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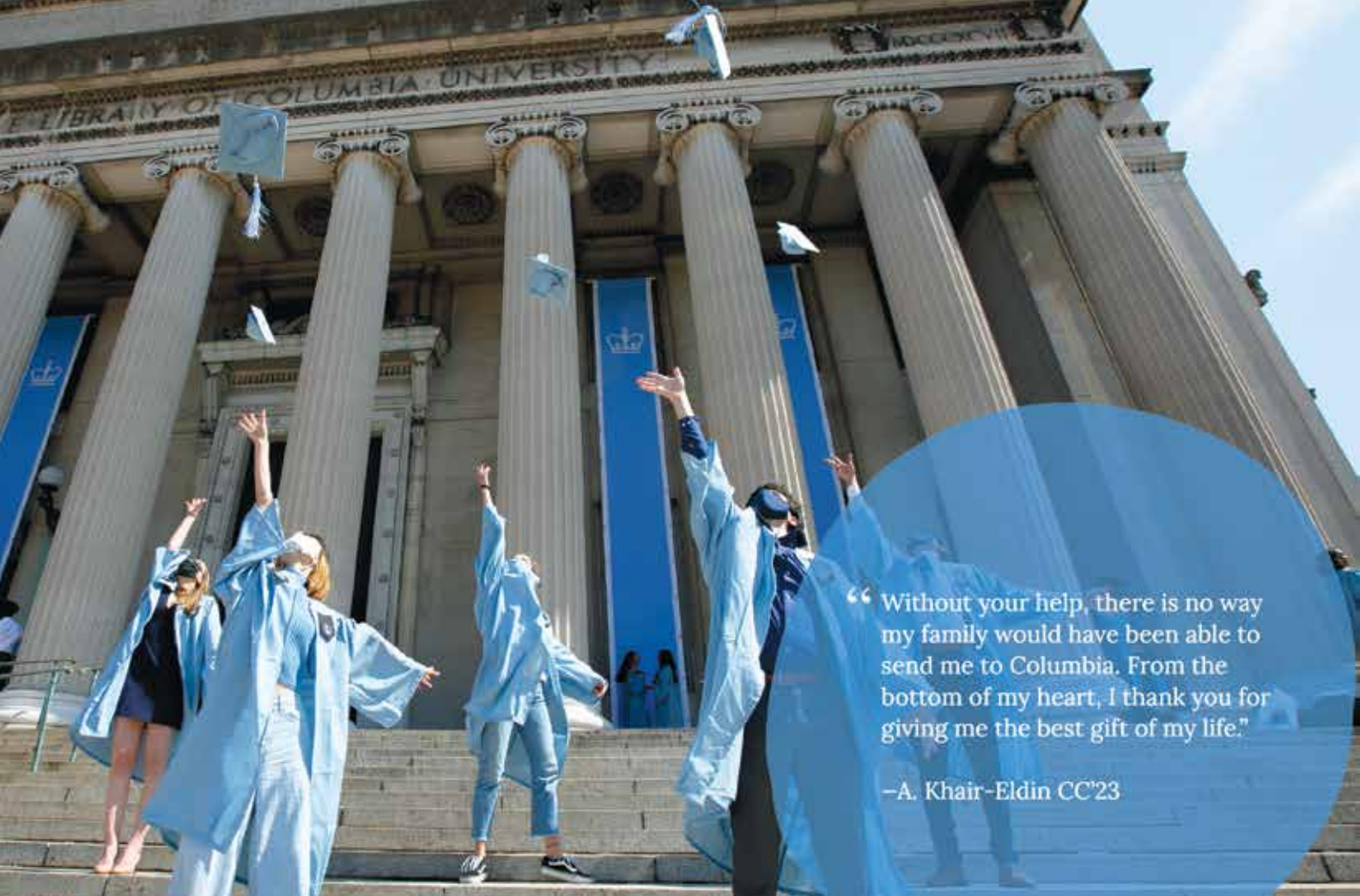
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IS TELLING THE
LOST STORIES
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—A. Khair-Eldin CC'23

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Cover: Photograph by Jörg Meyer

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 3
SPRING/SUMMER 2021

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Published three times a year by Columbia College for alumni, students, faculty, parents and friends.

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ISSN 0572-7820

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

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Online Exclusive: Championing a Common Cause

Podcaster Mila Atmos '96, SIPA'05 wants listeners to join the political conversation.

>> bit.ly/34egL1W



Patrick Radden Keefe '99 Dishes About *Empire of Pain*

The *New York Times* bestselling author discusses his new book's most striking revelations.

>> bit.ly/3eHAegg



The Alum Who Designed the NYC Subway

Boost your knowledge of Columbia history with this "Did You Know?" video short.

>> bit.ly/2ORvkol

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Message from the Dean

Congratulations to the Class of 2021

On April 28, I addressed the Class of 2021 in a virtual Class Day ceremony, where I touched upon the theme of Beginner's Mind. Students and families viewed the ceremony from campus at socially distanced watch gatherings and remotely from locations around the world. What follows is an excerpt from my speech.

The word “global” appears to have its first use in the 17th century, and had only limited use until the mid-20th century. In 1960, Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan made a prescient statement that electronic media would shrink the world to “a village or tribe where everything happens to everyone at the same time: everyone knows about, and therefore participates in, everything that is happening the minute it happens ... in the global village.” In the first part of the 21st century that sense of global connection has taken on new meaning, new import and frequent use, in the phrase “global pandemic.”

You, the members of the Columbia College Class of 2021, have experienced our global pandemic in many ways, but likely mostly through loss. Some of you have lost family members, some of you may have been taken ill by the virus; others experienced financial setbacks in your families, and most of you had to contend with severe individual dislocations and disruptions of your normal lives. But what all of you share is a loss of your expected Columbia College senior year experience. Expectations not met are particularly difficult losses to accept, whatever the nature of the expectation. I share that sense of loss, though obviously in a different way.

While I cannot celebrate you in person, I assure you that today you are celebrated and you are special. You are to be celebrated as a class that displayed impressive adaptability, resourcefulness, resilience, persistence and determination. That is why you are part of this Class Day celebration. Despite the many personal challenges, setbacks, disappointments and losses each of you has encountered, you completed your Columbia College studies and earned this most valuable degree. It will always be recognized as especially valuable for the daunting challenges presented in the year 2021.

But there are some elements of today's ceremony that are not unique to this difficult year. Something that every Columbia College graduate might expect to hear from me at Class Day is, “In the Beginner's Mind, there are many possibilities; in the expert's mind there are few.” For those in our audience who have not heard that before, Beginner's Mind is the Zen Buddhist concept “shoshin,” which advises us to see the world with eyes open, as if we were seeing everything for the first time. In a world of unprecedented challenges, everyone is a beginner by definition because there can be no experience of the unprecedented. And without such experience, no expertness in the sense used here. But that does not mean that Beginner's Mind becomes trivial or automatic or easy. No. Beginner's Mind looks to the possibilities of



DIANE BONDAREFF

the future, guiding choices of what to do now as the unprecedented has arrived. And it, indeed, requires our serious effort.

It directs us to think about what we do in response to the unprecedented. Beginner's Mind cultivates a mindset that anything is possible, and that should be our expectation, never a surprise. The unprecedented is to be imagined and anticipated. Your entire Columbia College experience has been unprecedented because it is an experience unique to each of you, full of discoveries and realizations, and most importantly, a new sense of all the possibilities held within each of you.

When you arrived at Columbia you had ideas about the world and your place in it. Sitting in small Core seminars you were asked to speak about, advocate for and defend your ideas, and to understand and appreciate those of others. I expect that your understanding about the world and your place in it changed in ways unexpected to you. That is good. That is your Beginner's Mind being developed. That recognition won't diminish the disappointments of this unpredictable senior year. But it will point the way to reframing your thinking from what has been lost to what can be done that is new and full of possibility.

As you continue your Columbia College Journey beyond graduation, I look forward to seeing how you do that, and hearing about how you do that, frequently, in person at Columbia Reunion and at the other events that make up your College journey. I have no doubt that the creativity and imagination each of you individually has developed here will enable you to meet every challenge with the same determination that you displayed in completing your senior year. Congratulations to you, our graduates, and to your families, teachers, mentors and advisors.

James J. Valentini
Dean

Dean James J. Valentini and Elena Comas Wood '21 share a celebratory elbow bump.

Gooooooo, Graduates!

The Class of 2021 became alumni with a virtual Class Day experience on April 28. Local members of the class were invited to attend on-campus watch parties, while hundreds of others tuned in remotely with friends and family members.

The keynote speaker, actor and director Mario Van Peebles '78, addressed the class from a majestic backdrop overlooking the Hudson River and the western skyline; he urged the new grads, who are launching into an uncertain, post-pandemic world, to shake up their "boxes." "Be a nerd for people, expand your friend group," Van Peebles said. "Be a critical thinker, be courageous. Don't be afraid to get into good trouble and effect good change."

He closed his address with an uplifting directive: "Love and enjoy what you do for a living. Love and enjoy the people you get to work with. And love and enjoy what your work brings to the world. If you get those three career chakras to line up, you're rich no matter what the paycheck."

A virtual University Commencement was held on April 30, while Grad Walk festivities offered in-person opportunities to celebrate throughout the week. More than 500 seniors turned out to take photos on the graduation stage and bump elbows with Dean James J. Valentini (see what the dean had to say on page 3).







ALYSSA CARVARA

Farewell to a Friend

I'm an alum and have never written to *CCT*.

I stumbled across the lovely *New York Times* obituary for Tom Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90, placed by a number of his friends (legcy.co/3eiwYrB) — lucky, I suppose; it's so easy to miss the weekday obit notices, especially now that many of us read the paper online.

Tom was a few years older than I, but we chatted numerous times in the old *Spectator* office on Amsterdam Avenue when I was a freshman reporter and he was an editor; it was, in many ways, the Columbia sentimental education — a student from the provinces (I'm from Baltimore) is told the secrets of New York by a slightly older student from the Tri-State area, always at night. Columbia in one line, boom! He was smart and funny and held forth on philosophy, language, politics, culture, literature, history, NYC and, most of all, Columbiana.

Over the next 30-plus years, I regularly saw Tom's *Times* byline on a catholic range of topics: Santa Claus, James Bond, *The Sting*, Star Wars, Watergate, WWI and so on. And in a great twist, the sister of a friend from high school reviewed his book about *The New Yorker*. Seeing his byline was like running into the same friend from your John Jay floor at Grand Central every five years.

Then I saw his death notice and felt really sad that I wouldn't run into him anymore. He was smart and funny, the highest Columbia praise.

Steve Sagner '88
White Plains, N.Y.

Lions We've Lost

I greatly appreciate the online spotlight on College alumni who have succumbed to Covid-19 ["Lions We've Lost," written by Alex Sachare '71, college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2020/article/lions-weve-lost] and hope you'll allow me to add a few details of interest.

Two of the alumni who are included were former staffers at *Columbia College Today*: Terrence McNally '60, assistant editor from 1963 to 1965, before his distinguished career as a playwright revved up, and Stephen Steiner '66, editor from 1973 to 1974, who went on to *Sport* magazine and a career as a public relations executive with major Jewish organizations. Both were lovely people, and proud of their connection to *CCT*.

Columbia University Athletics Hall of Famer Tom O'Connor '63 was indeed, as your headline proclaimed, a football player, an officer and a gentleman. He was also the oldest of 10 siblings from Chicopee, Mass. — three girls and seven boys, no fewer than four of whom played for the Lions at Baker Field: John O'Connor '67, Jim O'Connor '69 and Dan O'Connor '82, in addition to Tom. Through the years, I got to know Tom not only as a true-blue alum but also as my brother-in-law. Tom was the beating heart of a large, warm-hearted extended family I was blessed to join by marriage 20 years ago. We all miss him terribly.

Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80
New York City

An Overdue Appreciation

Thank you for publishing the obituary of William L. "Billy" Goldenberg '57, written

Contact Us

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

by Alex Sachare '71 [Winter 2020–21]. It is a wonderful tribute to a warm, wonderful human being.

I met Billy when I was in the Columbia Players, and he and I were songwriters for the Varsity Show in the 1950s. He taught me much about songwriting. Billy and my wife, Harriet, and daughter, Aimee, and I continued our warm relationship until his death last August.

I remember sitting in the first row for *An Evening with Mike Nichols and Elaine May*, when he got me a house seat because he played the piano for their performances. In those days Billy was delighted to be living in an apartment that previously was the home of George Gershwin. We kept in touch when he was in Hollywood, and I visited him whenever we traveled to the West Coast. When we last saw him, before the pandemic, he was working on a revival of *Ballroom*.

It has been disappointing to me that, until your obituary, Columbia had not widely recognized one of its most talented graduates. The Varsity Show annually presents the I.A.L. Diamond Award for Achievement in the Arts, and for many years I have submitted Billy's name and career for consideration. It has been frustrating that he has never won. Few people will ever match Billy's marvelous career.

Jerome Breslow '56
Potomac, Md.

A Hall of Fame Family

I always enjoyed Tom Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90's "Hall of Fame" articles, such as his piece on Oswald Jacoby CC 1922 [Winter 2020–21].

One might add that the brilliant card player's father, also named Oswald Jacoby, graduated from the College in 1890. An uncle, Harold Jacoby, also was a Columbia graduate (CC 1885, GSAS 1895), and from 1894 until his death in 1932 was a professor of astronomy at Columbia. Among Harold's many accomplishments was working out the timekeeping details of the Sundial.

The bridge expert's niece, Susan Jacoby, is an accomplished writer, who has authored, among other books, a fascinating study of her family in *Half-Jew: A Daughter's Search for Her Family's Buried Past*.

Francis J. Sypher Jr. '63, GSAS'68
New York City

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Historic Financial Aid Initiative

The College recently launched the largest financial aid initiative in its history, committing to raise \$500 million in financial assistance by 2025. Part of a University-wide effort, the initiative will significantly expand scholarships and ensure that any student can attend and thrive at the College, regardless of family income. “Our commitment to financial aid is inspired by its triple impact: It can change the student, the College and the world,” says Dean James J. Valentini. “It also ensures that a multitude of voices are present in the classroom, increasing the rigor of discourse, critical thinking and cultural fluency that define Columbia College students and alumni.”

.....

Trio of New Trustees

Jeh Johnson LAW’82, Adam Pritzker ’07 and Sheena Wright ’90, LAW’94 have been elected University trustees. Johnson is a partner in the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, and a former secretary of homeland security. Pritzker is the founder and CEO of the investment group Assembled Universe, and the co-founder and chair of the not-for-profit Future Now. Wright is the president and CEO of United Way of New York City. “Jeh, Adam and Sheena have achieved great professional success while demonstrating a profound commitment to some of the most important issues facing society, including economic and racial inequality, education and sustainability,” said President Lee C. Bollinger.

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Eight Guggenheims for Columbians

In April, eight faculty members were awarded 2021 Guggenheim fellow-



Bernard E. Harcourt



Denise Cruz

SAM HOLLENSHEAD

TRILLING AND VAN DOREN AWARDS: Bernard E. Harcourt, the Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law and a professor of political science, is the winner of the 46th annual Lionel Trilling Book Award for *Critique & Praxis: A Critical Philosophy of Illusions, Values, and Action*. Harcourt is the founding director of the Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought and the executive director of the College’s Eric H. Holder Initiative for Civil and Political Rights; his book charts a vision for political and social transformation.

Denise Cruz, an associate professor of English and comparative literature, was honored with the 60th annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching, which recognizes a faculty member’s humanity, devotion to truth and inspiring leadership. Cruz was honored for her “innovative, meaningful, and, most importantly, human” adaptation to teaching during the pandemic.

ships: Ashkan Behzadi, a core lecturer in music; Zosha Di Castri, a professor of music; Farah Jasmine Griffin, chair of the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies; Sidney R. Hemming, a professor of earth and environmental sciences; Miya Masaoka, director of the Sound Art Program at the School of the Arts; Jason Nieh, a professor of computer science; Paige West, a professor of anthropology; and Kate Zambreno, an adjunct professor of writing. “I am thrilled to announce this new group of fellows,” said Edward Hirsch, president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, “especially since this has been a devastating year in so many ways. A Guggenheim fellowship has always been meaningful, but this year we know it will be a lifeline — a survival tool as well as a creative one.”

Columbia Tops in Fulbrights

In February, Columbia was named a top-producing institution for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, with 31 awardees in 2020–21. The University has been on the top-producing list for the last 10 years. The awardees included 18 College affiliates, who received grants to pursue independent research, postgraduate studies or English Teaching Assistantships, in locations ranging from Argentina, to Vietnam, to the Netherlands. Established in 1946, the Fulbright program is the most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange program in the world. It operates in more than 160 countries and facilitates cultural exchange through direct interaction in the classroom, field and home, and in daily life.

Three Core Chairs Finish Their Terms

The College will see a major changing of the guard this summer, as three of the five Core Curriculum chairs complete their three-year terms on June 30: Noam Elcott '00, the Jonathan Sobel & Marcia Dunn Program Chair for Art Humanities; Emmanuelle Saada, chair of Contemporary Civilization; and Joanna Stalnaker, the Paul Brooke Program Chair for Literature Humanities.

Elcott, Saada and Stalnaker helmed the Core during an especially significant time. An extended celebration of the Core Centennial began in fall 2019, as the curriculum transitioned into its second century; then the turbulence of the Covid-19 pandemic arrived the following spring. Larry Jackson, associate dean of Academic Affairs, Core Curriculum and Undergraduate Programs, praised their efforts. "At a moment marked by serious crisis, they were innovative, they improvised, they worked relentlessly to get us through," Jackson says. "With amazing care and sensitivity, they were able to make sure we didn't compromise the rigor or the quality of the work, and were tireless advocates for instructors, preceptors and students."

Diversifying the curriculum was a defining feature of the outgoing chairs' terms. Elcott led the first syllabus review process for Art Hum since the class was created in 1947. "When I took over as chair, there was not a single woman artist or a single artist of color on the syllabus," he says. "Today, the vast majority of units feature one or both. Collectively, the units of Art Humanities are now better able to bridge the gaps of time and space to interrogate vital questions of our presents and open essential windows into our pasts."

For Contemporary Civilization, Saada introduced a unit on race and justice and added texts by David Walker, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King Jr., Angela Davis and James Baldwin. She also created CC Chats, conversations with scholars and experts that tied CC texts to contemporary issues. (A syllabus review for CC is in progress.)

"I have greatly enjoyed my time as chair of Contemporary Civilization," says Saada, adding that she thought of the role as "being the temporary facilitator of a 100-year-long conversation." "I've found it

particularly exciting to think with instructors and students about continuity and change. While the texts we discuss have delineated a long intellectual trajectory, the content, terms and tone of our conversations about them are constantly changing in response to the problems of our time."

Stalnaker introduced the Contemporary Core requirement to Lit Hum, assigning a modern work to be read in the fall term that

Family Professor of English Literature and a professor of classics, will be the interim chair of Lit Hum for one year; Joseph Howley, an associate professor of classics, will assume the role in July 2022. Carole Rovane, the Violin Family Professor of Philosophy, will be the new chair of CC; and Zoë Strother, the Riggio Professor of African Art, will chair Art Hum. (David Helfand and Elaine Sisman



Noam Elcott '00



Emmanuelle Saada



Joanna Stalnaker

complements the ancient texts being taught during that time. "One of the concerns around Lit Hum was that you have an entire term devoted exclusively to ancient Greek and Roman works, then in the second term, you race through 2,000 years of literature," Jackson says. "Joanna was sensitive to and mindful of the ways that can create exclusions on the syllabus." In 2019, Stalnaker assigned *Father Comes Home from the Wars* by Suzan-Lori Parks, which responds to Black Lives Matter and racial justice in the United States, but also to Homer's *Odyssey*. In 2020, *Citizen: An American Lyric*, by Claudia Rankine SOA'93, was added to students' summer reading.

"I love Literature Humanities and I love (almost!) all the works on the syllabus. Teaching the course over the last 20 years and chairing it for the last three has been my true education," Stalnaker says. "But for Lit Hum to remain vital, it must be subject to critical scrutiny. Literary canons are not set in stone: They are, and should be, sites of debate and critique. I welcome the critical energy that instructors and students alike have been bringing in recent years to the collective enterprise."

The new Core chairs will assume their roles on July 1. Kathy Eden, the Chavkin

will remain chairs for Frontiers of Science and Music Humanities, respectively.)

Jackson says the new chairs will set the intellectual agendas for their courses, mentor new instructors and graduate preceptors, and be part of a collective conversation about the overall purpose of the Core. "There's a real need for us to build bridges between these courses, so that students can see what the connections are," Jackson says. "Questions about the content of the Core, the intellectual goals and frameworks, will continue to be big questions for the new chairs as part of an ongoing consideration of how we can make the curriculum even better and more vital."

The chairs will also be involved with the Committee for the Second Century of the Core, a diverse, multi-generational group of College leaders, alumni and students. The committee has had four meetings over the last six months; Jackson expects their recommendations will be forthcoming. "We're really bringing the Core into the 21st century and drawing out what is most exciting and important about it, which is the ways in which it prepares students to think about the contemporary world," he says.

— Jill C. Shomer

Stephanie King

Director of Student Wellness



KILLIAN YOUNG / COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Student wellness is such a big concept. How would you define it?

I'm a huge believer in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Simply put, it states that if basic requirements like food, housing, health, safety and belonging are not satisfied, that will impede an individual's ability to attain self-actualization — things like education, passions, interests, identity. Essentially, when I think of an individual's wellness, it often results in a question: "Is school the most important and immediate concern this student has right now?" And then, if not, "What does this student need to achieve a semblance of stability, and how can Columbia's resources be helpful?"

What's a typical day for you?

There is no typical day! I could work intensely with one student and their family for a few days. I often collaborate with colleagues in advising or student conduct to provide additional, specialized support to a student. At times I'm responding to immediate crises. I support students returning from medical leaves of absence. And I'm

always welcoming to students who, at the advice of Counseling and Psychological Services or the Center for Career Education, have reached out to me. The work is dynamic, but fulfilling every day.

What's the best part of your job?

Helping students, especially those who have had a setback. It's not lost on me that completing a Columbia degree can have a significant impact on students' lives and the lives of their families. It's my goal to use every resource to help every student I meet complete their education, and in the process dispel the notion that it has to be done with no difficulty and that one's record has to look perfect.

How has your work changed to support students in this extraordinary time? Is there advice or encouragement you can share as we head into the summer?

The past year (and counting) has been challenging for everyone and in so many ways. The pandemic has also had an

incredible impact on higher education, particularly on students. We have been forced to make immediate decisions about how to continue academic operations while centering on the health and safety of students. All of us — students, families, faculty and staff — are banking on a collective understanding that we are doing the best we can. We have focused on providing a safe living community for students who need it most, while increasing access to Columbia resources around the globe. I encourage students to give themselves as much grace as possible. I encourage all students to find moments of rest and self-care.

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

I was a competitive track and field athlete at Cornell. Many of the lessons I learned in sports I've used in my personal life and in my work. They have taught me how to "fail" at something, how to work harder, how to be persistent, how to celebrate a competitor and how to feel satisfied with my performance even if I did not win.



JILL SHOWER

DidYouKnow?

Hamilton's Windows Are More Than a Century Old

Did you know that the stained-glass Tiffany windows in the Hamilton Hall lobby are more than 100 years old? Students have been watched over by Sophocles and Vergil since Hamilton was renovated in 2003, but the larger-than-life windows have a much longer history. The Sophocles window dates to around 1890 and was part of the Midtown campus, while the Vergil window was created in the early 1900s, after Columbia moved to Morningside Heights. The windows were in Columbia's Art Properties archive for more than 50 years, until the early 2000s, when then-College dean Austin E. Quigley rediscovered them. Due to their safe storage, the windows had almost all of their original glass and leadwork; they were restored, then installed in Hamilton for new generations of students to enjoy.



JORG MEYER

Rishi Goyal

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

As the United States moves into its second pandemic summer, vaccine hesitancy looms as one of the biggest hurdles to achieving herd immunity from Covid-19. While the numbers are a moving target, as of late April, a CBS News Poll found that roughly four in 10 Americans were either undecided about the vaccine or refused it outright. Yet when Dr. Rishi Goyal PS'01, GSAS'10, an emergency room physician and assistant professor of emergency medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center, discusses the issue, what's most striking is the empathy he has for the reluctant.

"Public health figures often see it as obvious," Goyal says. "Get the vaccine; it's good for you, it's good for everyone. You need more information? Here's a bunch of safety stuff.' But none of that moves the needle. If somebody tells you they're worried there's a microchip in the vaccine, how are you supposed to engage with the person? That's complicated. You could disrespect them or assume they don't know what they're talking about, but that's not going to get you anywhere. There has to be dialoguing that takes seriously people's concerns."

Goyal is currently spearheading a Columbia World Project aimed at understanding the reasons for — and ultimately developing custom messaging to address — Covid vaccine reluctance. Co-led by Dennis Yi Tenen, a former Microsoft engineer and an associate professor of English and

comparative literature, digital humanities and new media studies at Columbia, the project combines large-scale data science research with language analysis.

"Too many people assume that there's one way of managing all vaccine hesitancy," Goyal says. "Some people's reasons are ideological; some object on religious grounds. Others are worried about the history of racial injustice. Or safety issues and the autism argument that started in the early 20th century. But there has to be an understanding that a lot of people are being left out of the advances of modernity, and are not gaining the benefits of the modern world."

Goyal has made a career practice of considering multiple perspectives — and significantly, *other* people's perspectives — when it comes to medical matters. Collaboration and interdisciplinarity are at the heart of his Columbia World Project research; he also brings that ethos to bear as the director of medical humanities, the College's newest major. The program explores the reciprocal relationship between health and culture with a focus, he says, "on issues around social justice, marginalized communities [and] communities that have been left out of certain aspects of mainstream science because of its racist and sexist history."

The timing for the major's arrival (it earned its status in November after nine years as an academic track) isn't lost on Goyal. After more than a year spent coping with the pandemic, it's all too easy to point to examples of issues that the program

explores — from making sense of the rise in anti-Asian animus, to understanding why social factors have mattered more than biological factors when it comes to the severity of disease. "I wish we weren't living through this, but it does solidify the logic of having the major," Goyal says. "A lot of people who go into healthcare fields — not just doctors and nurses, but also people who are in pharmaceuticals, who design healthcare systems, who promote insurance plans — think about the work as technical work, but not in terms of what it really is, which is care work."

Goyal was born in Brooklyn just a few months after his parents moved from India, and he spent most of his childhood summers there. He says he's always been an avid reader (from youthful favorites like *The Phantom Tollbooth* and *Harriet the Spy*, he quickly graduated to Fitzgerald and Hemingway — "then I was off to the races"). After graduating from Dartmouth he traveled a winding path, from P&S to GSAS's Ph.D. program in English and comparative literature, and back again. "I wanted to develop my ability to think with, and through, novels," he says. "I've always found that when we engage with literary texts, we come closer to understanding our own minds, emotions and motivations, while also encountering the possibility of other minds."

Thinking through novels is precisely what he did this past spring, with his undergraduate and graduate seminar "Utopia and the Pandemic." "A Marxist critic wrote something like, 'The post-catastrophe situation is the moment for the emergence of utopia,'" Goyal says. "I wanted to take that quote seriously, to say, 'This [pandemic] was a disaster on every level. How do we use the imagination to think about undoing all of these social ills, all of these structural disparities, all of the systemic racism and misogyny, all of the colonial leftovers? Can we even reimagine a place like New York City, or any city, as potentially utopic?' And how can we turn to literary texts to inform that?"

Goyal, who says he met "the love of my life" during his medical residency, has two children: a son, 12 (currently into Tom Sawyer), and daughter, 8 (with whom he's enjoying Tove Jansson's Moomin novels). He laughs at the notion of spare time, but loves to cook and sketches a bit. He's also biking and running more these days. And, he says, "I'm always reading."

ROAR, LION, ROAR

The Lions Who Made Olympic Fencing History

By Alex Sachare '71

COLUMBIA FENCERS are no strangers to the Olympics. From the first modern Games, in Athens in 1896, to the most recent, in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, the College has had 24 fencers compete for a spot on the coveted podium; four captured medals. With the Summer Olympics scheduled to start on July 23 in Tokyo, we thought we'd take the opportunity to look back at some of the standouts who've fenced at Columbia and competed for the United States.

Samuel George Fitzhugh Townsend CC 1893, SEAS 1896: After majoring in physics, Townsend got a second degree in electrical engineering and taught that subject at Columbia until his death in 1906. Competing in the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis under the name Fitzhugh Townsend, he was a member of the U.S. team that won the silver medal in team foil competition. He also competed in individual foil but was eliminated in the first round, and in individual épée, where he finished fifth. Townsend was the first Ivy League fencer to compete in the modern Olympics.

Norman Armitage CC 1927, SEAS 1929: One of the U.S.'s most heralded fencers, Armitage learned the sport at Columbia under renowned coach James Murray, won 17 national sabre

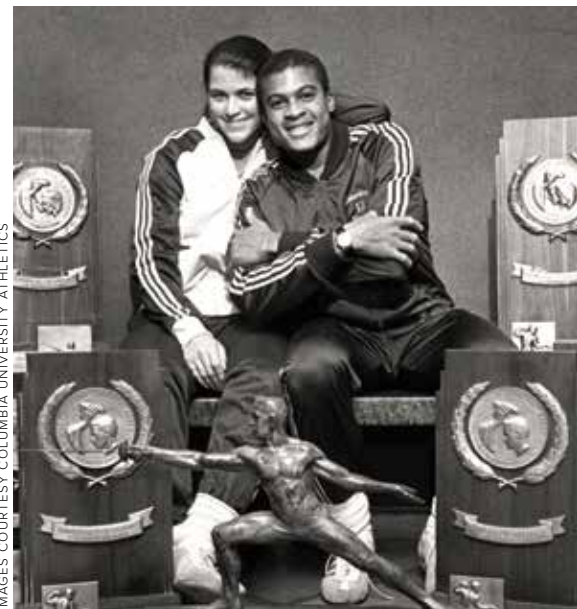


Norman Armitage CC 1927, SEAS 1929

championships and was runner-up nine times in a career that spanned more than 30 years. He competed in six Olympics from 1928 to 1956, won a bronze medal in team sabre in 1948 at London and was honored as the U.S. flag bearer in the opening ceremonies in 1948, 1952 and 1956. In 1963 Armitage was the first individual inducted into the U.S. Fencing Association Hall of Fame and in 2008 was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame.

Hugh Alessandrini CC 1929, SEAS 1931: Another athlete who learned to fence at Columbia under coach Murray, Alessandrini was a two-time U.S. foil champion and a member of seven teams that won national titles. He earned a bronze medal with the U.S. foil team in the 1932 Olympics at Los Angeles and competed for the U.S. foil team that finished fifth in the 1936 Olympics at Berlin. A chemical engineer, Alessandrini led a team that invented the electrical épée scoring device, first used in the 1936 Olympics.

Caitlin "Katy" Bilodeau '87: The top-ranked women's foil fencer in the U.S. from 1985 to 1992, Bilodeau was a four-time national champion and four-time All-American. She won the NCAA women's foil title in 1985 and 1987, becoming the first woman to capture two NCAA fencing crowns. Bilodeau competed in the 1988 Olympics at Seoul and the 1992 Olympics



Olympians Caitlin "Katy" Bilodeau '87 and Robert Cottingham Jr. '88 won myriad awards while fencing for Columbia.

at Barcelona. Among her many honors, she was named the NCAA Athlete of the Decade for the 1980s in fencing and Columbia's Athlete of the 20th Century, also for fencing. She was inducted into the U.S. Fencing Association Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.

Robert Cottingham Jr. '88: A four-time All-Ivy League and All-America selection in men's sabre, Cottingham won six U.S. National Championships between 1986 and 1992 and, like Bilodeau, competed for the U.S. Olympic team in 1988 and 1992. A history major, he was on the Executive Committee of the U.S. Fencing Association and was inducted to its Hall of Fame in 2015, and the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010. A native of Orange, N.J., Cottingham owns and operates Sabre88, a global

ALUMNI FENCERS IN THE OLYMPICS

Samuel George Fitzhugh Townsend CC 1893, SEAS 1896: 1904 Olympics in St. Louis (silver medal, team foil)

Millard J. Bloomer Jr. CC 1920, LAW 1923: 1920 Olympics in Antwerp

Steddford Pitt CC 1911: 1920 Olympics in Antwerp

Harold Bloomer CC 1924: 1924 Olympics in Paris

Norman Armitage CC 1927, SEAS 1929: 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam; 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles; 1936 Olympics in Berlin; 1948 Olympics in London (bronze medal, team sabre; U.S. flag bearer); 1952 Olympics in Helsinki (U.S. flag bearer); 1956 Olympics in Melbourne (U.S. flag bearer)

Hugh Alessandrini CC 1929, SEAS 1931: 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles (bronze medal, team foil); 1936 Olympics in Berlin

Robert Driscoll CC 1933: 1952 Olympics in Helsinki

Alfred Skrobisch CC 1933, SEAS 1934, SEAS 1935: 1952 Olympics in Helsinki; 1956 Olympics in Melbourne

James Margolis '58: 1960 Olympics in Rome

James Melcher '61: 1972 Olympics in Munich

Tom Losonczy '75: 1976 Olympics in Montreal; 1980 Olympics in Moscow (U.S. team boycotted)

Joel Glucksman '70: 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles

Steve Trevor '86: 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles; 1988 Olympics in Seoul

Caitlin "Katy" Bilodeau '87: 1988 Olympics in Seoul; 1992 Olympics in Barcelona

Robert Cottingham Jr. '88: 1988 Olympics in Seoul; 1992 Olympics in Barcelona

Anne Marsh-Senic '94: 1992 Olympics in Barcelona; 1996 Olympics in Atlanta; 2000 Olympics in Sydney

Jed Dupree '01: 2004 Olympics in Athens

Emily Jacobson '08: 2004 Olympics in Athens

Dan Kellner '98: 2004 Olympics in Athens

James Williams '07, GSAS'09, BUS'17: 2008 Olympics in Seoul (silver medal, team sabre); 2012 Olympics in London

Sherif Farrag '09, GSAS'18: 2012 Olympics in London

Jeff Spear '10: 2012 Olympics in London

Nicole Ross '13: 2012 Olympics in London

Nzingha Prescod '15: 2012 Olympics in London; 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro

THREE LIONS QUALIFY FOR 2021 OLYMPICS

Jackie Dubrovich '16, Jake Hoyle '16 and Nicole Ross '13 will represent the Lions at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, USA Fencing announced at press time. Ross, who competed in 2012 in London, will become the 11th Lions fencer to participate in two or more Olympics. Dubrovich and Ross qualified to compete in women's foil and Hoyle qualified in men's epee.

consulting firm, and in 2015 was named by the U.S. Small Business Administration as "New Jersey's 2015 Minority Small Business Person of the Year."

Ann Marsh-Senic '94: Marsh-Senic was a three-time All-American in foil who never lost a match in her Ivy League career, compiling a 48-0 record and leading the Lions to two Ivy crowns. She became Columbia's first female athlete to appear in three Olympic Games, competing in 1992 at Barcelona, in 1996 at Atlanta and in 2000 at Sydney. Marsh-Senic completed medical school at the University of Rochester while still fencing, is an emergency physician in suburban Detroit and assists her husband, Anatolie Senic, in managing the Renaissance Fencing Club in Troy, Mich.

James Williams '07, GSAS'09, BUS'17: Columbia's team captain his junior and senior years, Williams won a silver medal as a member of the U.S. sabre team in the 2008 Olympics at Beijing, the first medal for an Ivy League fencer in 60 years. Chosen as an alternate on the four-man squad (only three compete), Williams was



James Williams '07, GSAS'09, BUS'17

inserted into the lineup for the gold medal match against France (the U.S. team was defeated 44-37). Williams majored in U.S. history and concentrated in Russian studies before earning an M.A. in Russian and Slavic cultures from GSAS and an M.B.A. from the Business School.

Nzingha Prescod '15: Born in Brooklyn, the Stuyvesant H.S. graduate won a gold medal in foil at the 2011 Junior World Championships in Amman, climbed to the number 1 ranking in the U.S. and competed



Nicole Ross '13 (left) and Nzingha Prescod '15 were teammates on the U.S. Olympic team in 2012 at London.

in the 2012 Olympics in London. In 2015, Prescod became the first African-American woman to win an individual medal at the Senior World Championships when she captured the bronze at Moscow. The following year she competed in the Olympics at Rio de Janeiro, becoming the 10th Columbian to represent the U.S. in at least two Olympiads.

Alex Sachare '71 took fencing to satisfy part of his PE requirement and is a former sports editor of *Spectator* and editor-in-chief of CCT.



In the midst of a global reckoning with the long history of anti-Black racism, the radical genius of Saidiya Hartman is sorely necessary.

Hartman, a University Professor and a scholar of African-American and American literature and cultural history, has spent much of her career exploring the ways in which slavery and its aftermath still reverberate in modern American life. She has written three acclaimed books and dozens of essays, but it's her approach that sets her apart: Employing a method she calls "critical fabulation," Hartman uses scraps of archival material to create speculative narratives that tell the stories of slaves and their descendants. From a few impersonal lines written by a slave who'd been held captive in an African dungeon, Hartman conjures the terrified boy's experience under unspeakable conditions. She imagines vibrant, immersive details about a woman seen only in shadow in a turn-of-the-century photograph, rectifying the prevailing cramped and ghettoized depictions of Black urban life after Emancipation. In this way, Hartman urges us to consider

UNIVERSITY
PROFESSOR
SAIDIYA HARTMAN
IS TELLING THE
LOST STORIES
OF BLACK
AMERICANS

RAISING VOICES

BY JILL C. SHOMER

how history is recorded and by whom, and gives voice to essential points of view that have been lost or suppressed. It's a process that Hartman says "troubles the line between history and the imagination."

Hartman's resuscitation and amplification of these stories challenge readers to consider the enduring effects of enslavement, and the ways that marginalization and violence toward Black Americans still exist in our society. (As I write this, Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin is on trial for the murder of George Floyd; 20-year-old Daunte Wright and 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant were killed by police not long after.)

Historian and law professor Annette Gordon-Reed thoughtfully discussed the "urgent moral dimension" of Hartman's work when reviewing her most recent book, 2019's *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Riotous Black Girls, Troublesome Women, and Queer Radicals*. "Hartman's efforts to tell the history of enslaved and Black Americans seem particularly

timely as the United States reckons with the problem of systemic racism and inequality. As many people, historian or not, have asked: 'How did we get here?'"

Wayward Lives went on to win a National Book Critics Circle Award (the announcement came the day the Covid-19 pandemic shut down the city last March) and PEN's John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Non-fiction. It was the latest in a long list of accolades for Hartman: She was named a MacArthur Foundation "genius" in 2019, and has been a Guggenheim, Cullman, Fulbright, Rockefeller, Whitney Oates and University of California President's fellow. Adjectives like "tremendously gifted" and "bravura" appear in her glowing book reviews. She has been the subject of a *New Yorker* profile and has appeared in a Jay-Z music video.

Hartman, a professor of English and comparative literature, has taught at Columbia since 2007. She was named a University Professor, Columbia's highest faculty honor, in October.

Hartman reads from *Wayward Lives* at Penn's Kelly Writers House in February 2020.



KELLY WRITERS HOUSE

“[Hartman’s] immersive and unflinching portraits of Black life have forever altered the ways in which we think and speak about enslavement and its invidious legacy in this country,” President Lee C. Bollinger said in his announcement of her appointment. “She brings a painstaking and unrelenting focus to retrieving and telling the lost stories of the dispossessed.”

In Hartman’s own words: “If the ghost of slavery still haunts our present, it’s because we are still looking for an exit from the prison.”

When we spoke by phone in March, Hartman explained that her interest in slavery was a quest handed down to her by her maternal great-grandfather Moses Thomas.

Hartman’s father was the son of Caribbean immigrants; he and his family “did not hanker after unnamed ancestors or wonder what might have been,” Hartman writes in the prologue of her 2007 book *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*. But her mother grew up in segregated Alabama, her life proscribed by Jim Crow color lines; she and her family were activists in the Montgomery bus boycott. “My family background comprises the wayward and the elite, immigrants and strivers,” Hartman says.

As a child, Hartman had a basic awareness that slavery happened, though it hadn’t been discussed at her Brooklyn parochial school when she was growing up in the early 1970s, or at the Black Power summer camp she attended. (“The counselors taught us to disdain property, perform the Black Power handshake and march in strict formation, but they never mentioned the Middle Passage or chattel persons,” she writes.)

But slavery wasn’t abstract for Hartman; it was her ancestry. When she was 12 years old, her great-grandfather took her and her brother on drives around rural Montgomery and told them stories about his mother and grandmother, Ellen and Ella, who had been slaves. Hartman was eager to know more than her Poppa remembered or wanted to share, and became “obsessed” with trying to fill in missing details.

As an undergrad at Wesleyan, Hartman dug into understanding the structures of inequality (she changed her name from Valarie to Saidiya — Swahili for “helper” — in her sophomore year to assert her African heritage). She considered a future in radical politics, but instead went to Yale for further study, and began work on a thesis examining how a history of domination, violence and subjugation had shaped Black identity.

Her Yale dissertation became her first book, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth Century America* (1997); since then, Hartman has been engaged with questions about the character of historical archives, and how what is found in them can shape — and limit — the kinds of stories we can tell.

Of paramount consideration is who actually recorded the data. For example, a vast slave narrative collection assembled by the Works Progress Administration in the early 20th century includes volumes of testimony that was produced under specific conditions, often white interviewers asking former slave owners or their children about their experience of slavery.

“There’s this radical asymmetry of power, but yet there’s a vast trove of stories and knowledge in these narratives,” Hartman says. “And I had to figure out how to navigate all of that to write a history of slavery against the grain, against the normative account and the prevailing assumptions about the life of the enslaved.”

Seeking a deeper understanding of the experience of enslavement, Hartman spent a formative year in Ghana as a Fulbright scholar in 1997, doing research about the Atlantic slave trade that would become *Lose Your Mother*. As both a professor and a descendant of the enslaved, she writes, “I was desperate to reclaim the dead, that is, to reckon with the lives undone and obliterated in the making of human commodities.” And yet she found next to no first-person experiences of the Middle Passage. “It was an intense encounter with archival silence,” she says.

Hartman fashioned her original method of storytelling from that silence; she first described it as “critical fabulation” in her 2008 essay *Venus in Two Acts*. Using what little information she found, she constructed narratives, written in the subjunctive — “a grammatical mood that expresses doubts, wishes and possibilities” — that gave personhood to human beings who’d overwhelmingly been relegated to line items.

“The intention here isn’t anything as miraculous as recovering the lives of the enslaved or redeeming the dead, but rather laboring to paint as full a picture of the lives of the captives as possible,” Hartman wrote. “The loss of stories sharpens the hunger for them. So it is tempting to fill in the gaps and to provide closure where there is none.”

Hartman utilized what existed in the archive but then extended it; in the wrenching chapter “The Dead Book” from *Lose Your Mother*, Hartman provides a horrific account of a young girl who was tortured and murdered on a slave ship by a British sea captain (he was tried and acquitted of the crime); she created it from only seven words that were actually written about her (“the dead negro girl,” and “a sulky bitch”). Hartman pored through legal transcripts, restaging statements and conflicting testimony she’d found in an effort to create a narrative of what unfolded on the ship. “I tried to find an opening or a rupture in which the experience of this young woman might emerge,” Hartman says. “It was rearranging those elements, reordering them, so they might build another kind of story.”

SHE FOUND
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**"AFTER A BOOK
HAS BEEN
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AND IT'S OUT
IN THE WORLD,
YOU STILL
HAVE TO WORK
THROUGH
ALL THAT IT
TOOK YOU TO
WRITE IT."**

Giving voice to the unheard is a radically empathetic effort, and it has had its challenges. "It was really, really difficult to work in that archive, because there is so much violence and pain and loss and atrocity," Hartman says. She did a reading of "The Dead Book" at Barnard shortly after *Lose Your Mother* was published, and was approached afterward by three elderly Black women who expressed concern for her well-being. "You know you can leave that ship, right?" one of them said.

"They were telling me this because they understood the psychic effect, the weight of having written that," Hartman says. "They were trying to lead me out and back into the world."

Hartman says she began her next book, *Wayward Lives*, as "a naïve attempt" to get some distance from that emotionally grueling project. "I was still carrying so much grief," she says. "After a book has been produced and it's out in the world, you still have to work through all that it took you to write it."

Described in *The New York Times* as "an exhilarating social history," *Wayward Lives* views the world through the eyes of young Black women in Philadelphia and New York City who were forging new ways to live freely at the beginning of the 20th century. Like the slaves of the Middle Passage, their perspectives — non-white, feminist, queer — have until now remained unconsidered: "Few, then or now, recognized young Black women as sexual modernists, radicals and anarchists, or realized that the flapper was a pale imitation of the ghetto girl," Hartman writes. "They have been

credited with nothing; they remain surplus women of no significance."

As she did in *Lose Your Mother*, Hartman creates speculative histories of real-life women from archival scraps — prejudicial notes of rent collectors; reports of vice investigators and social workers; police blotters — all of which represent these independent-minded women as a "problem." Through her warm narration (the effect is like reading a beautifully written screenplay), Hartman offers these women humanity untethered by hostile judgment and classification; in doing so she offers an alternative perspective of the early 20th century — decades she says were especially decisive in determining the course of Black futures.

Perhaps in line with her unusual presentation, *Wayward Lives* won the National Book Critics Circle Award in the category of criticism, rather than fiction or nonfiction. (It also won the College's 2020 Lionel Trilling Book Award.) And though her writing might exist in a gray area between fact and speculation, Hartman says the response has been largely respectful. "Historians feel the push and the transgression, but fortunately have still embraced the work," she says. "I think that it's been a critical and generous engagement."

Hartman's appointment as a University Professor comes at a time when artistic activism around issues of racism and marginalization is a social and cultural imperative. "Artists who are not thinking about the relationship of their work to social transformation or the posing of critical questions about our Now — those are the rare birds," she says.

Earlier in her career, Hartman says, she wanted to write more evocatively than was the norm in scholarly literature, but she was not encouraged. In a conversation with her friend the artist Arthur Jafa at Los Angeles's Hammer Museum in June 2019, Hartman spoke frankly about being marginalized in her first teaching job and being taken aback by her colleagues' low expectations of her. (But "within that space of no one taking me seriously, there was also all this space to work," she said.) So it's especially significant that she is the first Black woman to be honored with the highest rank at the University.

"I think the fact that I am the first says something about how difficult it has been for Black women in elite academies," she says. "The intellectual landscape has changed *some*, and I feel very indebted to my colleagues, who have recognized the importance of my work and have supported it — that's a huge part of what enabled this to happen." Hartman also acknowledges her appointment in the context of the global Black Lives Matter movement, "the push of all that activism that was challenging the elitism of institutions like universities, art museums, the Hollywood studio system and imperial knowledge formation," she says.

Hartman with actor André Holland at the 92nd Street Y in April 2021; Holland read Hartman's monologue, *The End of White Supremacy: An American Romance*.



NANCY CRAMPTON / 92Y



JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

One of the perks of the University Professorship is the freedom to teach in any Columbia school or department; Hartman is looking forward to exploring the intersectionality of her work at the School of the Arts, the Architecture School and even the Law School. This fall she'll teach a seminar that she says is a cross between English and philosophy; next spring she'll teach a SOA writing course called "Radical Composition," which will explore genre-defying authors and aesthetic practice affiliated with movements for social change.

"I love the classroom," Hartman says. "I love the collective journey in exploring ideas and texts. I love the space of the seminar and the intimacy of thought that's practiced there. Students have a safe space to share work, and we learn from one another."

