:

**"For almost all our students, music is a basic, essential part of their lives. But what we study**

**in Music Hum is mostly not what they listen to regularly, so as instructors, we can build on what they already love in order to get them to appreciate Western classical music."**

Having taught the course more than 30 times, Frisch says that he's learned it's better to study fewer works in more detail; he might spend two or three full classes on an opera like *Don Giovanni* or a work like Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*:

**"Learning to listen, or to watch, in the case of opera, takes time, and this process takes place best in real time. I've found that going through works like these in some detail — stopping the recording or video, discussing, demonstrating a detail at the piano — really helps the students absorb and internalize the material."**

Some of Frisch's most rewarding teaching moments have come from having guest musicians perform in class.

**"Last semester we had four different live performances in my section, including a pianist from the Columbia-Juilliard program, Forrest Eimold ['22], who played Beethoven and Chopin. It was wonderful to see the students' faces as they watched his intense virtuoso playing and his focused concentration. They could see how the music of the composers we were studying comes alive in a performance."**



## ROBERT E. HARRIST JR.

THE JANE AND LEOPOLD SWERGOLD PROFESSOR OF CHINESE ART HISTORY

Though Harrist's field of expertise is the art of China, he originally set out to be a Matisse expert. His knowledge of Western art was invaluable preparation for Art Hum, which he began teaching in 2000.

**"I didn't really start to look at art carefully until I started teaching Art Hum. There's something about the intensity of the Core classes and, in the case of Art Hum, the intensity of looking required to make it work, that helped me get to a different level in my own engagement with the visual arts."**

He believes the goal of Art Hum is "to nurture the ability to derive visual pleasure from paying attention to the world":

**"If you learn to pay attention to the pattern of ornament on a doorway, and enjoy doing so, you might start paying attention to all sorts of things. I think that given the state of the world and the country at the moment, paying attention is more important than ever."**

Harrist thinks the art and architecture on campus is a resource that greatly enriches the teaching of Art Hum:

**"When you walk out of Schermerhorn, the buildings you see are in one way or another connected to monuments we study. Being able to go straight from the classroom and out the door to show students something — whether it's the fluting of a column or a Corinthian capital — is a huge pedagogical advantage."**



# MATTHEW McKELWAY

TAKEO AND ITSUKO ATSUMI  
PROFESSOR OF JAPANESE ART HISTORY

McKelway earned his Ph.D. from Columbia in 1999; he returned as a professor in 2007. He chaired Art Hum twice — from 2009 to 2011 and from 2016 to 2018.

**“What I think is so distinctive about studying art history is it’s something that elicits an emotional reaction ... it goes to the mind through the eyes but in a different, more visceral way than we experience when reading a text. Art is a way to communicate that existed before written language, after all.”**



He started teaching the Core Curriculum in Spring 2008. Then-chair Robert

Harrist told him, “Art Hum is the glue that holds the department together;” but as a Japanologist with no experience teaching the history of Western art, McKelway at first found the prospect “really daunting”:

**“I had a sense of awed panic. I felt prepared as an art historian, but what I hadn’t quite understood is that I could take the language I was using to talk about cultures I was more familiar with and apply it to Western art. What teaching outside your comfort zone does is make you think more broadly about big questions — about the nature of art, and what ‘art’ is.”**

McKelway says he appreciates how “a perfect cross-section” of students who might not otherwise interact are represented in his Art Hum classes, and that the Core provides them with a new way to communicate:

**“It creates a common conversation — not only within a single class, but across the entire curriculum. It’s not so much a Core body of knowledge, but a mind that has become used to exercising and thinking about big, sticky, tough questions.”**

# EDWARD MENDELSON

THE LIONEL TRILLING PROFESSOR  
IN THE HUMANITIES



Mendelson has been teaching at the College since 1981; his primary interest is 19th- and 20th-century literature.

**“I like talking about great books, so I am delighted to teach in the Core. But after I did it for the first time I started rewriting the syllabus a bit, swapping in books that I thought made more sense as part of a coherent story. When the Core didn’t teach Euripides’s *The Bacchae* —**

**which is to me the most disturbing play ever written — I put that in. I’ve replaced *Crime and Punishment* — which is a very great book! — with *Notes from Underground*.”**

He says a theme of his teaching is the difference between a collective identity, like gender or race, and “being a person”:

**“What I try to teach in Lit Hum is thinking for oneself. The inner life has no category, no ethnicity, no gender, no skin color.**

It’s not a product of compromises; it’s where you think what you want. I’ve swapped *Pride and Prejudice* for *Frankenstein*, a book that seems to me an ideal fit for the plot of the course, which is what it’s like to become an individual — what the price is as well as what the benefits are.”

Mendelson says one of his favorite moments is when he feels the students relax and “they stop being too shy to talk”:

**“There’s always a moment toward the middle of the term when a few students who mistrusted me start trusting me. I think some are not used to being spoken to as individuals, rather than as category members. Our whole culture is determined to think of human beings as categories, and I get to see people become themselves.”**



## CATHY POPKIN

THE JESSE AND GEORGE SIEGEL  
PROFESSOR IN THE HUMANITIES

Popkin specializes in Chekhov, 19th- and 20th-century Russian prose, and literary theory, and has taught Lit Hum since 1986. She holds a reunion for each Lit Hum class toward the end of their senior year, and is continually moved by the camaraderie of the Core experience.

“The most stunning thing about this program is seeing every kid in Butler poring over *The Iliad* at the same time, or hearing them argue about the ending of *Crime and Punishment* in the elevator in Hamilton. **That universal community of readers is so powerful.**”

She thrives on small-group conversations:

“What I do best in the classroom has nothing to do with expertise; it has to do with making something happen right then and there in real time. It’s even more exciting to do that when you’re trying to puzzle your way through something strange and unfamiliar. And then you get to something and everyone gasps: *that is the most thrilling thing in the world.*”

She appreciates that the Lit Hum texts aren’t beyond critique by the students or faculty:

“You read against the grain a lot of the time; you don’t just worship what you’re teaching.”

## ELAINE SISMAN

THE ANNE PARSONS BENDER PROFESSOR  
OF MUSIC, HISTORICAL MUSICOLOGY

Sisman currently chairs Music Hum and has taught at Columbia — and in the Core — since 1982. She loves that the course offers students opportunities to be profoundly moved, and thinks that “there’s a lot of human truth on offer” for students during their class trip to the Metropolitan Opera.

“After *La Bohème* last semester, I heard from both male and female students: **‘I knew**



**what was going to happen, but I didn’t think I was going to cry at the end; I didn’t know how it was going to affect me.’”**

She notes that students without musical backgrounds can be nervous at the start, but says

in reality, the class explores topics and questions that are new for most everyone.

“There’s always the sense in Music Hum of, oh, somebody took piano lessons or somebody can read notation, somebody’s mother always took them to ballet. But I generally find that doesn’t make a difference. You can have eight years of piano lessons and not have any idea of what is making the music tick.”

Sisman recalls that preparing to teach Music Hum was initially “terrifying,” but says she took comfort in knowing the Core is intended as a place for experts to step outside their specialty and for amateurs to be learning together:

“Music Humanities is a way of thinking and talking about how the music lives in itself. How did people respond to it then, and how do we respond to it now; it’s not only what has it meant historically but why is it still being recorded or performed, and how does it speak to us today?”



# MICHAEL STANISLAWSKI

THE NATHAN J. MILLER  
PROFESSOR OF JEWISH HISTORY

Stanislawski has taught in the Core for nearly 40 years, and chaired CC for four of them. A specialist in Jewish, European intellectual and Russian history, he says the Core is one of the main reasons he came to work at Columbia — and why he’s stayed.



**“My view of CC is not that it’s a canon of books that students have to read. It’s really a debate about the fundamentals of life. Is there a god and if so, what does it mean for us? Have these students thought about what being a citizen means or should mean; what kind of political organization we should have? We have very smart students, but it’s rare that they will have thought about these things. So here you’re introducing these questions to them.”**

He is inspired by the graduate student preceptors who teach in the Core:

**“It may sound corny, but in this time when the humanities are in such crisis and are shrinking, it’s uplifting to see these students who really are dedicated to studying and learning and teaching them.”**

One of his proudest teaching moments occurred just last year:

**“I had a student, a very smart student, but literally she had no idea how to express her own ideas. I had to sit down with her and say, ‘Give me an example of what you have an opinion about.’ She did, and I said, ‘Now tell me what you feel and think about that,’ and she told me. Now, I said, tell me what someone who was writing about it would say, and she tried that and it clicked — I could see it click — the difference between a personal view and an analysis. She had never done that before; she had only given back to professors what they wanted from her.”**



# KATJA VOGT

PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

With its focus on big questions, Vogt says the Core plays to some of her central interests. A specialist in ancient philosophy, ethics and normative epistemology, she’s taught both CC and Lit Hum, and values having extended conversations with students with such different perspectives, experiences and goals.

**“When I was a high school student in Germany, Kant was ‘in the milk you drink.’ This level of familiarity can mislead one into thinking that the ideas are highly plausible. But when you read *Groundwork* with students in CC, it’s a different experience — for most students, the steps in Kant’s argument aren’t intuitive at all. This is bound to lead to questions about pretty much every sentence. For me, teaching Kant in the U.S. — also in my ethics classes — has helped me see Kant with fresh eyes.”**

She says Lit Hum is a special teaching experience — because it comes for most students in their first year, it sets the tone for their College journey:

**“It’s as if the students get to discover two complex worlds at the same time: our campus and the universe of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.”**

She also appreciates having the chance to talk with students about one of her favorite authors:

**“I love Homer — in another life, I could be a Homer scholar. The Core has given me the opportunity to sometimes switch into this role.”**

**H**ow do you make people care about a story that's been flooding their news feeds and TV screens for years?

That's the question Francesca Trianni '11, JRN'13, a senior video producer at *TIME*, and her colleagues faced in summer 2016, as media outlets worldwide were saturated with images and news items about Syrian war refugees. The editors were looking for new ways to help their audience connect to the enormity of the crisis. "When you hear 'refugee,' you think you already know the story," Trianni says.

Then Trianni's attention was drawn to a little-known statistic: 1 in 10 women living in refugee camps was pregnant. She saw the potential to tell a human story with universal context, and pitched the idea of interviewing an expectant Syrian woman; her editor took it a step further and suggested documenting a year in the life of a family with a newborn.

Trianni eventually became part of the team whose reporting led to *TIME*'s 2018 multimedia project, *Finding Home*. The work also led to a milestone for Trianni as a videographer: She directed and filmed her — and *TIME*'s — first feature documentary, *Paradise Without People*, which had a sold-out screening in November at

DOC NYC 2019 and is now playing at festivals around the country.

The film follows the lives of two Syrian women, Taimaa and Nour, living in a refugee camp in Thessaloniki, Greece, from the day they give birth to their children's first birthday. Just months after that fateful pitch meeting, Trianni, *TIME* bureau chief Aryn Baker and award-winning photojournalist Lynsey Addario were inside the camps. After asking dozens of families for permission, they found two who were willing to be filmed, photographed and reported on for a year — a tall order for anyone, with an added need for cultural sensitivity among women who wear the veil and the challenge of getting access inside the hospital.

"I was so lucky to work with Lynsey and Aryn — they've both spent a lot of time in the Middle East, and they taught me a lot," Trianni says. "We were all women — the three of us, and all the translators, too. They were incredible in helping to negotiate those relationships. We wouldn't have been able to do it otherwise.

"War stories are often told from a male perspective, and we made a conscious effort to tell this story from a female point of view," she says. "Growing up, my parents bought the newspaper every day, and all the

# A DIRECTOR DEBUT

VIDEOGRAPHER **FRANCESCA TRIANNI '11, JRN'13**

PUTS A HUMAN FACE ON THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

BY JILL C. SHOMER



IAL



serious, respected journalists I read were men. Working with women who had successful careers, seeing that that's possible and how amazing they were — it really helped me.”

Back in New York, the team found its reporting had yielded even more stories. To reach a wider audience, *TIME* created four print cover stories, launched an Instagram page where they could tell stories daily and produced an interactive online feature. The multimedia approach worked: *Finding Home* was nominated in 2018 for a News & Documentary Emmy Award and won the 2018 World Press Photo contest for Innovative Storytelling.

“I realized when I was filming that I was capturing something I'd never seen before,” Trianni says. “I'd watched a lot of films about refugees and immigrants, who were always portrayed as heroes or invaders — there was no middle ground. But these women and

their husbands were just young couples caught in the middle of this huge humanitarian crisis and trying to figure it out.

“It's a really hard time to tell a story that lives in the grey,” she continues. “These are human beings who are flawed, and they make mistakes. Sometimes it's hard to connect with them. I filmed everything myself and I felt so much responsibility, especially at a time like this, the way we act with such fear toward the Other. But I wanted to show something different and true.”

Trianni never thought she would be a filmmaker, but got started on her path at the College. A native of Modena, a small town in Northern Italy (“we're famous for balsamic vinegar”), she'd never heard of Columbia. She was part of a study-abroad program in high school and learned English in a small suburb outside of Boston; one of her teachers encouraged her to take the SAT and apply to American colleges. “Nobody in my town went to school in America,” she says. “My family and I knew nothing about the application process.” Trianni laughs, recalling that she was so shocked and excited to get into the College that her parents thought an intruder had broken into their home because of her screaming.

She started out studying political science. “I grew up with Berlusconi in power and saw how much of my country was being hurt by his presidency,” Trianni says. “I wanted to have agency to make a change in history.” A John Jay Scholar, she landed an internship with the first lesbian member of Italian parliament; though she found the experience interesting, she lost her taste for politics and was left questioning what she really wanted to do.

Trianni's future was changed by a book. In her junior year, she read *The Sack of Rome: Media + Money + Celebrity = Power = Silvio Berlusconi* by Alexander Stille. “It



ABOVE: Nour and Yousef Altallaa, with their daughter, Rahaf, wait for asylum in Thessaloniki, Greece, after fleeing Syria. Nour found out she was pregnant the day the couple decided it was too dangerous to stay.



Taimaa, a Syrian refugee from Idlib, moments after she arrived in her new home in Estonia.





“IT’S A REALLY  
HARD TIME TO  
TELL A STORY  
THAT LIVES IN  
THE GREY.  
BUT I WANTED  
TO SHOW  
SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT  
AND TRUE.”

was such a great piece of journalism, fair and fascinating,” she says. “He helped me understand the history of my own country.” After finding out Stille was a professor at the Journalism School, Trianni wrote a fan letter thanking him for his work. He wrote back saying he needed an Italian speaker to help with his next book, and did she want to be his research assistant? She did.

“I helped him research a book about his family history and with a regular column he wrote for the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*,” Trianni says. “He had a seat in understanding history. I couldn’t believe that was a job!”

Stille, the San Paolo Professor of International Journalism, encouraged Trianni to apply to the J-School and has continued to be a mentor. “Francesca has turned herself into a first-rate journalist,” he says. “Her work combines deep passion, powerful commitment and great journalistic integrity. She tracked immigrant families for more than a year to find a compelling way to tell their stories and did it so well that she managed to overcome a climate of general indifference around those issues.”

Trianni thought “journalism” meant being a writer, but found her passion for video storytelling in a digital media class. “When I started working in video I felt like everything clicked — I found a way that I could stand out, I felt that I had something that I could bring to it. That’s such a wonderful feeling, when you realize you’re good at something.”

She didn’t want to stop. After a six-month internship with Reuters, Trianni landed at *TIME* in 2014, working on breaking news stories. Ready for some-

thing more enterprising, she created a six-minute video about Emma Sulkowicz ’15 and presented it to her bosses; soon after she was creating short documentaries and eventually was producing video exclusively.

Trianni has continued to get feedback about *Finding Home* and *Paradise Without People* since the premiere in October. “Teachers have told me they use the interactive story in their classrooms, and I’ve heard from others that they’ve never seen refugees portrayed that way. It feels like such an accomplishment.”

She recalls an especially relatable scene, where one of the main characters, Taimaa, is preparing for her daughter’s first birthday. “Every parent understands the feeling of wanting your child’s birthday party to be memorable. Right before cutting the cake, as everyone is singing, Taimaa starts crying — and you can tell that she’s just now realizing that no matter what she does, no matter how hard she tries, her daughter is still growing up a refugee, and Taimaa won’t be able to provide her with the ‘perfect’ birthday party anytime soon.”

Trianni is eager to make more feature films and learn new ways to reach and connect with an audience. “I liked doing something that made viewers uncomfortable, that maybe made them rethink something they thought they already knew,” Trianni says. “Challenging people’s assumptions about the world around them — that’s what journalism does, right?”

# “RANGE”

By Jill C. Shomer

## AND HIGHER EDUCATION



Last fall *Columbia College Today* spoke with writer **David Epstein '02, JRN'04, GSAS'04** and **Julie Crawford**, the Mark Van Doren Professor of the Humanities and former chair of Lit Hum, to talk about Epstein's latest book, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*.

*Range*, which was released in 2019 and promptly became a *New York Times* bestseller, offers a well-researched and thoughtful rebuttal to society's inclination toward mastery over multiplicity. Epstein writes, "The challenge we all face is how to maintain the benefits of breadth, diverse experience, interdisciplinary thinking and delayed concentration in a world that increasingly incentivizes, even demands, hyperspecialization."

It's not surprising that Epstein, formerly a senior writer at *Sports Illustrated* and author of the 2013 bestseller *The Sports Gene: Inside the Science of Extraordinary Athletic Performance*, introduces a primary analogy for specialization versus generalization by citing two of the greats: Tiger Woods, who first picked up a golf club at 7 months old, and Roger Federer, who dabbled as an athlete for years before settling into tennis superstardom.

Epstein makes a solid case for being a "Roger"; his former professor Crawford was eager to discuss the debate as it applies to higher education, as well as Epstein's findings on fast versus slow learning. What follows is an edited excerpt of their conversation.



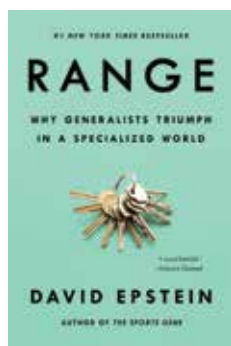


Photographs by Zack Garlitos

It came to a head when we were reading *The Decameron* — this group of students wall themselves inside a garden, away from the death of the Plague, and tell stories; by being away from the destruction of civil society, they restore values with their storytelling. When we talked about it, Julie put up veils over the window and the door and said, “This is our garden, we’re shut off from whatever is going on outside.” I thought that was the dumbest thing I ever heard, like, “What does *symbolism* have to do with my actual life?!” She called me into her office later and told me that symbolism *is* reading, if you want to be a good reader. That really challenged me.

Now I’m far on the opposite side of the spectrum — I read voraciously and am always aware of symbols and analogies. Julie cued me to the fact that I was getting in my own way, and I came around to seeing literary texts as the preservations and challenges of culture. Now I think of books as a sort of privileged garden that people can dive into for a while. These questions I take on in *The Sports Gene* and *Range* — nature versus nurture, how specialized or how broad to be — I can’t answer those questions, but I can hope to make those conversations more productive and interesting, where someone can step away from whatever they’re doing and consider them.

**JULIE CRAWFORD:** I thought about higher education the whole time I was reading David’s book. What he was just saying about coming into Columbia with a sense of the elite education and the importance of the education but not necessarily the practices of the education — what other system allows you to see and experience education as a web of social good? What is it that creates knowledge in a



**COLUMBIA COLLEGE TODAY:** David, you specifically asked for Julie to be part of this conversation. Can you describe the influence she had on you?

**DAVID EPSTEIN:** [Laughs] I feel nervous, like I’m reverting back to my freshman self in front of my professor! I think I came to Columbia with something of an anti-intellectual streak. I was oriented toward achievement and going to a good school, but I don’t know if I was actually oriented toward learning. I think I was also intimidated — I didn’t realize that so many of my classmates would be coming from private schools, and reading on a higher level. I wasn’t attuned to reading deeper than what was exactly on the page.

larger sense, where it isn't just end-oriented or a model of mastering things in the present? It's something you wish you could tell every student in the moment: You're not going to figure it out in the next year, or in the next four years.

**CCT:** Julie, do you sense from students that their education is only a means to an end?

**CRAWFORD:** Donors and administrators and researchers tell students all the time not to chart a tight path, not to major in something “secure.” It's certainly true for tech careers that didn't exist 10 years ago. But there are also counter-pressures, which often have to do with money — for instance, families who say: “We're spend-

**CCT:** David, you wrote: “We have a collective complex about sampling, zigzagging and swerving from iron-clad long-term plans.” Where do you think this comes from? Do you think social media has had an effect?

**EPSTEIN:** I think it has sort of waxed and waned throughout history. Specialization made a lot of sense for most people in industrial economies, where work this year looked like work last year and you might be able to expect that for your entire life. We see some of what happens when people are used to that sort of environment, where you have one discrete training period early in your career and you never have to relearn anything or reinvent yourself — those people are not so adaptable and aren't prepared if there's dislocation. Now we're in an era

opposite of the slow practice — the dilatory, accidental and error-prone processes that you talk about in your book and that most professional educators believe education is about. I always call reading in Lit Hum “a slow practice in a fast world.” It's the *practice* part that's harder, the idea of something you have to do without immediate rewards. We all love dynamic, immediate things that seem to work right away, but it's much harder to do the other kind of thing.

**CCT:** Do you think the Core and liberal arts in general are helping people open their minds to other paths and other points of view?

**EPSTEIN:** The Core certainly did that for me. I'm still processing information I got from the Core. In my book I quoted from a text I read in “Major Texts of the Middle East and India,” which I took because of Lit Hum. I still have my books from Music Hum. The Core gave me the framework to get a foothold in understanding. The biggest gift for me in writing this book was the writing I got to do about art and music; it's very much a continuation of the journey that the Core started me on. I'm not going to be a specialist in any one of these areas, but I can build these frameworks to continue my self-education.

**CRAWFORD:** The book is a vindication against the argument that what the Core does is give cocktail party conversation. It's not just about name-dropping; it's more about analogical thinking but also the slow reveal, the surprise juxtaposition, or the return.

But David's right; when you're 19 in CC, you're a radically different person than you are even when you graduate. I would love to hear whether there is data on students who are made to take a variety of classes, and if there's a greater shift in those students in what they think they want to major in and what they end up taking. My hunch is that must be true.

**EPSTEIN:** That happened to me! I ended up in a career that I'd had no idea about. But it is true; students who sample more do end up more often majoring in things they hadn't heard of when they were in high school.



“I always call reading in Lit Hum ‘a slow practice in a fast world.’ It's the practice part that's harder, the idea of something you have to do without immediate rewards.”

ing this money, therefore you need to do something we can narrativize.” And there's an alarmist industry promoting the ideas that *Range* argues against: Commit fast, commit early, commit to something that seems like a sure bet, and that is economically feasible.

**EPSTEIN:** Julie hits on one of the themes of the book, which is that sometimes the things you do to cause what looks like optimal outcomes in the short term undermine long-term development. It's deeply counter-intuitive. People with more career-oriented education do jump out to an income lead early on, but they become not very adaptable — and in a knowledge economy, while work changes a lot, they spend a lot less time overall in the workforce. So they might win in the short term and lose in the long run. I think that process connects directly to education. We ask people to make choices at the time of fastest personality change in their life, to make choices for a person they don't yet know.

where you have to keep learning — it's a big shift; the world we live in has changed a lot faster. And the pressure ramps up because of the expense of education. I can only speculate on the effect that social media has, but I think it infuses everything with more intensity.

**CCT:** It's another element of pressure.

**EPSTEIN:** Absolutely, plus it's highly curated and unreal. It's like the Olympics — people are only looking to see the best in the world. Most people aren't on social media looking for the norm. It's an unending ability to feel behind.

**CRAWFORD:** One thing I paid close attention to in *Range* was pop-up knowledge, like a BuzzFeed version of a research study that says you shouldn't major in X, and then it gets circulated and becomes a wise-sounding info nugget. That kind of information retrieval, recirculation and use is the



**CRAWFORD:** Another thing I love about the Core is that faculty are teaching *radically* outside their expertise. The first time I taught Lit Hum, I'd read maybe three books on the syllabus. And so what's great is, you're learning along with the students; you're not coming in with pre-conceived expertise. You have specialists in other areas teaching Lit Hum and you get that cross-pollination — you become aware in real time of the multiple different kinds of learning that can happen in this collective enterprise, where nobody is coming in as an expert in everything.

**CCT:** This is a perfect segue into fast learning versus slow learning — that was a fascinating chapter. David writes: "It's difficult to accept that the best learning road is slow." Can you both elaborate on that? Is that a sticking point for students?

**EPSTEIN:** One realization is that most students are not very good at evaluating their own learning in the moment. It's an important thing to be aware of, because it's really difficult to combat. One of the quotations from a cognitive psychologist sticks in my head: "Difficulty isn't a sign that you're not learning, but ease is." We're oriented toward measuring our own learn-

ing by how fluid it feels and how quick the progress is, which in many cases is the opposite of what we really want.

because if it's consumable it's easily assimilable to what you already know. What you really want, as David says, is struggle, is that difficulty. But if students feel like they're confused, it's difficult for them to realize it's great, because it messes with their heads.

**CCT:** How do you think the potential advantages of generalization can be imparted to performance-oriented young people?

**EPSTEIN:** I think the best thing I can do is write a book about it and hope a lot of people read it [laughs]. I've been getting invited a lot of places to talk about it. People are looking for analogies and other ways to think, so I hope some of the book's message will resonate.

**CRAWFORD:** One thing the internet does is afford access. My 14-year-old son is very interested in reading about what people did before they became the thing that is awesome now. It's not so much about narrativizing the rise of the great person, but rather narrativizing the indirection of the path, the great variety of the path. I find that when you talk to students all the time, and tell them to do something crazy or different [from the path they're on], you're also speaking to powerful winds on

**CCT:** There's a feeling of relief to hear stories about these exceptional others — to realize there are many ways to get there.

**CRAWFORD:** On that note, David, another thing I really loved about your book is how you stress the collaborative nature of becoming a person. One of the things I feel the Core is so successful at, specifically because of the mechanics of the 22-person class, is reminding people that this is not a journey you're doing on your own. It's a really important observation to keep making, that many things are collaborative. I feel like that's a real subtext in your book. Even though you may focus on recognizable names and really wonderful stories, I'm really interested in looking at the collaborators, the cultures, the co-makers and the no-named interlocutors who create the kinds of knowledges and successful enterprises that you talk about. That's something to remind young people, that we're doing all of this with each other.

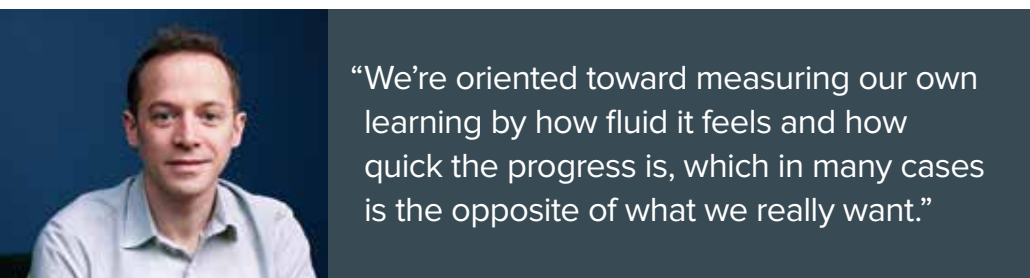
**CCT:** David, how does it feel to have another bestseller?

**EPSTEIN:** As I get older I take myself less seriously. I've realized the importance of luck. But it's amazing to see a lot of people engage with your work. And even the critiques were totally fair, and something for me to learn from — I don't know if that's me maturing or the issues were less controversial than in my first book, but that's the best thing you can ask for.

**CRAWFORD:** David, by writing this book you've actually illustrated your thesis. You've had all these experiences and did all this diligent research across realms, and what you're telling us is: This is something we need to be thinking about. You should take credit for the fact that it's coming at a time when people need that insight.

**CCT:** Really badly, actually [laughs]. It's such a strong, positive message.

**CRAWFORD:** Free research of ideas by free thinkers isn't always going to be end oriented or lead to a huge breakthrough. It's sometimes just going to be pretty marvelous.



ing by how fluid it feels and how quick the progress is, which in many cases is the opposite of what we really want.

**CRAWFORD:** What you remind me of, as I enter my 20th year of teaching, is that the actual outcomes happen years after you're out of the classroom. When students tell me something like, "That was a beautiful lecture," I think, "Hm. That's not what I was going for." Because it's not supposed to be beautiful, or quite literally consumable,

the other side, like parents or student loans. Sometimes I think it's just the crosscurrent of conversation that needs to happen.

So David, if you're coming to give that talk, you're also part of that crosscurrent — because people have read about Federer and Tiger Woods, but in your interactions with people, you're also talking about subjects and people that are more available to them and their own experience. It's those cross-fertilizations that need to happen, talking to people outside your silo.

NIA BATTS '07  
**BLOWS**  
**AWAY**  
EXPECTATIONS



BY ANNE-RYAN SIRJU JRN'09

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KAT STEVENSON







**D**etroit native Nia Batts '07 watched from New York City as the 2008 financial crisis left her hometown reeling; industry left Motown en masse, unemployment skyrocketed and Detroit's debt mounted — by 2013, it had declared bankruptcy, the largest U.S. city ever to do so.

"I think when you leave a place and you see that it's suffering when you're not there, there's a little bit of latent guilt that starts to set in," Batts muses.

Now Batts has come home to make Detroit — and its residents — shine, by taking a radically inclusive approach to beauty, entrepreneurship and philanthropy. Detroit Blows, the salon Batts started with business partner Katy Cockrel and investor Sophia Bush, was founded on the idea that beauty could (and should!) be accessible to, inclusive of and beneficial to the community.

The premise is simple: a salon at which women of all races and hair types and textures can receive services by knowledgeable technicians, and from which a percentage of profits are reinvested into the community through the

company's philanthropic arm, Detroit Grows. The salon, which opened in October 2017, quickly made national headlines, with write-ups in women's and general interest magazines (*Marie Claire* and *People*), in business magazines (*Forbes*) and on beauty websites (Refinery 29). The business partners landed on *People's* "25 Women Changing the World of 2018" list and in, 2019, Batts appeared on *Inc.'s* list of "100 Women Building America's Most Innovative and Ambitious Businesses." And as word spread about Detroit Blows, so did its influence on the community.

Batts's idea for Detroit Blows was born from her experience as a commuter to her own hometown.

At the time, Batts was based in NYC as Viacom's head of strategic partnerships and social innovation, helping nonprofits and large corporations highlight their philanthropic work. After being assigned to a Detroit-based automotive company account, she started traveling regularly to the Motor City. And that's when she noticed a problem — Batts, who is African American, couldn't find a conve-





nient salon downtown that could style her hair. “I would go to the Detroit suburbs and spend my money there,” she says, “then come back to the automotive company and talk about how we had to keep dollars in the city. The hypocrisy, after a while, wasn’t lost on me.”

Looking for solutions, she connected with her childhood friend Cockrel, who is biracial and is a communications and public relations specialist in Detroit. The pair realized that a downtown salon with stylists who could expertly handle multiple hair types would fill a sorely needed niche. Batts’s best friend, actress Bush (who is white), came on as the first investor. “We knew that we wanted to create an inclusive model because salons have traditionally been segregated spaces,” Batts says. “We wanted to go someplace where

I could get my hair done, she could get her hair done, everyone could get their hair done and we could begin to dismantle this idea that you only want to be serviced by someone who looks similar.”

The partners soon secured a location in a diverse part of downtown and, within two years of its opening, their goal had been realized: “You see women in our salon sitting next to each other who, historically, have never sat next to each other in a salon,” Bush said last October, appearing on a panel at the *Forbes* “Under 30 Summit” in Detroit. “It is creating an intersectional awareness and community that, to us, is paramount.”

Detroit Blows offers blow-outs, up-dos and curly-hair friendly styles, as well as other services like manicures and waxing, using all non-toxic products. (Batts notes she and the staff chose their products

**“IT WAS A MUCH LARGER OPPORTUNITY TO THINK ABOUT THE ROLE THAT BEAUTY CAN PLAY IN A CONVERSATION AROUND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION, AROUND IDENTITY POLITICS, AROUND CONSUMER-PACKAGED GOODS.”**

by testing on themselves: “Everybody on our leadership team had a different hair type, and so we were able to take products home, use them and then talk about how they worked.”) By funneling \$1 from every blowout and a portion of all retail sales into Detroit Grows, the founders began to put their profits back into the community.

“For us, it was a much larger opportunity to think about the role that beauty can play in a conversation around community revitalization, around identity politics, around consumer-packaged goods,” Batts says. “We’re understanding the power that we, as consumers, have to direct those dollars toward what it is that we want to see.”

Batts knew she wanted to work with established local nonprofits that had the institutional knowledge and frame-



work to help Detroit Grows have the most impact, and partner with larger companies to help maximize its reach. On the micro-grant level, Detroit Grows has donated to nonprofits such as Alternatives for Girls and Empowerment Plan to sponsor educational development programs for women. “Nia and I try to prioritize time with organizations that are impacting the community positively,” Bush told *Hour Detroit* in a February 2019 interview. “Last time I was in town, we went to visit the team at Empowerment Plan to see what they are doing with their sleeping bag coats. When we visited, we got to tour their warehouse space, learn about employee training and the sewing process, and met a group of the employees. They have such an inspiring story of helping to lift people out of homelessness, provide job and financial training, and focus on employee wellness.”

In addition to micro-grants, the team also works with for-profit businesses to offer entrepreneurship grants; Detroit Grows recently partnered with the female-founded social networking and dating site Bumble to award four women-run local businesses grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000. “Economists talk about the multiplier effect — if you invest in women and girls, that investment goes further,” says Batts. “It’s an investment in their families, it’s an investment in their communities, it’s an investment in the idea that women matter and their ideas matter and are important.”

In interviews, Batts is confident and passionate. She sees her city healing and says she’s excited to be part of “that energy and grittiness and maker culture” that has always defined Detroit. The hometown salon has also given Batts a chance to make a statement about defining beauty. She stresses that Detroit Blows wants to move “beyond the blowout” (the company motto) and redefine how “beautiful hair” is seen.

“It’s an opportunity for us to acknowledge that beauty, for us from a hair standpoint, is not just straight,” she says. “Straight hair is not just *the* beautiful hair, it’s whatever you want your hair to do that day ... We are at the moment just one small salon in Detroit, but we’ve been able to become a part of a national discourse.”

## A Filmmaker's First

Master of suspense Brian De Palma '62 is back with an entirely new project

Celebrated movie director **Brian De Palma '62** has always been known — like his idol Alfred Hitchcock — as a master of the unexpected. Again and again, in movies from *Scarface* to *Mission: Impossible*, a scene will grab us in suspense, as tightly as the bloody hand reaching up from the grave in *Carrie's* final moments. So it shouldn't be any surprise that, at almost 80, De Palma has one more plot twist in store for us: his first published novel.

*Are Snakes Necessary?* (Hard Case Crime, \$22.99) — co-written with his partner, Susan Lehman, a former *New York Times* editor — is set in the murky moral terrain familiar to his film's fans. It's a pulp noir political thriller, a genre that De Palma clearly loves. He tells *CCT* that both “the brutal directness of the prose” and “the characters — sexy, duplicitous women, morally flawed men” — appeal to him. Along with the auteur's trademark gotchas, De Palma and

Lehman provide references to Hitchcock and others in the cinematic pantheon. (Its quirky title is a film-nerd in-joke, name-checking a book glimpsed in Henry Fonda's hands in Preston Sturges's classic screwball comedy, *The Lady Eve*.)

De Palma's gritty thriller was a perfect fit for its noir publishing imprint, co-founded in 2004 by Charles Ar dai '91. Ar dai

I had the opportunity to meet, and in some cases study under, some truly towering figures — Grace Paley, Philip Roth, Allen Ginsberg '48, Mary Gordon. In some ways I like to think of getting to work with Brian now as an extension of that exceptional Columbia experience.”

It was in fact at the College that De Palma, a surgeon's son from Pennsylvania, discovered his lifelong métier. When he arrived in the late '50s, the teenage science fair whiz was studying to become an engineer. But the radical winds blowing through Morningside Heights in those years had a bracing effect. French New Wave cinema was all the rage, and De Palma became entranced by Jean-Luc Godard, the Maysles Brothers and the classics of John Ford and Howard Hawks. “He hocked all his scientific equipment for a Bolex movie camera,” *People* magazine once noted.

Although much of his filmmaking education took place off-campus, De Palma was able to learn key storytelling basics from professors such as Robert Brustein GSAS'57 (later head of Yale Drama School). De Palma remembers reading Ibsen's plays in Brustein's class; he says he still thinks of lines like those from the emotional finale of *The Master Builder*. “It was my initial introduction to masterful dramatic writing,” he says. “Lessons learned in that class live in my writing today.”

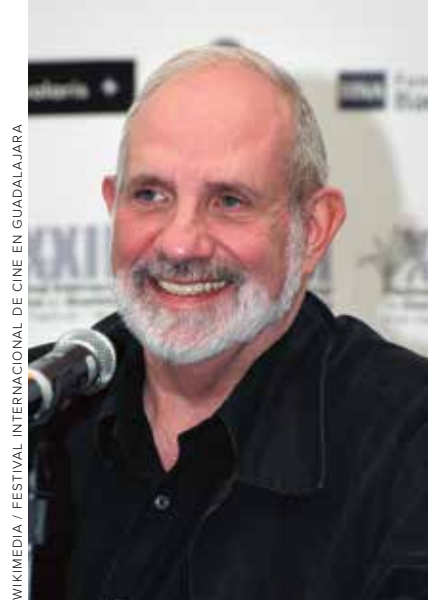
As his cinematic skills developed, De Palma progressed from making avant-garde short films (like *Woton's Wake*, with William Finley Jr. '63) to counterculture satires (*Greetings; Hi, Mom!*) and documentaries for hire. “I was a very good cameraman,” he remarks with superb understatement in a 2015 documentary, *De Palma*. He ended up at Warner Bros. in Hollywood, where he became part of a cohort of up-and-coming early '70s filmmakers, alongside Francis Ford Coppola, Martin Scorsese, George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. The young direc-



COURTESY HARD CASE CRIME

De Palma with his co-author, Susan Lehman.

was excited to publish the director's work, and was impressed by De Palma's “sharp, ruthless look” at current politics. “This is not just a great crime story,” he says. An added bonus was Ar dai's “delighted” discovery that De Palma was also a College grad. “When I was a student,



WIKIMEDIA / FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE CINE EN GUADALAJARA



tors helped each other succeed, passing scripts back and forth and working together on casting. According to Scorsese, De Palma “took him under his wing” when he went to Los Angeles, introduced him to Robert De Niro and even gave him the script for *Taxi Driver*. “He is a warm, passionate, compassionate person who, I think, puts on a tough front,” Scorsese told *People*.

What set De Palma apart was his focus on horror and his “operatic and balletic” camerawork — “simultaneously

---

## MEET THE MASTER

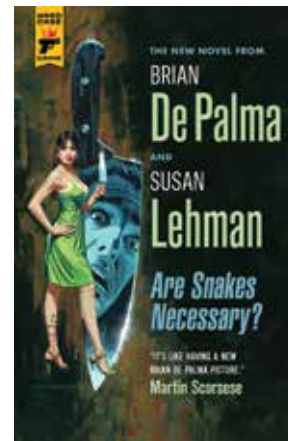
Join CCT on Thursday, March 26, to hear Brian De Palma '62 discuss his new book and his career with film professor Annette Insdorf. Register at [college.columbia.edu/events/event/evening-brian-de-palma-62](https://college.columbia.edu/events/event/evening-brian-de-palma-62).

voluptuous and incisive,” as critic Michael Sragow wrote in *Film Comment* in 2016. The name “De Palma” on a film conveyed a sense of menace to viewers, but it also signaled the presence of an artist’s vision. As De Palma’s directing choices evolved, cannily

alternating between large-scale studio assignments (*The Fury*, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*) and more indie “passion projects” (*Home Movies*, *Raising Cain*), the indelible films that movie buffs know — among them *The Untouchables*, *Dressed to Kill*, *Blow Out* and *Carlito’s Way* — got made. De Palma, as one cinematographer has said, is simply “one of the greatest visual filmmakers around.”