The love is mutual: Hartman is adored by her students and admired by her colleagues. "Saidiya Hartman is our generation's most brilliant and innovative cultural theorist and cultural historian," says Farah Jasmine Griffin, chair of the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies and the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature. "Her work speaks to and informs multiple disciplines, including but not limited to literature, cultural studies, history, art history and much of the social sciences. Having known her since we were graduate students, I can testify that her promise was evident even then — she had all

the hallmarks of an important and potentially groundbreaking intellectual."

Hartman is currently on sabbatical at her home in Massachusetts (along with her partner, Samuel Miller, and their teenage daughter). She says she's found it hard to work during the pandemic, especially since most archives have been closed (luckily she has archivists — "angels of the intellectual world" — who send copies of documents she needs). She's at work on a new book, part fiction, part essay, about the lives of Black women intellectuals — "some cross between *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual* and *A Room of One's Own*," she says.

Asked whether she sees herself as a radical, Hartman is modest. She says she feels "in very great company" with creative friends and collaborators who are producing work that is engaging the pressing issues of our time. But, somewhat unsurprisingly, she also places herself — and her University Professorship — in the context of history.

"It's not *my* singular achievement that has solely opened any door," Hartman says. "There have always been capable, creative, imaginative, brilliant Black people for whom the doors were closed because of the exclusions of the social order. So I feel I have benefited from centuries and decades of struggle. The University Professorship in a way is mine and in a way it belongs to a lot of people. I'm grateful for it."



metamorphosis

me-tă-'môr-fă-səs

noun • a profound change in
form from one stage to the next
in the life history of an organism

*Presenting
the winners
of our first
personal
essay contest*

Of Memory *and* Metamorphosis

WHEN WE BEGAN planning CCT's nonfiction writing contest last fall, we quickly decided to focus on personal essays — and just as quickly we landed on the theme: metamorphosis. You can understand how, at a time when our worlds felt radically and irrevocably altered by the Covid-19 pandemic, change was on our minds. But we wanted to create an opportunity for writers to transcend the immediate moment, and to consider not only the profound changes that the pandemic had wrought in their lives, but also the profound changes that they'd experienced throughout their entire lives. From that perspective, what would stand out as being especially transformative?

Moving forward with our theme — we knew Ovid would approve — we put out the call to alumni and students. We weren't so much seeking neat conclusions as honest attempts at reflection (it helps to remember that one definition of essay is "to try"). We were pleased to have so many writers rise to the challenge. Contributors opened up about family, race, sexuality and identity; they also mused on everyday experiences that, upon closer inspection, revealed hidden depths.

Our winners — Amanda Tien '14 and Munirat Suleiman '24 — both tell powerful personal stories. Their writing styles differ, but they share a common beauty and

bravery. And each of their essays carries extra resonance at this particular moment in our cultural and pandemic life. I'll let you read on to see why.

No account of the contest would be complete without a thank-you to our judges: Helena Andrews-Dyer '02, a *Washington Post* reporter and author of *Reclaiming Her Time: The Power of Maxine Waters*; Robert Kolker '91, a journalist and the bestselling author of *Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family*, a Top Ten Book of 2020 for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*; and Miya Matsumoto Lee '18, editor of Modern Love Projects at the *Times* and co-editor of *Tiny Love Stories: True Tales of Love in 100 Words or Less*. The three gave generously of their time and brought tremendous care and sensitivity to the deliberations. They were impressed with the skills brought to the winning essays, as well as the emotion each writer conveyed.

The judges also awarded two honorable mentions, to James Vasco Rodrigues '15, SOA'20 and Abigail Peters '22. You can find those published online in our Feature Extras.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and fearlessly brought something personal to the page. As Ovid said: "Be patient and tough; one day this pain will be useful to you."

— Alexis Boncy SOA'11

Collages by Amanda Tien '14

Legally Blind

By Amanda Tien '14

One hazy August afternoon, golden sun flooding the Virginia backroads to my parents' house, I realized as I drove that I could no longer read the street signs. I pulled over and held my right palm over one eye, then the other, imitating the optometrist appointments I'd gone to for most of my life. At home, I held my shame and fear all through dinner, then pulled my mom aside and said, "I don't think I should drive anymore."

Our optometrist confirmed my vision had degraded significantly, but he didn't know why. He referred us to an ophthalmologist. We were an Army family; our insurance was limited to military facilities. The nearest one? The (in)famous, depending on who you ask, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

My mother drove us on the Capital Beltway, a massive interchange of highway. She swiftly charted the concrete seas out of the woods of northern Virginia, bypassed the stone monument mountains of D.C. and led us to the milky waters of Maryland.

At Walter Reed, we sat on metal chairs with geometric-patterned cushions, waiting long past our appointment time. Polite, quiet soldiers sat nearby, one with dark glasses, another with a thick head bandage. My mother gripped my hand tightly. She pressed play on an iPod audiobook of *Pride and Prejudice* for me, and I remembered how much I used to love reading for fun. She flipped through a military magazine with articles about moving dogs abroad and making neighborhood casseroles.

When I entered the exam room, the young doctor stared, open-mouthed, for a few awkward moments. I clearly was not who he had expected. We did the classic

test; no, I couldn't read most of the rows. No, not better one, better two. He brought in the attending, a middle-aged woman who shined a bright penlight into my eye. It hurt, searing on a hyper channel to the back of my brain.

She asked, "Did you pour acid in your eye?"

My mom guffawed from the corner.

"Uh, no," I said, awkward and 19, "I didn't."

"Not in chem lab, or something?" he asked.

I shook my head. "I'm not in classes like that. I'm a film major." They looked at each other and didn't say anything.

Soon, the room was filled with medical students and doctors. Each one shined the same painful light in my eyes. They clustered in the hallway, whispering. I was relegated to picking up not-great phrases:

"Wow, weird."

"Her cornea, it's disintegrating." (I took AP bio, remembered enough to know this wasn't good.)

"You sure she wasn't in an acid attack? Because it looks like it could be an acid attack."

"She's in college, not a war zone in the Middle East."

"I don't know."

"He doesn't know."

"No one knows."

I went home with no answers and an appointment for a month later. I would be back at Columbia for my sophomore year by then, unless I took a health leave of absence.

I didn't want to do that. It wasn't that bad, I told myself. It would be fine. I would be fine.

I went back to school.

It was not fine.

As the weeks of fall semester passed, the omnipresent laptop screen burned more and more painfully into my retinas. My headache was constant. The smoke of New York (cigarettes outside campus buildings, blustery gusts from street vendors, a fire drifting its essence over the avenues) was unavoidable and delivered agonizing hazes. One eye worsened faster; my depth perception evaporated. I knocked over cups and cups of coffee. I did fine speaking aloud in Italian class, but when I tried to do my written homework, the language felt even more impossible to parse, my gaze shifting in and out of focus without my control. The beautiful campus I loved was shrouded; I told my mother that it was as if my eyes were becoming panes of frosted glass.

A month later, I took the Amtrak Northeast Regional to D.C. The exam was repeated. The Walter Reed doctors made one statement with assuredness: I was legally blind.

I cried in the car. My mother's voice was timid with pity. She offered to fill my new prescription at the LensCrafters in the mall — frames from the expensive section, Plexiglass-encased from us dirty-fingered plebes. The glasses themselves were a desperate rope for the sinking ship of my vision.



I envisioned being a blind filmmaker, describing scenes from my imagination. I thought about conversations on colorism I'd had in my work with ethnicity and race studies, how I would literally not see race any more. And when I considered the very real troubles of the world, near and far, I felt guilty for being sad over something as simple and precious to me as my vision.

The fear of a forever night eclipsed every day.

My academic advisor asked, "If this is the last year you can see, what do you want to do with that time?" A childhood dream flashed: novelist. There were fiction workshops at Columbia; Beginning was consistently full, Intermediate required applications. Fear always held me back. I was sure I had missed my chance at ever joining the department. I gently tucked the dream away again.

Professors were supportive. They didn't comment when I wore the eye patch I bought from Duane Reade. Disability Services gave me a computer program that turned any text into an audiobook, which felt vaguely illegal. I wondered if it was too late in the game to learn Braille.

One day, my mother got a call from Walter Reed; they wanted me to come back.

Again, I took the train, and again, my mother drove. She found small things that made our strange routine special: a kiosk on a floor frequented by nurses who smiled at me and called me pretty; lattes and muffins, banana nut for her, blueberry for me.

This time, we did not wait. This doctor was here to see *me*.

His office was thoughtfully dimmed. In the soft glow of the vision test projector, I could tell he was graying at the temples. He politely asked where I went to college. When I told him Columbia, he tsked, "That's not a very good school. Couldn't you have gotten in somewhere better?"

My mother and I sat in stunned silence until he lifted up a newspaper clipping on his corkboard, revealing his class photo at Cornell. We laughed.

He did not call in any colleagues. He reviewed my records, apologized every time he shined that piercing penlight. The doctor showed me a diagram of my eye, sketched out a conical shape on a piece of legal pad paper. He shared his theory: my eyes were differentiated just enough from the median shape that contacts sat unevenly, roughly wearing at the edges of what unfortunately were the rims of my cornea. This rare phenomenon was called *keratoconus*.



*“If this is
the last
year you
can see,
what do
you want
to do
with that
time?”*

“I can’t make any promises,” he said kindly. “Maybe in 10 years, if your condition stabilizes, we can get you Lasik to force-correct. But for now, your vision is still decaying. We have to fight it. I have some ideas” He inserted colorful rubber toothpicks into my tear ducts and prescribed several types of drops. “You will have to follow a regimented schedule. Can you do that?”

My mother held my hand in her lap. “Amanda is one of the hardest workers I know. She will do what she needs to do.” I felt her strength, copied and pasted it into myself.

Back at Columbia, I carefully made a color-coded map of medications, taped it to the wall of my Hartley dormitory. I set dozens of corresponding, daily alarms. Afraid of failing my doctor, my mother and myself, I took my drops religiously.

For an Italian presentation, I made bruschetta; a roommate helped cut tomatoes so I didn’t slice my fingers off. While my suitemates went to parties, I laid in bed with a compress over my eyes, listening to movies I knew by heart. I took midterms in a private Disabilities cubicle with an extra hour and a computer, because I could type better than I could print. (As a child, I had memorized the QWERTY keyboard, plunking away on the family computer, “writing my stories.”)

I went home to Virginia. On that now-familiar train ride, I realized I could see, for the first time in months, individual birds in trees.

Walter Reed was empty on Thanksgiving; even the little coffee kiosk was closed. Our doctor sat alone in the waiting room, watching the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, and cheerfully greeted us by name.

He did a vision test; better one, better two.

On his computer, he showed us imaging of my brown eyes, clicked a button that flushed them into aquatic blues and greens, revealing weaving lines that in another world could be rose vines. Scars, he said, all along your eyes, and they will be there forever.

Someday, he told me — softly, seriously — my vision could go again, glazed permanently. He was sorry for that, but was proud of the progress we had made together because, for now, with lenses, I could drive, read a blackboard, go to movies, see birds in trees. He was changing my legal vision status from blind to acceptable.

My mother cried, offered to come back with a pecan pie (hers is excellent), and he joked that would be a great trade for my vision and she threatened she really would and he blushed, said please seriously do not do that.

I returned for the spring semester with clear eyes and reflections about my remaining time at school and on Earth.

I passed all my classes. I made a video game for Contemporary Civilization that culminated in giving a friendship bracelet to Aristotle; my professor sat with me and played through it in one go. “I’m so proud of you,” she whispered. My Italian professor hugged me, encouraged me to stay in touch.

Under the pink blossoms of College Walk, I was aglow from my vision chrysalis.

I left my comfort zone and made an impromptu visit to Kent. For courage, I stopped at the Starr Library on the way up, stared past the long mahogany tables and ferns and books, and up at the stained glass depiction of Justice. Then, onward to the creative writing department. I was offered a cup of coffee by the encouraging department manager. I told her about my dreams but how intimidated I had been; did they offer summer courses? She smiled and waved her hand, as if worries were flies in the wind.

In May, I was accepted to two incredible summer internships: a film agency in Hollywood that would take me on one path, and a children’s literature office at a major publishing house in New York that offered another, alternate route. The latter meant I could take “Beginning Fiction” at Columbia and still qualify for the major. I had a choice.

I stayed in New York. Eight years later, that summer fiction professor wrote my recommendations for an M.F.A. in writing, where I am now. My loss of vision gave me the ability to see time, the most precious resource, and to see selfhood for what it was: the opportunity to choose, every day, who we want to be and what we can do to make that possible.

Amanda Tien ’14 is a writer, visual designer and marketing strategist. She is writing a novel and pursuing an M.F.A. in creative writing at the University of Pittsburgh. Previously, she worked for Camelback Ventures and Y&R Advertising, and was a 2015 Venture for America Fellow. View her work at amandatien.com.

Reflections on Innocence and Identity

By Munirat Suleiman '24

Sweltering under the Georgia sun's unwavering judgment, I quietly beg the universe for the day's events to justify my lying to my parents.

I have never been to a protest in my life.

It's a broiling June afternoon at the intersection of one of many churches, a local high school and the Snellville Towne Green, where the Black Lives Matter posters speckle the grass in front of me with stories of strife and disappointment. It's a few months into the pandemic, and my summer is already careening toward rock bottom; I'd unceremoniously graduated from high school via PowerPoint slouched on my living room couch and watched murders of Black people on social media — formerly the only safe space I had left.

The air is restless with the buzzing of flies and conversations until an older Black woman steps to the far right of the field with a megaphone; she announces the protest's route from the church's field to the sidewalk by the highway, across the street and into the town green.

A mile or so, I estimate. I anxiously wiggle my toes in the sneakers I'd switched into from the heels my mother recommended with the dress I left the house wearing.

I told my parents I was attending a job fair.

Another organizer picks up where the last one left off, her voice like a deep spiritual asking the crowd to bow their heads and pray over the well-being of the Black community. She sings a hymn I don't know and cites the Bible, something I've barely read.

There's much I didn't know before we got started, but there was something I did know: I was in my own personal hell.

I remember the first time I was condemned to hell.

It's an October morning, after Indigenous Peoples' Day, and I am on a school bus heading toward yet another day of trivial third-grade matters. The weather can't make up its mind about whether it wants to remi-



niscence about the summer or press into winter, and thus it's a still and neutral day.

I spend my time daydreaming about *Emily the Emerald Fairy*, a Rainbow Magic book about an emerald gem fairy who matches the color of my family's most valued Quran over the fireplace. Despite this simple escapism, reality seeps in from the conversation between the two white girls in front of me discussing their long weekend.

Their voices project above everything else as paper airplanes clumsily traverse the ends of the bus and the fifth-graders boss the younger kids to make space for their friends to sit together, much to the driver's chagrin.

*I only
had two
missions:
to be
invisible
and to be
successful;
one for
myself,
one for my
family,
both for
survival.*

None of their words make their way into my consciousness like the following confident statement by the taller of the two: “Well, of course! Everybody’s Christian!”

Unaware of the context, but knowing this to be false, I innocently correct her by proudly interjecting, “I’m not! I’m a Muslim!”

I wish I hadn’t. I already feel different enough being one of the few Black children on the bus, never mind in the entire town. It’s why I resort to my books when my peers throw a quick “Blacks” or other racial slur into the air for cheap thrills.

No one would interact with me either way, and I suppose my interjecting was a self-affirmation that I existed in the real world.

Regardless, I desperately wish that I could claw the words from the atmosphere as she turns, her face wrinkling from surprise to disgust, and snaps: “You can’t say that you’re not Christian. If you’re not, you’re going to hell.”

I instantly shrink into my book, shocked and embarrassed, something that the bus driver either doesn’t notice in the pandemonium or doesn’t care to notice. My tears drown my fantasy world until the bus reaches school. I sober up, run into the bathroom to clean my face as if I was doing *wudu*, and suffer through an intense headache brought on by crying for the rest of the day.

I’ve come to understand that hell is a place for sinners and “others” that society chooses, like Dante’s totally unbiased allocation of different figures to the circles of hell. (I don’t forget the Prophet Muhammad being in one of the worst ones.) A condemnation was just a confirmation of my hyperawareness of my differences — both the obvious and the obscure ways that I have to carry more identities my whole life long, whether it be because I’m a first-generation American, Black or Muslim.

Something I’ve asked myself more and more is, “How much different is hell from the world I already live in as a Black woman, where my sin is being inconvenient for society?”

Religion was hard to wrap my head around as a Muslim child and even now as an agnostic adult; but though I was young, I had more than enough knowledge to understand what that girl on the bus meant about me going to hell. Growing up from that moment, I only had two missions: to be invisible and to be successful; one for myself, one for my family, both for survival.

My childhood turned unhealthy with me hiding myself in the fear that everyone else would see that I was going to hell, that my differences were screamingly shameful.

I never forgot to wrap my hijab around my face during car rides to the masjid, to remove any native Nigerian clothing before entering school events (and have excuses ready as to why), to breathe whenever a “friend” said something racially insensitive. I never forgot to

keep track of where I said I was born, to write the list of names I’d choose for myself when I turned 18, to evade talking about my personal struggles with my parents or my friends, to predict anything and everything that could ruin my self-made facade and avoid it without exposing myself.

These were the different circles for my personal hell, one I gradually built from the hellfire society gave me.

God only knows how I never forgot.

The older I became, the more my goals opposed each other as I stopped believing in respectability. Sure, I was academically successful, devoid of a personality as I intended — but I was miserable above all else, and exhausted with the facades I’d worn since childhood. It was ironic that I wanted to be invisible, yet who I was would never permit me that privilege, no matter how hard I tried.

I let go of certain mental weights during high school. And as I would later come to terms with, I would have to be visible if I wanted to change my sentencing in life.

Like our convictions, it feels like the sun is growing tenfold, and I can’t help but wonder if this is what it is to actually live within yourself. The black top I’m wearing doesn’t help matters; the BLM protest organizers advised us to wear loose black clothing to make our bodies harder to identify, if necessary.

I try to compose myself as the group climbs up a hill and then onto the sidewalk by the highway to cross the streets to the green. The highway is eerily empty, but there are some honks of support every few minutes.

Strangely, the weather takes on a stillness similar to the one I’d experienced a decade prior, with the sky darkening like the face that looked me in the eyes that fall.

Rain clouds crowd around, taunting us to retreat, when a volunteer screams, “There was always a chance of rain, but our *voices*, our *identities*, our *lives* will be seen rain or shine.”

Most everyone had umbrellas at the ready.

I forgot to check the weather forecast.

I begin to mentally rehearse excuses for my parents.

We fill the town green, chanting “Say her name!” “Breonna Taylor!” “What’s his name?” “George Floyd!” and forging a circle before kneeling for eight minutes of silence. In this silence, the sky can’t hold on to the pain any longer; it rains like the collective tears on the faces of Black Americans forced to rewatch crimes against their humanity. The details make me dizzy as we rise up and congregate for speeches.

I remain in the moment before hearing a jeer: “Go home or go to hell!”

The headache from a decade ago returns from beyond the grave of my childhood innocence, but this time I face a choice.

I like to think that the girl from third grade didn’t understand what she was saying. That she was merely



repeating something she had learned from church or her parents, sentiments that developed after 9-11, right before we were born. She had innocence if not ignorance, and probably still does.

But what happened to my innocence? The innocence that society is desperate to rip from Black children before they're even preteens, the innocence taken the minute someone realizes that the world is not built for them to succeed, the innocence taken from me?

Could I have lived a more honest and free childhood?

Over the next few hours, powerful memories and speeches are shared, and the City Council issues a proclamation of racial equality.

I ask myself: "Where do we go from here?"

"Before I Let Go" blasts from speakers as people dance at the protest's end and the sky reopens to us. There's a rainbow over our fists, stretching from the green, over the church and the high school.

I drive with a high school friend to a grocery store and wander the aisles before talking over ice cream

from our separate cars, for social distancing's sake.

I wish that life had a similar narratively beautiful reconciliation, a nice rainbow at the end. With the sunset beginning, I pause and consider putting the outfit I'd worn leaving the house back on, going home without a trace as to where I'd been, or driving aimlessly around the parking lot to burn time.

I decide, however, to leave those clothes on the passenger seat and take the highway straight home.

Munirat Suleiman '24 (*she/her*) *hopes to study English or sociology with a concentration in human rights. Hailing from a small town an hour from Atlanta, she loves nurturing intimate communities through service and storytelling. If she isn't writing, she can be found daydreaming to her favorite songs or sharing personal philosophies in parking lots.*

Honor Roll

Read two more essays we loved, by James Vasco Rodrigues '15, SOA'20 and Abigail Peters '22: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras/essays.



**I DID NOT
MAKE
YOU SICK**

istillbelieve.nyc

“THIS IS OUR HOME TOO”

BY ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11

LAST AUGUST, when Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya '10 became the public artist in residence for the New York City Commission on Human Rights, she knew she wanted to address the anti-Asian discrimination that had been unleashed by the Covid-19 pandemic. At that time, the increase hadn't yet garnered much attention from the media, but reports were quietly proliferating. Phingbodhipakkiya herself had been hassled on the subway, and her parents, who live in Atlanta, had been yelled at in a grocery store to go back where they came from.

Phingbodhipakkiya's partners at the commission quickly collected statistics that galvanized her: From February through July 2020, it had received 184 reports of anti-Asian discrimination, harassment and bias — a sevenfold increase from the prior year. They also provided her with a residency schedule that baffled her. By their timeline, she would have spent several more months in a research phase, defining what her creative project would entail.

“I think perhaps they thought [having the structure] would be helpful, and I understand that,” Phingbodhipakkiya says. “But I've never been one for the straight path. I definitely felt like I don't need permission — and I don't need to wait to create work for my community when we most need it.”

Less than three months later, on Election Day, Phingbodhipakkiya's anti-hate art campaign “I Still Believe in Our City” was unveiled at Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn. The installation took over the sprawling transit hub — 45 posters and larger-scale banners, drenched in vibrant color, that both raised awareness and affirmed belonging.



**Meet the artist
behind NYC's
notable ANTI-
HATE campaign**



“I think many ASIAN AMERICANS are having an awakening in terms of the racism that they have faced for many, many years.”

Some works employed hate speech (“go back,” “your fault”) while others demanded action (“abolish brutality,” “enact justice”). They included startling accounts of and statistics about anti-Asian bias incidents. And perhaps most arresting, they featured brightly hued portraits of Asian and Pacific Islander New Yorkers, paired with proud and defiant messages: “I did not make you sick.” “I am not your scapegoat.” “This is our home too.” Some of the portraits — including a flagship banner that emblazoned the exterior of the terminal — showed Asian Americans alongside African Americans, a deliberate signal of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

Phingbodhipakkiya says the campaign was largely about reclaiming space. “Despite everything that has happened to us as Asian Americans and as New Yorkers, we’re still here, fighting every day for our shared future,” she says.

“I think it is important to acknowledge that it is a *shared* future,” she adds. “We are often so focused on fighting our own battles we forget that sometimes we are fighting the same battle. Much of ‘I Still Believe’ is about reaffirming our belief in this city to support us, and its citizens to support each other, and in our collective ability to make change for a more just world.”

The rich palette is key to the campaign’s power: orchid purple and flamingo pink; golden yellow; electric orange; teal, sky and royal blues. Phingbodhipakkiya drew the colors from Thai and Indonesian culture, both part of her heritage. But she also chose them because of her belief in the power of color to spark joy: “I think the simplest act of resistance, which doesn’t even require external effort on our parts, is to be able to have joy in times that are so incredibly challenging for our communities,” she says.

Elements of “I Still Believe” have since rotated to bus shelters and other public spaces throughout NYC. Phingbodhipakkiya also licensed the portraits for public use at rallies and protests. (“They’re like guardians; they help folks see their mothers and grandmothers and daughters and sisters,” she says, noting in the next breath the prevalence of violence against women.) In March, in the aftermath of the shootings of six Asian-American women at a massage parlor in Atlanta, *TIME* selected one of the portraits for its cover.

Phingbodhipakkiya says she is proud to have been part of *TIME*’s response, adding that the request was unexpected. “From the time they reached out to me to the time we had to send things to print was three or four hours, something absolutely insane,” Phingbodhipakkiya says. “But an Asian-American photo editor really fought for this work to be on the cover.” The woman in the portrait, which Phingbodhipakkiya titled “With Softness and Power,” is surrounded by flowers: peonies for solidarity and friendship; chrysanthemums for resilience (mums can bloom in the cold); and hawthorn berry for longevity and protection. “In



Bold and beautiful: Adapted work from “I Still Believe In Our City” adorned Lincoln Center (above) and made the cover of *TIME*.



these times we don't need things that are dark," she says. "We already feel the darkness.

"I think many Asian Americans are having an awakening in terms of the racism that they have faced for many, many years — 'I have been taking this for so long and I didn't even fully realize.' We're all finally feeling all the weight."

PHINGBODHIPAKKIYA is a multidisciplinary artist and works in a range of mediums, from large-scale murals and public art campaigns to 3D printing and augmented reality. The through line comes from her desire, as she says, to make the invisible visible — "that may be microscopic worlds or outer space, or the often-unseen struggles of communities of color."

If her juxtaposition of science and social justice seems surprising, it might help to know that Phingbodhipakkiya came to art by way of neuroscience. She was on a pre-med track at the College, majoring in neuroscience and behavior. (Even earlier, she was a classically trained ballerina; before an injury freshman year she was auditioning for contemporary ballet companies.) Then Phingbodhipakkiya had an aha moment; a few years into her job at an Alzheimer's research lab at the Columbia University Medical Center, a research participant asked what he could tell his family about their project. "I remember grasping for the words to share this incredible work we were doing," she says. "I just handed him our very dense paper, and then immediately felt terrible about it." The experience moved Phingbodhipakkiya to begin thinking about how to better tell sto-



From top:
Atlantic Terminal
in Brooklyn;
icons for a
movement.

In her art,
Phingbodhipakkiya
aims to
make the
INVISIBLE
visible.



Connective Tissue's interactive exhibits called on museum-goers to work together.

ries for science; she enrolled in a communications design program at Pratt, and in 2015 earned an M.F.A.

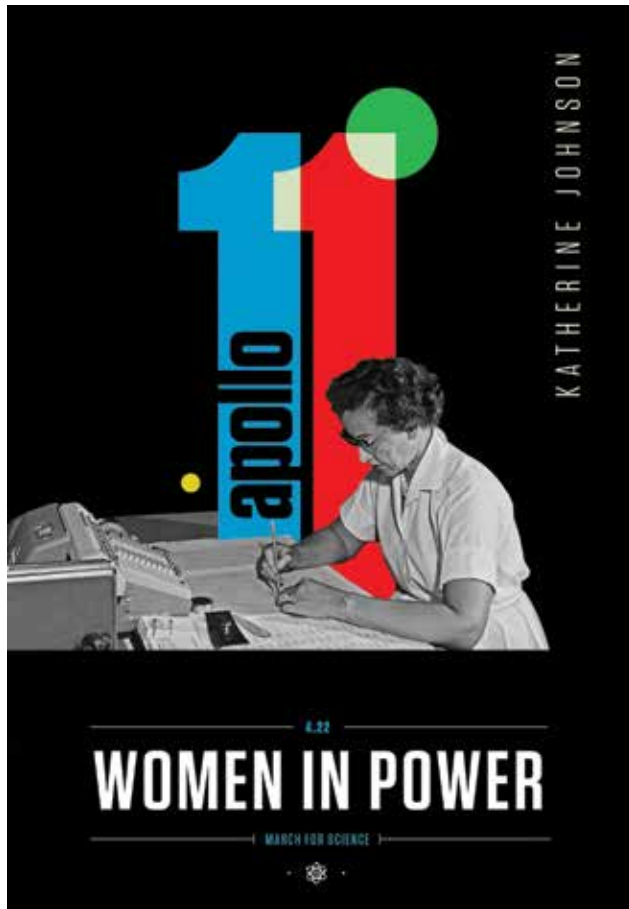
Much of Phingbodhipakkiya's work since then reflects her advocacy. Through a TED Residency she founded The Leading Strand, which pairs scientists and artists to translate research in visually compelling ways. She created ATOMIC by Design, a clothing line and online community that encourages girls to "wear your smarts on your sleeve" (the bold designs are inspired by the elements of the periodic table). And her first large-scale solo show, which opened at Las Vegas's Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art in September 2019, used scientific phenomena to explore human experience; the interactive exhibition was aptly called *Connective Tissue*.

Among Phingbodhipakkiya's most significant projects is *Beyond Curie*, a visual celebration of "badass women" in STEM that she created in part to establish a set of role models for kids. The vivid posters (40 and counting) combine graphics with portraits of women whom, admittedly, you might not have heard of: Lisa Ng, a groundbreaking virologist; Mae Jemison, the first Black woman in space. But these pioneers' unsung nature is the point. "I looked around and, a little bit shamefully, realized I didn't know too many women scientists beyond notables like Marie Curie," Phingbodhipakkiya says. "There are so many other women, especially women of color, who have driven our society forward but have been just written out or left out of history."

Beyond Curie won a *Fast Company* Innovation by Design Award and was promoted for use by the March for Science in 2017. ("It was the first time somebody had carried my work at a protest," Phingbodhipakkiya recalls. "I met a Ph.D. student who had bedazzled my Rosalind Franklin poster with jewels, ruffles, everything — it was amazing.") In March 2018, the North Carolina Museum of Sciences dedicated an entire wing to showcasing the works; the exhibition only closed at the end of 2020.



Designs from *Beyond Curie* were used in posters for 2017's March for Science.



Speaking to *CCT* in mid-March, Phingbodhipakkiya had just delivered a new installation, “We Are More,” set for display on digital billboards throughout Times Square for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May. She also adapted a portrait from “I Still Believe” to adorn a Lincoln Center banner for that same period.

Phingbodhipakkiya doesn’t shy from speaking to the intensely personal aspects of her more recent work.

“It’s like all the collective microaggressions and the racism that I experienced in the course of my life were dammed up inside of me,” she says. “And in the creation of this work, the dam just broke — waves of anger and grief and pain. I think this experience is very much shared by many Asian Americans, where we kept it inside to survive but now we are being given permission to feel. To be fully human.

“My hope is that with my art, I help people connect to their own humanity and then start to empathize with others,” she says. “Public art can very much build connection when there’s seemingly no connection, and I think the power of portraiture and depicting faces — it’s not just representation. The complex combination of emotions on a face allow so many different access points. Wherever you are in your day or your journey of awakening, you can connect to some part of it. Maybe it’s the woman’s hopeful eyes, maybe it’s her defiant mouth. Some part of it will speak to you.”





KORONET PIZZA

Broadway between 110th and 111th Streets

With its tomato-red storefront and unassuming interior, Koronet Pizza may look like an everyday pizza joint, but Columbians know better. This is a shop that trades in slices of epic proportion, colossal triangles of cheesy-greasy deliciousness that could more rightly be described as slabs. (The pies measure up to a whopping 32 inches across.) Koronet has always seemed custom made for its most frequent clientele: students looking to feed the hunger that hits after a long night out. Walking back to campus on Broadway, the overlit interior shines like a beacon and the smell of just-out-of-the-oven pizza overpowers all other senses. The quality might be a source of debate, but that's beside the point; in those moments, Koronet delivers salvation. As for the price, a jumbo slice has ticked up over the years — from 75 cents to today's \$5.25 — but in the end it's always a bargain.

THE PLACES YOU CALLED YOUR OWN

Illustrations by Nick Lu

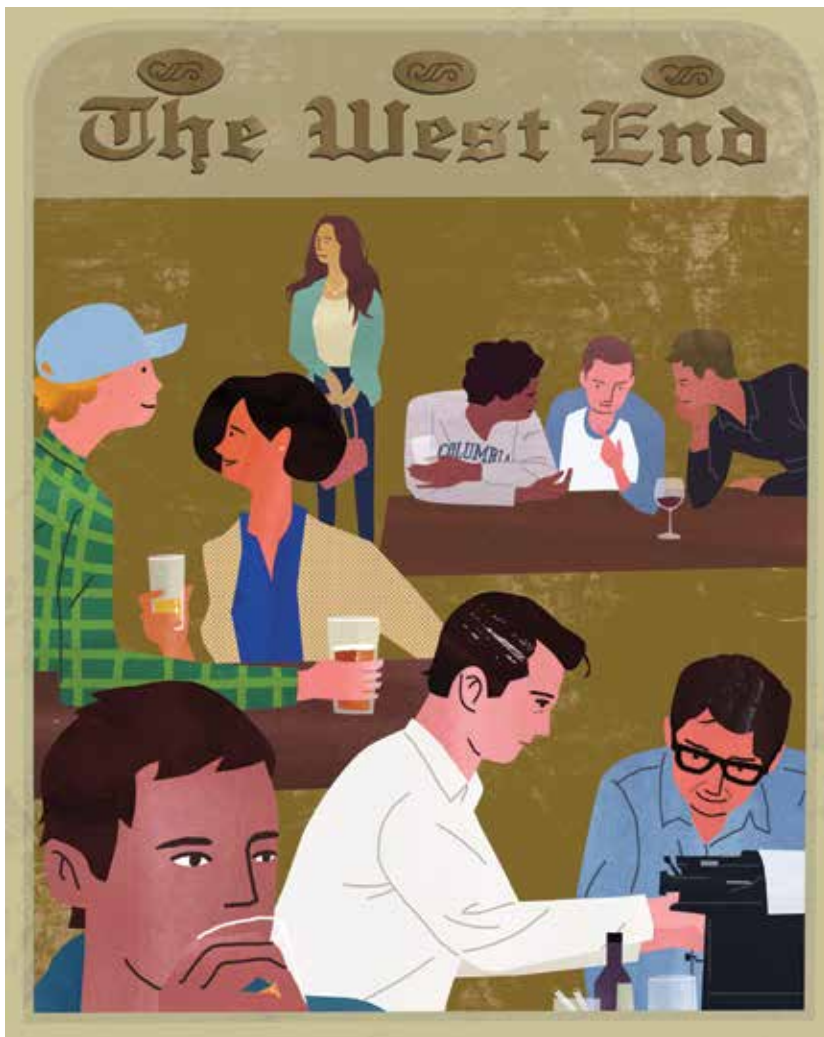
*In honor of
Columbia Reunion,
we rounded up
your most nostalgic
noshes and
hallowed hangouts*

THE HUNGARIAN PASTRY SHOP

*Amsterdam between
110th and 111th Streets*

The Hungarian Pastry Shop is that rare spot where the dreamy fantasy of college life meets reality. And in a city that changes so frequently, the shop's unvarying nature is one of its charms: affable, intellectual, bohemian, inviting. Generations of Columbians know its red-and-white striped awning and colorful outside murals. Inside, the aroma of coffee hangs in the air, and the pastry case beckons with flaky and fruit-filled old-world delights. "Hungarian" cultivates a deliberate disconnectedness; the space is dim and cozy, and there's no Wi-Fi. Students can be quietly social or quietly quiet, reading or studying for hours on end. A wall of book covers pays tribute to the many writers who've called themselves regulars. The shop marks its 60th anniversary this year — it's both an NYC and a neighborhood institution — but age is just a number; it long ago became timeless.





THE WEST END

*Broadway between
113th and 114th Streets*

Everyone knows there was a bar at Columbia called The West End. Its history verges on legend, the place where Beat Generation brothers Jack Kerouac '44 and Allen Ginsberg '48 talked, drank and wrote late into the night. Jazz greats like Dizzy Gillespie played there when it hosted live music. And the leaders of the Spring '68 protests made their plans in the back room. But though an aura of romance hung in the air, The West End's day-to-day reputation was as a place to relax and unwind. You could do a crossword puzzle or play pinball while drinking a beer, and because it welcomed students from all walks of campus life, you were liable to come in anytime and find someone you knew. The West End opened in 1911 and closed for the first time in 1988; several iterations tried to keep the spirit alive, until its final last call in 2014.



MOON PALACE

*Broadway between
111th and 112th Streets*

The allure of Moon Palace, a 26-year Broadway fixture, didn't come from any conventional notions of good atmosphere. The inside of the workaday Chinese restaurant was plain and dark, and the Shanghai menu is as likely to elicit memories of blandness as of excellence and genuine flavors. (It was in fact authentic, and cooked by the same chef for its entire run.) But what Moon Palace offered was a place to feel at home, where the food was inexpensive and plentiful, and the waiters treated you like family. Regulars were gifted the prized cabbage appetizer, an off-menu secret, and after eating you could linger for hours.

The restaurant was a favorite of both students and faculty, and often saw the two sharing a table.

Paul Auster '69, GSAS'70 borrowed the poetic name for his 1989 novel, a prescient tribute for a landmark that closed just two years later.





MAMA JOY'S

Broadway at 113th Street

For the uninitiated, Mama Joy's stood for nearly five decades where Milano Market is now. It occupied half of Milano's space — a tiny, four-aisle deli of fancy cheeses and beer, and made-to-order sandwiches that had the students lining up at lunch. (Alumni can attest, the roast beef was swoon-worthy.) The ingredients were fresh, and notably, all the food was cooked and prepared in-house. The magic behind the counter came courtesy of Lillian Estrin, the matriarch of the Russian immigrant family that opened the shop in 1954. They inherited their signage from the prior tenants and could only afford to change the "a" in the original name, "Jay's Self-Service." Over time Estrin became "Mama Joy" to her customers, and the family eventually changed the shop's name to match. When it closed in 2000, *The New York Times* sent a reporter; the Columbia community knew it had lost an institution.



SYMPOSIUM

113th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam

These days, Symposium feels easy to overlook. The restaurant is less trafficked than it used to be and feels a world apart from — well, everything. But walk down 113th Street, under the blue awning and a few steps down, and you'll find a brick-walled enclave that has earned its lengthy neighborhood stay. For many College alums, it's where they first tried authentic Greek food. And its philosophy, as Plato would appreciate, is in its name: to be a place for eating, drinking and lively conversation. (The waiters have been told never to take away a plate or deliver a check until asked.)

Symposium was founded by Yanni Posnakoff, an artist from Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1969; his distinctive work still adorns the menu and walls. Obsessed with angels, Posnakoff vowed to paint 100,000 in his lifetime. You can also spot one outside The Hungarian Pastry Shop, which he once jointly owned.





V&T RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

*Amsterdam between
110th and 111th Streets*

V&T or Koronet? The question is often up for neighborhood foodie debate, but there's room for more than one slice-slinging mainstay — and clearly each has its place. Founded in 1945, V&T is the venerable elder statesman. Generations of CC-ers know it as the place they went for a *sit-down* meal — maybe pizza (eggplant was king!), but maybe chicken parmigiana or penne alla vodka, or whatever classic Italian fare caught their fancy. The restaurant was perfect for dates and celebrations and everything in between; no matter how many people were in your party, there was always a table that fit. Brothers and bakers Vincent and Tony Curcurato opened V&T shortly after returning from WWII. The decor has changed over the years, but the gondolier on the menu's cover still sings of Venice. Returning alums have been heard to say the pizza doesn't taste *quite* as good as they remember; but no matter. They'll always have the memories.

TOM'S RESTAURANT

Broadway at 112th Street

Seinfeld fans snap photos outside and Suzanne Vega BC'81 immortalized it in song, but for College students, Tom's is simply their neighborhood diner. The same Greek-American family has presided at the cash register since the 1940s, with a staff that mothers or jokes around with you depending on the day. The atmosphere is decidedly no-fuss, made for regulars who know their order without opening the menu. Tom's serves the kind of comfort food that undergrads consume in spades: cheese fries, Broadway shakes, eggs any way you like them. And in its everyday-ness, it manages to suit almost every occasion, a place to satisfy late-night cravings, to study (or to feed a weary soul when the studying is done), to take a first date or to nurse the first-year blues. Alums speak fondly of the "fortress of affection" that was longtime waitress Betty Gillespie, and of the Tom's badge of honor: when a waiter tells the cook, "Make it nice!"



A “Particularly Resonant” Collection

Danielle Evans '04's latest set of stories was a decade in the making

In March 2020, **Danielle Evans '04's** second book, *The Office of Historical Corrections* (Riverhead Books, \$27), had already been sent to the publisher and was due to come out in a matter of months. Evans was anticipating the same champagne thrill that came from the publication of her first book, 2011's *Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self*—the catharsis of emerging from the solitude of writing to become, Evans says, “a very public person.” Instead, after she'd made her way home to Baltimore from a giddily social writers' conference, the country closed down. The book she had worked on for a decade would now be published into the silence of the pandemic.

The grief that many Americans were feeling was compounded for Evans by the recent loss of her beloved mother, Dawn Valore Martin BC'78, a tenacious civil rights lawyer who died of cancer in 2017. In the silence

of her apartment, Evans mourned the absence of “the only person in my life who would have refused to leave me alone.” She wrote that there was an additional sadness that came from seeing Covid-19's outsized impact on the Black community, especially “how many of the early faces of the dead [were] Black women my mother's age.”

The Office of Historical Corrections was finally published in November. It took more risks with style

and subject than her first book, which had earned her a place in the National Book Foundation's “5 Under 35”; Evans calls it “weirder.” The evolution clearly worked for reviewers: There were long raves from *The New Yorker* (“an extraordinary new collection”) and *The Washington Post* (“magnificent, searing”). *The Office's* six stories and a long novella, grouped around the dual themes of grieving and “trying to make things right,” were exactly in tune

with the nation's focus on issues of racial justice. *The New York Times* commented that Evans's “sensitivity to issues of race and power feel particularly resonant in 2020.” In April, she was awarded the 2021 Joyce Carol Oates Prize.

Evans was a double-major in anthropology and African-American studies, and she took creative writing courses, working on short fiction. Now an assistant professor in Johns Hopkins's prestigious creative writing program, (“the fanciest of the series of schools I've taught at”), Evans says she appreciates having had the chance to learn about the process of revision from Black professors like Victor LaValle SOA'98 and Mat Johnson SOA'99. Almost a third of the stories in her first book originated at the College.

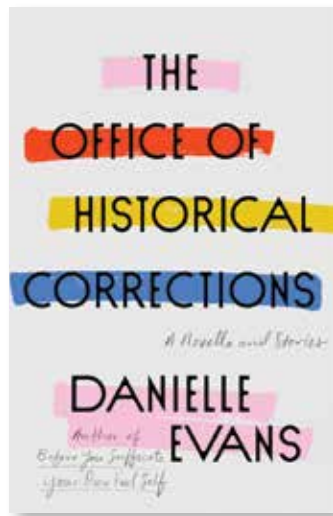
Evans says that short stories will always be her first love. She values their compression and complexity, and she likes that they permit her to “shape-shift” and assume new viewpoints at will. The form also allows her to avoid giving readers simple answers to the complicated questions she wants to pose. While she still finds cause for both the hope and the anger that thread through her stories, she says, “I am trying to imagine an After that looks better than the Before.”

The best example of Evans's particular mixture of hot-button concerns and deeply felt emotion is the collection's powerful title novella, “The Office of Historical Corrections,” excerpted here. Cassie, a former history professor, is a field worker for the Institute for Public History, a fictitious but all-too-relevant agency with the mission of correcting factual mistakes in the wake of “fake news.” As she becomes embroiled in an ever-more complex case involving “passing” and white supremacy, she is forced to reflect on “the daily trauma of the historical record, the sometimes brutality and sometimes banality of anti-Blackness, the loop of history that was always a noose if you looked at it long enough.”

— Rose Kernochan BC'82



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The Office of Historical Corrections

Our office was tucked away in a back corridor of one of the city's labyrinth brutalist buildings, all beige concrete and rows of square windows. I had never minded DC's lingering architecture; I had been in college before I understood I was meant to find it ugly and not cozily utilitarian. But I had grown up with the architecture, grown up idealizing people who worked in buildings like mine, and besides, I liked to remember that the term *brutalism* came not from any aesthetic assessment, but from the French for "raw concrete." Since starting at the institute, I had formally corrected mistaken claims about the term's etymology seven times. Small corrections usually made me feel pitiful and pedantic, but I liked making that one, liked to think of us, not just the people in my office, but all of the city's remaining civil servants, as people trying to make something solid out of what raw material we had been given, liked to think that we were in the right setting to do our jobs.

Of course, as a field agent, I rarely spent a full day indoors. Often that freedom felt like a luxury, but it was June — not quite the worst of summer, but hot enough that walking my regular daily rounds left me flecked with sweat and constantly looking for excuses to go indoors. Some days I went into shops full of kitsch and corrected souvenirs with their dates wrong just to absorb the air-conditioning. After everything else, I would remember how often I had been bored at the beginning of that summer, how worried I was that our work had become

inconsequential, how I had wondered whether I would ever again be a part of anything that mattered.

The vision for the Institute for Public History that summoned me from my former job as a history professor at GW had been grandiose. An ambitious freshman congresswoman demanded funding to put a public historian in every zip code in the country, a correction for what she called the contemporary crisis of truth. It was pitched as a new public works project for the intellectual class, so many of us lately busy driving cars and delivering groceries and completing tasks on demand to make ends meet. Government jobs would put all those degrees to work and be comparatively lucrative. The congresswoman envisioned a national network of fact-checkers and historians, a friendly citizen army devoted to making the truth so accessible and appealing it could not be ignored. We had started as a research institute, loosely under the direction of the Library of Congress — an NIH for a different sort of public health crisis. We were the solution for decades of bad information and bad faith use of it. Our work was to protect the historical record, not to pick fights (guideline 1) or correct people's readings of current news (guideline 2).

The post-election energy that created us had stalled almost immediately; the former congresswoman was now a TV pundit. At the institute, we were only forty people total, twenty of us headquartered in DC. The reduced parameters of our mission often led people to assume we were overzealous tour guides or long-winded museum employees who had strayed from our home base. Some of my colleagues leaned into the misunderstanding: Bill circled monuments correcting tourists with their facts mixed up, sometimes just by reading them the placards they'd walked by; Sophie rarely worked beyond the Smithsonian grounds; Ed

hung out in breweries all day, but he checked in each week with such a lengthy log of plausible corrections no one was sure whether he was a friendly and efficient drunk or a gifted writer of fictional dialogue.

I had been at IPH for four years then, and I wanted to take my charge seriously. To keep from falling into routine, I assigned myself a different DC neighborhood each month. For June, I was in Capitol Hill, where shortly after correcting a tourist who thought the Rayburn Building was named after Gene Rayburn, I realized it was lunchtime. The block surrounding me was cluttered with restaurants that had puns for names and sold expensive comfort food from ostentatiously nostalgic chrome countertops; it all felt sinister and I had settled on pizza when I walked past a bakery, its pink awning reading *CAKE EVERYDAY COUNT* in loopy cursive that mimicked frosting. I hated the name — the attempt at a double entendre failing to properly be even a single entendre — but it was Daniel's birthday, and I caught the towering cupcake trees in the window display, heaps of red and cocoa and gold. Cupcakes would seem light and full of options, I thought, and so I walked in and considered flavors before deciding cupcakes were wrong, a variety of cupcakes would say I was a child who could not make up her mind, or else invite him to imagine the opposite — me fully domesticated and walking triumphantly into a PTA meeting, as if that were the future I was waiting for him to offer me. I walked farther down the counter, past the wedding cakes, and the photorealistic DC landmark cakes, and the cakes carved into shoes and champagne bottles and cartoons, looking for something unobtrusive.

The correction was so minor that four-years-ago-me would have decided it wasn't worth it. A display cake read *JUNETEENTH!* in red frosting, surrounded by red, white, and blue stars and fireworks. A flyer taped to the counter above it encouraged patrons to consider ordering a Juneteenth cake early: *We all know about the Fourth of July! the flyer said. But why not start celebrating freedom a few weeks early and observe the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation! Say it with cake!* One of the two young women behind the bakery counter was Black, but I could guess the bakery's owner wasn't. The neighborhood, the prices, the twee acoustic music drifting out of sleek speakers: I knew all of the song's words, but everything about the space said who it was for. My memories of celebrating Juneteenth in DC were my parents taking me to someone's backyard BBQ, eating banana pudding and peach cobbler and strawberry cake made with Jell-O mix; at not one of them had I seen a seventy-five-dollar bakery cake that could be carved into the shape of a designer handbag for an additional fee. The flyer's sales pitch — so much hanging on that *We all know* — was targeted not to the people who'd celebrated Juneteenth all along but to office managers who'd feel hectored into not missing a Black holiday or who just wanted an excuse for miscellaneous dessert.

"Excuse me," I said, my finger still resting on the countertop above the flyer. The young Black woman turned around.

"You want that cake?" she asked.

"No," I said. "Hi. I'm Cassie. I'm with the Institute for Public History."

The white woman turned around, but both women looked at me without registering that the name meant anything.

"It's not a big deal," I said. "We don't give orders or anything. We're a public service. Like 311! But I thought you'd like to know that this flyer's not quite correct. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued in September 1862. Juneteenth is celebrated nationally because it's become a holiday for the whole diaspora, but it actually recognizes the date slaves in Texas learned they were free, which was in June 1865, after the end of the Civil War."

"Mmkay," said the white woman.

"I'm just going to leave a note. A tiny correction."

I pulled out a corrections sticker — double holographed and printed, at considerable expense, with a raised seal; though easily mocked they were almost never properly duplicated. I typed the correction into the office's one futuristic indulgence — the handheld printers we'd all been issued when we were first hired — and ran a sticker through it to print my text. I signed my name and the date, peeled it from its backing, and affixed it to the counter beside the flyer.

"There," I said. "No biggie."

I smiled and met both women's eyes. We were not supposed to be aggressive in demanding people's time — correct the misinformation as swiftly and politely as possible (guideline 3) — but we were supposed to make it clear we were available for further inquiry or a longer conversation if anyone wanted to know more (guideline 5). We were supposed to be prepared to cite our sources (guideline 7).

"You gonna buy a cake?" said the Black woman. "Or you came in about the flyer?"

"Oh," I said. "Yes. I'm kind of dating someone and it's his birthday. I was trying to decide what kind of cake would be best. Or I don't know, maybe cupcakes are better. Do you have any favorites?"

"Ma'am, if you show up for your man's birthday with you and a cake and he complains about it, you're not even kind of dating him anymore. It doesn't matter the kind of cake."

"You're right," I said. "Give me that one."

I pointed at something labeled *BLACKOUT CAKE*. "Like an Oreo cookie without the cream" said the description. I could tell Daniel I had bought him the blackest cake in the store.

From *THE OFFICE OF HISTORICAL CORRECTIONS* by Danielle Evans, published by Riverhead, an imprint of Penguin Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House, LLC. Copyright © 2020 by Danielle Evans.


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WHOOOOOO'S HIDING IN ALMA MATER'S ROBE?

Designed in 1901 by Daniel Chester French and installed in 1903, *Alma Mater* has been watching over Columbia students from her perch on Low Steps for more than a century. But another small someone has been watching with her: a tiny owl, hidden in her robe. Columbia superstition holds that the first member of the freshman class to find the owl will become valedictorian.

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

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New Yorker cartoonist Edward Koren '57 depicts our post-vaccination world.

Taking Pride in How We've Thrived

As this letter is being written, preparations are under way for Columbia College Class Day and University Commencement, two ceremonies that together will cap the academic year for the extraordinary Class of 2021. These soon-to-be-graduates experienced a junior and senior year unlike any other: They navigated classes remotely; learned to connect virtually with friends, professors and mentors; and rose to meet the personal challenges, large and small, that came with the difficult experience of attending college during a pandemic. All of us at the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) stand in admiration of their resilience and collective achievement; we extend our congratulations and wish them well in their next chapters.

By many measures, this has been one of the most difficult years for Columbia and indeed, for so many of us. Despite the challenges, however, we have come away with lessons for living, discovered inner resources that made us stronger and developed closer relationships with those near and far. The College community rallied to continue learning, support each other and even have some fun. Here are just a few examples of the strength, resilience and vibrancy of our community.

Meeting Future Lions

Alumni Representative Committee members interviewed prospective students entirely virtually this year, and completed 7 percent more interviews than the previous year. All told, more than 1,200 alumni served as ambassadors, and because of the virtual modality, interviewers reached more prospective students, in all corners of the globe, than ever.



A scene from the 2020 Black Student Summer Sendoff.

Creating Spaces for Conversation

Issues of diversity, equity and inclusion came to the fore over the last year, and these topics became an even more important throughline in the CCAA's activities. A series of AlumniTALK forums were offered so participants could discuss issues around race, inequality and social justice in a safe environment with fellow alumni and expert speakers. Throughout the year, we engaged hundreds of alumni in these events and facilitated important conversations around race and the presidential election; race and the workplace; and the evolution of Black studies at Columbia.

Transforming Traditions

Homecoming this year was virtual, but we still celebrated the College, reconnected with classmates and friends, and found ways to have fun. Reunion 2021 is similarly set to be virtual, across the two-week period from May 24 to June 4; by the time you read this, many of you will have participated. Events included faculty and alumni lectures, campus tours, discussions with students, a wine tasting, a campus art tour and a student jazz performance.

Connecting Alumni with Students

This past year close to 1,000 one-to-one mentoring matches were made through the Odyssey Mentoring Program (odyssey.college.columbia.edu). Alumni and students met virtually to discuss student aspirations, foster a meaningful connection for career help and simply connect with a friendly face during a difficult year.

CCAA Lends a Hand

Students clearly had a challenging experience, but they demonstrated an amazing perseverance and a strong commitment to each other. The CCAA held virtual Summer Sendoffs to welcome the Class of 2024. It also stepped up its student assistance efforts, hosting dozens of events, from identity-based roundtables with alumni, to career-oriented discussions with industry leaders, to small, in-person dinners with alumni. Of special note are the two task forces the CCAA created to support the Classes of 2020 and 2021. We are offering both classes tailored events, extended mentoring support and special communications to help them transition to alumnihood and land on their feet as graduates.

We hope that reflecting on last year's student and alumni accomplishments renews your pride at being a member of this community; we have thrived despite the many difficult circumstances and we hope to be on the other side soon. Our community still needs one another, though, so we ask that you continue to support one another, the students and alma mater. Hire a recent graduate, interview a prospective student, mentor a current student, participate in CCAA events, contribute to the Columbia College Fund (college.givenow.columbia.edu) and/or reconnect with a classmate. When we look back at this time, let's remember the strength and spirit of our amazing Columbia College community.



THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN SARA JACOBS

California Gets a New Congresswoman

By Elizabeth Segran '05

In her first week as a congresswoman, **Sara Jacobs '11, SIPA'12** (D-Calif.) was still acquainting herself with the labyrinthine halls of the Capitol when the unthinkable happened. Seated in the House Gallery, she heard commotion in the distance. A split second later, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was whisked off the floor by security. The noise turned out to be rioters storming the building. "They told us to take our evacuation hoods out from under our seats," Jacobs recalls, referring to the spacesuit-like protective gear that members of Congress wore over their heads as they ran to safety on January 6. "Then we had to evacuate, but there was no direct route out. We had to climb over chairs and handrails until we got to the final secure location."

It was a terrifying start to Jacobs's career in national politics. At 31, the recently elected representative is the youngest woman in her freshman class and the third-youngest member of the House. But witnessing the insurrection drove home the reason she entered politics to begin with: to put communities back together again after they have been torn apart. "We should focus on the fractures

in our society that allowed something like this to happen," she says. "We've long had an issue with white supremacy, white nationalism and racial resentment in this country that we've never really addressed. Those wounds are showing themselves very clearly now."

Jacobs believes she is well equipped to tackle these systemic problems thanks, in part, to her time at Columbia, where she participated in a five-year joint program at the College and SIPA. When she arrived on campus from her hometown of San Diego, she wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life. On a whim, she took an American foreign policy class, and was fascinated by how good governance can change societies. She took more political science courses, and joined the Columbia Political Union and the Political Science Student Association. "I was always focused on the kinds of problems we don't have the answers for, versus the ones that we just need political mobilization to solve," she says.

In her graduate work, Jacobs specialized in international conflict resolution, where she analyzed the forces that tear countries apart and studied the root causes of violence. She spent her 20s traveling

around the globe, applying what she'd learned to broker peace in the real world. At the State Department, she developed policies to foster stability in Mali and the Sahel; in UNICEF's innovation unit she came up with creative strategies for improving children's lives in developing countries. And at the United Nations's Department of Peacekeeping Operations, she drew up best practices for nations in the throes of conflict. These experiences allowed Jacobs to observe communities in the midst of strife, but also showed her that it is possible to heal divisions and move forward. "I'm using a lot of what I learned in my master's program as we're looking at how we repair this country," she says.

Case in point: Some of her earliest actions as a legislator were designed to close this painful chapter in American history and set the country on a path toward healing. She voted to impeach President Donald Trump, co-sponsored legislation asking Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) to resign for calling for violence against Democrats and supported the Biden administration's Covid-19 relief bill.

These days, she puts her training to use in roles on the House Committees of Foreign Affairs and Armed Services. With polarization at a fever pitch in the United States, Jacobs's lessons in peacekeeping are now critically relevant. She points out that new communications technologies often exacerbate conflict, and social media is contributing to antagonism and misinformation here at home, but she believes these platforms can be better regulated so they are less likely to spur conflict. "I've worked in countries that are far more divided and polarized than the U.S., and there have

been processes to bring the country back together," she says. "It is definitely possible."

In her role in the 117th House of Representatives, Jacobs is tasked with tackling unique challenges due to the pandemic and the havoc it's wreaked on the economy. But she sees possibilities for growth, as well: Congress has never been more diverse, with a record number of women — particularly women of color — elected last year. Jacobs believes she and her fellow congresswomen can play a role in rebuilding the country more equitably. She points out that a disproportionate number of women left their jobs during the pandemic, and creating policies that enable them to return to the workforce is key to helping the economy rebound. "We're just rolling up our sleeves to get things done and trying to avoid partisan bickering," she says. "We have the opportunity to not just remake the economy, and the societal and political structures of the past, but also to use this moment to figure out how to set us up well for the future."

Jacobs often thinks back to her time at Columbia, and the course of study that prepared her for this moment in American history. As she sits in her office in the Capitol, specific books from the Core Curriculum often come to mind. "I have been referencing Thucydides a lot lately," she says. "He had a lot to say about rebuilding the international order."

Elizabeth Segran '05 is a senior staff writer at Fast Company and the author of *The Rocket Years: How Your Twenties Launch the Rest of Your Life*. She lives in Boston with her CC'05 husband, whom she met freshman year; daughter; and books.

USRowing Chair Will Help Choose Tokyo Olympians

By Jill C. Shomer

Nobuhisa Ishizuka '82, LAW'86 became a rower by accident. Two of his suitemates and some friends he'd made his first semester were trying out for the Columbia crew as walk-ons, and Ishizuka tagged along. "It was pure coincidence; I don't have the natural build for it," he says. Ishizuka was a gymnast and played baseball while at boarding school at Andover, and was looking for something new to do. "Rowing just happened to be there," he says. He got a spot, and rowed for the lightweight crew as one of the Freshmen Eight.

Now Ishizuka is helping to decide which Olympic hopefuls will row in Tokyo this summer. (The games were postponed last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic.) In March he was elected chair of the Board of Directors of USRowing, a nonprofit membership organization that governs the sport in the United States; Ishizuka is leading the board in overseeing the high-performance team, which is responsible for the selection and training and management of rowing teams that represent the U.S. in all international competitions.

USRowing already qualified eight of the 14 Olympic boats that will go to Tokyo (and all four Paralympic boats) during last year's World Championships. Trials for the remaining six boats started in February and continued through April, leading to a final selection regatta in Lucerne, Switzerland, in May — just eight weeks before the games

get underway on July 23. (We may see a Columbian there — Charlotte Buck '18 is at the U.S. Women's Training Camp competing for selection.)

"It is an exciting time to lead the board heading into the Olympics," Ishizuka says. "The dedication and focus of the athletes and staff are incredible; it is truly humbling to see them putting themselves on the line day after day in pursuit of their goals."

Ishizuka is not just a leader in the rowing world; he is also the executive director of the Center for Japanese Legal Studies at the Law School, responsible for programming and scholarship in the area of Japanese law. He also teaches comparative international law and leads a reading group on Asian-American legal history.

The eldest son of Japanese immigrants, Ishizuka majored in East Asian studies at the College, then spent a year in Japan before starting at the Law School. He began his career working with Japanese clients "in the robust overheated trade wars of the 1980s," he says, ultimately becoming a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &



Flom. He practiced for 12 years in New York and 19 years in Asia; when he returned to the U.S. in 2017 ready for a new challenge, his alma mater beckoned.

Ishizuka's first connection to USRowing came in the 1990s; he became a member while racing in masters-level regattas with a group from the New York Athletic Club. "It was an outgrowth of my interest in the sport," Ishizuka says. He joined the board in 2018. After the Summer Olympics, he, the board and the leadership team will continue their work to support local clubs and elite athletes in their development and high-performance programs, and are committed to increasing diversity and inclusion in the sport.

Ishizuka still rows several times a week near his home in Connecticut, and races as part of a team boat with a club every fall. He says with a laugh, "I'm busier now than when I was in law practice!"



Ishizuka on the water.

Taking the Guesswork Out of College Schedules

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

Heading into spring semester their junior year, friends **Nick Diao '19** and **Justin Wenig '19** were dealing with a common student conundrum: They couldn't take all the computer science courses they wanted because the class times overlapped. The problem got them thinking — how could colleges be better equipped to build well-balanced course schedules? Soon, their all-in-one schedule, curriculum, syllabus and catalog-planning platform, Coursedog, was born.

The software helps colleges and universities to optimize everything from course times and locations to instructor preferences for class size and tech requirements, taking the guesswork out of what used to be the tedious task of designing curriculums by hand. Since its launch in 2018, more than 80 institutions have signed up for Coursedog's services; the co-founders landed on the *Forbes* 2021 30 Under 30 list earlier this year.

From their first spark of an idea, things moved quickly. The pair scrapped their summer internship plans (Diao in a physics lab and Wenig with Tesla) and threw their energy into building Coursedog. "We spent summer 2018 working out of Mudd Lounge," Wenig says. "It was a very sweaty time — it was hot and we were making a lot of cold calls, which, as computer science students, we were very uncomfortable with at the time. We probably made 1,000 calls. We just wanted to learn as much about how schools create schedules as we could."

By the end of that summer, they realized they had a potential hit on their hands (Columbia Law School and Brigham Young University were among the early adopters). In the fall of their senior year, Diao and Wenig were accepted into the prestigious Y Combinator startup accelerator, which invests seed money in fledgling companies and gives them three

months to develop their products and pitches for investors. The duo headed to California that winter and by the time they were done, Coursedog's client list was exploding with universities, colleges and community colleges on both coasts looking to streamline their curriculum design.

"The initial idea for a product is never what it becomes," says Wenig. "We had planned to build a better version of [Columbia's student course-selection service] Vergil, and what we ultimately built was a tool that administrators use to create better schedules for students."

As a relatively new company when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, the young entrepreneurs had to adapt as schools changed how they operated; suddenly, campuses that had always prioritized in-person education were struggling with how to teach online. Fortunately, the Coursedog staff, which has grown to nearly 40 employees, was set up for remote work from the start; Diao and Wenig work from home in the United States and their engineering team is based in Poland. They began expanding how Coursedog managed data to make schools' pandemic pivoting easier, including adding ways for schools to indicate which classes were offered online as well as setting maximum capacities for in-person classes to enforce social distancing.

Now, with many colleges reopening for on-campus learning or planning to reopen in the fall, they are looking to future growth: "Our big vision is to rebuild university administration software from scratch," says Wenig. "Today that cause will be called 'curriculum success' — helping campus administrators make better decisions about their curriculum. Tomorrow it really means meeting [the needs of] the whole software world of higher education."



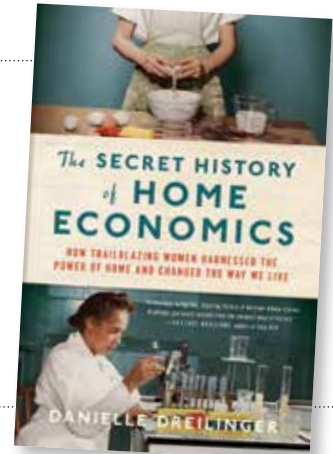
Nick Diao '19



Justin Wenig '19

Why Home Ec Deserves Respect

By Jill C. Shomer



What comes to mind when you think of “home economics?” For me it’s the wad of peach fabric I failed to make into a blouse in the seventh grade; generally, the phrase conjures 1950s housewives, scorched muffins, maybe a bag of flour carried in a baby sling.

Most people don’t think of science, feminism or cultural influence, but **Danielle Dreilinger** ’99 is determined to change that. In her debut book, *The Secret History of Home Economics: How Trailblazing Women Harnessed the Power of the Home and Changed the Way We Live* (W.W. Norton & Co., \$27.95), Dreilinger engagingly tells the stories of the field’s founders and describes the creation of a home economics movement that instructed and inspired generations of women. She also shines a light on the racism that existed within the movement and the strides made by women of color who were influential leaders and innovators; highlights what the field brought to the 20th century (hello, seven food groups, school lunches, clothing-care labels); and makes a solid case for home economics as a necessary source of study today.

In the 19th century, home economics education was an avenue for women to enter the sciences; one of the field’s founders was a chemist, Ellen Swallow Richards, who was the first woman to graduate from MIT (the book includes an amazing photo from 1890 of a petite Richards holding space among 25 heavily mustachioed colleagues). From the beginning, the movement’s intent was to change the world through the household, and to help people live better lives. “In 1899 home economists argued for school gardens, STEM education for girls, takeout food, and affordable day care,” Dreilinger writes. “And yet home economics has been denigrated over and over again as ‘just stitching and stirring.’”

By compellingly spotlighting the heroines of the movement and outlining the practical benefits offered by modern home ec curriculums, Dreilinger makes the case for a comeback. “Home economics is, can, and should be an inter-

disciplinary, ecological field that explores the connections between our homes and the world,” she writes.

Dreilinger, who is based in New Orleans and was formerly an education reporter at the *Times-Picayune*, fell into the study of home economics while testing various book ideas and applying for writ-

ing grants. Under consideration for a Knight-Wallace Fellowship for Journalists (she received the honor in 2018), she was told about a stellar culinary collection at the University of Michigan, the fellowship’s sponsor. “I just felt myself light up,” she says. She liked to cook and was interested in writing about that, but was also interested in history, race, gender, class and education. “I put all that into a blender and came up with home economics. I asked myself, ‘With everything that’s happening in our culture, shouldn’t that be a thing again?’”

Dreilinger spent three years doing intense research, which she says was an enormous pleasure (fun fact: she found a number of helpful documents in the Butler Library archives); it’s the kind of work she’s enjoyed since her time at the College. “What I loved about Columbia was finding a place where I could talk about books and problems,” she says. “The more I’ve been able to do that since, the happier I’ve been. And the research and reporting for this book was tons of books and tons of problems.”

It was also at the College that she learned how to cook for herself. “I didn’t have a meal plan after my first year, and my dorm was a converted apartment building with a kitchen,” Dreilinger says. “So I got an early start on that practical matter. And that’s really what home ec is — it’s not *Gourmet* magazine; it’s about basic cooking and how to feed yourself, and also about culinary career preparation and learning how our food systems work.”

Dreilinger is hoping her book will help to kickstart a national dialogue about bringing home economics back into visibility and relevance; she’d love to see the teaching of practical life skills become mandatory for middle- and high-schoolers. “As an education reporter, I know what a tall order it is to tell states to make something mandatory, but I also think that’s how you bump something up the priority list,” she says. (She urges interested parents to speak out at their local Board of Education meetings. “I’ve covered I don’t know how many state and school board meetings, and they really do matter,” she says.)

This a promising moment, Dreilinger says, because we are thinking more about home economics than we have in a long time. The last two decades have seen dramatic growth in homemaking media — thousands of DIY and cooking blogs, *Real Simple*, the Food Network, *Project Runway*, Michelle Obama’s health and fitness initiatives, and more. We’ve also spent an inordinate amount of time in our homes recently because of the Covid-19 pandemic: “People are more aware than ever about the permeability of those four walls; the home may be a refuge, but it is also political and economic,” Dreilinger writes. “We are recognizing the importance and the inescapability of the work that takes place inside the home.”



KATHLEEN FLYNN



Listen Up! Musings & Cartoons by Dr. Lawrence S. Harte '53. Playful commentary on topics of the day from Flipdip the fantastical dog and his sidekick, Harte (BookBaby, \$4.99 for Kindle).

The Finesse: Only a Last Resort by Dr. James Marsh Sternberg '58. A finesse is one of the most common terms in bridge; in addition to his work in radiology, Sternberg is a champion bridge player and instructor (AuthorHouse, \$17.99).

Sergeant Salinger: A Novel by Jerome Charyn '59. Charyn imagines the famously reclusive author J.D. Salinger as a young WWII draftee, assigned to a band of secret soldiers to seek out and interrogate Nazi collaborators (Bellevue Literary Press, \$16.59).

Before the Sidewalk Ended: A Walk with Shel Silverstein by Anthony Valerio '62. Valerio memorializes his long friendship with author Silverstein against a

backdrop of 1980s Greenwich Village (Audible audiobook, \$5.99).

The Restoration of Man: C.S. Lewis and the Continuing Case Against Scientism by Michael D. Aeschliman '70. Well-known for his Narnia books, Lewis was also a trained philosopher who critiqued the idea that science is the only path to knowledge; Aeschliman situates Lewis among other notable thinkers who weighed in on the issue (Discovery Institute, \$14.95).

Giving My Father Back His Name: The Fuller Brush Man Meets the Great American Portrait Artist by Jerry Strauss '77. The life story of Strauss's father, a salesman and Holocaust survivor, and how he became a subject of painter Alice Neel (Independent Publisher, \$17.95).

Bound in the Bond of Life: Writers Reflect on the Tree of Life Tragedy edited by Beth Kissileff '90. An anthology of essays by Pittsburgh journalists, academics, rabbis and other community members who try to come to terms with the horror of the murders of 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in October 2018 (University of Pittsburgh Press, \$25).

The New Normal: A Roadmap to Resilience in the Pandemic Era by Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91. Ashton, *ABC News's* chief medical correspondent,

offers an essential toolkit for staying safe and sane in a rapidly changing world (William Morrow, \$26.99).

Escape: One Day We Had to Run by Wah Chen '92 and Ming Chen. The Chen sisters' latest children's book shares true stories of courageous people who had to leave their homes and families because of war, famine or persecution (Lantana Publishing, \$17.99).

Opium and Absinthe: A Novel by Dr. Lydia Kang '93. A young, drug-addicted woman investigates her sister's death in turn-of-the-century New York City, and wonders whether the murder was committed by a vampire (Lake Union Publishing, \$14.99).

Amazon Unbound: Jeff Bezos and the Invention of a Global Empire by Brad Stone '93. Stone, the bestselling author of *The Everything Store*, continues his investigation into Amazon and describes how a retail upstart became one of the most powerful and feared entities in the global economy (Simon & Schuster, \$30).

Get Money, Do Good: A True Story How-To by J.D. Vermaas '95. In this adoption memoir, Vermaas details how she and her husband made a life-altering journey to rescue 11 South Asian children from slavery and sexual exploitation (Vermaas, \$25.99).

I Had a Brother Once: A Poem, A Memoir by Adam Mansbach '98. Mansbach chronicles the loss of his younger brother to suicide in this poetic meditation on mourning, ritual and faith (One World, \$26).

The August Trials: The Holocaust and Postwar Justice in Poland by Andrew Kornbluth '04. The first account of the August Trials, initiated in Poland in 1944, that were meant to bring Nazi war criminals and their collaborators to justice (Harvard University Press, \$45).

The Daylight Plays Tricks on Us by Julianne Hoffmann '16. Hoffmann's poetry reflects opposing thoughts and changing emotions, the shifts from day to night and from security to anxiety (Julie Hoffmann, \$9.50).

Monologues from the Makom: Intertwined Narratives of Sexuality, Gender, Body Image and Jewish Identity edited by Sarah J. Ricklan '17, Rivka Cohen and Sara Rozner Lawrence. A collection of poetry and prose designed to break the observant Jewish community's taboo against open discussion of female sexuality (Ben Yehuda Press, \$14.95).

The We and They by Kyra Ann Dawkins '20. Dawkins's debut novel takes place in a world beset by famine, as a group of survivors gets lured in by bountiful but mysterious strangers (New Degree Press, \$15.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

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

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

classnotes



JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Columbia's motto, translated as "In Thy light shall we see light," is carved over the doors of St. Paul's Chapel.

1940s

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. Calvin M. Kunin '49 reached out to *CCT*: Calvin, an emeritus professor of medicine of the Ohio State University, past president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, a former epidemic intelligence officer at the CDC and a former medical consultant to the king of Morocco and the National Health Research Institutes, Taiwan, shared an essay he wrote about some memorable time he spent on campus. He titled it *The Good Professor*:

"The events I relate took place more than 70 years ago, but remain vivid in my mind. I was uncertain how to spend the six months between my early graduation from Columbia College and first year at Cornell Medical College. I

considered whether the best course might be going to Florida to work as a waiter and save some money for the coming school year. I had received a National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis scholarship at the medical college, but had already overburdened my parents for college expenses. My decision to go to medical school was largely by default. I was following the path of my older brother, Arthur '48, who was going to medical school at the University of Vermont. He was a WWII wounded veteran and had paved the way for me, and my younger brothers, Larry '52, LAW'55 and Jack '62, GSAS'74, to attend Columbia College.

"I was one of a large group of ambitious students from the outer boroughs of New York who hoped to make it in the city. I, and my younger brothers, were more than willing to travel from our home in Brooklyn to 116th street in Man-

hattan for an hour and a half, by bus and subway, each way. I felt that the key to success was to listen, read and study. This left little room for campus life and socialization. The major exception was to experience the beauty of renaissance music as a second tenor in the chapel choir.

"Columbia College provided a superb liberal arts education, but it served only as a prequel to a career in business or a graduate degree.

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Medical school offered the opportunity for a stable career and a bounty of knowledge. I was unaware of what medical practice was all about.

"All of this changed when I met Professor Francis J. Ryan '37, GSAS'41. I had taken his course in zoology the year before graduation. He was an amazing, brilliant lecturer. He could write on the blackboard with either hand in three colors, as he taught us embryogenesis. It was my best course ever. It turned out that Professor Ryan was also a faculty advisor for pre-medical students. He called me to his office a few days before my graduation to review my plans. He was a pleasant, athletic-appearing man, in his mid-30s, with a broad smile, open honest face and a twinkle in his eyes. I told him about my dilemma and asked his advice. He listened to my story and told me not to go to Florida, but to spend the time in his laboratory. He proceeded to give me a mini-lecture on the newly developing field of molecular genetics using the mold *Neurospora crassa* and the bacterium *Escherichia coli* for the experiments. I was fascinated by the opportunity and accepted his invitation. Money was no longer in the equation.

"Professor Ryan provided me with a series of references to read about the basic concepts of molecular genetics as understood at the time. He asked Lillian Schneider, his secretary/laboratory technician, to teach me the basic methods used in a microbiology laboratory. She was very patient with me, an angel. She gave me a head start to establish my own laboratory years later.

"My major assignment was to study the effect of salt on growth of a mutant of *Neurospora* unable to synthesize pantothenic acid. I found that the strength of the relationship was dependent on the ionic strength rather than the osmotic effect of the medium. Professor Ryan included me as an author of this, my first paper. The reader may find this work to be highly esoteric, but it serendipitously prepared my mind for studies 30 years later. It helped to explain how *E. coli* are able to grow in the presence of hypertonic urine.

"Another of Professor Ryan's projects was also highly relevant to my work on urinary tract infections. In a novel experiment, he mixed two closely related strains of *E. coli* that differed by only one mutation. He

then passaged the progeny numerous times until only one strain survived because of a small advantage over the other. This helps to explain why only one strain of *E. coli* colonizes the urine of women with uncomplicated urinary tract infections.

"I felt very comfortable in Professor Ryan's laboratory. I could come or leave any time. I was introduced to visiting scientists who had interesting things to say about their work. Professor Ryan invited all of us to relax for tea and cakes in the afternoon. I was invited for dinner with his lovely wife at their small apartment. He even tolerated my abysmal attempt at tennis, and he awarded me with honors in zoology.

"My last encounter with Professor Ryan was at a meeting in Montreal a few years later. He was a heavy cigarette smoker, so much so that he would light a new one while the old was still in his mouth. He died of a heart attack in his mid-40s. I had not known this at the time and did not attend his funeral. I learned many years later that **Joshua Lederberg '44** had preceded me four years earlier and Professor Ryan's own mentor was George Beadle. Both won Nobel Prizes."

Classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too! Please send your updates by email to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share them in a future issue. Wishing you a pleasant summer.

1950

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

No news this time! Please send updates by email to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share them in a future issue. Wishing you a pleasant summer!

1951

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

David Kettler GSAS'60 writes: "By coincidence, your inquiry [for Class Notes] came within a few hours of the publisher's notice that my most

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

recent book, *First Letters After Exile* by *Thomas Mann, Hannah Arendt, Ernst Bloch, and Others*, is ready. I am listed as co-editor and co-author. The project has been mine from the outset.

"As a duly certified nonagenarian, I cannot promise more. It's been fun."

Please send your news by email to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share it in a future issue. Enjoy the summer!

1952

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. Irvin Herman writes: "While sipping a delicious cup of Peet's Coffee, I had a sudden memory of the terrible coffee served in Lions Den in my undergraduate days. Only reason to go there was convenience. We'd gather there between or after classes to socialize and hold impromptu seminars. It was speculated that the urns were never cleaned.

"Many years later, on a rare trip to NYC, I took time to wander the campus. Seized by nostalgia, I dropped into the Den for a cup of coffee. It was still the same crappy

stuff but was delicious with the seasoning of pleasant memories."

Joseph Di Palma shares that he was nominated and approved as a biographical representative for business professionals from the State of New York in the upcoming edition of *Marquis Who's Who*.

He celebrated his 90th birthday this year with his wife of more than 50 years, Joycelyn Engle, a feature film writer, director and producer, and the executive producer and casting director for the PBS TV show *The Di Palma Forum* at UNLV.

Please send your news by email to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share it in a future issue. Wishing you a safe and happy summer!

1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Julian Wolpert "went on to the University of Wisconsin for a master's and Ph.D. in geography, interrupted by a four-year stint in the Navy as a flying anti-submarine aviator. He then spent 10 years teaching at Penn before appointment for the next 30 years as the Henry G. Bryant Profes-

sor at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, where he chaired the program in Geography, Public Affairs and Urban Planning, retiring in 2005.

"He was married to Eileen Selig for 61 years, until she passed away in 2016. He has four children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, lives on the Upper West Side and participates actively in the Lifelong Learning Program at the CUNY Graduate Center.

"He was honored by election to the National Academy of Sciences in 1977 and by other awards and fellowships.

"Julian remembers often oversleeping and learning to navigate the tunnels for speedier access to classes, and being sent back to Columbia as a 'spy' during the [1968] demonstrations to learn how Penn could prepare."

Larry Harte has published his fourth book. *LISTEN UP: Musings & Cartoons* is composed of cartoons, one-liners, original art and easily digestible tidbits on topics of the day. You will even find a quiz at the back of the book to challenge the reader or grandchild to predict the future of the world in 50 years. Larry gives his prediction on an upside-down page. All net proceeds go to charity.

Kenneth N. Skoug Jr. checked in: "As a Foreign Service officer (professional diplomat) 1957–90, my wife, Martha, and I, when serving in Washington, D.C., lived on George Washington's River Farm property. After retirement (1990) and after Martha died (2008), I moved (2014) to reside close to my daughter Reed in Harleysville, Pa., outside Philadelphia, where I live alone on two peaceful acres with deer, foxes and lots of bunnies for neighbors, plus an 8-year-old English Shepherd dog who puts up with me as long as she gets fed. I think often of old friends, especially runners, in CC'53 and CC'54."

Michael Guerriero SEAS'59 says he "cannot believe that 68 years have passed since graduation. I continued my association with **Leo Walsh** and **Ferdie Setaro** '55, both now deceased. Now 90, I continue to recall the good friends I made, and the great college and engineering education I received. As a professional engineer, I worked on the design of Thimble Shoal Island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tun-

nel, designed roads in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and developed the design of the retirement communities Rossmoor Village and Clearbrook Adult Community in New Jersey. Now in retirement, I keep myself occupied with artwork, painting water and scenic scenes, reading and staying active in the Knights of Columbus."

Angel I. Ferrer "turned 89 on March 1. My sister and two nephews, three nieces, one daughter, three sons and three grandchildren all helped me celebrate long distance, via Zoom.

"I still do some minor consulting in information technology, to stay busy, but the pandemic has shut me down. I now live in Columbus, Ga., to be near my sister. My youngest grandchild is taking some college-level courses in Gainesville, Fla., although she is in 10th grade.

"Hello to **Herb Mark** and **Bernie Epstein**.

"It was my beanie that got stolen and became the prize during the Frosh-Soph Rush. Does that barbaric event still take place?"

Jim Sherwin LAW'56 writes: "I have been living in the bucolic English countryside near Bath for more than 20 years with my second wife, Hiroko, a writer (10 books) and painter to whom I have been married for more than 35 years. I have three daughters, Miranda Sherwin GSAS'03, Alison Sherwin and Galen Sherwin LAW'03, and three step-daughters, Yoko Yoshikawa, Mako Yoshikawa '88 and Aiko Yoshikawa, living in the States. Galen practices law at the ACLU, Mako is a professor and novelist, and Miranda earned a Ph.D. in comparative literature. Miranda has a son, Ben '22, one of my seven grandchildren. My father and a total of 16 relatives (see Class of 1955) went to Columbia.

"After the Law School, I served in the Coast Guard Reserve (Lt. Cdr.); married Professor Judith Johnson BC'58, a poet; and practiced with a New York firm and with General Aniline & Film Corp. (GAF). In 1960 we moved to Brussels and I ran its European operations, becoming chief financial officer and a director in 1973. I became chief financial officer at Triangle Industries in 1983, returning to GAF in 1985 as vice-chair. I survived a tortuous legal encounter with that paladin of justice, Rudy

Giuliani, and became the chief financial officer of Hunter Douglas, a Dutch multinational corporation, in 1991, where I was until 2020, and remain a director. The University of Bath awarded me an honorary LL.D. in 2007.

"I play chess online (I have been inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame); run a hedge fund, 80Plus Partners; and reminisce about my happy days at the College and Law School. We hosted a Columbia College alumni party here several years ago and would welcome any old friends and classmates who want a glimpse of English country life.

Dr. Arthur H. Elkind '53 became interested in Netherlandish art at the College; collecting and studying the Old Masters remains a wonderful hobby.

We have an alpaca, two cats and two guinea fowl to keep us occupied in these lockdown times."

Dr. Arthur H. Elkind shares: "I retired on June 30, 2011, but continued as president for two years at the National Headache Foundation. I continued as a board member and resigned from the organization in 2019. During my third and fourth years at the College, 1952 and 1953, I became interested in art history classes, particularly Netherlandish 16th- and 17th-century art. I married **Arlene Ruth Hirsch** in 1955, during my third year at State University of New York Downstate Medical School in Brooklyn. We spent the summer traveling in Western Europe. We visited museums in New York City, which provided the beginning of serious interest in art history. During the Western European trip we spent time at the Louvre, Rijksmuseum, Uffizi and the National Gallery London. During my practice in the 1980s we began to acquire old master prints and drawings of the Dutch and Flemish schools. Art study, professors and museum curators helped in studying our Northern Europe art. The art of the Old Masters is a wonderful hobby. Many collectors became new friends.

"Our three children and six grandchildren entered fine colleges. The youngest, **Liam**, decided to hold back a year at Yale College

during the start of the coronavirus and plans to graduate in 2022. He started a nonprofit charity to help New Yorkers on the Upper West Side. During this past year, **Liam's** group, now called Invisible Hands, grew to 12,000 volunteers, all over New York City, Philadelphia and Atlanta, bringing food, medication and other services to elderly and disabled seniors. **Liam** started where they live, in NYC. My son, **Mitchell PH'98**, is a professor of neurology at P&S, a professor of epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health, an attending neurologist in the Division of Stroke and Cere-

brovascular Disease at Columbia University Irving Medical Center/ NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and president of the American Heart Association. All our children and grandchildren are busy: financial, business, psychologic programs, teachers, writer and director of drama Off-Broadway. This past year, grandson **Zachary**, a director, was working online at home. We even have a designer, **Hannah**, a manufacturer of high-end sport bags called Go Dash Dot, with some help from her mom and sister.

"We are all hoping to receive the vaccine and continue working better than during the coronavirus the past year."

Thank you to all who shared news and memories! Please send yours by email to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will include it in a future issue. Enjoy the summer!

1954

Bernd Brecher
brecherservices@aol.com

Hello to summer, all you members of the Class of Destiny, who are, in the words of Stephen Sondheim, "still here," as we leave the pandemic tunnel to emerge into a world we might

hardly know. We will greet each other as old friends, sons of alma mater, who will help build and rebuild our lives, our families, our friends, our communities, and our battered and ever-tested democracy, the greatest the world has ever seen! We look at ourselves — as parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, uncles, cousins, neighbors, and friends — and give thanks that we survived a relentless enemy whose face we do not ever want to see again.

These Class Notes are about us, neither a homily nor a sermon, but a place to share with each other our successes and discoveries, our hopes and goals, the names of our latest grandkids and their and our children's latest achievements, as well as frustrations we've encountered and sad events we've survived. Indeed, here is a place to crow, show off, and deal with the entirety of our human comedy. If not now, when? If not here, where? So, let's dig in and enjoy reading about the doings of some of our oldest, i.e., longest, cohorts — the men of '54.

Ralph Alfenito and his wife, Jo, send best wishes and want us to know that they have relocated to a senior compound in Easton, Md.: "Closer to our daughter, granddaughters and great-granddaughter, and life could not be better!"

That, Ralph, appears to sum up an ideal retirement and your heart-felt appreciation for it. Good for both of you and for your extended family generations.

Herb Zydney SEAS'55, GSAS'59 sends us "a snapshot of my most recent Columbia years. In fall 2019 I was on campus for greeting the freshman Class of 2023 [at Convocation]. Spoke to a few, and their enthusiasm was notable. President Lee C. Bollinger's greeting on 'understanding' was memorable. With others, I carried a banner for the 1950s classes. If we had been greeted that way as incoming freshmen, the banner would have been for the classes of the 1880s! In early 2020, I attended a West Palm Beach dinner with others from the Columbia University Club of South Florida (Miami). I was the most senior.

"My 65th SEAS campus reunion was canceled because of Covid-19. But the online replacement brought close contact with Columbia Engineering Dean Mary Boyce and her humanities focus. More recently, SEAS has

announced a partnership with Amazon on artificial intelligence research.

"A great time to be starting at Columbia," Herb sums up, "but unfortunately, the pandemic experience will also stay with everyone."

Thanks, Herb, for your continuing loyalty and for showing us what can be done by guys who, in most cases, will be turning the Big Nine-O next year.

George Goldstein sends us "greetings from the beach at Boca Raton, Fla., where we've lived for eight years. It's been an interesting 'passage,' especially in 2020."

He shares a brief history: "Med school at Syracuse; internship at Johns Hopkins; USAF service at a U-2 spy plane base; all the way through private practice, the corporate world (chief medical officer for a multinational pharma company); to today. Retired 15 years ago after co-founding what became a NASDAQ-traded biopharm company. Now there's time to play bridge; follow my beloved Mets (hail new owner Steve Cohen!); and, pay attention to my wife of 63 years, Shirley. Best wishes for health and safety to all classmates and TEP brothers! Keep Roaring!"

Sounds like you're working on your memoirs, George. Start with the spy planes, the private practice should build on that intrigue, and don't forget a featured part for Shirley. Good to hear from you, and I promise we'll all visit you post-pandemic in Boca.

Henry Buchwald PS'57 wrote in March that he and his wife, Emilie, have gotten their vaccinations and were "looking forward to coming out of our year of hibernation. Though I no longer operate or see patients, I continue to be an active member of the faculty of the Department of Surgery of the University of Minnesota. My current work interests encompass working with the American College of Surgeons to increase knowledge of metabolic surgery as a discipline; writing bimonthly columns for *General Surgery News*; and, completing a book on healthcare, *Healthcare Upside Down*, that reflects on the loss of the doctor-patient relationship in favor of top-down administrative management in today's world of impersonal medicine for the benefit of major insurance and pharmaceutical companies' stockholders."

He asks for comments and says that "any will be appreciated."

Thanks, Henry, for continuing the good fight on the inside, in which most of us as laymen/patients at the bottom of the medical service supply chain have little power or ability to participate. Email your responses to Henry to the address at the top of this column.

Edward Cowan reports again on **Brian Tansey**, "who lives in Twin Towers, a retirement community in his native Cincinnati (where my wife and I visited him in May 2019).

"He sounded great — well and focused — on the phone. He, and all residents of Twin Towers, had been vaccinated, and he was looking forward to a visit later that week from daughter Eira. She teaches library science and information management at the University of Cincinnati; her husband, Justin Levy, is a lawyer on the staff of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. As always, Brian has been paying close attention to current events and politics. It is no secret that he is a passionate Democrat (but he allowed that Ohio's Republican governor, Mike DeWine, was 'not bad.')

Arnold Tolkin shares: "An eventful year, with five new great-grandchildren, marking the following totals: four children (two Columbia College grads, one from the Law School), 12 grandchildren (one Columbia College grad, two from the Business School), and 12 great-grandchildren, all under the age of 5. No travel for the obvious reasons. Playing lots of bridge online weekly and so far I am ahead \$79 among my group, which is dwindling due to age.

"We hope to fly to Europe in November and cruise back to Miami. Meanwhile, I am doing lots of reading, and exercising for one and a half hours daily, either in the pool or on a recumbent bike, with 30 minutes of stretching and balance exercises."

Congratulations, Arnie, on your five new great-grandkids, your great physical condition, your great gambling winnings, and for your great support of the University from your great Tolkin family-related tuition payments. C U after the pandemic, by which time your GKGids total may have hit 14.

In the midst of so much joy, Arnie "was very saddened at learning of the death of my College roommate of two and a half years,

Robert Weber SEAS'55, SEAS'56, who was in touch with me up to about 10 days before his passing." [Editor's note] See "Obituaries."

David Bardin LAW'56 writes that I (Bernd) had "recently noted (at a virtual high school meeting) how many of us Bronx Science graduates entered the College in fall 1950. Unstated was Columbia's decision to abandon its geographic quotas for most admissions, which were still in effect when I graduated from Bronx Science in January 1950.

"Those quotas," he continues, "— one-third for New York City applicants, one-third for suburban (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut) applicants, one-third for applicants from more distant places — led Columbia to put my application on a waiting list and to advise me that admission was unlikely. Compliance with the spirit of a new New York State anti-discrimination law influenced Columbia's admissions policy change a few months later, which 'broke a dam' for Bronx Science graduates (among others), to my understanding, by the time many of you graduated from high school in June," he says.

Thanks, David, for the not-so-long-ago history lesson, and for your accomplishments as a lawyer, public official, and vocal advocate of challenging causes such as statehood for the District of Columbia.

Several of us participated in the virtual *après ski* Zoom "picnic" in February that David referenced. CC'54 attendees from our Bronx High School of Science Class of 1950 were **Jack Blechner**, **Henry Buchwald**, David, and yours truly, as well as several Barnard women (since CC was still men only), including Lenore Self Katkin BC'54 and Marion Siskind Liebowitz BC'54.

In some ways, universally, more attendees seem to have been at more events during this ongoing Covid-19 pandemic than normally attended when travel and group gathering were the norm. Apparently, age has made it easier for many to "attend" functions online than would have spent money amid any travel inconveniences in normal times. So be it!

I'm hoping, gentlemen, that by the time this issue of *CCT* hits the "newsstands," i.e., via web or snail mail, we will all — along with our wives, significant others, and families

— have had our vaccinations or at least have appointments to get them. And that — science over politics — you will still be wearing your masks, washing your hands often, and keeping at least 72.5 inches (bring a ruler) away from those who look like strangers. Universal crowd immunity may still be a few steps away, even when visiting our campus or that of your grandkids. Are we really sacrificing that much if we are then able to pound “the enemy” into the ground?

Now, concerning Class Notes, everyone who appears in it becomes an instant SUPERSTAR. It's easy: Email, snail mail, phone, carrier pigeon, FedEx, Amazon, text, implied threats over the transom, drone. Help me out here, I can't keep making this stuff up. It's all free, including shipping and handling.

Until we meet again, thanks all. Be good, do good, be well, remember Columbia in your will, stay well, help cure the world, give your littler ones a hug for me, enjoy the summer, and be thankful for your good luck. Luv to all, Bernd. Excelsior!

1955

Gerald Sherwin
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CCT reached out to the class in the late winter and heard from quite a few alumni!

Dr. Allen I. Hyman, a professor emeritus in anesthesiology, writes: “I am happy to say that my family legacy with Columbia continues. My son Joshua '85, PS'90 recently became

an endowed professor in orthopedics, and his son Jacob '19 will start in art history in Columbia in the fall. He also has a daughter, Zoe '23.”

Warren I. Cohen shares: “I am a retired university distinguished professor of history (Michigan State and University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and taught at Columbia in 1971) living in Washington, D.C. Many of my 21 books have been published by Columbia University Press, including the last, *A Nation Like All Others* (2019) and the sixth edition of my *America's Response to China* (2020). The press also publishes the Nancy Bernkopf Tucker and Warren I. Cohen Series in American-East Asian Relations. Nancy SIPA'73, GSAS'80, my late wife, was a Columbia Ph.D. and a Georgetown professor.

“In addition to scholarly works, I have written for *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *Times Literary Supplement* (which led to a reunion with my now-deceased roommate, George Bahamonde LAW'57) and *The Washington Post*.

“I have also been at various times the editor of *Diplomatic History*, president of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, chair of the State Department Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation, director of the Asia Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center and a consultant on policy toward China to the Senate, the State Department, the CIA and other government organizations.

“The last classmate I saw was Dick Kuhn LAW'58, who, with his wife, joined me for dinner in D.C. four or five years ago.

“I thought of something funny that has nothing to do with the Class of '55. My son is in the Class of '82 and I stayed one night in his room in John Jay. I was rattled to discover the toilets were coed and again when a young woman came scratching at the door after midnight. In the early '50s, women weren't allowed out of the lobby. I had to spend all my time on the Barnard porch.”

William G. Langston updates us: “After nearly 50 years in California, my wife and I decided to move back to New York. Alas, New York is not as we remembered it, nor are we. It is for the young and agile. We are

that no longer. We bought a house in Long Beach for our fifth move in eight years, and our last.”

Stanley Lubman LAW'70 says, “One year ago almost to the day I am writing this (March 9) my wife, Judith, and I moved to our house one and a half hours away on the California Coast Point Reyes National Seashore. We thought it was for three weeks. We stayed for six months. Now we are back to splitting our time and are both vaccinated. All our family are well, the university students are in classes and the eldest grandson (26) is piecing together a life. Everyone is coping and we feel fortunate after what has been a hard year for so many.

“I continue to follow events in China but the outlook for law reform in China has been quite bleak, reflecting the overall politically authoritarian regime.

“Hope all of you are holding up and holding on. I send you my best wishes.”

Dr. Herbert J. Cohen notes: “I keep in touch with Bill Epstein SEAS'56 regularly and my former roommate, Bernie Kirtman, somewhat regularly.

“I do miss the dinners in NYC that Don Laufer LAW'57 organized for those who live in the area. It was an occasion to see old friends.

“My own career is winding down. I am now an emeritus professor of pediatrics and rehabilitation medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, as well as the emeritus director of the large clinical and training programs for children with developmental disabilities at the Rose F. Kennedy Center at the medical school. Until last February, I was still teaching and seeing patients at that site. I had to stop due to the pandemic. During the past year, I was limited to delivering just three Zoom lectures and continuing to review articles for various journals while I continued on the Editorial Board for one of them. I will be phasing out of those activities over this year and then plan to fully retire from professional activities.”