With its visual scene setting and crime-ridden twists and turns, the novel benefits from De Palma’s cinematic sensibility. Writers like Bret Easton Ellis admire its pacing and style (“a fast-moving page-turner”). But let’s leave the last word to De Palma’s old friend Scorsese. Of this novel, he says, “You have the same individual voice, the same dark humor and bitter satire, the same overwhelming emotional force. It’s like having a new Brian De Palma picture.”

— Rose Kernochan BC’82



## Chapter 34

Anging is not an entirely pleasant affair. One day Connie was the beautiful Bryn Mawr graduate. The whole world was open in new ways. Doctor, lawyer, Indian chief. Connie had choices her mother never did. Bryn Mawr pushed hard for certain career choices. Connie’s roommates were both going to medical school.

But medicine was not a viable option: Connie didn’t give a hoot about radiology or endoskeletal whatevers. Numbers weren’t Connie’s strength, so banking made no sense. Anyway, her father had money, so work wasn’t an issue.

Frankly all Connie really wanted was to get married. She could raise children — and maybe horses — and read great books and have a garden and make wonderful meals and plan nice vacations.

And oh, she’d love her husband, ambitious, fierce-minded, fair, strong, successful. She’d care for a fabulous house, assemble it in good taste, and have nice parties and interesting friends (from good families). Connie couldn’t tell anyone any of this. It would be too embarrassing.

That pretty much left law school as the sole viable option.

Columbia was a bit of a shock when she first arrived. But Connie stuck to her dorm, outlined her cases and generally applied herself. She met Lee in her second year and paid far less attention to torts and contracts after she did.

“Bring your lunch and meet me by the river. The 114th Street entrance. At Riverside Drive. You’ll recognize me. I’ll be looking for you.” That’s what the note in Connie’s book bag said. She found it there one morning after criminal law class ended. Connie remembers the note vividly, each syllable.

Professor Simon had called on the handsome dark-haired man next to her. “Mr. Rogers, can you tell us please, what is the issue in *Brady v. Maryland*?”

Mr. Rogers had exactly no idea. “Professor Simon,” he said, “I have exactly no idea what the issue is in *Brady v. Maryland*.”

No one had had the guts to say anything like that before. The class cheered. Lee Rogers came as close as a person could come to taking a bow without actually moving.

Unimpressed, Professor Simon called on Connie Salzman, who quite matter-of-factly delivered the perfect analysis of the Brady rule of exculpatory evidence case. Of course she knew the issue. She’d spent the weekend in her room studying, going through the cases over and over until they practically extruded through her skin.

Connie brought her lunch (a frisée salad) to the river with some trepidation. Who was this smooth-talking Lee Rogers and why did he want to have lunch with her?

Rogers, who’d brought a hot dog for his lunch, spread mustard over the bun with his finger. He produced a blue-and-white bag with the Columbia mascot (a lion) on it.

“Roar,” he said, pulling out a bottle of sparkling pink champagne. “Matches the sunset. And your smile.”

He pulled two plastic champagne cups from the bag and started to pour.

“First things first,” he said, and took a bite of his frank. “Yum.”

Connie smiled. She was charmed.

But she couldn’t help herself. “Do you know what’s in those?”

“Whatever it is, it sure tastes good.” Lee smiled.

“Have you ever visited a hot dog factory?”

Rogers’ eyes twinkled. “Was that on the college tour? I didn’t pay much attention after Butler Library.”

Connie loved it that he was playful. She giggled — something about him brought out the coquette in her.

“They mix pork trimmings with pink slurry. That’s what you get when you squeeze chicken carcasses through metal graders and blast them with water.”

Admittedly, Connie’s idea of coquettishness was a little odd. She hadn’t had much practice. But Rogers was not put off. “How about the bun?” he said.

Connie liked the way he teased. “This is before the bun! Listen. They mix the mush with powdered gunk — preservatives, flavorings, red coloring all drenched in water and then squeeze it through the pink plastic tubes where they cook and package them.”

“Now the bun?”

For the life of her, Connie couldn’t figure out why she was talking about hot dogs. Something about Rogers made her nervous. The talk was like a tic. But he was having fun. And she couldn’t help but enjoy herself.

“Right. Now the bun. I don’t think you’re taking this very seriously.”

“I’m very serious about my hot dogs. Also I’m serious about you, Miss *Brady v. Maryland*. You look very delicious yourself.”

He said this straight out of the blue. Connie blushed.

“Hey! There’s some pink slurry flushing across your face.”

Connie blushed more. And giggled. What was it about this guy?

Rogers lifted his glass. “To exculpatory evidence.” They took a quick sip from their cups. Rogers moved closer. He smelled Connie’s sweet (expensive) perfume. “Mmmm. Delicious, yes! And no plastic packaging?”

Connie loved this. So much so, that to her enormous surprise, she heard herself say, “Only one way to find out.”

“And what would that be?”

Connie lightly brushed her lips against his. “Any sign of plastic packaging?” she said.

“Nope!” said Rogers. He kissed her again shyly. “What do you think? Will I survive that hot dog and all those toxins?”

“I hope so,” said Connie and she did. “Take my breath away,” she added. And he did.

A courtship began. Connie helped Rogers outline his cases and prepare for exams. He took her to jazz concerts at divey bars downtown. She got all As. He got offers from the top firms.

Rogers clinched matters when he took Connie to Paris right after graduation (she graduated third in her class; he didn’t rank) and proposed to her.

He did not want to be without this fine-looking, straight-thinking woman. He needed her. He loved her too. There was no question: Connie would be the perfect wife.

Connie was over the moon.

You probably want to know what the sex was like then. I’m sorry, Connie Salzman was not the type of girl who talked about things like that. She liked Lee Rogers. A lot. Let’s leave it at that. He made her laugh. She did things with him she couldn’t imagine.

They were married six months later. Lee had a job at a big Philadelphia firm. Connie had a job at a bigger Philadelphia firm. The job was not interesting. Even slightly.

Connie did not have to worry much about any of this for long. Two months after she started work, she discovered to her delight — true, actual and complete delight — that she was pregnant. The trouble with Lee might have started around this time.

Connie was dizzy with happiness about the pregnancy and might have lost track. Dinner might have slipped; Connie absolutely did not plan the spring trip to the Alps that year. That she remembers. Lee went instead with a bachelor friend from his firm.

Connie would never have found out about the stewardess he met on the flight. She wasn’t a suspicious spouse or anything like that. But she phoned



Lee in the Alps — the connection was bad and she thought she'd misheard the hotel operator; she asked for Mr. Rogers and the operator said, in thickly accented English, "I em so sorry, Ma'am. Meester and Meesus Rogers just check out now."

Connie actually said, "No. Not Mr. and Mrs. Rogers. I'm looking for Mr. Rogers. I am Mrs. Rogers!"

"I em so very sorry," said the voice on the phone. "So very sorry."

Connie was actually confused and wondering why on earth the operator was so very sorry when the awful truth dawned on her.

Lee's homecoming was not so pleasant as previous ones. Connie did not pick him up at the airport, but was instead waiting for him when he got home.

"Lee. We have to talk," she said.

Rogers had never seen such a stern look on Connie's face. Pregnancy, he thought, makes animals of all of us.

"Who were you with in the Alps? I know you weren't alone. I know you were with a woman. Lee. What. Are. You. Doing?"

Lee Rogers was on his knees so quickly Connie thought he'd had a heart attack. It took him just a few tearful moments to tell her, choking back tears, that yes, he was with a stewardess, someone he'd met on the plane.

He was scared of being a father, he said. Just scared in a way he'd never been before. "I lost my mind, Connie. I was so afraid. I wanted to be a man for you, a strong man who wasn't afraid, and I wanted to be a strong father for our baby, and Connie, Connie," he choked back more tears, "can you forgive me? Ever? Oh god, Connie! Please help me to be worthy of you — your love, our baby."

This could've been the end of all that Connie had ever dreamt. She wasn't going to let it slip quickly out of hand.

Determined to save herself, her baby, and the family she dreamt of, Connie got in the car and drove to Bucks County, to the small country house her father had given her and Lee for a wedding present.

Connie had planted a little garden there and it was there that she would find the peace she needed to survive this glitch on the long road she knew would lead to a happy ending for her, for Lee, and for their unborn child.

It was high spring. Connie knew just what she'd do. She'd plant a cherry tree like the ones that had just blossomed in the capital. Sweet, pink and fragrant, the trees represented all of nature's promise.

Trees with sour fruit last longer — up to two hundred years. As a statement about her conviction and the promise of this pregnancy, Connie chose one of these.

She loaded the sapling into her car, ferried it to Bucks County and planted it before she even went inside the house.

Twenty years later, worried about herself and her odd behavior, Connie drives the familiar road to Hillside Lane. There, in front of the house, the first thing she sees is the cherry tree she planted all those years ago.

Now fully mature, it blossoms magnificently over the drive. For Connie the tree is a horrible sight. Each bright pink bloom is a reminder of that time, of what happened with the stewardess.

What happened happened — a long time ago. And then it was over. Lee said it was.

And it was.

And it was awful and unspeakable to have accused him again, to have impugned his integrity with her crass inquiry about the video girl.

It was weak to have questioned him. Rogers made a promise all those years ago: if Connie could forgive him — and she could, she did — never again would he violate their vows or give her cause to worry, ever. A simple exchange: absolution for fidelity, forever.

And she had sunk to questioning his veracity, his honesty. She had violated their trust.

---

*Rogers produced a blue-and-white bag with the Columbia mascot (a lion) on it. "Roar," he said, pulling out a bottle of sparkling pink champagne. "Matches the sunset. And your smile."*

---

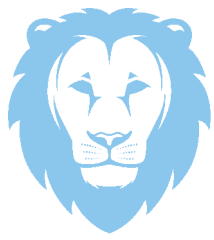
She goes to the shed. On a neat pegboard hang all the tools you'd need to build a new world — hammers, drills, saws. Connie surveys the tools and, at last, sees the hatchet she is looking for.

She picks it up. Weaving just a little, she carries the hatchet to the front of the house and plants her size 5 feet onto the earth and then she takes a wild swing — not one, in fact, but six — and she does not stop then but continues to hack, chop chop chop, at the twenty-year-old tree that bears with its fruit the bitter memory of Lee's twenty-year-old sin.

The tree falls. The crash is loud. Connie is satisfied. Gone is the tree that memorializes Lee's one and only transgression. She will not question him again.

---

From the book *Are Snakes Necessary?* by Brian De Palma and Susan Lehman. Copyright © 2016, 2020 by DeBart Productions, Inc.



# alumni news



## Contents

## SPRING INTO ACTION

The spring semester is well underway, and students are gearing up for midterms. What better way to mix school with fun than studying with classmates in the sun? The lawns are the perfect place to read, relax and enjoy the outdoors!

LEON WU '18

### 39 CCAA Message

### 40 Lions

Monique W. Morris '94, GSAPP'96; Kasia Nikhamina '07; Richard Maimon '85; Isaiah D. Deleamar '93

### 44 Bookshelf

*Shakespeare in a Divided America: What His Plays Tell Us About Our Past and Future*, by James Shapiro '77

### 46 Class Notes

Just Married!

### 86 Obituaries

Michael I. Sovern '53, LAW'55

### 88 Core Corner

Core cartoon caption contest!



# Appreciating the Gospel of the Core

By Michael Behringer '89

As we continue to celebrate the Core Curriculum's Centennial this academic year, I'm enjoying hearing Core Stories from fellow alumni. It never ceases to amaze me how the Core not only was a defining moment of our undergraduate education, but also remains relevant in the lives of so many of us.

My most memorable Core experience was studying the Bible. That might seem like a surprising choice in the context of my 12 years of Catholic school education, including time as an altar boy. I read the Bible every day in class and of course on Sundays, from the judgment of Adam and Eve in Genesis to the final judgment of mankind in the Book of Revelation. It was a text I felt I knew well when I began Lit Hum.

When it came time to talk about the assigned readings in class, I was confident I had it well covered. I was sure I would stand out, dazzling my professor and classmates with my deep knowledge and insight.

Yet there we were — a group of 20 or so students: Jews, Christians, Muslims, atheists and agnostics, all approaching this with different perspectives, beliefs and backgrounds. A sacred text to some. A collection of stories to others. A source of inspiration and comfort. A source of division and discord.

Suddenly, the Bible was entirely new to me.

We discussed. We debated. We argued. Yet, the conversations were respectful, the tone polite. It didn't matter that we didn't agree on ideas; we did agree on engaging in a civil discourse.

That's when one of the most essential aspects of the Core resonated with me. It presents a grand opportunity to take a text, a philosophy or a belief that is so intimate to oneself and to see it through the eyes of another. And in so doing, see it again for the first time.

Columbia College gave me a great gift in the form of the Core, and it's a gift that I've treasured throughout my life. Its values are ones I talk about often with our children, as my wife and I try to teach them that no one has a monopoly on ideas or truth, and that what we think we know might not always be right.

Regrettably, public discourse today seems dominated by partisan rancor. We seem to be very good at speaking forcefully, but we are less good at listening. The reports from many other campuses are not much better; we hear of student bodies that shut down free debate rather than embrace a vivid exchange of ideas.

The Core seems to be needed now more than ever.

Our Core Curriculum is wonderfully unique in higher education. No other college has the same commitment to having the entire student body study the same enduring texts, music and art, in a small seminar setting that is guaranteed for every student.

I am delighted that the College continues to distinguish itself this way, and that its education sets students up for a lifetime of mean-



WIKIMEDIA

ingful engagement with the world. That's why it's so important that we ensure that the Core is not only available for future generations, but also that it continues to adapt and thrive in the years to come.

*The Story of Adam and Eve by the Boucicaut master, circa 1414.*

Producing the Core requires an exceptional commitment of resources, and its scale grows each year. This type of experience is only possible through alumni support, and the College needs our continued investment to strengthen the Core for future students. Please join me in making a gift in April to the "1919 Challenge" ([college.columbia.edu/alumni/columbia-college-fund](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/columbia-college-fund)) in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Core. If 1,919 donors make a gift in April, an anonymous donor will make a \$100,000 gift to the Columbia College Fund.

You can also participate in the College's day-long Core Centennial Century Celebration on campus on Saturday, April 4. And make sure to join the #corestories memory project by sharing your Core experience on [core100.columbia.edu/community](http://core100.columbia.edu/community); more than 400 stories have already been contributed!

**ROAR!**

*Michael Behringer*





SANCHA MCBURNIE

## Making Schools Safe for Girls of Color

By Rebecca Beyer

**M**onique W. Morris '94, GSAPP'96 was answering questions from the audience after a screening of her new film, *PUSHOUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*, when one of the young women featured in the documentary — a survivor of commercial sex trafficking — took the microphone and started to field queries herself.

"It was great," Morris recalls. "Part of what we wanted to do with this film is demonstrate that there is an incredible resilience in these girls. With the right kind of intervention and guidance, they can come back and be community leaders. That's exactly what she's done." By providing such assistance, Morris, an expert in how Black girls are affected by racial and gender disparities in the education system, has empowered her research subjects to become experts themselves.

*PUSHOUT* is Morris's first film, based in part on research and first-person interviews she conducted for her 2018 book of the same name. Morris learned that Black girls in high school are six times more likely than white girls to be suspended and two times more likely to receive corporal punishment in states that still allow

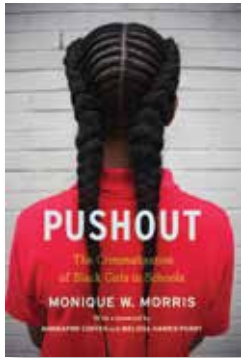
it. They are also three times more likely to receive one or more in-school suspensions, four times more likely to be arrested, three times more likely to be restrained and three times more likely to be referred to law enforcement.

"There are different ways of doing this," says Morris, co-founder and president of the National Black Women's Justice Institute. "We don't have to treat our young people this way."

What makes Morris's work unique is that she doesn't just point out a problem — she also offers solutions. Her approach has led to powerful partnerships; in September, Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.), who, as a Boston city councilor worked with Morris on previous research in that city's schools, hosted the premiere of *PUSHOUT* at the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference. And in December, Pressley and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) introduced federal legislation based on Morris's research. Named for the film, the Ending Punitive, Unfair, School-

Morris at the October 10 screening of *PUSHOUT*, hosted by the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality.

based Harm that is Overt and Unresponsive to Trauma (PUSH-OUT) Act would establish \$2.5 billion in grants to support states that commit to banning discriminatory practices, invest \$2.5 billion to shore up the civil rights work of the U.S. Department of Education and create an inter-agency task force to eliminate the disparate impacts of school disciplinary policies on girls of color.



Morris's other recent work includes a 2019 book, *Sing a Rhythm, Dance a Blues: Education for the Liberation of Black and Brown Girls*, which highlights educators and administrators who are successfully exploring non-punitive responses with girls of color. Taken together, the books, film and legislation "are really about, how do we begin to shift a public narrative so we recognize that hurt people hurt

people?" Morris says. "We need to facilitate healing as opposed to deepening harm through punishment. Young people who are acting out in school are acting out because there's been a deep disruption in their lives."

Even when teachers and school officials recognize that reality, there is a tendency to point fingers — at poverty, at parents, at historical oppression, Morris says. But that's too passive, she argues. "We've got to move past the blame game," she says. "We have a responsibility to try to make things better right now."

Morris says she first recognized that responsibility when she was a student at the Architecture School working on her thesis about

the impact of residential juvenile correctional facilities on black community development. Some of the girls she met were survivors of sexual assault, as Morris herself is.

"I realized that many of the girls dealt with conditions similar to my own life," she says. "The critical difference was education. I didn't have to fight anymore because I could write."

The San Francisco native also recalls deep conversations about historical narratives with the DeWitt Clinton Professor Emeritus of History Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69. She credits them as formative to her experience as one of the founding student staff members of the Institute for Research in African American Studies, which was created in 1993 by Professor Manning Marable.

"I will always be grateful for his guidance and mentorship," she says of Marable, who died in 2011.

Morris calls efforts to raise awareness about black girls' treatment in schools "freedom work." If education is an antidote for criminalization and incarceration, then "our efforts should be to keep girls in school, not to find ways to take them out of it," Morris says. "This is fundamentally about facilitating freedom."

**Rebecca Beyer** is a freelance editor and writer who lives in Boston.

## More from Morris

Monique W. Morris '94, GSAPP'96 will be the keynote speaker at Columbia College Women's 2020 Signature Event, Thursday, April 2, at Casa Italiana. *PUSHOUT* will be screened, followed by a discussion led by Mignon R. Moore '92, chair of the sociology department at Barnard. Sign up online: [ccwsignatureevent2020.eventbrite.com](https://ccwsignatureevent2020.eventbrite.com). You also can read an excerpt from *PUSHOUT* at [college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct).

## Kasia Nikhamina '07 Keeps Brooklyn Rolling

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

**B**iking in New York City can seem daunting: Traffic, weather, pedestrians and road conditions conspire to make for a sometimes-harrowing ordeal. But for **Kasia Nikhamina '07**, co-owner (with her husband, Ilya Nikhamin) of Brooklyn's Redbeard Bikes, it's all about freedom — once you have the perfect bike, you'll forget the rest.

Situated on DUMBO's busy Jay Street, the brightly lit shop is a cyclist's paradise. Bikes hang from floor to ceiling along exposed brick walls, while the wooden floors house neat rows of bikes; accessories like seats and helmets are dotted throughout the store. Says Nikhamina, "We're going for a down-to-Earth, welcoming place. There are a lot of people who feel excluded from cycling, and we want to be a place where you can walk in and feel comfortable no matter your knowledge or background."

Redbeard is rare in that it specializes in both custom bike builds, made by Ilya, as well as off-the-rack sales and bike repairs for more casual riders. While Ilya focuses on builds and fixes, Nikhamina focuses on the day-to-day operations — "I keep the place running," she says with a laugh. Opened in November 2012 by Ilya, demand quickly outpaced the one-person operation and

within the first year, Nikhamina had left her finance job to jump into the small business world. "The growth is funny; it's hard to reflect on it," says Nikhamina. "So much has happened — people just kept coming, and DUMBO definitely has exploded. There's so much demand."

Early on, Nikhamina and her husband started offering community-focused activities like neighborhood rides (which are now led by "Redbeard ambassadors" and run every Saturday and Sunday, March–October) to build out the biking community in the neighborhood. By the end of 2013, Redbeard had expanded into its current, larger space from a smaller shop down the street.

Nikhamina first became interested in cycling in high school, when Ilya bought her her first bike (the couple met as classmates at Stuyvesant H.S.). "New York wasn't very bike friendly at the time," she says. "My parents were worried about my safety, but it was a way of asserting my independence. Having a bike I thought, 'Now I'm free. I don't have to rely on anyone to drive me anywhere.'"

Outside of the bike shop, Nikhamina, who majored in literature, is wrapping up work on her first book, a memoir, in her spare time; her experiences at Redbeard feature heavily in the work. She's



thrilled about the city's growing support of cyclist culture and credits Citi Bike, as well as the improved infrastructure around bike lanes, as part of a change that has led to an explosion of biking enthusiasm in New York during the seven-plus years Redbeard has been open.

That explosion hasn't come without difficulties, though, as the realities of running a growing business mean that the husband-and-wife team need to always be on hand at the store, and staffing needs often outpace the supply of workers. "There aren't as many people working with their hands, and definitely not with bicycles," Nikhamina says. "It's getting safer, easier and more commonplace to ride — but who's going to serve all those people?"

Biking in New York City is clearly here to stay, and Nikhamina is a big part of that culture shift. "In the city, we live in such close quarters, and we don't have a lot of chances to feel free," she says. "We're always corralled somewhere; we're in a line to get coffee, we're crowded in the subway. When you get a bike, yeah, there's traffic, but you have control. You connect with your animal self, you reconnect with your inner child."



SAM POLGER

Husband-and-wife team Kasia Nikhamina '07 and Ilya Nikhamin in front of their DUMBO store, Redbeard Bikes.

## Richard Maimon '85 Practices Design Diplomacy

By Rebecca Beyer



ANDREW MAIMON

Architect Richard Maimon '85 at Dilworth Park in Philadelphia, one of the many large-scale projects he has worked on with his firm.

**R**ichard Maimon '85 was 14 in 1977, the year Dilworth Plaza opened across from Philadelphia's City Hall after nearly 10 years of construction. Because he passed through the transit hub frequently on his way to Center City to run errands with his family, he was excited to see the final product.

But he was disappointed; the plaza was not very welcoming, consisting of endless granite. "I thought, 'Is that all there is?'" he recalls. "It suffered from a design that was very much defensive. The public was presented with walls and barriers and steps."

Maimon was not alone and, decades later, when stakeholders got together to transform the eyesore, he was in a position to help. A partner at Philadelphia-based architectural firm KieranTimberlake, Maimon was part of the team behind the plaza's renovation. The new Dilworth Park includes two 20-ft. glass pavilions that serve as entrances to the underground train station, a large lawn and a fountain fed with purified rainwater that becomes an ice-skating rink in the winter. Since the new four-acre space opened in 2014, Maimon says he's visited every chance he gets.

"My kids roll their eyes," he says. "But they're teenagers."

Maimon says Dilworth Park is one of the great things he's worked on during his career at KieranTimberlake, which he joined full time in 1989. But there are many others. He is also heading up his firm's work on 181 Mercer, NYU's multi-purpose building for athletics facilities, performing arts venues, academic classrooms, and student and faculty residences; more recently he helped complete a master plan for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

One of his biggest projects — the new U.S. embassy in London — got some unexpected publicity when President Trump refused to attend a ribbon cutting in 2018, calling the building a "bad deal"



(the approximately \$1 billion project was funded entirely by proceeds from the sale of other U.S. government properties). The final design — a transparent crystalline cube — includes grey water recycling, a pond that filters and stores stormwater, and interior gardens modeled after U.S. ecosystems. Maimon says a major challenge was figuring out how to convey democratic values such as openness and transparency while providing maximum security.

“Through a set of carefully considered design moves, you can achieve multiple goals that originally might have seemed to be contradictory,” he says. “And that’s what we did.”

Maimon knew he wanted to be an architect even as a child; he loved “great spaces” like Philadelphia’s Wanamaker’s department store building. But he credits his liberal arts education at the College with preparing him for the parts of his profession that require negotiation and persuasion.

“You learn to be critical and thoughtful and rigorous, to understand other people’s points of view,” he says. “Architecture is as much about verbal communication as it is about the visual and technical side of making buildings. Everyone needs to feel like they’re being heard, and you need to respond to them.”

One lesson stands out: In 1984, when Maimon pinned a design he had drawn on transparent paper across two tack boards, Professor Robert A.M. Stern ’60 called out the aesthetic misstep, asking Maimon if he wanted to be remembered “for a crack running down the middle” of his drawing.

“While my first response was laughter, I quickly realized the lesson,” Maimon says. “How you present your work is as important as the content.”

---

**Rebecca Beyer** is a freelance editor and writer who lives in Boston.

## Isaiah D. Delemar '93 Preserves the Past for the Future

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

**W**hen **Isaiah D. Delemar '93** was young, he noticed a trend while watching Sunday news programs: Many of the world’s movers and shakers had law degrees. Now an Attorney-Advisor for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Delemar has become one of those influential people — in 2018, he was the team leader and lead lawyer on multiple projects that preserved significant sites in

American history, most notably Camp Nelson National Monument, in Jessamine County, Kentucky, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birth and life homes, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Camp Nelson was a Union Army depot during the Civil War. A recruiting ground for new soldiers and escaped slaves, as well as a refugee camp for escaped women and children, it became one of the largest Union training centers for African-American soldiers. “Camp Nelson is unique,” says Delemar, “because it is an under-told story of freed men fighting for the freedom of slaves and their families.” Its designation also

marked President Trump’s first use of the Antiquities Act (a power that gives the President the authority to declare national monuments by public proclamation).

Delemar’s second big win for 2018 was facilitating the National Park Service’s acquisition of the Atlanta home where Dr. King

was born and lived for the first 12 years of his life; previously owned by The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (The King Center), it is now guaranteed perpetual federal protection and resources. As part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, the home features free daily guided tours led by National Park Service rangers and is a popular park attraction.

“Putting these three properties in federal hands ensures they will be preserved for the current generation and future generations,” Delemar says.

While at the College, Delemar was active in the Charles Hamilton Houston Pre-Law Society and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, serving as VP of both — he points out that Charles Hamilton Houston (the first African-American to graduate from Harvard Law School), billionaire philanthropist Robert F. Smith BUS'94 (whose donation to the National Park Foundation facilitated the acquisition of King’s birth and life homes) and King were members of Alpha Phi Alpha as well. After graduation, the native New Yorker headed south to law school at UNC-Chapel Hill and later joined the U.S. Department of the Interior. “Really, no day looks exactly alike,” he says of his work. “You have high-profile matters like these, which have many stakeholders, including the White House. But the average day could be dealing with clients, reviewing contracts, or opining on real estate issues or resolving boundary disputes. Each day is a potpourri.”

Delemar sees the law as a tool for social progress, and these recent acquisitions exemplify that work, as the new designations will promote awareness and drive visitors to these sites of important African-American history. “The National Parks are a treasure,” he says. “The ability to preserve cultural and natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people and for future generations is an awesome, awesome mission.”



# bookshelf

## Bridging Differences Through the Bard

By Jill C. Shomer

In the current American moment, it is hard to say we are “united states.” While writers, historians and pundits offer opinions on how we might bridge our cultural and political differences, **James Shapiro**’77 suggests we look to the Bard.

In *Shakespeare in a Divided America: What His Plays Tell Us About Our Past and Future* (Penguin Press, \$27), Shapiro, the Larry Miller Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the College and a renowned Shakespeare scholar, looks at the ways in which people reveal themselves through interactions with Shakespeare’s work. Shapiro writes, “his plays are rare common ground.”

We all study Shakespeare at some point; the majority of American junior high and high schools expose students to *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*. Shapiro believes that Shakespeare’s work can help make sense of controversial issues in our nation’s history. “It’s frightening how much darkness, how much prejudice, how much resentment has inadvertently been revealed through America’s engagement with Shakespeare,” he says.

The book draws cultural through lines to landmark Shakespeare productions, films and musicals that have featured hot-button topics such as immigration (*The Tempest*), interracial marriage (*Othello*), class warfare (*Macbeth*), domestic violence (*The Taming of the Shrew*), same-sex marriage (*As You Like It*), adultery (*Hamlet*), gender identity (*Twelfth Night*) and, in numerous instances, the Other.

“One of the things I’ve explored in Shakespeare’s comedies is how many of them end with exclusion,” he says. “Shylock is left out at the end of *The Merchant of Venice*, Malvolio is left out at the end of *Twelfth Night*. Characters create community by whom they leave out, ostracize, stigmatize. The comedies become a historical road map of whom we are now leaving out and stigmatizing. They become a way of revealing things that are not so great about this great country.”

Astonishingly, Shapiro never took a Shakespeare course as an undergraduate. Instead he would go to London every summer (after quitting a different temp job every August 1) and glut himself on Shakespearean theater. “I’d see 25 plays

in 25 days,” he says. “At that age, you’re really open to powerful art, and it was like a drug — I loved it. I was interested in how Shakespeare’s work came to life onstage and spoke to the cultural moment.”

The Brooklyn native attended grad school at the University of Chicago, then joined the Columbia faculty in 1985. “I learn a lot

from teaching,” Shapiro says. “It’s important to hear what young people have to say because there’s a break between one generation and the next that’s quite sharp right now. The classroom is one of the few places where you can bridge that divide, or at least try to hear and see a little bit more clearly how generational interests diverge.

“I need to mix it up with students, I need to push and be pushed back,” he continues. “It’s a very New York style.”

In the late aughts, Shapiro realized that after decades of Shakespeare scholarship he knew very little about American history. In an effort to connect the dots, he started teaching undergraduate and graduate seminars on the American response to Shakespeare, and wrote a 2012 anthology for the Library of America.

*Shakespeare in a Divided America*’s narrative culminated for Shapiro after the 2016 election and a controversial theater production the following summer. The Public Theater staged *Julius Caesar* at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park and director Oskar Eustis chose to portray Caesar as a modern-day Trump lookalike. Shapiro, the Shakespeare scholar-in-residence at The Public, was at nearly every performance and witnessed protesters attempting to attack the actors and disrupt the show. His book opens and closes with discussions of what the production meant for free speech and artistic freedom. “Everything that I’ve been trained to do and have lived through has led to this,” he says.

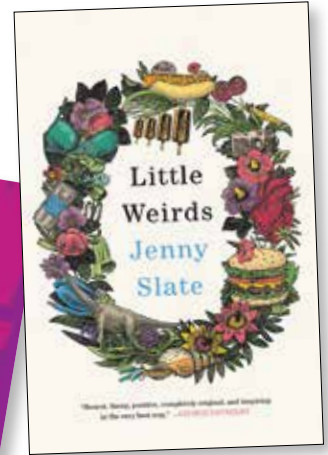
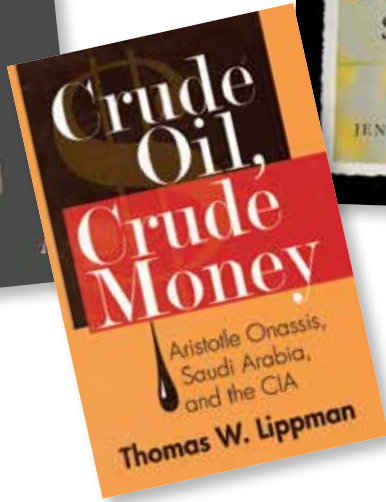
“The danger of being a professor is getting stuck in time; you always have to be open to what’s happening at a particular moment,” he says. “[Writing this book] forced me to confront things that are harder to define, like racism and discrimination — who admits to being racist, or to being against someone with a different sexual orientation or gender? This book allowed me to get behind that wall. You’d be amazed what people will admit to through Shakespeare that they will not admit otherwise.”

Becoming a professor was an easy career choice for Shapiro. Both his parents were public school teachers, brother Michael teaches in the Journalism School, sister Jill BC’80, GSAS’95 is a senior lecturer in ecology, evolution and environmental biology at the College and wife Mary Cregan GSAS’95 teaches in the English department at Barnard. Son Luke DeCourcay Cregan ’19 was awarded a 2019 Euretta J. Kellett Fellowship and is studying at Oxford; Shapiro hopes he will follow in the family’s faculty footsteps.

Shapiro says that for him, a nice thing about Shakespeare is that it straddles work and play. In addition to teaching, he’s currently contributing to several theatrical productions and will soon embark on a book tour. “It’s all-consuming,” he says. “There are really not enough hours in the Shakespeare day!”



MARY CREGAN GSAS'95



**Learning from Franz L. Neumann: Law, Theory, and the Brute Facts of Political Life** by David Kettler '51 and Thomas Wheatland. The first English-language, full-length study of Neumann, a highly regarded Columbia professor and exile scholar who played a prominent role in efforts to break down the divide between political theory and the empirical discipline of political science (Anthem Press, \$99, Kindle version).

**Renia's Diary: A Holocaust Journal** translated by Elizabeth Bellak GS'55. The widow of George M. Bellak '57 brings to life the diary of her late sister, who was murdered by the Gestapo in 1942; the book became a *New York Times* bestseller (St. Martin's Press, \$27.99).

**Cesare: A Novel of War-Torn Berlin** by Jerome Charyn '59. The latest from Charyn, an author of more than 50 works of fiction and nonfiction, is a literary thriller and love story, "born of the horrors of

a country whose culture has died, whose history has been warped, and whose soul has disappeared" (Bellevue Literary Press, \$26.99).

**Crude Oil, Crude Money: Aristotle Onassis, Saudi Arabia, and the CIA** by Thomas W. Lippman '61. Lippman, who has written about Middle Eastern affairs and American foreign policy for four decades, sheds light on a little-known story about the collision of nationalism, money, celebrity and oil (Praeger, \$37).

**The Cambridge Introduction to British Fiction, 1900–1950** by Robert L. Caserio '65. An examination of the work of more than 100 writers in a variety of genres, including detective, spy, gothic, fantasy, comic and science fiction; Caserio also brings new attention to lesser-known writers he thinks merit increased attention (Cambridge University Press, \$29.99).

**Biotech Juggernaut: Hope, Hype, and Hidden Agendas of Entrepreneurial Bioscience** by Stuart Newman '65 and Tina Stevens. The authors recount their encounters with biotechnology in scientific, legal, policy and advocacy settings, and give broad historical context to biotech and its societal implications (Routledge, \$42.95).

**Chip Rock and the Fat Old Fart: A Heartwarming Adventure** by Michael Daswick '79. The story of

a comic and poignant friendship between 23-year-old orphan Chip Rock and Deacon, a 50-something, socially outcast meat cutter (Bowker, \$28.95).

**My Creative Space: How to Design Your Home to Stimulate Ideas and Spark Innovation** by Donald M. Rattner '79. Rattner, a noted architect, shares practical techniques for shaping a home that will boost your creativity, and includes photos of interiors from around the world (Skyhorse, \$29.99).

**The Misadventures of Rabbi Kibbitz and Mrs. Chaipul** by Mark Binder '84. The fourth book in Binder's "Life in Chelm" series features stories about the importance of exercise for seniors, maintaining your identity and the joy of eating good food (Light Publications, \$29.95).

**What You Do Is Who You Are: How to Create Your Business Culture** by Ben Horowitz '88. Horowitz, a leading venture capitalist and modern management expert, explains how to make your company culture purposeful by spotlighting four historical models of leadership and connecting them to modern case studies (Harper Business, \$29.99).

**The Yellow Bird Sings: A Novel** by Jennifer Rosner '88. As WWII rages in Poland, a mother hides with her

young daughter, a musical prodigy; to soothe the girl and pass the time, the mother tells her a story about an enchanted garden (Flatiron Books, \$25.99).

**Banshee** by Rachel DeWoskin '94. DeWoskin's lead character has a full, sane life and all the trappings of middle-age happiness, but when she gets a terrifying diagnosis, a lifetime of being polite and putting others first ignites in her a surprising rage (Dottir Books, \$16.95).

**Little Weirds** by Jenny Slate '04. This collection of personal essays gives insight into the writer, actress and stand-up comedian's "strangely funny and tender, magically delicious mind" (Little, Brown and Co., \$27).

**Characters Before Copyright: The Rise and Regulation of Fan Fiction in Eighteenth-Century Germany** by Matthew Birkhold '08. The first in-depth study of the history of fan fiction — literary works written by readers who appropriate preexisting characters invented by other authors (Oxford University Press, \$70).

**Who Put This Song On?** by Morgan Parker '10. The first novel from poet Parker, about a black teenage girl searching for identity when the world around her views her depression as something to be politely ignored (Delecorate Press, \$18.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

## SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

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

[college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_bookshelf](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf)



# classnotes



LEON WU '18

The return of spring on campus is cause to celebrate — and *Alma Mater* has brought balloons for the occasion!

## 1940–49

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

From Dr. **Melvin Hershkowitz '42**: “I began as class correspondent in 2006 to replace my lifelong best friend, Dr. **Herbert Mark '42**, who died after open-heart surgery. Now, after 14 years of submitting my reports to *CCT*, I am 97, and will hope to enjoy reading *CCT* for a few more years to come. Here are my current notes, which are mostly reminiscences about our past years at Columbia.

“Meals: Breakfast at Columbia Chemists — OJ, donut, coffee. Lunch — sandwich at The West End. Dinner — New Asia Chinese Restaurant on Broadway; it served a full dinner for 85 cents.

“Great professors (many): Boris Stanfield (Russian history); Gottlieb Betz (German literature, Faust); Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920 (Shakespeare, poetry of Hardy and Yeats); Joseph Wood Krutch (drama and theater; founder of Sonora Desert Museum in Arizona); Dwight Miner CC 1926, GSAS'40 (history and modern American literature); and J. Enrique Zanetti (inorganic chemistry and a virtuoso in conducting experiments during his lectures).

“Fourteen members (maybe more?) of our Great Class of 1942

were killed in WWII. Among them were two of my good friends, Lt. **Philip Bayer '42** and Lt. **Roger Dounce '42**. Phil was a Marine hero, killed at Peleliu. He was a star halfback on our football team. Roger was an Air Force pilot in the Pacific,

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

and was shot down in combat. He was an inveterate pipe smoker, wrote critical articles for *Jester* and *The Columbia Review*, and had a great sense of humor.

“Sports: Football — when Columbia upset a great Army team 21–20 at Baker Field in 1947, I was in the Army on active duty in occupied Japan, as a captain and medical officer in the 27th Infantry Regiment. The West Point officers in the regiment were very upset at this score, but I retained their friendship for several years after my discharge from active duty. On November 20, 1982, I was at Baker Field with **Gerald Green ’42** and our friend **Ray Robinson ’41** as Columbia lost to Brown 35–21 in what was the last game played at Baker before it was demolished and replaced by our current Wien Stadium.”

From CC’47 former class correspondent **Bertram Sussman ’47**: “It’s been more than eight years since some of you attended the memorial service in New York for my wife, Shirley GSAS’46. I thank everyone who came to celebrate her and our 62 and a half years of marriage.


“I’m 96 and a half, and recently went into home hospice at an assisted living center north of

citizen program.) So, when I returned to Maui, I put our house on the market and rented a cottage in Kula, on the slope of Mount Haleakalā, from my voice teacher, Pamela Polland. Pamela had been a major behind-the-scenes player in the Los Angeles and Northern California music scenes of the ’70s and ’80s. So, I joined a roster of students that included Jackson Browne, Linda Ronstadt and Bonnie Raitt.