William Kronick states: “I've kept off the streets since my last film, 20 years ago, by writing novels, the seventh of which I've been on since the pandemic struck. It's a Hollywood-centric piece, as most of the others have been, with the protagonist, unfortunately or not,

a morally challenged product of Columbia College! I'm calling it *Agenbite of Inuit* ...

“My son, Max (28), has chosen to challenge the odds in the ‘biz’ also and, fortunately, has been gainfully employed during this trying time as a production assistant on a new TV series.”

Dr. Elliot M. Gross is “thinking of those we have lost to Covid-19. I continue to be professionally active, and am grateful for CC and CU alumni web events (Professor Ken Jackson and Madeleine Albright GSAS'76, to cite two) which kept me thinking during the lockdown.

“I miss our New York City group lunches but am in regular touch with Jim Berick in Cleveland and Milt Finegold in Houston. Hope it will not be too long before I can march again in the late summer Convocation and spring Class Day parades, and join a planning committee for our 70th reunion!”

Gerry Pomper shares some sad news: “Ronald M. Cowan GSAS'58 died on July 20, 2020, after a series of medical problems, including Parkinson's disease and the onset of dementia. Ron was editorial editor of *Spectator* in our epochal senior year, and wrote most of the editorials, including epic works on the Bicentennial, women in the dorms and University research. He and his wife, Erica, moved to California after graduation (delayed for Ron until 1956), where he became a distinguished researcher in psychology and statistics. After years in San Francisco, where they became close to the famous intellectuals such as Lawrence Ferlinghetti, they moved to Seattle. They had two children and one grandchild. Those who knew Ron knew a person of grace, astonishing intellect, and deep concern for his roommates, multiple friends and the human community.”

More sad news: Wallace M. Previ died on November 13, 2019. He was a retired U.S. Navy commander. William W. May died on February 23, 2020. Daniel P. De Palma BUS'56 died on November 26, 2020. He was a retired college professor. George Segal died on March 23, 2021. An actor, he was known for his film (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*; *The Owl and the Pussycat*) and TV (*Just Shoot Me!*; *The Goldbergs*) work. [Editor's note: See “Obituaries” for more on the above-noted gentlemen.]



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.

If you attended any of the Columbia Reunion 2021 virtual events in late May or early June, email the CCT staff at cct@columbia.edu, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and the news will be shared in a future issue.

Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

Robert Siroy
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Ed Gordon writes: "Since January 1, 2021, I have officially retired. It was a difficult decision but the time had come.

"I resisted retirement for a long time. You once said that 'the only ones who are still working are the psychiatrists.' Check off one more. Retiring from practice isn't easy. Patients have to be notified, bills to be collected and the 'world' needs to know of the retirement. This includes banks, government agencies and so on.

"As for me, doing fine. Continued to treat patients remotely for a year before retirement, staying in, avoiding even the barber, letting my dyed hair turn its natural white, again curly.

"People ask what my retirement plans are, and the Covid-19 pandemic continues to restrict movement.

Can't even go to a restaurant. I don't trust them. My youngest son and grandchildren resupply from the local Costco and food stores. Lots of Amazon. My wife and I are getting bored eating in. Luckily the 'end' is near, so we have both gotten our vaccines.

"Minimal health issues. Knees, impending cataract surgery. Who knows how long I'll live? Does anyone know? My parents both lived well into their 80s. I'm 85.

"Perhaps we'll resume Columbia lunches soon. Anybody interested? I won't have the 'office hours' excuse anymore."

Got a call from **Kenneth Nelson** PS'60 ("Mike" was what we used to call him at Midwood H.S. in Brooklyn). He is hunkered down in Columbia, S.C., where he reports that there is nothing to do; everything is closed. He is retired from practicing neurosurgery and says that the vaccine distribution is chaotic.

Hillel Tobias spends time in the Hamptons, and has retired as

chief of the liver transplant service at NYU.

Bob Lauterborn says that **Steve Easton** suggested he should write about what's happening in his life. Here it is: "I began 2020 with a cruise on the *Grand Princess*, one cruise before 3,533 people were quarantined aboard. My luck continued in February. I was in Hong Kong, on my way to a Habitat for Humanity build in Myanmar, when the news about Covid hit. I was able to duck going back through HK by flying home via Dubai, circumnavigating the globe for only the fourth or fifth time in my well-traveled life. (I've slept at least one night in 85 countries, at last count.) My younger son and I were scheduled to hike the mountains of North Wales (Snowdonia National Park) in May, but of course Covid's spread made that impossible. Plan B was an off-roading adventure in the canyonlands of Utah. Talk about social distancing: We saw more pronghorns than people once we got to Moab. Ditto this year. Wales is put off again until 2022, and plan B is Wyoming.

"Technically, I'm emeritus from UNC-Chapel Hill, but I was happy to write the lead article for the first issue of a new marketing journal published digitally out of Milan in the fall, so I guess I'm not totally irrelevant yet!

"I'm alone again, having lost two great loves to pancreatic cancer, but hope lives on. I can't wait to fall in love again. Know any pretty widows who are 79 or so?"

Allan Hoben is "alive and well in Berkeley, Calif., where he kayaks several times a week, participates in book groups and enjoys socializing with friends. He has left a modest bequest to the College ... but hopes not to die soon."

Martin Mayer LAW'59 has copyrighted a "short but definitive" manual, *Traversing the Commercial Lease Minefield*. It is designed to be a negotiating guide for real estate lawyers and corporate real estate executives who represent commercial tenants.

Complimentary copy to any classmate who fits the aforementioned description.

Morton Jaffe reports from Sussex, N.J., that he exists, and that the Alumni Office could not find his UNI (University Network ID).

Jay Martin checked in to say hello. **Ron Kapon** canceled his plans to visit country 150 in 2020, and says, "There are no university wine classes to teach since Fairleigh Dickinson University has been closed. I lost 15 lbs. and volunteer at the West Side JCC. On Tuesdays there is the virtual 'Support Group for 80+.' On Wednesdays I have a student in Jerusalem with whom I speak using WhatsApp, to help him with his English. I also have weekly private yoga classes either in my place or outside (weather depending). It's just me and my 15-year-old cat, Renoir, in my seven rooms."

Frank Neuberger sent a picture of a "ball point souvenir syringe" for completing his second vaccine shot. Says he works out every day.

Murray Watnick worked with the WHO to help bring basic diagnostic imaging capability to the developing world. He writes, "I am now helping the veterans involved in the disastrous nuclear weapons accident in Palomares, Spain, in 1966 seeking compensation for exposure to Plutonium 239 during the cleanup. Having served as a medical officer with the Strategic Air Command enabled me to get involved in this project. Getting drafted during the Cuban Missile Crisis created interesting opportunities. Life certainly takes unusual twists and turns."

Phil Liebson reports, "I read history and cosmology. Especially interested in medieval history that helps me understand the present situation. Regards to all classmates. I still imagine them as they appeared in the 1950s."

Had a wonderful conversation with **Dick Capen**, from San Diego, where he lives with his whole family nearby. After his stint in the Navy, Dick traveled about the country with his newspaper work as the publisher of the *Miami Herald* and other papers, then spent time in the Department of Defense. He happily reports that he is in good health.

I received a note from **Leo Glass**, who writes that he retired from the practice of law 20 years ago and has been a judge in Monticello, N.Y., since. Leo says he doesn't tweet but that he is at 20 Hammond St., Monticello, NY 12701, 845-794-4695.

Jordan Bonfante writes: "Coronavirus defenses at the ready, **Bob Lauterborn**, one of whose

sons lives in Fairfield, and I and my spouse, Viktoria, who live in Old Greenwich, met up in Norwalk, at the mouth of a river into Long Island Sound, for an overdue lunch in February. Reminiscences flowed as freely as the Chardonnay; as randomly as the bar blather at the old West End; and like the lectures of Professor Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920, say. We discussed the comparative charms of selected lasses from Barnard and St. Luke's and the mixed, to say the least, fortunes of the lightweight football team, vintage 1956.

"On that score, there was plentiful boasting about how manly football was in those bygone days, better believe it. Manly, for instance, was the fact that only the helmets of some of the linemen were equipped with facemasks. Rest of you, risk your bloody noses. Manly, too, was the exhausting one-platoon system of play, long before the two-platoon idea materialized in the '70s. You played offense far as it went, and then you stayed on the field and played defense. No regular respite on the bench while the other platoon went at it.

"The team roster was gone over, of course, like a memory test. Lauterborn, especially, could still name the entire starting lineup, 11 of 11. Players like **Steve Easton** at pull guard, and his late lamented twin, Maurice Easton SEAS'57, at blocking back. **Ed Villanueva** and Bill Smith '57, at left and right tackles. Curiously, the one name that came up again and again was that of the team's outstanding tailback: **John Barker**. Curiously, because John, a truly gifted athlete and graceful personality, seems to have disappeared after the College, and his present whereabouts seems to remain unknown to most, if not all, members of the class today. So here's the shoutout of the moment: JOHN BARKER, JOHN BARKER. WHERE ARE YOU NOW?"

On a sad note, **Len Wolfe** sent me *The Washington Post* obituary of **Francis C. "Frank" Pasquinelli**, a retired Navy captain. Frank passed away on November 28, 2020, a native of Salem, Mass. He retired from the Navy in 1984 and spent the next 15 years in the private sector supporting various government programs. His second retirement was in 2000. Frank was married to

the former Joanne Sucharski for 63 years. They have three children and four grandchildren. Read more about Frank online in the *Post* (legcy.co/2POu99H) and in this issue's "Obituaries" section.

I'm also sad to report that **John T. Garnjost** BUS'61, a strong supporter of Columbia rowing, died on January 5, 2021. Columbia Athletics's obituary noted that John was a varsity student-athlete as a 1954-56 member of the heavyweight crew. He became a respected rowing official. John was a U.S. Air Force pilot 1956-59 and served in Japan and Taiwan. He spent 24 years working at the New York corporate headquarters of the Bristol-Myers Co. before becoming its managing director, in Malaysia, and president and general manager in Taiwan.

John is survived by his wife of 47 years, Janet; daughters, Alison and Valerie; and Valerie's husband, Matthew Lacy. Read more in Athletics's

Dr. Alan L. Gordon, a psychiatrist, died in New York City on February 27, 2021.

You can read more about Julie and his work in this issue's "Obituaries" section.

Please send your news to me at the email address at the top of the column and I will be pleased to include it in a future issue.

1958

Peter Cohn
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Writing this column in late March, I am pleased that the Covid-19 vaccination rate is finally picking up steam. Although manufacturing and distribution problems remain, I am hopeful that by the time you are reading this issue of *CCT*, the country will be well on its way to achieving herd immunity and July 4

Art Radin, both of whom were fellow musicians in the Columbia University Marching Band and Concert Band, when Columbia had real bands! Art blasted away on his trombone, Joe did the same with his euphonium and I banged away with my snare drum. They were wonderful times."

All spring sports were canceled by the Ivy League. I hope this will not be the case in the fall. Resumption of the class luncheons at the Penn Club is still up in the air. Please keep sending news items for inclusion in future issues of *CCT*.

1959

Norman Gelfand
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I hope that this finds you all well. The year 2020 was a hard one for all of us and I am sure that we all share the hope that 2021 will be better with a high degree of normalcy.

For some happy news we can thank **Fred Knauer**: "Ira Jolles has a granddaughter, Eden Hannah Jolles, born on July 13, 2020, to Ira's son Adam and his wife, Becki."

Len Stein writes, "It appears that an increasing number of our classmates have been dying of late. So to counter this, I've decided to update you on a classmate who is alive and well.

"My name when I was at Columbia College was Leonard 'Lenny' Fink. My name is now Leonard 'Len' Stein. I've been retired from private practice as a clinical psychologist and from my faculty position at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry for the past few years. I am currently clinical professor emeritus in the Department of Psychiatry. I live with my wife, Linda, in Fairport, N.Y., a suburb of Rochester. Linda and I recently received our second Covid-19 vaccination, and we are both relieved to have done so.

"I have a son who lives in West Lafayette, Ind. He is senior manager in charge of quality assurance at a company that manufactures medical and scientific equipment. His wife is chair of the School of Engineering Education at Purdue. I also have two grandchildren in their 20s.

"I enjoy reading literary fiction and nonfiction, including in the areas of

neuroscience, consciousness, philosophy, ethics and morality, and politics."

From **Mike Berlin** JRN'60 we hear, "My wife, Nancy BC'61, and I are fortunate to live in rural Truro on Cape Cod, where we can walk, once or twice a day, along the ocean, the bay — or, if the wind is high, as it often is here — through the pinewoods, sometimes on National Seashore trails. We also do some birdwatching. There are few encounters for which we need to don masks.

"One thing I was able to continue doing despite Covid was reviewing Fulbright applications of Russians who wish to study or practice journalism in the United States. I have been doing this since 1995, after my Fulbright teaching journalism at Moscow State University.

"Zoom has been a godsend. I taught a Zoom discussion course on the news media and the election to 45 people through a local library. (Since my retirement from full-time teaching journalism at Boston University, I have taught similar courses about journalism and politics in person in San Francisco, Seattle and Boston, and on Cape Cod). I exercise on Zoom for an hour three times a week with 15-20 other Truro seniors. I meet twice a week on Zoom to talk politics and sports with 6-8 Truro seniors (since we can't get together at our usual local lunch spot). Once a month I chat about everything and anything over Zoom with 9 or 10 Columbia fraternity brothers from CC'59, spread across four time zones.

"Our family (in Seattle, Portland, Minneapolis and Truro) chooses a recipe every two weeks, and we all view the process and the results on Zoom. Nancy confers weekly over Zoom with fellow artists around the country, discussing books and art issues. They recently had a group show at the University of New Hampshire.

"All things considered, we are content."

Robin Motz informs us, "The only new event is that my two grandchildren went sleigh riding for the first time. They are also both in real school, not virtual. The only family member I am concerned for is my youngest daughter-in-law, who does echocardiograms in a doctor's office and sees 7-10 new, but screened, patients a day. We did get away to Lake George because the Adirondacks are not locked down."

Len Stein '59 taught a Zoom discussion course on the news media and the election through his local library; he has taught similar courses in person.

online obituary (bit.ly/3d9GMVj) and in this issue's "Obituaries."

My wife and I are in Somerset, N.J., in an adult community (they let us in), serving on the advisory committee of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers and taking adult ed lectures through it, this year by Zoom.

I guess we can start planning for our 70th reunion. (We finally decided on souvenir walking sticks for our 65th.) Think about it!

1957

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Dr. Julius "Julie" Schachter, a microbiologist, died in San Francisco on December 20, 2020. Julie died from Covid-19. You can read more about him in *CCT*'s special online section for alumni who have died from the virus, "Lions We've Lost" (college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2020/article/lions-weve-lost).

will truly be Independence Day, as President Biden has suggested.

As far as news from classmates is concerned, I am delighted to report that the unique collection of 114 woodcuts of famous and not-so-famous Americans, gathered over multiple decades by **Bob Levine** and his wife, Anne, have been acquired by the High Museum in the heart of Atlanta. Here are some quotations from the museum's December 17, 2020, press release announcing the acquisition: "We are incredibly grateful to the Levines for recognizing our commitment to self-taught art through this generous gift." In the press release, Bob and Anne said, "We started our marriage looking for something to collect together, and our love of American history melded with the craft of wood carving. Traveling all over the country, we searched for objects that have an energy and unique vitality."

Well done, guys!

We also received a nice note from **Lee Kurtz**. He writes: "A belated tribute to the late **Joe Klein** and

From **Jim Thomas** we hear, “I feel very lucky to be able to do the many things I enjoy, especially golf, which I can walk up to 15 holes, and I am active in maintaining our flower gardens. My parents were active and they passed it on to me.”

Ralph Wyndrum reports, “Like others, we have been cooped up by medical concerns, and hopeful for the vaccine. During the past year, I accepted a position as director of the Board of the English-Speaking Union’s 4,000-member U.S. subsidiary, ESU-US. The enjoyment of humanities, driven home by our years at Columbia, has encouraged me to participate in such organizations since graduation. Many of our classmates would enjoy the activities of ESU-US, with its sizable network of local active chapters across the U.S. This year is the 100th anniversary of the organization. The ESU is dedicated to the celebration of the English language as a global mode of communication enabling international cooperation in fields of culture, communication, science and governmental relations. We sponsor scholarships for recent immigrants; a national Shakespeare competition at the high school level; The Evelyn Wrench National Speaker Program; the \$25,000 Luard Morse Scholarships in traditionally Black colleges; and middle school debates. The programs provide vast opportunities for volunteers’ activities, which Columbia alumni would be well prepared to undertake as well as being very enjoyable.

“I both hope and believe that 2021 will evolve into a healthy and economically successful year.”

Bernie Pucker has managed to keep busy and productive. “Entering our 15th week of self-quarantine and my wife, Sue, and I are well and safe. We recently celebrated our 61st anniversary. We were married within two weeks of our graduations, Sue from Skidmore. Time passes.

“These weeks of the pandemic and protests have highlighted just how fortunate we have been. We were able to keep the remote gallery functioning and experienced a positive response. Now we have reopened and that excellent interest has continued, which gives me hope that the gallery and some few arts institutions will survive these enormous challenges. We have also worked on ‘Reimagining the Gal-

lery’ with the added use of technology, for example, Matterport virtual tours (see the present tour online: bit.ly/3dmjqv) and artist presentations that have more than tripled the attendance with the recent Potter’s Talk, with Ken Matsuzaki in Mashiko Japan, Professor Andrew Maske in Lexington, Ky., and me in Boston (bit.ly/39sIte). We planned a series of what we are calling ‘Webinart’ through the balance of 2020. We continue to publish and mail catalogs but they are also available as e-catalogs, for example, this Sam Bak Ongoing Conversation (bit.ly/3mcvQJB). Finally, we share an amazing event, Take a Bow with Benoit Rolland, a MacArthur prize winner (bit.ly/3frkDU1) and Yo Yo Ma.”

Allen Klein writes, “Like it has for all alumni, the pandemic has ruled our lives for the past year; Carol, my wife of 60 years, and I have been sequestered in Florida and have not returned to our D.C. home in that entire time. Like other alumni, we did not plan for this interruption to my retirement from a long career in Schlumberger Accounting Services and tax consulting. After a year of sedentary living, we look forward to our rejoining civilization in D.C. soon. One recent ray of sunshine has given us some joy: Our daughter, Jennifer Klein LAW’90 (and ’87 Brown) will co-chair the recently formed White House Gender Policy Council. She has had a distinguished career involved with policy issues affecting women and girls since joining Hillary Clinton during the Clinton administration. We are very proud of her accomplishments and look forward to her continuing contributions in her chosen endeavor. Following the necessity for repairs from the last administration, we fully support her efforts.”

Bruch Schlein notes, “As I get older, I am hearing about more of my Columbia friends passing, but fortunately my family has soldiered on.

“I am still teaching photography and my wife, Alice, is teaching weaving at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program at Furman University, listening to lots of music and still actively having fun. Our older son, Willy, is practicing architecture as director of medical planning and works out of Greenville, S.C., right near where we are

living, and our younger son, Erik, attends the CUNY School of Law. Here is the link to my photo blog: cameralucidity.wordpress.com.”

Since our last communication with each other via these pages I have learned of the deaths of **Tom Bilbao** on December 21, 2020; **Clive Chajet** on February 3, 2021; **Raphael “Ray” Schenk** on February 7, 2021; **J. Peter Rosenfeld** on February 16, 2021; and **Frederick Lorber** on February 24, 2021. They are and will be missed. May their memory be for a blessing. [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries.”]

A final word from your class correspondent: If you do not receive emails from me, please send me your email address, and also please send it to the Alumni Office: email cct@columbia.edu, or submit it via the webform college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info. Thank you.

1960

Robert A. Machleder
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Ivan Vamos GSAPP’65 is twice retired and living with his wife of 55 years, Rietje, just north of Albany with “a cherished lakeside camp nearby.” They are the parents of three and grandparents of five, who are “spread across nine time zones.”

Following his post-NROTC service in the Navy, Ivan was a geologist and geophysicist for a Westchester firm that provided geotechnical services. “I did seismic work to identify construction site problems, resources, water-well development for IBM and lots of the work for new interstate highways, and tunnel and mine shaft projects in Australia.” When the company experienced financial difficulties, Ivan entered graduate school, earned a master’s in urban planning and began working for New York State “intending to stay a few years learning the advanced technology that had been developed.” This engagement continued, however, with a wide range of projects until his retirement three decades later.

Ivan began at the department responsible for developing highway systems and the canals that spanned many upstate cities. “After a few years I transferred to the Conservation Department,” he says. “I

developed statewide plans for outdoor recreation, parkways and trails. New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation became a separate agency and I held various positions within that agency, culminating in an appointment as deputy commissioner in charge of planning, engineering, environmental issues and land acquisition. Practically every project involved interesting and challenging issues.

“The 1972 Outdoor Recreation Plan included the Canals Recreation Way system, a 500-mile trail system along the 1917 and older canal routes. The last phases of these projects, now called Greenways, are still being advanced at this date, culminating 50 years of work. Plans for establishing ‘harbors of refuge’ along the Great Lakes had been authorized several decades before I was tasked to get them done. I worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other parties including the Seneca Nation (a memorable negotiation). Five new harbors, and the improvement of many others, were completed before I retired.

“After several damaging storms I was assigned by the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission to develop policies and projects to protect the New York State barrier beaches and islands. Projects were designed and protective sand management projects were undertaken. This work was successful in temporarily protecting New York coastal resources for several decades.

“We also acquired major new parks such as Miniwaska State Park Preserve. One of the parks we built required years of planning, design, engineering and negotiation that I managed. That was Riverbank State Park, located on the roof of the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant on the Hudson River.”

Riverbank, completed and opened in 1993, is an extraordinary 28-acre facility on Henry Hudson Parkway that runs from West 137th to West 145th Street, with an extensive athletics complex that includes an Olympic-size pool, roller- and ice-skating rink, theater and restaurants.

After retiring in 1994, Ivan spent another 25 years doing consultant work. “I did coastal protection, transportation studies and designs, brownfield restoration, a study of swimming beaches along the Hudson and analysis of the

polychlorinated biphenyls on the Upper Hudson and other projects. I also did pro bono projects regarding coastal erosion and outreach for the UN Conference of Small Island Developing States.”

An avid cyclist and skier, Ivan “was for more than 35 years on the National Ski Patrol, and several trail and bicycling groups.”

Another activity occupies Ivan. “As a Holocaust survivor who fled Budapest, Hungary, with my mother, I give talks primarily to school groups about my recollections of those early years. I’ve occasionally run into another survivor, **Steven Hess**, who gives such talks in Upstate New York.”

Three concluding notes have necessitated deferral of a related submission by **Stephen Ollendorff** — as well as more about Ivan’s engagement as a Holocaust educator and the story of his recent trip to the radar site on the Distant Early Warning Line in Iceland, where he was officer in charge during his naval tour of duty — a story of particular interest as I worked as a civilian on the DEW Line in Sondrestrom, Greenland, at the same time, immediately before entering law school.

This column ends on three sad notes.

The Winter 2020–21 column concluded with a post by **Victor Chang**, an incisive, passionate reflection on the tragedy of the pandemic, its devastating impact on the economy and the steps needed to repair it, which he wanted to share with classmates. It was one of the

daily narratives he had been writing while “sheltering in place” in New York, awaiting return with his wife, Lily, to their California residence; narratives that he was writing for his son, daughter and grandchildren.

On December 3, **Art Delmhorst**, who distributes a monthly reminder to attendees at our First Thursday of the Month Luncheons — which have now taken the form of “virtual” Zoom gatherings — received and distributed to attendees the following: “I am Lily Chang, Victor Chang’s wife. I am sad to report Victor passed away on October 30 [2020] at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital from Covid-19. He loved to attend 60C luncheons whenever he was in New York. I am sure he will try to be there in spirit.”

Art’s reaction to this stunning news read, “Victor usually spent half the year in New York and half in California. When in New York, he would come to nearly all our luncheons at the Columbia/Princeton Club. I found he had a quiet wisdom that always kept me interested in what he was saying at the moment. I will miss him greatly and I think so will those of you who also knew him well.”

On behalf of the luncheon attendees, **Josh Pruzansky** made contact with Victor’s daughter to establish the funding of donations in Victor’s memory, noting, “A great loss. He was a very special guy. Gentle demeanor and a smart contributor to all conversations.” Josh reported that he had made a contribution in Victor’s memory to the Columbia College Fund and that others might consider doing likewise (college.givenow.columbia.edu).

This was my response to Art’s email: “When I opened my computer this afternoon, checked my emails and saw your note, I was shocked and heartbroken. I couldn’t respond immediately to acknowledge receipt, as for most of the afternoon I had recurrent thoughts reflecting on the aspects of Victor’s mind and character that made him such a special person. Thoughtful, incisive, intelligent, with a manifest abundance of decency. Unbelievable! In a year as horrific as this, it is so much more painful to absorb the loss of a dear friend. Victor’s passing is a terrible loss; he will indeed be missed.”

Victor was truly an exemplary person, and the inescapable thought is that as and when our luncheons

return to actual gatherings, his absence will be an immediate, moving and recurrent reminder of our loss.

On January 23, 2021, I received this email from Eileen Simon BC’58: “I am sad to report that **Eckehard Simon**, your classmate and my husband, passed away on May 2, 2020, from coronavirus. After Columbia he attended graduate school at Harvard, then was a professor at Harvard for 45 years, in the German department. You may remember that he entered Columbia as a recent immigrant from East Germany, with a far better command of Russian than English. Nevertheless he was awarded Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. I met him at Barnard College, where he helped tutor me through the year of German required for chemistry majors.”

The following has been written about Eckehard: “Despite his modest demeanor, he was a brilliant speaker and a distinguished scholar who published six books and numerous essays. His teaching of both undergraduate and graduate students focused on two special fields: the German medieval court and its literature, and the emergence of theater and performance in medieval German settings. He received awards from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Fulbright Foundation. He established himself as a towering figure in medieval studies.”

Don Patterson passed away on June 27, 2020. After graduation, Don served in the National Guard before moving to New Jersey to own and operate Desire Mills in Paterson, N.J. After a long career in the textile industry, he started a new career in furniture sales and then as a commercial real estate agent. Don is survived by his wife, Sherry; son; two daughters; and three grandchildren.

RIP Victor, Eckehard and Don. Know that your lives profoundly enriched this Class of ’60. [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries.”]

1961

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February 24, 2021, marked the 80th anniversary of WKCR’s first broadcast. In our graduation year we celebrated the 20th anniversary with

a production of *Spotlight Columbia*, which was rebroadcast on the NBC radio network’s *Extracurricular*. **Art Wisot**, the station’s program director, produced and narrated the program. For the 80th, Art digitized the 20th *Spotlight Columbia* and presented it to the station for its archives.

Art’s experience at WKCR led to a second career in the media, in addition to his ob/gyn and reproductive endocrinology practices. While in college and medical school he worked part time at WNEW and passed the position off to numerous succeeding WKCR members. Art was the medical reporter on Channel 9 in Los Angeles and the medical editor and on-air host of a number of programs on *LIFETIME Medical Television*, and he co-authored several books on in vitro fertilization.

Art and his wife, Phyllis, are retired in Rolling Hills Estates, Calif., where he volunteers on city and local hospital committees.

Stuart Newman LAW’64’s wife, Joyce, has retired from her medical practice. She spent the last two years helping to design, build and furnish their new second home on the North Fork of Long Island. Stuart is still in active law practice because he enjoys it, he says. Since the start of Covid-19, Stuart and **Herman Kane**, plus two mutual friends, have been holding a weekly video conference to exchange views on all those things important to men our age.

Don Savini and his family have been hunkered down on their farm in Amish country, central Pennsylvania. They are safe so far, and received their second vaccine shots in early March.

Leonard Silverman’s grandchildren are third-generation Columbians: daughter Sarah Silverman Aibel ’92’s children, grandson Alexander Aibel ’23 and granddaughter Madeline Aibel ’25.

Leonard is now fully retired from the University of Southern California, where he was a faculty member in electrical engineering for 52 years. For 17 of those years, he was also dean of the Viterbi School of Engineering.

Bob Salman LAW’64 is involved in the campaign to elect Gov. Phil Murphy (D-N.J.). In 2021, only New Jersey and Virginia will be holding elections for governor. Bob participated with a number of classmates in planning Zoom events



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.

for our 60th reunion this past spring. His oldest granddaughter, Sydney, who has a master's and is a registered dietician, works in a private practice in Connecticut. His granddaughter Taylor is in a management position for Target in New York City. His grandson Jack finished his second year at Wharton, and his youngest granddaughter, Mackenzie, is deciding among several excellent schools for college in the fall. On June 16, Bob and his wife, Reva, celebrated their 58th anniversary.

Barry McCallion writes that last year this time he was in Costa Rica. Not so this go-around. Barry wrote an article for the May/June issue of *FIRSTS: The Book Collector's Magazine*, "Regarding Beowulf," in which he described the making of an artist's book.

Gene Milone attended a workshop, "Habitable Worlds," in March. "The one habitable world we know about is Earth. Is there any question that indifference to global warming and cutbacks to pollution alleviation during the last few years have made Earth less habitable? The carbon dioxide content of our atmosphere and the mean surface temperature continue to rise, and until agencies designed to protect the environment are able to act unimpeded, pollutants and contaminants will continue to threaten global health.

"The Jovian moons Europa, Ganymede and Callisto, and at least one Saturnian moon (Enceladus), have sub-surface oceans but of undetermined extents. Many planets with similar mass to Earth are found in regions around their stars where water has the possibility of being found in a liquid state — the so-called 'habitable zone.' Some of these stars are like the Sun but many more are red dwarfs, and their habitable zones sometimes contain more than one Earth analog.

"No definite Edens so far, but there is a lot of promise that there could well be many habitable worlds."

Canada, where Gene lives, negotiated to get an enormous number of vaccine vials (many of which were earmarked for third-world countries), but in practice, it is behind several other countries in the actual number of vaccinations performed to date. In Alberta, the over-75 cohort was invited to apply in late February, but the number applying overwhelmed the server

and telephone service set up by the provincial government. After many hours of trying, Gene and his wife managed to get booked for both shots, starting in March.

Meanwhile, the frontline workers who are keeping them fed, and providing important everyday services, will be waiting for an indefinite period.

Ed Auzenberg SEAS'63, BUS'64 will be included in *Marquis Who's Who* 2021 personnel profile. Annually, *Marquis Magazine* identifies several thousand people in the United States, and uses that list for its own promotions and publicity. Ed was included based on his successful auto industry manufacturing career at TRW. He worked in various capacities for TRW for more than 30 years, the last being VP in its Steering, Suspension and Engine Group, which had 67 plants in 20 countries. Ed's responsibilities included planning, business development and capital investments.

Richard Neel's mother, Alice Neel (1900–84), was a well-known artist. Running from March 22 through August 1 at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Alice Neel: People Come First* (metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2021/alice-neel), will be the first museum retrospective in New York of Alice in 20 years. This ambitious survey positions her as one of the century's most radical painters, a champion of social justice whose longstanding commitment to humanist principles inspired her life as well as her art, as demonstrated in approximately 100 paintings, drawings and watercolors. It will next travel to the Guggenheim in Balboa, Spain, and finally to The D Young museum in San Francisco.

Hillel Hoffman SEAS'62, LAW'65 retired in 2002 from the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, where he was a DDA for 12 years. He stayed on as a pro bono volunteer until 2013. Hillel remains active in the Criminal Justice Sections of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. He is also a member of the Legislative Committee of the New York State District Attorneys Association. In December 2020, Hillel chaired a webinar for the ABA on Red Flag Laws, which are designed to remove weapons from people who are a danger to themselves or others.

Hillel and his wife, Helen, enjoy visiting their daughter, son-in-law

and three grandchildren in Arlington, Mass. They are counting the days until the pandemic ends so they can resume traveling and visiting friends.

There is also some sad news to report.

Dr. Nat Reich PS'65 passed away on March 6, 2021. Cause of death was uncertain but was related to pneumonia brought on by several strokes that were not Covid-19 related. Nat was a greatly admired, internationally recognized cardiologist who pioneered the use of ultrasound and MRI in cardiac assessment and had just retired as director of cardiac research at St. Francis Hospital on Long Island. He was national leader in cardiology, a researcher with 180 peer-reviewed publications, a clinician beloved by his patients, a teacher and mentor to many residents and students, and most of all was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Morris Dickstein, a literary critic, cultural historian and CUNY professor who was among the last of the first generation of Jewish public intellectuals reared on the Lower East Side, died on March 24, 2021, at his home in NYC. His daughter, Rachel Dickstein, said the cause was complications of Parkinson's disease.

Morris was a distinguished professor of English, theater and performance, and liberal studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, where he also founded the Center for the Humanities in 1993. He frequently wrote for *The Times Literary Supplement* in Britain and *The New York Times Book Review*, among other publications. He also wrote film criticism for *Partisan Review*. In addition to his daughter, Morris is survived by his wife, Lore Willner Dickstein; son, Jeremy '88; four grandchildren; and sister, Doris Feinberg [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more on Dickstein.]

1962

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Your responses to my October email were so numerous and interesting that all of them would not fit into the Winter 2020–21 report. Here are the eight I had to omit:

Bernie Patten PS'66 wrote that he and his wife, Ethel BC'63,

were having fun in isolation at her beachfront home in Galveston, Texas. Mornings find her knitting or studying French while he plays the piano. In October Bernie was working on Mussorgsky's masterpiece, "Pictures at an Exhibition." If you wish to see what he now looks like and hear him play, go to the YouTube channel Bernard Patten (youtube.com/user/SuperMickey8888). In the afternoon Bernie and Ethel hit the beach and enjoy the surf, which is much bigger and better than Jones Beach. Usually Bernie spends an hour working on his latest book (currently *Making Mental Might: How to look ten times smarter than you are*), based on the course in mental gymnastics that he taught at Rice for 17 years. His latest book-like object, *The Search of Tristan and Isolde*, finally found a publisher after years of searching and 127 rejections. It has sold 23 copies, most of which were purchased by Bernie's mother, who says it is "fantastic" even though she hasn't yet read it. Bernie has also published a medical memoir and an informal history of growing up in Queens without much adult supervision. Five of his publications have been made into audiobooks. They have sold more than 10 times better than his printed books, except for his logic book in Chinese, which is still a bestseller in China. "So, in general," Bernie writes, "we have returned to the primacy of speech as Dean Carl Hovde '50 predicted in 1960.

"Some of the polite terms that we scientists use to describe the policies of Donald Trump are disastrous, damaging, catastrophic. His handling of the pandemic, his repeated dismissal of science and his disdain for evidence make him the most anti-scientific President in recent history. Ethel has registered hundreds of new voters, and she and I have hit the streets campaigning for Democrats. I hope our efforts will not be in vain."

Larry Gaston (Indiana) says a few fellow Johnson Hall waiters are still around: **John Joyce** (Maryland), **Rich Wright** (Arizona), **Ron Meyer** (Colorado) and **Bill Davidson** (Connecticut). "We're all retired and swinging, albeit a bit slower," Larry writes.

Daniel Fife has become a grandfather, which to him means, "I have a responsibility to my grandchildren to see that our climate-change-denier-in-chief gets the boot in the coming

election. Though I'm still working, I'm starting to feel there are better ways to use my time — a little teaching or preventing the world from overheating or overpopulating."

John Garman and his wife, Nancy, canceled a May 2020 Columbia River cruise and rescheduled it for this June. Fortunately, they, their two children and five grandkids are healthy. John voted by mail and then stopped reading or listening to "all current election nonsense. Boy, is it quiet!"

"My wife and I just came back from our evening walk with our two

Alejandra, is a physician, board-certified in both internal medicine and pediatrics, and in the final year of a fellowship in public health at Johns Hopkins.

On December 14, 2020, the Susan and Sanford Greenberg Prize to End Blindness, named for **Sanford Greenberg** BUS'67, honored 13 visionary scientists for exemplary advances in the fight to end blindness. Three million dollars was awarded. The streamed ceremony featured **Art Garfunkel**, Margaret Atwood, Al Gore, Michael Bloomberg and Grammy-winning

of dying. Now being alone — my wife died recently from breast cancer — I spend my leisure rereading the literature I met in our Humanities classes. It has been a life-sustaining experience and has reduced my unhappiness. So has corresponding with my two sons and **Joel Goldman** and **Irving Weissman**."

Marty Erdheim's wife, Joan, is a psychoanalyst, and they split their time among Fairfield, Conn., New York City and Sun Valley, Idaho. Their daughter Cara Kilgallen is chair of the language and literature department and a tenured professor at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. She lives in Trumbull with her husband, Bill, and their son. Cara was a 2006 adult ladies gold national figure skating champion with The Skating Club of New York. Daughter Anna is in the real estate business and lives in Westport with her husband, Geoff, and two children. She was 2006 captain of the women's tennis team at Colby College. Marty is in regular email contact with **Al Wax** and **Al Small**, and often sees **Bart Nisonson** and his wife, Nancy.

1963

Paul Neshamkin
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We are getting closer to returning to normal, but Covid-19 is not over. Although most of the classmates who have reached out to me have received their vaccinations and are looking forward to traveling and visiting family, **David Alpern** discovered that he had contracted the virus just three days after getting his first dose of Pfizer. Bad timing! Thankfully, after receiving a monoclonal infusion, he, and his wife, Sylvia, are doing well.

Twenty to 25 classmates have been meeting every week on Zoom in a virtual class lunch. It continues to be a rewarding experience, or at least a happy diversion. It is a pleasure to see familiar faces gathering from all over the world (**Larry Neuman** signs in from Tel Aviv). Please email me, and I will invite you to join us.

Harvey Schneier reported at the last Zoom lunch that it was the one-year anniversary of his hospital admission with Covid. After three

and a half months he was released, having survived a severe case. Happily, he is recovered with no long-term effects.

David Stern asked to join our Zoom lunches. "I moved to Los Angeles in 1969. Don't get back to New York as often as I should and so have missed the in-person class meetings. I practiced as a gastroenterologist for 30 years. Spent a year in retirement. Returned to medicine. Retrained. Practiced as a geriatrician caring for frail elderly for another 20 years. Now I spend my mornings hiking the local hills. I can step out of my front door to do so. No snow here. Later, online bridge almost daily helps to keep my brain active. But, I can alter my usual routine and would love to participate."

Continuing the note from **Paul Lehrer** in the last issue: "In my early graduate school years, maybe because of my own experience with anxiety and my interest in learning to use my body better in playing the violin, I developed an interest in relaxation and stress management methods.

"I wrote my dissertation in the field, and have been studying and practicing it ever since. Early in [2021] the fourth edition of my book, *Principles and Practice of Stress Management*, will be released. The volume has become a standard text for researchers and psychotherapists and for people working on this topic. I have had the privilege of teaching psychotherapy to both psychiatric residents and clinical psychology graduate students at Rutgers for most of my career.

"About 25 years ago, travels to see our son took us to St. Petersburg, Russia, where he was studying as part of his Columbia program.

"There, I found people experimenting with an interesting way of teaching people to increase their heart rate variability by breathing at a particularly slow rate, a resonance frequency for the cardiovascular system. This piqued my interest, because higher heart rate variability correlates with many indices of health, emotional stability, fitness and athletic prowess. I took this method home, and, together with a Russian colleague whom I attracted to Rutgers, did the seminal research on how this method works and how it can help people improve human performance and ameliorate a host of physical and emotional problems. An industry of

Alan Barnes '62, at 79, is still working three days a week as a psychiatrist. He tried retirement briefly but says he didn't care for it: "I got lazy."

little, white, fluffy dogs," writes **Russ Abbott**. "One thing that strikes me is that I'm an old codger. Never thought of myself like that — and still don't. I've been teaching computer science at Cal State University, Los Angeles for more than 45 years. I like not having to commute! The way we teach now is perhaps better than the traditional face-to-face style. The struggle is to maintain contact with students. Zoom, of course, is the answer to everything!"

From Oakland, Calif., **Bob Meyers** writes: "From these wooded hills above what's now called an 'urban wildlands interface,' 'California Dreamin' now has nightmare components. Due to recurring dry winds, born of climate change, the electric company is preemptively shutting off power to parts of Oakland, including our neighborhood. Our car is packed with supplies in case we must evacuate tonight. Otherwise, we're looking forward to the election being over, perhaps a vaccine in 2021 and return of our delayed annual rainy season. It's a stressful time."

In October, **Alan Barnes** wrote that he was feeling hopeful, but anxious, as the momentous election of 2020 approached; it turned out as he wished, with Biden as our President. He continues: "At 79, I work three days a week as a psychiatrist. I tried retirement briefly and didn't care for it; got lazy." Alan's daughter,

jazz artist Diane Schuur, with a tribute to Sandy's friend and neighbor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59.

Two months after the January 6 attack on the nation's Capitol building, **Chris Haakon** wrote, "Washington, D.C., and the Capitol are now fortresses armed with the National Guard. Very sad to see. Huge overreaction. We are still hunkered down and staying safe, which is the only positive news."

Also in early March, **Daniel Fife** wrote again, saying, "It's hard to know what to say about Covid-19 except that my family and I are cheered by the fact that we now have a federal government that takes it seriously, and three companies that are busily manufacturing vaccines. We're lucky. Between the advanced ages that my wife and I have and the jobs that the younger adults have, all the adults in my family are either vaccinated or soon to be vaccinated. Farther back in the line for vaccination are the lower-paid public-facing folks, who make it possible for the rest of us to spend time in our homes."

Roman Kernitsky says that his ophthalmological practice had to shut down for two months due to Covid, but as of early March it was slowly regaining steam. He was able to get his two Pfizer shots in February, "thanks to Trump's Warp Speed program, and therefore was able to see patients with no real risk

device and software creators has since developed for this application, and the method of heart rate variability biofeedback is now used by many psychotherapists, physicians, physical therapists and athletic coaches, with hundreds of research papers attesting to its benefits.

"I am now editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback*, opening a small private psychotherapy practice near my home, continuing to write papers in my field and hoping to spend a bit more time reading, practicing the violin and spending more time with my family."

Our previous class correspondent, **Sidney Kadish**, writes that he has been a volunteer vaccinator for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in an effort to defeat the pandemic. He adds, "A comment on **Bernie Kabak's** note in the Winter 2020–21 column: It is clear that Bernie had a robust and meaningful relationship with his advisor. I did not, and effectively, I served as my own advisor. My best move was to register for the Shakespeare survey course taught by Professor Andrew Chiappe CC 1933, GSAS'39 in my junior year. After mastering Elizabethan English in two months, I was able to enter the wondrous world of the Elizabethan era. I fell hopelessly in love. After the survey course, where we read all the plays, I took Professor Chiappe's senior seminar in Elizabethan drama. In the fall, we read Shakespeare's contemporaries, and in the spring, we studied *King Lear* line by line with commentaries, much like sacred scripture. For me, it was the cherry atop the sundae of my Columbia education."

Peter Belfiore sent me this reminiscence last July about the late **Paul Reale** GSAS'67, and unfortunately, I lost it in my mail folder. "Paul Reale (1943–2020), a prolific composer of orchestral, chamber, dramatic and choral music, passed away on July 22 in Canoga Park, Calif. Paul and I met during our senior year at Columbia. By the next year we were rooming together and working on an opera based on our version of Sophocles's *Oedipus Rex*. We used a draft of a short play of mine, which we developed as a libretto as our ideas and Paul's music developed through the piece. Paul, who had majored in English and chemistry at the College, was studying composition privately

with Chou Wen-Chung GSAS'54, who taught for years at Columbia. I graduated with a concentration in philosophy, and was now a graduate student in the philosophy department. Even then Paul's music was fascinating and really good. And it was pleasant to awaken in the morning to Paul's composing a piece at the piano or practicing a Beethoven sonata.

"After Paul earned a Ph.D. in composition from Penn, studying with George Rochberg and George Crumb, he taught composition for many years at UCLA. The core of his life was his composing, and his astonishing works, many of which are readily available on the Naxos Records label, and other labels, show him to be one of America's great composers. Although much influenced by another great American composer, Charles Ives (1874–1954), Paul quickly enough found his own voice, and his work has opened up realms of conversation (I often think of great music as a kind of sublime conversation), thought and being that would not have been accessible to us but for his work.

"Although I have always loved music and had listened to plenty by the time I got to Columbia, Paul introduced me to yet more. In our later time in California, we even played violin and piano sonatas now and again (Beethoven and Mozart), which I dare say required much tact and perseverance on Paul's part, given the decidedly less than virtuosic technique of his partner. Even so, we had a grand time.

"On April 26, 1965, Paul and I were in the audience at the now old Carnegie Hall for the world premiere of a complete performance of Ives's miraculous, monumental *Fourth Symphony* (Stokowski and the American Symphony Orchestra). Ives — to this day in 2020 still not properly appreciated and understood, it seems to me — had already been dead for 11 years, with his *Fourth Symphony* having been completed by perhaps 1923. I like to imagine, at times, in moments of kind fantasy, that somewhere, in some manner, those two young guys from Columbia are again at Carnegie Hall in 1965 hearing that performance.

"I'd like to quote from my last email to Paul shortly before the end. It turned out to be a last wave goodbye, and says, or tries to, in my clumsy fashion, how I feel about him and his

life's work: 'My love and thoughts and admiration are always with you. You have given so much to so many people, both for today and for future generations. Whenever people seek joy and solace and the delight of conversation sometimes lightsome and often profound, your music will be there for them. What more can a human being achieve and give.'

"We will miss Paul Reale profoundly, but listen: His music is there for us. Listen."

Peter Landecker writes, "Here are a few highlights from my life: I earned a Ph. D. in experimental physics from Cornell. My first post-doc was at Cornell in cosmic ray physics. My second post-doc was at UC Irvine, where I was operating and analyzing data from a neutrino experiment at the bottom of the deepest mine in the world, in South Africa. I then was project scientist and in charge of a solar and stellar X-ray satellite experiment at Columbia, which flew on the Orbiting Solar Observatory. I was then principal investigator of another solar X-ray satellite experiment while I was at The Aerospace Corp. I logged more than 2,200 scuba dives and more than 1,900 underwater hours in 36 countries. I traveled to 113 countries and spent a total of more than five years living abroad. I play violin in an orchestra near my home in Manhattan Beach, Calif. I am a member of the International Astronomical Union and the American Physical Society. More about me is available online: tinyurl.com/pblandecker."

Once this is over and you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club). I'm a pessimist but hoping we might be able to meet on June 10, and then on July 8. In any case, we will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

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

1964

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I started the last three Class Notes expressing the hope that by the time the column appears in *CCT* society's

lot in the time of a pandemic will have improved. Alas, my hopes were dashed. More than 550,000 Americans have died from the virus and many millions more are infected.

But as I write at the end of March there are reasons for optimism: More and more people are being vaccinated. But it must be cautious optimism. Distribution of the vaccines has been uneven, there is much vaccine hesitancy, many have let down their guard and public health officials warn of virus mutations. I again express the hope that when this column appears society's lot will have improved.

I received my two shots of the Pfizer vaccine at the Fort Washington Avenue Armory in Manhattan, a major venue for track and field events. The Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital had commandeered it for vaccinations. It took a while for me to get an appointment but the program was impressive: The running track around the armory was intact but the infield was a warren of tables where the vaccine was administered; it included a large area where people could sit for the obligatory 15 minutes to be sure there was no adverse reaction. On the day of my first shot 1,800 people were vaccinated — I was told it was "a slow day" — and on the day of my second shot 2,500 people were vaccinated. I remain careful: I wear a mask in public places and continue to practice social distancing.

Rich Muller writes from California that he was enjoying the Class Notes in the Winter 2020–21 issue when he "felt guilty" that he had not written. Rich is retired from UC Berkeley, where he taught his famous course, "Physics for Future Presidents."