“Despite this flirtation with vocal stardom and my auto-romance with my new Toyota Prius, at 89, living alone was getting difficult. Then, uncannily, in fall 2012, Jan Bonaparte, Joe Bonaparte’s widow, showed up at my door. Jan convinced me to move to an assisted living facility in Kihei, on Maui’s almost-always ‘sunny side.’

“On June 1, 2013, she helped me put on a big 90th birthday party at one of Maui’s best Aloha country restaurants. People came from the mainland and from the island. I never imagined enjoying myself so much without Shirley. Yet seeing all these people travel thousands of miles to celebrate my birthday made me decide I had to return to the mainland.

“With Jan’s help, in September 2013, I moved to the Brookdale



**Core Haiku**

Now in my 90s,  
I am thankful for the Core,  
which opened my mind.

— The Very Rev. John C. Beaven ’49

Seattle in Stanwood, where my oldest grandson, Evan, and his young family live. My entire immediate family, except my son, Richard ’76, live within an hour’s drive.

“During a recent visit, Richard (and my brother, **John Weaver ’49**) urged me to send a note to *CCT*, my protests notwithstanding. (What news did I have to share?) After Shirley died, I was in a hurry to leave the Manhattan apartment we had taken up four years earlier and return to Maui, where we had retired after selling our business, RPM, in 1999. Shirley and I had made many friends on Maui. (When we turned 80, a local gym used us as models for a flyer promoting their new senior

Stanwood Assisted Living Center, where I can frequently see my great-grandkids, Josh (8) and Lily (6). And my terrific caretakers and support team have made my ‘pursuit of happiness’ all the more real.

“I hope that more of you will send your stories to *CCT*. As Walter Cronkite used to say, ‘And that’s the way it is,’ in Stanwood, Wash., on December 26, 2019.”

[Editor’s note: *CCT* is sad to report that Bertram passed away on February 20, 2020.]

From **Lawrence N. Friedland ’47**, LAW’49: “1) I am still working and I have two offices — a law office (when I complete my current continuing legal education requirement

## COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

I will be able to practice law until I am 99) and a family office; 2) I have been married to Alice Linker Friedland for 63 years; and 3) We have three children and six grandchildren. One of my granddaughters is in the College now.

“My time at Columbia provided me with an education (about the world in which we live and how we arrived here), a profession and a whole coterie of friends who became a substantial part of my family’s social life.

“**Judy and Mort Lindsey ’44** were very close friends — we vacationed together in Paris, London and elsewhere and celebrated many holidays together. When they moved to California, we socialized with them every time we went to visit our daughter in California and when they came to New York.

“**Kathy and Marshall Mascott ’48** were also very close friends, and we spent many hours together while they lived in New York, just across the street from our residence. I remember my boys and I playing touch football with Marshall and his son Chris in Central Park. When he and Kathy moved to Europe we visited them numerous times, in London, Baden-Baden and Switzerland. Whenever he and Kathy came to this country, we would also spend time with them.

“**Cyrus Bloom ’47**, **Al Burstein ’47**, **Ed Costikyan ’47**, **Ed Cramer ’47**, **Fred Freund ’48** and **Billy Kahn ’47**, and their wives, as well as many other Columbia friends, formed part of our social circle. I would like to hear from any classmates.”

## 1950

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

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

Dr. **Dudley F. Rochester** PS’55 writes: “I’ll celebrate my 92nd birthday in May, 70 years after graduating from Columbia College.

“While there I had Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932 for CC and Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920 for Humanities. In January 1948 a Pakistani man joined the class, and soon expressed criticism of CC for ignoring cultural contributions from Islamic scholars. One Friday this



student and Professor Barzun had a heated argument. On Monday, Barzun told the class that he'd thought deeply over the weekend, concluded that the student was correct and that he, Barzun, would change henceforth. Now that was a lesson!

"After graduating from P&S, I had my internship and residency in medicine at Presbyterian Hospital and a research fellowship in Dr. Andre Cournand's laboratory at Bellevue Hospital. After two years active duty in the Army, I began my academic medical career, first at Bellevue, and subsequently at Harlem Hospital. In 1976 I became head of the pulmonary medicine division at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

"I've been retired for 25 years, and spent much of that time as a volunteer for the American Lung Association and the Episcopal Church. My advice for a good retirement is 'Always have a learning curve ahead.'

"Lois Boochever BC'49 and I married in June 1950. We've lived for the last 16 years at Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge, a retirement community in Charlottesville. As our physical capacities have diminished, we no longer travel, but we remain active here at WCBR.

"We have several intellectual groups, and in the past year I've given the talks 'Health Care in the U.S.,' 'Religion & Science' and 'The Brain as Mind.' I'm scheduled to give another one in May, 'Artificial Intelligence.'

"I thank Columbia College and P&S for instilling in me a sense of intellectual curiosity that persists to this day."

*CCT* received a loving remembrance from Hindy Livia Bergovoy, widow of **Philip M. Bergovoy**. She writes of Phil, who died on February 22, 2019: "I had a charmed life with him for almost 37 years. Just as important, he had a positive and special influence on everyone who knew him: his children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, students, fellow teachers, alumni and business associates ... not least of all me. We each can, and many have, testified and eulogized about how he encouraged and empowered each of us.

"If you knew Phil, you know he loved his time at Columbia. Even as CC'50 had naturally dwindled lately, Phil and his Columbia friends continued to keep in touch, sharing their happiest Columbia memories. It was clear they appreciated the privilege they earned — the nonpareil education at Columbia College.

"To simply listen to Phil and his Columbia compatriots conversing, to have heard their calm, intelligent, respectful and loving interchanges, will forever remain a uniquely joyful and gratifying memory.

"Can you imagine how proud Phil was when our granddaughter Kiera Allen '22 chose Columbia for her tertiary education? And imagine how proud he was when he discovered she was published in the 2018/2019 edition of *The Morning-side Review*.

"Between the mid-1950s and early 1970s, Phil taught at North Shore H.S. and various other schools on Long Island. 'Coach' (as many called him) had amazing impact on countless students in those years. Later, he naturally developed a deep and loving relationship with many of his former students. First mentor, later friends.

"After Phil's death, I discovered letters written as far back as 1954 from students and parents that thank him for the positive influence he had on his students' lives.

"In short, I could say without conceit, his influence has made the world a better place."

Hindy also shared Phil's obituary from *The Wounded Lion*, Vol. XIV, Issue 1:

"This past February we lost a strong advocate for ROTC and a person of many talents. He was an entrepreneur, teacher, mentor, coach, patriot and proud Columbia grad. Phil entered Columbia College

when he was 15 years old during WWII. He wanted to fight for his country against the tyranny the world was facing so he enlisted in the Navy. When it came to light that he was under the required age to join the armed services, he received an honorable discharge.

"In 1950 he graduated from Columbia and was commissioned through the NROTC program as a Marine Corps officer and assigned to active duty. In 1952, he encountered a medical condition that cut his marine duty short and he was honorably discharged. The same year he graduated from Columbia University's Teachers College.

"In the 1960s, because of his genius in probabilities and to help support his family, Phil developed, wrote and published booklets about horse racing systems. He also taught and coached at various Long Island high schools.

"Phil retired from teaching and coaching in 1970 to devote more time to his family and his successful publishing business. He dedicated full time to entrepreneurship. Throughout the '70s [and] until his death, he successfully managed portfolios for his family and business associates.

"In September 1981, Phil's first wife, Jean Bergovoy, succumbed to cancer at the age of 46. The following year, he met his future second wife, Hindy Livia Bergovoy.

"He continued to successfully run various businesses, from nightclubs to retail food establishments. Without specific knowledge of an industry, but with the keen understanding of finance, Phil continued to succeed in these ventures, supporting up to 25 families.

"At the turn of the 21st century, Phil devoted most of his time to managing his family's portfolios. He and his wife relocated to Sarasota, Fla. His dedication to his former students and business colleagues was such that many continued and continue to express their gratitude for his inspiration and empowerment. As a board member of the Columbia Alliance for ROTC he constantly provided input and proposals for how to approach the university. Despite failing health, he made every effort to contribute his thoughts and ideas to the Alliance. He never lost his affection for the Marine Corps.

"Phil is survived by his three children, Richard Randolph Bergovoy,

Kenneth Bergovoy, and Catherine Jean Allen; his five grandchildren, Kate Anne Bergovoy, Michael Bergovoy, Kiera Allen, Sean Allen, and Connor Allen; and his wife, Hindy Bergovoy.

"He was laid to rest with a military honor guard at the Sarasota National Cemetery in Florida.

"Semper Fidelis."

**Patrick J. Barry** died on December 27, 2019; *CCT* was informed by his daughter Judith Barry BC'84.

Classmates would enjoy hearing from you. Please send your news to *CCT* by writing to either of the addresses at the top of the column.

## 1951

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

Classmates would like to hear from you! Please send your news to *CCT* by writing to either of the addresses above.

## 1952

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

Dr. **Irvin Herman**, who notes he is a "philosopher, sage and sophisticate due to CC and Humanities," writes: "The *CCT* article on the history of the Core Curriculum ["First Class," Winter 2019–20], I am sure, has resulted in a flood of comments. I must add mine. I came from a good but not very enlightened high school in a small town in the Midwest. To illustrate this point, for a book report in an English class, I somehow read Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. Must confess my innocence. I asked my elderly, spinster teacher what the Scarlet A meant. After a lot of her verbal fumbling and mumbling, I still didn't know. Can't remember when I became wise and sophisticated enough to announce, 'Aha.'

"With that sort of academic background, you can imagine my confusion in my first CC class to discover that there was a cause and effect between ideas and events.

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](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).





Left to right, David Filosa '82; Ambassador Maria Theofili, the permanent representative of Greece to the UN; Bernd Brecher '54; Arthur Delmhorst '60; and James Gerkis '80 at a Columbia University Club Foundation event on November 6.

And we were actually reading and thinking about those ideas — what they meant and how they were influenced and influenced the world, then throwing in the humanities to tie imagination and creativity into the mix. Wow!

“This leaves me with one of my favorite memories of undergraduate days ... sitting in one of those large booths at The West End, drinking beer with **Howie Hansen**, Don McLean '51 (football players, mind you), Frank Manchester '51, **Mal Schechter** and James ‘Tex’ McNallen '51 energetically discussing Plato and Aristotle.

“And to top off this marvelous intellectual growth, when I saw *The Music Man*, I knew what Professor Harold Hill meant when he sang (politically incorrectly), ‘I hope, I pray for Hector to win just one more A ... the sadder but wiser girl for me.’”

From Dr. **John Laszlo**: “When I was a medical student at Harvard in 1954 I scrubbed in on a pioneering valve operation. So when I was interviewed in preparation to receiving a new type of artificial heart valve last August, I explained to the young surgeon that I had my finger in the human heart many years before he was even born! But, unlike my early experience, when the chest was opened and the heart cut open, the new procedures are all done by inserting catheters into the groin and threading a new valve into place via an artery. Then they implanted a pacemaker directly into my heart via the femoral vein. I walked that same evening, and had no marks on my chest, but my groin looked like I had been hit by a truck. All is well and I exercise daily, but I wanted to

underscore the tremendous progress in this aspect of medicine, along with many others.

“Three short stories from Columbia, which happen to involve football players whose names I do not remember (but some of you might). Professor Gilbert Highet had a popular Humanities course that started promptly at 11 a.m. *Spectator* came out just before 11 a.m. and a student was sitting in the front row when Highet entered. He always insisted on starting class on time and was angry at seeing a newspaper in his face in the front row. So he took out his lighter and set the paper on fire; it burst into flames and shocked the reader — and the rest of the class.

“Professor Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920 had similar feelings about late starts in his philosophy class. A short, rather obese and visually impaired man, he always had it in for football players. So when one of our classmates sauntered in, Edman stopped talking until the student found a seat. Edman accused him of being a tardy, lazy football player. When told that this student was not a football player, Edman apologized and said, ‘You must think that I am a son of a bitch.’ To which he was answered, ‘Yes, that had occurred to me.’ I might not have that story exactly correct, but it is close.

“Finally, our advanced organic chemistry class was to be given a special visiting lecture by Professor Linus Pauling, a two-time Nobel Prize winner. Pauling furiously began to draw equations all over the board, giving the molecular strain between atoms. He wrote in tiny

Greek symbols to illustrate the alpha strain at this intermolecular distance, then this is the beta strain, and the writing became tiny and illegible beyond the front row. Finally, a booming voice came from the upper row of the auditorium, ‘What about the eye strain, Professor?’ It would have been a forgettable lecture but for this repartee, and the prof had no sense of humor!”

We also heard from Dr. **Arthur E. Lyons**: “The slowly thinning San Francisco contingent of the superannuated but enthusiastic Columbia grads from the '50s/'60s continues to get together at regular intervals: Dr. Bob Blau '53, Dr. Allan Jackman '53, Joel Armstrong GSAPP'65 and I enjoy a Chinese lunch every month. It costs a little more than the \$1 lunch my classmate, the now-lost Ralph Morgan, and I used to get at Wing Hing, a tiny dive now long gone from Upper Broadway, that gave us a somewhat exotic respite from the dreary cafeteria fare at the John Jay dorm. But now, as retired doctors (except for Joel), we can afford even San Francisco prices.

“Our undergraduate days at Columbia seem very remote, 60-plus years past, but our conversations are reminiscent of what we experienced then in Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920, C. Wright Mills and Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920's CC and Humanities sections. I left Columbia after three years to go to medical school under the exigency of the Korean War, missing my senior year. I have always regretted it.

“I practiced neurosurgery for 40 years, on the teaching faculty of UCSF School of Medicine. Despite the stresses, I enjoyed every minute of it. Along the way I got involved in medical politics and was president of both the San Francisco Neurological Society and the San Francisco Medical Society. I could not convince either of my sons to leave California for college. I'll have to leave it for my teenage granddaughters to elect to continue the Columbia tradition started by my father, Dr. Alfred L. Lyons CC 1924.”

A brief note from **Geoffry Brown** GSAS'53: “I have launched a website that contains 120 dramatic monologues on ‘Quintessential Americans,’ some of which I have performed around New England and are available for download: [www.geoffrybrown.net](http://www.geoffrybrown.net).”

Classmates would enjoy reading about you, too! Please send your news to *CCT* by writing to either of the addresses at the top of the column.

## 1953

**Lew Robins**  
3200 Park Ave., Apt. 9C2  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
[lewrobins@aol.com](mailto:lewrobins@aol.com)

**Michael I. Sovern** LAW'55, who was Columbia's 17th president, 1980–93, and was the Chancellor Kent Professor of Law at the Law School, died on January 20, 2020. He was 88. After graduating first in his class from the Law School, Michael soon became the youngest tenured professor (28!) in Columbia's modern history while on the Law School faculty. He later was dean of the Law School, executive VP for academic affairs and University provost before becoming Columbia's president.

Read more about Michael in this issue's “Obituaries” section.

Please take a moment to share your news, life story or favorite Columbia College memory in these pages, and have a very enjoyable spring.

## 1954

**Bernd Brecher**  
35 Parkview Ave., Apt. 4G  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
[brecherservices@aol.com](mailto:brecherservices@aol.com)

OK, destiny's darlings, welcome back, Class of Destiny — let's start with some 2020 numerology! While a few of us might be a year or so older or younger, most will mark the *big 88* during 2020, 66 years after our not-so-big 22 in '54. Contemplate that and then take these numbers to your astrologer, your bookie and your broker. And let me hear about your results.

As I began to create these quarterly Class Notes for this issue, we received a call about our granddaughter Sydney, a senior at University of Michigan (spoiler alert — she's fine) who, with four friends in a Chrysler Ram, was struck by a car in which a couple was fighting, causing her Ram to roll over several times, ending off the road upside down. All five were buckled up and even the back seats

had air bags; the Ram's roof did not collapse. Pedestrian good Samaritans helped get them out, emergency room examinations revealed no serious injuries and all five were back in their dorms. Miracle of miracles! Syd had a mild concussion; we've spoken to her several times and she appears to be in good hands with the school's medical department. Younger brother Jared is a freshman at UM, now joined for several days by our daughter-in-law, Sharon. (The pictures of the wreck are shocking; God was looking out for all of us.)

Henry Black shares, "While Moira, my wife, and I don't have much to note, the interesting stuff is the work of our three daughters, their husbands, eight grandchildren, our first great-granddaughter, four dogs and three cats. All are very kind and helpful to Moira and me; I need help living with chronic back pain and scoliosis."

Henry's oldest daughter is a poet and the development director for a nonprofit association of writers and university creative writing programs; her husband has developed programs focusing on writing skills across university departments.

Henry's middle daughter has created a business finding and seating audiences for TV shows such as *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*, and various Comedy Central shows. Her husband works with her on the computer backup for some of the shows.

"Our youngest daughter," Henry writes, "right out of college got a job with a caterer providing food around the clock to the crew and principals of TV and movie productions in NYC, where she got to know various members of the crews, but found the electrical and lighting work most fascinating ... [she] got the crew to take her on and train her. She was a hard worker and gained a good reputation. Subsequently, she worked on a number of major movies, including *The Cider House Rules* with Michael Caine. Her husband has been working steadily on movies and a TV series, now as a first assistant director."

Indeed, Henry's pride in his daughters — all three Barnard alumnae — is well documented.

Breaking news: I have just been informed that the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons's Dean's Advisory Committee on Honors &

Awards has chosen Dr. **Henry Buchwald** PS'57 to receive the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons Alumni Association's Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievements in Medical Research at its alumni gala dinner on Saturday, May 16. Henry was our class valedictorian and delivered his valedictory 2.0 at our 65th anniversary reunion last year. As professor of surgery and biomedical engineering and the Owen H. and Sarah Davidson Wangersten Chair in Experimental Surgery, Emeritus at the University of Minnesota, he just keeps going and going.

Yay, Henry!

**David Bardin** LAW'56, the class's once-and-forever advocate and lobbyist for good causes, reported just before the New Year on some extraterrestrial phenomena that helped him in his most recent successful endeavor. He writes, "In 2019, I pictured a hopeful, covenantal rainbow (see Noah's story, Genesis, chapter 9). Later, in December, I saw my first fogbow out our window overlooking Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C. (try googling 'fogbow'). And throughout 2019, I encountered fellow alumni in some very positive contexts."

During 2019, as in prior years, David submitted written testimony to Congressional appropriators and lobbied for adequate funding for the U.S. Geological Survey's geomagnetism program. He urged an increase from \$1.888 million to \$4 million per year. The new House Subcommittee chair in 2019 (Betty McCollum, D-Minn.) heard oral testimony from private citizens, including him, as well as from government officials, and the House approved \$4.114 million. The Senate then approved \$3.388 million.

David enlisted lobbying assistance from my wife, Helen, for Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), chair of the House Appropriations Committee; Joseph P. Josephson, an Alaska state leader, who reached out to Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee; and, relatives of David's wife, Livia, who are constituents of and communicated with Senate committee members Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.). Others helped reach out to Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and ranking member Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), John Neely Kennedy (R-La.), Cindy

Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.).

"The final outcome," David says with a sigh of relief, "was good news: appropriation of \$4 million." A PDF of David's basic lobbying memo is available.

On the home front, David writes, "On November 24, Livia and I came back to Brooklyn for the lovely wedding of our oldest grandchild, Benjamin Bardin '12, to Rebecca Miller at The Picnic House in Prospect Park. Other alumni at the wedding included Benjamin's parents, Jacob E. Bardin SEAS'83, SEAS'87 and Donna Waxman Bardin SW'88; his paternal grandfather (me); and his bride's paternal grandmother, Stephanie Asker (née Mattersdorf) BC'55.

"Also there were two sons of our epidemiologist **Leon 'Levi' Gordis** (1934–2015), Daniel Gordis '81 and Elie Gordis '83, LAW'86, and their wives, Elisheva and Avra. And, while in Brooklyn, I took family members to visit the sidewalk near 15 Clark St. in Brooklyn Heights where — on a sunny Sunday afternoon on December 7, 1941 — I heard, and still remember, a stranger's agitated cry that Pearl Harbor had been attacked."

At the end of October, our late classmate **Irwin Bernstein** BUS'55 was memorialized at the dedication in his name of a part of Columbia's fencing facility in Dodge Fitness Center. Steve Buchman '59, a close friend who worked with Irwin on fencing matters for several decades and who, with Irwin's widow, Liela, was a speaker at the dedication, alerted us to this occasion. Classmates, you remember: Irwin was captain of Columbia's 1954 undefeated championship team, which was also the NCAA champion. He went on to be president of the United States Fencing Association, the United States Fencing Foundation, and the Varsity C Club, and received numerous recognitions and awards. Steve, in his comments at the naming event, cited Irwin's dedication to fencing and Columbia saying that "... today is also reflected in his role in helping create the closest integration of a women's and men's athletic team as exists here at Columbia and perhaps in college sports in the United States."

**Leo Bookman**, who played baseball for Columbia and won an Ivy League batting title, in his after-college life became a talent agent and partner in an agency that

represented some superstars of the wide world of show business. His childhood closest friend — along with Tony winner Phyllis Newman — was Jerry Herman, the phenomenal composer-lyricist of *Hello, Dolly!* and other Broadway hits during its Golden Age of musicals.

Leo writes, "When I joined the William Morris Agency after college, it represented **Saul Turteltaub** LAW'57, and he and I would occasionally meet. I also represented Gerald Green '42, who wrote the book and screenplay for *The Last Angry Man* and *Holocaust* for television. One day someone told Gerald that I played baseball for Columbia, and after that he would call me every week to discuss Columbia athletics. He was a great alumnus and a wonderfully gifted writer."

Back to numerology, Jerry Herman died just before the New Year at 88; he worked for decades composing on his piano, which has 88 keys.

Agent Richard Seff writes about Stephen Sondheim's musical *Merrily We Roll Along* (in which I invested): "You could imagine his song 'Old Friend' being written about Herman, Newman and Bookman, for they were indeed three talented youngsters who discovered show business at early ages and moved to New York where they thrived."

Leo, your classmates are proud of you — take a curtain call!

**Arnie Tolkin** continues to be a moving target, his most recent report having been received over the New Year holidays. "My wife, Barbara, and I are now off the Argentine coast cruising to the Falkland (Malvinas) islands in the South Atlantic. We are rounding Cape Horn for the fourth time (we fell in love with the Chilean fjords and the Andes mountains in Southern Chile). May 2020 be a healthy, happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year for us all."

**Alvin Hellerstein** became a great-grandfather to Eden Malta, born in Israel in December and named after his late wife, Mildred Hellerstein. Judge Alvin reports that he "also celebrated the 21st anniversary of my appointment as United States District Judge. I also have a new hip, courtesy of the doctors at the Hospital for Special Surgery. The rest of my body and mind seem to be holding up."

Congratulations, new GGF, and many happy returns.





Members of the Class of 1956 enjoyed the October class lunch. Left to right: Peter Klein, Ralph Kaslick, Jerry Fine, Bob Siroty and Buz Paaswell.

An imaginative architect, Donald Rattner '79 (husband of Gabby Rattner BC'80 and son-in-law of **Joel Belson** GSAS'64 and **Abby Belson** BC'56, GSAS'59), has published a how-to guide book, *My Creative Space: How to Design Your Home to Stimulate Ideas and Spark Innovation*. I keep it at my desk. It claims to contain "48 science-based techniques" to help blow your mind, while being insightful, philosophical, human, and even humorous. The illustrations and charts are gems. Don obviously paid attention during his Core classes.

Farewell again gents, some good news this month, some sad, some even miraculous, some like *Days of Our Lives*, my wife's favorite soap opera. Till the Summer issue, call, write, email, and/or text so we can all share the good and the not-so. Continue to be well, do well, and help cure the world.

Excelsior!

## 1955

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Gerald Sherwin**  
181 E. 73rd St., Apt. 16B  
New York, NY 10021  
gs481@juno.com

It's a new year! The monthly class luncheon, held in Faculty House, featured attendees **Anthony Visconti**, **Allen Hyman**, **Don Laufer** and **Alfred Gollomp**. The Dean's Scholarship Reception took place in

early February; it was a huge success, bigger and better than previous years. This fits in perfectly leading up to our 65th reunion, Thursday, June 4-Saturday, June 6, if you can believe it. Meetings have been held, mapping out events such as Mini-Core Classes and Saturday's class dinner.

We hope that a lot of classmates will attend events over the course of the weekend. Even though some of the guys won't be able to make it, we've heard reactions from classmates throughout the country, which have been quite positive.

**Jeff Broido** will try to make events leading up to reunion, and **Norm Goldstein**, who is based in New York now, will attend, I hope. One of the key events will be in the New York Public Library, in addition to the class dinner.

From the West Coast, Southwest and New England, we hope classmates near and far will attend part (if not all!) of the events. **Ezra Levin**, **Howard Lieberman**, **Eliot Gross**, **George Christie**, **Mort Civan**, **Ted Ditchek** and **Fred Dziadek** — we hope to see you there. Another attendee of the monthly lunch is **Bill Epstein**, and we hope to see **Jim Larson**, **Bob Brown**, **Ralph Wagner** (from Wellesley, Mass.), **Geysa Sarkany** (from Centerreach, Long Island), **Dave Sweet** (from his hometown of Warwick, R.I.), **Jack Kirman**, **Jerry Pomper**, **George Bahamonde** (from Heidelberg, Germany), **Lew Mendelson** and **Marty Molloy** (in Palo Alto, Calif.).

The Winter 2019-20 issue featured **Jack Stupp** in the "Lions" section, with some of his artwork on CCT's website ("Print Extras").

We have two corrections: **Herb Cooper** is not a resident of Newburgh, N.Y. **David Gordon** is a

resident of California, not Westchester County. Your correspondent stands corrected.

Keep up the good work. If there is anything I can do for anyone in the class, let me know.

Love to all! Everywhere!

## 1956

**Robert Siroty**  
707 Thistle Hill Ln.  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
rrs76@columbia.edu

Had a great telephone conversation with **Murray Watnick** of Enfield, Conn. Also a great day in October at Faculty House on campus, when the class last met for lunch. **Peter Klein**, **Ralph Kaslick**, **Jerry Fine**, **Buz Paaswell** (who continues to teach) and I had a wonderful time.

Starting to get serious about planning for reunion number 65, only 18 months away (as this is written, shorter as it is read; Thursday, June 3-Saturday, June 5, 2021). As of this writing, our next luncheon was planned for January and was to include a visit from Eric Shea, senior director, alumni relations, to help us plan.

I heard from **Jonas Schultz**, in California. When we next see him, he will have a new hip.

**Steve Easton** writes: "It is hard to realize that I have been in North Carolina for more than three years, and have experienced three hurricanes in that time. Someone said it would not be easy leaving New York City, and they were right.

"I've managed to spend more time than I would like still working in my real estate-related business, even though I tell the world I am retired. Somehow, with the work ethic we were all brought up with, it looks like very few of us really are retired — there is always something to do.

"I spend a good amount of time in New York City and in Mexico, so that I can say when I am in North Carolina I am visiting my residence. In North Carolina, I get to see **Bob Lauterborn**, who has stopped most of his travels to China, but seems to get in a substantial amount of travel time to other locales. Last year, **Bob**, **Jordan Bonfante** and I (with our respective wives/significant others) were able to visit.

"It is nice that when I am in New York, **Bob Siroty** and **Danny Link** schedule our class lunches so that I am able to join y'all (Southern for 'you'). When in New York, I also visit with **John Censor**, who is still busy working at his corporate training business.

"In Mexico, I get to relax, play a lot of golf in warm weather and wonder why I am not better at Spanish. Plans for 2020: 1) Looking forward to getting older gracefully, 2) looking forward to our 65th reunion planning and 3) hoping that I do not read too many of our classmates' obituaries.

"I am also planning to become more active, as probably our class's only remaining Columbia College Fund class agent, for fundraising requests, including planned giving. Please at least hear me out.

"In summary, I think our classmates continue to be like a good red wine: We get better as we get older. Remember that, **Ron Kapon**. Hope you enjoyed reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it. Let's plan for a great 65th reunion."

I also report the death on September 28, 2019, of **Charles Bostic**, of Morrisville, N.Y., a vocation counselor for the Office of Vocational and Education Services for Individuals with Disabilities. Charles was a Navy veteran, discharged in 1959 as a lieutenant. He was an avid golfer.

Keep in touch, guys. There's a lot to tell and talk about.

## 1957

**Herman Levy**  
7322 Rockford Dr.  
Falls Church, VA 22043  
hdlleditor@aol.com

On the way home from American Bar Association meetings in San Diego in October, yours truly stopped off in Austin, Texas, for a visit with **Steve Kornguth** and his wife of 62 years, Peggy.

Steve is professor of neurology at Dell Medical School, University of Texas, and senior research scientist in kinesiology at UT. He is also professor emeritus, neurology and biomedical chemistry, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry.

I attended two of Steve's lectures — grand rounds neurology and a



review of neuropathology for neurology residents. A grand round is a conference held weekly or monthly in medical school departments to discuss a particular clinical condition (e.g., multiple sclerosis). The aspects covered include medical history of the patient, presenting signs and symptoms, current patient status, laboratory test results, treatments including drugs and finally prognosis or post-mortem results.

Peggy is doing well. Steve says their “time together is a blessing and [a] joy.” She is a Wellesley grad, Class of ’57, with a Ph.D. in physiological chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, and is now retired.

**Arthur Rifkin** passed away in NYC in July 2019, reports Arthur’s cousin E. Michael Geiger ’58.

*CCT* would like to share a connection made between two high school and College classmates that came about through Class Notes. After seeing **Ed Weinstein’s** Class Note in the Winter 2019–20 issue, **Rhonda Donatova** SEAS’66 (who attended Columbia under the name Robert Donat), reached out to share some high school memories. She wrote, “Dear Editor, I would like to send a greeting to Ed Weinstein, Class of ’57. He is noted in the alumni news of your recent *CCT*. We were classmates in high school and I have not been in contact since. I am so pleased to see someone I remember from the past appear in *CCT* and I would ask if you could kindly convey to him my best wishes for a happy Hanukkah from an old classmate, since I do not have his email address nor his home address.

I was known as Robert then. He and I would compete for the best grades in math classes. We were both pretty good at it. Thank you. I wish you and staff all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year.”

The *CCT* staff passed the message along to Ed, who responded, “Rhonda (or Bob as I then knew you): Thanks for the message and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and for health and happiness in the New Year. This message is a stunner, as I have never received a message from a member of the Class of ’53 at Far Rockaway H.S. As I recall, we were both eclipsed in math by Abe Weitzberg, another ’53er, who matriculated at MIT. You may also have known my wife, then known as Sandra Eisenberg FRHS ’54. She even majored in math at Skidmore College, from which she graduated in ’58. Nice to hear from you.”

## 1958

**Peter Cohn**  
c/o *CCT*  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
petercohn1939@gmail.com

Homecoming 2019 was the source of great pleasure for long-suffering followers of Columbia football. Among the more than 10,000 Light Blue faithful (and about 100 or so Penn fans) at the Baker Athletics Complex were several members of the Class of 1958, including **Ernie Brod**, **Bernie**



Members of the Class of 1958 cheered on the Lions at the 2019 Homecoming football game. Left to right: Ernie Brod, Bob Waldbaum, Peter Cohn and Bernie Nussbaum.

**Nussbaum, Bob Waldbaum** and me (see the above photo). The 44–6 romp was the most lopsided Homecoming win in Columbia history and, along with the overtime win against Harvard two weeks later (the first win over the Crimson in 15 years), represented the highlights of what was otherwise a disappointing season. Our team was only competitive in three of its seven losses. However, the fact that the Homecoming win was the third in Coach Al Bagnoli’s first five years at Columbia was especially noteworthy. In fact, in my 65 years of following Columbia football, I cannot recall a similar five-year Homecoming record. As I write this column, the basketball season is upon us but hopes for a winning record are slim. The season began without two of our projected starters, and a difficult out-of-conference schedule didn’t help. I hope when Ivy League play starts in mid-January we will see an improvement.

Warren Opal ’59 writes about the passing of his friend **Harlan Lane** GSAS’58 on July 13, 2019: “Harlan was a classmate of mine at both Stuyvesant H.S. and Columbia, as well as a fellow Tau Epsilon Phi brother. As noted in Wikipedia, Harlan was the Matthews Distinguished University Professor of Psychology at Northeastern University in Boston and founder of the Center for Research in Hearing, Speech, and Language. He received both a B.A. and an M.A. from Columbia in 1958 and subsequently a Ph.D. in psychology from Harvard in 1960 and a *Doc. Des Lettres* from the Sorbonne in 1973. In 1991 he was awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

“Harlan’s research was focused on speech, deaf culture and sign language. Although not himself deaf, he became an often-controversial spokesman for the deaf community and a critic of cochlear implants. He wrote extensively on the social

construction of disability and stated: ‘Unless deaf people challenge the culturally determined meanings of *deaf* and *disability* with at least as much vigor as the technologies of normalization seek to institutionalize those meanings, the day will continue to recede in which deaf children and adults live the fullest lives and make the fullest contribution to our diverse society.’ In recognition of his research and advocacy regarding these issues, Harlan received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of the Deaf in the United States, the International Social Merit Award from the World Federation of the Deaf and numerous other awards including the Commandeur de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques, the highest level of the academic honor given out by the French government.”

In other news, we are pleased to announce that **Joe Dorinson** was inducted into the Brooklyn Jewish Hall of Fame by the Brooklyn Jewish Historical Initiative in November.

Way to go, Joe!

Reminder: The class lunch is usually held on the second Tuesday of every month in the Grill of the Princeton Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31 per person). Email **Tom Ettinger** if you plan to attend, even up to the day before: tpe3@columbia.edu.

## 1959

**Norman Gelfand**  
c/o *CCT*  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
nmgc59@gmail.com

Dear classmates, I hope that this finds you well and that you enjoyed the winter, perhaps by escaping it. Let me encourage you to let your classmates know what you are doing.

# CCT

## SHOW US YOUR LION’S GAY PRIDE!



*CCT* is creating a photo gallery to celebrate Pride Month this June. **Show us your LGBTQIA+ pride in a group or individual photo (we need at least one person to be a College alum!).** Send your hi-res photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu); we’ll run our favorites in the Summer 2020 issue.

**Steve Trachtenberg** reports, “I was delighted to survive the heart attack that I had in London while you all were at the 60th reunion. I had been planning to be with you on Morningside Heights. I have been healing since — operation, recovery, post-cardio exercise program, etc., and can report that I recently returned to London and came home again. So, while I am still in repair mode, a little weak, and I tire easily, I am back. Thank you to all who sent get-well greetings from reunion and since. Hearing from classmates helped me during those dark nights alone at St Bartholomew’s Hospital. The United Kingdom’s National Health Service care was excellent. As a non-Brit, I had to pay. I did. Despite that, the hospital food was as bad as the medical care was good. I lost 20 lbs., and I ate so many bananas that when I got home I had excess potassium. Anyhow, all good that ends good. Prognosis bright.”

Thanks for the good news. Steve was also featured in CCT’s “Take Five” — here is a link: [bit.ly/2OCIK4O](http://bit.ly/2OCIK4O). The column also contains a link to Steve’s reunion speech.

mon many friends in the business from what is now 60 years past! However, I started my undergraduate years expecting to aim for law school and so I completed a four-year degree in American history without getting to know Ira, or other aspiring musicians in our class. In those days it was easy to take lessons and instruction privately, as I did, with a guy in the New York Philharmonic — as a senior I played in the Columbia Orchestra, led in those days by Howard Shanet ’39, GSAS’41.

“I spent most of my career with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, but in the summer seasons just after graduating from Columbia I played in the Aspen Music Festival — I believe it was in 1960 that I was in the orchestra there for James Levine’s first opera conducting (Strauss’s *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Op. 60). Ira must have played dozens of performances with Levine, including that very opera, one of Levine’s favorites.

“As far as my Columbia memories are concerned, I had enormous respect for the entire faculty I was lucky enough to meet, but Professor Justus Buchler GSAS’39 made an

(on April 29, 1965) that displayed a tender paternalism one might not expect of a confirmed bachelor.

“He wrote, ‘Prince Benjamin Immanuel needed no introduction. Nor Gloria. In the snapshot, both speak for themselves. The Prince chose his parents most wisely; an awesome decision by the way, when one thinks of the billions of Suns and Planets in the Milky Way alone. To Gloria, it should go without saying: My admiration and best wishes. There is magnanimous envy also on my part ... if I know you, and I think I do out of sheer affection and mountains of respect, I do suggest that you take a leaf out of your son’s bright and gleaming book where all things worth knowing and feeling are freshly written, radiating from the eyes and every gesture. See to it that the current brand of “certification” doesn’t cramp him through the formative years. Time enough for Columbia or Yale, after that.’

“In 1967 I left Yale to begin my academic career at The University of British Columbia on the west coast of Canada (to the delight of my Canadian wife), which ended my visits to NYC and Professor Casey. A few years after my dissertation was officially approved and the doctorate awarded, I sent Casey a copy of the abstract and acknowledgments, the latter underscoring the fullness of my debt to him: ‘Finally, I wish to express my profound gratitude to Professor William C. Casey — brilliant and beloved mentor — to whom I owe eternal thanks for whatever I may do that is good and productive in my life.’

“Casey responded (on May 1, 1974) in his sublimely gracious style with the last of his letters (owing to my own neglect) that I was always so elated to receive: ‘Your acknowledgment to myself, as your undergraduate colleague, must be modestly construed, since in all this, unlike a British Don, I have so little to be modest about. What you and I did together, we did in an undergraduate crowd where only mutual empathy could substitute for the tutorial role. You excel in empathy and diligence, and your genes accounted for the rest. But thank you, Bob, just the same. Your generous acknowledgment was much cherished.’

“As the years went by, I thought of Casey and his nonpareil style

of pedagogy only in the resting moments between the trials of raising a family, learning the habits and history of my adopted country, and engaging in the battles of tenure and promotion as I strained to elevate myself on the professional ladder of careerist scholars, a facet of Academe that Casey privately scorned. In 1978 I received dismaying notice of a memorial service for Casey to be held at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Our great teacher was felled at 87 by cancer of the larynx, robbing him of the verbal majesty that was the source of his renown. My reasons for not attending the service were all too trivial, cloaked in circumstance, and my absence remains my deepest regret. In the years since, I have tried to recapture fond memories by reading *The Real World of William C. Casey*, authored in 1987 by several of his students of an earlier generation who sought to lay out the essence of some of his most heralded lectures. I also participated on a panel organized for the 50th reunion of the Class of ’59 on the subject of ‘Remembering Professor Casey,’ and now I have written this belated tribute partly because I failed to dependably requite the love I felt for this noble man, and partly to rekindle the memory of a revered teacher who rose above the standard of exceptionality then and today.

Others, of course, have remembered Casey as well. Indeed, his cottage in Mexico Point and the surrounding area has been preserved since 1991 by Friends of Casey’s Cottage and restored as an historical, artistic and cultural center, commemorating the humble edifice as ‘a work of love, a place of beauty, friends, companionship and good conversation only.’

“As our own time draws to an end, can we say who, in our lives, was most responsible for teaching us to think clearly about the bewildering array of symbols and slogans that clutter our daily existence, for exhorting us to be merciful and just, for urging us to remain steadfast in the honing and virtuous application of our intellect? I can. For me, it was William Casey. I was fortunate to be one of his ‘ten thousand sons,’ as he proudly referred to us, and I thank Columbia for having him here for me.”

As a closing note: 2019–20 is the 100th anniversary of the Core. This is an opportunity for the development department at the College to

## Core Haiku



A noble lie? No!  
Plato did not understand.  
Truth is what’s noble.

— George Jochnowitz ’58

**John Clubbe** GSAS’65 has completed a major work on Beethoven. His book *Beethoven: The Relentless Revolutionary* was published July 2019. He writes, “It has garnered (when last my wife, Joan, checked) five five-star reviews in Amazon’s ‘best musical biographies’ section and has to date sold more than 3,000 copies worldwide. The audio complete version (16 CDs!) recently was released. Here is a link to an interesting review, which appeared in the award-winning weekend arts supplement of our local *Sante Fe New Mexican*: [bit.ly/2RCdL94](http://bit.ly/2RCdL94).