Rich writes: "I retired in 2010, but have been much busier since. My latest is a new company, Deep Isolation. My CEO (and boss) is my daughter Elizabeth ('Liz'). We have developed a method for the disposal of high-level nuclear waste, and we are engaging with countries around the world to get them to adopt our method.

"My most recent book is *Now: The Physics of Time*. Aside from describing what we know about time (including relativity theory and quantum physics), I propose an explanation for why the 'now' keeps moving. My two prior books are *Physics for Future Presidents* and

Energy for Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines, both an outgrowth of the course I developed at Berkeley.

"I am celebrating my 54th wedding anniversary to Rosemary. I have two grandchildren, ages 6 and 10, and Rosemary and I are tutoring them during this period when schools are closed. She tutors math; I tutor science and writing. We had planned a family backpack trip to Saddlebag Lake, just east of Yosemite, but had to cancel it because of fires and smoke."

I am saddened to report the deaths of two classmates. **Bill Davis** has died of Covid-19. I did not know Bill at the College but I did meet him at reunions, and I remember a kind, friendly and witty man. Bill came to Columbia from Pitcher, a small town in Upstate New York. He was a psychology major and a member of Columbia University College Republicans.

After graduation, Bill's politics moved to the left. He began working at the New York City Department of Social Welfare (now Social Services), was drafted into the Army and was stationed at a military hospital in Germany working with soldiers with mental health issues. Upon his discharge he returned to the Department of Welfare and upon his retirement in 1995 he was the supervisor of the tuberculosis unit at the 30th Street/Bellevue Men's Shelter.

In 1971 Bill joined the Communist Party USA. In 2007 he told an interviewer, "I began seeking a political organization which would deal with the social and economic problems I saw in the U.S. I joined the Communist Party USA after meeting comrades active in my union." He was later elected to the CPUSA National Board and National Committee and was the party's New York District Organizer.

Bill's bequest directs that an upstate 18-acre woodlot be returned to the Onondaga Nation, and he donated his personal papers to the Tamiment Library at NYU, which houses the CPUSA archives. Bill has a daughter, Angela '92, and his first wife, Joan Feder-Davis, is SEAS'65. Donations in his memory can be made to the People's World, Veterans for Peace NYC Chapter 34, and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Jerry Zupnick reports the death of his dear friend **Steve Yavers**. The two grew up in Great Neck, N.Y., and roomed together for four years at the College. At this writing I am waiting for more information about Steve, and will include it in the next issue.

Finally, *CCT* has a special online obituaries section for College graduates who have died of Covid: college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2020/article/lions-weve-lost.

Requiescat in pace.

1965

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Marty Blank sent a great note: "After all these years I thought it might be appropriate to give my classmates a little update. So here you go:

"Writing about what has happened over these many years since I left Columbia takes me on a long journey. My post-Columbia story started in the Bootheel of Missouri, where I was the AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. I worked with DELMO Housing Corp., which was formed in 1939 in the wake of roadside demonstration by an integrated group of sharecroppers who were thrown off the land when mechanization began. Later I helped to organize an education and training program for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and was stunned to learn how many people still were signing their names with an X.

"I was privileged to be a colleague and friend of Gussie Turner, the mother of the second Black Miss America, Debbye Turner. Gussie returned to her mother's home in Kennett, Mo., while her husband served as a major in Vietnam.

"Family expectations led me back to Washington, D.C., where I started law school at Georgetown at night. I finished after four years, marrying my wife of now 51 years, Helen Kaminiski, a Detroit native, along the way.

"While in law school I worked with the Peoples Involvement Corp. in the Shaw neighborhood of Northwest Washington, D.C., during the time of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. I never practiced law.

"A long relationship then began with Al Nellum, the first African

American to open a consulting firm in the country at the time of the war on poverty. I worked with Al for much of the next 20 years on projects related to minority business development, substance abuse and housing and community development. I was honored to be present at the first Congressional Black Caucus fundraising event, in 1971, which Al's firm, Al Nellum and Associates, instigated and organized. Ossie Davis said, 'It's the plan, not the man.'

"In the late 1980s I found myself at the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL), a small entrepreneurial nonprofit, where I began to work on the nexus between schools and community. The relationship between school and community has been torn apart by the narrow focus on academics in the last 30 years; it's a gulf that must be bridged if we're going to deal with the issues of equity and race that our society faces. I did my part in that regard as the founding director of the Coalition for Community Schools, an alliance of organizations that advocates for schools as vital centers of our communities, where students, their families and residents get the resources and opportunities that every kid in America deserves. I became the president of IEL in 2010, retiring as president in 2017.

"I'm now working with colleagues on a book about community schools that I hope will help make the case that community schools are essential all across the country.

"Along the way I helped my synagogue, Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, D.C., organize the first synagogue-sponsored home for homeless women, the Anne Frank House. That led me to more work on the affordable housing problem and the creation of YACHAD, the Jewish community and housing development organization. I'm proud that both of these organizations continue to address our nation's housing crisis.

"I now am on the board of Literacy Council of Montgomery County, where I am thrilled to be working with Gabriel Martinez Cabrera GS'99, who is the executive director. I stay connected to Columbia through my participation in a study group that has been rereading the Lit Hum curriculum for several years and my hope for the revitalization of the Columbia University Marching Band, the 'cleverest band in the world.'

"Helen devoted her career to improving childcare and early education, and to low-income children and families. She spent 24 years at the Children's Defense Fund and then 16 more at the National Women's Law Center. Even in retirement she is a tireless advocate.

"My older daughter, Liza, a social worker, is a therapist in Brooklyn after years of working for organizations supporting children and families. Her sister, Moly, was a filmmaker in South Africa for many years; we were lucky to visit this extraordinary place several times. Moly now works with Girl Rising, helping enhance the life chances of girls and young women.

"I'd be delighted to hear from folks at blank.martin1@gmail.com."

When I last wrote about **Larry Guido**, I reported that he and his partner, Judith Kaplan, were spending a lot of time at Judy's apartment in Paris. Their European real estate empire is expanding. In February, Larry and Judy "purchased an apartment in the Palazzo Tornabuoni in Florence, Italy. The Palazzo is a private residential building created through the restoration of the magnificent 15th-century palace in the heart of Florence. Some of the splendid artworks date from the 16th century when the Palazzo became the property of Alessandro Ottaviano de' Medici, who then became Pope Leo XI. At the end of the 16th century, the Palazzo was acquired by the Corsi family. During the next century and a half, they continued to improve and adorn the palace. When it came on the market, we jumped at the opportunity. We have a close friend who lives in Florence and he and his wife checked it out. He had been to the Palazzo many times but he focused on our apartment. It was his opinion that we should go right ahead and set up the arrangements. Now the only problem is, whenever we are going to get there, with Covid-19? The Schengen Area/European Union is in a state of disrepair because of poor planning involving the vaccines. We were hoping to get there this spring."

Past items from **Niles Eldredge** and **David Sard** referred to their freshman-year New Hall suite-mate, the irresistible "TZ," **Tom de Zengotita** GS'73, GSAS'92. I'm happy to say that I tracked him

down. Tom is an author and contributing editor at *Harper's Magazine*. He holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from Columbia and teaches at the Dalton School and NYU. He sent me these reminiscences:

"That one year I spent at Columbia College with you guys was interesting for a lot of reasons, but at that point in my life academics was not one of them. All that changed when I went back to Columbia at the School of General Studies after 10 years 'on the road' (my model more Jack Kerouac '44 than '60s counterculture). I got very

how vigorously he warned me in later years to stay away from Hegel (called him 'dangerous!') but, once again, he continued to spend serious time with me even though I was obviously succumbing to the glamor of the dialectic (I hasten to add, that didn't last long, at least not at the 'absolute mind' level).

"Finally, linguistics — inspired originally by Noam Chomsky's devastating takedown of behaviorism. Thanks to Mead's intervention (and even though she loathed the man), I was able to converse with him on several occasions and had a real cor-

courses and ultimately become doctors. My low test scores made your grades look great. Truth be told, I did not want to be a doctor at all, but my mother, who told me I could be anything I wanted, decided that I wanted to be a doctor. Wrong. I wanted to be writer, journalist type, but I was advised that I could never 'make a living' doing that. And what Jewish mother brags that her son is a writer? None. So, pre-med it was. That lasted one year, then I chose economics. I told my mother about my change in major and the silence that followed — it was a long-distance call — made me think that she had collapsed and died on the spot. (She had not.)

"In the ensuing years, among other jobs, I worked in advertising in NYC, opened my own agency in Massachusetts, welded metal sculpture for my very talented ex-wife, taught high school and community college, manufactured mattresses and upholstered furniture, and operated a sign business. Obviously, I did not give my mother anything to brag about. However, 55 years later, I finished my first novel (*The Kenozo Council*, self-published on Amazon) and have started my second novel and a series of essays (yes, I know, no one reads essays). I am doing it for fun, and there is no pressure. Except for the fact that I must write quickly, so I can remember why I had my character enter the room.

"I struggled through Columbia and wanted to quit many times. I must give my fantastic roommate **Howard Hirsch BUS'68** all the credit for encouraging me to hang in there. He helped me get over the culture shock of living in Manhattan. I lived in a relatively small town in Massachusetts, where I had a successful high school career (hence my admission to Columbia). I had never traveled much, and this was so different. In addition, I was meeting people who were so much smarter than I that I was totally intimidated. I was afraid to even speak in class, and to my chagrin, learned that one of my Humanities teachers lowered my grade because he thought that I didn't contribute enough to the class discussion. I don't remember his name, but I very vividly remember storming out of his classroom after the little discussion we had about my arbitrarily lowered grade and slamming the door really hard. As

I watched in horror as it closed, I could only think, 'Oh shit, now the glass will break, and this will be the end of me!' (It didn't.)

"It is OK if you don't remember me; I was not a memorable student (as opposed to **Ben Stein**, who, although we had some of the same economics classes, surely does not remember me either). I moved out of New Hall after freshman year and lived in my fraternity house (SAM, for those still reading this) and then in a series of apartments. I went to class and then went back to my apartment. Big mistake. Sometimes I studied in the stacks, and often fell asleep in the silence. Looking back, I am saddened that my shyness prevented me from meeting more classmates (yes, even the doctors!) and making more friends.

"I struggled very hard in most of my classes, as most of you, except for a few football players, who shall remain nameless, were much faster and better learners than I was. But I made it, and to this day, in spite of it all, I look back at my four years as a fantastic learning experience. My teachers were, with one notable example (see earlier), incredibly knowledgeable. I could have sat all day in Music Humanities while my professor played the piano to illustrate his lectures. There are too many examples to write about, and this is far too long already. But as tough as it was, I would do it again. Columbia enriched my life to a degree that I am struggling to find the words to express. 'A hell of a lot' will have to do."

Mark L. Levine shares: "The audiobook edition of *The Trial of the Chicago 7: The Official Transcript*, the 50th anniversary edition of *The Tales of Hoffman*, which a group of friends and I edited — from 22,302 pages to 286 pages — in February 1970 and which Bantam Books had in bookstores 10 days after the trial ended, has been named a finalist in the Multi-Voiced Performance category by the Audio Publishers Association. The audiobook is voiced by 21 actors, including Jeff Daniels, Chris Jackson and J.K. Simmons; Aaron Sorkin reads the book's introduction and I do the preface. (Though Sorkin's film is great and wonderfully captures the spirit of the trial, he took lots of creative license in his screenplay. If you liked the movie, you should read the book

Chet Komarin '66 finished his first novel and has started on his second, along with a series of essays. He's doing it for fun — "there is no pressure."

focused on anthropology, like Niles, so Schermerhorn was the building for me. Also like Niles, I was close to Margaret Mead BC 1923; she always supported me when, as often happened, I bridled at various departmental requirements. Again like Niles, I had a good relationship with Marvin Harris '49, GSAS'53 even though, while in conversation with him, I was developing a view of what cultural and social anthropology ought to be doing that was opposed to his 'materialist' adaptational view of it all. But (huge but!), while he tried to convert me to his views he remained respectful of my commitment to anthropology as a humanist enterprise and continued to engage with me long after it became evident that I would never be 'his' student. As an educator myself in later years I came to appreciate even more than I did then what a fine example of academic integrity he provided.

"The other Columbia professor I recall most vividly, for similar reasons, was the 'teacher of philosophy,' Ernest Nagel GSAS 1931. That's how he listed himself, as I recall, in *Who's Who* while many lesser lights were calling themselves 'philosophers.' A glimpse right there of his integrity. As I recall (vaguely) from one of our conversations he thought you needed to be a Hume or a Kant before you got to call yourself a 'philosopher.' I also remember

respondence with him for a while. A young linguist at Columbia named Lars (I forget his last name) and a fellow graduate student, Scott Atran '72, GSAS'84, coached me through the most abstract procedures essential to Transformational Grammar, for which I had little aptitude. But if you were seriously intent on understanding 'human nature' in the 1970s you had to understand Chomsky — and they were very patient with me."

Space limitations force me to omit TZ's recollections of the campus upheavals of 1968; I hope to include them in a future column.

1966

Columbia College Today
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Chet Komarin reached out: "After 55 years, it is time for me to break my silence. But first, a special note to all of you who became doctors. You owe me one, and more likely, many more than one. You probably don't remember me, but I was the one in Professor Lawrence Krisher's chemistry class who made it possible for you guys to get into medical school. Yes, me. I am the one who made it possible for you to get only a few answers right and still do well on his curved scale. You could go on and take the rest of the pre-med

(or listen to the audiobook) to see or hear what actually happened and was actually said.) It contains, in the participants' own words, all of the outrageous — and sometimes hysterical — dialogue, repartee and courtroom confrontations from the court transcript. The book's website is chicago7trial.com."

Phil Warner checks in: "I entered with the Class of 1967. I spent nearly all my time working in Ron Breslow's lab and associating with grad students and postdocs. I had a single room and went home every weekend, mostly to see my girlfriend, whom I married in my senior year (lasted 26 years). After grad school and post doc, I was a chemistry professor for 41 years. I've been married (and divorced) three times, and raised nine children, four of my own. I have three grandchildren. Right now I live in Rochester, N.Y. (due to my third wife), with barely a friend, but two boys still in high school. Unfortunately, nearly all the people I knew at Columbia are either deceased or long out of touch."

Jeff May shares: "My wife, Connie, and I are still working at May Indoor Air Investigations. She retired from 30 years of administrative work and teaching writing at the Cambridge School of Weston and joined me as office manager of our business and a co-author of five books. The second edition of our first book, *My House Is Killing Me!: A Complete Guide to a Healthier Indoor Environment*, was recently published. We have two children, Ben SEAS'00 (who works at Columbia and lives in the Heights

with his wife, Ola) and Jessica (who works at Social Security in Worcester). Jessie lives nearby so we get to see her, her husband, Cristian, and our two wonderful grandchildren regularly. We both have had our Covid-19 shots and hope to resume weekly rock and roll dancing at the nearby Princeton Station (if any of the bands still exist)."

Send your news and updates to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share them in a future issue. Enjoy the summer!

1967

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As promised, here are the notes from the three classmates whose news did not make it into the Winter 2020–21 issue.

Jeremy Siegel wrote: "This is the first time I've written to CCT! My life has been most fulfilling, for which I'm very grateful. After Columbia, I spent four years getting a Ph.D. in economics at MIT, did one year post-doc at Harvard and then four years (for my first teaching position) at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. I befriended Milton Friedman during his last four years at Chicago, and we remained friends until he passed away in 2006. I left for Penn's Wharton School in 1976, where I remain. I knew since high school that I wanted to be a teacher, and it was a blessing to be able to fulfill my dream. I have taught more than 10,000 students in my 44 years at Chicago and Wharton, having had my last formal class in December, just before Covid-19 struck.

"Although I was a monetary economist, my lifelong interest in the stock market drew me to finance, and in 1994 I published *Stocks for the Long Run*, which unexpectedly became a bestseller. Those of you in financial markets have most certainly seen me on CNBC, Bloomberg and other TV networks, as I am one of the few academics foolish enough to stick my neck out and make forecasts!

"I met my wife in Philly and have two married sons, Andrew and Jeffrey, and one granddaughter,

Blake. Fortunately, the seven of us have formed a 'pod' and have spent a lot of time together during the pandemic. One son and his wife live in Boston and have flown to Philly (wearing N95 masks) to join us several times. Having had several health challenges in the last decade, I reasoned life was too short to go into a cocoon and miss out on the wonderful experiences we have as a family. My motto: 'Be cautious, Be safe, but Live Life!'"

Bennett Flax: "After our graduation, I put in a year of graduate study in mathematics, and then, hoping thereby to avoid being drafted for military service, began working for the Federal Aviation Administration. I've been with the FAA for 52 and a half years, the first 35-plus as a civil servant, and the past 17 as an employee of a company that provides engineering and technical services, largely to government agencies. Most of that half-century has been spent in southern New Jersey, where the FAA does much of its technical development work.

"After six years of work on the partial automation of air traffic control, I was given a year of studies in transportation engineering at UC Berkeley. That was followed by eight years of project management work at FAA headquarters in Washington, D.C., and five years of engineering public relations at the FAA's office in Brussels. I then returned to southern New Jersey, and have spent the last 32 years deriving mathematical models for estimating the risk of mid-air collision, usually for airplanes flying in remote or oceanic airspace, where surveillance and communication services generally lag far behind those that are available in the continental airspace over developed countries.

"An air traffic controller's main job is to keep airplanes separated from each other. He or she has a handbook that lays out the acceptable methods of separation, and the minimum distances (or minimum times, in some cases) that can be applied in a variety of situations. The models that I, and several others, have developed through the years allow us to recommend minimum distances (or minimum times) to the air traffic control specialists who periodically revise the handbook published by the International Civil Aviation Organization, one of the

specialized agencies of the United Nations. I've written lots of working papers for the ICAO panel that maintains the controllers' handbook; a good deal of my work is reflected in that handbook.

"In June 1968 I married Jeannette Laur BC'67; we're still happy to be married to each other. Jeannette taught French to high school students, and English as a second language to adults at our local community college, but I think she most enjoyed her work as a bilingual secretary at the French scientific mission (a branch of the French Embassy) during the first five years of our life in the Washington, D.C., area. For a long time we couldn't decide whether we should try to have children, but eventually we stopped procrastinating. Our daughter, Lena, an alumna of McGill University in Montreal, and our son, Mitchell '09, are both married to really fine spouses; so far they have produced three beautiful grandchildren. The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic has kept Jeannette and me from spending much time with our family, but we hope for better days in the near future.

"The pandemic has also caused me to work from home, and since I thereby save an hour per day in commuting time, I've been able to jog (and occasionally run) on a fairly consistent basis. I no longer have the speed that I had when I was running cross country and track at the College, but I keep hoping that I'll figure out a way to get it back. Until the pandemic closed the local gymnastics school where I sometimes taught classes for young boys, I would get in some elementary exercise, once or twice per week, in one or two of the six standard men's events.

"The rest of my free time goes to keeping up with the news, reading (mostly history and science written for non-specialists) and listening to classical music. Now and then I do some cooking. I've been moderately active in my synagogue and in other Jewish community organizations in Atlantic County, N.J.

"Jeannette and I stay in touch with **Albert Cheh** and his wife, May, who live in Bethesda, Md. Albert recently retired from teaching environmental science, I believe, at American University in Washington, D.C. In the last dozen years or

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so I had a couple of chances to get together with **George Leonard**, who shared a room with me in John Jay Hall during the first semester of our freshman year. When we last met, George was living in and still teaching in the San Francisco area.

Anthony Moscato: “I earned a J.D. from The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., in 1970. I have lived in Northern Virginia since graduating from law school and have been married to Deborah for 47 years. My two children and four grandchildren live nearby and, happily, we see them often. The bulk of my professional career (33 years) was spent at the United States Department of Justice, where I was privileged to serve as the department’s deputy assistant attorney general for administration; the department’s first inspector general (acting); the director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys; the director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review; and, finally, as a member of the Board of Immigration Appeals. Since retiring from Justice, I have been a volunteer attorney for Capital Hospice/Caring, working with more than 250 terminally ill patients and their families to provide needed legal documents and assistance with the probate process.”

Be well, all of you, and do write via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1968

Arthur Spector
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Greetings from Miami Beach! Warm weather is here and Columbia blue skies, too. I hope you are well. I also still hope that we can have an Art Basel event this year.

I have heard from several classmates. By Zoom, **Mas Taketomo**, **Rich Rosenblum** and others performing songs, brightening my world and others’ too. Also: **Arthur Kaufman**, **Robert Brandt**, **Paul de Bary**, **Seth Weinstein**, **Nigel Paneth** and **Buzz Zucker**. All seem to be doing fine.

I had a long chat with **Randy Vaughan** BUS’70 and learned much about his time in Beirut and Istanbul; his drive in a Porsche and

totaling it and surviving his youth, which I believe included a year abroad plus at one point running out of money in Istanbul. All thrilling, but sounds dangerous! He had some great memories of **Tony Kao** and **George Ting**. I think Tony is now in Massachusetts, and I need to track down George, who I have a feeling is in Tokyo.

I spoke to **Jim Shorter**, who sounded great; he was locked down in New York. **David Shapiro** and I spoke at length and chatted about the art world. He is always vibrant and expansive. We talked about world-renowned pianist Glenn Gould, Donald Judd GS’53 — whom I believe he knew — Bach and Emanuel Ax ’70. David’s daughter-in-law works at Christie’s, where I would like a job.

I recently met Peter Hiebert ’71; he has a place here in Miami Beach and we had a great dinner. He is working on his 50th reunion and I was happy to share some thoughts. His idea, too, is that we have reunions more frequently, like, annually.

Heard from **Al McCoy**. I thought he might follow the Michigan-Wisconsin basketball game, with Michigan led by Mike Smith ’20, a grad student point guard for the Wolverines.

Al adds, “Before Covid-19 I used to take in a number of basketball games here at UW-Madison, but have not made the transition to TV. I do follow the UW team closely in the extensive local press coverage, and found the first game between the two painful. There may be a Lion on the Michigan team, but after 32 years teaching at Wisconsin I know where my loyalties lie.

“Meanwhile, I am still teaching and writing here, a short essay came out recently and I have a book coming out next fall. When the ice started forming on the lake at the end of November, I stopped rowing for the season but the sudden snowfall launched me into cross-country skiing, which is a similar form of exercise. And both put you out in nature. Nothing like skiing across open fields in a carpet of silvery moonlight, which I will do tonight. It’s magical.”

Rowers like **Al**, **Tom Sanford**, **Arthur Kaufman** and **Ira McCown** sound like they are all still able to row. I try to swim every day, to jog three or four times a week and to get to the gym.

Tom, Arthur and I had a Zoom session and have been back and forth. Arthur teaches at the Law School and seems to enjoy it. I hope he and his wife, Susan, visit Miami in a few months; if I recall correctly, Tom would like to come here to row. I am hoping to go to Key West and to see **Hollis Petersen** now that Florida is open.

Bob Chapla wrote in late last year: “Not much happening in our section of Vermont. Gardens have been put to bed and the barn/gallery is in winter shutdown for the most part. Our first substantial snow is falling as I write. Though our farm is in the outback of Newbury, Vt., we are in close proximity to a number of other artists, actors and writers, with whom we are in regular contact both remotely and socially distanced. Covid has not run rampant here, but an uptick is occurring.

“I am part of several art shows in local galleries. As for my newest work, not shown as yet at this writing, it harkens back to Nietzsche’s *Birth of a Tragedy*, combining Dionysiac (underlying abstract) and Apollonian (overlying grid) elements. Whether their combination succeeds as an integrated art piece is as yet undetermined. At this point I am just doing them.”

I hope to visit Bob this summer if I am in Saratoga and to see his work. I have a modest print collection, thanks to advice from **David Shapiro**. I wish I could draw or paint ... in another life.

Phil Mandelker LAW’71, now deceased, was becoming a devoted artist, with great prints, in Israel. I took Arthur Danto GSAS’53’s aesthetics class. It was my favorite class. As you might know, Danto was a Nietzsche expert. I wish we had video of his classes. At the next reunion we should have a discussion of art and life.

Too late for my last column but never too late, **Chris Friedrichs** wrote: “My year was probably very much like yours: dominated by the global pandemic. I traveled to India for two weeks in February 2020 to visit friends in Delhi and Mumbai and fortunately returned before concerns about the pandemic really took off. From then on, every trip I had planned was canceled, so I have been home teaching classes for seniors by Zoom and staying close to friends by email phone and Zoom.

“I am glad I retired from my long career at the University of British Columbia and am thus spared the hassles of distance teaching. My three kids and three grandkids live in New York and their lives are predictably stressful but are healthy and well and so am I.”

I hope all of the Class of ’68 are well and have been vaccinated. I got my two doses in February. It has been quite a year to reflect on the good things that we have had, and I hope more cheer is coming. Send me a note when you are able.

1969

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Hart Perry SOA’71 writes that after teaching “a special project in holography at Bard College, during the pandemic I isolated on our Upstate New York estate and built a laboratory to make large-scale holographic movies. Every boy needs a hobby.”

Richard Rosenstein, semi-retired and Covid-19-vaccinated in Southern California, is “dealing well with life in lockdown. I have mixed memories of my Columbia years, as I held down an almost full-time job. I never felt part of the mainstream of College life but am eternally grateful for the education I received.” His “fondest memories are of being part of the Marching Band hijinks ... and sitting by *Alma Mater* at night contemplating the future.”

Andrew Bronin writes, “Although I still have my dermatology practice in the Greenwich, Conn., area, we now live full time in what used to be our weekend house in Essex on the Connecticut River: ospreys fishing in the summer and Bald Eagles overhead in the winter.” During the “hour drive each way, I reprise my undergraduate education,” having “recently finished listening to the Audible version of the *Odyssey*, and am now deep into the *Iliad*. How interesting to listen to it being read aloud, the way that it was supposed to be experienced.”

Andrew wonders “why we had to put up with Lattimore when the Fitzgerald translation is much better.”

Vaud E. Massarsky shares that his essay on the causes of the Spring 1968 campus events recently “appeared in Paul Cronin’s book, *A*

Time to Stir: Columbia '68, now an award-winning documentary." *The Adventures of Fletcher MacDonald*—Vaud's Cape Breton, Canada, detective series—had a second printing, with a screen treatment written by **Steve Mark**. His "2016 essay, *Donald Trump is the enemy of liberty, his words are proof*, prompted a large number of shares and commentary and pretty much predicted Trump's plan and modus operandi that led inexorably to the insurrection of January 6, 2021."

In February, Vaud said, concerned "that civil ignorance is the root cause of Americans resorting to violence to effect political change—as evidenced by the Capitol insurrection and the 2020 storming of the Michigan and Oregon state houses—[I] founded the American Civics League. The organization promotes the revitalization of civics education, especially remedial adult education through public service announcements, focused on the mechanics of the American constitutional order: a system to resolve political differences without violence."

Henry Jackson writes: "Covid has kept me under house arrest. My wife and I have had both shots of the Moderna vaccine. Of course, the virus could outsmart the vaccine, so house arrest might have to continue." He adds, "Perhaps classmates can find some hope in the refrain from the Anglo-Saxon poem 'Deor,' which is essentially a catalog of catastrophes: '*Thes overroede, thises swa maeg*.' Translation: 'That passed; so may this.'"

David Rosedahl writes: "My best memories of the pandemic will be rehearsing with my string quartet in an airplane hangar, socially distanced and wearing masks. One of our violists and her husband are commercial pilots; they own a small plane and hangar it in South St. Paul. It's ideal for chamber music. Our Hangar Quartet performed outdoors at assisted-living facilities, and even played for brunch and cocktails at local country clubs."

Lee T. Percy GSAS'71 writes: "The Zoombie Apocalypse has kept me busy with a variety of undead meetings and events, but I continue to enjoy retirement in Pennsylvania." Lee's book, *Aeneas*, will appear in July, and he is working on a memoir, *Practicing Classics*.

Hilton Obenzinger, now fully retired as Stanford's associate

director of the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project, plans "to spend a lot of time visiting my nine grandchildren." His publisher says of his book, *Witness, California 2017–2020: Selections*, which was scheduled for spring release, "[it] chronicles four years of troubles, shootings, wildfires, racial reckoning, planetary murder, plague, monumental lies, crazy delusions, #MeToo, an uprising for justice, and more. But a failed far-right insurrection had to be the capstone of these terrible times, and the nation is not done yet. What was once unfamiliar and strange ('flatten the curve') has become common, even banal, demanding a poem. Language has to keep up, and Hilton Obenzinger presents a powerful testimony filled with rage, fear, laughter, and joy."

I asked the class, "What music did you carry away from Columbia?"

Gregg Geller remarks: "Even after a nearly 50-year career in the music business, every time I hear 'A Lover's Concerto' by The Toys I'm transported back to the Lions Den, freshman year, where it seemed to play on an endless loop. Memories of my favorite bands on campus—The Walkers, Dada, and The Montgomery Brothers—are indelible, though I can't help but wish they'd been recorded back in the day."

Henry Jackson "carried an appreciation of the works of van Eyck and Mozart from Columbia. These days, I'm particularly glad for that."

David Rosedahl writes: "My favorite music memories of Columbia were of **Andy Bronin** bringing Simon & Garfunkel's recently released *Sounds of Silence* to Carman Hall in late fall '65, matched in fall '68 when apartment-mate **Richard Wojculewski** (now Wyatt) brought home Judy Collins's *Both Sides Now*."

Christopher Jensen writes: "In winter of 1965–66, Terry Carver '68 took several Idahoan CC'69 freshmen to the old Metropolitan Opera on West 39th Street to see *Gonoud's Faust* with Mirella Freni as Marguerite and Sherril Milnes as Valentin. (Terry, who grew up in Boise with a love of the opera, is now a renowned scholar of Marx and Engels on the faculty of the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom and occasionally writes historical program notes for the Covent Garden Opera.) We stood for more than three hours at the back of the orchestra. I was

entranced by the lush music and the sensuous Walpurgisnacht ballet. I had never heard, much less seen, a full opera growing up in Idaho, but I was hooked. I have been a regular subscriber to the Met for many years and have seen dozens of better operas but none so memorable as when I was 18 and discovering this music."

Renee Chinquapin remembers: "When the Grateful Dead played during the strike I pooh-poohed it: no melody, no class, no message. Little did I know. Two years later, touring Europe with a pal in his VW Bug, a battery-powered record player forever imprinted *Workingman's Dead* upon my dazed mind. Later, at a bedraggled commune in Upstate New York, [some residents] had the Dead's *American Beauty* and even drove me to a Dead concert in Utica. As if this wasn't retribution enough for my folkie snobbery, not long thereafter a lover slipped an Owsley tab of LSD under my tongue and I ended up zonkeroo-ed at a Cow Palace Dead orgy. How I ever made it out of there is one major miracle. I still play some of the Dead's songs ("Truckin"); they kind of got under my skin."

Rick Winston writes: "I was exposed to a lot of classical and folk music growing up but was lured away in the mid-'60s by the siren call of rock and electric blues. The amazing richness of that period coincided with my years at Columbia; hearing *December's Children*; *Highway 61 Revisited* and *Rubber Soul* will immediately return me to my freshman year at Carman Hall. It was a challenge to keep up with assignments when Muddy Waters or The Blues Project were just a subway ride away at the Cafe Au Go Go, or when the Paul Butterfield Blues Band was at Town Hall. One memorable night some of us walked to the Apollo Theater, where the bill featured Lightnin' Hopkins, John Lee Hooker and Betty Carter. I listened as my some classmates (**Woody Lewis**, **Alan Senauke** and **Bob Norman**, among others) formed rock bands. Not that other music was forgotten—I remember Miles Davis at the Village Vanguard, Rudolf Serkin at Carnegie Hall and Ravi Shankar in residence at City College. The music that was so exciting those years still has a secure place on my iPhone: 50-plus years later, it's my go-to playlist while mowing the lawn."

Nathaniel Wander recalls a '66 performance by the still-magnetic blues guitarist Mississippi John Hurt in the Postcrypt Coffeehouse beneath St. Paul's Chapel—Hurt would die that November. Nathaniel also remembers the May '68 Grateful Dead performance on the Ferris Booth terrace: bit.ly/3gxmpDA. He was awed by David Bromberg's inordinately extended Butler lawn version of William Harris's 1927 version of "Bullfrog Blues" (bit.ly/3n5uVv1). Bromberg dropped out of the College in '65. When the Kingsmen morphed into Sha Na Na in '69, Nathaniel was then overseas, but remembers them playing later on Butler lawn."

Next question is about "The Things They Carried." Did you "carry away" friendships with mates who didn't graduate with the class? Encourage them to let us know how their lives turned out. (We are cautioned against reporting on third parties without their accord.)

1970

Leo Kailas
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I hope by now all of you have had your Covid-19 vaccinations and have weathered this horrible pandemic.

I always try to begin with classmates who have not contributed in a while or at all, so I begin these Class Notes with **David Finck**, a doctor and fellow Berkshires resident: "I've been in the Berkshires since 1979 and retired in 2018 from practicing non-invasive cardiology at Berkshire Medical Center. My wife, Lea, and I live in West Stockbridge. Along with the rest of us, I missed Tanglewood, Barrington Stage Company and our other cultural activities last summer. We keep busy hiking year-round, and before the pandemic had been able to combine hiking with U.S. and international travel; we will get back to this."

"I've had fun with the photos I took for *Spectator* in 1968 having resurfaced in the past few years. They were used in Paul J. Cronin's documentary (and book), *A Time to Stir: Columbia '68*; on the cover of Mark Rudd '69's *Underground: My Life with SDS and the Weathermen*; and on John's Oliver's *Last Week*

Tonight, which featured one of Bill Barr '71 counter-demonstrating outside Hamilton Hall. (Cronin, a filmmaker, facilitated scanning my old negatives and transferring them to the University Archives; he identified the photo including Bill, then used it in an article he wrote in Politico, where the *Last Week Tonight* staff found it.)"

Fred P. White LAW'73, a former law school dean I have connected with during reunions, caught me up on his news and also his very good deeds! He writes: "I am comfortably retired and living in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., adjacent to Sarasota on the south. I am in my third year on the board of the Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, where I taught for 26 years. In addition, I was inducted into the Cleveland-Marshall Hall of Fame in late 2018. My book, *Ohio Landlord Tenant Law*, has been published annually since 1995.

"On a more important note: Zachary Husser '73 passed away in October 2018. Zach was a loyal Columbia alumnus and remained active in the Greater Harlem community long after his graduation. In order to honor Zach's memories as well as his community spirit, some classmates, led by **Larry Frazier**, and including me, **Mark Durham**, **Marvin Kelly**, **Karla Spurlock-Evans**, BC'71, **James Boggan** '71, **Alford Dempsey**, **Leon Denmark** '71 and **John Herbert** '69, partnered with Columbia's Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies to establish the Zachary Cornell Husser Prize for Community Engagement and Empowerment Fund. In a little more than a year, we raised more than \$50,000, and the prize fund has been endowed. We intend to raise more. Gifts to the fund may be made online at givenow.columbia.edu (search for the fund name on the page), or checks may be mailed to Zachary Cornell Husser Prize for Community Engagement and Empowerment Fund, c/o Office of Alumni and Development, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4525, New York, NY 10025."

Not to be missed, another first-time/catch-up note from **David Bogorad**: "You have not heard from me before, but as a classmate recently suggested, it's time to check in after a half-century! I was one of those 'pre-med grubs' of our era,

and went on to NYU Med, from which I graduated with honors in '74. I continued there, did two years of internal medicine residency at Bellevue, then stayed on at NYU doing the three-year residency in ophthalmology. During that time, I met my wife of now 46 years, Alissa, who was completing her training in occupational therapy at Bellevue. Shortly before I completed my training at NYU our first daughter, Arielle, was born at NYU. In 1979, after the completion of my residency, Alissa, I and our infant daughter emigrated to southeast Michigan, where I joined the full-time senior staff in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Henry Ford Health System. Ford is a teaching institution, and as I always wanted to teach as well as practice, it was a great fit for me. Early on, our second daughter, Alexandra, was born at Ford. I stayed at Ford for 22 years, where I participated in the training of close to 100 residents in the medical and surgical practice of ophthalmology. While there, I developed the first laser vision correction program at Ford, doing our first LASIK surgery in 1997. For the last several years I was the division head of ophthalmology at the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital.

"In 2001 I was given the opportunity to become a professor and vice-chair of ophthalmology at the Medical College of Georgia - Augusta University. By then, our daughters had graduated from the University of Michigan and gone on to their own careers, so it was the ideal time for Alissa and me to move on to our next phase. MCG lacked a refractive surgery program, so I recapitulated my efforts at Ford and established the LASIK practice at MCG, which I continue to direct. In addition to a modicum of research, I got involved in the governance of the medical school, ultimately becoming chair of what was then known as the Georgia Regents Medical Associates Foundation, and a member of the Board of the Georgia Regents Health System. I have long been active in the Georgia Society of Ophthalmology, as president 2011-12 and now as chair of the Georgia Society of Ophthalmology Foundation.

"So now, after 41 years of academic practice in ophthalmology, wherein I contributed to the train-

ing of two generations of ophthalmologists, I continue to perform and teach cataract and refractive surgery to the eye surgeons of tomorrow. Meanwhile, Alissa recently retired from her inpatient hospital OT practice of many years. Arielle, after earning an M.B.A. from Vanderbilt, joined the Cerner Corp. in Kansas City, Mo., where she is senior director of Cerner's Worldwide Benefits, Wellness & Fitness division. She and her husband, Luke, who also works for Cerner, have a 14-month-old daughter, Stella. Alexandra has practiced in the field of speech and language pathology in the Bay Area for many years. She and her husband, Michael, an independent video producer, live in Novato, Calif.

"But let's flash back to our Columbia College days. What absolutely nobody will remember is that I was the editor-in-chief of our yearbook, *COLUMBLIAN SEVENTY*, the 122nd edition of the book. I had been interested in photography since I was a child, and had a darkroom in the basement when I was growing up. I was heavily involved in my high school yearbooks, and did sports photography for the long-defunct *Washington Daily News*. At Columbia I worked on the '68 and '69 books, where we chronicled in pictures the events that rocked the campus at that time. But I had editorial control over the 1970 book. Frank Safran '58, whom many may recall was the director of student activities, stayed out of the yearbook office in Ferris Booth, which was next door to the *Spectator* office. He was wise. That way, he could absolve himself of any responsibility for what we produced! Our book had a completely different aesthetic to anything previously done. It had far more color and a magazine style that stood out at that time. I was very fortunate to have attracted a group of talented writers and photographers from Columbia and Barnard who wanted to participate in its creation. The late, brilliant James Casimir 'Wiz' Wisniewski wrote several major pieces in the book, to great effect. My chief collaborator, Jon Kandel '72, and I were fixated on creating the slickest thing that had happened in college yearbooks up to then. After all, we were in New York City, the publishing and media capital of the world! We had to compete! And

we did indeed succeed in creating a splash. Even Bennett Cerf CC 1920 commented favorably in a letter he sent us after we sent him a copy!

"Please see this online article from the June 21, 1970, issue of *The New York Times*: 'Columbia Yearbook Drops Usual Themes to Discuss Sex, Drugs and Protests': nyti.ms/3gmj1vr. Now, 50 years later, I would urge all classmates to hunt through the archives of their archives to locate their copy of *COLUMBLIAN SEVENTY*. I think that the patina of time will give it even more impact than it had at the time of its creation."

Finally, my friend **David Lehman**, ever modest about his accomplishments, reports on **Robert Launay**, "who is doing beautiful things translating French poetry of the Renaissance and later; see it online here: bit.ly/3sBZvNX and here: bit.ly/32zHu8c."

Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1971

Lewis Preschel
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Andrew Dunn backs up my memory that Carman Hall did not label its top floor 13. He also brought up several classmates whom I remember, as they were ZBT members (I was the spring 1968 pledge class), including **Dr. Larry Parsont**, **Jon Halperin**, **Ken Zeitler** and **Lee Zell**. Andrew mentioned he keeps in touch with his suitemates from Carman Hall, **Ed Wallace** and **John Sutherland**. He remains friendly with **Larry Gordon** (see later in the column). Andrew's crew members had a 45th reunion and paddled the 4 shell, which they donated to the program.

I also received a dissenting vote about Carman Hall and the 13th floor, making the vote count total 1 to 1. Please help us get a definitive answer to this monumentally urgent question. Was the 13th floor of Carman Hall labeled as such in the elevator as of our freshman year or thereafter? If you have an opinion or proof of which remembrance is correct (or maybe in some existential way, both are), please send your evidence/opinion to the email address

at the top of the column. I thought that freshman year, I lived in room 1401 of Carman Hall. Hey, Dr. **Ray Stricker** PS'78 or Richie Berenholtz SEAS'71, you can put your two cents in on this. You lived on that floor, too.

Arvin Levine, with sorrow, sends us notice that **Joseph "Joey" Rotenberg** passed away in February of this year. Joey lived off campus, but during the four years of college Arvin's and Joey's paths crossed enough so that they were friendly. Thereafter, they were not close, but Arvin notes they lived in the same neighborhood of Teaneck, N.J., for 30 years, only a few miles apart.

Arvin says he regrets opportunities missed over time to maintain his Columbia connections. He now lives in Jerusalem, where a quick visit is not so simple for his friends from the States. He offers that if any classmates wish to restart communications/relationships via telecommunication or in person, he "could be easily persuaded to invest" his time. He offers his phone number (+972-52-405-4129) and his email address (arvinlevine@gmail.com).

Arvin retired from a career in high tech, which brought him in contact with interesting and bright people, he says. He performs with four musical groups, relying on his collegiate training as part of the "cleverest band in the world." Arvin reads classical literature and Talmudic texts; however, his greatest pleasure is doing his best to spoil his grandchildren.

I would second Arvin's idea that we have the common but unique experience of attending Columbia during years where magnitudes of stress and the test of freedom of speech were at ultimately high levels. This is a bond that few others students in America can claim. I believe by communicating and sharing our lives, we continue this special experience. I need your help to do this. Many classmates are interested in your life. Inform us.

Reinaldo "Ray" Bonachea SEAS'72, SEAS'74 read **Ron Rosenberg's** note in the Winter 2020–21 column, as did **Paul Armstrong**, and both would love to communicate with their teammates from our freshman-year basketball team. Yes, back in pre-historic times the NCAA let colleges have teams just for freshmen, as well as JV and varsity teams.

Ray notes that he is listed in the Columbia alumni directory (college.

columbia.edu/alumni/connect/alumni-directory) and would be glad to hear from teammates. His email is rnb13@columbia.edu. After graduating from the 3-2 program he went to work for Bell Laboratories as a circuit designer. Subsequently, he taught himself software design and for more than five years designed software. Rey was promoted twice while managing software system design. In 1994, for health reasons, he moved to Florida. He was the market management director for the Latin America region. During this time, AT&T split and Rey went with Lucent Technologies. Within a short time, he was asked to create a workshop for newly acquired and recently promoted managers. In this program, he traveled the world teaching three-day workshops.

Rey retired at 52, and since then, has been doing volunteer work including Kairos Inside, retreats within medium- and maximum-security prisons in Florida and Latin America. He is an active member of a social justice ministry, People Acting in Community Together, aka Miami PACT, which supports change on issues such as affordable housing, gun violence, youth arrests for minor offenses and so on. He has worked to house youths who were separated or without parents when they entered our country. He volunteers in his parish and is involved in college-level classes on biblical topics. Rey also enjoys bike riding 25–30 miles several times per week with a group of friends. He finds time to be an Alumni Representative Committee member in two South Florida regions, for which he attends high school college fairs and interviews prospective student for the College and for Columbia Engineering. Even though the pandemic changed the mode of the interviews (now all video), Rey has interviewed 78 students this year, and another 30 are scheduled. More than half the applicants to Columbia will not be interviewed, and Rey asks other alumni to participate in this program to increase its reach (college.columbia.edu/alumni/volunteer/alumni-interviewing).

Rey also supplied a list of a few of his teammates from the freshman basketball team. They are listed in no particular order, but offered as a walk down memory lane: **Paul Armstrong, Ron Rosenberg, Leon**

Williams, Larry Gordon, Elliot Wolfe, Richard Abba, Ed Monks and Terry Gibson. I would add, if any of Rey's teammates want to contact him, his email is earlier in the column, and it would be my pleasure to facilitate communications as well.

My freshman soccer teammate **Ken Lehn** also sent a shoutout to the class.

It is now 50 years ago that we graduated from Columbia College and made our way into the world or graduate school, whichever was our preference. We are a group of brothers who made it through the most unique college experience. Let's stay in touch. The story is not fully written and I for one am curious how it turns out. Let us know.

1972

Paul Appelbaum
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As you read this column, I hope the Covid-19 pandemic is only a fading image in the rearview mirror. After closing down in-person classes and most of the dorms in spring 2020, the College brought about 1,000 students back to campus in the fall and 1,800 for spring 2021. The incremental return of the students made the neighborhood somewhat livelier and undoubtedly helped the local stores. Columbia conducted an aggressive testing regimen and, although some students tested positive for the SARS-COV-2 virus, it did not experience the kind of widespread infection that some other schools endured. We're all hoping for better times and — dare we say it — a return to normality in the fall.

Jeffrey Laurence, meanwhile, has been right in the middle of it. "For me, the past year has been an incredible odyssey. I was it for the hematology service at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell from mid-March through early April 2020, when NYC was at its pandemic height. My two daughters and their boyfriends moved into my Greenwich, Conn., house to telework, while I took over an apartment in the East Village. My lab published one of the first papers on the pathology of Covid — already cited more than 1,100 times — and I did the interview circuit about clotting problems from Covid, everywhere from CNN

and Vox to *All Things Considered* and Voice of America. But by the end of the year the kids moved back, my older daughter, Auden, went on to Harvard Business School (courtesy of her employer, McKinsey) and things are a lot calmer now in our hospital, given masks, vaccines and truncated traveling. Our Cornell group is competing for a \$1.5 billion NIH initiative — money to be given out at warp speed, just a couple of months post-announcement of this funding opportunity — to study Covid 'long haulers.' These are coronavirus-infected individuals who just don't get better, or progress from mild symptoms to everything from brain fog and depression to cardiac arrest."

Bruce Jacobs SEAS '73 has seen the pandemic from a different vantage point: the business world. As of this past spring his firm's entire staff had been working from home for more than a year. Thanks to today's technology, Bruce notes, "We are able to conduct business entirely electronically and with video calls with clients. We hope to be back in our office sometime this summer or fall, in time to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Jacobs Levy Equity Management. We have contributed to pandemic relief organizations to provide support during this challenging time. Many of our family gatherings have been outdoors, and any indoor gatherings during the winter were limited and carefully masked. Our social events have been on Zoom. It must have been difficult during the 1918 pandemic, before the advent of the virtual world, and we realize how blessed we are to be living today. I extend condolences to all who have lost loved ones to this tragic pandemic."

Not everyone, of course, was staying home, even as the pandemic dominated the news. **Larry Boorstein** was a Nonresponse Followup Enumerator with U.S. Census Bureau July–October 2020. "NRFUs enumerate housing units for which a 2020 Census response was not received, conducting interviews and determining housing unit status for nonresponding addresses in Fairfax, Va., and Philadelphia," he writes.

To conclude with a blast from the past, **Bob Ahrens** has a find to report: a flier that he discovered in a shoebox, which he guesses dates to 1969, author unknown, that parodied the demands being put



Reminiscing at a lightweight football reunion in Washington, D.C., in 2009 were (left to right) Steven "Noah" Sims '73, John R. Moore '73 (partially obscured; Moore died on May 5, 2017), Ricardo Assaf '73, Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, Garrett McK. Johnson '74, Donny Young '74 and Domingo Nunez '76.

forth by parts of the student body. The discovery brought back long-repressed memories of being handed the flier in front of Low Library. "As part of our overall program culminating with the destruction of evil," the manifesto writers declared, they were issuing 69 demands. Among the list (selected from the few that can be shared in a family publication): "R. Crumb be appointed full professor of Graphic Arts"; "Free all rats and pigeons in the Psychology Department"; "The Board of Trustees consult the *I Ching* before making decisions."