From **Stephen Basson**: “I was a professional bassoon player for 41 years, and with an older brother (cellist) at Juilliard, and a New York City life myself, I am sure **Ira Lieberman** GSAS’69 and I would have in com-

especially deep and lasting impression on me. Through sheer luck I ended up in one of his sections for CC, and every class was worth looking forward to. Another terrific musician is my lifelong friend **David Wyner**, who practices psychotherapy in NYC (and piano wherever he can find one).”

**Frank Wilson**’s sister lives in Chicago. On a recent visit, Frank, his wife and sister, and **J. Peter Rosenfeld** and his wife and I got together for a very pleasant dinner.

I continue **Bob Ratner**’s reminiscences of his beloved professor, William C. Casey: “Over the next two years I was preoccupied with study, employment and family, so I saw Casey but twice. When I sent him news of my marriage and the subsequent birth of my son, he wrote an affectionate congratulatory letter



initiate an assault. As part of their offensive they held a small dinner in Chicago, to which I was invited. It turned out that the Class of '59 was the earliest one present. We have become the old men we saw at Homecoming when we were in the College. We did it!

Stay well, enjoy the spring and keep in touch.

## 1960

### REUNION 2020

JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Robert A. Machleder**  
69-37 Fleet St.  
Forest Hills, NY 11375  
rmachleder@aol.com

A healthy and happy 2020 to all. This is an auspicious new year. The 60th anniversary of the Class of 1960's graduation. In past years we have had excellent turnouts at our reunions. We hope to replicate that tradition this year when once again we gather on Morningside Heights, Thursday, June 4-Saturday, June 6.

Soon after learning about **Bill Engler's** death, **Bill Landes** GSAS'66 sent a note: "I heard about Bill. We were great friends at Columbia, and in years after. We corresponded about our 50th reunion but we hadn't been in touch since then."

Bill's note went on to describe his present life in retirement. After

earning a doctorate in economics at Columbia, Bill spent most of his career teaching at the University of Chicago and its law school, where he is professor emeritus, and writing prolifically on the economic analysis of law. He shares, "Retired from Chicago but I still teach a course on art law in the fall quarter. My wife, Lisa, and I spend winters in Scottsdale, Ariz. We are enjoying retirement. I started taking jazz piano lessons again [Bill and I were classmates at the H.S. of Music & Art] and took up golf. We feel very lucky. We are healthy, and still lifting weights [the two Bills — Landes and Engler — and I frequently worked out together at the gym on campus and at the Enrico Thomas/Mr. Universe gym on Broadway] and are blessed with seven grandchildren, three children and their spouses. Four grandchildren go to the University Lab School (ages 9-15) and our daughter Bonnie's oldest is a 1L at the University of Chicago Law School. I haven't been in New York in more than two years but follow Columbia football. I was able to watch most of the games last year on our dish."

A brief note from **Andre V. Hoyer** SEAS'60, who set the pace as the stroke oar of our first boat on freshman lightweight crew, sending special regards to the members of the team and with a promise that a more expansive update will follow: "I believe 10 years have passed since we last communicated. Truly, I am embarrassed that I have not kept up with classmates. I now receive regular updates from Columbia regarding crew schedules and races. Nice. And, I do relish receiving *CCT*, and particularly enjoy the Class Notes column.

"As you often meet with other crew members, I thought I would send a short note to let you and other members of our shell know that I am alive and well, and miss them all, although sadly, many are gone [I responded to Andre that **Frank Decker**, **Norm Hildes-Heim** and **Dick Nottingham** had passed]. I live in a small community west of Philadelphia. I still row, but on a WaterRower, not in a shell, as there is no convenient body of water nearby."

A most delightful surprise at a recent First Thursday of the Month Class Lunch: **John Pegram** showed up after what he described

as "a hiatus of 30-plus years." John reports: "After graduating with a concentration in physics, I got a job as a cathode ray tube engineer at the Allen B. DuMont Laboratories in Clifton, N.J., through a contact made while at WKCR. I took some engineering courses in the evenings for two years, and then enrolled in the evening program at NYU Law. In 1966, I joined a medium-sized patent and trademark law firm, where I ascended to partner and happily practiced there for nearly 30 years. In 1995, some of my partners wanted to join a general practice law firm, but I wanted to continue in a practice focused in what had become known as IP law [intellectual property law]. I led a group to open an NYC office for Fish & Richardson, which has since become the leading U.S. IP law firm. I am now trying to wean myself from most of my client work there.

"Following the example of my father and grandfather, I have always been active in professional associations, and have been a frequent author and speaker on IP law and civil litigation topics. I was president of the New York Intellectual Property Law Association, which gave me its Lifetime Achievement Award this year, the first such award not given to a judge. I chaired many committees in the American Intellectual Property Law Association, was a member of its board and received its President's Outstanding Service Award in 2011. I also was editor-in-chief of *The Trademark Reporter* and a board member of what is now called the International Trademark Association.

"In 1966, I married Patricia 'Patty' Narbeth, a neighbor from my hometown of Swarthmore, Pa. We lived on NYC's West Side until 1972, when we bought a gutted rooming house in the then-marginal neighborhood of Park Slope, Brooklyn, and moved there with our son and daughter. We have done most of the renovations (which continue today) ourselves. Each of our children have produced a boy and girl. Our daughter married a Frenchman, so we are 'forced' to visit her and her family in Paris.

"I have enjoyed comparing memories at reunions and am looking forward to seeing many classmates at our next reunion."

**Bill Tanenbaum** has a passion for travel. Twice during the past

year, he and his wife, Ronna, traveled to Europe. He describes their wanderlust: "Our hobby is traveling, but we believe that if you are physically capable of being active, then do whatever it is you enjoy and do it now. Last year, in late February and into early March, we visited Spain on our own for 16 days. Our visit included studying Spanish, Moorish and Jewish history. In visiting Barcelona, Málaga, Granada, Seville, Córdoba and Madrid we learned a great deal. In June, with six members of our family, we led a 16-day tour of London and Paris with an emphasis on art history, visiting nine museums. The grandchildren (aged 11, 13 and 15) are 'hooked' on traveling like we are."

A sad note. On September 14, 2019 we lost **Jerry Schmelzer** JRN'62. **Rene Plessner** offers this recollection: "I spoke to Jerry 5-10 times a year and he was always funny, insightful and interested in how members of our class were doing, particularly **Peter Schweitzer**, **Bob Abrams** and **Larry Mendelson**. He loved baseball, and we talked trivia often, particularly about 'his team,' the Cleveland Indians. [Jerry was from Cleveland Heights, Ohio.] At our 50th reunion, dining at V&T, we sat with Bob and Peter and tried to stump each other on baseball trivia, such as, 'Who was DM of the 1950 Detroit Tigers?' (Dave Madison), and 'Who was Rocky Colavito traded for?' (Harvey Kuenn). We laughed with glee. Jerry and Peter were WKCR sports announcers during our years at the College and they were quite a team — superb at what they did — employing just the right amount of fact and humor to draw and enliven interest in some of our hapless teams. Jerry really was a product of Columbia College, a 'whole man.' I will miss him."

**Bill Tanenbaum** offers this reminiscence: "Most times when one considers the passing of a friend, the thoughts relate to the person's accomplishments: the awards received, the success in business or profession, or the fame achieved.

"Jerry did well in his real estate business but that was second to the smile on his face when he greeted you, or to the happy sound in his voice when he spoke with you.

"We last saw him and his lovely wife, Sharon, on January 18, 2018,



## 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](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).



Former football players Gerry Brodeur '61 (left) and Bob Federspiel '61 recently got together.

in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., upon their return from a cruise. We enjoyed lunch together.

"A wise person once said, "There comes a time in your life, when you walk away from all the drama and people who create it. You surround yourself with people who make you laugh. Forget the bad and focus on the good."

"Jerry was such a person — one who would make you laugh. He will surely be missed."

Our deepest condolences to Sharon, and to all of Jerry's family.

## 1961

**Michael Hausig**  
19418 Encino Summit  
San Antonio, TX 78259  
mhausig@yahoo.com

**Gerry Brodeur** writes, "From playing football in 1959 for Columbia to a get-together at the Leatherneck Club in Las Vegas, Gerry and **Bob Federspiel** have not changed a bit."

See the above photo from Vegas!

**Phil Cottone** still plays golf and tennis in addition to working. He and his wife, Maureen, have been traveling throughout the world for the last 10 years. They go somewhere just about every year. They went to China this year following trips in previous years to Vietnam and Thailand; St. Petersburg, Russia; Estonia; and throughout Europe. They have concluded that riverboats and small cruise ships are their favorite ways to travel. About five years ago, Phil was part of an American Bar Association delegation asked by the government of Vietnam to go to Hanoi

as the guests of the courts to teach arbitration and mediation, and that got them interested in Asia. He and Maureen intend to continue to travel as long as they can; they usually do it with friends from Australia (Brits by background) whom they met about seven years ago on a boat and have been traveling with ever since.

Phil and Maureen have four sons, 11 grandchildren — five grandsons and six granddaughters (three married now) — and two great-grandchildren. Descendants include son Anthony '80 and grandson Ryan '15.

**Don Savini** and his wife, Patricia, spent the Christmas holidays in Chicago, where several of their seven children live. Good food and lots of family activities were included. Don and Patricia preferred to be on their farm in central Pennsylvania with everyone there, as big-city commotion isn't what they enjoy.

**Bob Salman** LAW'64 presented a talk at Brookdale Community College in April, "Trump Impeachment — What Happened and Why." To celebrate his 80th birthday, Bob's daughter Suzanne and her family took Bob and his wife, Reva, to Puerto Rico for a week to relive their first vacation away from the United States mainland. In March, their daughter Elyse (who is married to the great-nephew of Columbia icon Sid Luckman '39) took them to a New York Yankees spring training game, fulfilling one of Bob's bucket list items.

Rabbi **Cliff Miller** has retired from synagogue pulpits, but is still working, cataloging books in the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Cliff walks a mile each day from the Port Authority Bus Terminal to Times Square and from Columbia to JTS and back, as well as walking up and down stairs to and from subways, to provide his cardiovascular exercise. Cliff commutes to work in Manhattan four days a week.

Cliff's brother recently retired, closing his law practice at 89, so maybe it is not too soon for Cliff to consider retirement.

**Arnold Klipstein** continues to do *locum tenens* jobs and went to Urbana, Ill., in February to do gastroenterology work. He also works in a free clinic in Bridgeport, Conn., caring for indigent patients and tending to their digestive needs.


Arnold's grandson Jonas (21) went to Israel on a trip for young adult

Jews to learn about Israel. As part of the trip, the group heard a lecture on becoming a bone marrow donor. Jonas signed up and was a match for a 70-year-old woman with leukemia. Jonas, who lives in California, flew to Boston to donate his marrow, which was sent to the woman's location. The donor and the receiver know nothing about each other's location. Arnold was with Jonas after donating. Arnold is very proud of him. Jonas will be listed in the Gift of Life Marrow Registry. It was a painful procedure, but Jonas felt it was worth it to save someone's life.

**Tony Adler** wrote that there are a number of classmates who are full-

multiple myeloma. After graduating cum laude from the Law School, Arnie spent 25 years as an associate and then a partner at Botein, Hays, Sklar & Herzberg, where he focused on corporate and securities work. From 1990 until 2015, Arnie was a legal advisor to Ferring Pharmaceuticals, a privately owned, multinational pharmaceutical company. For more than 25 years he was a board member and then a VP of the Educational Alliance, a Jewish organization based in New York City's Lower East Side that focuses on a mix of education, health and wellness, arts and culture, and civic engagement for all New Yorkers.

**Core Haiku**



Fresh-formed like Eve, I  
tasted the Knowledge Apple  
But found only Core.

— Imre Horvath '61

or part-time residents of Florida. Some have expressed interest in a lunch meeting in the greater Palm Beach area. Tony would be glad to coordinate if there is interest. Many of you have Tony's email address. If not, please contact me and I will provide it.

Tony and his son Peter recently purchased a 26-ft. fishing boat, so he will have to take up fishing to justify the expense.

Hon. **Jose Cabranes**'s opinion article "Higher Education's Enemy Within," published with the sub-head, "An army of nonfaculty staff push for action and social justice at the expense of free inquiry," ran in the *Wall Street Journal* on November 8. This article was adapted from remarks delivered on October 18 to the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, which bestowed on Jose its 2019 Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education.

Jose serves on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He was Yale's first general counsel, and later was a trustee of Yale, Columbia and Colgate.

Sadly, **Arnold Chase** LAW'64 died on October 1, 2019, at home with his family surrounding him, following a nearly 14-year battle with

Arnie is survived by his wife of more than 32 years, Nilene Evans; daughter, Michelle Sarao; son, Ben; and Michelle's children, Gavi, Isaac and Avital.

## 1962

**John Freidin**  
654 E. Munger St.  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
jf@bicyclevt.com

**Crawford Killian** writes that he "can remember when my 1958 acceptance letter told me I was in the Class of 1962 — an impossibly remote date. The idea of life in the 2020s was unimaginable, even to an aspiring science fiction writer."

Crawford's 22nd book, *A Writer's Guide to Speculative Fiction: Science Fiction and Fantasy*, is now available from your local bookstore. It was written in 2019 with the collaboration of a Mexican-Canadian author, Silvia Moreno-García, who is not only a fine writer but also a state-of-the-art conversant in self-publishing and marketing. Crawford continues to write for The Tyee ([theyee.ca](http://theyee.ca)), and last year published a series on dementia.

"In September, at the end of a pleasant trip to Finland and Sweden,"

Crawford reports, “my wife collapsed at Stockholm Arlanda Airport as we were about to fly home. We got a one-day crash course in Swedish healthcare, including excellent airport paramedics and a highly competent, very laid-back emergency department in a suburban Stockholm hospital. My wife’s faintness turned out to be a transient problem, and the next day we returned uneventfully to Vancouver. Lessons learned: Don’t go overseas without plenty of medical insurance, which we had. Swedish hospitals are good, and charge accordingly. Keflavik International Airport is to be avoided except in emergencies. We have no plans for further overseas travel.”

Though on our class list, **Carl Jacobsson** SEAS’63 recently confessed that he is (also?) a civil engineering graduate and has been retired from his engineering career for 11 years. In retirement, Carl has devoted himself to the work of his local branch of the NAACP in Bremerton, Wash., where he chairs the political action committee. He shares that on March 7, the Bremerton branch of the NAACP will commemorate four major anniversaries: the adoption of the Namibian Constitution (February 9, 1990), the release of Nelson Mandela from prison in South Africa (right after the adoption of the Namibian Constitution), the People Power Revolution in the Philippines (February 22–25, 1986) and the Bloody Sunday March in Selma, Ala. (March 7, 1965).

**Joe Nozzolio** recently finished reading a book about our football

captain, **Billy Campbell** TC’64: *Trillion Dollar Coach: The Leadership Playbook of Silicon Valley’s Bill Campbell* by Eric Schmidt et al.

Joe says: “The book tells a lot about Bill’s life, but focuses on his tenures as a board member of Google and Apple, how he applied skills he acquired as a football coach and player to guide and coach those who reported to him and how he always focused on the ‘goal’ or solution to the problem *du jour*. Great read. I passed it on to my grandchildren, who are recent college graduates and new to the business world.”

On New Year’s Eve, **Allen Young** sent the following message: “I am in Honolulu with some friends, part of an extended winter getaway. Yesterday, as a winter storm struck New England, I was swimming in the Pacific Ocean.”

While in Honolulu at the invitation of friends, Allen enjoyed wonderful time with Honolulu native Paul Nagano ’60, who had left Boston to return to his roots. They visited museums, drove around Paul’s old neighborhood and reminisced about Columbia topics such as the Van Am Society (Paul was a member), *Spectator* (Allen was its editor) and Naval ROTC (Paul became a lieutenant and served in the Navy). For years, Paul lived in Boston and Bali. While in Boston, he managed the successful art gallery owned by Bernie Pucker ’59, and pursued his own career as an artist. “Paul,” writes Allen, “enjoyed the support of a patron in Bali, and painted beautiful watercolors featuring the culture, landscape and botany of Bali. Google ‘Paul Nagano’ for more.”



The Class of 1963 met for their monthly lunch in January. Clockwise from bottom left: Tom Lewis, Mike Lubell, Steve Barcan, Paul Neshamkin, Alan Wilensky, Mike Erdos, Ed Collier, Harvey Schneider, Bob Heller, Lee Lowenfish, Doron Gopstein, Henry Black and Larry Neuman.

From New York City, **Lester Hoffman** writes, “I am involved with a new children’s literacy initiative designed to encourage the enjoyment of reading among first- and second-graders. Lyrics 4 Literacy harnesses the power of music to get beginning readers (ages 5–8) engaged in reading through face-to-face interaction.

“Designed as a supplement to early reading curricula, L4L is especially timely, since the National Educational Scorecard recently showed that nearly two-thirds of fourth-graders don’t meet grade-level reading standards.

“Further, recently published brain research indicates that digital, screen-based reading approaches may have significant drawbacks, such as affecting parts of the brain involved in language learning and cognition.

“If this educational arena interests you, I’d love to hear from you.”

## 1963

**Paul Neshamkin**  
1015 Washington St., Apt. 50  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
pauln@helpauthors.com

I wish we had enjoyed a more successful football season, but Homecoming 2019 at least gave us an enjoyable day, as many in the class returned to witness an epic blowout as the Lions routed Penn 44–6. Let’s hope that this year has a lot more games like that.

**Nick Zill** sent me notice of his latest article, “The New Fatherhood Is

Not Benefiting Children Who Need It Most.” He writes, “It is based on my analysis of five years of child support and parental involvement data collected by the Census Bureau for the Office of Child Support Enforcement. The link is [bit.ly/2S8o4Sm](http://bit.ly/2S8o4Sm).”

**Zev bar-Lev** writes, “Life is good; I’ve enjoyed my first decade of retirement with my wife, Shoshana BC’63; and our three kids, five grandkids and three granddads. We’re active in synagogue life, and are passing on Hebrew to new generations. As principal of a Hebrew school in Poway, Calif., our daughter uses my multi-level Hebrew program. My ‘nanosemantic’ theory (a comprehensive theory of ‘how languages mean:’ see [languagebazaar.com](http://languagebazaar.com)) is about to be published in a third article in *Macrolinguistics*.”

**Ben Tua** writes, “Every now and then I get published, mainly short articles on foreign policy topics. My most recent piece is ‘Learning About Islam: From Ignorance to Understanding,’ which appeared in *American Diplomacy* in September. Those who are interested can access it online at [unc.live/2tk7tCS](http://unc.live/2tk7tCS).

**David Orme-Johnson** writes, “Here is a link to my article on research on cosmic consciousness: [bit.ly/2S9HO82](http://bit.ly/2S9HO82).”

It is with sadness that I report the deaths of **Barry Jay Reiss** LAW’66 and **Victor Margolin**.

Barry died in November from Lou Gehrig’s disease, also known as ALS. He had been one of the regulars at our monthly Class of ’63 lunches until he had a heart bypass in March 2018. It was successful and

# CCT

## SHOW US YOUR LION’S GAY PRIDE!



CCT is creating a photo gallery to celebrate Pride Month this June. **Show us your LGBTQIA+ pride in a group or individual photo (we need at least one person to be a College alum!).** Send your hi-res photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu); we’ll run our favorites in the Summer 2020 issue.



Barry was recovering well when it was discovered in the late summer of that year that he was suffering from ALS. Barry had been a successful music and show business lawyer both in private practice and for major media corporations, working with Clive Davis at CBS Records and then helping form Arista Records. He then moved to a variety of roles at MCA. Back in private practice, he represented clients such as U2 and The Allman Brothers Band.

I will miss Barry at our lunches, where he was a presence for the last 16 years. He loved to share stories about his days working at WKCR as an undergrad, his travels and his law practice, which he still enjoyed. He was proud of his commitment to the environment as an early adopter of solar panels for his house and his old Tesla.

We will miss you, Barry.

Victor was a retired professor of art and design at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and the founding editor of *Design Issues*. He is considered one of the founders of the discipline of design history. His most ambitious work was the *World History of Design*. You can watch him in a YouTube video describing the process of writing this book at [youtu.be/Ky00THLful](https://youtu.be/Ky00THLful). I remember him as a man with a fine sense of humor. He was the editor-in-chief of *Jester*, and a contributor to *MAD Magazine* and the editor of two books of puns he wrote as an undergraduate.

Rest in peace.

If you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with classmates at our regular second Thursday class



Niles Eldredge '65 (left) and Leonard Pack '65 attended a December 15 performance at William Paterson University in Paterson, N.J.

lunches at the Columbia Club (for now, we are still gathering at the Princeton Club). The next are on April 9 and on May 14.

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

## 1964

**Norman Olch**  
233 Broadway  
New York, NY 10279  
[norman@nolch.com](mailto:norman@nolch.com)

I am writing early in January; the ball has fallen in Times Square and, depending on your point of view, we are in the final year of the first decade of the 21st century, or the first year of the second decade of the century. Regardless, I wish each of you and your loved ones a Happy New Year, and a year of Good Health, Peace, Joy and Prosperity.

This time around there have been no responses to the questions I put to the class: What do you wish you had known when you were 18, and what advice do you have for the members of the College's next graduating class as they face becoming "adults"?

But I did not come up completely empty. After reading **Lee Witting's** response in the Winter 2019–20 issue, in which Lee mentions he is from Penobscot, Maine, **Eddie Harrow PS'68** wrote to say that he learned from the note that he and Lee live within 30 minutes of each other in Maine and that they both had worked at the same hospital for 15 years! They will connect. This has happened before: A classmate learning from Class Notes that a member of CC'64 is nearby.

Last year the New York State legislature declined to legalize the recreational possession of marijuana. But the state does have a medical marijuana program. **Dave Levin**, whose pain from a torn rotator cuff in each shoulder interrupts a good night's sleep, registered with the program for pain management and received a medical marijuana card. He has a prescription for a marijuana oil but says that after using it for one week there was "not much of an effect." He and his wife, Linda, planned to go to Florida for two months. He hopes the warm sunshine will help.

The college basketball season is underway and, after watching Columbia defeat Marist, I had dinner at V&T with **Steve Singer**, who lives in Morningside Heights.

**Marty Weinstein** and his wife, Ruth, celebrated their 50th anniversary with friends in Montevideo, Uruguay, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Felicidades.*

There is an informal class lunch in Manhattan the second Thursday of every month (except July and August), so if you are nearby, or visiting New York City, join us.

**Peter Thall** sent an email that the December lunch was a "mini-CC experience" that "belongs in a Core classroom." While I cannot promise the lunch conversation is always so elevated, we do enjoy ourselves.

So, answer (or do not answer) the questions I have put to the class. But do send in a note and let us know what you are up to, or tell us about a trip you have taken (maybe with a grandchild) or a book or film you recommend.

## 1965

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Leonard B. Pack**  
924 West End Ave.  
New York, NY 10025  
[leonard@packlaw.us](mailto:leonard@packlaw.us)

It's just coincidence, but for this column I insinuated myself into three stories. First, I met **Larry Guido** and his partner, Judith Kaplan, for lunch in Manhattan on November 4. Judith has had an apartment in Paris for many years, so Larry and she split their time between the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Fla., and in Paris, where they do "hardship duty." Says Larry, "Someone has to!"

I saw **Bob Henn** in New York in early June when he was in town to attend a "Core|Reexplore" program at the College, "Tragedy: Literary and Philosophical Perspectives." I was in San Francisco in mid-November for an arbitration, and Bob took me to a wonderful restaurant, 3rd Cousin, in the Bernal Heights neighborhood. See the nearby photo of Bob and me enjoy-



Bob Henn '65 (left) and Leonard Pack '65 enjoyed dinner in San Francisco in November.

ing dessert. Bob is trying to retire from the practice of law with, so far, interim success.

**Niles Eldredge** and I are passionate jazz fans. I met up with Niles on December 15 to attend a performance at William Paterson University in Paterson, N.J., by John Pizzarelli (on guitar) and Catherine Russell (a magnificent vocalist). Niles's wife, Michelle, took the nearby photo of the two of us in the lobby. As we chatted, Niles told me he had only recently met **Stuart Newman** (they had not known each other while at the College) because Stuart is the editor of the scientific journal that published a recently issued paper by Niles and a collaborator. I contacted Stuart, who provided us with the following update on his career and recent encounter with Niles: "After graduation with a concentration in chemistry (having been afforded a rich complement of courses, both required and elective, in the humanities and social sciences), I headed to the University of Chicago to do a Ph.D. in chemical physics. During my first quarter, I met my later-to-be-wife, Jura, in a philosophy course. Though not typical for chemistry graduate students, the inclination to take such educational detours seems bred in the bone for Columbians. It has paid me dividends many times over.

"My research, grounded in strong courses in thermodynamics and statistical mechanics at the College and carried forward under my doctoral supervisor, Professor Stuart Rice, led readily to involvement in the theories of complex systems that were emerging in the 1970s, and, with colleagues of the renowned U. Chicago school of theoretical biology, to applications in

the life sciences. This in turn drew me, through a series of postdoctoral turns, to theoretical and experimental work in developmental biology (i.e., embryology and regeneration), and then, by the 1980s, to participation in the rise of the field that came to be called ‘evolutionary developmental biology’ (EvoDevo). In the decades since, I have worked on the origination and evolution of animal and plant body plans, the tetrapod limb, and the first birds and eggs, among other things.

“Because EvoDevo incorporated into evolutionary theory the abrupt morphological transformations observed in developing systems, the perspective challenged the gradualism of the standard Darwinian model. In my view, this resonated with the path-breaking notion of punctuated equilibrium that had been introduced by paleontologist **Niles Eldredge** and his colleague Stephen Jay Gould. Niles and I did not meet at Columbia, but he is widely known and esteemed by the evolutionary biologists of our time. More recently, our professional trajectories have intersected along interdisciplinary routes that likely owe much to our shared boundary-breaking undergraduate education.

“My work in developmental biology has always been balanced by resistance to misapplications of the field’s techniques to human biology, such as cloning and germline gene modification, which carry risks both of eugenicism and experimenter-induced errors. In addition to a coauthored textbook (with physicist Gabor Forgacs) in my own research area (*Biological Physics of the Developing Embryo*, 2005), I have recently published (with historian Tina Stevens) *Biotech Juggernaut: Hope, Hype and Hidden Agendas of Entrepreneurial Bioscience* (2019), a historical and contemporaneous account of reproductive technologies and their pitfalls.

“The criticism of overdependence on the concept of the gene implicit in both the theoretical and social-critical areas of my work has led to involvement in several organizations. I was a cofounder in 1980 of the public interest group Council for Responsible Genetics, and later became a member of the external faculty of the Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research in Klosterneuburg, Austria. About five years ago, I was invited to become editor of the KLI’s phi-

losophy of biology journal, *Biological Theory*. I doubt I would have accepted had I not been so well and broadly educated at Columbia, beginning with the Core Curriculum.

“It was *Biological Theory* that led to my crossing paths with Niles. Last year my co-editors and I decided to initiate a feature, ‘Classics in Biological Theory,’ in which a major scholar would be recruited to write a critical introduction to a forgotten, important paper, which would then be made available online to the scientific community. Niles was a consensus choice to inaugurate the series, and we were thrilled that he agreed. His essay on Clarence King’s 1877 pre-scient ‘Catastrophism and Evolution,’ appeared in late 2019. Upon becoming familiar with the journal, Niles decided that it was an apt publication venue for an interdisciplinary, socially engaged, conceptual paper he was preparing with cancer biologist James DeGregori. Their remarkable article, ‘Parallel Causation in Oncogenic and Anthropogenic Degradation and Extinction,’ available at the *Biological Theory* website ([bit.ly/2U6yJfH](http://bit.ly/2U6yJfH)), will appear in print early this year.

“After periods in Brighton, England; Philadelphia; and Albany, Niles and I have lived (ideally for us) less than an hour north of New York City since I became a faculty member at New York Medical College in Valhalla 40 years ago. Our daughter Sarah is a curator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., and our daughter Erica is an ecologist at the University of Arizona, Tucson. Through the years I have been privileged with a close friendship with **James Siegel**, a fellow editor of *Jester*.”

Check out the “Bookshelf” section for news about Stuart’s latest book.

**Mike Bush** circulated news of a great honor awarded to **Ron Chevako BUS’67** and his wife, Anne, adding, “I’m sure this deserves a loud and long fanfare — from any band!”

He shares, “On October 31, Ron and Anne represented the Jane Stern Dorado Community Library at the Library of Congress 2019 Literacy Awards conference in Washington, D.C., as a Best Practice Honoree, a recognition of 15 organizations that have developed programs uniquely successful in their communities and potentially applicable to other audiences.’ JSDCL fell into the category of ‘innovative programs through libraries’

for the Satellite Community Library Program extending services to seven barrios in four Puerto Rican municipalities. Our pride in our program was matched by the other 14 honorees, amazing organizations with programs across the United States in Afghanistan, Ruanda and Central America.”

**Dan Carlinsky** added, “Hey, not just a fanfare — a full rendering of the ‘Hallelujah Chorus’ followed by a chorus of ‘Who Owns D.C.?’ A real sweet recognition.”

Ron got the last word: “Dan, I like both of your suggestions for differing reasons. We were rather impressed and thought that these awards might give a boost to Puerto Rico national (state) pride. The reconstruction progress has been nothing short of abysmal except for the best mayors. FEMA personnel are accused of stealing \$1.8 billion and a number have been arrested. No plans for reconstructing the electrical system

## 1966


**Columbia College Today**  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

Happy spring, and thank you to those who wrote in! Please take a moment and send your news to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu). Classmates want to hear from you.

From **John Burrows**: “It doesn’t seem possible that I am starting my sixth year in an outdoor paradise appropriately named Eden, Utah. I moved west because Horace Greeley said to do so (and my three children and grandchildren were all out here).

“I am within 20 minutes of three great ski areas, the best of them being the unequaled Powder

**Core Haiku**



Sold Core texts bought beer.  
Later bought same texts paid more.  
Lesson here is what?

— Thomas Chorba ’66

yet have been released for public hearings. We thought a little good news would be welcome!

“We did do local publicity but did not get the response we expected as apparently it was interpreted in some quarters as ‘political.’ We made some great contacts in Washington, including expanding our relationship with personnel of the National Cathedral School and received technical assistance that will allow us to improve the quality of the free courses that we give in our small, satellite libraries. That was the really great news!”

I learned from a November 1 email from his organization, Africa Consultants International Baobab, that **Gary Engelberg**, who had been in poor health, died in Senegal on August 12, 2019. After graduation, Gary went to Senegal as a Peace Corps volunteer, and he essentially remained there, doing good social justice and development work, for the rest of his life. You can read testimonials and reminiscences from his work colleagues and fellow Peace Corps volunteers online at [bit.ly/2RSvmtc](http://bit.ly/2RSvmtc).

Mountain — the largest skiable area in North America. I am a Powder Guide there. Still getting about 90 days a year in the fluff.

“Music continues to be a driving force in my life, having recently recorded a 20-song CD, *Eagle in the Air*. Incredibly, four Grammy winners volunteered their services. The music follows my lifeline of oceans and mountains, being equally distributed between country rock (a genre I help found) and Caribbean rock.

“Moving from New England to Utah was the right thing, but here I was at 67 with no friends, no audience for my music and no familiarity with the medical institutions (hehe). Music has again led me to wonderful associations with many new friends/fans. And Eden, in this high mountain valley close to Salt Lake and Ogden, is truly magical and unequaled, providing an incredible quality of life.

“So, this proud father and grandfather continues to ski, hike, bike and write music. If you want to hear

my new tunes from *Eagle in the Air* go to [johnburrows.hearnow.com](http://johnburrows.hearnow.com).”

**Mark Levine** shares: “**David Gilbert**’s son, Chesa Boudin, won a tightly contested race for district attorney in San Francisco in November’s election. Chesa is a Yale graduate and a former Rhodes Scholar. His mother is Kathy Boudin.”

From **Tod Howard Hawks**: My father wanted me first to obtain a law degree and then an M.B.A. I got neither, a defiant decision I made for which he never forgave me. I dropped out of law school before the end of my first semester. I have been a poet and human-rights advocate my entire adult life.

“I would like to share the poem ‘Those Who Rule.’ I posted it on [hellopoetry.com](http://hellopoetry.com), where it has received more than 1,000 hits.

#### Those Who Rule

We shall keep the poor poor.  
We shall be on them like  
a master’s whip on the backs  
of slaves; but they will not  
know us: we are too far and  
too close. We shall use the  
patois of patriotism to patronize  
them. We shall hide behind our  
flags while we hold only one pole.  
We shall have the poor fight our  
wars for us, and die for us; and  
before they die, they will kill for  
us, we hope, enough. In peace,  
we shall piecemeal them and serve  
them meals made of toxins and tallow.  
For their labor, we shall pay them  
slave wages; and all that we give,  
we shall take back, and more, by  
monumental scandals that subside  
like day’s sun at eventide. We shall  
be clever, as ever, circumspect and  
surreptitious at all times. We shall  
keep them deluded with the  
verisimilitude  
of hope, but undermine always its  
being. We shall infuse their lives  
with fear and hate, playing one  
race against another, one religion  
against a brother’s. Disaffection is  
our key; but we must modulate our  
efforts deftly, so the poor remain  
frightened and angered, but always  
blind and deaf and divided. And if,  
perchance, one foments, we shall  
seize the moment and drop his head  
into his hands, even as he speaks.  
This internecine brew we pour, there-  
fore, into the poor to keep them drunk  
with enmity and incapacitation. Ah,

eternal anticipation! Bottoms up,  
old chaps! We, those who rule,  
shall have them always in our laps.  
We are, as it were, their salvation.

## 1967

**Albert Zonana**  
425 Arundel Rd.  
Goleta, CA 93117  
[az164@caa.columbia.edu](mailto:az164@caa.columbia.edu)

Congratulations to **Tom Hauser** LAW’70, who has been selected for induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. The ceremony will take place on June 14. Tom is known in boxing circles as Muhammad Ali’s friend and biographer. On eight occasions, articles he has written have been designated as the “best investigative reporting of the year” by the Boxing Writers Association of America. In 2004, the BWAA honored him with the Nat Fleischer Award for Career Excellence in Boxing Journalism.

**Elliot Bien** LAW’71 writes, “After a few years as a law professor in Chicago, in 1982 I became a civil appeals specialist in San Francisco and have greatly enjoyed this academic and less-stressful outpost of law practice. I’m still active, but my longstanding musical career (including the Columbia band) has been expanding. I’m now composing; playing woodwinds in chamber groups, a klezmer band and Jewish service; and doing a weekly guitar and harmonica gig at a local café. A wonderful wife of 44 years and two wonderful grandkids help life a lot, too. But I do miss NYC and Columbia.”

My wife, Diane, and I were on a river cruise in Portugal in October. On the last evening of the trip, we found out that the gentleman who had kindly provided me with much-needed cold medicine was Mike Landa ’71. Nice connection.

Be well all of you, and do write.

## 1968

**Arthur Spector**  
4401 Collins Ave., 2-1417  
Miami Beach, FL 33140  
[arthurspector@gmail.com](mailto:arthurspector@gmail.com)

Happy New Year. It is quite amazing that it is 2020. I hope the class is in good humor and in good health — a challenge, it seems, for all of us. I am

happy to report that I got hearing aids; they are outstanding and easy to handle (and overdue). No more excuses ... what? Seems to be better at a dinner table with a few others.

Lat year was quite a year — I went to Homecoming with some classmates, and the Lions had another great win. I am hopeful that the team will do better this year. Great wins over Penn and Harvard this season. Coach Al Bagnoli is exceptional, and his group of coaches are superb. The returning players should make for a stronger team. I believe we have five running backs this year with good experience; maybe the most exciting kick-off and punt returner in Columbia history; a superb receiver; and talented quarterbacks returning. Get your tickets early.

And, I might add, I have watched a few of the women’s basketball team games, and the players are incredibly talented. It appears that Coach Megan Griffith ’07 is a superstar; she has a young team but it is impressive, with lots of depth. It’s an exciting group — I think they had 13 3s at a recent game. The team has outside shooting, rebounding and play-making, and clearly great coaching.

I heard from **Ross Ain**. It has been a while since he and I went to an art exhibition during a reunion. He writes: “Ross Ain has taken on new responsibilities as president of Caithness Energy, a privately held independent power producer, where he has been a partner and senior executive for the last 20 years. Caithness owns and operates state-of-the-art natural gas plants on Long Island and in Pennsylvania and the country’s second largest wind farm, Caithness Shepherds Flat, an 845-megawatt wind farm on 30,000 acres of land in eastern Oregon. He says this is definitely his last hurrah, as he looks forward to summers on Cape Cod and less time on the Acela trains between his home in Washington, D.C., and his office and apartment in NYC.”

**Buzz Zucker, Seth Weinstein** and Robert Costa ’67 had dinner at V&T recently, and said it was a great night on the town.

**Alan Seplowitz** sent a sonnet:

To Alma Mater

Perched sphinxlike on the steps  
of Low,  
Are you ever o’er your left  
shoulder looking

When no-one’s around, in the  
dim moon glow,  
To see if *The Thinker* has  
anything cooking?

You’ve seen many protests and  
rallies, Right and Left,  
Divergent views of events present  
and past,  
While on South Field frisbee players  
try to be deft  
Midst the persistent echoes of a  
Lou Gehrig blast.

You’ve seen NROTCers come  
and go,  
Are they smiling ’cause of pride in  
country and flag,  
As they march around the campus  
to and fro,  
Or ’cause Uncle Sam’s covering the  
tuition price tag?

You’ve seen thousands pass by yet  
you never flirt,  
But wait! What’s that owl doing  
under your skirt?

**Ken Tomecki** PS’72 is president of the American Academy of Dermatology, the world’s largest dermatology society, with more than 20,000 members. Impressive for a “guy from Brooklyn.” It is indeed impressive, but if he misses another reunion, he is in hot water! Given my hanging out in the shade at the pool here in Miami, I still expect a free consult at the next reunion.

Congrats, Ken.

I talked to **Art Kaufman** at length; he is doing well and is focused on his grandkids. He likes Miami Beach, so I am hoping he will show up some time. He continues to be a big fan of Columbia rowing and hopes to go to England this year.

I have an idea for the Class of 1968 showing up in Miami in December; Art Basel is here each year, and, thanks to **David Shapiro** GSAS’73, I have become more enthusiastic about 20th-century art (our art history class at Columbia helped, too). I think **Ross Ain** told me he is a collector, too.

In recent years, Columbia has sponsored some events at Art Basel. The Columbia University Club of South Florida has a good turnout, but I have this idea of about 1,000 of us showing up from the rest of the country, and outside of it. There are many venues in Miami, and par-



ties, too. You can see new artists or a Modigliani or a Miró or a Chagall; I saw a Pollock that would be perfect for one of us. Chuck Close was apparently floating around last year, and the convention center was packed with great stuff and champagne.

In any event, let me tell you a bit more about Art Basel 2019: David Silver, a major gifts officer for Columbia and our class's Alumni Office liaison, advised me of the coming attractions. Columbia also sent Ilene Markay-Hallack, senior executive director, strategic events, for the University (she worked with our class on some of our reunions), and Patty Tsai, senior associate director of CAA Arts Access. They came with our hosts, Suzanne Geiss of Murphy & Partners and Daniel Mitura '09. There was a Friday tour at Untitled, hosted by Theo Downes-LeGuin '86 of Upfor Gallery. Saturday night's event was in one of the large tents with windows on the beach, and food both outdoors and indoors. We had perfect weather, and it was a wondrous evening. I had gone the year before, when we had the event in The Bass museum.

My thought for 2020 is that we invite the Class of 1968 to host and we bring in the Classes of '65, '66, '67, '69, '70 and '71. Block out hotel rooms, and add a bit to the program — maybe a dinner dance. The infrastructure is in place; we just add to the size. I joked with Ilene and Patty about adding another 100 alums, but I think the right goal would be 1,000, with spouses/guests. This could be another great annual event for alumni. I will produce great weather.

So, it's just a thought, but as we had the largest turnout for a 50th reunion of any class, we certainly could pull it off again. With some sun and good weather and music, it might be some great days and nights.

Just to add one last thought: The whole Art History department might come down if we were big enough. This column will probably cause high blood pressure at Columbia, but it could be fun!

I spoke to **Tom Sanford** about my idea; he is game, so we shall see how this unfolds. His son is an artist, and we can consult with him.

Some of you might have been to the Met Opera-Columbia event that I conceived of as chair of the

Bicentennial. We filled up the house in 1987 for the best entertainment you could get on Broadway! Some folks thought the idea was insane — one was then-Dean Robert Pollock '61, who ended up enjoying the night. Lisa Carnoy '89, now co-chair of the University Board of Trustees, was a student then; she reported to me that she had a great time.

I was thin on news this time, but I promise a bulky column next time. Let me know if you have thoughts about Art Basel. Many here might come ("here" being Naples and South Florida).

All the best, and go Lions! See you around — maybe at Homecoming for another win!

## 1969

**Nathaniel Wander**  
c/o CCT  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530  
New York, NY 10025  
nw105@columbia.edu

Dear classmates of CC'69, allow me to introduce myself as the new class correspondent. I'm **Nathaniel Wander** Ph.D. GSAS'80. I hope to serve as faithfully as **Michael Oberman** did through all his years.

I also hope you'll accept me as an authentic classmate, though I didn't graduate until 1972. In 1967, I took a leave of absence to travel to Israel before the Six-Day War; following Spring '68, I resigned. My best evidence of belonging, however, is possession of my freshman beanie. How could I give up a baby blue Tweedledum/Tweedledee cap with a white "69" plastered across the crown?

Making up for prior fecklessness, I returned to Columbia in 1970, completing undergraduate and graduate degrees in anthropology. I taught in that department through summer '81, when I left for a post-doctoral fellowship in anthropology and psychiatry at UC San Diego. My dissertation research in rural West Bengal included study of ghost and witchcraft possession and exorcism; I came to understand exorcism as a kind of drama therapy. In San Diego I studied parallels between diagnosis of anti-social personality disorder and life histories of country music song characters — characters who regularly turned over municipal

dump trucks in the mayor's yard, lost all their worldly possessions rodeoing or shot a fellow barfly just to watch him die ....

Desirable academic positions were few when my fellowship ended in 1983. Reckoning I could conduct therapy as well as psychiatrists, if not exorcists, I took group-facilitation training with the Carl Rogers-founded Center for the Studies of the Person in La Jolla, Calif., and went on to practice in the Navy Substance Abuse Prevention Program until an M.D. friend invited me to Portland, Ore., to manage his clinic for street people.

In Portland, I lucked into an unofficial internship at a counseling center, and a decade later, emerged from Portland State University with a master's and a specialization in group work with substance abusers, and persons with advanced HIV. I worked for child protective services and for two county health departments, ultimately rappelling back to academia.

Based on experience in smoking cessation and as a rural city councilor, I was hired to assist rural Oregon municipalities to put tobacco control policy into practice. I stumbled across the \$10-million electronic document tobacco industry archive that emerged from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement between the State Attorneys General lawsuits against the Big Five tobacco companies. I went on to conduct research at UC San Francisco — where the archive had been curated — then at the University of Edinburgh, part of a British multi-university consortium. From 2002 to 2011, I specialized in tobacco industry activities to influence officials and the general public, particularly with regard to global health policymaking.

Following early retirement from Edinburgh, I relocated to Belize to study woodpeckers. My anthropological interests had included evolution and ecology; in the '90s, I'd become an avid birder, taking courses and participating in field studies of ecology and avian behavior. I was on my way to reinvention as an ornithologist when someone mistook me for a gringo rich enough to be worth killing and robbing: He shot me in the back with a shotgun, but obviously, I survived.

Back in the United States in 2017, I resettled in Oregon, where

I've been composing a personal/professional memoir, seven chapters of which have been published; an eighth was recently accepted. I began learning to paint in acrylics, then in watercolors; until photography obviated the skill, explorers and naturalists noted their findings in watercolor, and I long envied them. Having previously painted nothing but houses, it's been fun to discover new talents at this age.

Now that you know about me, what's new with you? Write me at nw105@columbia.edu.

## 1970

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Leo G. Kailas**  
lkailas@reitlerlaw.com

**David S. Sokolow** GSAS'71, LAW'79 proudly reports: "My big news for 2019: My wife, Tobi, and I won our first North American Bridge Championship together, the Senior Mixed Pairs, in San Francisco. It was my first unrestricted national win. Tobi, a six-time world champion, has put in 30 years trying to improve my game. I am happy to report she achieved her goal!

"Otherwise, I'm still teaching at the University of Texas School of Law (39 years), but plan to go half-time next year. Too many places to explore, too little time. I'll spend three weeks in India in 2021 with **Ted Wirecki** and **Joel Mintz**. I look forward to seeing everyone at our 50th reunion."

I second David's precatory statement regarding our 50th reunion — a BIG EVENT in our lives that we should all celebrate! Our 50th reunion coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Core Curriculum; the great news is that during reunion weekend there will be lectures that focus on the Core and the reasons for its longevity and appeal. I should also mention that on Saturday afternoon we will have a forum for our class for which we will pick three or four topics to focus on that relate to our experiences at the College and how those experiences have had an impact



A group of CC'70 alums tailgated at the Lions's season-opening Saint Francis football game in Loretto, Pa., including Bob Borza, Jim Wascura, Bruce Nagle, Frank Furillo, Bernie Josefsberg and Pete Stevens.

## 1971

**Lewis Preschel**  
[i.a.preschel@gmail.com](mailto:i.a.preschel@gmail.com)

**William Barr** GSAS'79, the present and two-time attorney general of the United States, was the subject of the front-page article of *The Sunday Review* of *The New York Times* on October 27. The biographical article discussed his education, including his degrees from Columbia, as well as the fact that his father and mother were professors at our University. In a display of karmic irony, the most visible member of our class — a class that was heavily involved in the anti-Vietnam War protests — is from the conservative wing of the Republican party. That demonstrates the diversity of opinions and the breadth and depth of exposure a student at Columbia experiences. Our education is not limited to the classrooms. The campus environment allowed growth through the exchange of divergent ideas.

**Art Smith** TC'73 checks in: "After retiring from two stints as an environmental attorney (as a big prosecutor and progressive business officer), I am several years into adjusting to retirement. I enjoy splitting time among road biking, pro-bono climate change activity and family. I train all year in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan for annual bike trips; 2019 was Portugal and Joshua Tree, Calif. Recently finished my second article for an American Bar Association sustainable development journal (on ecosystem services and pluvial flooding). Most important is spending time with my grandkids — Landon (8), Sydney (4) and Tyler (2). It took a couple of years to find the right retirement balance. My wife, Jan, and I enjoy several trips each year to NYC that we combine with visiting family in Washington, D.C."

**Mark Silverman** has retired, as well. He was the founder and chair of the anatomic pathology department at the then-named Lahey Clinic in Boston. Mark writes, "My wife, Susan, and I lived in Newton, Mass., for almost 40 years, but now, we split our time between Massachusetts and New York City. We have an apartment in Greenwich Village so that we can enjoy life and see our three children and our three

grandchildren, who all live in the city. Although I enjoyed practicing medicine, retirement is really wonderful. I would love to reconnect with friends who remember those silly blue beanies and the good things like *The Gold Rail*."

How about equal time for those of us who frequented *The West End*?

**Daniel Libby** is a clinical professor of medicine, pulmonary and critical care medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, as well as an attending physician at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dan credits the Core Curriculum as having a profound influence on him. I would agree that as a physician, the ethics and morals of our humanities and arts studies set a standard for my life's work. He puts it this way: "Critical thinking, expression of one's ideas in writing, exposure to great moments in philosophy, history, works of art, literature and music broadened my outlook on the world and enabled me to appreciate so much more in life. Left to my own devices, I doubt I would have acquired the knowledge, critical thinking or appreciation of diversity that the Core Curriculum and College life demanded."

Dan also thanks the guardians/caregivers of the Core Curriculum for its continued growth and modification so that it remains as vibrant today as when we partook in it.

Dan went to Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He returned to NYC for his internship and residency in internal medicine at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where subsequently he completed a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine. From 1979 to 1986, he was a full-time employee of Cornell University Medical College, pursuing academic pulmonary medicine. Thereafter, Dan has been in the private practice and has published approximately 100 journal articles on various aspects of the pulmonary/critical care medical field. His academic interests focused on the area of screening for lung cancer with low-dose radiation CT scans in high-risk individuals. This technique helped change the long-term outlook in lung cancer.

Dan remains in practice in New York City but has traveled the world with his wife of 42 years, Dr. Nancy Kemeny. They have three daughters

our lives. There will be an open mic and everyone will be invited to participate. Princeton professor **Paul Starr** will speak to us on health care reform, and Professor **Tom Keenan** SEAS'71 will discuss cybersecurity issues that we should all be aware of.

Football captain **Frank Furillo** sent a note and a photo (above) regarding his opening game outing with classmates. Frank notes, "A group of CC'70 alums got together to tailgate at the Lions season opener at the Saint Francis game in Loretto, Pa. The Pittsburgh contingent included **Bob Borza** and **Bruce Nagle**, with **Pete Stevens**, **Bernie Josefsberg**, **Jim Wascura** and I representing the New York/New Jersey Lion contingent. All six were members of the 1966 freshman football team, which was coached by the legendary 'Coach of Silicon Valley,' **Bill Campbell '62, TC'64**. Even though it's been more than 53 years since we were first teammates, we remain close to each other, loyal to the football program and appreciative of our Columbia education."

I hope all of these football teammates show up at reunion so we can enjoy their banter and show them our appreciation.

**Michael Stern** reports, "I retired as a lawyer in Silicon Valley last year and am producing movies instead (much more rewarding and fun). Our first film, *General Magic*, is about a fabled startup that spun out of Apple in 1990 to build a smartphone 17 years before it was actually possible. The company's young engineers later developed both the

iPhone and Android, founded eBay, become the chief technology officer of the United States and achieved many other spectacular things. The film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, played at film festivals around the world (garnering many 'Best Of' festival awards), was cablecast on Showtime in the United States and National Geographic in Europe, and debuted on streaming platforms in October 2019 as a top 10 pick on iTunes."

**Carl Hyndman** GSAS'74 sent the following: "Hard to believe it has been 50 years since we got our heads bashed on Low Plaza and then tried to go to Woodstock. I tried to summarize many of these events in my recently published novel, *Bookstore on the Seine*. I vividly remember carting **Lewis Siegelbaum** off the plaza. Then we rode in paddy wagons to the Tombs, where we spent the night with 700 others. Although I have had a fairly normal family and career life since then, I often reflect on those days and in particular my adventures along the hippie trail to Afghanistan in 1972; swinging from birches in Bennington, Vt., with **David Shack '71**; attending Sha Na Na concerts; and long nighttime discussions with **Ed Wallace '71**, **John Riley** and **Chuck Bethel '69**. I tried to recount these and other tales in my novel.

"All the best to those stalwarts and to others in Class of 1970."

Carl, I hope you will attend Columbia Reunion 2020 and tell us about some of your experiences during that era.

— Jacqueline, a Ph.D. in robotics at Carnegie Mellon; Laura, an M.D. in practice with Dan; and Victoria, a Psy.D. in Portland, Maine. He wishes for his granddaughters (Luna, Olympia and Lucianna) the enlightenment of a Columbia College education.

**Bennett Alan Weinberg** was a professor of cultural history, an attorney and a consulting writer for many Fortune 500 pharmaceutical companies, as well as being an award-winning author. His nonfiction books include *The World of Caffeine: The Science and Culture of the World's Most Popular Drug*, a reference book, and *The Caffeine Advantage: How to Sharpen Your Mind, Improve Your Physical Performance, and Achieve Your Goals — the Healthy Way*, a self-help book. These award-winning books have been translated into Italian, Japanese, Spanish, Korean and Indonesian. In the field of fiction, Bennett authored the neo-noir thriller *Manci's Girl: An Updated Noir Thriller* and the occult fantasy *Simon Magus: The First Vampire*. He shares, "My works allowed me to be a guest on many news programs and documentaries, including *CBS Sunday Morning*, Fox News's *Health and Fitness* and a radio interview on NPR's *Weekend Edition*, with Scott Simon."

Presently, poetry is Bennett's main interest. If anyone has an interest in reading or publishing poetry that is metered and often rhymed, Bennett would be delighted to hear from you.

**Arvin Levine** writes, "Funny, but my experience might have been different from what you generalized about our class. I only did service

on a local level (think Boy Scouts), studiously avoiding anything legal or governmental. Also, I saw our class as instrumental actors in the events of '68, not onlookers witnessing history in the unfolding. ... You know, 'If you don't like the news, make some of your own.'"

Arvin, I think part of our class acted to create history, but the whole of our class was on the scene to observe it. Do you remember, "If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem." was a popular quotation of the time?

Arvin lives in Jerusalem and ended his note with, "Thanks for re-raising my consciousness! Arvin Levine, Jerusalem (052-405-4129) and arvinlevine@gmail.com."

I assume Arvin would love to hear from classmates.

Rev. **Vincent J. Rigdon** wrote that after graduating, he worked for the Department of Commerce as an export control compliance inspector/special agent. He lived in Richmond Hill, Queens, and worked at JFK Airport. During this time, he considered the Catholic priesthood, and entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., in 1973. Vincent was ordained a Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., on May 14, 1977, having already been commissioned as a chaplain candidate in the United States Air Force Reserve in 1974. In October 2000, he retired from the USAFR as a chaplain, lieutenant colonel. Prior to his retirement he achieved "Career Conditional" status.

Vincent also became famous throughout the USAFR by suing the secretary of defense over partial birth abortion: *Rigdon v. Perry*, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He had the temerity to win the case. As Vincent states, it was not a career-enhancing move.

He adds, "In July 2018, I retired from the pastorate, but not from the priesthood. I now live in retirement at Old St. Mary's in Chinatown, Washington, D.C., saying Mass, hearing confessions and keeping reasonably active. All the best to classmates."

Dear classmates, I am hoping to hold an informal class meeting in New York City; with working out logistics we are probably shooting for a year from this spring. If you are interested, please respond with dates that would work for you and a place (read: restaurant/bar; The West End

no longer exists, so pick someplace else) that might interest you. I will keep a list of interested classmates so that I can email you to work out the specifics when a consensus is reached.

Also remember that I only edit this column; without classmates checking in, I will have nothing to publish. We were drafted into the brotherhood of the Class of 1971. However, you have to volunteer to keep in touch. Drop the Class Notes a line.

## 1972

**Paul S. Appelbaum**  
pappel1@aol.com

**Larry Boorstein** SEAS'74, SEAS'78, BUS'88 shares some reminiscences: "I won't say that it seems a short time since college, but I do remember arriving at Columbia College in September 1968. Mayor

to Sulawesi to Kalimantan (Borneo), boarding small planes (the client told us to check the airworthiness certificate each time we got on a plane), coastal and river patrol boats, trips to a Caspian Sea port in Kazakhstan; Bangkok, Thailand; Casablanca, Morocco; the Suez Canal, Egypt; Portugal; and ports in Mexico, Central America (Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama) and South America (Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile and Brazil)."

Now in Reston, Va., Larry specializes in planning for retirement and estates, college and long-term care.

**Steven Hirschfeld** PS'83 transitioned during this past year from active duty in the United States Public Health Service to civilian status and "maintains a footprint at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, a larger footprint at the National Institutes of Health, and more of a footprint

## Core Haiku



Reading these books has  
been at the core of my life.  
Columbia, thanks!

— Phillip M. Weiss '73

John V. Lindsay gave the commencement address for my high school, Bronx Science, at a theater on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx in June 1968. LBJ was President when we started college and Nixon when we graduated; that seems so distant now. After getting a B.A. (as I recall, Alfred Hitchcock was awarded an honorary doctorate at Commencement), I went to the Engineering School for a master's in civil engineering (1974) and a professional degree in civil engineering (1978). I returned as a full-time student at the Business School, where I earned an M.B.A. in finance in 1988, before continuing my career."

After a 40-year career mostly with AECOM Technical Services, where he was project manager for transportation infrastructure projects in 19 states and 29 countries, Larry joined New York Life in April 2019. With AECOM, Larry traveled the world; he says, "Memorable experiences include a trip to visit ports in rural Indonesia, from Bali

doing work in the private sector. Does that mean I have three feet? No, it means constant hopping among locations."

Among other roles, Steven is a professor of pediatrics at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine of USUHS in Bethesda, Md.

**Armen Donelian**, our jazz musician extraordinaire, has recently seen the publication of the Italian edition of the first volume of his book *Training the Ear*. The original version in English of this textbook and CD package appeared in 1992, followed by the Japanese edition in 2001.

## 1973

**Barry Etra**  
beta1@bellsouth.net

My pleas for news fall on deaf ears. Makin' do with what I get ....

**James "Jim" Minter** caught up with **Peter Niemiec** after several decades, when Peter traveled east from



## Send in Your News

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



Los Angeles for his 50th high school reunion. Jim and his husband, David Schnabel, were in London in September for **Mitch Freinberg's** daughter Charlotte '10's wedding, along with several other CC grads, among them Geoff Colvin '74, and Mitch's brother, David Freinberg '78. Jim and David's nephew, Matthew Ruppert, was admitted to the Class of '24, which he says is "the best news since their niece, Elise Minter Konover '07, was admitted to the Class of '07. Who owns New York, indeed?"

The redoubtable **Michael Shapiro** BUS'79 recently conducted the BBC National Orchestra of Wales for three days in Cardiff, performing his own *Archangel Concerto* for piano and orchestra, based on Milton's *Paradise Lost* (Michael notes, "first read by me in Humanities A" — go, Core!). Also conducted that day were his works *Roller Coaster*, *Perlimplinito*, *Opera Sweet*; and *Widorama*. All these are now commercially available and on BBC3 this year.

Need quantity over here, folks. Do send in your news, as your classmates want to hear from you. Thanks in advance.

## 1974

**Fred Bremer**  
f.bremer@ml.com

As we meander through our 60s, we are experiencing a change in the demographic landscape. While we were once considered "the younger generation," few would now look at our thinning grey or white hair and choose this description. Now it is the millennials who have taken our spot. We are left clinging to the hope of being considered middle age. At least they (occasionally) give us their seat and (far too often) refer to us as "sir."

With a generation often considered to be roughly 25 years, an increasing number of colleagues, neighbors and relatives are one or two generations younger than we are and thus have not shared many of our life experiences. In the same way we could not relate to our parents' references to the Korean War, many now consider the Vietnam War as a topic of history books.

At work recently I referred to author Ken Kesey and his 1962 book, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's*

*Nest*. All I got back were blank stares. (Lucky I didn't try mentioning the "Magic Bus" or the phrase "you're either on the bus or off the bus"!)

Another time I was quietly singing "My Boomerang Won't Come Back" (the 1961 song of our youth) and was told I must have made that up. Increasingly I find it necessary to "self-censure" in order to keep my remarks relevant to a greater and greater number. And it will only get worse!

It might not be long before many will find it impossible to believe that all colleges were not always coed. That reminded me of the "Around the Quads/Hall of Fame" article in the Fall 2019 *CCT*, "The Woman Who First Crashed the College Gates," about Anna Kornbrot SEAS'74, '75. The profile was the Columbia College Alumni Facebook page's most-clicked article of 2019! Anna discovered a loophole that allowed students at Columbia Engineering to add one more year at the College and receive both degrees. Now a doctor of dental medicine, she is married to **Barry Klayman** (an attorney at Cozen O'Connor in Wilmington, Del.). I saw a Facebook note from **Jon Ben-Asher** (an attorney with Ritz Clark & Ben-Asher in NYC): "Anna was always far cooler and braver than the rest of us!"

Also on Facebook was a posting by **Ted Markowitz** (chief architect for Cognosys in Darien, Conn.) about his pets: two Maine Coons (said to be the largest domestic cats in the world). He said the breed can weigh 9–18 lbs. and "is somewhere between a cat and a lynx."

An email came in from **Rob Stevens** (president and managing director of One Stone Productions — Mine Train Records in the Bronx). His impressive discography includes his recent remixing of John Lennon's *Imagine* album. Rob tells us he has also mixed, produced or played with quite a diverse group of musicians: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Herbie Hancock and Yoko Ono. (Were they discussed in Music Hum?)

There you have it. Classmates adapting to the changing demographics while continuing to follow their careers. Seems like we should be hearing of more classmates retiring, but no big flood of news. If this applies to you, send details!

## 1975

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Randy Nichols**  
rcn2day@gmail.com

**Alan M. Fixelle** has started a position as physician/CEO at his private practice, Gastro Consultants of Atlanta.

After drooling over their Facebook posts, I asked **Phelps Hawkins** JRN'79 to send a few words about his and his wife Sandra's travels in Europe last summer. Former journalism professor that he is, Phelps outdid himself. I can't improve by editing, so I will just include it as he wrote it.

"We stormed into 2019 and our 70s as recent retirees with a plan not to have a plan. Neither of us wanted the pressure of 'deciding what to do in our retirement.' As career-long journalists, there was little of substance to do professionally. So, we decided to look inward and keep it simple.

"We'd already offloaded all sorts of furniture and other stuff on the kids in Dallas, so next was to tackle decluttering, starting with a garage full of everything but two cars. Years of moving to next jobs, including two international round-trips, left us with boxes absolutely everywhere storing essentials from a child's pre-school art to antique red and gold Balinese doors to Grandma's incomplete single bed set.

"No surprise, they're not all gone yet, not even close.

"The surprise is we've been busy. Nobody told us that 70 was a watershed moment for health issues, or so it seems. The first 50 years, two doctors were just fine; now, I have 10, and every time I ask another question I'm likely to get another one. But I did finally take action on years of weight problems and had bariatric surgery. Now I'm down 60 lbs., with about 25 to go. It's easier when your stomach is about 20 percent its original size.

"We've also gotten started on one key element of our retirement — travel. Varied long weekend trips are a snap and, since I love to drive, not

all that expensive. We also enjoyed a full three months at our lake place in the northern Adirondacks. Then, we wrapped up the year with a terrific two-week trip introducing Sandra to Italy, with fabulous private tour guides in each major city: Venice, Florence and Rome.

"After a New Year's trip to see the four grandkids, and taking them to see *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* at the Dallas Children's Theater, we're now settled back in our barrier island Savannah home, enjoying the pool!

"Our next travel may have to be to move overseas, depending on the results of the 2020 election."

Fingers crossed for 2020!

**Gene Hurley** chimed in recently, writing: "I have not contributed anything to our *CCT* Class Notes since I was the original class correspondent in the 1970s. But having saved up, I now have plenty to relate. And I am in the mood to do so because I am on the verge of a big life change — specifically, after a lifetime in the NYC metro area, I am moving to Bloomington, Ind., for my retirement years."

After graduating from the College, Gene was a trade magazine editor for a while, then entered Brooklyn Law School, graduating in 1982. He says, "During and after law school I was a law clerk for U.S. Magistrate John L. Caden in the Eastern District of New York. In 1983, I joined the Manhattan D.A.'s office as an assistant D.A. I spent the next three and a half decades there before retiring in the middle of 2018. I was in the trial division and specialized in homicide cases and sex trafficking rings. I was appointed a senior trial counsel in 1994. The work was always challenging and engaging."

For the past few years Gene has been creating a collection of walking guides to Paris, for cell phones. It involves a great deal of historical research (and yes, visits to Paris and learning to read French).

In 2004, Gene married Ivy Millerand, whom he met on match.com. He has two sons, Bill and Peter, from a previous marriage.

Gene and Ivy have lived in and around NYC for most of their lives, and were planning to stay. But after visiting his sister and brother-in-law in Bloomington this past October, they decided to move. He says, "We're both retired, our parents are deceased, our best friends already

live four hours away, and they and my sons can afford to fly to visit, or we can fly back — it's just a two-hour, 15-minute flight, and Indy has a beautiful new airport."

**Richard Mattiaccio LAW'78** has made the transition from being a "Big Law" commercial and IP litigator and occasional arbitrator to working nearly full time as an arbitrator. He also represents clients at his new firm, *Allegaert Berger & Vogel*, an NYC boutique where the College is well represented. In his spare time Richard teaches arbitration law at Fordham University School of Law, chairs the London-based New York Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and is a co-director of an annual, one-week Columbia Law School/CIARB intensive course on international arbitration. In 2019 he co-chaired the first New York Arbitration Week, held at a number of NYC venues November 19–22.

A decade after their return from 19 years of child-rearing exile in Westchester County, Richard and his wife, Kate, continue to enjoy living on the Upper East Side. Kate is active in behavior analysis practice and in training teachers of students on the autism spectrum. They look forward to spending more time over the next few years with good friends and visiting new countries as well as old haunts.

And don't forget, 2020 is our 45th reunion year! Make your plans to attend Columbia Reunion 2020, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6. The weekend will kick off with an all-class party at the New York Public Library, and there will be assigned class lounges in the newly renovated Carman Hall. The dorm room pictures I've seen are gorgeous — rich, wood-toned floors instead of cold tiles (but with the same built-in furniture). Mark your calendars!

The Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Alumni Committee on the Core Centennial ask for your help with an important piece of the Centennial celebration. The Core Stories Memory Project (#corestories) will gather reflections, perspectives, insights and memories of our Core Curriculum experiences to be shared throughout the year on social media, online and in various publications. At the end of the Centennial year, the College will preserve the memories in a digital and/or print format as the community expression of the Core experience.

Please visit [core100.columbia.edu/core-stories](http://core100.columbia.edu/core-stories) to submit stories, to attach a photo or to send a short video that speaks to your experience in the Core.

## 1976

**Ken Howitt**  
[kenhowitt76@gmail.com](mailto:kenhowitt76@gmail.com)

No music, as I am sitting Shiva for my 96-year-old mom, Mildred Howitt (spouse of Bill Howitt '41 and mother of four College graduates), who recently passed away. Two classmates were so embracing. First, **Tiberio Nascimento's** guitar playing was playing on a CD in Mom's hospital room during the last three weeks of her life. Then, **Mozelle Thompson** was the supreme editor for my eulogy. Thanks to both for all the support!

**Philip "Gara" LaMarche** checked in with a mini-reunion of his own: "In December, **Dan Baker** and I organized a reunion, with our wives, of three Columbians — ourselves, and Harry Bauld '77, along with Chris Daly, a Harvard friend. It was 40 years since the big birthday party we had for ourselves in 1979. We revisited old haunts like V&T and the site of the now-departed Felle's Tavern at 106th and Amsterdam, where we all played in a darts league.

"I head up the Democracy Alliance, the organization of progressive political donors, heading into the most important election of our lives, teach at Hunter College in the Roosevelt House Human Rights Program, and chair the boards of StoryCorps and *The New Press*."

**Gary Lehman BUS'80, SIPA'80** took a break from his job with Homeland Security to report he "... sojourned to Djibouti in the Horn of Africa with Shark Research Institute. Mission was to scuba dive/snorkel with the whale sharks to document/ photograph them, building census baseline data while they congregate in the Gulf of Tadjoura. They are highly endangered and they might be gone before we even know much about them. The spot patterns for each whale shark are unique, so individuals can be identified; keep that GoPro running! Seeing a whale shark for the first time is a stunning experience; it is like looking back at the beginning of life on Earth. We also dove

between the separating tectonic plates in the Africa's Great Rift Valley.

"After the diving adventure, I met my wife in Addis Ababa and we toured Ethiopia: Addis Ababa and the 3.5 million-year old *Australopithecus Afarensis*; then north to Bahir Dar to see the source of the Blue Nile and Christian monasteries from 13th century on Lake Tana; Gonder; the stunning lava rock churches (World Heritage sites); and the spectacular Simien Mountains with various endemic species and the cheeky gelada monkeys! We are looking forward to welcoming [grandson] Silas in March; he will join his four cousins!"

**Laurence J. Collins** reports from Toledo, Ohio. He sent an incredible piece of digital art, which described his transformation to "phoenix" shortly after his Columbia graduation. LJC draws a parallel to a lion, in that "I am boldly striding forth." In that mission, he has been married to Linda for 37 years. They met in NYC during his freshman year. Together, they have four children (two boys and two girls), with two in business management, one a teacher and one a homicide detective. LJC continues, "I am a certified blood bank technologist, and worked within the Greater Toledo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross for 12 years in the blood processing lab, two years as community program consultant, and five years as founder and coordinator of the Men of Color Project of Toledo, which was an HIV/AIDS prevention and education initiative targeting gay and bisexual men of color in Toledo and Lucas County, Ohio. I officially retired from the Red Cross on August 1, 2019. In 1998, I earned a master's in education in mental health and school counseling from the University of Toledo. I was employed by Toledo Public Schools for 16 years before retiring in 2011. I have been a real estate developer since 1982 and provide affordable residential housing for Toledo residents. I am currently the head varsity basketball coach at my alma mater, Jesup W. Scott H.S., and will be a substitute biology teacher this year."

Indeed, like a phoenix, LJC seems to be constantly rising!

**Jeffrey Glassman** checked in with concern about the Columbia University Marching Band situation from last fall. The increased supervision concerns him, based on his rec-

ollection of an incident during our student years. He writes, "The band set out for the Saturday afternoon Brown game late Friday night, and then went to the Yale campus and pretended to be the Harvard band, got on the bus and went to Cambridge and pretended to be the Yale band, waking everybody early in the morning and confusing everybody because the Harvard-Yale game was in New Haven, and then went on to Providence for the Brown game and 'pretended' to be the Columbia University Marching Band. Somehow, I think that behavior in 2019 or 2020 would end in not only administrative discipline but also, and more likely, criminal charges."

Jeff is concerned that the current solution is too restrictive but realizes that a number of alums remain active in an advisory role, and so he is confident about the future.

**George Freimarck GSAS'81** checked in: "I've entered my second year here in Munich, on behalf of Xceedance Consulting, developing business for our insurance strategic consultancy in Europe. While here, my wife, Gratia Pelliciotti BC'80, and I have engaged in quite a bit of travel throughout Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Adriatics (as opposed to the Baltics). Speaking of the Baltics, shoutout to **Toomas Hendrik Ilves**, former president of Estonia, and valedictorian of Leonia H.S. in New Jersey! I follow Toomas on Twitter (@IlvesToomas), mainly because of my interest in the Baltic region and his informed perspective on a region we often hear too little about but to which a lot more attention ought to be paid."

**Charles Martin**, as a former class correspondent, took pity on me and submitted: "Not much to report ([soon] I should have an announcement about a new mystery novel)."

He went on to say that the story collection *Hong Kong Noir* features one of his stories, "Ticket Home," was named one of the "45 Highlights from 2019" by the *Asian Review of Books*. Charles works out of a 1957 Airstream trailer in his Seattle backyard.

**John Lauer** has resided in Morgantown, Pa., for more than 33 years, and it has been almost 38 since he moved out of Astoria, N.Y. Married to Bonnie for more than 42 years and enjoying having four of their six children still home, on



Left to right, Dan Baker '76, Harvard grad Chris Daly, Harry Bauld '77 and Gara LaMarche '76 recreated the pose Bauld caricatured for an invitation in 1979 based on Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger*.

occasion. John manages a Thrivent Financial office as a financial associate, only 4.4 miles from home. His new motto is "65 and still alive!"

He adds, "Medicare has been good so far, too. While life is not without health issues, I'm celebrating eight years post-prostate cancer. Also made the last two college tuition payments in January for the last two daughters, both seniors at Eastern University. One son is finishing his Ph.D. in physics at Temple, so finally there will be a 'Dr. Lauer' later this year. If you pass through Morgantown (Exit 298 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike), stop in to say hello."

**Glenn Stanley** GSAS'88 lives in Berlin, where he is a lecturer at Barenboim-Said Akademie there. He is also professor emeritus at the University of Connecticut. Glenn writes, "Many of you don't know me because I was at Columbia for only two years and lived at Barnard, but here goes. I started graduate school in musicology at Columbia in 1976; after my first year I spent two years in Germany studying language and music, and I met my future wife, Anka, who returned with me in 1979. I finally finished in 1987 (two years of research grants in both East and West Germany for the dissertation slowed the process, but we had fun!), taught as a visiting professor for two years at Columbia and one at McGill before settling down at the University of Connecticut with one son in tow. There we stayed until 2017, with several half-year and full-year stays in Germany and Austria, when we moved to Berlin, where we now live permanently. I love the city, and there is much less Trump here, although still too much. I am teaching at a small conservatory in Berlin, and remain active as a scholar, concentrating on Beethoven and other German composers as well as music criticism and historiography."

Quite a few classmates send in their updates with offers to host travelers who want to get in touch. Our class does not seem to be retiring to Florida, but instead is rising like a phoenix (apologies to LJC for stealing his idea) and continuing to expand our horizons. Writing this column is inspiring, and I appreciate all the back and forth as I try to create an interesting read.

If there is a classmate whom you would like to reach out to, please email me at the address at the top of this column. I would be happy to connect you.

Finally, the music will start again next week. Being a part of a Columbia family and having all of you as family members has seen me through many recent trying times. Thanks, and start planning for the 45th reunion Thursday, June 3–Saturday, June 5, 2021. Keep those updates coming!

## 1977

**David Gorman**  
dgorman@niu.edu

I have managed to get way behind on this column. Apologies to all concerned.

In November, **Peter Basch** wrote to update us on his work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which involved a side trip from Los Angeles to Cape Kennedy. He shares, "I'm on the Mars 2020 rover team at JPL, doing documentation. I'll travel to the Cape for two months! Maybe not sun, fun and sand, but certainly sun and mechanical/electrical procedures. And some sand too, I guess."

In August, **Walter Heiser** BUS'85 wrote to say that first, he is a project finance and development attorney based in southeast Asia (he mentions

Bangkok and Vientiane); these projects, he says, "include numerous electric power facilities — hydropower, solar, and wind and mine-mouth coal, as well as the Laos-China Railway (under construction)."

Walter considers his second piece of news to be the big one, however, since it concerns the publication of his first novel, *Brazil, Brasil ... Welcome to Brasil!* The paperback is available from Barnes & Noble, the e-book from Amazon. This venture has not been without its issues. He says, "My book website has survived numerous hacking attempts from IP addresses in such exotic locales as Staten Island; North Bergen, N.J., the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. Either a former employer is concerned that my book might be exposing the antics of ex-top brass when in Brasil or Trump's Russian operatives! I did, however, change all names to protect the innocent and not-so-innocent."

Walter has a second novel, set in the Philippines, and is looking for a publisher. He is also working on a third, "set largely in 1980s–90s NYC — a surefire bestseller!"

If I am in there, Walter, please change my name.

In July (told you I'd gotten behind), **Gerry Friedman** wrote to say that he didn't recall when his last update was (it was 2014). Gerry is a professor of economics at UMass Amherst, and so much more, which I will attempt to sort out:

1. Teaching. Gerry writes, "I have been teaching the mega-lecture in microeconomics at UMass, with about 20 percent of the undergraduates. They know me much better than I know them, and they know my dogs, who come to class. Our older dog, Beowulf, died days after the election in 2016, despairing of what the humans had done. We now have his nephew, Corduroy, also a Standard Poodle. The dogs are much more popular than I!"

2. Administration. In the past decade, at various times, Gerry has been chair of his department, associate chair, undergraduate program director and chair of the college of social and behavioral sciences personnel committee.

3. Research. Gerry writes, "I have been very involved in the campaign for Medicare for All, preparing economic impact studies for 10 states (including New York), as well as for

the United States. This has led me to spend time on the road, and testifying in various venues, including Washington, D.C. I contributed a controversial economic study to the Bernie Sanders campaign in 2016."

4. Publication. Gerry has continued to revise his alternative microeconomics textbook, and he finished a manuscript, *The Case for Medicare for All*.

Apologies to **Mike Aroney**, who was identified only as "Mike" in the Fall 2019 column.

## 1978

**Matthew Nemerson**  
matthewnemerson@gmail.com

Thanks, everyone, for contributing to another busy column.

**Michael Burros** shares that he is marrying Brant Dykehouse in March. I had asked everyone, in honor of the Oscars, to give the class their movie and book picks. Michael mentioned the films *O que Arde; Longa noite; Moira;* and *Mientras dure la guerra*.

The Core at 100 has been a theme around campus starting last fall and was even featured at Homecoming last year. **Chuck Callan** notes, "I attended the relaunch of the Core Curriculum in September. It is great to see the sincere dedication of talented teaching faculty, even if for some students it's a hard sell to convince them why they should spend the time to read the 'Ancients.'"

"Priorities are the same for kids. Perhaps maybe more anxiety today about careerism and being liked. We thought it was an accomplishment to *not* be liked, as that meant we were imaginative and original.

"For books, I recommend Pierre Hadot's *What Is Ancient Philosophy?* Separately, for a great description of decadence and gluttony, I recently reread *The Feast of Trimalchio*. I'm not sure *The Satyricon* is still on the syllabus for Lit Hum, but it should be."

**Thomas Reuter** had lunch with **Gerard Gallucci** at Eataly in NYC. Thomas writes, "My kids are fond of telling us that we were oh-so-worried that Nintendo would rot their brains when they were young, and then we went ahead and let Fox News rot our brains.

"As for books, I suggest *Justinian's Flea* by William Rosen. It's an ambitious work that ties together



the Roman Empire, the Hagia Sophia and climate change, leading to the Plague's escape from Africa, which led to the depopulation of Europe, which led to the rise of Islam. A good read."

**Cristopher Dell**, now with his own Dell Energetix Consulting, writes, "It seems that my retirement careers have unexpectedly put me in an interesting place to watch a couple of the major issues of our time play out. I work part-time for Fieldstone, the leading independent investment bank in the African power sector; am a consultant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff/U.S. Africa Command exercise program; and have recently joined the board of an Australian startup that has licensed a lithium-ion battery anode technology that almost doubles the storage capacity of said batteries.

"We're working on a pilot facility to refine and prove the technology at scale. So somehow or the other, I'm involved in the reemergence of great power competition with Russia and China (both military and economic), and renewable energy in response to climate change. I can say with certainty I've seen its impact in changing weather patterns everywhere I've lived and clear evidence of rising sea levels.

"Fortunately, none of it demands too much of my time and I'm free to pursue things I really care about, as well. This entails spending a lot of time in Portugal, and rehabilitating an old windmill (no sign of any cancer-causing tendencies just yet, despite our Dear Leader's mad predictions); trying (and thus far failing) to learn to play the Portuguese guitar; and reading about the history of the Portuguese discoveries. After living abroad for two decades, I'm now ensconced in Crazy Town, where my wife works for USAID. That's about the only thing keeping me from moving back to Europe full time. But I must confess that Washington, D.C., has become a much livelier and more interesting town, as long as one doesn't have to get involved in the politics.

"My thoughts about our kids is that they seem much less concerned about starting a definable career."

Chris says he stays in touch with another world traveler from CC'78, **Nick Serwer**.

Staying with our class internationalists, **William Hartung**, with

the Center for International Policy, writes, "I continue to work on peace and security issues at the center, a D.C.-based think tank. Much of my writing now appears in my column at *Forbes* — a recent example is 'Don't Blunder Into War With Iran.'

"Our kids are clearly more progressive, more concerned about issues like climate, racism and gender equality. When it comes to generations and the climate, my daughter doesn't so much blame us as encourage us to rise to the occasion and do something about it now.

"I have stayed in touch with my freshman and sophomore go-to friend **Lewis Pasco** and saw **NYC Mares** during his recent NYC visit.

"As for movies, I recommend *Parasite*, and books by Jeanette Winterson or Curtis Sittenfeld."