Ah, those were the days. "If nothing else," muses Bob, it shows that we Columbia students kept our sense of humor throughout those trying years.

Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1973

Barry Etra
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So ... I wasn't thinking. I sent a plea for notes to the entire class, and was deluged. Apologies to some in advance; you will be in the issue subsequent.

Marc Jaffe LAW'76 has run the Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County for more than seven years. He is collaborating with the

Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons' Nurture Science Program on seminal work developing the emotional connection between parents and children, which has become a greater problem during Covid-19; he will co-author two academic papers as a result. Marc has also joined the board of The Effortless Mastery Institute, founded by jazz pianist Kenny Werner to address the issues of musician burnout, addiction and depression. His wife, May, is as an award-winning producer of audiobooks; his son Aaron '21 was in Barcelona for a term and concluded his college career studying remotely. As Marc notes, "At least he didn't have to take 'The Mechanics of Reformable Solids.'"

Allen Schill is mainly a photographer, but has branched out; in the past year he made an oversized bowling alley pencil as an homage to his father and his uncle, who were creative and associated with Islip Bowl on Long Island. He points out that, in contrast to sculptor Claes Oldenburg and others, his work is more earnest and less ironic. Allen has also commemorated that past in a blog post, allenschill.com/thesecondstone/the-big-islip-bowl-bowling-alley-pencil. Also on his blog are articles on the "tripping stones" around Torino, a treatment of a poem by Don Marquis and a geopolitical theory that the Blue Meanies have taken over the world.

Read up, classmates!

Ravi Venkateswaran called and wrote from Seattle. He is semi-retired but still on the board of his boarding school, helping to develop initiatives in diversity and inclusion. Ravi is an advisor and a future director for an oil and gas startup in Nigeria as well.

Lyle Rexer GSAS'77 doesn't remember getting asked before (!), but responded well this time. He is a writer and a critic of art and photography (25 years on); his most recent book is *The Critical Eye: 15 Pictures to Understand Photography*. Lyle is on the faculty at the School of Visual Arts New York City (a subject that he notes he didn't study anywhere, much less at Columbia), writes a lot for the *Brooklyn Rail*, and has been in *Harper's* and *The New York Times*. He and his novelist wife, Rachel Klein, have three children (Lyle's daughter is a French professor at Vanderbilt) and soon will have four grandkids. They live near the Barclays Center.

Nick Lubar joined the Columbia Sailing Club for a fundraising event in February (virtually, of course); more than 60 attended. The rub is that no pledges can be collected until the Ivies once again permit sports. He is thrilled by the growth of the enterprise from the early '70s.

Mark Turco is still "gratefully retired," doing volunteer work with the, as he puts it, even-more-elderly, and doing a lot of reading.

Guadalupe San Miguel's book on Mexican-American Moderates will be out this year. He also had an article, *Nationalism: the Chicano Movement and Mexican-American Music in the US Southwest during the 1960's and 1970's*, published in *The Journal of South Texas*.

Steven "Noah" Sims is "hanging out in Fort Lauderdale, mostly working with the homeless. He's also involved in a project being developed by the Washington Interfaith Network and Pepco that will produce jobs, working capital, and contracts with minority businesses in Washington, D.C. As well, he has been online with Eric H. Holder Jr. LAW'76, James Whitlow, Louis Keyes and other '73-ers, working on a Black/Latino reunion for this summer in D.C., postponed from 2020. (See the nearby photo of a 2009 reunion.)

Bill Pollack chimed in from NYC, where he has been cooped up,

working remotely. Luckily, he says, "Online bridge is alive and well!"

Most ended their missives with "Hope everyone's well and going strong."

Ain't it da roof?

1974

Fred Bremer
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Friends, I'm sorry to say there is no news to share this issue. Write me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and I'll share your news in a future issue. Hope you have a happy and safe summer!

1975

Randy Nichols
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Thank you to all who wrote! Here is the latest:

Speaking on the Anheuser-Busch decision not to do an anthemic Budweiser ad during the Super Bowl, Paul Argenti, a Dartmouth professor of corporate communication, says, "We have a pandemic that is casting a pall over just about everything. It's hard to feel the exuberance and excitement people normally would."

The decision not to do an ad — which during nearly four decades has made American icons of frogs chirping "Bud-wei-ser," guys screaming "Whassup!" and of course, the Budweiser Clydesdales — showcases the caution with which some advertisers approached the first Covid-19-era Super Bowl.

Guy Golembiewski and his wife, Andrea, are physicians and reside in Boyne Falls, Mich. Andrea is the director of a 15-bed acute rehabilitation unit at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey and Guy is the medical director of Harbor Hall, a 52-bed alcohol and drug treatment facility. Aside from the rewards of treating patients, what really keeps them going, they say, is their children, daughter, Ani (8), and son, Guy (6). "That's right; we started quite late," Guy says (Andrea is 16 years younger than Guy). Guy says that his children are the best thing that's ever happened to him,



Fernando Castro '75 (left) and Hon. Albert J. Mrozik Jr. '75, both La Salle Academy graduates, got together for lunch on March 11, 2019, at McWhorter Barbecue in Newark, N.J.

and he can attest to the adage that “children keep you young.”

Writing from the “part of the submerged iceberg that enjoys your column but is silent,” **Jeff Schnader** shared the news that he has been a professor of medicine for 35-plus years, but recently retired to work on his second career. He has written about 50 published articles and has been a journal editor in medicine, but gave that up and is now writing novels. He has finished his first novel, *The Serpent Papers*, which is about the demonstrations at Columbia in 1972, the Vietnam War era and the counterculture of the 1970s. It was edited by Richard Marek, who also edited Hemingway, James Baldwin and most of Robert Ludlum. The first chapters of his book, “*The Serpent Papers*: Headed to Babylon,” and subsequent chapters, “*The Serpent Papers*: Echoes of Sunshine,” were published in the October and November issues of *The Write Launch*, an online magazine. His short story, *The Champion*, won first prize in the League of Utah Writers Annual Quill Awards last fall.

Jeff is looking for an agent and publisher. He says, “It is hard to find an agent merely to read my query letters, let alone read my manuscript. I ask classmates for any help they might extend in my hunt.” Jeff believes that, were the book to be published, our class, and other '70s classes, would thoroughly enjoy it, as it is largely about our college lives.

Jeff included this synopsis: “J-Bee, scion of a military family, is raised in a violent milieu during the 1960s, where he commits a retaliatory act of brutality. While his best friend volunteers to fight in Vietnam,

J-Bee is repulsed by his own violence and refuses to follow in his father's military footsteps. Instead, he matriculates at Columbia in 1971, an era of counterculture, in order to seek redemption. Although he feels loyalty to his friend fighting overseas, he strongly sympathizes with his girlfriend's rationale against the war. Thus torn between supporting the war or protesting against it, his paradoxical feelings are fueled when his best friend, on furlough from Vietnam, visits him at Columbia. With ratcheting tensions and bullhorns inciting students to protest, pro-war and anti-war factions collide in campus riots, and J-Bee makes the choice that defines his life.”

Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note!

1976

Ken Howitt
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Another blast from the past with some Creedence Clearwater Revival playing to keep me up and writing, since once again my back is against another deadline of my own creation. I have had almost six months to start work on this column, and if **Terry Corrigan** still lived on 2 Livingston, I would be heading down for a marathon game of Risk instead of sitting at the keyboard.

One re-Zoom-ion event was a discussion of the Hitchcock film *Rear Window*, with **Gordon Kit** leading the informative discussion

as the founder of the Kit Noir Film Festival at the Lenfest Center for the Arts. **Jim Berquist** brought a date: “My wife made dinner plans and moved them when I reminded her about tonight. She is going to join in if that is OK!”

Who am I to say no?

In promoting this event, I mentioned those visits to the Olympia Theater at West 107th Street and then the stop at Cannon's afterward. That memory brought two responses. **Jeff Glassman** remarked: “One constant feature of the Olympia was that your feet stuck to the floor. One dare not ask what the sticky substance was.” **John Healy's** thoughts: “*Rear Window* was a good one! But it reminded me that the life behind the buildings in the backyards and the alleys was sometimes more interesting than what was going on in the streets in front. Living at 2754 Broadway, out our back window we could see into buildings on 106th and 105th Streets. The stories! And your reference to the Olympia Theater and Cannon's brought back memories. I saw a lot of movies at Olympia. Not so much time at Cannon's but that was because I was frequenting other local watering holes.”

The fun part of my job is putting together the shoutouts. John got one from **George Freimarck GSAS'81**: “Cheers to John, former oarsman (where he followed in his older brother's footsteps).”

George continued with his update: “I returned from Munich in mid-July 2020, after almost two years, having set up the continental European practice for Xceedance Consulting, an insurance consulting firm. While in Munich I occasionally rowed with former crewmate Howard Strateman SEAS'73, BUS'76. My wife, Gratia Pellicciotti BC'80, and I returned to our home in Marblehead, near Boston. I work with Stonybrook Capital in its reinsurance practice and row the single scull on the Charles, weather permitting.”

Rich Feldman, after 30 years in Westchester, decided that pandemic isolation in Amagansett was the way to go. “You can't imagine the amount of stuff that we have to go through, decide what to throw out and what to keep. It has been overwhelming.”

Having lived in Hartley with Rich during our junior year, I don't have to imagine — I know!

Anthony Corea reached out due to my mention of 30 years of Hoboken living: “I grew up in Hoboken and commuted during our college years. As an Italian-American resident of Hoboken, I share your admiration of Frank Sinatra. As a matter of fact, my uncle-in-law was his first cousin, and I grew up listening to his music (even if I personally favor other New Jersey natives like Bruce Springsteen and Southside Johnny!). I had the privilege of going to a Sinatra concert at Brendan Byrne Arena, which was sheer magic. Anyway, if you ever care to hear old Hoboken lore about ‘Frankie,’ as the old-timers called him, I'd be delighted to fill you in.”

John Markowitz GSAS'78, PS'82 is a professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia and does psychotherapy research at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. His book about the wave of psychiatric problems that's followed the coronavirus, *In the Aftermath of the Pandemic: Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Anxiety, Depression, and PTSD*, came out in February. John shared this: “2020 was awful, and I've had to conduct practice and research remotely via Zoom. I hope that with the distribution of vaccines (and the political change), things will return to something closer to normal.”

Robert Siegfried SEAS'78 also mentioned the changes that Covid has brought: “Adelphi University, where I teach computer science, went 100 percent online as of mid-March 2020, and although I had the option of teaching the first half of the spring term in person, I chose to teach online. My wife, Kathy, and I are working from home; she works in our den and I work in my attic office. Like many others, we have been living in sweatpants since the autumn chill arrived, although I have been wearing polos and khakis when teaching so I can feel like I'm still at work (I think most of my students are still in their pajamas).”

Louis Anon checked in: “I lived in Jersey City on Hamilton Park for 28 years until I retired. I now split my time between my husband's and my places in Fort Myers, Fla., and Shelburne, Nova Scotia. We got stuck on this side of the border when it closed and have been quarantining at home for nine months. We're ready to get sprung out of here. We celebrated our 37th anniversary here in our little condo.”

Paul Dubner: “I’m better known to friends in Pittsburgh (where I have been a practicing pediatrician for 36 years) as ‘Paulie D.’ Interesting that you live in Hoboken, since my daughter, son-in-law and their 14-month-old identical girl twins live there. Glad to hear that **Steve Davis** continues to be ageless. This is how I remember him when I visited him and his family in Brockton when we were in college. Would love to get his contact information as well as for **Jon Margolis** and **Allen Weingarten**. Hard to believe it’s been 45 years! I would like to think that we are all ‘ageless.’”

Charles Martin: “Not a great deal to report in this year of suspended animation for so many. The sad news is my jazz show on Hong Kong radio, *3 O’clock Jump*, ended after a 10-year run. I’m editing a completed mystery novel and starting another, but my only publishing activity last year was courtesy of CCT Online: “The Satisfying Murder: A Checklist” (college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/lions-den/satisfying-murder-checklist-charles-philipp-martin-76).

Another author, **Michael Gilbride**, sent me a copy of his book *Letters*. It is fascinating, and he is well along on his next book.

One of the great pleasures of staying in touch with all of you is the perseverance and dedication that you have exhibited both at Columbia and since. I saved the final update spot for **Hasan Bazari** GSAS’79. He has attended almost all of the re-Zoom-ion events, and I also enjoyed a terrific one-on-one Zoom call with him. Prior to the Zooms, Hasan sent in a long update that shows what our class is all about: “I transitioned from adolescence to adulthood in my journey through Columbia. It took a lot out of me to find my footing at Columbia. I was the guy with the big head of hair that had not been trimmed for two years. Out of the chaos came a drive and focus that was hard to envision in my Columbia days. In my senior year I met Wendy BC’78, and my life transformed. I also did not get into medical school. The alternate career choice was going to graduate school, where I spent the next three years.

“In 1979 I got into the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and have not looked back. I went to Boston and spent 20 years as the

program director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital. In 2015 I had a stroke, which was a shock to me and stopped me from seeing patients. Since then, I have focused on giving back to the institutions that helped me along the way, namely Columbia and Einstein.

“I married Wendy and have two children, Anissa ’06 and Adam ’10. Anissa lives in New York and Adam is in Boston. I have no grandchildren yet. We are hunkered down in Boston waiting for our shots. We are in a strange place with nowhere to go. I hope 2021 will be better for the nation. We are a happy Columbia family.”

So many of you just send greetings. Two classmates have a time zone issue. **Toomas Hendrik Ilves** has a tough time making our events from Estonia, and **Monte Elias** is in Hawaii. Both say hello to all of you.

I am a lucky ’76er! These classmates have been knock-knock-knockin’ at my email: **Patrick Bergin, Gordon Bock, Rob Brager, Laurence J. Collins, John Connell, Bob Czekanski, Steve Davis, Dennis Gibbens, Dennis Goodrich** (and Mika), **Joe Graif, Jon Kushner, Barry LaBoda, Gary Lehman, Steve Lombardi, Tiberio Nascimento, Tom Motley, George Munoz, Jon Margolis, Augustinus Ong, John Sesek, Pete Suranyi, Richard Sussman, Ken Tamashiro, Mozelle Thompson** and **Allen Weingarten**.

To all of you, thank you for being so inspirational and getting me through the pandemic. Your stories are always great! And I never tire of retelling them in this column, or in emails or conversation. So, keep inspiring, achieving or if you are done, set a great example in retirement!

CCR is now performing “I Heard It Through the Grapevine”! How appropriate!

1977

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And we are back, after nine months off. (And that was a *really* long nine months.) I find that a certain amount of correspondence has accumulated. Normally I condense people’s notes, judiciously (or should that be officiously?), but this time

around, I am going to print some things at their full length. It’s as if classmates had some extra time in which to record detailed accounts

This from **Jess Lederman:** “For me, 2020 wasn’t a total loss, as my novel *Hearts Set Free: An epic tale of love, faith, and the glory of God’s grace* (2019) won a couple of awards for religious fiction. I’m hard at work on my next, *The Ballad of Henry Midnight*, which begins in the last days of the Wild West and ends in the year many of us were born, 1955. Between that, trying to see if, after 40 years, I can finally learn Beethoven’s *Opus 110*, and chasing after my son, David (5), there aren’t enough hours in the day!”

From **Jerry Strauss:** “After 40 years in information technology, most recently at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, I have turned my attention to publishing my first book, *Giving My Father Back His Name: The Fuller Brush Man Meets the Great American Portrait Artist* (2020). This graphic novel is about a door-to-door salesman and the portrait artist who asks him to sit for her. The artist, Alice Neel, becomes famous years later as does her iconic painting *Fuller Brush Man*. This is the story of the man behind the portrait, Dewald Strauss, a Holocaust survivor and war hero, his son’s discovery of *Fuller Brush Man* and the struggle for his recognition as the true subject of the previously anonymous painting. Of course, I am the son and the *Fuller Brush Man* is my dad.”

Jerry adds that there is a major exhibition of Neel’s work, *Alice Neel: People Come First*, which includes *Fuller Brush Man*, at the Met through August 1 (metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2021/alice-neel)

“In other news,” Jerry says, “I am very proud of my sons: Eli SW’16, who has an M.S.W., and Justin ’19.”

And from **Bruce Levine** LAW’81: “After graduating from the College in October 1976 and then the Law School, I continued my life in politics, which began at about 14. I have volunteered in mostly losing presidential campaigns, starting in 1976 for Birch Bayh, then an alternate delegate for Ted Kennedy in 1980, neutral in 1984, Bill Clinton twice (delegate in 1996), Al Gore, Wesley Clark, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama ’83, Obama, Hillary again and Amy Klobuchar last year.

“I worked briefly for Congressman Peter Peyser (D-N.Y.) in 1982 and then served 10 years in the Family Court Law Division of the Rockland County Attorney’s Office, representing the county in child abuse, neglect, juvenile delinquency, persons in need of supervision and even in some child support cases. I ran for Congress in 1984 and was the youngest national Democratic candidate for Congress that year, turning 28 in August.

A year later, I ran for a seat in the Rockland County Legislature and began serving 10 of my 11 years in the Legislature, becoming chair in 1991 for one year. I served as a law guardian for children in Westchester County for close to 20 years, as I could no longer work in Family Court in Rockland. I stayed in local government for another 10 years until ousted by a new mayor of Spring Valley who was beholden to local developers. I went to work as a disciplinary administrative hearing officer in the state prison system, providing truly fair hearings to close to 1,000 individuals. I retired after my boss informed me that the bureaucracy would never let me transfer to Sing Sing. I try to remain active as a mostly pro bono public interest lawyer, winning a 10-year battle against a proposed multi-family development located in super-close proximity to a major natural gas transmission pipeline. I am currently fighting my town in court on another development case based on a pattern of town-created de facto housing segregation.

“Greatest moment as a lawyer: After about 10 years, a teen whom I had represented in a particularly nasty child abuse case tracked me down and called to let me know she had just gotten her GED. Greatest achievement as an elected official: creating a means-tested, county-funded youth employment program that has provided a first job experience every summer for close to 10,000 teens during the last 24 years. Greatest moment in public life: when the Rockland County executive, who twice vetoed the program, announced that 1,000 kids had been served by it. Biggest failure: locating a full-service, federally funded homeless shelter for single men in a Rockland County facility within my own district.

“I am in my 35th year of happily married life with Ann Nordon and have one daughter, Zoe Levine ’17,

who is in law school at Northwestern University in Chicago.”

Yet more next time! Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1978

Matthew Nemerson
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Thanks again for another great response — our now more reflective and loquacious class makes my job even easier.

Don Simone is at Hunton Andrews Kurth. “I’m winding down my career as a real estate finance attorney,” he writes. “Expect to retire in the next year or two, once we go back to the office and I can fully transition my practice and say goodbye to my colleagues and clients in person and not by Zoom.

“This last year gave me a greater appreciation of the essential workers in our society. The staff in my building, the clerks in the grocery stores, the transit workers, the doctors and nurses. I live in NYC and have always interacted with them. But now I see them more clearly and appreciate their effort so much more.

“For me, Covid-19 was a time to look at things in a different way, to think outside of the box. I came to Columbia from a somewhat narrow Catholic school background and suddenly was part of an amazingly diverse community. I remember poring over a text in one of my classes, listening to another student’s analysis, and, realizing I saw none of that in the text, needed to go back and look at it in another way. That ability to step back, restart, get creative and figure out a solution served me well this past year.”

From Houston we hear from **Julian Thorne** GSAS’85: “I first thought of being a music composition major at Columbia but was not encouraged to pursue this by teachers. I switched to geology, which was a great choice, as it led to a Ph.D. and a long career. I retired as a research geologist several months ago and have returned full force to music composition. This morning I finished my 83rd symphony. Then I was at the park singing spontaneous songs to strangers using their first name. Just now I finished sorting 1,500 of my shorter instrumental pieces into

25 types of video background music (visit safeheaven.org to listen). My wife, Paula, and I go on a walk each day to listen to the new music, but it would be great to have a few listeners from alma mater.”

Bennett Caplan, from Maryland’s Global Management Trade Services, summed up Covid’s lessons with “Less travel and more Zoom!”

A feeling that a lot of us I am sure share.

Bennett continues, “I’m happily married with two children, one of whom is also a Columbia College grad. It is humbling to realize that, despite all the king’s horses and all the king’s men, the pandemic mortality in the United States is of the same order of magnitude as in 1918. In many places the national response has been disturbingly political and unscientific.”

“Our devolution to tribalism appears to underscore an innate human response to a crisis,” notes Dr. **Kevin Vitting**, from the Suburban Nephrology Group in New Jersey. He adds, “Our confidence has been deeply wounded. The virus will continue to smolder in the underserved pockets of our world. But I suspect that the intense desire of most of us to travel and to mingle will return most of the world to normal activity over the next few years.”

“Do not take life, family, friends for granted,” warns another medical professional, **Tony Dellicarri** of the Mental Health Association of Westchester, reflecting on Covid. “I’m waiting out the pandemic — fully vaccinated — and doing mental health counseling for those who really need support during this time of necessary loneliness. Luckily, my family is healthy, and we all have been working throughout the past year. Columbia taught us to know, that despite it all, humanity will recover from this.”

“Columbia taught us about resilience, says Dr. **Steven Wexner**, the top colorectal surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic Florida - Weston, in Weston, Fla., about Covid. “Both of my sons live in NYC; I was recently elected vice-chair, Board of Regents, American College of Surgeons.”

Another big-deal doctor, Northwell Health’s brain surgeon Dr.

Michael Schulder PS’82, wrote a long stream of witty and insightful notes, some of which include his take on Covid: “Living in Manhattan during this is a bigger challenge

than 1970s decay, the 2008 financial crash or 9-11. How this is not obvious to various pundits amazes me. For the first time people don’t need to come to the city to work. Will the ‘fun things’ that attracted people still do so, when they don’t need to come to Manhattan to shop, eat out or get their entertainment? Will tourists return and support Broadway as they have for two decades? Who the hell knows? If this is a civilization turning point, the only sure thing is that there’s no way to tell in the middle of it!”

And, commenting on the plight of New York’s governor, Mike adds, “This is all politics in the raw, not a morality play. CC? The wonderful Tom Horne might have asked us if the current moment was informed more by Edmund Burke or Eric Hobsbawm (OMG, I actually did write that?)!”

Dr. **Robert Crochelt** writes, “With my wife, Donna Smith, who is in obstetrics, I have relocated to Ukiah, Calif. I am emerging from retirement to part time, covering surgery call. We are near the coast, which we both love. After a few wobbles our health remains good. CC taught us science is intricate, difficult, complicated and useful, and that times of strife have always occurred throughout human history. Deniers and anti-maskers occurred as recently as 1918. Same thing with Fascism: There were pro-Nazi groups in the USA right up to the Pearl Harbor attack.”

Brian Guillorn LAW’82 opines: “During this year I frequently thought of the speech of Pericles, when he observed that children normally bury their parents, but in times of war parents must bury their children. Not exactly on point, but as one of the ancient Greeks noted, the gods act in capricious fashion, and you cannot judge people’s lives until you know how they died. I also thought of the heroic efforts of the first responders and healthcare workers, which were inspiring and humbling. Unfortunately, you need to suffer a great loss in order to begin to truly understand the wisdom that mourning is for the living. With age comes wisdom, we hope.

“I live in relatively rural Ulster County, N.Y., with my wife, Polly Gregor BC’79, GSAS’86. Polly and I have been living together since we met at Barnard in 1976. I

cannot believe it has been 45 years. Three grown kids and two German Shepherds, as well as ducks, chickens, turkeys and geese. We’re not homesteaders exactly, but we grow our own fruits and veggies and buy as much as we can from local farmers,” Brian adds.

Larry Sackler ’79 unloads with, “In the wake of Covid — since retiring from my 29-year career as an elementary school teacher in Brooklyn — I’ve returned to writing and performing music with two bands. It’s a throwback to my days as singer-lyricist with Columbia’s gonzo on-campus band Burnt Turkey. I keep in touch with bandmates **Mason Diamond**, Luiza Diamond, Artie Gold ’77 and Tom Dunder ’80. I am compiling and digitizing some serviceable recordings of the band, and I hope to share these online in the fall.

“The band was part of the eclectic ’70s campus music scene. Needle Dik, The Power Tools, and Sick Dick and The Volkswagens moved within the shared circle of aspiring musicians. I would like to think, at the very least, collectively, we held the line against the encroachment of disco ... for at least 10 minutes.

“Finally, I hope 2021 brings sanity and civility back to our shared reality. I bid you all a fond soul’s wink.”

Jonathan Freedman, at NYC’s Sidley Austin, says, “The pandemic has taught us the real power of science to deal with societal issues. We have to learn to listen to the scientists. They were able to come up with a number of vaccines in less than 12 months. That is an amazing feat. I do think one thing that will surely change is the nature of work. While fully remote work won’t become the norm, some work-from-home settings will clearly last.

Jonathan adds, “My son William [’25], now at Bronx Science, will attend Columbia starting in the fall. I went to the Columbia Bookstore and bought him sweatshirts, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Never too early for Lit Hum! I am retiring, after 40 years of practicing corporate law. I have loved my legal career, and there is a lot that I will miss, but I have now been accepted to the master’s program in American studies at GSAS. So, I’m going to study American history, especially the post-WWII period. My advisor, Professor Jim Shenton ’49, GSAS’54, would, I hope, be proud!”

He was my advisor, too, and boy, rarely a day goes by lately that I don't wish I could sit down and talk to him!

An authentic long-time reader, first-time writer! **Gregory Leghart** writes, "This is my first note in 43 years. I'm a physiatrist in Virginia. My wife and I enjoy our empty nest, with three children off with their careers. Covid taught us that we will get along well when we finally retire. We have one dog and are hoping for grandkids. I worked at the same small rehabilitation hospital for the last 28 years and will start an academic position at VCU this summer. I look forward to new challenges and using the lessons learned over the years."

Delaware's Ballard Spahr senior partner, **David Margules**, updates us: "Michelle Seltzer BC'77, and I, after 41 years, have four sons: Andy, a urologist in Philly; Elliot, a public defender in Wilmington, Del.; Sam, who runs an electronics warehouse in Delaware; and Will, who is finishing up at Hunter College."

Thanks, everyone, for another packed column!

1979

Robert C. Klapper
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Dr. Neville Alleyne reminds me that "we both started out here (Cali) at the same time — 1989." He adds, "I started out doing total joints and spine, and during the last 20 years I have only been doing spine. I was one of the pioneers in robotic spine surgery (one of the first four hospitals in the United States to adopt this technology) and have confined my surgical practice to complex deformity and degenerative spinal conditions in adults. As a result of implementing this technology we have been named in the 100 Best Hospitals in the US for Spine Surgery 2020."

"I have enjoyed writing patents and have several issued. I am working with multiple spine companies on developing technologies to improve spine care for my patients. I am president of my group, Orthopedic Specialists of North County, and the chief of orthopedics at Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside, Calif."

"I live in beautiful La Jolla with my wife of 30 years and three children, who all have attended

Columbia College (Go, Lions!). I am in touch with **Dr. Larry DiFabrizio**, **Dr. Joey Fiorito** PS'83, **Marco Gottardis** Ph.D. and **Dr. Rich Milford**."

So, Neville, you were a pioneer in robotic spine surgery. The only pioneers I know had cowboy hats.

Frank Aquila writes, "Since I haven't been able to find another job since 1983, I am still at Sullivan & Cromwell, where I head the global mergers and acquisitions practice. The only good thing to come out of the pandemic is that my wife, Cathy, and I have spent a good portion of the last year at our home on Captiva Island with our three daughters, grandson, son-in-law and future son-in-law."

Frank, this reminds me of the joke: "What's the difference between in-laws and outlaws? Outlaws are wanted."

News from **José Abete**, who lives an hour's drive south of Marrakech in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco: "I am secretary-general of the Fondation Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech and serve on its Board of Directors. The nonprofit foundation oversees the Majorelle Garden, the Musée Yves Saint Laurent Marrakech and the Pierre Bergé Museum of Berber Arts. I have a passion for translating from French to English and plan to learn Tashelhit, the Berber language spoken in this region. Ever since traveling has become more difficult, I have stayed in Morocco, which has done a great job of dealing with the pandemic. Otherwise I spend a lot of time in Paris and at a home near Bordeaux."

José, I have one question, "Have you ever met Graham Nash? I hear he knows a lot about Marrakech!"

Vince Passaro SOA'88 is a loyal reader of this column, "tracking how far behind my peers I might have fallen in success and development, I'm happy to send along news of a novel I'm publishing on September 14, *Crazy Sorrow*. The pub date has been selected to coincide (roughly) with the anniversary of the fall of the World Trade Center towers; it opens with Columbia students downtown on July 4, 1976, the towers just behind them, as they watch, from the landfill that will become Battery Park City, the Bicentennial fireworks show over the harbor. The towers play a role at a couple of other key points in the book and of course, as the story covers 40 years (1976–2016) in the

lives of its main characters (all College or Barnard alums), we see the buildings burn and fall. It's a novel of New York almost as much as it is of any single character."

Well, Vince, I was a single character during those four years at the College, and I gotta tell you, the only crazy sorrow I had was leaving the eggplant pizza at V&T, soon to be a major motion picture.

Robert C. Klapper: Today's Columbia thought is an inorganic chemical compound with the chemical formula KMnO_4 , better known as potassium permanganate. It's used as a wet dressing for wounds that are blistering or oozing. It's also used for athlete's foot and impetigo. The key aspect is that it happens to be purple.

Forty-five years ago, as a freshman at the College, I was forced to take inorganic, or better known as freshman, chemistry, with many of you reading this column who were lucky enough to go to high schools like Bronx Science, Stuyvesant, Philips Andover Academy, Choate and Flatbush Yeshiva. Yes, Flatbush Yeshiva. These were all schools that had the ability for a senior in high school to take AP chemistry. Now if you decided not to count that senior course, as a way to advance out of freshman chemistry, then taking it as the same course as a freshman at Columbia was a piece of cake.

I was not so lucky, and as a pre-med student, this was a new experience for me. The droning of the professor and his ineptitude at teaching made the class that much more difficult for someone who had never seen a molecule spelled out. For me, chemistry in high school and certainly the laboratory involved lighting a Bunsen burner and watching the hair burn off the top of my lab partner's head. It was a shock for me to not only take this class, but also to excel in it, knowing many of my classmates had a head start.

The final exam in the laboratory consisted of building this molecule from scratch and being able to take clear liquids, then carefully boiling them, mixing them, crystallizing them and diluting them, in an effort to build this single molecule. I can't believe I'm reliving this nightmare 45 years later, but I find it fascinating to share the memories of our four years at the College every time I sit down to write this column.

The reason I am sharing it with you is because I find so many things in life so subjective, and I believe the frustrations in our lives can come from this lack of exactness to an answer. Even when we watch sports, the referee truly influences the result of the Super Bowl by how many penalties they call. You think the scoreboard is an objective result of win versus lose, but it's really not; the referees have an influence of what we think is an exact outcome. This holds true for basketball as well; how many fouls are called will influence the game. In baseball, the umpire calling balls and strikes, even with instant replay, still has an undue influence on the game.

I used to believe track and field and the 100-yard dash was the purest, or the swimmer whose hand touches the wall first was the "true" winner, but with the performance-enhancing drug and steroid epidemic in athletes, professional and amateur, it seems like everyone is cheating, which brings me back to potassium permanganate.

I know this inorganic chemistry class was designed to weed out the pre-med students and I was one of those who fortunately succeeded, and I'm here to say I remember exactly nothing from that class, but I did take away one important lesson. It was the purity and truth that that final exam in freshman chemistry laboratory taught me.

For those who were not tortured by this class, you must understand that the process of taking clear liquids and mixing them and boiling them and carefully dripping them had to be done with extreme precision. No step could be short cut, and if you were true in your exacting and precision, after hours of work the final drip of the experiment turned that final liquid purple. Sitting next to me in that class was a classmate who spent all those hours and got to the final move and dripped the two solutions together and they remained clear. To this day I can feel his grief.

On the other hand, for yours truly that a-ha moment occurred when these two clear solutions ultimately combined like a teardrop and turned purple. I had created potassium permanganate, and I did not need anyone to confirm my success, because what I was looking at was now purple.

As the world we live in now gets ever more confusing in terms of who

and what to believe, I learned that lesson in a chemistry class that was for me more than about learning about chemicals. Roar, lion, roar.

1980

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As I write this column, I am struck by a recent statistic from Major League Baseball: Thirteen players tested positive among 4,336 tests given in the first week of spring training, a positivity rate of .03 percent. Yet the Ivy League cannot figure out how to get sports back. We really need to ask President Lee C. Bollinger why it has been this way for the athletes.

It was great to hear from **Neil Sader**: “As a 40-year Kansas City Chiefs fan, I was in touch and talking football with several classmates during the NFL playoffs. By the time the Super Bowl came around, **Todd Samuels**, **Gregg Semler**, **Lanny Breuer** and I were all rooting for the Chiefs to repeat and had quite the group text going before and during the game. We exchanged pictures of our watchrooms and gear, and then unfortunately the game started. Despite the score, it was great being in touch and rooting with fellow Lions across the country! I hope next year we will have a better result.”

Well, Neil, let's hope Tom Brady and his fountain of youth run out of miracle elixir!

Best drop me a line mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

Dan Albohn, **Kevin Costa**
and **Rich Gentile**
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[Editor's note: **Kevin Costa** takes the lead in this issue.]

Welcome to the all-new Class of '81 column. Dan, Rich and I thank **Kevin Fay** for holding down the fort for these many years. As we relieve him, we have been thinking about the purpose of these columns. Many of you are on Facebook or Instagram and keep in touch with

classmates and other friends from the Columbia community through social media. Given that, why would you turn these fine glossy pages to read about people you went to school with two generations ago?

We want this column to be interesting enough for you and other alumni from our era, but we're also hoping for more than that: to give graduates from other decades a flavor of what we've done and where we're going.

So, we invite everyone to share, especially those who haven't written in a long time, or perhaps have never written. Send us your stories. Let's hear about the eccentric client, patient, donor, constituent or customer; the semi-obscure place you visited; your hobbies and interests; and the surprises of your life. Or tell us stories from college, like how something you learned in the Core Curriculum 44 years ago is affecting your life today.

We will also take an active role in making this column better. If you don't feel like submitting anything about yourself, that's fine. You can also write and tell us whom you would like to hear from.

The country seems to be terribly divided these days. In this modest space, we hope to create some community. We all have a unique set of shared experiences that binds us, whether it's pondering Aristotle on the 14th floor of SIPA while looking over West Harlem's burnt-out buildings, going to a downtown dance club that showed rock videos three years before the premiere of MTV or experiencing the Marching Band at a football game — or in a raucous performance in the library the night before the orgo final. These are things we share. West Harlem has changed, Columbia has changed, we have all changed, but whatever and however things have changed, our column, and your participation that sustains it, offers an opportunity to build our community. By the time you read this, our virtual 40th reunion will have taken place. We invite you to share your pandemic and post-news activities as together we head toward our 45th.

As for me, I hope to write about myself here as infrequently as possible. For 27 years I have been in a bimonthly book group that we jokingly call The Pale Fire Literary Society. It was founded by George

Stevenson '80, SOA'99 and includes **Dave Cook**.

Dave writes: “I've spent most of my professional life since graduating as a writer and an editor. In 2005 I launched a website, *Eating in Translation*, and a few years later I began working as a freelance photojournalist with a focus on food. Many of my recent assignments have been for an online publication, *Culinary Backstreets*.

“Exploring food and immigrant foodways in New York City, let alone farther afield, became much more difficult with the onset of the pandemic. During the first few months, when public transportation was unavailable, I was limited to takeout from restaurants, street vendors and other businesses within walking distance of my apartment. I still live just south of the main Columbia campus, and in the immediate neighborhood, pickings were slim.

“But Chelsea, Chinatown and the East Village were within reach; so were Washington Heights and the South Bronx, East Harlem and Astoria. The greater challenges were finding somewhere to sit with my takeout orders — I ate many meals at those grey-and-green chess tables in parks and playgrounds — and making the return trip. Walking five miles for a change of scenery, and for variety in my diet, never seemed nearly as taxing as walking five miles back home.

“In recent months, New York City restaurants have rebounded with limited indoor as well as outdoor dining. The neighborhood has a great new Vietnamese restaurant on Amsterdam Avenue, a famous Brooklyn pizzeria has announced a location on Broadway and street vendors are still going strong. But I still miss the fairs, festivals and other food events that showcase dishes, and sometimes cuisines, that are readily available to the general public only on special occasions, such as national and religious holidays. Many of these events are organized by members of local churches, mosques, temples, social clubs and the like. Even in spring 2021, few of these groups were considering events where large numbers of strangers will gather.

“The gathering is the important part, and not just for the organizers. In past years, at many of these events I could count on running into 10, 12, even 20 colleagues and friends.

We'd trade tips on great food that we'd hunted down and happened upon — and we'd have an opportunity just to meet up, and to catch up. However wonderful the food might be, it's the getting together that I've been missing more.

“I have another website — *Columbia Bands* — that could use help from *CCT* readers. It's a collection of flyers promoting the performances, on or around campus or at downtown clubs, of bands that were active in the late '70s through the early '80s. These were the sort of flyers that were taped up in dorms, in libraries and outside frats, or wheat-pasted to lampposts and at bus stops. You know many of the bands, and you might remember a few of the flyers. Please visit the site, and if you have any of your own memorabilia to contribute, get in touch!”

Thanks, Dave. Although our class did not produce any musicians with the notoriety of Suzanne Vega BC'81, we did have a thriving music scene, and we hope to feature our musician classmates very soon.

Now, here is George: “The Pale Fire Literary Society grew directly from my undergraduate enthusiasms for books (English major), arts journalism (*Spectator* features editor) and movies (habitué of 511 Dodge Hall). I started as a literary agent, then went to magazines, where I reviewed new and classic films for *Video* and *V* (both defunct) and book reviews for newspapers: *The Village Voice* and *New York Newsday* (also both defunct). Eventually I became an editor on the news desk at the latter, where my good friend Tim Page '79 was the classical music critic.

“From there I became an editor at *Variety* and when that also became defunct, I took my severance and went back to Columbia to get an M.F.A. in film. After graduation, I shuttled between journalism — *New York Daily News* (still ticking, for now) and the *New York Sun* (defunct) — and writing/directing for film production companies (all defunct) until everything got too defunct-y for me in the wake of the 2007–08 financial crisis.

“Thus began my teaching career, at NYIT (journalism), William Paterson University (film) and CUNY's Borough of Manhattan Community College, where I am an associate professor of video arts and technology and the media studies

coordinator. At BMCC I began the Time Warner Screenwriting Fellowship, the three cohorts of which have produced a number of highly placed Nicholl Fellowship scripts and from which I am developing a series of podcast versions of the truly extraordinary work done by as varied a group of students the New York City public school system could produce. Three of my students have, with my heartfelt recommendations, become Columbia undergraduates.

"I am also developing an audio podcast version of one of Dawn Powell's novels, which began as a screenplay written with Tim, Powell's biographer and literary champion. And I recently started a movie watch party/group in which we watch a classic movie streamed on Amazon Prime and then discuss it via Zoom. The group has so far included **Stuart Christie** and many of my SOA classmates, including George Robinson '75, SOA'77, now as then, my mentor in all things cinematic."

Thanks, George. That's it for this issue. My thanks to my new partners in reportage. See you all next time.

1982

Andrew Weisman
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Gentlemen, I hope you're doing well and have had the chance to get the latest and greatest from Pfizer or Moderna. I've been fortunate enough to be able to continue my chat with the accomplished Dr. **Charles Markowitz** on the topic of Covid-19. As presented in the Winter 2020–21 column, Charles has been doing some important work developing and managing a Covid recovery program in New Jersey. There was a wonderful interview with him; definitely worth checking out online: bit.ly/3gpCBqt.

Thanks, Charles!

Checking in this month, another of our highly accomplished classmates, **Ira Tattelman**, writes: "No better time to write an update, as I turned 60 in 2020 (like many of you). Of course, I had a quiet celebration — not what I had hoped. But, I was pleased to reach another decade.

"I now am a full-time artist. Since making that decision, I've had artist residencies in Rome, Skopje, North Macedonia and this year in

New Smyrna Beach, Fla. It's great to learn about other cultures while doing what I love.

"I am a multi-disciplinary artist, which includes photography, video, printmaking and installation. A lot of my practice takes place on Instagram, @Tattelman, #SpaceAroundUs and @on_the_elephant_path. It is a daily process. I appreciate its reach and regularity.

"In 2020, I also had the good fortune of joining Gaby Mizes Fine Art. I am excited to work with this experienced art advisor. Let's see what 2021 brings, here in Washington, D.C., and with my art."

I checked out the Gaby Mizes Fine Art website (gabymizes.com) to explore Ira's work. It's a really beautiful collection; well worth taking a look!

Stay safe and stay in touch! Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1983

Roy Pomerantz
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Kevin G. Chapman is preparing for the November 22 release of book number 3 in his Mike Stoneman Thriller series, *Lethal Voyage*. Kevin says he has had a ball writing crime-thriller novels (while keeping his day job as in-house labor counsel for Dow Jones & Co.). Books number 1 and 2 in the series were semi-finalists in the 2019 and 2020 Kindle Book Award Mystery/Thriller category. *Lethal Voyage* is already getting great reviews. All the books are available as paperbacks and Kindle edition ebooks, and the audiobooks, which Kevin narrated, are available on Audible, Apple Books, Nook and Chirp, and at all major audiobook retailers.

Jonathan Clark Green: "It's official! I have been elected judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Ill. I am truly humbled by this great honor, and thank all who have supported me throughout this effort.

"If you are interested in my charitable work, including Little City Foundation for the Developmentally Disabled (where I have an older brother and sister; I'm their guardian) and Top Box Foods (where my wife, Monica, and I continue to deliver

fresh foods to the isolated and seniors in Chicago during this pandemic), please visit jonathancclarkgreen.com."

Tony Winton: "Since leaving Associated Press after 30 years of exciting news coverage, I've done a bit of consulting and content creating, but am now focused on starting a nonprofit online newspaper in my home of Key Biscayne, Fla. Thanks to social media, I'm in touch with a few classmates who shared microphones with me at WKCR. So many great radio memories from Columbia — from live jazz at The West End (don't ask how we did it) to Lions football with **Ed Barbini**, to hosting a debate with Mayor Ed Koch and even coverage of the first space shuttle launch (and a crazy road trip).

"I'm married to Irene Porter, an appellate attorney, and proud of my son, Connor, and my stepdaughters, Susan and Cheryl. When I go back to New York, I make a point of stopping at my second home, V&T. I was there so often, one of the wait staff recognized me on a trip a few years ago!"

Nick Mayer: "My wife, Nelly, and I moved to Philadelphia five years ago. We are fixing up an old home. I have great memories of my College years. Sadly, several of my close friends — **Steve Heyman**, **Joe Widowfield**, **Jose Meraz** and **Jonathan Goldman** — passed away at much-too-young ages. I really miss them. I miss many of my professors — Wallace Gray, Karl-Ludwig Selig and Diane Stevenson (freshman comp) to name just three. I remember that I did not buy the '83 yearbook because **Bill Carney** and I had cracked each other's foreheads in an intramural flag football game right before we had our pictures taken. Not wanting to possess my besmirched photo with a yellow bandage across my forehead, I declined to spend the \$20, and I regret passing on this 'badge of courage' photo. If anyone has access to it, I would love to see a screenshot. It is captioned 'Old yellertail.' Sending best wishes to all classmates."

Rob Kahn: "When Covid-19 shut down the city, I had to close my SoHo music and audio studio. Working from my UWS apartment proved impossible, so I moved to our weekend home in Dutchess County, N.Y., where I had more room to spread out and make noise. I've been living here full time, with only a few short

visits to the city, and I have to say, I'm enjoying life here. I miss the energy of the city, but since that energy is muted for now, I'll just stay here.

"My son graduated from Chicago this spring and is staying in that city to live and work. My older daughter has given up her ballet career (for now) and is studying at University of Texas at Austin. My youngest is a senior at Hunter College H.S. and plans to take a gap year before starting college.

"We've had a few CC'83 reunions on Zoom that have included **Bob Gamiel**, **Bob Montay SEAS'83**, **Bruce Robertson**, **Marty Avalone**, **Paul Saputo**, **Mark Darling-ton** and **Jon Ross**."

The New York Mets announced last November that **David Newman** was named to the newly created position of executive VP, chief marketing, content and communications officer. Read more online: atmlb.com/3dz7GX1.

David adds: "I have stayed in contact with **Ed Barbini**, **Mark Momjian** and **Lawrence Silverman**, and look forward to seeing **Jordan Sprechman**, **Ron Blum** and SNY broadcaster Gary Cohen '81 at Citi Field."

Peter Fumo: "I keep in touch with my best friend, **Andy Botti**. My favorite Columbia professor was Ron Breslow. I practically idolized him. I am a nephrologist (kidney specialist) and chair of medicine at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia. My passions are college football, history, politics and reading. I am rereading some of the books from my CC class, which I still have, currently *The Marx Engels Reader* (I assure you I am not a Marxist!). My daughter is applying to college next year. Columbia will be on her list.

"My fondest memories of Columbia were my classes; my fraternity, Psi Upsilon; and my fraternity brothers. My big memories also include the hostage crisis and watching Ted Koppel every night, John Lennon's death and the New York Islanders winning four straight Stanley Cups."

Nick Paone's band Retrofix has been on hold during the pandemic. His daughter Lillian, who completed her freshman year at Ithaca, has taken a year off to be a congressional intern. Beats remote "college." His wife, while still a half-time art teacher, is one year into a career as a

real estate agent. Nick is looking for a new opportunity as a trial lawyer.

Philip Dolin SOA'84's film company, Particle Productions, has been pandemic pivoting. It recently produced all the videos for the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis Virtual Conference 2020. IEEEFA.org usually holds the event at the Law School, but decided to experiment and go virtual this year. It was a great success, but it hopes to return to campus next year for a live conference.

David Ko writes: "My favorite Columbia professor was Donald Hood, of neuropsychology. His enthusiasm fostered my interest in neuroscience and led me into neurology. Kept in touch with **Yung-Ho Lee**, who also became an M.D.

"I taught at Keck School of Medicine at USC for 22 years and moved to Loma Linda University three years ago. Teaching medical students and young doctors using the Socratic method is a great, invigorating part of medicine. I participated in clinical research on many new epilepsy drugs, even presenting at the FDA several times. Neurology is a great specialty, and you can really help colleagues and patients. This is the triple threat of medicine: practice, research and teaching. Another facet of medicine is administration, and I was chief of neurology at LAC+USC hospital and now at the VA Loma Linda. Neurology is a challenging field, but it gets more cerebral by being a medical-legal expert.

"I'm also involved in medical organization leadership and medical

education, which offered travel opportunities. The most interesting place I visited was North Korea.

"I live in Pasadena in a house with Columbia colors and go to the Rose Bowl to enjoy the '37 plaque. I'm married to Eva Ko and have two kids; they went to the same school as **Andy Barth's** kids. My youngest, Ryan, made a music video: bit.ly/3xbs4oT. It was made before my trip to North Korea; I survived, but I hope to survive corona as a physician."

Carl Fallor sent me a mint-condition Gene Larkin '84 baseball card. My son is a huge Columbia baseball fan and a collector. Carl also sent me a postcard of Havemeyer, which I framed and put in my office.

Paul Lerner and **Stephen Reich** sent me a beautiful holiday card titled "Field and Light."

Elliot Quint sent me a breathtaking painting of an ocean at sunset. It would be a centerpiece in any NYC gallery. Countless people comment on it when they walk into my office.

Contact me if you want to purchase one of Elliot's works.