**John A. Glusman** GSAS'80, with W.W. Norton & Co., where he is editor-in-chief, is married to Emily Bestler BC'83, publisher of Emily Bestler Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster. John writes, "Our daughter Jenny is a third-year medical student, daughter Isabel is applying to graduate school in psychology and son Graham '19 will attend Vanderbilt University Law School next year. While it's hard to generalize, I think all three of our children are very conscious of their generation's interest in making the world a better place than we did. So, I'd say they're more politically engaged and socially active.

"I recently saw Barry Singer '79, owner of Chartwell Booksellers. Barry and I took Ted Tayler's legendary Shakespeare course and attended the lovely memorial service for him in Low Library, along with my author Tom Vinciguerra '85.

"Yes, climate change is real, due to a variety of factors, and there's no doubt that our coastlines are at risk and our fisheries are in peril, as is the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink. Our children are quick to blame the boomers for this tragedy, and rightly so, especially when environmental regulations are being rolled back under the current administration at an appalling pace and with far too little public debate.

"Speaking of the environment, read Richard Powers's *The Overstory*, if you haven't already done so. It won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in fiction, is gorgeously written, deeply moving

and will remind you of the beautiful world we inhabit and which is now at such risk."

**Tony Dellicarri** is a retired attorney now with The Mental Health Association of Westchester as a mental health peer counselor. He writes, "I've been married 33 years and we have one daughter (25) and one son (22). I recently saw basketball friends **Joe Vidulich** and **Calvin Parker**. Climate change is real, but I would be lying if I said I did not like the warmer winters!"

**Henry Aronson** will be the music director for Sarah Silverman's show *The Bedwetter* at the Atlantic Theater Company this spring. "Yes, climate change is a terrifying reality, being exacerbated by the willful ignorance and obstructionism of Republicans and their corporate overlords."

From **Barry Sage-EI**, "Enjoying my first year of retirement. My wife, Margot BC'78, and I welcomed our third grandchild, Lea, into the world in the fall. I think our kids are a lot like we were, in their early 30s now and grinding out careers and raising kids."

**Tim Weiner** JRN'79 reports, "I'm happily married for 26 years to Kate Doyle, with two beautiful daughters, and we are back in Brooklyn after a 38-year ellipsis. My sixth book, *The Folly and the Glory: America, Russia, and Political Warfare 1945–2020*, will be out in June. I hang with Joe Walker '79, my WKCR buddy, whenever possible, and I recently saw my freshman roomie, **Carl Strehlke**. None of us ever age."

**Joseph Cosgriff** writes, "I recently released *The Dog Who Took Me Up a Mountain: How Emme the Australian Terrier Changed My Life When I Needed It Most*, which I co-wrote with business leader Rick Crandall. It's about the dog that inspired Rick's late-career passion for mountain climbing. My next book will take on the 1904 American League pennant race. I have also taken a consulting position with Fans for the Cure, broadcaster Ed Randall's charity that promotes best practices around the testing for and the treatment of prostate cancer. Can't say enough about the support the charity has received from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and its team of urologists.

"As for stealing signs, the 1978 Columbia baseball team had a new coach, Paul Fernandes, so our high-

est priority was just recognizing the Columbia signs, which we more or less did in time for graduation day.

"I recently saw **Brian Altano** at the wedding of his son Erik. A marriage took place that enables **Michael Forlenza** and me to share three wonderful nephews. I am regularly in touch with my baseball teammates **Michael Wilhite**, Harry Bauld '77 and Rob Murphy '77. I hope to see my baseball teammates and classmates at Columbia baseball games at Robertson Field at Satow Stadium this spring, as usual.

"As for climate change, the science is undeniable and June, July and September of last year were the warmest of those months on record for the last 143 years. And the last decade was the warmest in recorded history. Most telling, my wine-growing friends say that past schedules have become increasingly less relevant as they plan for harvest.

"For books, I suggest *The Big Fella: Babe Ruth and the World He Created* by Jane Leavy; *Our Dogs, Ourselves: The Story of a Singular Bond* by Alexandra Horowitz; *The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini* by Joe Posnanski; *Inventing Tomorrow: H. G. Wells and the Twentieth Century* by Sarah Cole; *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century* by George Packer; and *Night Boat to Tangier* by Kevin Barry. That should keep you busy for a while."

**Joseph Schachner** says, "I'm on the email list of W2AEE, the amateur radio club of Columbia University. Very nostalgic. When I retire — in three years I think — I will have to get there some time when it's open. My older daughter is expecting our second grandchild in April and no news can top that.

"I hope there will be time to avert a climate catastrophe. In the meantime, I drive a Honda Clarity plug-in hybrid vehicle, which I can charge and only use battery power to drive to and from work, all the time. So, I'm doing my part.

"This year's *Little Women* was very true to the book and I thought an overall excellent movie."

**Stuart Kricun** closes the compendium of tidbits with this news: "As many of you are probably getting prepared for your children's weddings or welcoming grandchildren, my wife and I are preparing for my son's bar mitzvah. We're working on photo montages and videos to make it a

special occasion for him. As for work, I will celebrate my 15th year at the Disney Channel at the end of May. It is the happiest place on earth!"

All is good here in New Haven — drop in if you're driving through.

## 1979

**Robert Klapper**  
robertklappermd@aol.com

This note comes from yours truly, **Robert Klapper**. Today's Columbia thought comes courtesy of Google. For me, getting into Columbia was my ticket to a better life. It propelled me on the path to medical school, thanks to St. Patricia Geisler GSAS'79. I may be Jewish but I do believe in saints, and she was the patron saint of the College. [Editor's note: For those who don't remember, Geisler was an instructor in the German department who was then appointed assistant College dean and a pre-professional advisor.]

Medical school at P&S led to training in orthopedic surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery, the last 31 years working at Cedars-Sinai and — 15,000 surgeries later — a truly wonderful life that I could never have imagined as I put my head on the pillow as a freshman at Carman Hall. I remember those days because I could not afford one of those mini-fridges and kept the milk for my cereal in a plastic bag hung outside my window to keep it cold. When I revealed this crisis in cryotherapy to my parents, they said, "Your grandma has an old icebox in the basement; you can use that." Do you remember Jackie Gleason and the sitcom *The Honeymooners*? It's the same kind of icebox Ralph Kramden used to open, telling Alice, "You're going to the moon." It had to be from the 1940s, because every time the refrigerator turned on, the channel on my roommate's radio changed stations. He wanted to kill me.

To say the least, it was a real day-to-day struggle for me financially. The only way I could afford room and board and tuition was through a scholarship. I was designated the Sykes Scholar for the Class of 1979. When I was accepted to the College, Columbia advised me of this prize. It was due to my desire to row crew as well as being pre-med. I was told I was being sponsored by a wealthy hedge fund alumnus, Macrae Sykes

CC 1933, who rode on the 1929 championship crew and had a son who wanted to be a doctor but unfortunately passed away. To honor his family, a scholarship was established.

Forty-five years later, one day I decided to google Macrae Sykes, the angel from above who helped me make my dream of graduating from the College a reality.

Through the labyrinth that is Google, I stumbled upon a financial advisor in NYC and Rye, N.Y., named Macrae Sykes. There was no way it could be him, I thought — he'd be 100-plus — but there was a phone number and I dialed it!

I was shocked when a voice on the other end of the line announced, "This is Macrae Sykes speaking." I was immediately transported back in time to Orientation Day as a freshman. I wanted to say thank you to someone related to the scholarship. The Macrae Sykes I was now talking to was, in fact, the grandson of the man who paved the way for me to go to Columbia. He told me the scholarship was an important part of his grandfather's life. He didn't have much to tell me about his grandfather and obviously I will never meet my Lorenzo de Medici, but what a powerful legacy to give and make possible a priceless journey for a poor kid from Far Rockaway.

Thank you, Google.  
Roar, lion, roar!

## 1980

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Michael C. Brown**  
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

As the old song goes, "... another brick in the wall," and here we are on the cusp on our 40th reunion. Wow, time sure flies! Your Reunion Committee has been working hard on the event, scheduled for Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6, with cocktail parties, an all-class party and a class dinner, which will give us plenty of time to reconnect.

Congratulations to **Lanny Breuer** for being honored with a 2020 John Jay Award for distinguished profes-



Ed Klees '81 (second from right) celebrated his birthday on November 2 with alumni friends, left to right: Michael Kinsella '81, Kevin Fay '81, Robert Spoer '81 and Steven Coleman '83.

sional achievement. Lanny has had a distinguished career in law and government, serving Presidents and the people. He is vice-chair of Covington & Burling, one of the leading law firms in the United States.

**Mark Diller** checked in from the Upper West Side, where he was recently elected chair of Manhattan Community Board 7. Using his law career experience, he will focus on community issues like zoning, land use changes, transportation and affordable housing, to name a few. Given the amount of development occurring in NYC, Mark will be a busy man in 2020.

It is nice to see legacy admits to the College, and I was happy to learn that my former roommate **Mike Riordan**'s son Andrew is in the Class of 2023. Mike recently retired from Prisma Health, where he was the CEO of South Carolina's largest health system. Based in Greenville, Mike is on some boards and is active in his community. Looking forward to seeing him around campus.

Another legacy admit, **Pat DeSouza**'s daughter Elizabeth, will also be part of the Class of 2023. Pat is the chairman of Plain Sight, a technology company focusing on water and media.

**Stan Lazusky** checked in from Harrisburg, Pa., where he runs an executive search firm. He is working on his great American novel and looking forward to migrating south for the warmer weather.

We look forward to seeing you at the 40th reunion! Drop me a note at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

## 1981

**Kevin Fay**  
kfay0516@gmail.com

This column contains a little of everything — joy, a request and loss. Let's begin with joy!

On November 2, I attended a birthday party (the 60th) for **Ed Klees** at the Boar's Head Resort in Charlottesville, Va. The event was hosted by his wife, Susan Klees, and included family, close friends and a few "old" classmates from Columbia. It was both celebration and roast, wonderfully done. Also present were **Michael Kinsella**, **Robert Spoer** and Steven Coleman '83.

By now, most of the Class of 1981 has celebrated their 60th birthday. If you would like to share memories and photographs with your classmates, by all means contact me!

I have a request from **Erik Jacobs**, who wants to know if anyone from the class still has his freshman beanie (these were produced in 1977 — yikes). Erik wants to borrow it (or at least obtain a photo), and plans to make some for 2021 in time for our 40th reunion. Mark your calendars: Thursday, June 3–Saturday, June 5, 2021.

Finally, it saddens me to report of the death of James Haslem '80, fellow Fiji, a beloved husband and the father of two sons. Jim was an honor student at Columbia and a graduate of Penn Law, and had a long and successful legal practice and real estate consulting firm in California.

Jim was diagnosed with ALS in July, and succumbed to this disease on November 9, 2019. For decades, the Fays exchanged Christmas cards with the Haslems — we met either in California or Washington, D.C., on various occasions. Way too soon!

Please keep in touch. Wishing the entire class the very best in 2020.

## 1982

**Andrew Weisman**  
columbiacollege82@gmail.com

Greetings, gents! First, I apologize to anyone who might have tried, unsuccessfully, to send an update. The columbiacollege82@gmail.com account was temporarily disabled. Not sure how this happened. Tech support informs me it was a combination of gremlins and evil spirits. Looks like we're now back in action.

Our first update this quarter comes from our accomplished and loyal classmate **Skip Parker BUS'91**. In light of his upcoming Diamond Jubilee celebration of life on planet Earth, Skip decided it was time to update us: "Over the past three years, I've become heavily involved in community affairs in my hometown of Greenwich, Conn. On November 5, I was elected to a two-year term as a delegate to Greenwich's Representative Town Meeting, the second-largest legislative body in the country, other than the U.S. Congress. I also serve on



Skip Parker '82 shared a photo from the Head of the Housatonic regatta featuring (left to right) oarsmen Jim Murphy '88, Mike McCarthy '83, himself and Terry Waldron SEAS'82 (the coxswain is an MIT grad).

the town's Harbor Management Commission and co-founded the energy sub-committee of the town's Conservation Commission, upon which I also served. I chair the Greenwich Choral Society, which is composed of 100 auditioned male and female voices performing choral masterworks with professional soloists and a chamber orchestra three times each year. I also sing with the University Glee Club of New York City, which was founded by Columbia alumni, and the Columbia Alumni Singers.

"For the past three years, I have been the treasurer of Call-A-Ride of Greenwich, which provides free car service to residents older than 60. Recently, I was appointed to the vestry of my church, and I sing in the church choir there as well. I continue to remain fit for rowing and have captained a four-oared shell for the Kings Crown Rowing Association for the last five years at the Head Of The Charles regatta.

"Recreationally, my wife and I enjoy plying the waters of Connecticut and Massachusetts in our powerboat. Our daughters graduated from the University of Virginia, Barnard College and Boston University. Professionally, my title is first VP – wealth management at UBS. In short, I work with busy professionals who work very hard and retire early!

"Near this column is a photo of my shell from the Head of the Housatonic Regatta, for which we finished third in the Masters event. The oarsmen are (left to right) Jim Murphy '88, Mike McCarthy '83, me and Terry Waldron SEAS'82. The coxswain is an MIT grad."

Skip, it's a good thing you're not planning to retire any time soon; the City of Greenwich would have its credit rating cut at least two notches!

Our second update this quarter comes from our highly honored classmate **Stephen Sullivan GSAS'13**. Steve wrote on January 3: "In about nine hours the American Historical Association (AHA) will honor me with its Nancy Lyman Roelker Mentorship Award. Columbia history professor Betsy Blackmar was the 2011 recipient, so I figure it's good to be on any list that includes her name. Ironically, I retired from my job as a public high school social studies teacher after 31 years to accept a 'too good to refuse' opportunity as research director at a

Catholic all-girls academy closer to home. I'm technically attached to the science department, but 70 percent of my girls' research involves economics, psychology, sociology, geography and history of science. The other 30 percent? Chemistry, physics, ecology, biology and engineering! Hey, I was pre-med for two years at the College! God bless the Core. Besides, I needed a new challenge. Mentoring is mentoring. Smart kids are smart kids. They keep me on my toes. It's just a little funny that the AHA decided to honor me now."

For those unfamiliar with this award, it's a big deal and we should all be really proud of Steve. I grabbed a couple of parts of the AHA press release to put this accomplishment in perspective: "The Nancy Lyman Roelker Mentorship Award for teachers of history who taught, guided, and inspired their students in a way that changed their lives. ... Once every three years, the American Historical Association's Roelker Award Committee meets to recognize the nation's best precollegiate mentor — 'to honor teachers of history who taught, guided, and inspired their students in a way that changed their lives.' At first glance, the AHA decision to grant one of its most prestigious prizes to Sacred Heart Academy's Science Research Director might seem curious. However, if one considers Dr. Sullivan's long career, and expansive and interdisciplinary definition of historical and scientific research, their thinking becomes clear. Between 1987 and 2019, Stephen's students have earned literally hundreds of national awards in humanities, social science and natural science competitions. Said Sullivan, 'I teach research, not history, psychology or biology, per se.' According to Science Chair Beth Feinman, M.D., '[t]his is a wonderful recognition of all that Dr. Sullivan brings to the Research Department and underscores that 'science' is more a critical way of thinking than just a discipline. Stephen has helped us widen SHA's perspective and broadened the scope of what we can offer our students through the lens of non-traditional sciences."

Congratulations, Steve! Obviously well deserved!

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I must inform everyone that beloved classmate **John Dawson**, after a valiant fight against an aggressive cancer, passed away on

October 13, 2019. John earned a B.A. in political science, was a former president of Delta Psi, a member of the men's heavyweight crew and an active alum, where he was part of the Kings Crown Rowing Association.

John enjoyed attending Columbia's annual Homecoming festivities and was a season ticket holder for Columbia basketball games, which he enjoyed attending with his son, Johnny. He was also an enthusiastic golf and racquet sportsman, especially tennis. He is survived by his wife, Anusia, and son, Johnny, and will be sorely missed by all his friends and classmates.

## 1983

**Roy Pomerantz**  
bkroy@msn.com

I am deeply saddened by the passing of fellow Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors member and CCT class correspondent Michael Oberman '69, Harvard Law School '72 on October 15, 2019. **Kenny Chin** was a partner with Michael at Kramer Levin and attended the funeral. Kenny learned that Michael's family had a setback when he attended Columbia; Michael never forgot the help he received during college and became a lifelong supporter of CC. He personally contacted classmates for CCT and would vent to me when his calls were not returned. His column was always one of the most informative. He was an inspiration to me and will be sorely missed.

My sons, Ricky and David, and I attended a number of CC football and pre-conference CC basketball games. We met Alton Byrd '79, VP of business operations for the Long Island Nets. He holds Columbia's record for career assists (526). Alton was drafted by the Celtics and was a star player in Europe for almost 20 years.

My daughter, Rebecca, will attend Hamilton College this fall.

In honor of the Core Centennial, Cathy Popkin, the Jesse and George Siegel Professor in the Humanities, spoke about Lit Hum at a recent CCAA board meeting. She said the conversation now is focused on how we are all different. The intellectual workout reading a text like *The Iliad* stems from the story





In case you missed this photo in the Winter 2019–20's issue's "Just Married!" section, here it is again: On August 25, Neal Smolar '83 and Betsy Chutter Smolar BC'85's daughter was married in Paterson, N.J., with several CC'83 friends in attendance. Top row, left to right: Smolar, Len Rosen '83 and Adam Bayroff '83; and bottom row, left to right: Miriam Kushner BC'83, Steve Arenson '83, Eddy Friedfeld '83 and Larry Herman '83.

being so alien to us. The discussion about homosexuality in Plato used to be uncomfortable. Students now are much more inclusive. There are a thousand different conversations. Students are instructed not to read with awe and reverence. Everyone, including the professor, is learning together. Lit Hum and CC are one-year courses. Being in a Lit Hum or CC class is like living intellectually with 22 roommates every year. These classes require determination. They are hard. People gasp. But there is a huge alteration in the chemistry of the room at the end of the year. Everyone celebrates what they have achieved together. These classes redirect students from collecting achievements on their transcript or résumé to pursuing an intellectual exercise. Just like *Seinfeld* is a show about nothing, Lit Hum is a course about nothing. It's just about being human. Having a conversation. Approaching a text with Beginner's Mind. One funny remark was that she never met a student who actually read Thucydides. Maybe that's why it's off the syllabus. But CC has added important authors like Virginia Woolf and Toni Morrison. Professor Popkin said her favorite text is Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, which I read during my recent business trip to China. Quite a contrast

to the last book in my Kindle, *Howard Stern Comes Again*.

I attended **Eddy Friedfeld's** NYU Tisch School of the Arts class "Sid Caesar, Milton Berle, Lucille Ball and The Golden Age of Comedy." It was a tour de force and brilliantly funny. It was one of the most enjoyable evenings I had last summer.

On September 22, I attended the seventh annual Les Nelkin [SEAS'87, LAW'87] Pediatric Cancer Survivors Day. Les's sister, Amy Nelkin '89, LAW'91, also attended. I miss Les and think about him often.

From **Marcus Brauchli**: "For the last six years, I've been at North Base Media (NBM), a venture capital firm that has enjoyed reasonable success focusing on media and media-tech in the world's growth markets. I co-founded the firm after leaving the Washington Post Co., where I spent five years as executive editor and later was a senior advisor to the Graham family. My co-founder, Sasa Vucinic, previously played a big role in fostering independent media in post-communist eastern and central Europe and has an investment background to balance out my overweighted journalism résumé. We help to build quality media for the next few billion people coming online. Our portfolio includes a number of leading news, business-information, sports and entertainment digital startups in Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Mexico and Taiwan. NBM's general counsel is Stuart Karle '82, who was the *Wall Street Journal's* general counsel when I was the top editor there and long ago my hard-driving boss at *Spectator*.

"My two daughters are in college, one studying engineering at Colorado University in my hometown of Boulder, the other a freshman at NYU Shanghai, a city where my wife, Maggie Farley, and I spent five of our 15 years as reporters in Asia. Maggie left the *Los Angeles Times* and now works with Google's news initiative."

From **Jacob Rabinowitz**: "This is the first time I have responded to an alumnus update request. I recently published my memoirs (link: amzn.to/37gee7p). The chapter 'What Sex Are I?' deals, inter alia, with my time at Columbia, and what it meant to be gender-fluid so many years before it was known by that convenient name. The preview pages on Amazon give a fair impression of the book.

"I have had a more interesting and picaresque life than anyone who

I have seen as the subject of a feature in *CCT*, particularly in view of my long and complicated relationship with Allen Ginsberg '48, which is dealt with in detail in the book."

From **Walter Roberts III**: "Exploring the Core Curriculum has continued to be the driving force in my life. In 2006 I earned a Ph.D. in classics from UC Berkeley, after which I held positions at UMass Amherst and the University of Vermont. Ever eager to popularize the Great Books, my work at UVM was diverted by an aspiration to return Greek and Latin to the Detroit public schools. In pursuit of this goal, in 2012 I resigned my position there as assistant professor and returned to Detroit to found a 501(c)3: the Detroit Greek and Latin Educational Foundation. Six years and \$300,000 later, our team was forced to accept that reviving Greek and Latin was not within the orbit of K–12 educators in the city of Detroit. Don Quixote going after those windmills!

"Eldercare duties now confine me both to Detroit and to my own home, where I attend to my Alzheimer's-afflicted mother. Despite these constraints, I continue my mission as a teacher of Greek and Latin. Most recently I have begun producing series on YouTube videos, the main project being a full-scale elementary Greek course based on Clyde Pharr's *Homeric Greek: A Book for Beginners*. As high schools and colleges across the country continue to cut back on their Ancient Greek offerings, I'm personally relieved to be able to create such a course and know that ultimately anyone anywhere will be able to appropriate the gem of my Columbia experience — a working knowledge of Homeric Greek.

"I am in daily touch with Dr. Langham Gleason '84, with whom I play chess on the chess.com site under the handle 'NoCapa.' I welcome challenges from chess-playing class members. Recently, when in NYC for Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, it was a pleasure to reconnect with former dean Michael Rosenthal GSAS'67. We had a pleasant early afternoon chat at The Hungarian Pastry Shop."

From **Kurt Lundgren**: "I am a law partner in Thwaites, Lundgren & D'Arcy, in Harrison, N.Y. Married to Teresa for 23 years, with two boys, Christopher (21) and Alec (17), and a dog, Harley. I live in New City, N.Y.

"I stay in touch with baseball buddies Glenn Meyers '85 and Michael DiChiaro '84. Glenn lives in West Nyack, N.Y., and Dich lives in Mahwah, N.J. Also, **Frank Antonelli** lives in Charlestown, N.C., where he owns a golf course and organizes golf events around the country. **John McGivney** works for the federal government in a capacity that if he told us ... well, let's just say he has 00 status. Eugene Larkin '84, a former World Series hero who now is a financial broker in Minnesota, recently saw William Ebner '73 and his wife, Virginia, while voting. Bill is our former coach and runs operations at the local JCC and, at 70, looks terrific. Also, our former baseball coach and Columbia University Athletics Hall of Famer Paul Fernandes is doing well, as is his wife, Kathy; they split their time between New Jersey and Florida and enjoy time with the grandkids. **Frank Lofaso SEAS'83** is doing well and lives on Long Island.

"Earlier this year several alumni attended a beautiful memorial service at Robert K. Kraft Field for our dear friend Michael J. Allen '82, who died of natural causes. Everyone who played ball with Mike came away from the experience with great memories. We still repeat Mike Allen stories among each other — he was a greater-than-life personality in those days. He was a true friend and a great teammate."

## 1984

**Dennis Klainberg**  
dennis@berklay.com

Congratulations to **Dr. Mark Trolice**, who recently was appointed professor of ob/gyn at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. His new book, *The Fertility Doctor's Guide to Overcoming Infertility: Discovering Your Reproductive Potential and Maximizing Your Odds of Having a Baby*, was released in January and offers patients and their families a guide to the struggles and realities of the infertility treatment process, along with no-holds-barred advice about misinformation, exaggerated claims, and unnecessary and unhelpful treatments.

"Infertility," says Mark, "is a disease I personally battled and is a

painful, heart-wrenching problem that brings with it both emotional and financial risk. One of my reasons for writing this book was to help the reader be proactive and be their own advocate.”

It's 2001 all over again as Hal meets **Kenny Tung** LAW'87, “the AI guy.” From Kenny: “Here is a link to my article on AI and lawyers published in November: [bit.ly/2RzWjI5](http://bit.ly/2RzWjI5). Comments and feedback will be greatly appreciated.”

Short, sweet, to the point ... but did he write this?

A renewed journey for **David Prager Branner**. After the death of his mother, and months in New York handling the estate, David has again relocated to Taiwan. He writes, “I have wanted to live [there] for the long term ever since I got out of college. I expect to be back in New York for the summer months each year for the next few years; the rest of the time, Taiwan will be home. I hope to get permanent residence.

“In 1985, the pressure of ‘the future’ obliged me to leave Taipei for New York, graduate school and all that. But now ‘the future’ is over and I'm fortunate in being able to come back and immerse myself in Chinese language again. My wife, YSJ (Yeo Shujen, given name Shujen) is working on her calligraphy and I'm improving my Chinese by reading hard pre-modern literature and translating it into Mandarin. My teacher is a career language teacher who is normally trapped dealing with beginner students. Frankly, I think it's salutary for her to be working with a student of my level,

reading things she would never have picked up on her own. Right now we're finishing a piece, written in a late imperial style of Classical Chinese, on the first moon landing in 1969. I'm not sure if I will get a job here, but the next two years, at least, will consist of training in Chinese and, I hope, the completion of some long-unfinished book projects.”

It's 2020, so all eyes on **Steven Odrich** PS'88: “My wife and I recently moved back to Manhattan after raising our kids in Westchester. Two of our three daughters are out in the workforce and daughter number 3 is finishing her senior year of undergrad coursework at Boston University. We just paid our last tuition bill and had a big party! My wife is an architect practicing in Brooklyn and I'm an ophthalmologist practicing in Manhattan and Riverdale.”

**Mark Binder**'s latest book, *The Misadventures of Rabbi Kibbitz and Mrs. Chaipul*, has rocketed to the top of the charts and is the number 1 bestseller in the category “Short, humorous and romantic novels set in an Eastern European Jewish Village.” He will begin his second European capitals book and spoken story tour in March, with stops in Vienna, London and Copenhagen.

Shoutout to **Scott Avidon**, who, while attending the January 5 Jewish solidarity march in NYC, bumped into yours truly, **Dennis Klainberg**. While we were stuck behind the barricades waiting for our time to join the parade, none other than former heavyweight crew member Ed Joyce '83 was seen passing by at the head of the parade, along with Mayor Bill

DiBlasio and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.). With thanks to *CCT* class correspondent Roy Pomerantz '83, we have learned that Ed is an attorney in NYC with Jones Day and has become quite the bike enthusiast, helping raise money through rides such as the Wheels of Love (where he has met my virtual cousin and super-close family friend, attorney Jonathan Lupkin '89, LAW'92, founding member of Lupkin PLLC). Ed also co-founded the Grumpy Roadsters cycling team to raise “a few dollars and shekels for the Muslim, Christian and Jewish children of ALYN Hospital in Jerusalem.”

Faster than a speeding bullet ... no wait ... my Spidey sense is telling me ... it's **Carr D'Angelo**, owner of Earth-2 Comics in Sherman Oaks, Calif.!

Carr writes, “I am proud to be a contributor to the book *Selling Comics: The Guide to Retailing and Best Practices in the Greatest Modern Artform*, for the benefit of the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund. The book was compiled and edited by Alex Cox, who once owned Rocketship, the best comic book shop in Brooklyn. I remember starting my shop 17 years ago with not a lot of resources, so I was happy to help pinpoint the challenges faced going into this retail business. I wrote about how to stock your store for your opening, as that was the question I kept asking in 2002. Besides, I always like to exercise those Freshman Comp muscles when I can.”

If you have forgotten — and we're all in our 50s so, you might have! — earlier in his career, Carr was a movie producer (for Rob Schneider's *The Hot Chick* and *The Animal*) and writer for magazines and the entertainment industry.

Another charitable venture Carr organized was a fundraiser for The HERO Initiative. He says, “Our good friend and customer, actor/comedian/producer Jeff Garlin, donated valuable vintage comics (like the first appearance of the Silver Surfer!) that we started selling at an event in November; we still have some for sale. All proceeds go to HERO, a nonprofit that provides financial and medical assistance to comic book creators in need. As freelancers, many of these fine folks don't have all the resources available to them later in life, and HERO makes a difference.”

Check out the “Just Married!” section in this issue to see a photo from **Thomas Coffin Wilcox**'s recent wedding!

## 1985

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Jon White**  
[jw@whitecoffee.com](mailto:jw@whitecoffee.com)

You should have recently received information about Columbia Reunion 2020, set for Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6. I hope to see many of you there and to catch up in person.

The Columbia women's rowing program officially dedicated the *Deantini* in honor of Dean James J. Valentini at the annual Kings Crown Rowing Association Banquet earlier this year. The boat was a generous gift from **Tom Cornacchia**, a longtime supporter of Columbia rowing. The *Deantini* will be the women's varsity eight racing shell this spring. Tom was a four-year letter winner for heavyweight rowing and capped his career by rowing in the stroke seat. He rowed alongside **Colin Redhead**, coxswain Phil Gold '87, Dave Silvera '86 and Jim Hammond '87.

“I'm a big supporter of all of our rowing programs, but I'm particularly supportive of our women's program at Columbia,” said Tom at the event. “Our women's program can bring a lot to this institution and the athletes who come to the table.”

**Paul Bongiorno** is a residential and commercial real estate agent based at Keller Williams Midtown Direct in Maplewood, N.J. He would be happy to help any classmates with their home or office property needs.

Congratulations to Hon. **Gary Brown**, who was finally confirmed by the United States Senate to take his seat on the federal bench for the Eastern District of New York!

**Jeffrey Katz**'s recently published book, *The Secret Life*, charted as a number 1 new release on Amazon. The book explores the pioneering work in the field of unconditional love done by the Jewish scholar



## SHOW US YOUR LION'S GAY PRIDE!



CCT is creating a photo gallery to celebrate Pride Month this June. **Show us your LGBTQIA+ pride in a group or individual photo (we need at least one person to be a College alum!).** Send your hi-res photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu); we'll run our favorites in the Summer 2020 issue.



Joe Titlebaum '85 (second from left) received a lifetime achievement award from The National Pancreas Foundation in November. Joining him were, left to right: Mike Goldfischer '86, Jim Hirshfield SEAS'87 and Gary Ireland GS'86.

Maimonides. It also explains his teachings on charity and how developing a healthy emotional detachment from money and material things leads to bliss and prosperity. The book is also available at Barnes & Noble as well as everywhere else books and e-books are sold.

Look for the "Lions" profile of architect **Richard Maimon** elsewhere in this issue.

**Mark Rothman** continues to build his practice as a progress coach. He writes, "I help my clients achieve and maintain continual forward progress in every area of their lives. Achievements and milestones come and go, and even philosophical definitions of success can be limiting. But the ability to maintain progress carries us from peak to peak and through valley after valley. My first book, *Stop Playing Small: An A to Z Guide to Living Your Bigger, Better Life* (available on Amazon), which explores many of the key concepts I use in my coaching, came out last year.

"My wife, Vicki, and I are currently enjoying a few days with our youngest son, Noah, between his time finishing with the Israeli army and heading to Mammoth Mountain to work at the resort and ski. Son Eitan SEAS'17 completed almost seven months of world travel and will be an assistant coach to the Columbia heavyweight crew (I would pay *them* to do that ...). Saul, our oldest, looks forward to finishing his computer science degree at the end of the summer and joining Israel's tech industry. And Vicki's industriousness seems to know no bounds; in addition to being the faculty leader at the Santa Monica College Career Services Center, she's teaching a mini-course in career development to econ master's students at UCLA

and maintaining a thriving private practice as a career counselor."

**Tom Wheeler** is in private practice maternal fetal medicine in Fort Wayne, Ind. His son serves in the Marine Corps at MCB Camp Pendleton in San Diego.

**Andrew Hayes** was thrilled to come back to Morningside Heights in September to help his son Liam SEAS'23 move into Wallach. "Most striking change — so much good quality food available right on campus," he says.

In addition to Andrew, congratulations to proud parents **John Balian, Basil Hosmer, Josh Hyman, Serge Ozerov** (twins in the freshman class!) and **Seth Schachner**, whose children continue the tradition as members of the Class of 2023!

**Joe Titlebaum** is still in the Washington, D.C., area, working with startup companies through Black Lab Venture Studio, which funds and incubates startups at the intersection of technology and regulation. He says, "On the philanthropic side, in November 2019 I received a lifetime achievement award from The National Pancreas Foundation in recognition of my service as the chairman of the board 2009–19. The NPF provides hope for those suffering from pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer through funding cutting-edge research, advocating for new and better therapies, and providing support and education for patients, caregivers and health care professionals. In addition to my wife, Julie, and our son, Benjamin '19, my friends and fraternity brothers Mike Goldfischer '86, Jim Hirshfield SEAS'87 and Gary Ireland GS'86 joined me at the event in New York City."

**Aaron Freiwald** is celebrating 20th anniversary of his trial practice

in Philly, Freiwald Law. His weekly podcast, Good Law|Bad Law (law-podcast.com), continues to grow and is now one of the leading law-related podcasts in the country. He is married to Stacey and lives in Bryn Mawr, Pa. He says, "Hands full with three kids, three stepkids, two pugs and two Bengals!"

**Greg Jarrin** will miss our reunion, as he will be venturing to Anchorage, Alaska, for the first time as the organizer of the Indian Health Service Annual Surgeons Conference. He has been organizing this conference for more than 20 years. Greg is the Indian Health Service chief clinical consultant for surgery; the group is always looking to recruit surgeons to serve its Native population. Feel free to contact Greg at tubasurgeon@yahoo.com if you can help or have questions about the conference or his work.

You might be aware that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Core Curriculum (there was a feature article, "First Class," on Contemporary Civilization in the Winter 2019–20 issue). I encourage everyone to share their Core memories, the Core's impact on their lives and so on.

My best Core memories include being awoken by my Art Hum professor as I dozed near the projector when the lights had been turned off for my 9:10 a.m. class (but I still remember enough to be competent in a museum now); sitting in the first row of Carnegie Hall for the New World Symphony (performed by a Czech orchestra with pride beyond description); and having the good fortune to find one of my favorite Stuyvesant friends, Beth Knobel BC'84, in line for signing up for Lit Hum sections (back in the day when you had to stand in line for that stuff) and her letting me join her to sign up for Wallace Gray's section (a class I will never forget that brought me new appreciation for literature and differing perspectives about things). Those Core classes really did provide an amazing foundation for critical thinking and writing, as well as being exposed to things I never would have taken voluntarily. Your recollections are welcome at [core100.columbia.edu/community](http://core100.columbia.edu/community) or in this column.

See you on campus soon — and keep your great updates coming either way!

## 1986

**Everett Weinberger**  
everett6@gmail.com

Happy 2020! It's amazing to me that we've already experienced the '60s, which we barely remember; the '70s, which made us love classic rock; the '80s, when we truly grew up; the '90s, when we worked our butts off; the '00s, when the internet amazed us; and the '10s, when the iPhone became umbilically attached to our hands. Given the pace of change, I'm excited to see what this decade has in store. Drop me a line if you have any thoughts to share.

Our class held its own for admissions to the Class of 2023. A hearty congratulations to **Charles Atkins** and daughter Charlotte; **Nino Dobrovic** and son Luke; **Scot Glasberg** and son Alexander; and **Ben Schmidt** and daughter Isabel; and special recognition to **Ed Law**, who managed to get his two sons, Christian and Jackson, accepted to the Class of '23! And congrats on transfer admissions for the Class of 2022 to **Katharina Otto-Bernstein** and son Jonathan; and **Clifford Simms** and daughter Thalia von Moltke-Simms.

**Robert Zifchak** sent us a nice update replete with philosophical musings: "My wife, Suzanne, and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary on September 10. It's been a blast, to say the least. Unfortunately, the schedule the kids keep prevented anything other than a nice dinner at a local place we love. While on our way to the restaurant, I received a call from a retirement counselor about my plans to retire at 60. When my wife figured out what the call was about she took over the conversation and told him I was never retiring and not to call again. We had a good laugh. Sadly, I've been forced to adjust my plans.

"We've been blessed with two beautiful girls who keep us busy. Our eldest, Julia, turned 16 last February and the Sweet 16 party was almost as big as our wedding! More than 100 guests plus the DJ, emcee, photographer, photo booth, centerpiece gifts for the court (bridal party-equivalent) and a bunch of things I'm probably forgetting. I drove all over New Jersey fetching assorted things for about two



months, plus made three trips to the venue to pre-stage things. Quite an extravaganza. Apparently, this is the big thing with her age group these days — each party tries to outdo the previous one. I think we came in fourth place but they haven't stopped yet so our final position is TBD. I'm happy to report Sue took care of all the details. I was just the gofer and bank.

"Julia's starting to drive. She's doing well, but our greatest fear is she'll be screwing with her phone and have a problem. I guess that's every parent's worry. I looked into a device that would disable her phone while the car was running but they are illegal. FCC regulations, apparently. The college search is proceeding. I'm pushing for Michigan or Stanford but Sue thinks they are too far away. Columbia is in the running but Julia wants to teach and a lot of the staff in our local school system went to Delaware and have recommended the teaching curriculum there heavily, so that's her first choice (as of this week). UNC and Duke have come up but they fall in the 'too far away' category. When Julia said she wanted to take a year off after high school I told her that year is called United States Army in this house, so that idea evaporated quickly.

"Our younger daughter, Amanda, has decided she's going to attend Rutgers, play professional soccer and teach after she retires. Remember how simple things were when you were 12?"

"Professionally, I still support the IT infrastructure for Deutsche Bank, but when DB outsourced its IT department to Hewlett-Packard

I went with it. HP promptly split into HP and HPE, and HPE merged with CSC to form DXC Technology. I ended up working for four companies doing the same job in less than a year. The cool part is I get paid to play with the latest and greatest technologies all day. I even get my hands on beta components before they are available to the public. Makes going to work an adventure instead of a job."

Congrats to **Bill Teichner** for being named managing partner of Frontier Capital Management, a Boston-based investment company. Bill co-manages its small-cap value fund.

Congrats also to Bill for winning CCT's first Core Centennial Cartoon Caption Contest. His winning caption was announced on page 2 of the Winter 2019–20 issue. As part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Core Curriculum, longtime *New Yorker* magazine contributor Edward Koren '57 provided CCT with a Core-related cartoon in need of a caption for the Fall 2019 issue and asked for caption submissions. Assuming you don't search for the cartoon, it shows four students sitting around a book-strewn table with a professor at the head wearing a T-shirt that says "The Core." They are all holding mini gothic pillars in both arms above their heads, like weights. Bill's winning caption was, "Enough warm-ups already! When are we going to roll boulders with Sisyphus?"

Well done, Bill! I always read *The New Yorker's* cartoon caption contests and I can tell you that this one was up there in difficulty and obscurity.

## 1987

**Sarah A. Kass**  
SarahAnn29uk@gmail.com

After the tragic loss of **Alex Navab** last summer, I put out a call for reflections. Jared Goldstein '89 sent the following: "Alex had reason to dislike me. Even though he was a senior and I was a sophomore, I campaigned against him in the Student Council election. I was pretty much his foil when we served the prior year.

"He ran meetings fairly and well. When the campus was in turmoil, he held hearings on the topic. He was athletic, self-assured, suave, great haircut, pre-finance, fraternity. This is put-

ting it nicer than I would have in 1987. I assumed he was a Conservative, and I had little idea that on top of it all, he was a scholar. My coalition was anti-Conservative; more like Furnald Grocery, Reality Fest, arts, progressives and maybe identity groups.

"I won that election, and Alex rose to the occasion, putting duty over what might have been distaste. He gave me the keys, a tour of the office and a letter that council chairs

ment, the year 1986 was listed! I had always thought that we finished second that year.