I am deeply saddened to report the death of Tom Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90 on February 22, 2021. Tom died following a year of failing health. He was a longtime associate editor of *CCT* and single-handedly revived the Philolexian literacy and debate society, one of the nation's oldest; he was officially recognized as the society's "Avatar." Tom was a huge Columbia supporter and a regular at Homecoming and other Columbia events. His hundreds of articles published in *The New York Times* were witty, unique and scholarly. I joined with several other members of the College community in submitting an *NYT* obituary for Tom (legacy.co/3eiwYrB). *CCT* also has an obituary in this issue.

Looking forward to seeing you at Homecoming and catching up. It has been a long time, and I miss all of you!

1984

Dennis Klainberg
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At the urging of **David Cavicce**, we must take a moment to pay our respects to dear friend **George "Jorge" L. Martinez** SEAS'84, '85: "The pride of Brooklyn Tech,

George L. Martinez, died in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on December 18, 2020, from a short, but virulent, case of pancreatic cancer. The nurses reported that George was jovial to the end, with a joke or a smile for all. RIP."

I regret that I did not know George well (I think we were in the same gym class freshman year), and although he entered with our class and walked with CC'85 with degrees from Columbia Engineering and the College, I have learned that he was one of the select few to have lived freshman year at Eli White, the St. Luke's Hospital nursing residence.

If you may recall, when we entered the College, East Campus was still being built, and Columbia had a serious space issue. According to a *Spec* article in April 1979, this led the administration to rent two floors, "guarantee[ing] Columbia 108 rooms for a one-year period." It was the second year that the hospital rented space to the College, for use by College, Engineering and nursing students.

As one of those students not guaranteed housing, as I lived within a 50-mile radius and could take public transit, I had to campaign and beg on a daily basis. To get a leg up on the competition, flowers and chocolates were delivered weekly to the staff. Ask **Joe Bernstein!** He started it!

And while the majority of freshmen lived in Carman Hall, where I ended up, I have always admired the *esprit des corps* of those who lived "beyond the pale," particularly at Eli White and McBain (more on this next issue). Thanks to dear friends **James Weinstein**, **Ben Pushner** and **Mark Gill**, I remember hearing some funny stories, none of which I can honestly recall this moment, and one or two that were probably unpublishable.

So, having suffered an *annus horribilis*, I thought it best we regroup and take a moment to remember the good times. With special thanks to **James Weinstein** for helping me with this list, I'd like to honor the crazy Columbia College Crew, consisting of David, James, Ben, Mark, **Lee Armus**, **Mike Mahelsky**, **Pete Cannon**, **Greg Deligdisch**, **Todd Sussman**, **John Behre**, **Larry Delaney**, **Andy Byer**, **Paul Auwaerter**, **Dave Stewart**, **Sam Silverman**, **Steve Taylor** ... and of course, **Jorge**.

Daniel Aaron Cohen recently published an audiobook, *It's Not*

All About You! The Secret Joy of Practical Humility; it's available from Google Play at danielaaroncohen.com. Daniel is also co-host of *The Overcomer Hour*, a weekly Zoom program where he explores the paths to humility and interviews guests on Covid-19-related issues. You can also hear Daniel, aka The Humility Czar, croon his autobiographical blues song, "The Corona Blues" on YouTube: bit.ly/3fw1SPp. Remember, that's Daniel Aaron Cohen, for, as he reminds us, "The universe is lousy with Daniel Cohens."

If you did not receive my last e-blast, it included a photo with a picture of yours truly and a celebrity who entertained us during Senior Week. **John Albin** can best explain: "[T]he Pat Metheny concert during Senior Week '84 ... was the first time I saw him, and it was a formative experience. At the time, I was playing guitar in two campus-based bands: TMB, which played at Senior Week, and Academy 23. I got to know many other people through the CU music scene, many of whom I still encounter. For me, it has never been a career, but rather a lifelong pursuit incubated in the many fantastic campus venues and inspired by others' examples and by the friendships and partnerships I formed there."

Shoutout to fellow band members **Mike Melkonian**, **Greg Poe**, **Rob Kahn** '83 and **Jim Lynch** '85.

Crazy times: Not one, but two classmates publishing books on great cities! **Peter Lunenfeld**, a professor and vice-chair of the Design Media Arts department at UCLA, brings us *City at the Edge of Forever: LA Revisited*. Not only is it an homage to his adopted city, but it's also chock-full of crazy historical facts and characters that could only be brought to life by a non-historian, digital media guru, and boy, is it super entertaining! Per Norman Klein, a fellow author, "[Lunenfeld] has assembled a witty, graceful history of LA's folk myths, introducing us to demi-and quasi-celebrities"

I absolutely loved it. Great read.

Tom Dyja, whose previous award-winning book, *The Third Coast*, about Chicago, has literally (on March 21, as I write this) just released *New York, New York, New York: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation*. Featured on the cover of *The New York Times Book Review* on March 21,



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.

fellow author Kevin Baker heralded it as a “tour de force, a work of astonishing breadth and depth that encompasses seminal changes in New York’s government and economy, along with deep dives into hip-hop the AIDS crisis, the visual arts, housing, architecture and finance.”

I cannot wait to get it! Kudos once again.

Last, but not least, we learned of the February 22, 2021, passing of Tom Vinciguerra ’85, JRN’86, GSAS’90.

Column-mate Jon White ’85 and *CCT* report this sad news in more depth (see “Obituaries”), but I would like to share just a few thoughts. Tom and I met as a result of his friendship with **Adam Belanoff** and Beth Knobel BC’84, and he stayed in touch all these years. In fact, he lived only five minutes from my home in Long Island. We talked and emailed often, and we met at least three or four times yearly at Homecoming, basketball games and reunions. He was always keenly and honestly interested in the well-being of Columbia and its institutions, including the Marching Band, but especially *Spec* and his baby, the Philolexian Society of Columbia University, which he single-handedly revived and which exists even today. In his honor, I would like to say goodbye using the term he fondly called me, and other Columbians with whom he stayed in touch all these years: “So long, Old Lion.”

1985

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We have several California reports.

First, it’s always great to hear from **Michael Cho**: “Greetings from Alameda, where our current Covid-19 status is ‘Red,’ which means we can get body wax treatments, but bowling is still not allowed! I hope everyone is keeping their humor and spirits up as we slowly return back to what we used to call ‘normal.’ It’s been a very conflicted year for our family, as I’ve loved having our college-age kids at home, but also realize my happiness is not shared by them, as they long to be near their friends just like I did when I was at Columbia.

“Professionally, launching a startup in the midst of a pandemic was prob-

ably not the smartest thing to do, but luckily Zoom turned out to be a godsend, as it allowed us to take on more customers by eliminating the need to drive and meet them face to face. For us, going back to the way it was seems less appealing than finding a better balance as we all wake from our self-inflicted hibernation. Given what we all experienced the past year, I would like to challenge everyone to attend our 40th reunion in 2025 ... I can’t be this old!”

Dr. A. Dimetrios Colevas continues with a busy academic medical oncology practice at Stanford. “We have seen how fear of SARS CoV-2 infection has kept patients from seeking care, another reminder of the penumbra of mortality increase beyond Covid itself associated with this pandemic. Now virtually all of my patients 65 or older are vaccinated, and there is a huge shift in hope for the future ... it is the defining fact of my year.”

Many are aware of the tragic and far-too-early-death of **Tom Vinciguerra** JRN’86, GSAS’90. There is an obituary in this issue, and you can read the *New York Times* obituary online that was submitted by several Columbians: legacy.co/3eiwYrB.

Mark Fallick was Tom’s next-door neighbor in Fumald during our senior year, “when I first got to know him. Although we did not stay in touch, whenever I saw one of his many articles, it connected me back to Columbia. He certainly was a great champion for Columbia, and I will miss seeing his writing in *CCT* and elsewhere.”

Mark also reported that although Covid was not the only reason, it certainly played a part in his decision to make a career change. “After 22-plus years of trying to help couples with male infertility have children, performing vasectomies on Friday afternoons while listening to Eric Clapton and other aspects of a urology practice in Southern New Jersey, I have left clinical medicine. I am excited to start my next career. I am now director, medical science, at Myovant Sciences, a biopharma company with the goal to ‘redefine care for women and for men through purpose-driven science, empowering medicines, and transformative advocacy.’ I work in the Medical Affairs Strategy Group on a new medication for advanced prostate cancer.

“Thanks to **Elliot Norry** for his advice to move into the pharmaceutical industry. I am looking forward to using my medical knowledge to help patients in a new and different way.

“Now that my wife, Dana, and I are empty nesters, with both our kids in college, we adopted a rescue Chocolate Lab mix. She is definitely keeping us busy. So, I have a new job and a new dog, and I am a happy man!”

Philip Steiner noted that “Tom lived at the end of the hallway on my floor at Fumald when I was a floor counselor our senior year. If memory serves, Tom only lived in Fumald during our fall semester, 1984. I believe that he’d finished all of his coursework by December and no longer needed campus housing for spring. With his quick wit and bright smile, Tom was an absolute delight to have on my floor. It would have been a pleasure to have a whole floor full of Toms! Perhaps my favorite Tom story... As ‘my kids’ (I called them this, even though we were all pretty much the same age, obviously) were moving in for the fall semester, I went door to door to introduce myself, hand out the obligatory paperwork and of course make the standard admonition to please not squirt the fire extinguishers. As Tom opened his door I couldn’t help but notice the model *Starship Enterprise* and Shatner poster. When I immediately referred to Tom as a ‘Trekker,’ he at once smiled that big broad Tom smile. Thank goodness I knew enough that to call Tom a ‘Trekkie’ would have been an unforgivable faux pas. Rest in peace, Tom.”

Heather Paxton also sent a wonderful note about Tom: “Part of Tom’s talent for friendship was finding and nurturing common ground. He was knowledgeable about so many topics.

“I don’t think I met Tom while we were at Columbia. We sat together at a dinner at V&T during the 2015 reunion. Beginning with Dorothy Parker, when I was about 11, I’ve been fascinated by the people who wrote for *The New Yorker* in its early years. I don’t generally use this as a conversational gambit — most people don’t know or care about it. Tom and I got on the subject. I was surprised he was so interested in Wolcott Gibbs. At the time, I already owned a book about Gibbs, but I didn’t realize Tom had written it

(*Backward Ran Sentences: The Best of Wolcott Gibbs* from *The New Yorker*; his second book on *The New Yorker* was yet to be published.)

“Tom could have told me in great detail about *Star Trek* or James Bond movies, but that wouldn’t have meant much to me. Somehow, he homed in on our mutual interest. Reading the tributes that his friends have written on Facebook, I see that many of us have had the same experience.

“I never saw him again in person after the 2015 reunion. Our phone conversations, sporadic since then, increased in recent months. I last talked with him two days before his death. At the time, we were both envisioning what our lives might be like in the aftermath of the pandemic. That was only a fragment of a call that lasted an hour and a half.

“During our talks, Tom taught me about the Philolexian Society. He also reminded me that November 13 is ‘Odd Couple Day,’ (when ‘Felix Unger was asked to remove himself from his place of residence’), to be celebrated by anyone who loved the TV show. Tom shared a lot of stories about his life and his family. In addition, he talked about the house in Garden City, N.Y. He had grown up there, and it remained his home.

“Tom loved Columbia, where he had earned three degrees. He had stayed involved with Columbia to a greater extent than most alums, both by reviving Philo and by working for *CCT* for many years. (I love Columbia, too, but in a way that preserves and sets apart the years when I was there. For Tom, Columbia was an ongoing part of his life.)

“Tom’s death came as a shock to me. In the days that followed, I was sad to think that I wouldn’t see Tom again the next time I’m in New York. (That’s assuming that I will be back. Nothing is guaranteed in this life.) More startling was the realization that much of what I envisioned us doing — meeting for coffee or cocktails, deciding to go somewhere for lunch or dinner, sharing a cab, perhaps seeing a show or a movie — were all things we had never done together. If this is how I felt, given how little time I spent with Tom, I can only begin to imagine the grief felt by people who were closer to him.”

Kudos to Beth Knobel BC’84, who coordinated and hosted a beautiful memorial Zoom in Tom’s memory. More than 150 attended,

with many friends (including so many Columbians) sharing great stories of unforgettable times and memories. Their recollections were comparable to Heather's, and clearly reinforced that the wonderful words in his obituaries could not capture: his passion for writing, his unique personality, his sense of humor, his ability to "tell it as he saw it," and his ability to have friends throughout multiple decades. He would often call out good wishes to classmates as "you Old Lion." At the end of the day, he was the ultimate "Old Lion."

1986

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We have an interesting first-time update from **David Green**. I find it inspiring, given that he's working with a 57-year-old body, just like the rest of us. "I'll run across the United States starting on March 22 by leaving my house in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., touching the ocean and heading west to my son in Mill Valley, Calif., and touching the Pacific at Stinson Beach 3,500 miles later. I hope to average an ultra-marathon a day, or 32–33 miles. My stepson will crew me for the three-month trip, and a stray dog named Lucky that adopted me on a run in Brazil will be my pacer. I refer to this as RAAm 2021, or Running Across America. My sons refer to this as 'Project Forrest Gump.'"

"I married Monica, a Brazilian woman from Rio de Janeiro, 28 years ago. I met her on vacation in Rio in 1992. She was a pediatrician finishing residency at the time. I went home after meeting her and sent her a ticket to visit me in NYC. She took me up on it, and the rest is history. We had one son together and inherited one from her prior marriage, so raised two boys in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., after moving here from New York in 2003. Our son Gabriel (26) works in San Francisco and lives in Mill Valley, and Alex (33) lives/works in Jacksonville.

"**Dov Goldman** and I started a software development shop in our dorm rooms and from there have been serial entrepreneurs — winning some, losing some! Consider myself 'kind of retired,' and am on various boards and always looking for ways to stay young.

"Got into ultra-running in 2011 and fell in love with the connection to nature, the lifestyle and the community. And, since whatever I do I go overboard, according to Monica, I have competed in 35-plus ultra-marathons since 2011, including Badwater 135, which is held in Death Valley in July, where temps get to 120-plus degrees, Marathon de Sables in the Sahara Desert and many other fun ones. Last few years I have been working on longer challenges such as the 500k-plus Caminho da Fe in Brazil (modeled after the famous Caminho de Santiago in Europe), where Lucky adopted me, and have since done two more times, including in January 2020, where we extended to 450 miles right before Covid. Good thing about having kids early is they are out early so my wife and I have plenty of time to travel and look for adventures. Folks I work with understand that when I attend meetings, there is a good chance I will be running while we meet!"

If you're interested in tracking David's progress in his run across America, visit davidgreen.run, where you'll find his blog, a route map, estimated arrival dates and locations, and his progress.

Mitch Earleywine updated us: "My oldest daughter, Dahlia, is a sophomore at USC. My youngest daughter, Maya, is looking to dive for one college or another. I'm a professor in the psych department at SUNY Albany. Never one to miss a trend in the world of drug research, I published a paper on psychedelic-assisted therapy for depression. In these times, well, we should all keep open minds."

Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1987

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I have the great privilege this issue of passing along updates from some wonderful classmates we have not heard from in some time, as well as some old familiar friends. If there are any positives to come out of this terrible period we have been living through it has been the opportunity

to connect and reconnect with old friends. That has been a great blessing that I hope will continue.

Ara Kouchakdjian wrote: "As Covid-19 hit, the divisions of Stanley Black & Decker, where I run Strategy and Product (the Healthcare and Access Technologies Divisions), focused on providing solutions that would help during the pandemic. We released a number of products for pop-up hospitals, to manage ventilators and so on. These helped during the initial expansion of healthcare resources last spring. Subsequently, we embarked on solutions that would help in the recovery. This included an award-winning proximity management and contact tracing solution to help workers learn how to safely go back to manufacturing plants, temperature monitoring solutions to manage vaccines in transport and in facilities, and touchless doors to make people feel safer in public places. Through all the tension and challenges of keeping loved ones safe, it was gratifying to know we were helping thousands and thousands of people."

Tim Kennelly lives in Culver City, Calif., and is the chief projectionist at the Television Academy Saban Media Center in North Hollywood. He said, "One of the perks of the job is attending the Primetime Emmys every year (every non-pandemic year)! I've passed the last year in (thankfully) good health by surfing or by riding my bike 10 miles each day."

Diane Hilal-Campo PS'91 writes: "This has been a crazy year for physicians. I am an ophthalmologist in Bergen County, N.J. Our offices and operating rooms for elective eye surgery were closed for three months, and we were on standby with the hospital and state, ready to help if needed, and watching videos on vent settings. In June we had to learn how to reopen to keep patients and staff safe. We changed protocols, and procured PPE for staff, which was not an easy task.

"I defused the stress by working on a passion project, creating an eye makeup line. After years of treating patients with serious damage to their eyes from complications related to their cosmetics, I created a line of beautifully formulated eye makeup products that are not just safe for eyes, but also are beneficial for eyes! The trademarked name of my line is

Twenty/Twenty Beauty. My slogan is: 'Try twenty/twenty and feel and see the difference. Healthy eyes are beautiful eyes.'

"This line is the first ophthalmologist-produced eye makeup line. The ingredients have been carefully chosen and will not irritate or cause damage to the ocular surface, and is full of hydrating ingredients to make eyes feel more comfortable. It is safe for contact lens wearers, and for those with dry eyes.

"Alumni who would like to try it can go to trytwentytwenty.com and put in code 'ColumbiaAlumni' for 20 percent off.

"For me, this makeup line has truly been the silver lining of this crazy year."

Eve Cohen sent in this update: "I'm happily ensconced in Denver with my husband, Keith Porter, a professor at Colorado University, Boulder, and my two teenage kids. I work for my husband's company, run several social activism groups and also do the occasional acting gig. I'm delighted to announce that my older daughter, Althea Cohen-Porter, will join the Class of 2025 as a third-generation Columbian! I'm so excited for her to forge her own unique relationship with New York, the Morningside campus and the Core Curriculum, and I know that her grandfather Richard Cohen '57, who passed away two years ago, would be as proud of her as I am. Now I have the perfect excuse to visit New York on a regular basis just as things are (I hope) opening up. I hope everyone is well and made it through this last year relatively unscathed."

Thank you, Eve, not only for sending us this update, but also for informing me that you are part of the select group of CC'87 women whose fathers are CC'57! I only knew of **Ilene Weinstein** and me. Always room for one more! Or more if we've left anyone out — please write me.

Paul Kim co-chairs the Columbia College Parent Leadership Council. He said, "If any alumni would like to learn more about the Columbia College Parents Fund or Parent Leadership Council, or would simply like to engage in a conversation regarding the challenges faced by college-age children, they are welcome to reach out to me."

Sharon Block recently left her position as executive director of the Labor and Worklife Program at Har-

vard Law School to join the Biden administration. Sharon had worked for the U.S. Department of Labor and was a member of the National Labor Relations Board under President Barack Obama '83. "I'm back in D.C. and enjoying reconnecting with friends and family," Sharon says. "What started as a short distance between Cambridge and D.C. when I left D.C. four years ago felt much longer during the pandemic."

I received this from **Paul Barsky**: "A crazy year indeed! After many years as a teacher and administrator in independent schools in New York City, San Diego and Los Angeles, during the past year, I have enrolled full-time at San Francisco Theological Seminary. I am working on completing an M.A. in theology and am proudly the only Jewish seminarian that I know of. I love the program and being back in class! Not sure where this will take me but did we ever think we would be where we are right now?"

Macky Alston is co-directing a documentary about grassroots reparations initiatives across the country that should be out in 2022. He is eager to speak with anyone who has curiosity or knowledge on the topic. Email me and I will put you in touch.

And last but certainly not least, my dear friend **Judy Kim** will spend this summer in Newport, R.I. She reconnected there with Tim Tash '88, who lives a 15-minute walk from her house! Judy writes: "I also recently met up with **Frank Brown** in Arlington, Va.; **Jill Levey** '88 in Highland Park, N.J.; and **Carol Salt** in Manhattan — all on the same day as I drove north from Florida, where I spent the winter. **Dawn Santana Moore** and **Gus Moore** came to Palm Beach recently to have dinner together on Worth Avenue. The pandemic has allowed me to work remotely for the past 12 months in wonderful locations, and I am looking forward to meeting up with any fellow Lions planning to visit Newport this summer."

1988

Eric Fusfield
eric@fusfield.com

David Patchefsky is continuing in the robust tradition of '88 alums who work in emergency medicine.

"I've been a practicing emergency medicine physician in Philadelphia for about 25 years," David writes. "For obvious reasons, the pandemic made 2020 the most stressful year yet. I greatly appreciate all of the heartfelt well wishes and support extended from my Columbia classmates during this difficult time."

Many thanks to David and our other physician classmates who are staffing hospitals and saving lives in hazardous times.

"After a richly rewarding 25-year career with Gallup," **Todd Johnson** BUS'96 left "mid-Covid-19 ... and stayed retired for 17 days." He promptly stepped into the role of senior VP for economic development at the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. "I have worked for the award-winning Omaha Chamber for 30-plus years, so it is great to finally have an email address and office," Todd writes. "My passion for all things 'Omaha' makes this the perfect next step on the proverbial journey. If and when anyone gets to Omaha (College World Series, Olympic swim trials, etc.) I would enjoy the chance to welcome you and show you around, but go knowing that I will encourage you, your families and your businesses to relocate to Omaha! Topophilia is a real thing."

Claudia Kraut is "happy to report that I'm the mother of a Columbia College graduate, and **Diane J. Orlinsky** will attend that same CC'21 son's wedding in August. I've begun a job with an Israeli-based digital therapeutics firm, **DarioHealth**, where I'm VP of partnerships. **Diane** and I stay in touch with **Laurence Holzman** in New York, **Amy Friedman** in the Bay Area and **Jonny Roskes** in Hong Kong; Covid oddly made that easier, as we discovered we could Zoom instead of trying to gather from all around the world.

"I've also enthusiastically embraced my weird and surprising role as a social media influencer. When Covid hit, I started to post videos from my daily trail runs onto LinkedIn," Claudia continues. "These 'Ten Second Meditations' became a sensation and launched a hashtag, #tsm. Classmates are welcome to seek me out and view them, too. I hope they help!"

Grandparent updates have become my favorite addition to this column; they're coming with

greater frequency now. **Matthew Herenstein** is the second former Carman Hall Mezzanine floormate of mine to join the club, as his son and daughter-in-law welcomed a girl in March.

Mazel tov to the parents and grandparents.

Two College alums who were not members of our class but nevertheless were recognizable to many of us passed away this year. **George Segal** '55 spoke and played banjo at our Class Day before going on to star in two sitcoms and receiving a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame four years ago.

Former *Spectator* staffer **Thomas Vinciguerra** '85, JRN'86, GSAS '90 was familiar to many of us as a freelance writer whose work often appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* and was a ubiquitous figure on the Columbia alumni circuit. I reconnected with him when he called me about an article he was writing about **Neil Gorsuch** when Neil was nominated to the Supreme Court. Tom sadly passed away on February 22, 2021, after a yearlong illness. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Let's keep using this column as a town hall to check in with each other as we weather the pandemic. Updates big and small are equally welcome. As **Todd Johnson** emailed, "Stay positive and test negative."

Send news to me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1989

Emily Miles Terry
emilymilesterry@me.com

[Editor's note: This issue's guest columnist is **Cristina Benedetto**.]

Hi all, I am overwhelmed by the amazing response I got from you for my first issue as guest class correspondent. So many of you responded to the call, and for that I am truly grateful!

At the time of this writing, **Tim Kelly** was running for mayor in his hometown of Chattanooga. Wishing him the best of luck! You can follow him at kellyforcha.com.

Stephanos Bibas is a judge on the federal appeals court in Philadelphia. He is teaching part-time at Penn Law School as well as serving

as a deacon in his church. **Stephanos** is also beginning his third book, *Criminal Justice by the People*. He and his wife have four school-age kids and have somehow weathered Covid-19, lockdowns, riots and the involuntary homeschooling experiment of 2020. He would love to see or hear from any classmates in the greater Philly area.

Andrea Chipman has been living in Nottingham, England, with her British husband, **Jonathan**, for nearly 17 years. Their sons are 13 and 15. Andrea is a self-employed health journalist, currently editing a new magazine on non-communicable diseases, as well as doing reports for the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Contributing for the first time, **Michael Riedel** writes that after covering theater for 25 years, first at the *New York Daily News* and then the *New York Post*, in 2019 he left for radio. He is co-host of *Len Berman and Michael Riedel in the Morning*, New York's highest rated talk radio morning show, on 710 AM / WOR. Michael hasn't left Broadway, however. His *New York Times* best-selling book *Razzle Dazzle: The Battle for Broadway* won the Marfield Prize for arts writing in 2015. His second book, *Singular Sensation: The Triumph of Broadway*, was published to rave reviews in November 2020. Both are under option for television series. Michael continues to write about the theater for the *Post*, *Vanity Fair*, *New York* magazine and *The Wall Street Journal*.

My old friend and fellow Carman 12 buddy **Shauna Bryant McIntosh** writes that she lives in Delaware and is raising three children (21, 17 and 14). She is in her 23rd year of practice as an ob/gyn and is president of her local chapter of the National Medical Association. Shauna is still involved with CC, doing interviews with the Alumni Representative Committee.

Mark Zoland is a surgeon in private practice in New York. He specializes in groin pain, sports hernias and hernias. Mark consults for the NFL, NHL, MLB, MLS and other professional teams, both male and female. He also has an interest in "occult hernias," which can be a source of pelvic pain in women, and sometimes men. Mark recently published *Deciphering Groin and Pelvic Pain: The interplay between sports hernia, athletic pubalgia, and*

pelvic floor dysfunction, a text for both professionals and the lay public alike. He lives in Westchester with his wife, three sons, two dogs and many fish.

Hoyt Glazer started a law practice (Glazer Saad Anderson) last October that focuses on employment and civil rights law. He also teaches an employment law class at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. In his spare time, Hoyt enjoys spending time with his wife, Melanie, and teenagers, Seth and Lydia.

Dan Brodnitz moved to the San Francisco Bay Area shortly after graduation. He and his wife have two kids, both in their early 20s. Work-wise, Dan heads up the content strategy team at LinkedIn Learning. And he recently wrote and published a book called *The Lavender Lemonade Is Back* and published a book of poems by **George Guida**, *The Zen of Pop*. In a pandemic world, Dan is more in touch with CC pals via Facebook than in normal times, and he credits many of them both with ongoing excellent music suggestions and with helping him ride out the 2020 election cycle.

Samantha Jacobs Jouin lives in Chester County, Pa., outside of Philly, and works in the pharmaceutical business of Johnson & Johnson on product launches and strategic projects in the oncology business. She spent the first 10 years after graduation living in France, where she married a Frenchman and went to business school, before moving the family back to the United States. She has two college-age kids, one

of whom recently graduated from Barnard, so she loves hearing about what campus and Morningside Heights are like these days, both pre-Covid and now, when it is not quite as fun to be a student in NYC. Samantha is on the local school board and is getting ready to run for reelection this year.

Anthony Fusco lives in Hamilton, Mass., with his wife, Kathleen. His older daughter, Gabrielle, works in New York City for the medical device company Intellijoint Surgical. His son, Nicholas, is on the operations side of the business with CIBC and has been living at home since the start of the pandemic. His youngest, Olivia, has special needs and will finish the residential program at the Latham Centers in Brewster, Mass., in the fall. Anthony practices law with a small firm north of Boston, Glovsky & Glovsky, and does estate planning, probate and trust administration. He sends his best wishes to everyone in the Class of 1989 with a special shoutout to **Terry Brown, Tony Chiles, Rich Ray, Galen Sorrells, Mike Seidewand**, Walter Haynie '90 and the rest of the crew.

Jared Goldstein wants folks to know about the Facebook group "Columbia University Class of 1989 Undergraduates." It is for anyone who is us or who loves or cares about us. The repartee has been respectful, and sometimes intellectual or irreverent. If anyone has a problem joining, contact Jared: facebook.com/JaredBGGoldstein.

After 29 years with the NYC Department of Education, **Brian O'Connell** took the helm as headmaster of Lawrence Woodmere Academy (LWA), a uniquely diverse independent school in Woodmere, N.Y. Brian overhauled the entire academic program, emphasizing the school's A+STEM Identity (a premier standalone arts program and STEM), and adding Mandarin as a world language in addition to Spanish. Upper school students can take college courses that enable them to earn college credits via a St. Francis College dual enrollment partnership. Transitioning from public to private school, Brian says, has afforded him the ability to see the need for mechanisms and models that give all parents educational options (choice) for their children, whether they are inter- or intra-public school systems.

If any Columbia alums have ideas or resources to increase equity of opportunities for children, even if simply by directly helping Brian make LWA more accessible to more students, please email him at either boconnell@lawrencewoodmere.org or principalboc@gmail.com.

Chris Lorentz writes: "I earned a Ph.D. from Kent in ecology and evolutionary biology. From there, I became a professor of biological sciences at Thomas More University, a small, private liberal arts school, just outside of Cincinnati, in Northern Kentucky. Finishing up my 27th year here. I am the director of our Environmental Science Program and Biology Field Station. Recently I was elected president of the Organization of Biological Field Stations, an international organization with more than 230 member stations spread across 20 countries on six continents. Our mission is to support related research, education and public understanding of environmental issues."

Mimi D'Orazio teaches AP physics and chemistry in Santa Cruz. While she doesn't practice architecture full-time anymore, she says she still enjoys jobs here and there. Recently, she finished her new high school and middle school campus buildings design, and a beer garden (not for the school) complete with babbling brook, landscaped hideaways, and of course, the requisite drunken cornhole area, which I located near the river.

Rob Laplace and I, as well as **Jen Fudge Ryan** and **Patrick Ryan SEAS'89**, had the pleasure of seeing our kids, Caroline and James respectively, graduate from Columbia this April. Graduation wasn't the same, as it was virtual, but we are all proud of our kids nonetheless. A big lion ROAR to Caroline and James!

Last, I wanted to give a shoutout to **Matt Engels, Josh Krevitt, Danielle Maged** and **Jason Carter**, who all wrote in just to say hello.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
younggrache@hotmail.com

Sigh, we're a year-plus into the global pandemic as I write this in mid-March. I stole a response from someone to use when asked how I

am: "I'm Covid good." I hope you are, too. But things are looking up for people in various ways, including those of us lucky enough to have been vaccinated. For example, **Warigia M. Bowman** was promoted in November to associate professor of law at the University of Tulsa College of Law. She is a member of a multi-university team that received a \$20 million National Science Foundation Grant on water, infrastructure and energy in Oklahoma. Warigia's 15-year-old daughter is a Girl Scout in Troop 1510, led by former Fumald Grocery staffer Jeff Mosburg '89.

Isaac-Daniel Astrachan proudly reports that "son Aidhan committed to Occidental College for soccer in September and received formal acceptance in December. He was only looking at small liberal arts colleges in Southern California. The entire family is very happy and can't wait to spend some time on the West Coast (especially during soccer season). Back on the East Coast, I commissioned photographer extraordinaire **Christopher Payne** to document the manufacturing of one of our affordable wood modular projects in the factory in Pennsylvania. The photos are fantastic!"

Check out sbjgroup.com for some photos of Christopher's work.

Did you catch **Nancy Pak BUS'95**, co-starring in the Columbia College Alumni Association's March AlumniTALK, "Alumnae Trailblazers on Taking Risks that Pay Off"?

Way to go, Nancy! I welcome news and updates from each and every one of you. Maybe you accomplished something during the 12-plus months of the global pandemic. That's worth writing me a note! Maybe you have a happy story to share. That's worth dropping me a line. I'll start us off. In July I donated 12 inches of hair to Locks of Love. From the looks of what's grown back, I'll probably be able to do this again in another 18 months. With that, I conclude this column and hope to hear from you soon.

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
heatherhj@yahoo.com

Heather E.G. Brownlie wishes the Class of 1991 a belated happy 30th

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reunion celebration and says, “Thank you to everyone who provided updates! Keep sending in your notes. It is so great to hear what is going on with everyone from our class! Cheers to 30 years!”

Dr. Jennifer Ashton PS’00, HN’16 reports in: “As the ABC News chief medical correspondent, I have been immersed in all things Covid-19 since January 2020, traveling to the White House and the NIH Vaccine Research Center, and talking to Dr. Anthony Fauci and the heads of the CDC and FDA on a regular basis. Covering the biggest medical story of our lifetime has been intellectually rewarding but also emotionally stressful. It has reinforced the importance of effective communication in medicine, science and public health at a time when people are scared, confused and cynical. After hearing from viewers and my patients alike that there was a great interest in learning how to interpret this rapidly changing scientific landscape, I wrote *The New Normal: A Roadmap to Resilience in the Pandemic Era*.

In it, I teach people how to think like a doctor so as to avoid medical headline whiplash and resume living amidst these challenging times.

“I have a son, Alex Ashton ’20, and a daughter, Chloe, who is a student at another Ivy League school in Boston. I started a pandemic hobby of raising backyard chickens at my farm in Connecticut.”

Daniel Balsam sent in his latest update: “I was deeply engaged of late producing an extraordinary visual arts encounter of the Mauritshuis Royal Picture Gallery in The Hague on behalf of the Columbia University Club of Chicago (CUCC) for Columbia alumni and faculty worldwide. The event took place on March 14; 59 alumni and one current faculty member attended. This was second in a series of Visual Arts Showcase events that I have produced on behalf of CUCC for the Columbia Alumni Association. As I write I am cooking up my third event, for May or June, and will publish the event notice on the Columbia Alumni Association global calendar (alumni.columbia.edu/content/alumni-events-around-world) and the Columbia College Alumni Association calendar (college.columbia.edu/alumni/events).”

Elise Scheck Bonwitt shared her news: “I just published my first book,

MORE: Get More Out of Life with Less Complication (getmorewithless.com). In lieu of an in-person launch, I have been speaking to groups around the country via Zoom. I also do leadership development programs for nonprofit leaders via the website simpact.it.”

Elise is an attorney/mediator and lives in Miami.

Mark Bures checked in from back in the U.S.A.: “After living in Rio de Janeiro for approximately 20 years, I moved back to Southern California in late 2018 with my wife and our two daughters. We live in Hermosa Beach, Calif.”

Dr. Marc Eisenberg PS’95 checked in: “I’m a cardiologist at Columbia University Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and co-host of the podcast *Am I Dying?* I started Doctors for a Hunger Free America, which is trying to enact legislation for universal free breakfasts and lunches in all public schools to combat the number of children who go to bed hungry in our country. Everyone feel free to join.”

Kris Fresonke is with the State Department, and is posted to Jerusalem to work on Palestinian affairs. Her husband, Richard Major, published two novels (indiebooks. squarespace.com/fiction).

In 2020, **Rachel Galanter** completed an Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowship with Oranga Tamariki, New Zealand’s Ministry for Children. She returned to Durham, N.C., for her 20th year at Exchange Family Center, where she makes children’s lives better by strengthening their families, teachers and communities with proven counseling, coaching and training.

John Griffin and his wife, Gretchen McNeil, welcomed a baby in the middle of this crazy pandemic. Katherine Carmela Griffin was born on May 27, 2020, joining her brother, John Flynn Griffin, who was born on September 24, 2018.

Daniel Henkin writes: “My son, Sammy ’25, will be a first-year this fall.”

Elizabeth Harrison Kubany writes: “Somehow, even as we’ve been stuck at home for the past 11 months, it has been an eventful year. I rebranded and relaunched my business — KUBANY — a public relations agency specializing in architecture, design and art. My husband and I are also in the process

of expanding the art gallery we run together, Winterhouse Projects. Our eldest is taking a year off from school and is interning at the Center for an Urban Future. Our middle child was just accepted at Lafayette, which was her first choice. And our little one has been in school in person for all of sixth grade, which has been a godsend. I was looking forward to seeing everyone at reunion, even if it is only virtual, and to being together in person again before too long.”

Tamara Loeber (formerly Heather Tamara Close) writes: “After 15-plus years of a nomadic lifestyle, I have finally stopped moving! It took a global pandemic to do it, but it has been an interestingly positive shift. Living on the road managing experiential marketing tours for clients like HBO, Dole, Boston Beer Co., Nutella and others was mostly fun and exciting. I don’t even mind hotel life a bit. And being independent afforded many, many opportunities for extended travels, both domestic (all 50 states!) and international. When both events and travel came screeching to a halt, it seemed like the world had turned upside down: no home, no car, no place to go. Southwest Florida however was calling. My husband and I bought a home in Venice, Fla., last summer and have been enjoying the beach, warm weather and a year-round garden. It all resonates well with this Cape Cod girl’s soul. I am now a Licensed Realtor full time with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Realty out of the Venice office. I’m super easy to find on LinkedIn and most other social media, and I’d love to reconnect with y’all. I admittedly haven’t done a good job of keeping in touch! Oh, and don’t let the Tamara Loeber name confuse you. I go by my middle name instead of Heather these days, and Loeber is my married name.”

Nancy López Ph.D. is professor of sociology at the University of New Mexico. She co-founded/directs the Institute for the Study of “Race” and Social Justice and is associate VP for the Division for Equity & Inclusion. Nancy was awarded a research grant from the WT Grant Foundation to examine the role of high school ethnic studies curriculum and culturally relevant pedagogy in reducing complex inter-

sectional inequalities in high school through three research practice partnerships in Albuquerque, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Nancy’s oldest child is CC’24 and attended remotely from Albuquerque this past year. Nancy shared her expertise with Columbia alumni on a speaker panel this spring.

Daniel Orenstein “was flying to Utah (from Boston) a lot for work with a health tech company based in Salt Lake, so decided to spend a couple of years in Park City. I’m here with my wife, Michelle Gottlieb BC’90, and 13-year-old son. Lots of outdoor things to do here, which has been good during the pandemic! Plus I’ve taken up jazz guitar as a new lockdown hobby.”

Chris Petrovic reports: “Since 2010, my wife, Jen, and children, daughter Remy (12) and son Zander (9), have lived just north of San Francisco in the beautiful wine country town of Sonoma. For all of the amazing experiences that small-town living afforded us, we ultimately made the difficult decision to leave California for a number of reasons, including enduring four straight years of the ‘new normal’ of wildfire season in our part of the state, combined with the toll that the Covid-19 restrictions took on our whole family, including my wife’s local business venture as well as my kids’ inability to attend school in person. In November 2020 I resigned from my amazing job at a leading video game company (Zynga) with the goal of focusing on transitioning the family to Washington State. No sooner had we started the process of relocating than another amazing job opportunity was presented to me that enabled Jen and me to realize a longtime family dream of living abroad. In mid-December we took our already-packed-up belongings and diverted them to our new home in Switzerland! We live in the greater Zurich area and are fortunate enough to have our kids in school in person (for now at least; fingers crossed it stays that way!) and be surrounded by beauty in all directions. Open invitation for anyone to visit once things open up, I hope sooner rather than later!”

David Wacks and his partner, Katharine Gallagher, have lived in Eugene, Ore., since 2003, where Katharine works for Centro Latino

Americano and David teaches Medieval Iberian literature at the University of Oregon. They have two teenagers and two cats. David would be thrilled to hear from classmates and to meet up if they are passing through town on the I5. He blogs on his current research and teaching at davidwacks.uoregon.edu and you can find him on Twitter (@davidwacks).

Susannah Wood checked in: "I am wrapping up my tour in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and will start a domestic assignment with the State Department this summer. I plan to live in Falls Church, Va., and would love to get together with any Columbians in the D.C. area once restrictions are lifted."

1992

Olivier Knox
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Classmates, welcome!

Imagine my delight upon hearing after so many years from **Dan Herman**, with whom I shared suites on Carman 7 (he was 701B, I was 701A) and in the East Campus townhouses!

"Our Carman days were top of mind in August when my son, Otto '24, was assigned to Carman," Dan writes. "Alas, a few weeks later he was notified that first-years would not be coming to campus after all. Stuck at home for college via Zoom is a serious bummer, but he is making the best of it."

The logistics aren't easy for someone on the West Coast. Otto's 10 a.m. Lit Hum class is at 7 a.m. Los Angeles time. "I get to enjoy the occasional hot takes on Homer, Spanish grammar and micro-economics — small consolation for a year gone sideways," Dan adds.

Dan is an architect with a degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design (1998). He is associate director in Skidmore, Owings & Merrill's L.A. office, with commercial and residential projects in and around L.A., as well as in Dallas, Atlanta and Mexico City. Dan's wife, Linda Chung (also Harvard Graduate School of Design 1998), is an architect with Gensler's L.A. studio, with a focus on higher-education buildings. "Our ninth-grader, Ingrid, plays cello in two orchestras and has also recently discovered the electric guitar," Dan writes.

Dan has come a long way from meticulously putting together a 3-D representation of "time" on our dining room table in H402 for a class at Columbia. Am I remembering that right, Dan?

Sara Hall writes, "My family and I have been weathering the pandemic with remote work and e-learning. I recently returned from a research sabbatical to be acting associate dean for student academic affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois Chicago, where I am working on a variety of curricular and student success initiatives."

Sara also began the first year of her term as VP/president-elect of the German Studies Association, the multi-disciplinary association of scholars of German, Austrian and Swiss history, literature, cultural studies, political science and economics. "On both sides of the equation, I am fully immersed in figuring out what teaching and conferences will look like in fall," she says.

Please let us know when you know, Sara!

Steve Greenberg SEAS'93 definitely did not bury the lede in his email: "I had a baby. Third one in 16 years, and first one since 12 years ago. Actually, my wife, Isabelle (our resident French attorney), had the baby. But I am certain I played a role."

Little Jake Wolf Greenberg is named after his 19th-century third great-grandfather from the Russian Empire. "Wolf was probably a pretty cool name for a 19th-century Russian back then (technically from modern-day Central Ukraine, but let's not start a war over this)," Steve writes.

Speaking of starting a war, "While Isabelle still finds it irritating to speak French with me for the benefit of my fluency, she is happy to speak French with the baby all day," Steve adds. "At least my command of French nursery rhymes has improved. My fluency, not so much."

Steve says he reconnected with **Jean-Luc Neptune** PS'97 and enjoyed "his informative YouTube docuseries on life with the bug," that has defined the past year. And he visited with Joe Del Toro '93 last summer on the way to Maine, where Steve lives a few months out of the year. "Joe and I are blessed after all of these years to remain close and also to engage in some joint investing through his PE fund, Argand Partners," Steve writes.



GABE BENVENUTI

Jamie Vinci '92 (left) and Jason Hagberg '92 at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif., in 2006. Hagberg died on March 3, 2021.

Just before seeing Joe, Steve got to show Columbia to his eldest son, Michael (16). "He was not fond of the 'smell,' but I think he was impressed with the campus," Steve adds. "I guess we'll see where that all shakes out in the next year or so."

Now for one of the hardest items I've ever had to write as your class correspondent.

If you moved into a Carman 7 suite in fall 1988, he was impossible to miss: the big guy with the beaming smile and the booming laugh. Inquisitive, thoughtful, and just so %\$#@ fun to hang around.

I'm sorry to report that the world is a dumber and sadder place: We lost **Jason Hagberg** on March 3, 2021.

Jason earned a B.A. in political science and then a 2002 J.D. in intellectual property law from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Yeshiva University. He had recently signed on as data protection program manager for The Estée Lauder Companies.

"He passed at his home in Lakewood, N.Y., leaving behind a multitude of friends from all walks of life," Jason's mother, Catherine Hagberg wrote. "An alpha among alphas and a gentle giant, one of his ongoing interests was to help young Black men achieve the goal of attending Columbia University."

"Under the banner of Jason's Journey there will be developments toward expanding opportunities for persons of color who need a mentor to help navigate the road to personal and professional success," she said. "Jason was a very proud graduate of Columbia who hoped he could help others feel the same sense of pride and accomplishment, due in great part to the support from other alums."

Jason was a member of the International Association of Privacy Professionals; the Section of Intellectual Property Law - American Bar Association; National Black Law Students Association; Electronic Frontier Foundation; West Coast Skiers and the Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong.

"His particular likes included movies, music, cooking and Chautauqua Lake," added Catherine. "He characterized himself as a cranky brown Swede."

May his memory be a blessing.

1993

Neil Turitz
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[Editor's note: CCT thanks **Betsy Gomperz** for her many years of service as class correspondent. Her last column follows. As of the Fall 2021 issue, the class correspondent will be **Neil Turitz**. You can email him at lovematza@aol.com, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Greetings, classmates. It is the first day of spring and on the East Coast it was a gorgeous day (and for those skiing the East, it was perfect spring skiing weather!). There wasn't much to report in the Winter 2020–21 issue, but after a Facebook plea, I am so grateful to those of you who provided updates — thank you for sharing!

We have a number of authors who have been quite busy over the last year. **Brad Stone** reports that his fourth book, *Amazon Unbound*, was published in May. It is a sequel to his bestseller *The Everything Store*

and continues Brad's chronicle of Jeff Bezos, the richest person in the world, and the company many of us have come to rely on during the pandemic. Brad also runs the technology coverage at Bloomberg News. He lives with his wife and three daughters in Marin County, north of San Francisco.

Paul Sangillo writes that he and Stephanie Pitsirilos PH'02 were part of a panel discussion hosted by the Latino Alumni Association of Columbia University (organized by president Elisa Charters SIPA'01), the Alumni Society and the Columbia University Alumni Club of New Jersey. Paul and Stephanie discussed their books (Paul authored *The Golden Prison* and Stephanie authored *Latinx Anthology: Speculative Fiction for Dreamers*) and how to become an author.

At our 2018 reunion, many of you may recall reconnecting with Jeff Sweat '95, who started in our class. Jeff lives in Los Angeles and recently released his second novel, *Scorpion*, a sequel to *MayFly*. *Scorpion* is the post-apocalyptic story of a world where no one lives past 17. When sharing his update with me in late January, Jeff mentioned he had just tested positive for Covid-19, which was the start of a long, remarkable battle that he and his wife, Sunny, chronicled on Facebook over six-plus weeks. Fortunately, Jeff is now home with his family!

Grissel Seijo writes that she was selected for the Hispanic National Bar Association's prestigious Poder25, a program designed to increase diversity to general counsels in publicly traded organizations by 2025. Grissel is counsel, employment, diversity and inclusion, U.S. and international, at Restaurant Brands International, which is the franchisor for Burger King, Popeyes and Tim Hortons.

Congratulations, Grissel!

Rita Pietropinto-Kitt writes: "We weathered the last year standing strong, living through the pandemic in our beloved NYC. With Broadway shut down and performing arts canceled around the world it has been a very challenging time. But we have done what we can to still keep the arts alive. Tom Kitt '96 and I helped start the nonprofit NYC Next, led by superwoman Maryam Banikarim BC'89, and held the first pop up concert in Times Square last fall, bringing together Broadway art-

ists for a special rendition of *Sunday in The Park with George*.

"I've been working as a board member for the Lilly Awards, promoting equity in the theater and education initiatives. I ran my performing arts camp in a virtual platform last summer, harnessing the talents of our Broadway community to workshop with our campers. And this year I am trying to keep arts education alive any way we can at Marymount — dancing outside, singing on Zoom, acting in mask; whatever we can do as we wait for Broadway to light the stages again. I'm also a member of the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors as VP, state of the College, mostly focusing on students — who have been incredible as they pivoted to a remote platform — and trying to find new avenues to help support their journey.

"As I write, it is Grammy night, and Tom won the Grammy for the *Jagged Little Pill* Best Musical Theater album. So we are in pajamas rather than a gown and a tuxedo, drinking champagne, deeply grateful for every little moment of celebration for the theater arts community and yearning for the day we can all be in the room together making art again. Until then we are proud of our three children, who have been so resilient this year, deeply grateful for health and so appreciative to everyone who has kept the heart of NYC beating strong."

Finally, I was thrilled to hear from Carman 11 floormate **Joe Calcagno**: "I am married (beautiful wife, Julie) and have four kids. They are all good kids as far as I know. Put on a couple pounds since 1993 but I still have all my hair. I'm looking forward to the 30th reunion!"

Thank you to all who submitted updates!