"So, like the millennial wannabe I am, I whipped out my phone and looked it up. Lo and behold, our 1986 team is credited with the Ivy League Title that year — with an asterisk. So, what gives, you might ask?"

"Back then we played in the Eastern Intercollegiate Baseball League, which consisted of all the

### Core Haiku



During a cool fall  
Dr. Bilgrami let us  
think and speak deeply.

— Ethan M. Singer '87

wrote to their successors. Alex's classiness was a great example.

"The following year, the council was in strife. With a junior as council chair, there were miffed seniors and some striving juniors readying for a rematch through obstructionism and confrontation. It was pulling the institution apart. I invited my predecessors back. Alex and Dave Leibowitz '85 returned to address us, and it did some good.

"I saw Alex on the Steps 20 years later at a reunion and thanked him for his support of the College. He was modest about it and kind. Very graceful.

"He made a great impact on my sense of loyalty and duty. I am sure that he is tremendously missed by those who were close with him."

Thank you for this, Jared!

Switching gears, **Derrick Acker** shared a story: "I played baseball at Columbia 1983–87 and cherished every second. We had a very good team but would always come up a little short of an Ivy League title — at least that's what I thought for the past 30-odd years.

"A few weekends ago, I was at Baker Field (well, that's what we used to call it) with my older son, Ty, who was attending a Columbia baseball prospect camp. The camp was run by Columbia's head baseball coach, Brett Boretti. As I was standing on the ramp leading down to the field I noticed, listed on the left field wall, all the Columbia baseball Ivy League titles. To my astonish-

Ivy League teams in addition to Army and Navy. In 1986, Navy won the EIBL Championship and we were awarded the Ivy League championship, as the first-place Ivy League team.

"At the time of this monumental discovery, I was standing on the ramp with Frank Seminara '89, who was as surprised as I was about this turn of events. I called **Mike Telesca**, and he thought I was joking. I even called our 1986 head coach, Paul Fernandes, who was also surprised. Indeed, we were all at a loss. Neither the Ivy League nor Columbia ever told us that we were the Ivy League champs that year. Suffice it to say, I made my son call me 'Champ' the rest of the day.

"I guess my only question is: When do we get our Ivy League Championship rings? We've been waiting 33 years ...."

## 1988

**Eric Fusfield**  
eric@fusfield.com

It was good to hear from **Jessica Vitkus**, the first classmate I have met who is currently an elementary school parent, like I am. "I'm a field producer at *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and I love it," she writes. "Excited for the roller coaster of an election year. I have 6-year-old twin daughters, which is also a roller coaster ride. Wheeee!"



Submit  
Your  
Photo



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

Moving from elementary school parents to Columbia College alum parents, my Washington, D.C.-area neighbor **Abha Jain Sinha** wrote, “I am easing into retirement. Life is happy and busy with a lot of travel. The College’s Core Conversations book club inspired me to attempt to reread the Core, and it’s been interesting to revisit it with a more mature perspective. I am thrilled to watch my son (CC’17) become involved in alumni life. And my daughter has launched her own company (Illumix) in the augmented reality mobile gaming space, with a new game: Five Nights at Freddy’s: AR ... check it out!”

News from **Lawrence Trilling**, a parent of a current College student: “I live in my hometown of Los Angeles with my wife, Jennifer Kattler BC’88. I have been working in film and television for more than 20 years as a director, writer and producer. I’m the executive producer and showrunner of *Goliath*, which stars Billy Bob Thornton and streams on Amazon Prime. I’ve been spending more time on campus the past two years; my daughter Lyla ’22 lives in McBain. I also have a son, Jonah, who attends DePaul University, and my daughter Dahlia is a junior in high school. I remain close to many of my CC’88 friends.”

**Steve Stastny** has “lived and practiced law in Birmingham, Ala., for over 25 years,” he reports. “After having practiced at various national firms, I have been a solo practitioner since 2011. I am AV-rated and dual listed in *Best Lawyers in America* for employment litigation (defense) and commercial litigation. My wife, Lauren, and I have two sons, John Michael (17) and Ross (14).”

Finally, **Mark Timoney BUS’93** writes, “Although I have done some class agent work [with the Columbia College Fund], I am not well known to most of our class. I was an off-campus commuter — more common during our time. Now I live in Westchester County and commute to Manhattan, where I work in banking. I am with the Japanese group MUFG Bank; my focus is structured trade finance. My wife, Maria, and I have four grown kids. At the time of writing, our oldest daughter is expecting a boy in early February. We are very happy and excited to receive our first grandchild!”

“My brother **Michael Timoney GS’99** is a surgeon with NYU Langone,” Mark adds. “He lives in New York with his family. My other siblings, Maria Teresa Timoney NRS’98, NRS’99, and Francis Xavier Timoney GS’84, also live in New York with their families. Our parents, John H. Timoney ’54 and Ana Timoney, both are well. They live in the Princeton area. John stays in contact with several of his classmates. Am I a lucky guy or what?”

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to hearing from you.

## 1989

**Emily Miles Terry**  
emilymilesterry@me.com

**Rusty Kosiorek** attended our 30th reunion, and wrote to share how reunion struck a chord and triggered memories of our time at Columbia.

He writes, “Our reunion reminded me how the Core Curriculum is the flowing blood of Columbia. Back in that early autumn of 1985, I recall the terror of not knowing what an *Iliad* was or that I was expected to have read the first six chapters of it on day one of Literature Humanities. I proceeded to immediately quit football, sequester myself nightly in the harsh light of the Carman basement and wrestle with this Core Curriculum. I went to every class and read every book of every course for the next two years. Those books and the teaching instruction and the perspectives from my classmates were all formative. How I read, watch, think, react — all of it was catalyzed by Columbia.

“I’ve had solid, interesting work at Merck & Co. in sales or marketing for 30 years, a stalwart spouse for just as long and three caring kids. And I see Columbian friends every year when **Brian Thomson** hosts me, **Greg Watt**, **Roger Rubin**, **Steve Toker**, **Craig Blackmon ’88**, **Paul Shaneyfelt ’90** and **Marc Eames SEAS’90** at his island fort deep in the wooded lake of the great Parry Sound north of Toronto. This pack took a sojourn last summer to have a quality drink-up with **Gil Greenman** in Seattle — a most fortunate classmate who mentally and physically pounds down his multiple sclerosis like he did our rugby opponents when we played together as Lions.

What Rainer Maria Rilke called the ‘beauty and terror’ of life. For that is what the Core Curriculum — what Columbia — made us fit.”


I’m writing this column on the eve of 2020, with lots of exciting news about our class, not the least of which is the just-announced John Jay Award recipients, with three ’89ers out of the six: **Victor Mendelson**, co-president of HEICO Corp. in Florida; **Michael Barry**, president of Ironstate Development Co. in New Jersey; and **Wanda Marie Holland Greene**, head of school at The Hamlin School in San Francisco. Some of you might remember that the first recipient from our class, and the first woman recipient, was **Stephanie Falcone Bernik**, who has been the chief of surgical oncology at Lenox Hill Hospital for 10 years and lives in New Jersey with her family.

**Jason Carter** wrote from Washington, D.C., expressing his regrets on not attending reunion, and to share he had recently completed his tenure as a member of the District of Columbia board on professional responsibility, a position responsible for adjudicating misconduct allegations against lawyers. Jason

email me and I’ll send you the link — but, of course, I will demand a lengthy personal update for Class Notes in return.

**Danielle Maged BUS’97** continues to be another star in our CC’89 galaxy — last November, she joined Global Citizen as its chief growth officer. Global Citizen is the world’s most powerful advocacy movement to end extreme poverty, tackle climate change and reduce inequality by 2030. Of her new position, Danielle says, “At a time where every single voice can be heard, I am thrilled to be able to help grow the movement and offer my expertise to advance Global Citizen’s reach and purpose. There’s a huge opportunity to cultivate additional partners in media and technology, sports organizations and athlete ambassadors, among others excited by the power of the mission and what we can collectively achieve.”

Danielle received a 2017 *Ad Age* Women to Watch Award; is on *Adweek’s* 2017 List of Disruptors; was a 2013 WISE (Women in Sports and Events) Woman of the Year; and was a 2012 *Sports Business Journal* Game Changer: Women in Sports Business honoree. Danielle’s



**Core Haiku**

My first opera,  
what an unexpected gift.  
A lifetime passion.

— Lisa Carnoy ’89

writes, “If that’s sort of boring, you can add that my goal is to visit every country in the world, but the clock is running — I’m only at 68. Folks can look me up when they are in the area: jec78@caa.columbia.edu.”

Jason is also a veteran of the Department of Justice’s Criminal Division, and spent his career chasing fugitives, their money and the evidence against them around the globe. Jason also negotiates law enforcement treaties on behalf of the United States. He says it might be easier to find fugitives than our CC’89 Facebook group.

To find our group, you might need the exact name: “Columbia University Class of 1989 Undergraduates.” If you still can’t find it,

operating experience spans Fox Sports, *National Geographic*, NBA, ESPN, Madison Square Garden and eBay/StubHub. She lives in New York with her husband, Greg, and two sons, whom she has gotten to join Global Citizen and take action!

Writer and activist **Erica Etelson** has penned her first book, *Beyond Contempt: How Liberals Can Communicate Across the Great Divide*, which shows us how to communicate respectfully, passionately and effectively across the political divide. *Beyond Contempt* grew out of Erica’s work as a certified Powerful Non-Defensive Communication facilitator and former human rights attorney, when she advocated in support of welfare recipients, prisoners, indigenous

peoples, immigrants and environmental activists. Erica has also organized for clean, community-owned energy as part of a just transition to a local, low-carbon economy. Her articles have appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Mercury News* (San Jose), *The Progressive Populist*, *Truthout* and *AlterNet*. Erica lives with her husband and son in Berkeley, Calif.

I'll close with a poem from **Matt Engels**, who in his capacity as CC'89 class president penned this for us:

In 2020:

Let's rally around alma mater,  
with other ways to support the  
College that really matter.  
Why not interview prospective  
candidates under ARC?  
Supporting College admissions hits  
it out of the park.  
Or how about mentoring a student?  
Guiding a young mind with your  
wisdom and prudence.  
For our Class of '89, Thom Chu  
chairs ARC, and Jeff Udell is  
over mentors,  
reach out to these two any time, or  
touch base with any of your class  
committee members.

Looking to May, what can we say,  
we've opened reunion for all  
classes to play.  
Look for the info, coming your way,  
we'll show the Class of '90 the  
Class of '89 way.

At the start of the new decade, your  
class committee wishes you well.  
Proud to be CC'89, as we're sure you  
can tell.

Peace, joy and happiness to you and  
yours for 2020!

## 1990

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

Rachel Cowan Jacobs  
younggrache@hotmail.com

The Reunion Committee is working hard on our 30th reunion. Outreach chairs **Judy Shampanier** and **John Vincenti** are encouraging everyone

in the class to attend (Thursday, June 4-Saturday, June 6) and to sign up at [college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion). I am five for five on reunion attendance and am very excited for our next one. They are so fun! At our first four, I always enjoyed the Saturday dinner and was envious of the class that got to have theirs in the Low Rotunda. I knew we'd have to wait our turn. The dinner in Low for our 25th surpassed my expectations. Rumor has it that our class bumped the 50th reunion folks from Low because our numbers were so huge! (Administration, care to confirm or deny this?)

As your class correspondent of 19 years, I challenge all of you reading this to register for reunion and to make your travel plans now. Don't miss the opportunity to reunite with longtime and newer friends, enjoy some lectures, tour campus and see how much it has changed since the last time you were there (I'm especially talking to those of you who haven't been to campus since 1990, or even 2005!), and relive our glory days of undergrad.

If you're the competitive type, you might be chagrined to learn that Columbia alumni are far outnumbered by our peer institutions in our number of alumni interviewers and the number of applicants interviewed each cycle. The Alumni Representative Committee needs you to interview applicants to Columbia College. It takes only about 30 minutes to get trained, training is available on the ARC website and the interviews are at the interviewer's convenience or can be done remotely. Your participation will help show the best side of Columbia and its alumni. Judy has been interviewing for years and says it's fun to meet these kids and, as a side bonus, very helpful for those of us who have children who will be going through the process at any college. Judy is living that life as you read this, with daughter Anna having submitted college applications this past winter.

Mazel tov to **Laura Shaw Frank LAW'93**, who joined the American Jewish Committee in January as its associate director of contemporary Jewish life. She's a master juggler because while she jumped into her new position, she simultaneously put the finishing touches on her dissertation, which she will defend at UMD this spring.

**Robin Wald SEAS'90** embarked on a business venture last fall, Cosmic Wisdom Coaching, offering life coaching and astrology services to support clients' joy and success around life purpose, career, relationships, parenting, health and wellness. You don't live in Westchester County, N.Y.? No problem. Robin works with clients in person and virtually. Learn more about her work by listening to a podcast she was featured on in December: [bit.ly/2NP5uxc](http://bit.ly/2NP5uxc). In addition to her new business, Robin continues with her longtime passion of teaching yoga and Hebrew school. Visit [robinwald.com](http://robinwald.com).

Maybe you've noticed that I've been writing about my usual suspects. Well, that's because during Christmas week, I vacationed at Judy's house, where she, Robin, Laura, **Sharon Rogers** and I had a mini-reunion, in preparation for reunion. The four of them have been gathering on December 24 for many years, and this time I was able to join them. Too much fun was had by all, as per usual. Friendship is priceless.

I've known **Paul Greenberg BUS'97** since the second grade, and I love hearing from longtime (not old! we'll never be old!) friends. Some of this has been reported in previous columns, but it's good for us to refresh our memories, too. He writes, "I moved to NYC in '86 to go to the College and have never left. I'm married and have two kids. My wife is an adjunct professor of English at CUNY. My kids are 15 and 12. The older one is anatomically female but now identifies as non-binary (preferred pronouns: they/them). Since I can't call them my 'daughter' anymore and 'child' seems too young, I asked them how I should refer to them. In typical wise-ass teenager fashion, they replied, 'Just call me your spawn.' They're very happy. My 12-year-old is a daughter who is into ballet, art, writing and — of course — YouTube. Both of them go to Friends Seminary here in New York.

"I've been in media and digital media my whole career, with a focus on digital video. About two years ago, I started my own digital video company, Butter Works, which is a full-service firm offering deep AI-driven data analysis, which tells our clients what kind of content to make, where to distribute it, how long it should be, how well it will

perform, etc., full production, strategy and distribution. We're working with Netflix, Viacom, Discovery Channel, Verizon, P&G, A+E Networks, *The Guardian*, SoulCycle, Bustle and others. I really enjoy running my own company. My only full-time employee is a data scientist, and we're seeing great demand for the data work plus the creative production.

"One thing I wanted to share is that I've suffered from depression most of my life and only recently was able to come out of it. I am trying to destigmatize mental health issues, so I wrote about my struggles in a *Hollywood Reporter* piece: [bit.ly/2sQBPwA](http://bit.ly/2sQBPwA). I was also recently interviewed for a *Harvard Business Review* podcast on managing depression while running a company: [bit.ly/36bTa0p](http://bit.ly/36bTa0p)."

**Dean Sonderegger SEAS'90**, SEAS'91 is moving into real estate mogul territory, having recently bought a place in Battery Park City. For those keeping score at home, you'll remember that Dean lives in Virginia but works in Manhattan. This has eased his and Tracy's life substantially!

I learned from Facebook that New Hampshire resident **Rick St. Hilaire** was appointed in December by President Trump to serve on the Cultural Property Advisory Committee through April 2021. The committee is tasked with advising the White House on foreign government requests for U.S. import controls on archaeological and ethnological artifacts threatened by looting and theft. The committee was created by federal law in 1983 and submits its findings directly to the Department of State. In 2013, Rick founded the nonprofit Red Arch Cultural Heritage Law & Policy Research ([redarchresearch.org](http://redarchresearch.org)).

**Martin Benjamin** let me know in September that he has "a new book-like thing, teachyoubackwards.com. It started off as a standard academic research project, but you start to discover some interesting things when your 'lab' gets working with people and languages from Malawi to Mongolia. So, it evolved into a web-book that can include humor and multimedia and be accessible to non-specialists, but still has the chops to survive peer review.

"I'm happily divorced and a full-time single dad of a wonderful 9-year-old 50 percent of the time. She and I had the best vacation ever last summer, Interrail-ing through



southern and eastern Europe. I live in Lausanne, and try to do most of my work via Skype to reduce my carbon crimes, but am unable to avoid occasional meetings in places like Yakutsk for UNESCO-related business (July) and Bamako for the African Union (September)."

Wherever you live, dear reader, I'll see you in June!

## 1991

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

Have you ever wanted to be a CCT class correspondent? Now's your chance! After 11 amazing years of service, **Margie Kim** has stepped down from this role. If you would like to write this column, please reach out to us at cct@columbia.edu. In the interim, while we search for a new correspondent, the CCT staff will compile this column, so please drop us a line and share your news!

## 1992

**Olivier Knox**  
olivier.knox@gmail.com

Greetings, classmates. I heard from fellow Carman 7 alum **Dave Gabel**, who lives in Stamford, Conn., and is VP of digital content and programming for NBC's Olympics coverage. Dave writes that he's "in prep mode for Tokyo 2020, which will be my (ugh, I'm old) 13th Olympics, having started on the TV side pre-internet (again, ugh, I'm old)." Dave reports that he was briefly married five years ago. "Lotta travel and golf," he says [Wait, no tennis?]. "Would say I'm a proud fan of the 2017 World Series champion Astros, having grown up in Houston," he adds, "but that's a sensitive topic these days, hahaha."

**Jeff Lovell** wrote in with some sad news: "My wife of 13 years, Lesley, passed away due to cancer on September 11. She was the reason I moved to Australia, but I'm now a citizen and staying in this wonderful country."

"I was offered the role of services manager (basically the project delivery arm of our software development business) for Australia and New Zealand 18 months ago, but couldn't take it as I was essentially a full-time carer for Lesley (working

half-days remotely). It was recently reoffered, and I'm taking it and moving back to Melbourne from Perth," Jeff says. "Last year was terrible, with many close friends and family members passing away. I'm looking to this move and new role to start a new chapter."

Jeff closes on this note: "Huge changes across the spectrum of life — I've even lost 55 lbs. and am wearing my KDR and swimming sweatshirts from the '90s."

Jeff, my sincerest condolences.

## 1993

**Betsy Gomperz**  
betsy.gomperz@gmail.com

Check out this issue's "Lions" section to read about **Isaiah D. Delema!** And please take a moment to send in a note. Your classmates want to hear from you!

## 1994

**Leyla Kokmen**  
lak6@columbia.edu

Happy spring, CC'94, and best wishes for a great start to your summers!

Please check out the "Just Married!" section in this issue for a photo of **Alison Gang's** October 2018 wedding, which brought together **Jordan Karp**, **Satoshi Kitahama '91**, **Alessandra Gunz** (née Morales) and **Roxanne Hill** (née Zikria) at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

Take a moment to send in a note — cool trips, job changes, fun hobbies, big life events or anything you want. Let's stay connected!

## 1995

**REUNION 2020**  
JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu


**Janet Lorin**  
janet.lorin@gmail.com

I hope this finds everyone thinking about attending our 25th reunion, which will be held Thursday, June 4–

Saturday, June 6. In helping to plan reunion, I have been in touch with classmates who have answered my call for an update.

**Roosevelt Montás** GSAS'04 stepped down as director of the Core Curriculum in December 2018. He returned to the faculty as senior lecturer in American studies, where he teaches courses in early American literature and American political thought as well as continues to teach in the Core. He's also writing a book about his experience of liberal

last fall. She visited the country for Oslo Innovation Week and gave a talk, "The Power of Mentorship." The goal was to remind people not to leave minority youth behind in discussions during the conference about business goals and plans. Rhonda spoke about the success of U.S. employers partnering with programs like Junior Achievement, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Speed Mentoring. She told the Norwegians to do the same with their businesses so that young, bright people



**Core Haiku**

Reading and thinking,  
the Core united us all.  
Agree disagree.

— Stephanie J. Geosits '94

education. Most importantly, he has a 2-year-old child, Arjuna Montás.

**Mohit Daswani** and his wife, **Sejal Daswani** SIPA'96, have been living on the West Coast for 15 years and now call San Francisco home. They have three kids — **Naiya** (13), **Siddhartha** (11) and **Nysa** (4) — and love the organized chaos that comes with this stage of life. "We've both also transitioned to careers in technology. I wrapped up at Square (where I ran finance and strategy for three years) and joined ThoughtSpot, a business intelligence software company, as its chief financial officer in January," Mohit writes. Sejal is the chief human resources officer at Sunrun, a residential solar energy company. They get a chance to see **Susan Philip** (my *Sangam Magazine* editor) fairly often.

**Adina Shoulson** chairs the history department at SAR H.S., a Jewish school in Riverdale, N.Y. "It's fun, challenging and meaningful," she writes. Her kids are in the 6th, 8th and 10th grades.

## 1996

**Ana S. Salper**  
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Happy spring, classmates!

**Rhonda Moore** writes that she had the pleasure of combining her love of HR and her love of Norway

from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds do not get left behind or left out. Rhonda writes that it was a dream come true to share this perspective, and she is happy to report that the message was well received.

Congratulations to **Charlotte Bismuth** LAW'04, whose first book, *Pain Killer: Catching New York's Deadliest Doctor*, is coming out in June. The book is about a case Charlotte prosecuted on behalf of the NYC Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor. Sounds like a great read! Charlotte lives in Manhattan with her husband, John, and children, Nina, Charlie, Lucie and Althea.

I want to call something to everyone's attention. All alumni, faculty and students are invited to participate in the Core Stories Memory Project (#corestories), which is an important piece of the Core Centennial celebration. The project will gather reflections, perspectives, insights and memories of our Core Curriculum experiences to be shared throughout the year on social media, online and in various publications. The memories will be preserved at the end of the Centennial year in a digital and/or print format.

It sounds like a great project, and I encourage you to visit core100.columbia.edu/core-stories to submit stories or to attach a photo. You can also send a short video that speaks to your experience in the Core to

the Alumni Committee on the Core Centennial: core100@columbia.edu.

As always, I would love to hear from more of you — please send news! You can email me directly, use CCT's Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note) or send your notes directly to CCT (cct@columbia.edu; these notes will be forwarded to me). I leave you with this:

“Life is not measured by the amount 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 you are doing well and that your winter was not too brutal. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class.

**Kate Kelly** recently published her third book, *The Education of Brett Kavanaugh: An Investigation*. Co-authored with Robin Pogrebin, her colleague at *The New York Times*, Kate's book completes the inquiry into the newest Supreme Court justice's educational years, the people who helped shape his experience and their impact on his contentious confirmation process in 2018. *The Washington Post* called it “a remarkable work of slowed-down journalism,” and Gloria Steinem wrote, “... all of us subject to the Supreme Court must read it.” Kate's back from book leave and covering business,

its impact on politics and influential people on Wall Street at the *Times*.

**Rebekah Gee** was proud to be recognized by *The New York Times* as one of “Five Who Spread Hope in 2019,” for her work to eliminate hepatitis C in Louisiana and successfully negotiate the first modified subscription model for drug pricing in the United States (nyti.ms/2uqhz55). Her twin girls are in the first grade and they love living in New Orleans, where they enjoy good food, culture and festivities.

**Sareeta Amrute** has written a book, *Encoding Race, Encoding Class: Indian IT Workers in Berlin*, which received the 2019 International Convention of Asia Scholars Social Sciences Book Prize. It also received the 2017 Diana Forsythe Book Prize.

**Benjamin Rand** shares: “I am honored to have been named assistant commissioner of the NYC Department of Design and Construction, reporting directly to the commissioner. As the city's primary capital construction project manager, with more than \$20 billion in construction this year, we build many of the civic facilities such as firehouses, libraries, police precincts, courthouses and cultural centers, as well as NYC's infrastructure projects such as roadways, sewers and water mains in all five boroughs. I support the commissioner's vision and lead projects controls in analyzing cost control, scheduling, scope and risk management toward the on-time and on-budget constructability of our public buildings and infrastructure projects.”

**John Dean Alfone** writes: “I've been busily working in the New

Mexico/Colorado/Texas motion picture industry since last summer. My production credits include *America's Got Talent* (NBC), *Bar Rescue* (Paramount), *American Idol* (ABC), *The Explosion Show* (The Science Channel), *Surviving Death* (Netflix), *The Circus: Inside the Greatest Political Show on Earth* (Showtime) and *Deputy* (Fox), and two live-streaming projects, the 2019 Connie Mack World Series (FloSports) and the Leonard Bernstein *Symphony No. 1: Jeremiah* retrospective (Vimeo). The videos for my company, Corsair Media Productions, are hosted by Vimeo, which made it particularly enjoyable to work on their production (vimeo.com/user638665).

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I am excited about our new year: 2020. It has a rather futuristic ring to it, but it's here already! As I wrap up this column, it is New Year's Day. Later this month I'll begin going to the training sessions for my new career as a certified yoga instructor. A new year and a new career. Last week we had a wonderful Christmas Day at my father's house here in Florida, with all his little grandchildren (including my daughter, Amara) running around his yard like a pack of wild monkeys. And we were blessed with perfect weather, with the high temperature in the upper 70s. I miss so many things about living in New York City, but the winter weather is not one of them!

Amara turned 3 last October. She is such a delightful little girl — very clever, monkeyish, funny, sweet, cute and loving! For her birthday party I did a princess theme, since that's what she's currently into, and I decided to stagger the birthday celebrations over the course of two days. I held the first party at our home, where we invited all her little friends and their parents for lunch and children's games. I held the second party at my grandfather Lawrence's home, where we invited the family for lunch and festivities. My grandfather, now my sole remaining grandparent, is 88 and lives in an assisted facility due to being wheelchair-bound from arthritis. The only way that he could attend his great-granddaughter's birthday party was if we brought the party to him, so that's exactly what I did. It was truly priceless to have my grandfather at my daughter's birthday celebration.

As I sign off now, and forge my new path in 2020, let me cue the

new song that Queen Elsa sings in *Frozen 2* (it's my daughter's favorite movie right now):

“Every day's a little harder as I feel my power grow ...

“Don't you know there's part of me that longs to go ...

“Into the unknown ... Into the unknown ...”

Blessings to all for the new year, and please do send me your updates. Feel free to keep in mind that your updates needn't be just about the usual topics like career/marriage/birth announcements — they could also be on your exotic travels, your exciting adventures, your fascinating hobbies, your philanthropic endeavors, your charming children, your daring projects, your poetic musings, your flowery reminiscences ... Or simply tell us about some delightful local event that you attended or a family vacation that you went on. If nothing else, you can always write us merely to say hello! It would be splendid to hear from as many of our classmates as possible. I look forward to hearing from you all. *In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

## 1998

**Sandie Angulo Chen**  
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Your classmates would love to hear from you, so please take a moment to send in a note! Wishing you a very happy spring!

## 1999

**Adrienne Carter and Jenna Johnson**  
adieliz@gmail.com  
jennajohnson@gmail.com

Hello classmates, and Happy New Year!

**Will Heinrich** sends news to bring us into 2020. For the past few years he's been writing about art for *The New York Times* (Art Hum vindication!). His second novel, *The Pearls*, came out in December. Order it, classmates! Call your local bookstore.

Will lives in Queens with his wife, an artist, and their daughter.

What else? Send us your news! (And let us know if you want to take this news-gatherer baton.)



## SHOW US YOUR LION'S GAY PRIDE!



CCT is creating a photo gallery to celebrate Pride Month this June. **Show us your LGBTQIA+ pride in a group or individual photo (we need at least one person to be a College alum!).** Send your hi-res photo with caption info to cct@columbia.edu; we'll run our favorites in the Summer 2020 issue.



Kraig Odabashian '00 (left) and Andrew Ricci '00 hiked in Montana's Glacier National Park last July.

## 2000

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4-6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

Prisca Bae  
pb134@columbia.edu

In April 2019, **Phoebe Farag Mikhail**'s book *Putting Joy into Practice: Seven Ways to Lift Your Spirit from the Early Church* was published ([bit.ly/2U5THP9](http://bit.ly/2U5THP9)). A must-read for anyone seeking more happiness in 2020!

**Kraig Odabashian** and **Andrew Ricci** reconnected last July to spend a week hiking in Montana's Glacier National Park. It was 20 years after they first climbed Algonquin Peak at 5,114 ft. in the Adirondacks (the second highest peak in New York!) the summer after our junior year, forging a lifelong passion for mountaineering.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Columbia Reunion 2020, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6! Get more info and sign up at college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion!

## 2001

**Jonathan Gordin**  
jrg53@columbia.edu

Greetings for spring, Class of 2001! Please take a moment to send in a note — travel, work, family, favorite Columbia memories and/or anything else you'd like to share. Your classmates want to hear from you!

## 2002

**Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani**  
soniahird@gmail.com

Happy New Year! **Lindsay Jurist-Rosner** and her husband, Jason E. Fox, are excited to announce the birth of Annabel "Annie" Jean Fox, born at 10:24 p.m. on November 14. Annie weighed in at 5 lbs., 14 oz., and measured 19 inches.

**Colleen Hsia** is leading a 30-person cross practice team at FTI Consulting, where she is a senior managing director and head of Americas financial services in the strategic communications division. She lives with her husband, Mike, and their daughters, Evie (5) and Zoe (2), in Short Hills, N.J.

Please send updates to soniahird@gmail.com!

## 2003

**Michael Novielli**  
mjn29@columbia.edu

Happy New Year! Hope that 2020 is off to a good start for you and yours. For those who celebrate the lunar new year, happy Year of the Rat! Mickey and Minnie have been making their appearances in malls throughout Asia. Jessica Huang Pouleur BC'03 has a hand in this as head of strategy and business development, Asia Pacific, for Disney, based in Singapore.

**Hector Rivera** is a physician at Emergency Medicine Professionals and lives in Orlando, not far from the noteworthy mice.

**Karolina Dryjanska** spent the New Year hiking in the Himalayas, off the grid from technology.

**Leah Bailey** wanted us to know that she is healthy and well. She writes, "I had a successful kidney transplant from a living donor in April 2019, and the difference it has made to my life (primarily, not being on dialysis anymore) is astounding. I'm currently putting the kidney (fondly named George, as the transplant was on Saint George's Day) to work by teaching reading and writing and language arts at a public school in rural Milton-Freewater, Ore. (population: 7,027), and parenting three kids under 8!"

**Julie Bennett Ashton** GSAS'11 wishes the Class of 2003 happiness in 2020! Currently developing several project proposals, she plans to approach Gucci and the city of San Francisco to offer an emblematic series for a collaboration and a billboard, respectively. To share contacts or encouragement, messages are welcome: ashtonportfolio@protonmail.com.

**Kambiz Eli Akhavan** writes, "I recently joined the international law

*Their Holy Dog* (written with massive input from his wife, Lauren Mancina '05); and now his series for younger kids, *The Unicorn Rescue Society*, which is a comedy-adventure series for boys and girls and everyone else. He thinks a lot about campus and is thinking of auditing some classes in the spring or fall semesters. He says, "See you there?"

**Rachel Neugarten** is in her first year of a Ph.D. program at Cornell, and very much enjoying being a student again. She also loves living in Ithaca, with its access to nature trails and local organic produce; it makes her hippie heart happy. She has a big house and a new dog, and welcomes you to visit anytime.

**Daniel de Roulet Jr.** and **Julia Hertz de Roulet** ("We met freshman year on John Jay 6!") have moved from Long Island to San Francisco. Julia is pursuing a master's in counseling psychology for licensure as a marriage and family therapist. Danny is CEO of a biotech company, Mitokinin, which

### Core Haiku



Only two pages  
of compare versus contrast.  
Red ink fills my mind.

— J. Stuart Machir '02

firm of Norton Rose Fulbright U.S. as senior counsel. I specialize in estate planning and asset protection for both U.S. and international families."

Please do take the time to write with updates, as we'd love to hear what's new in your life. If you do not have any life updates to share, I also welcome any book, restaurant, movie, or bar recommendations for the rest of us.

## 2004

**Jaydip Mahida**  
jmahida@gmail.com

**Adam Gidwitz** has been publishing books for young people for 10 years. He has nine books, including *A Tale Dark and Grimm* and its companions; the 2016 Newbery Honor book *The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and*

he started with Julia's brother. Their three kids love SF and they do, too!

**Tristan Perich** writes, "I have continued composing music since my time as an undergrad with Columbia New Music. Last year I presented my largest piece for 50 violins and 50 electronic speakers at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, which then traveled to the Netherlands to accompany a new dance by Lucinda Childs. In my music I often work with one-bit sound, thinking about the relationship between computation and the physical world around us, which I also explore as a visual artist, building drawing machines and the like. I am lucky to share this career with my wife, Lesley Flanigan (also a musician), and my kids, Bronwyn and Ramsey."

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 fun, but please reach out to share about trips you might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or the CCT Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 2005

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

Wishing the Class of 2005 a very happy spring! Don't forget that our 15th reunion will be here soon, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6. Come back to campus and reconnect with old friends!

Very happy news from **John Zaro**: “With our hearts full, my wife, Natalie Leggio BC’04, and I welcomed a daughter to the world on December 31. Sophia Ivy is basking in adoration from her brothers, Adrian and Gabriel, at our home in Battery Park City.”

## 2006

**Andrew Stinger**  
[andrew.stinger@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.stinger@gmail.com)

CCT thanks **Michelle Oh Sing** for her 15 years of excellent service as class correspondent, and is happy to welcome **Andrew Stinger** to the role. Below is Andrew's introduction, followed by Michelle's final column.

From Andrew: “Hello! You might remember me from Dance Marathon, CU Relief, SigEp, the occasional CU Road Runners race or as the guy who always had an extra pen in your recitation group. I live in San Francisco, where I run product marketing for a startup, Coda, and teach fitness classes. In other words, I'm a professional hype man, so it's a privilege to take up the Class Notes mantle from Michelle, and to celebrate the goings-on of

our amazing class! Please join me in thanking Michelle for 15 (!) years of sharing our class updates, and feel free to share your news with me moving forward.”

From Michelle: “Hi Class of 2006. I hope you are all doing well. Please find a couple of updates from classmates below:

“**Andrew Liebowitz** writes, ‘I was thrilled to be the best man at **Eric LeSueur's** wedding in November. I am so grateful that **Matt Disney SEAS’06** and his family fought through two hours of New York City-area traffic — after flying in from the West Coast on a separate trip — to pay me and my family a visit in Northern New Jersey in November. Truly a wonderful holiday season.’

“**Sam Schon** harvested a nearly 500-lb. black bear from his family's Pennsylvania farm in 2018 while hunting with his father. This year the bruin entered the state record book with an official score of 19–10. When not on a bear hunt (or hunting for oil and gas), Sam can be found in Houston with his family.

“**Jeremy Kotin** was thrilled to see his directorial debut short film, *La Salvadora*, play at the Lincoln Center as part of the 2019 Columbia University Film Festival alongside writer/producer Tom Locke SOA'19 and co-producer Daniel Raiffe SOA'18, winning the IFP Audience Award. The film recently sold to ShortsTV and began broadcasting nationwide in early 2020.”

## 2007

**David D. Chait**  
[david.donner.chait@gmail.com](mailto:david.donner.chait@gmail.com)

Read on to learn about what some of our classmates are up to!

**Andrew Russeth** writes, “I got married to the love of my life, Lauretta Charlton (Columbia Publishing Course '05), at the Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, Calif., in September. It was an honor to have among the groomsmen **David Chait**, **Marc Tracy** and **Avi Zenilman**. Other Columbians making the trip were Christina Giaccone BC'07, Gillian DiPietro BC'07, **Subash Iyer**, **Helam Gebremariam**, **David Berlin**, **Joseph Anzalone**, **Susie Schwartz '02**, **Stacy Wu '02**

and **Doug Gould LAW'08**. We honeymooned in Crete, and highly recommend that beautiful island for anyone seeking a delicious vacation.”

**Jami Jackson** welcomed a child on September 5. She writes, “I had a healthy boy named Isaac Aeneas Mulgrave. I now am a mother of two young children!”

After nearly five years of private practice in the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., areas, **Negar Kordestani** is now an assistant U.S. attorney in the criminal division of the Southern District of West Virginia. If you're ever in the Charleston, W.Va., area, please let her know.

**Tricia Ebner** writes, “I got married on November 16 in Long Island City to Frank Dubinsky. It was a great time, full of Columbia grads, including both my parents and sisters (Anne-Marie '01, Mary '03 and Kathryn '05), as well as **Jordy Lievers-Eaton**, **Natalia Premovic**, **Carly Sullivan**, **Hilary Sullivan**, **Liz Ichniowski**, **Christina Fang**, **Adriana Sein**, **Andrew Ward**, **Adrian Demko**, **Conall Arora '06** and **Erin Debold BC'07**.”

**Tarik Bolat** once again regales us with a humorous update: “My wife, Max, son, Asher, and I dusted off the Art Hum syllabus for Halloween and dressed up as Jan van Eyck's *Arnolfini Portrait*. It was a Flemish Fright! (Go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct) to see the photo!)”

Tarik also shares some fun fake news from classmates Dave, Peter and Paul!

Brimming with brio after a successful career as an investor, **Dave Schor** plans to make a hobby a career: Wine label copy writing. “Even though I don't have a background as a sommelier or vintner, I would always find myself writing sample copy for wine bottles in between my financial modeling work at Goldman [Sachs],” Dave says. “That continued well into my 30s. I'd be sitting at a Bloomberg terminal, monitoring the pound-yen exchange rate, and then ‘bam!’, all of a sudden on the side of my notebook I'd find a few sentences about a northern Rhone Hermitage Roussanne with notes of persimmon, buckwheat and burnt leather. I was like, ‘Forget the price of frozen orange juice futures, I need to be doing this!’”

Dave offered his services to several Northern California wine producers, which began using his work.

He now writes for seven vineyards in the area. “It's really about creating a dreamscape, a land of possibilities and imagination for the consumer. It really helps them enjoy the wine to its fullest extent,” Dave says.

Inspired by his work, Dave has also begun writing a short memoir of his professional left turn, titled *Gooseberry, Is That You?*

**Peter Shalek** is again shaking up the world of modernist German melodrama with his critically acclaimed one-man show, *Lampy Lunaire*, an anxiety-packed remake of Arnold Schoenberg's seminal early 20th-century work *Pierrot Lunaire*. In this pathbreaking performance, Peter seizes the stage in full costume as a wistful and existentially fraught version of a desk lamp and wills into creation an atonal affair for the ages that interrogates Thing Theory, capital in the age of the bit, and ultimately society at large. One gobsmacked fan in Tulsa, Okla., related: “Mr. Shalek's *Sprechstimme* caterwaul is primal — his performance is a monument to the lived experience and sizzles like a t-bone on the grill.”

Good luck, Peter!

In addition to his rising career as a journalist, **Paul Sonne** has become known throughout the continent for his superlative solo sackbut performances. Dubbed ‘Sackbuttist of the Year’ two years in a row by France's leading Renaissance music guild, sold-out crowds from Strasbourg to Timisoara have been thrilling to Paul's commanding crescendos and honeyed pianissimos. This fall, he'll be on the road as the opening act for an Alsatian master known as the Eric Clapton of the cornet.

What an opportunity, Paul! We hope your tour makes it stateside next year!

## 2008

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

Happy spring, Class of 2008! Thanks to everyone for sending in your exciting news!

**Lindsey Lazopoulos Friedman** joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida as a criminal prosecutor. In 2019, Lindsey tried and won four jury trials in Miami, Fort Lauderdale

and Key West. At the time of writing in early January, she was planning to moderate a panel on trends in art crime for the Federal Bar Association's 2020 Art Law and Litigation Conference, held at the National Arts Club in Manhattan on February 6.

**Jonathan Basile's** first book, *Tar for Mortar*, *The Library of Babel* and *the Dream of Totality* was translated into Portuguese with the title *Massa por Argamassa: A "Biblioteca de Babel" e o Sonho da Totalidad*.

From **Andrew Avorn**: "I got married in June in Brooklyn. My wife, Annie, and I are excited to go on our (somewhat delayed!) honeymoon to New Zealand this spring. I recently started a law firm where I represent startups and entrepreneurs as outside general counsel."

## 2009

**Chantee Dempsey**  
chantee.dempsey@gmail.com

Happy New Year, CC'09! **Sasha de Vogel's** first novel, *A Wicked Magic*, is a young adult contemporary fantasy about teenage witches on California's northern coast; it is scheduled to come out on July 28 and will be published under the pseudonym Sasha Laurens. Sasha also just finished several months of fieldwork in Moscow for her dissertation for her Ph.D. in political science.

**Carlos Cortés** will open an expansion of his family's chocolate restaurant, Chocobar Cortés, in the South Bronx in spring/early summer 2020. This news was featured in a press release by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Check out Carlos's Instagram @chocobarcortes.



Lauren Damooei '10 and Alidad Damooei '09 welcomed daughter Scarlett Marie on September 12.

**Gilad Edelman** started a job in October covering tech and politics for *WIRED* magazine.

**Rory Donnelly** married Christina Collins on June 14. Rory is a senior associate in corporate intelligence at PricewaterhouseCoopers UK.

After two years clerking for Chief Judge Merrick Garland on the D.C. Circuit and Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar on the California Supreme Court, last fall **Amari Hammonds** started as the 2019–21 Earl Warren Fellow in the California Solicitor General's Office. The California SG recently argued the DACA case before the U.S. Supreme Court, and Amari looks forward to even more exciting appellate litigation on behalf of the State of California. She loves her community in Oakland and is unashamed to say she can no longer tolerate sub-40s temperatures.

In October, **Stephanie Chou** performed several songs at the memorial conference for Patrick Ximenes Gallagher, a beloved math professor and director of undergraduate studies who taught at Columbia 1972–2017. Patrick was Stephanie's advisor and professor for several classes. In attendance at the conference at Earl Hall were numerous Columbia math department professors, colleagues from math departments across the country, and family and friends.

Dr. **Michael J. Drabkin** recently completed his medical training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and is now a practicing interventional radiologist on Long Island. In the past year, he also had the honor of presenting his research in exciting locales including São Paulo, Barcelona, Austin and even Manhattan.

**Madison Mobley** left the corporate world and founded both a nonprofit (Kickstart Your Humanitarianism) and a footwear line (Instagram: @gunnarfoshay). At the time of writing she was preparing to be featured in New York Fashion Week in February, returning to New York for the first time in years.

**Rachelle Meyer** became a veterinarian last summer!

**Amanda Karl** and her husband, Mike McBrearty SEAS'04, welcomed a son last summer. They live in Northern California, where Amanda represents employees and consumers in complex litigation.

**Josh Mathew** graduated from Harvard Law last May. He works

for Kirkland & Ellis in Manhattan and lives in Astoria.

**Stephanie Lindquist** is pursuing an M.F.A. at the University of Minnesota. Since moving to Minneapolis from New York last summer, she feels grateful to family, old friends and new friends who have welcomed her there.

This spring, **Jenny Lam** is curating *SLAYSLAN*, an exhibition celebrating and featuring Asian-American artists in Chicago. Other recent life updates include being selected to exhibit her artwork at the Chicago Cultural Center and at the Chicago Public Library; getting published in the graphic novel anthology *New Frontiers*; speaking at Facebook Chicago and at stARTup Art Fair about representation and about "What Matters," respectively; guest judging at Line Dot Editions; being featured in an episode of the political documentary series *Transition to Power*; and performing at 20x2 Chicago. She and her parents rang in 2020 in Patagonia, a destination that was on her bucket list.

**Alidad Damooei** and Lauren Damooei '10 welcomed daughter Scarlett Marie on September 12.

## 2010

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Julia Feldberg Klein**  
juliefeldberg@gmail.com

Happy spring, Class of 2010! Our 10th reunion will be here soon, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6!

**Charlotte Freinberg** married Iestyn Barker in September at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London. The couple live in London and work in television production. In attendance were many Columbia and Barnard alumni including **Julia Klein**, **Emily Johnson**, **Zachary Waisman**, Elinor Noble BC'10, **Charlotte Furet** BC'10, **Jeffrey Iloulian**, **Jeffrey Schwartz**, **Matthew Harold**, **Nicole Beach**, **Elisabeth Freinberg** '02, **Mitchell Freinberg** '73, **David Freinberg** '78, **James Minter** '73, **Caroline Freinberg**

'19, **Marilyn Harris** BC'73 and **Sarah Charles** BC'75.

**Ahiza García** and **Vaughn Hodges** were married in October at the Palacio de Galiana in Toledo, Spain, surrounded by family and friends. Guests included Carl Constant '11, **Macklin Loughrey**, **Jared Morine**, **Andrew Shalbrack**, **William Lipovsky**, **Derek Jancisin**, **David Brekke**, **Millicent Olawale**, **Hannah Biddle** and **Isidore Smart**.

**Dean Forthun** wrote in with exciting news: "I'm certainly roaring my way through 2020. I married my beautiful fiancée, Ellie Eubank, on January 18 in front of God, family and friends at Mission San Luis Rey. My best friend and college roommate, **Derek Squires**, was in my wedding party and I couldn't have been happier. The day after the wedding, Ellie and I were off on a two-week adventure to Thailand and Singapore for the honeymoon. When we get back we'll move into our first apartment together in downtown Long Beach. Life is so rich!"

## 2011

**Nuriel Moghavem** and **Sean Udell**  
nurielm@gmail.com  
sean.udell@gmail.com

Spring. The season of birth. The stirring of love. The ignition of your innate immune system. We hope that the season of new beginnings is bringing welcome change in your life. If it is — or if it isn't — we want to hear about that change (or lack thereof) here in the 2011 Class Notes column! Please give Nuriel and Sean a shout. We can't wait to hear from you.

To emphasize how some things really don't change, **Dhruve Vasishtha** is planning **Rajib Mitra SEAS'11's** bachelor party for his impending nuptials to **Debashree Sengupta**. Rajib and Debashree are a true (Columbia)-blue 2011 love story! The groom has asked for activities with a high likelihood of generating quality Instagram content. Look for #RajibGetsTheD, coming to your social feed this spring.

**Annie Tan**, in addition to being in her eighth year teaching elementary special education in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, has spent the past three



# 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](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Congratulations!

BRIAN BEAN



SYLVIE ROSOKOFF



3



JERALD ZHANG



LAUREN O'BRIEN (SILVERFOX STUDIOS)



KNOT BY THE SEA WEDDINGS



PATRICIA LYONS



8





MONIKA ZALDO



POLINA BULMAN



HAILEY & JOEL CRABTREE



TIGRAN MARKARYAN, CALYPSO DIGITAL WEDDINGS



COURTNEY STOCKTON

**1.** On November 10, Joshua Philip Ross '97 married Jihyun Jo at SongEun ArtSpace in Seoul, Korea.

**2.** Andrew Russeth '07 married Lauretta Charlton at the Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, Calif., in September. Back row, left to right: Christina Giaccone BC'07, Avi Zenilman '07, Marc Tracy '07, David Berlin '07, Subash Iyer '07, Helam Gebremariam '07 and Joseph Anzalone '07; and second row, left to right: Gillian DiPietro BC'07, Susie Schwartz '02, Stacy Wu '02, the bride, the groom and David Chait '07.

**3.** On November 16, Tricia Ebner '07 married Frank Dubinsky at Sound River Studios in Long Island City, N.Y. Left to right: Jordy Lievers-Eaton '07, Anne-Marie Ebner '01, Elizabeth Ichniowski '07, Christina Fang '07, Andrew Ward '07, Carly Sullivan '07, Adriana Sein '07, Adrian Demko '07, the bride, Irene Plagianos '03, Mary Berat '03, Conall Arora '06, Hilary Sullivan '07, Erin Debold BC'07, Natalia Premovic '07, William Ebner '73, Kathryn Van Nuys '05, Virginia Ebner NRS'79, Mike Cappeto, Carol Brofman and Ken Torrey.

**4.** Max Banaszak '12 and Gina Ng (front center) celebrated their marriage at the Fullerton Hotel Singapore on July 7. Among the bridesmaids and groomsmen surrounding them are Kemal Arsan SIPA'11, Jason Alford '12 and Mike Hu '12.

**5.** Dean Forthun '10 married Ellie Eubank on January 18 at Mission San Luis Rey in California.

**6.** On January 21, 2019, Irene Izaguirre-Lopez Post '12 and Robert Post SEAS'12 were married in New York City.

**7.** Alexander Harstrick '12 married Jo Beth Harstrick on May 19, 2018, at the Dover Hall Estate in Goochland, Va.

**8.** Charlotte Freinberg '10 married Iestyn Barker in September at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London. Alumni in attendance included Elisabeth Freinberg '02 (far left) and Charlotte Furet BC'10 (second from right).

**9.** Ahiza Garcia '10 and Vaughn Hodges '10 were married on October 5 at the Palacio de Galiana in Toledo, Spain, surrounded by family and friends. Clockwise from left: Carl Constant '11, Macklin Loughrey '10, Jared Morine '10, Andrew Shalbrack '10, William Lipovsky '10, Derek Jancisin '10, David Brekke '10, Millicent Olawale '10, the groom, the bride, Hannah Biddle '10 and Isidore Smart '10.

**10.** Nina Lukina '12 and Russell Gallaro LAW'12 were married at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on September 9. Left to right: Camille Salcedo-Watson '12, Ben Lindbergh, Michele Cleary '12, John Gallaro, Kathleen Schneider, the groom, the bride, Rebecca Gallaro, Ned Klein, Ivy Lei and Eric Apar.

**11.** On September 7, Erin M. Connell '13 married Christian Adams in Somerville, Maine. Top row, left to right: Becca Bor BC'06, Robin Barnes PS'78, Jocelyn Howard '13, the groom, Julia Tejada '13, the bride, father of the bride John Connell '76 and Annie Bryan '18; and bottom row, left to right: Will Connell '19, Brigid Connell '16 and mother of the groom Mary Barnes SOA'85.



THOR SWIFT

**12.** Thomas Coffin Willcox '84 married Glenda Lombirino on May 5 at The Divine Science Church in Washington, D.C.

**13.** Wendan Li '12 and Yufei Liu SEAS'12, who met during NSOP, were married at the Hans Fahden Vineyards in Calistoga, Calif., on October 12, their 11-year anniversary. Left to right: Jim Huang SEAS'12, Belle Yan '12, Ying Wang '12, Nathan Hwang SEAS'12, the bride, the groom, Steven Wong SEAS'12, Jin Chen '12, Sid Nair '12, Cecilia Schudel '13 and Hans Hyttinen SEAS'12.

**14.** Alison Gang '94 married Mark Johnson at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park on October 13, 2018. Left to right: Jordan Karp '94, Satoshi Kitahama '91, the bride, Alessandra Gunz (née Morales) '94 and Roxanne Hill (née Zikria) '94.

years as a storyteller all throughout NYC, as well as kept up her activism work around public education and Asian-American rights. One of Annie's stories was featured on the Moth Radio Hour. "Remembering Vincent" is about her relation to Vincent Chin, a man killed in a hate crime and whose murder led to a pan-Asian American movement in the 1980s. She also keynoted the "Teaching Social Activism" conference last spring at the Museum of the City of New York. Annie is excited that her story and work will be featured in the PBS documentary series *Asian Americans*, out this spring — hope you tune in ([pbs.org/show/asian-americans/](http://pbs.org/show/asian-americans/))!

Some 2011ers have really taken this spring to have sprung something totally new! **Anjelica Hernandez** took her passion for dogs and the environment to another level by launching EarthyPup, an eco-friendly pet subscription company. EarthyPup aims to provide thoughtful products and creative solutions for a greener, simpler life within the dog community. This social venture reminds us that there's no small act when it comes to helping make the world more sustainable.

**Allie Fisher** is now partner, creative director at a San Francisco-based design and strategy firm, Godfrey Dadich Partners. She is part of the team that produced season two of *Abstract: The Art of Design* on Netflix, which launched last fall

and might finally help her family understand what the heck a job in "design" really is. More recently, Allie worked on a project close to home — or rather, campus, leading the team working on the brand redesign of campus coffee shop Joe Coffee. The new visual identity speaks to both the craft and community vibes of this NYC mainstay. The new look will roll out across campus and the city this year.

Others have experienced a multitude of change over several seasons. **Zack Crimmins** graduated from William & Mary Law School, the oldest law school in the country, in May 2019 and passed the Virginia bar exam. He is a law clerk for the Hanover County Circuit Court in Virginia's 15th Judicial District, near Richmond. He recently saw his old Lions basketball team, and head coach Jim Engles, take on the defending champs in Charlottesville. The Lions unfortunately did not prevail, but acquitted themselves admirably.

**Stephanie Wilhelm** was sworn into the Delaware Army National Guard JAG Corps and directly commissioned as a first lieutenant in October. She will attend (or is currently attending, depending on when this is published) the Direct Commission Course at Fort Benning, Ga., and Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville this spring and summer. She says she looks forward to



SPENCER KOHN

Several alumni are involved in the *Lalabala Project*, an original children's musical theater piece traveling to Nepal this spring: Fiona Rae Brunner BC'14, Molly Rose Heller GS/JTS'15, Jake Lasser '12, Schuyler Van Amson '17 and Maria Fernanda Diez '15.

serving the United States of America and the State of Delaware!

**Princess Francois** has experienced a whole year of blessings! She got engaged in late April 2019 in Egypt on the Great Pyramid! She also received the Milken Educator Award in November! Princess was the only educator in New York State to receive the award last year, and one of just 40 educators across the country. (It's the Academy Awards of teaching ... seriously!) Princess is assistant principal of math and science at MESA Charter H.S. in Brooklyn. This is her fourth year there and her ninth year in education.

We hope that the remainder of your spring continues to blossom! We've exhausted our flowery language for now, but we're already looking forward to serving the sizzling updates of the summer in a few months.

outstanding results in their careers. Membership is by invitation only and is based on peer nominations and third-party research.

Ashley joined the legal department of Goldman Sachs in January. Before that, she was a litigation associate at Sullivan & Cromwell specializing in white-collar criminal defense, regulatory enforcement and internal investigations. She is also entering her third year as founder of Ivy Grad Services, her graduate school admissions consulting business.

In 2019, Ashley hired two consultants, Marc Holloway '11, BUS'17, LAW'17 and Quinn Shelton '13. Ashley says she looks forward to hiring more Columbia alums and expanding her business in 2020!

Wishing everyone a happy new year. Please take a moment to send a note!

## 2012

**Sarah Chai**  
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Happy New Year, everyone! Starting off the year with happy news from **Max Banaszak** and **Ashley C. Lhérisson**.

Congratulations are in order for **Max Banaszak** and Gina Ng, who were married at the Fullerton Hotel Singapore on July 7. Check out the "Just Married!" section for a photo of the happy couple surrounded by bridesmaids and groomsmen, including the groom's freshman year John Jay 12 floormates!

**Ashley C. Lhérisson** LAW'17 was selected by The National Black Lawyers for its list of "Top 40 Under 40" lawyers in New York! The National Black Lawyers is a professional and educational organization comprising African-American attorneys who have demonstrated excellence and achieved

## 2013

**Tala Akhavan**  
talaakhavan@gmail.com

No news this time, CC'13! Do you have fun plans for the summer? Share them here! Any cool job news? You can share that, too! Big life changes? Let's hear it! This is your place to share, and your classmates want to hear from you. Please send a note to [talaakhavan@gmail.com](mailto:talaakhavan@gmail.com).

## 2014

**Rebecca Fattell**  
rsf2121@columbia.edu

Happy spring, Class of 2014!

**Eric Ingram** is in his final semester for his master's program in education at UC Berkeley and plans to teach high school English in Los Angeles next year.



Micah Smith '14 and Alex Gaspard '14 got engaged last summer in Boston. They celebrated their engagement with their vintage Class of 2014 champagne flutes from Senior Night.



**Jen Lee** relocated to San Francisco after completing an M.B.A. at Harvard. She enjoys startup life, the outdoors and the mild weather in the Bay Area. Let her know if you're in the area!

In March 2019, **Chris Zombik** quit his full-time job in Shanghai to focus on growing his education consulting company. Now location-independent, he is traveling around East Asia and the United States meeting people and working on both business and creative projects.

**Kate Eberstadt** is based in Brooklyn and is a recording artist, musical theater composer, performer and humanitarian, often blending these roles. Described by *Soundigest* as “avant garde meets pop,” as the alt-pop duo Delune she and her sister **Izzi Eberstadt BC'16** are releasing one single a month in 2020, dropping both their debut baroque-pop concept album *Pierrot* and an electronic beat-driven EP inspired by their time in Central Asia last year. The pair recently returned from Kazakhstan, where they co-composed an original musical, based on the East German dystopian fairytale *The Rain Maiden*, for the Nemetski National Theater. The duo are also composing for *Lalabala Project*, an original children's musical theater piece traveling to Nepal this spring, created by **Fiona Rae Brunner BC'14**, directed by **Molly Rose Heller GS/JTS'15** and featuring **Jake Lasser '12**,

**Schuyler Van Amson '17** and **Maria Fernanda Diez '15**.

Kate is writing an autobiographical experimental musical, *Notes from the Basement*, documenting the year she spent living in her parents' basement writing a mixtape after working in an emergency refugee camp in Berlin. This show, also directed by **Molly Rose Heller GS/JTS'15**, has had a few workshops/readings in NYC, including at Corkscrew Theater Festival, spearheaded by **Alex Hare '13** and **Alexander Donnelly**. The developmental cast featured longtime Notes and Keys collaborators — **Izzi**, **Christopher Ramirez '13** and **Donju Min '13**, who also worked on the project in Germany.

After leading a recording program on Rikers Island with incarcerated youth, Kate continues to be a teaching artist in the city, most recently mentoring eighth graders at Girls Prep to create an album about their middle-school experiences.

To follow Kate's musical theater and humanitarian work, check out her Instagram @updatesfromkate. Check out Delune's work on Spotify, Apple Music or other streaming platforms! Follow @deluneofficial for more updates.

**Micah Smith and Alex Gaspard** got engaged last summer in Boston and are planning their wedding for this fall! They celebrated their engagement with their vintage Class of 2014 champagne flutes from Senior Night.

**Rebecca Fattell** will return to Columbia this fall to begin an M.B.A. at the Business School. She's thrilled to be returning to Morningside Heights!

## 2015

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Kareem Carryl**  
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! I hope the first few months of the decade have been treating you well! Let's jump right into the news that classmates shared.

**Adrian Alexander Alea** shared, “Since associate directing the world premiere of *Hercules* in collaboration with Disney Theatrical Productions and The Public Theater's Public Works, I am excited to share that I will start at New York City Center's *Encores!* in a newly created position as its creative associate.”

Congratulations!

**Virgilio Urbina Lazardi** is in the third year of his doctoral candidacy at NYU's Department of Sociology. His research focuses on industrial relations, bargaining power and labor sociology, with a focus on workplace representation in Germany and Austria. He shared that he is “still living in ‘da greatest city on Earth,’ ‘baybee” and offers his sincere apologies to any and all offended for his turning coat (blue for violet).

**Adrian Silver** recently had a Community Impact reunion with **Hahn Chang**, **Megan Thompson BC'15** and **Brian McGrattan SEAS'15**.

**Fatimatou Diallo** and **Doreen Mohammed '19** traveled together in Paris! They shared a photo from the Louvre Museum.

As always, your classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. And make plans to come back to campus for Reunion Weekend 2020, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6!



Fatimatou Diallo '15 (left) and Doreen Mohammed '19 went to the Louvre Museum together.

## 2016

**Lily Liu-Krason**  
liukrason@gmail.com

Hey 2016, happy 2020 to you! I continually am impressed by the updates and nominations you send in. Please continue to write with updates or nominate friends to brag about.

From my end, I spent the last part of 2019 back at Columbia in the Journalism School, focusing on data journalism. Did you know Brad's is now a Joe's? (Not sure you needed to know, but now you know!) On to more interesting classmates and their 2019 adventures ... drum roll ...

From **Justine Horton**: “This past winter, I had the incredible opportunity to summit Mount Kilimanjaro. At 19,341 ft., it is the tallest mountain on the continent of Africa, and the tallest free-standing volcano in the world. My team reached the summit just as the sun rose over the crater's rim, making the freshly fallen snow on the peak's glaciers glow pink. It was a phenomenal experience. The trip came as a culmination of now three years working in the outdoor industry, following my five-month through-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail in 2017. Since then, I have been an instructor with outdoor education organizations, and a guide with Discover Outdoors, a New York City-based guiding company. Though



Several former Columbia Community Impact members had a mini-reunion. Left to right: **Hahn Chang '15**, **Adrian Silver '15**, **Megan Thompson BC'15** and **Brian McGrattan SEAS'15**.





India Wilson '16 (left) and Reva Santo '16 met up for a mini-CC'16 reunion.

my work mainly keeps me away from the city and buried deep in the forests and mountains of the Northeast, I can occasionally be found in Brooklyn. Let me know if you want to get out for a hike!"

From **Sanjana Salwi**: "I'm in my third year of medical school in Nashville — bachelorette party central. In addition to boasting the highest proportion of party tractors per capita, Tennessee is also one of the states hit hardest by the opioid epidemic in the context of Medicaid non-expansion. I've been working on several bills and initiatives to help get patients with opioid use disorder the care that they need. It's been super exciting to talk to Tennessee state legislators and physicians in the Tennessee Medical Association on a (mostly) bipartisan issue. I've also been putting those CC readings to work on a medical ethics project to study how doctors make decisions on end-of-life care when the outlook is hard to predict. This project has not lessened the regret my parents feel for paying tuition for me to read books."

From **Reva Santo**: "Hey, Class of 2016! It's been a while since I've seen most of you and I hope you're all thriving. What's been going on with me? I left New York pretty quickly after graduation to spend time in Cuba making a short film. When I came back I linked up with the Visible Poetry Project (run by the awesome **Michelle Cheripka**) to direct a visual poem interpreting the powerful words of Sojourner Ahebee. The short was featured at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery! Whirlwind! Shuffled off to make another short in Japan after that, just for fun.

"I came back to New York briefly in 2018 but then got the opportunity to chase after one of my favorite directors, Dee Rees, in Puerto Rico on the set of her upcoming film *The Last Thing He Wanted* (based on the Joan Didion novel, for all my fellow nerds). Came home to Los Angeles to breathe for a sec and then took off to Europe to do research for a story concept.

"I'm back in L.A. now, and most of my energy goes into my baby, Honey & Smoke, a global artist community and platform focused on creating space for artists to meditate on the important themes of our time (Instagram: @\_honeyandsmoke\_). Aside from this, I recently launched the fundraising campaign for my short film *Trust Issues*, which tells the story of Aliya, a young musician confronting the aftermath of sexual assault and its effects on her relationships, her mental health and her career. Light stuff! Feel free to reach out to me if any of this is of interest to you; it



Columbia friends took a winter trip to Maui! Left to right: Winnie Zhang BC'19, Hidy Han '17, Anne Chen '18 and Caroline Chen '18.

would be great to reconnect! Find me on Instagram: @revasanto!"

## 2017

**Carl Yin**  
carl.yin@columbia.edu

**Michael Jesse Abolafia** and **Amber Doll Diaz** GS'25 are happy to announce they got engaged on September 22, after dating for nearly a decade. The wedding is planned for spring 2021.

After a brief stint in professional baking, **Laney McGahey** is happy to report that she has started grad school at UC San Francisco with a focus on clinical research. She still lives in San Francisco and enjoys spending time with other Lions in the Bay!

**Elle Wisnicki** was applying for M.B.A. programs in January to become a healthcare entrepreneur in the mental health space. She would like to create a national urgent care system for affordable crisis treatment as an alternative to overrun emergency rooms.

**Louisa Carpenter-Winch** and **Elizaveta Kulko** GS'17 are engaged! They write, "We met several years ago in Havemeyer. We're no longer lab partners, but we're now life partners and are excited to get married. Cheers!"

**Tara Shui** recently went to Shanghai with **Jibben Hillen** SEAS'17. It was Jibben's first time in Shanghai — he especially loved the *sheng jian bao*.

**Bianca Guerrero** adds, "I am still at City Hall, working hard to pass a bill to guarantee two weeks of paid time off for workers in NYC. I spent much of 2019 organizing for progressive candidates: 2020 will be much of the same. Last summer, I began knocking on doors and making phone calls for Jamaal Bowman, a middle-school principal

and Justice Democrat running for Congress in NY-16, which includes the Bronx and lower Westchester. (I'm also excited to knock on doors for Samelys Lopez BC'01, running in NY-15.) I joined a volunteer-run political organization, Amplify Her, which helps elect progressive women running to represent NYC in local, state and federally elected offices. I serve as policy director, which entails creating questionnaires for candidates seeking our endorsement, hosting candidate forums and co-managing our endorsement process. We will announce our 2020 slate soon, which I'm really excited about!"

## 2018

**Alexander Birkel** and **Maleeha Chida**  
ab4065@columbia.edu  
mnc2122@columbia.edu

Happy New Year, Class of 2018! Read on to see what classmates have been up to, and as always, feel free to send us updates, big or small!

**Briley Lewis**'s first research paper was accepted into *Icarus*, a solar system studies journal from Elsevier. It's based on work about Pluto that she started at a summer internship during her time at Columbia.

Since graduating, **Abbey Li** has been traveling around the world, both for her job as an international arbitration paralegal and for her vacations. She rang in the New Year (and, as hard as it is to believe, the new decade) with her high school friends in Osaka, Japan.

**Elise Barber** has moved to Milwaukee to work for the Wisconsin Democratic Party. She is excited to talk to voters and work to elect Democrats to every level of the government in Wisconsin and in the 2020 presidential election. If you live

# CCT

## SHOW US YOUR LION'S GAY PRIDE!



CCT is creating a photo gallery to celebrate Pride Month this June. **Show us your LGBTQIA+ pride in a group or individual photo (we need at least one person to be a College alum!).** Send your hi-res photo with caption info to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu); we'll run our favorites in the Summer 2020 issue.

in Wisconsin and are interested in getting involved in this effort, email her at [eliseibarber@gmail.com](mailto:eliseibarber@gmail.com).

In order to escape the cold in New York, Chicago and San Francisco last Christmas, **Caroline Chen** took a trip to Maui, Hawaii, with Winnie Zhang BC'19, Hidy Han '17 and **Anne Chen**.

## 2019

### REUNION 2020 JUNE 4–6

Events and Programs Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Emily Gruber and  
Tj Aspen Givens**  
[tag2149@columbia.edu](mailto:tag2149@columbia.edu)  
[eag2169@columbia.edu](mailto:eag2169@columbia.edu)

Happy New Year, Class of 2019!  
Here are updates from our friends:

**Brent Morden** is choir manager for Every Voice Choirs, a Teachers College-based singing program for kids 7–16. He also continues to freelance as a composer, arranger, vocalist and actor in the New York metropolitan area. Brent welcomes you to contact him: [brentmorden@gmail.com](mailto:brentmorden@gmail.com).

**Sofia Schembari** enjoyed a visit from **Adriana Fratz** in Guanacaste, Costa Rica, where Sofia is doing field work with white-faced capuchin monkeys. Sofia and Adriana have been friends since Days on Campus!

We send our best for a happy and healthy 2020 and look forward to catching up with everyone at our first reunion, Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6!



Sofia Schembari '19 (right) enjoyed a visit from Adriana Fratz '19 in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.

# CCT ONLINE

GET TO KNOW  
“THE LATEST”



ORIGINAL STORIES  
ALUMNI VOICES  
UPDATED WEEKLY



[college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct)

**CCT** | Columbia  
College  
Today 

# obituaries

## 1944

**Van Dyk Buchanan**, retired professor, Santa Barbara, Calif., on January 20, 2018.

**Vance W. Weaver**, writer, newspaper columnist and blogger, New York City, on December 28, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to International Rescue Committee ([help.rescue.org/donate](http://help.rescue.org/donate)) or End of Life Choices New York ([endoflifechoicesny.org](http://endoflifechoicesny.org)).

## 1947

**Bertram M. Sussman**, retired manufacturing business owner, Stanwood, Wash., on February 20, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to Southern Poverty Law Center ([donate.splcenter.org](http://donate.splcenter.org)).

## 1948

**Robert W. McClellan**, retired journalist, Burlington, Vt., on September 9, 2019. McClellan earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1961. Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Presbyterian Church, 1597 Allen St., Springfield, MA 01118.

## 1949

**Murry J. Waldman**, retired attorney, San Francisco, on January 15, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to Congregation Emanu-El Tzedek Council ([emanuelsf.org/donate](http://emanuelsf.org/donate)), ACLU Northern California

([aclunc.org](http://aclunc.org)) or Environmental Action Committee of West Marin ([eacmarin.org/donatenow](http://eacmarin.org/donatenow)).

## 1950

**Patrick J. Barry**, orthopedic surgeon and knee specialist, Miami Beach, Fla., on December 27, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to The Elephant Sanctuary ([elephants.com](http://elephants.com)).

**Philip M. Bergovoy**, entrepreneur, Sarasota, Fla., on February 22, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to Make-A-Wish Hudson Valley ([hudson.wish.org](http://hudson.wish.org)).

## 1952

**A. James Gregor**, professor emeritus, Berkeley, Calif., on August 30, 2019. Gregor earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from GSAS in 1958 and 1961, respectively. Memorial contributions may be made to your local animal shelter or to ASPCA ([aspc.org](http://aspc.org)).

## 1953

**William U. Bruch Jr.**, retired real estate executive, Bellevue, Wash., on October 30, 2019. Bruch earned a B.S. in chemical engineering from Columbia Engineering in 1954.

## 1954

**Joel J. West**, psychiatrist, Laguna Woods, Calif., on December 20, 2019.

## 1955

**Robert E. Kushner**, retired attorney, Tuckahoe, N.Y., on August 23, 2019. Kushner earned a degree from the Law School in 1958. Memorial contributions may be made to UJA Federation New York ([ujafedny.org/donate](http://ujafedny.org/donate)) or American Civil Liberties Union ([aclu.org](http://aclu.org)).

## 1956

**Harold B. Reisman**, retired chemical engineer, Carlsbad, Calif., on July 29, 2019. Reisman entered with the Class of 1956 but earned two degrees from Columbia Engineering: a B.S. in 1956 and a Ph.D. in 1965.

## 1957

**Thomas J. Fagan**, retired mechanical engineer, Scottsdale, Ariz., on January 5, 2020. Fagan earned a B.S. from Columbia Engineering in 1958.

**Arthur E. Rifkin**, academic psychiatrist and researcher, Great Neck, N.Y., on July 7, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to American Psychiatric Association Foundation ([apafdn.org](http://apafdn.org)).

## 1958

**Harlan L. Lane**, psychologist, advocate for deaf culture, Boston and Roquefort-les-Pins, France, on July 13, 2019. Lane earned an M.A. in psychology from GSAS in 1958.

## 1959

**Robert M. Burd**, retired physician, Sarasota, Fla., on October 31, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to Leukemia & Lymphoma Society ([lls.org/ways-to-donate](http://lls.org/ways-to-donate)).

**David M. Clark**, retired science teacher and wrestling coach, East Northport, N.Y., on August 15, 2019.

**Guy J. Manaster**, retired professor of psychology, department chair and graduate advisor, Dallas, on October 15, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to organizations that treat and research Parkinson's disease or Lewy body dementia.

## 1960

**Jerome H. "Jerry" Schmelzer**, public relations and urban development executive, Pepper Pike, Ohio, on September 14, 2019. Schmelzer earned a degree in 1962 from the Journalism School. Memorial contributions may be made to Cleveland Animal Protective League ([clevelandapl.org](http://clevelandapl.org)), Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage ([maltzmuseum.org](http://maltzmuseum.org)) or Columbia Journalism School ([journalism.givenow.columbia.edu](http://journalism.givenow.columbia.edu)).

## 1961

Rev. Canon **Gregory M. Howe**, retired priest, Provincetown, Mass., on January 12, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary of the Harbor, 519 Commercial St., Provincetown, MA 02657.

## 1963

**Victor Margolin**, emeritus professor of design history, Washington, D.C., on November 27, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to Subud Washington D.C. c/o The Alkaitises, 1231 Hillcrest Rd., Arnold, MD 21012-2116.

**Barry J. Reiss**, attorney, Commack, N.Y., on November 23, 2019. Reiss earned a degree in 1966 from the Law School. Memorial contributions may be made to ALS Association Greater New York Chapter ([als-ny.org](http://als-ny.org)) or Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation ([jdrf.org](http://jdrf.org)).

## 1964

**Steven T. Henick**, professor and retired business executive, Millersville, Md., on November 19, 2019.

### OBITUARY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*Columbia College Today* welcomes obituary information for Columbia College alumni. Links or mailing addresses for memorial contributions may be included. Please fill out the "Submit Obituary Information" form at [college.columbia.edu/cct/content/contact-us](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/content/contact-us), or mail information to Obituaries Editor, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10025.



## 1965

**Michael D. Cooper**, retired radiologist, Jerusalem, on February 27, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to ALS Therapy Development Institute ([als.net/donate](http://als.net/donate)) or American Friends of Zichron Ruth Kolllel, 109 Bayit Vegan Street, Jerusalem, 9642621, Israel.

**Gary S. Engelberg**, humanitarian, Dakar, Senegal, on August 12, 2019.

## 1966

**Anthony F. Starace**, professor of physics, Lincoln, Neb., on September 5, 2019.

## 1979

**Michael R. Zakian**, museum director and professor of art history, Malibu, Calif., on January 14, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michael

Zakian Exhibition Fund (impact.[pepperdine.edu/memorial](http://pepperdine.edu/memorial)).

## 1980

**James R. Haslem**, attorney, real estate consultant, Santa Barbara, Calif., on November 9, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to ALS Association ([alsa.org](http://alsa.org)), VNA Health ([vna.health/ways-to-give](http://vna.health/ways-to-give)) or Hospice of Santa Barbara ([hospiceofsantabarbara.org](http://hospiceofsantabarbara.org)).

## 2007

**Daniel P. Bajger**, attorney, Bethesda, Md., on December 26, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia men's baseball team: by check, mailed to Columbia Athletics Development, c/o Emily Maury, Development Coordinator, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., New York, NY 10025, or online ([athletics.givenow.columbia.edu](http://athletics.givenow.columbia.edu)).

## Michael I. Sovern '53, LAW'55, University President Emeritus

**Michael I. Sovern '53, LAW'55**, the Chancellor Kent Professor of Law and a former University president, died on January 20, 2020, in Manhattan. He was 88.

During his 13-year term as Columbia's president (1980–93), Sovern opened the College to women; appointed the first female deans at the Journalism School, GSAS and the Law School; made housing available to all undergraduates; and brought about divestment from companies doing business in South Africa.

Sovern was born on December 1, 1931, in the Bronx to Julius and Lillian (née Arnstein) Sovern. His father was a partner in a women's clothing company and died when Sovern was 12. His mother became a bookkeeper after her husband's death.

Sovern graduated from Bronx Science. After his junior year at the College, he started classes at the Law School under the "professional option," earning a bachelor's summa cum laude and two years later a J.D., graduating first in his class and serving as articles editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. In 1957, he joined the Law School faculty, becoming a full professor three years later. At 28, he was then the youngest tenured faculty member at the University. Sovern

accepted a job teaching at the University of Minnesota Law School and stayed for two years before returning to the Law School in 1962.

In Spring 1968, when campus protests erupted and students occupied the president's office and other campus buildings for a week, Sovern decried what he called the "offensive notion" that faculty and students should confront each other as warring camps. "I cannot regard my students as adversaries; if they ever come to see me in that role, I shall leave teaching," he wrote in 1969.

Sovern was appointed chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty, and his deft handling of the crisis was widely lauded. In the following months, he proposed the creation of a University Senate, a policymaking body formed in 1969 composed of faculty members, students, alumni and staff.

Sovern's involvement in the University Senate whetted his appetite for administration, and in 1970 he was named the eighth dean of the Law School, serving until 1979 and remaining an active full-time faculty member until his death.

While helming the Law School, Sovern recruited Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59 as its first woman law professor and Kellis E. Parker as its first black law professor. He also established the Center for Law and Economic Studies, expanded the school's clinical law programs and helped establish a number of scholarships. In 1998, an anonymous donor established the Michael I. Sovern Professor of Law chair, awarded to

those who demonstrate outstanding promise in their teaching and writing.

Sovern was University provost and executive VP for academic affairs 1979–80, when he was named the University's 17th president, replacing William J. McGill. He faced challenges immediately: Columbia was not considered well managed, buildings were in disrepair and new faculty had to be recruited. "We were broke," Sovern said in a 2014 interview at Hunter College. But endowment soared during Sovern's tenure, growing from \$525 million to \$1.7 billion, and he oversaw the \$400-million sale of 11.7 acres of University-owned land beneath Rockefeller Center in 1985 to the Rockefeller Group, which had been paying the University rent since the 1930s.

Sovern announced he was stepping down from the presidency when his wife, Joan R. Sovern, a sculptor, was undergoing treatment for cancer. She died in 1993.

After leaving the presidency, Sovern chaired the Japan Society and the American Academy in Rome, and was president of the Shubert Foundation. In 2000, he was named to succeed the chair of Sotheby's. But his time at Columbia remained the focus of his pride: "No savvy gambler would have bet that a fatherless adolescent from the South Bronx, the first in his family to graduate from high school," he wrote in his autobiography, "would grow up to become president of one of the world's great universities."

Sovern was presented with numerous honors, including an honorary



JOE PINERO

LL.D. from Columbia, the College's Alexander Hamilton Medal, the GS Owl Award, the Law School's Medal for Excellence and its Lawrence A. Wien Prize for Social Responsibility, the Citizens Union Civic Leadership Award and two honorary doctorates.

In addition to his wife, Patricia Walsh Sovern, whom he married in 1995, Sovern is survived by his daughters, Julie LAW'93 and Elizabeth; sons, Jeffrey '77, LAW'80 and Douglas; stepson, David Wit; 10 grandchildren; and sister, Denise Canner. Two earlier marriages ended in divorce.

In announcing Sovern's death, President Lee C. Bollinger said, "Mike loved Columbia, and did all he could to support and further its greatness — always, it should be added, with a smile, a clever quip and a good laugh. And there is so much more good he did in the world, beyond Columbia. Mike was one of the great university presidents of his generation."

### CCT Print Extras

Michael I. Sovern '53, LAW'55 reflects on his "improbable life" in a short video. Go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).



## CORE CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

In honor of the Centennial, we asked four artistic alums to take inspiration from the Core and provide a cartoon in need of a caption — one for each of our four issues this academic year. This installment is by Dr. Benjamin Schwartz '03, PS'08, a regular cartoonist for *The New Yorker*.

The winning caption will be published in the Summer 2020 issue, and the winner will get a signed print of Schwartz's cartoon. Any College student or College alum may enter; no more than three entries per person. Submit your idea, along with your full name, CC class year and daytime phone, to [cct\\_centennial@columbia.edu](mailto:cct_centennial@columbia.edu) by Monday, May 11. And be sure to check out the Winter issue's winning caption on our Table of Contents.





# CORE TO COMMENCEMENT

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

The Core to Commencement campaign sets forth a bold plan for Columbia College's future. Only through the generosity of alumni, parents and friends are we able to prepare our students to help build a better world for us all.

Join the more than **42,000 DONORS** who already have shown their support, at every level, for the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world.



The Core at 100



Wellness and Community



Beyond the Classroom



Teaching and Mentoring



Access and Support

[COLLEGE.COLUMBIA.EDU/CAMPAIGN](https://college.columbia.edu/campaign)



# Celebration of the Core Centennial



**JOIN THE CELEBRATION ONLINE**, as the Centennial year continues. Find events, music, art, *Core Stories* and much more.

**#CoreStories #CoreCelebration**

**100 THE CORE CENTENNIAL**

[core100.columbia.edu](http://core100.columbia.edu)