1994

Leyla Kokmen
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No news to share this issue, but I and your classmates would love to hear what's happening in your life. Please write to me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and I'll share your news in a future issue. Hope you have a happy and safe summer!

1995

Janet Lorin
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I hope this finds everyone well and vaccinated.

I didn't have a column in the Winter 2020–21 issue, one of a handful of times since we graduated 26 years ago. My mother passed away of pancreatic cancer, on Yom Kippur, in Chicago, and of course Covid-19 made everything more difficult. I thought about the many times she visited me at Columbia, starting with move-in to Carman 10 and ending with the day of our sunny Class Day.

Thanks to **Grant Dawson** for sharing an update. I met Grant when we were RAs together in Wien. He went to law school at Georgetown and is the legal advisor (acting) at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, often called the "Chemical Weapons Watchdog," at The Hague. As general counsel for OPCW, Grant provides a full range of legal services to support its efforts to verify the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles in an environmentally sound manner and ensure that they never reemerge.

Grant is also working toward a Ph.D. in law at the University of Groningen on international environmental law and will soon publish a sequel to his 2012 book on forcible displacement dealing with environmental displacement. He's been at The Hague, working for OPCW and the UN, since 2003.

After fighting Covid in New York, **Demetre Daskalakis** moved to Atlanta to fight HIV. He is now the CDC's director of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention in the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention.

Please don't be shy about sending in updates via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1996

Ana Salper
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Dear classmates, happy summer! I am writing these notes a few months before our 25th reunion, but by the time this is published, we will

have all, I hope, "seen" each other at some of the Class of 1996 virtual events! And to those who attended, you know I will be hounding you for notes to include in the Fall 2021 issue (apologies in advance)!

For now, I can report that I was very happy to hear from **Dalina Sumner**, who is in tax litigation at McConnell Valdés, a firm in Puerto Rico where she has worked since 2009. Dalina writes that she has been lucky to spend this last year in quarantine in PR, where the weather is always warm and she can visit any number of beautiful beaches when she needs to get out of the house. At home she has been growing her first vegetable garden and doing organization projects (some more successful than others). During the past year Dalina has had several Zoom happy hours with **Cecilia Cabello**, **Cesar Chavez**, **Daniel Cole** and **Florencia Russ '98**. Dalina writes: "These happy hours are always a blast, and it's been a highlight of the last year for me, as we all live far away from each other. Right now, I'm focusing on being patient as I wait for my turn to get vaccinated and start the process of returning to a 'normal' life." Dalina is also in touch with **Matt Lasner** and **Bekah Burgess** (her first-year roommate at Columbia, who has remained a dear friend all these years).

It was also great to hear from **Genevieve "Gen" Connors**, who joined the World Bank in 2006. She relocated to Washington, D.C., in summer 2017, after 10 years in the India country office leading water programs. Gen now manages one of the largest units in the Climate Change Group, setting the strategic directions for and reporting on climate change strategy for the organization globally. She has a son, Theo (9), who, while blessed with good health, is struggling after a full year of home-based school with no return in sight for D.C. public schools. Gen shared that she is lucky to be in close contact with **Kay Park**, **Biella Coleman** and **Johanna Silkowski BC'98**, whom she sees on Zoom from time to time, and **Alisa Tang**, who is also based in Washington, D.C., and whom she sees outside in a mask on occasion. Gen writes that as a die-hard New Yorker, she goes back to the Upper West Side to see family and hit the pavement, and is somewhat mortified that her son calls all apartment buildings "hotels."

Hussein Rashid writes that his first co-edited volume is out in the world. *Ms. Marvel's America: No Normal* is about Marvel Comics' first Muslim superhero to headline a series. Hussein says that while it is written for academic use, it is really approachable for fans.

That's all I have for now. Enjoy this beautiful weather and stay safe, everyone! Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

I leave you with this:

"Hope is the thing with feathers
that perches in the soul — and sings
the tunes without the words — and
never stops at all."
— *Emily Dickinson*

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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Dear classmates, I hope that you all had a pleasant winter and spring and that everyone is in good health. It is now my pleasure to present the following updates from our classmates. Actually, all of them were generously given to me by **Nick Syrett**, who in our college days was in my Contemporary Civilization class, which was taught by the very well-liked and always bubbly Professor Susan Schapiro!

Nick Syrett writes: "After 11 years living in Denver or San Francisco (four of those years commuting weekly between the two), in 2017 I moved to Lawrence, Kan., where

I am a professor of women, gender and sexuality studies at the University of Kansas. I'm writing my fourth book, a biography of 19th-century New York's most famous abortionist, Madame Restell. I live in an old, rambling house with my partner, Michael, and our dog, Sadie Louise Poppleton Pahr-Syrett, who occasionally posts on Facebook about her life in the heartland, which, it turns out, is not so bad."

Nick also shares with us the following updates on other alumni with whom he keeps up:

In summer 2007 with little more than a candy-colored Apple iBook and a karaoke microphone, **Tom Meyers** created the Bowery Boys NYC History Podcast with his friend Greg Young. Since then, they've released more than 350 episodes covering all aspects of New York's history, including "Madame Restell: The Abortionist of 5th Avenue," with guest **Nick Syrett**. Tom and Greg authored a book, *The Bowery Boys Adventures in Old New York* (2016), and perform regularly at venues throughout the city. In his pre-podcast life, Tom ran a budget travel website, eurocheapo.com, which he launched while living in Berlin in 2001 (frolicking with Emily Ford '99 and **Mauricio Mena**). Tom lives in Maplewood, N.J., with his husband, Guillaume, two children, cat and beagle.

Sarah Wheeler (née McConnell) lives in the Hudson River Valley at the end of a bougie cul-de-sac, searching for *le mot juste* and reenacting Proust's cookie-induced memory flood whenever possible. She teaches high school English, mucks donkey and draft horse stalls, and loves her husband, two kids and pets with passion if not panache.

Genevieve "Jane" Stewart works on energy management/climate action for a university in small-town Virginia, where she lives with her three kids (one of whom just graduated from college herself), a pretty great beagle and her husband, with whom she celebrated her 22nd wedding anniversary in January. She sends best wishes to all!

Erik Flatmo moved from San Francisco to Milan, Italy, in fall 2019 to work on theatrical design projects at theaters and museums in Europe and Russia. Prior, he taught set design at Stanford for 15 years. Currently he is doing freelance

design work at a fashion production studio in Milan. He will join the faculty of Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Tuscany, in 2022.

After graduation, **Carl Watson** SIPA'04 spent a few years working in New York and Washington, D.C., before returning to Columbia for grad school, with a year overseas at Sciences Po Paris, then joining the Foreign Service. He had assignments to Tokyo, Beijing, New York (US Mission to the UN), D.C., Athens and St. Petersburg, where he met his husband, Evgeny Pelepey, with whom he has two children, Alexandra and Charles (both 5).

Nancy Schwartzman is a documentary filmmaker and retired tech founder. Her documentary, *Roll Red Roll* (POV/Netflix), was nominated for a Peabody Award in 2019. She loves feminist true crime, films that center unlikely heroes, and blending her passion for justice, youth culture, sexuality and tech. In a past life, she developed a mobile app, Circle of 6, as a harm reduction tool to prevent violence. Circle of 6 was used around the world and awarded a prize under the Obama/Biden White House. After 23 years of living in NYC, Nancy recently relocated to sunny Los Angeles and got her driver's license! She still wears her Yankees cap, though.

Amanda Ford — technically CC'98, but she started with us — has been a film and television costume designer for about 20 years. A recent project, *Fear Street*, will be released on Netflix this summer. After 27 years in NYC she and her partner, Sam, are relocating to Bozeman, Mont. Amanda says she is happy to still be connected to some of her Columbia family after all this time: She quit being a vegetarian after 27 years at an omakase with **Shauna Grob** and Thuy Le '98; the Brooklyn "movie club" with **Erik Laroi** and **Mia Tran** has been going for at least a decade; hanging out in Toronto with **Petros Babasikas** and his family; sadly attending the memorial service of **J. Humberto Cruz** with **Erik Flatmo** and **Shauna Grob**; and celebrating Thanksgiving in Lawrence, Kan., with **Nick Syrett** and **Amie Cota** '98 (née LaCour).

Thank you, Nick!

I celebrated my sweet daughter's 4th birthday in October. Due to the pandemic I decided it was safer to scale down her typically large

birthday bash and instead just invite a few kids from our immediate neighborhood. We did a Halloween theme, as that's her favorite holiday and as her birthday is just a few days before it. For Halloween she was a black kitty cat, and we decorated our car for a neighborhood trunk-or-treat. She looked so adorable sitting in the decorated trunk handing out candy in her costume! As soon as she turned 4, I signed her up with our local Girl Scouts troop, and she has been enjoying earning various badges to place on her Daisy uniform. I am also letting her attend weekly one-hour group classes for ballet and tap, though I am holding off on sending her to preschool until the pandemic is over. In March we had a fun time attending the Florida Strawberry Festival, where my father was performing; he played guitar with my cousins' band, Oxford Nolan. Due to the pandemic, the festival decided to have local bands perform rather than bringing in the nationally famous bands, in an effort to keep the crowd size down.

As I wrap up this column it is late March, and we are very much looking forward to the upcoming Easter festivities. My daughter keeps pretending to be a rabbit while gleefully hopping around to Gene Autry's "Peter Cottontail" song.

Blessings to all, please say safe and do send us your updates.

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
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Happy summer, Class of '98! Hope you and your families are all well. I'm sorry to say we don't have any new notes this issue. We'd love to hear from you, so if you have news to share, please send updates my way via email or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1999

Lauren Gershell
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Hi! I'm **Lauren Gershell** (née Rosenberg) and I'm thrilled to be our new CCT class correspondent!



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.

I look forward to learning more about all of you and what you have been up to recently, and also wanted to share some information about myself for those who don't know me.

After graduation, I stayed at Columbia and earned a J.D. from the Law School in 2002. I spent several years working at a big law firm in NYC as a litigator and married my husband, Leland Gershell PS'98, GSAS'00, who made the poor choice to attend Dartmouth before intelligently coming to Columbia for graduate school. I took more than a decade off from the professional world to be a stay-at-home mother to our children, Caroline (now 15) and Alexander (now 12), and in 2019 published my debut novel, *That's What Frenemies Are For*. My family and I still live in Manhattan, where I was born and raised, and have added a very cute and sweet dog, Coco, to our family.

Given the past year, I will assume that, like me, you all could use some fun and interesting updates from classmates to distract us from everything. I promise that no news is too small or quirky, and you most definitely don't need to have won an impressive international prize or been on a reality TV show to write in (though I'm sure someone in our class has done something like this ... anyone?).

I look forward to hearing from all of you (and from those I'm planning to hunt down ... you know who you are). Please write to me at the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

CCT gathered these notes from classmates:

Sara Dauber (née Steindel) writes: "I live in Washington, D.C., and work at the NIH supporting the small business program at National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. This is a shift after many years working in life sciences startups. In this new role I get an inside view of the grant-making that supports small businesses. Startups and government are about as different from each other as could be, so it's been a culture shock! I started the job during Covid-19, so my work has all been from my house in D.C., where at least two of my four children are also always home with me. (I am thankful for a hybrid model where they do go to school a few days a week.) Boaz is in eighth

grade, Jordana is in sixth, and Moses and Delilah are in fourth. We very much like D.C. and are glad to have made the move (from Cincinnati) in 2018 when my husband, Andrew Dauber '00, joined Children's National Hospital as a division chief (endocrinology). We bought our house from a Columbia grad and have dear friends from the Class of '00 down the block!"

Douglas Freeman writes: "I recently went through the experience of changing jobs during a pandemic. After nine and a half years at White & Case, I left to join the Data Analytics team in the Knowledge and Innovation Department at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, where I am managing the enterprise search and helping build out the data architecture to support search and other initiatives. It's been a really interesting experience onboarding via Zoom. (I've never even seen the interior of the offices except from a few photos!) Fortunately, everyone's been very supportive and I feel like I'm figuring out what we need to do to succeed and making plans to get there."

Danielle Dreiling, a journalist, is "psyched to report that I published my first book in May. *The Secret History of Home Economics: How Trailblazing Women Harnessed the Power of Home and Changed the Way We Live* tells the fascinating and surprisingly feminist story of women who wielded a powerful, scientific and educational vision, and explains why home ec matters today. And I even got to claim my Butler Library alumni card so I could read Melvil Dewey's papers. To attend a virtual (or maybe even in-person!) event, check thedailyreason.com." [Editor's note: See "Bookshelf."]

James Boyle is an active-duty military officer, and has spent most of the past decade stationed in the Asia-Pacific region and the Middle East. He is currently on a Navy scholarship pursuing a master's in Asian studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and will report in July to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon for a three-year tour. He, his wife, Stefanie, and their dog, Reza, live in Washington, D.C., and enjoy running through Rock Creek Park during their off time."

Valerie McGuire shares, "I published a book in 2020, *Italy's Sea: Empire and Nation in the Mediterranean, 1895–1945*, and am an

assistant professor at the University of St Andrews in Scotland."

Brad Neuberg moved from San Francisco to Alameda with his daughter, Cameron (3), and his wife, Abby, during the pandemic. "I work at a space company named Planet that has about 200 shoebox-sized cubesats in low Earth orbit imaging the earth daily. I am on the machine learning team applying computer vision to satellite imagery, detecting things such as illegal logging roads in the Amazon Rainforest. I keep up to date with **Susan Kassin** and **Laurent Vasilescu** with virtual lunches. I am very tired of the pandemic and can't wait until normal life returns again."

2000

Prisca Bae
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Noam Elcott, a professor in the Department of Art History and Archaeology and the Jonathan Sobel & Marcia Dunn Program Chair for Art Humanities, was selected for a 2021 Great Teacher Award by the Society of Columbia Graduates.

Desiree Santos is a psychoanalyst in private practice and an adjunct professor at the School of Social Work.

Mark Neighbors is completing his second year at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, where he reports on rule of law, governance and refugee issues. Mark and his family are there until summer 2022.

Leslie Zivin Kandel lives in Boca Raton with her husband and two kids (9 and 12). She stays busy managing virtual school, and prior to the pandemic was doing community theater.

Chelsea Wald wrote a book, *Pipe Dreams: The Urgent Global Quest to Transform the Toilet*. She is a science journalist and lives in The Hague with her family.

Yehuda Kurtzer published *The New Jewish Canon*, a book on the major ideas and debates of Jewish life in the past two generations.

Chunyu Wang owns Wang Law Office in New York and California.

Matthew Jacobs is a software engineer at Mastercard, building a digital payments system. He says he's grateful his parents received the vaccine, and recently celebrated Pi Day with "nerd friends over Zoom."

Gabriel Palley and his wife live in Albuquerque with 6-year-old triplets. He is a doctor at the academic hospital and teaches residents how to care for Covid-19 patients.

Sebastian Chan has been in midtown Manhattan throughout the pandemic. He recently joined Kirkland & Ellis as a partner.

Matthew R. Wilson will direct the first show for the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company this summer and is finishing his book on *Commedia dell'arte*, due at the end of 2021. He is on faculty at The George Washington University's Corcoran School of the Arts + Design and was named director of graduate studies for its Academy for Classical Acting in partnership with The Shakespeare Theatre Company. Matt is celebrating his 20th anniversary with **Sarah Bartlett**, an associate professor of English at Northern Virginia Community College (where she teaches alongside First Lady Jill Biden). They are in D.C. with their Lab-hound, Nefertiti.

Marissa Alguire is an attorney and deputy chair of the Labor and Employment practice at Akerman. She is in Los Angeles with her husband and kids (5-year-old twins), cooking their hearts out and rock climbing as a family.

Natalia Petrzela hosts and co-produces *Welcome to Your Fantasy*, a podcast on the cultural history/true crime story of Chippendales. It's a Spotify Exclusive and will be available on all platforms this summer.

Congrats on the great reviews in *The Guardian*, *The New Yorker*, *Vulture* and *LA Magazine*!

Maciej Paluch lives in San Francisco and has been a researcher at Genentech for 13 years. He recently tried camper van life and now wants one!

Michael Shen is in L.A. with Erika Shen BC'02, their two sons and daughter. He is still acting and says he was grateful for the bounce house and swimming pool during quarantine.

Sam Hirzel and his wife, Christine Kane, welcomed Mason Marshall Hirzel on August 10. He joins brother Maxwell Taylor Hirzel, born November 8, 2018. Sam has had many late-night Zoom happy hours with Zeta Psi brothers. He writes, "It's not Cannons's, The West End or 531 W. 113th St., but I appreciated the opportunity to reconnect."

Shana Inofuentes co-founded and directs the social impact venture The Quechua Project, “a 21st century approach to linguistic oppression and Native erasure” (Gulf Coast Diplomacy) that supports Indigenous rights. She is in Arlington, Va., with her son and partner. In May, she earned a master’s in communication, culture and technology from Georgetown.

Charlie Nightingale joined the legal department of PIMCO in June 2020 and oversees the firm’s private funds globally. While joining a new firm during a pandemic was difficult, he says his transition was made easier by bumping into new colleague **Michelle Galvez**, who works in the legal department in New York. Charlie has lived in Newport Beach, Calif., since 2009 with his wife, Alison, and sons (11 and 8).

Jason Stroom is a periodontist in Cleveland. He is in touch with **Matt Radley**, **Chandler Bocklage**, **Ray Martinez**, **Sam Rubert**, **Matt Bloodgood**, **Lorenzo Melendez** and **Jennifer Melendez**. Jason notes their “text message thread is very active and everyone has been growing beards and losing weight during Covid. It’s been a good time to get healthier.”

Neal Kravitz and **Phoebe Goode** are orthodontists. Neal is in the D.C. area and a clinical faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. He proudly punishes his young patients who don’t brush their teeth by placing “Princeton colors on their braces.”

Helen Kim graduated from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in 2005, worked 10 years in M&A in Big Law in NYC, London and Los Angeles and then decided to reinvent herself. She is in her last year of medical school at the Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio, found the love of her life during the pandemic, and is getting married in September and moving to Nashville!

Jonathan Galler is a partner with the South Florida law firm of Gutter Chaves Josepher Rubin Forman Fleisher Miller. He practices trust and estate litigation and recently authored the *Florida Law of Trusts*, published by Westlaw. He can be reached at jgaller@floridatx.com.

Claire Hunsaker left Big Tech to start askflossie.com, a personal finance platform for women. She, Sean and baby Magnus left San

Francisco, got a requisite pandemic puppy and have been hiding out in rural West Marin. Claire spent tax season doing free tax prep for low-income filers through the IRS VITA program.

Christopher Cross was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army JAG Corps and is the chief of administrative law for 1st Armored Division Fort Bliss, Texas. He is moving this summer with his sons, Christopher (13) and Miles (9), to Fort Knox, Ky., where he will be deputy staff judge advocate for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

Jenny Fan Raj says hello from San Francisco. She spent most of last year sheltering in place in Palos Verdes with her husband and two children says she is grateful for the safety and health of her family and loved ones. She joined the board of Youth Speaks, a Bay Area nonprofit that empowers youth to find, develop and publicly present their voices as creators of social change.

Adriana Villavicencio published *Am I My Brother’s Keeper: Educational Opportunities and Outcomes for Black and Brown Boys*, which is about how districts and schools can embed racial equity into policies and practices. She is an assistant professor at UC Irvine and lives near campus with her husband and kids (6 and 2).

Gered Doherty moved back East in January 2020. He lives in Northern Virginia and works the medtech space.

Erin Ortiz (née Erdman) is in Dallas with her husband of 11 years and kids, Myer (9), Sadie (7), and Emme (4). She left the Secret Service three years ago and works for AT&T in executive protection. The family lives two miles from Erin’s parents and has been busy with three kids playing multiple sports.

Daniel Beliaevsky is an associate professor and chair of the Fine Art and Music Department at Yeshiva College. He performs, lately via Zoom, and has been making documentaries on living composers since 2010. Daniel’s films are *Sonata* (1957), about composer Donald Harris and *Secret Music*, about composer David Del Tredici. Just as the pandemic hit, he finished a film based on the Secret Music feature Gay Body of Music. Daniel is working on an animation-live action hybrid short about Bach’s C Major Prelude, *WTC 1*, this summer.

Kim Salzman (née Worly) lives in Northern Israel with her husband, three kids and two dogs. She is the director of Israel operations for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

John Kriegsman is in London with his wife, Suzanne, and son, James (3). John is the U.S. alternate director at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He writes, “Covid aside, I’ve been rowing, most recently competing at the last Henley Royal Regatta, in 2019. Staple food item remains peanut butter.”

Gideon Yago shares that son Solomon was born Christmas Day 2019 and “is an absolute delight. We’re grateful that we were able to experience so much of his first year, largely because of the lock-ins and lockdowns.”

Finally, I am mostly in NYC and working on the launch of The Asian American Foundation, an organization founded by Asian American leaders like Li Lu ’96, LAW’96, BUS’96, founder and chair of Himalaya Capital Management, who simultaneously earned a B.A. in economics, a J.D. and an M.B.A. Our mission is to serve AAPIs in the pursuit of belonging and prosperity, free from discrimination, slander and violence in our country.

Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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I can’t believe we’ve been “living” in and with the pandemic for more than a year. I’ve been reliant on social media for most of my updates, but for this column I did something old-fashioned and canvassed one third of you via email — I know, who emails anymore? Anyhow, some of you do; I got great responses. I will be reaching out to another third for the next issue. Stay tuned, or just write in with your own updates.

Ben Ryan writes, “After eight years covering the science of HIV, viral hepatitis and cancer for *POZ*, *Hep* and *Cancer Health* magazines, I resigned from my editor-at-large position there and have been braving

the freelance science journalism front, writing for places like <<name drop your favorite impressive publications here>>. My website is benryan.net if you’re curious. I recently relocated from Hell’s Kitchen back to the hallowed glory of the UWS.”

Sheila Nazarian writes, “It has been a whirlwind since my last update. My Netflix show, *Skin Decision*, launched in 2020 and has been a dream come true. Nazarian Plastic Surgery and Spa26 are expanding. theskinspot.com has taught me the language of e-commerce. nazarianinstitute.org has its own team now and has gone virtual and on-demand. My daughter had her Zoom bat mitzvah last year and we are prepping for my son’s bar mitzvah this year. Really working on reexamining and reevaluating personal and professional goals this year, like many of you. Would love to connect, and you can keep in touch on IG: @drsheilanzarian.”

Wally Suphap LAW’04 writes with updates relating to recent work in the diversity and inclusion space. “Effective February, I was elected to the Board of Directors of APIA Scholars, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing scholarships and other educational and developmental opportunities to Asian-Americans and Pacific Islander Americans.

“In November, I was recognized as a Top 10 Diversity Consultant on the Global Diversity List 2020. The list recognizes leaders around the world who work to enhance diversity and inclusion in the workplace and beyond.

“Last year I was invited to join the Executive Board of Columbia Pride, the Columbia Alumni Association’s LGBTQ+ alumni organization. Among the network’s recent achievements is the creation and launch of Columbia College’s Pride Scholarship, the first scholarship devoted to leadership in the LGBTQ+ space. It has raised more than \$28,000. The College will name its first recipients in the 2021–22 academic year.”

Thank you, Wally, for the important work you are doing!

Sam Polk’s company, Everytable, recently opened its 11th location — Everytable Hollywood — and is laying the groundwork to expand to NYC, with a planned first opening in Q3. “I have three kids — Eveline (6), Jude (4) and Annalise (1) — and

my wife recently started a business, Remedy Psychiatry, to make world-class psychiatric care accessible and affordable to all."

I can personally report that Sam's company is making a difference in Los Angeles, as my daughter came home from school and told me about the work that companies like Everytable are doing to address "food deserts" in Los Angeles. Thanks, Sam!

Anna Rozental (née Smirnov) reports, "I am doing well. I am a doctor who's battling the pandemic. I work for CityMD urgent care, and the last year has been challenging to say the least. I got married in 2004 and have two sons (16 and 13). I miss Columbia a lot; things seemed so much simpler back then. But I hope my older son will get to continue the tradition — he will apply to college soon!"

Thanks, Anna, for being on the front lines!

Richard Plotkin is busy writing musicals, and this year became an "advanced" member of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop.

Congrats, Richard.

Jenny Moussa Spring and her husband, Jon Spring SEAS'03, have been based in the Bay Area since 2009. "After a few months of the pandemic, we moved from our condo in SF to a home in Oakland with our two boys. I've worked for the Disney Publishing team for more than five years at a satellite office based at Pixar Animation Studios, and recently started working with the Marvel and Lucasfilm franchises as well. We've been sheltering in place for nearly a year at this point, so we are very much looking forward to when we can see our friends and families again, I hope in the near future. Happy to connect with Columbians on LinkedIn."

Jenny Shalant JRN'10 is "holding down the fort with my family in Hastings-on-Hudson; my husband and I have two boys, one in third grade, and the 'baby' will go to kindergarten in the fall(!). I head up the National Resources Defense Council editorial department. My friend **Elaine Shen**, with whom I first bonded in our sophomore year while collaborating on a *Spectator* article that we stayed up all night writing (wish I still had a copy!), is now the director of events for engagement at *The New York Times*."

Ben Wheeler shared lots of exciting news from his household. "**Kate Cortesi** and I moved from Brooklyn to Somerville, Mass., in 2018, and have two daughters. We still go back to NYC and would love to see people whenever that starts being a thing again!"

"2020 was a hard year for us, but it did have some silver linings. Kate's play *LOVE*, which premiered at the Marin Theater (Calif.) Company, opened on March 10, and was canceled the next day, along with so much else across the country. Luckily, they were able to film the stage production and put it online. In the fall, a second play of hers, *Is Edward Snowden Single?*, was produced by Minneapolis's Jungle Theater. This time, the production was designed from scratch with streaming in mind. Kate also had a short, one-woman play, *I Love Parties*, streamed as part of the Homebound Project, a theater fundraiser for NYC nonprofit No Kid Hungry. It's a long way from when Kate would put on plays in the basement of The West End, but in some ways it's still the exact same

"I work at Scratch (scratch.mit.edu), a creativity tool and community for kids that involves computer programming, art, music and collaboration. If you have kids, I encourage you to try it!"

Namrata Tripathi writes, "I founded and am the publisher of an imprint at Penguin Random House, Kokila. We publish diverse books for young readers (ages 0–18). And although we've only been publishing for less than two years, we've had two *New York Times* bestsellers (*Hair Love* and *Antiracist Baby*), a Newbery Honor medalist (*The Night Diary*) and a National Book Award finalist (*Patron Saints of Nothing*). I hope parents in our class find books for their kids to love on our list."

Thanks, Namrata, for sharing about your important imprint!

Siobhan O'Leary writes, "I haven't checked in in more than a decade (I think), but I relocated from NYC to Berlin in 2006 for a few months and then permanently (whatever that means nowadays) in 2009. After years of working in the publishing industry, I joined the German Medical Association's Department for International Affairs in 2015, taking on a position that combines my interest in medicine, healthcare policy, writing and translation.

"In my free time I sing in the main choir and chamber choir of the Sing-Akademie zu Berlin, which was founded in 1791 and is considered the oldest mixed-voice choir in the world. We've performed in the Philharmonie, Konzerthaus, Berliner Dom and many other venues in Berlin and beyond. Of course, rehearsals are all happening online at the moment, which is a bit depressing, but I hope that will change in the next few months. I'm well settled here and can't imagine ever leaving, though I do wish I were planning a trip home to NYC this year for an in-person reunion!"

Finally, last but not least, **Martha Sparks** shared a delightful anecdote: "On the last Saturday in 2020 before the world closed, my kids and I went to brunch [in Jackson Heights] with a few other families after Shabbat services. I was sitting next to someone I hadn't met who was wearing a Columbia sweatshirt. Not only was he a fellow Columbia College alum, but he was **Sam Oppenheim**. Our kids go to the same school, and the little two are in the same kindergarten class. Class of 2037?"

I love stories like that! Please share more, classmates.

2002

Sonia Hiraarami
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Hi, CC'02. Hope you are all well and safe in these unprecedented times.

Barbara Chubak is a urologist at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC. She volunteered for redeployment to a Covid-19 ICU at the start of the crisis; she is now back to working her actual job, but continues to volunteer on the weekends as a supervising physician for Covid vaccine administration.

Ginger Gentile is an activist documentary filmmaker whose third feature, *Erasing Family*, which exposes how children are traumatized when a loving parent is erased from their lives after divorce, is on YouTube: bit.ly/3u5fl4O.

She hopes the film and resources available on erasingfamily.org will help families reunite and heal. Ginger is directing a new film with Cora Media that looks at admissions at Ivy League universities and was looking forward to filming at Columbia this spring. Any alumni

with stories to share, especially first-generation or low-income, are encouraged to reach out to her: gingerg@coramedia.net.

Elizabeth Clay Roy joined Generation Citizen as CEO in January. She is excited about bringing equity-rooted and experiential civics education to classrooms around the country. Elizabeth lives in Harlem with her husband and daughter.

Julia Campins (née Willdorf) LAW'05 was appointed as a Superior Court judge in Contra Costa County, Calif., in October 2019. She writes, "It's been an interesting first year and a half, with most of it during Covid, but I'm loving the job."

I, for one, could not be prouder to have classmates who are doing such great work and impacting the world around us in such a positive way. Thank you!

2003

Michael J. Novielli
mijn29@columbia.edu

I truly hope that you are healthy and well. It certainly has been a trying year-plus for the world, but we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel and there is much to be hopeful for. Along those lines, I'm happy to share some good news about classmates.

Carter Reum continues to make headlines, this time for becoming engaged to Paris Hilton.

I caught **Yoni Appelbaum**, a senior editor for politics at *The Atlantic*, speaking about the Biden presidential transition on MSNBC on January 17.

Rebecca Bloom writes, "I started my dream job at LinkedIn as senior counsel, advertising, supporting Moustafa Badreldin and Hanh Vo. Having worked with them for the last year as an Axiom contractor, I know how truly blessed I am to be joining their team. I can't overstate how supportive and understanding my colleagues at LinkedIn were while I juggled a job and taking care of two young children during a pandemic. I love this company and team with all my heart."

Anand Venkatesan is senior VP of strategy and head of operations at *The New York Times*.

James Thompson is an assistant attorney general in New York State.

Please submit your updates by email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2004

Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

After 13 years working at Janssen R&D, **Adie Strickler** joined the Global Infectious Diseases & Vaccines Team in January 2020. In this position, she says she was privileged to work with an incredible team of people on the execution of several clinical trials resulting in the recent FDA Emergency Use Authorization, EMA Contingent Approval and WHO Emergency Use Listing of J&J's Covid-19 vaccine. "It's been the greatest honor of my career to play a part in bringing this critical vaccine to (eventually) billions of people across the world!"

William Kwok is co-producer of the feature film *I Was a Simple Man*, which premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival. The recipient of the 2021 Sundance Institute Asian American Fellowship, William is a 2021 Sundance Institute Screenwriters Intensive Fellow for his upcoming feature screenwriting and directing debut, *Chinese School*.

Andrew Kornbluth published a book, *The August Trials: The Holocaust and Postwar Justice in Poland*, in March.

Annie Pfeifer writes, "Twenty years after first stepping foot on our campus, I'm thrilled to be back at Columbia as an assistant professor in the Department of Germanic Languages. It's surreal to walk past Hartley Hall — my first-year dorm — on my way to the office in Hamilton Hall. Currently I'm teaching CC over Zoom, but I hope to be back in the classroom soon."

Abigail Druck Shudofsky and her husband welcomed their fourth child, Elior Laviv, in December. Abigail writes, "Her siblings, Adiv, Urit and Etai, are simply thrilled. Maternity leave is quite different during a pandemic — not much opportunity to rest when kids are learning from home! — but it was certainly special to have the bigger kids pop by between classes to check in on and kiss the baby. Thankfully, they have made the most of their

year-plus of nonstop togetherness, but they are definitely excited to have a playmate join their ranks."

For the last 15 years, **Elizabeth Brus** was an educator in and curriculum writer for charter and private schools in NYC. She adds, "I also have two rugrats at home in Cobble Hill, Saskia (3) and Hendrik (7 months). I recently quit my job as a teacher and am pivoting my career to try to, finally, become a writer. To support that goal, I am tutoring and doing contract curriculum work on the side. I would love to reconnect with Columbia alums in Brooklyn or elsewhere for networking or socializing."

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send 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 email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer, CC'05! This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu. (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the Alumni Office!) In the meantime, here is the latest news. Thanks to all who wrote in!

We have exciting news from **Italome Ohikhuare**: "I finally landed my first, professional screenwriting job! I was recently hired to write on a new show for Netflix, *First Kill*. Emma Roberts is producing, and it will premiere later this year. Be sure to look for my name in the credits."

We also heard from **Bindu Suresh**, who has lots of big news! She shares, "Since my last update, I've gotten married (to Andrew Harder SIPA'07) and had two kids (my daughter, Atlin, who is now 3, and my son, Nikita, who is 1). We live in Montreal. I also started work-

ing as a pediatrician in 2018 and published my first novel, *26 Knots*, in 2019. The book's French translation, *26 noeuds*, came out in April!"

Xan Nowakowski shares that they recently published a book, *Sexual Deviance in Health and Aging: Uncovering Later Life Intimacy*, which according to its description: "... explores life course health experiences and unmet care needs of populations perceived as sexually deviant in the United States. These groups include but are not limited to: gay, lesbian, and bisexual people; asexual and demisexual people; trans, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming people; intersex people; nonmonogamous and polyamorous people; kink and fetishism practitioners; sex and adult entertainment workers; individuals labeled as sexual offenders and predators; people living with sexually transmitted infections; people identifying as neuroatypical and/or autistic; and people with chronic conditions and disabilities who lead active sexual lives. Lacey J. Ritter and Alexandra C.H. Nowakowski analyze the social, cultural, and political origins of perceptions of these groups as sexually deviant. In the process, they provide history and context for the healthcare experiences of people within each of these broad groups. Simultaneously, *Sexual Deviance in Health and Aging* highlights the complexity and individuality of different people's journeys through sexuality in health and aging."

Classmates would love to hear from you, too. Send a note to the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2006

Andrew Stinger
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Happy 15-year graduation anniversary, Class of 2006! I hope many of you were able to connect at our virtual reunion in late May/early June. If you have stories or updates, please send them my way for inclusion in our Class Notes. Please send photos right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

In addition to serving on our Reunion Committee and being

promoted to director of international customer success at Finalsité last year, **Meredith Kaplan** and her husband, Blake Seers, welcomed their daughter, Maren Adaire Carol Seers, on October 1.

Maiya Chard-Yaron married Jerry Edelson, a gastroenterology fellow at Brooke AMC, on December 19 at the South Congress Hotel in Austin, Texas. Bridesmaids attending remotely included **Abby Deift** and Elana Stiefel Lefkowitz BC'07, with Abby delivering a toast via video from New York to the in-person guests. Maiya is the executive director of Texas Hillel, based at UT-Austin. [Editor's note: See "Just Married!"]

Sean Wilkes accepted an appointment as assistant professor of psychiatry at the Uniformed Services University and is completing his third tour of duty in Hawaii as division psychiatrist for the Army's 25th Infantry Division.

Isaac Stone Fish launched a firm, Strategy Risks, which quantifies corporate exposure to China.

Teddy Diefenbach announced his interactive animated series *We Are OFK* in December onstage at The Game Awards, "the Oscars of video-games." The series will release later this year on game consoles, along with music by the virtual band OFK.

2007

David D. Chait
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I hope everyone is doing well amidst everything!

Keith Hernandez was recently appointed deputy GM for Spanish Latin America for the short video company Kuaishou, the world's second largest short video platform, recently listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. He will be responsible for operations and growth with a focus on Spanish South America. Keith's previous venture, the short video startup KALO, merged with Kuaishou's Latam-focused app Kwai. Keith also is strategy business partner to the global head of Kwai App in overseeing cross-functional communication and collaboration. He will split his time among the global HQ in Beijing (pandemic permitting), the Spanish South America team office in Bogota and the LatAm HQ in Mexico City.

Andrew Russeth writes, “In late October, my wife, Lauretta Charlton, and I moved from New York to Seoul. Lauretta’s an editor at *The New York Times*, which is opening an office here, and I’m freelance writing about art. We love it. If you pass through, once travel becomes easier, please say hello!”

Kat Dey BUS’14 (née Vorotova) welcomed her second daughter, Emma Alexandra Dey, in October. On a professional note, etitude, where Kat is co-founder and president, was named the 632nd fastest-growing U.S. company by *Inc.* magazine in 2020.

Tao Tan writes, “I left McKinsey after eight years to become a founding partner and chief operating officer at Healthcare Services Acquisition Corp., a special purpose acquisition company backed by BlackRock and AllianceBernstein. We IPOed on the Nasdaq in December and raised \$330 million.”

Alison Mariella Désir is working on her book, *The Unbearable Whiteness of Running*, coming October 2022. She shares, “Running purports to be a space where all are welcome — ‘all you need are running shoes’ and ‘just show up’ are common phrases by those trying to encourage newbies into the sport. But, in truth, long-distance running requires much more, a lot of which is unavailable to Black people due to historic and present policies rooted in racism and white supremacy. *The Unbearable Whiteness of Running* is a manifest tracing my personal journey toward social change through distance running and exposes the historic and current effects of racism on the industry while calling for truly inclusive fitness culture. This book exists at the intersection of running, sociology, social justice and anti-racism work, and invites readers to reimagine a running industry where all are truly welcome.”

Samantha Criss (née Feingold) shares, “My daughter, Emerson Scarlett, was born on December 2. My husband, Dr. Jonathan Criss (’01 Yale), and I are overjoyed to have three amazing kids. Emerson is joined by her brothers, Miles (5.5) and Hunter (2). We live in Delray Beach, Fla., and love the year-round warm sun!”

Eric Bondarsky writes, “What an exciting series of reunions on a chilly day in Englewood! First, I shared an adult beverage with avid CCT reader

Jon Merkin ’09, BUS’16, followed by 50th-birthday beverages with Hillel Parness ’95, LAW’95 just hours later. Roar, gentlemen, Roar.”

Becca Hartog writes, “In June 2020, I gave birth to Adelaide June. She has turned into the most delightful infant who loves to babble and crawl, and is threatening to start walking any day now. I will finish pediatric cardiology training at the University of Michigan/C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital this July. My husband, Addie, and I are then moving to St. Louis, Mo., to begin our first post-training jobs, at Washington University St. Louis Children’s Hospital. We are so excited to be moving back to be among family and for this first step in our careers!”

Michele Scott, a member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, was named a 2020 recipient of The 40 Under 40 Native Americans Award from The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

Tarik Bolat shares some “updates”: “**David Schor** for years had been growing restless with irascible vintners (see November/December 2010 Class Notes) and has turned his considerable literary talents to the blossoming field of ad copy for the next generation of heirloom apples. A modest Macoun was recently praised for its berry-like flesh, while a Cosmic Crisp was extolled as nonpareil for its electric zing of tart. Talk about living the Core Curriculum! Congrats, Dave!”

“**Paul Sonne**’s career has taken flight with his opening of Luck Be A Lorikeet, the world’s first exotic flightless bird preserve and riverboat casino, located on an abandoned oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Guests can do hot yoga at sunrise with Zander the Ostrich or moonlight meditation with Suri the Scrubfowl before moving to the card tables to try their luck. Don’t think about card counting at the blackjack tables, Columbians! Bouncer and local tough Pyotr Penguin will march you out of there in no time.

“**Peter Shalek** has converted a hobby into a passion by becoming Canada’s most celebrated goatherd-mystic. Brandishing a Jedi-like command of his flock while handcrafting some of the finest *chèvre* and feta this side of the Aegean, Shalek has developed a small but intensely passionate set of devotees for whom he is a spiritual lodestar.”

2008

Columbia College Today
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Happy summer, CC’08! This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu. (Never fear: You’ll get lots of assistance from the Alumni Office!) In the meantime, here is the latest news. Thanks to all who wrote in!

Julie Raskin is putting her urban studies degree to good use as the executive director of the Sanitation Foundation, the official nonprofit affiliate of The City of New York Department of Sanitation. The organization facilitates public-private partnerships to advance NYC’s zero-waste goals. Julie and Matthew Haicken were married in April 2020 by NY1 TV anchor Pat Kiernan on the live morning show. It was one of the state’s first virtual weddings. [Editor’s note: See “Just Married!”]

Betsy Remes Purves and her husband, Jon, welcomed baby Claire Miriam to their family on February 28. She joins big brother Robbie, who is mostly thrilled about the new addition.

Alec Schachner lives in Hanoi, Vietnam, where he is owner and head sound engineer at Êch Êch Recording Studio, at the edge of the peach blossom fields next to the Red River. Alec has recorded and produced numerous Vietnamese and international musicians and bands across a wide variety of genres. A selection of projects can be found at echech.squarespace.com/projects, including the multi-genre compilation album *Ech Ech Volume 1*, featuring 18 Hanoi-based music projects.

More recently, Alec released a Vietnamese language version song-in-translation with some Viet rap verses thrown in encouraging environmental awareness and addressing such issues as pollution and endangered animal poaching (bit.ly/3cB5zla). Since the end of summer after graduation, Alec has lived and worked in Vietnam. He is now fluent in the language and also does poetry translation work. Additionally, as a multi-instrumental electroacoustic musician under the moniker Scobi Wan, Alec performs

live sets in a variety of genres from harsh noise, to ambient soundscapes, to deep house, to post-folk.

Andrew Martin married Laura Kolbe, a doctor and writer, in December in Hillsdale, N.Y. His second book, *Cool for America: Stories*, a collection of stories, was published in the pandemic summer of 2020 and will be out in paperback in July.

From **Henry Pedersen**: “After a phenomenal 10 years, I’m bringing my career as a Green Beret to an end and moving home to Seattle this fall/winter. I’d love to be in touch with anyone who can help guide my next steps — it’s going to be a fun challenge to apply the lessons of two combat tours in Afghanistan and several years working with partners in eastern Europe to the civilian world. But mostly I’m excited to have time to hike in the Cascades with friends.”

Jason Bello obtained his aerobatics pilot’s license in December, which is something he has been working toward for four years. He is looking forward to taking part in the D.C. Aerobatics Jamboree in July. Due to the pandemic, there won’t be live spectators, but it will be livestreamed. Anyone who would like free tickets should contact Jason.

Outside of flying, Jason has been focusing much of his time on bagel making. After some pandemic-related delays, he is set to open a craft bagel shop, Plane Bagels, this September in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of Washington, D.C. If any CC’08ers are passing through D.C. and want a bagel, let him know!

Ruthzee Louijeune is running for Boston City Council At-Large. She attended Harvard Law and the Harvard Kennedy School and graduated in 2014. Ruthzee is the daughter of Haitian immigrants, a graduate of Boston public schools, and a lawyer and advocate. She previously served as senior counsel to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.)’s campaigns. Ruthzee is running to build a more affordable, equitable and inclusive Boston, and says she has the passion and conviction to make that happen. Please visit ruthzeeforboston.com to donate, sign up for emails and find out how you can get involved!

Classmates would love to hear from you, too. Send a note to the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



NICOLE MUSTER



ROSINA DIBELLO



ERIC SCHNEIDER



GREYLINE PHOTOGRAPHY



SASHA FELS



6

1. Francis Grunow '96 (second from left) married Carolyn Geck on October 6, 2018, at what Grunow called Detroit's "forever Tiger Stadium." Joining the couple were, from far left, David Gratt '90 (sporting 1990s-era Travis Fryman), Phyllis Fletcher '94 and Adam Schweber '96.

2. Gabriella Ripoll '10 and Filipe Fernandes were married on February 29, 2020, at Florida's Lighthouse Point Yacht Club. Celebrating were (left to right) Noah Scribner, Aimee Birnbaum, Tyler Naill, Aurelie N'Songo, the groom, the bride, Gary Denardo, Monica Watson, Alvaro Salkeld, Ilana Broad and Miriam Manber BC'10.

3. Matthew Haicken and Julie Raskin '08 were married in their Brooklyn apartment on April 20, 2020, by NY1 anchor Pat Kiernan on the live morning show.

4. Jerry Edelson and Maiya Chard-Yaron '06 were married in the South Congress Hotel in Austin, Texas, on December 19.

5. Tracy Devine Guzman and Adam Fels '93 were married on November 27 on Sanibel Island, Fla.

6. Asya Gottesman and Lawrence Geyman '12 were married aboard the *Atlantis* yacht in Brooklyn on August 25, 2019. Celebrating were (left to right) Ann Wang, Chao "Carl" Wang SEAS'13; the bride; the groom; Ella Geyman (née Brodsky) '89, mother of the groom; Matthew Geyman '21, brother of the groom; Brandi Ripp '12; and Daniel Rockower LAW'15. Not pictured: Leo Brodsky GSAS'88, SIPA'88, uncle of the groom.

7. Shane Olds and Tara Barrett-Olds '10 were married at the Hotel Zamora, St. Pete Beach, Fla., on March 7.

2009

Columbia College Today
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Happy summer, CC'09! This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu. (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the Alumni Office!) In the meantime, here is the latest news. Thanks to all who wrote in!

Sasha Stewart writes: "I wrote and produced a Netflix limited series, *Amend: The Fight for America*, a six-part multimedia documentary centered on the 14th amendment. It is hosted by Will Smith and executive produced by Larry Wilmore, and was released on February 17. Columbia professor Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 is a central figure in 'Resistance,' our second episode, which focuses on Foner's specialty, the Reconstruction. So if you missed out on Foner's class (or just miss it), give it a watch."

Arnold Mwanjila shares: "My feature film directorial debut, *Taliya*, about an ambitious fisherman who ensnares and enslaves a mermaid-like water spirit off the coast of Kenya in order to exploit it as a grand magical theatrical exhibit, had its world premiere on February 20 at the NewFilmmakers Los Angeles Film Festival 2021. It was the exclusive feature film anchoring its Black History Month program, Infocus: Black Cinema Shorts.

"The film continued its festival run with a second showing at Cinequest Film and Creativity Festival in March."

Jenny Lam is celebrating the 10th anniversary of Artists on the Lam/going independent as a curator! As part of the celebration, she's curating an international art exhibition, *DECAHEDRON*, opening virtually this June at artistsonthelam.com. Recently, Jenny was invited to speak at the Leonardo LASER Talk "Resilience: From Cells to the Human Experience," and her own artwork was exhibited at You Are Beautiful in Chicago. She is also collaborating with **Anabell Liriano Krzyzanowski** (née Martinez) on bilingual children's books.

MaryAlice Parks JRN'13 shares that she accepted an exciting role as

a White House Correspondent for *ABC News* in January to cover the Biden administration. She writes, "ABC News made history 47 years ago when it assigned the first woman, Ann Compton, to cover the White House for a TV network, and this year ABC made history again when its news division named an all-female lineup of White House correspondents."

After finishing an M.S. at the Journalism School, MaryAlice started at ABC's Washington bureau as a Frank Reynolds Fellow and became a segment producer for *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*. She covered the 2016 campaign and then worked in a management position as the deputy political director this last election cycle, helping to craft the network's campaign and election coverage. In her new role, MaryAlice says she hopes to bring probing questions to the administration and helpful context to viewers. She welcomes all ideas and would love to hear from alums in the nation's capital.

On a more personal celebratory note, she shares that she recently became engaged to her longtime love, Chris Kimmel, an officer in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, who proposed at their church.

Classmates would love to hear from you, too. Send a note to the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2010

Julia Feldberg Klein
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

Hi, 2010. I hope you are staying safe and healthy. After 11 years as your class correspondent, it's time to pass the torch. I'll look for other ways to contribute and stay connected to the school, but in the meantime, if anyone wants to take my place starting with the Fall 2021 issue, please reach out ASAP to cct@columbia.edu. And now ... on to the notes!

Daniel D'Addario and Jacob Schneider welcomed their first daughter, Cleo, on May 21, 2020. The two Lions and their cub live happily in Brooklyn, where Dan is a staff critic at *Variety* and Jake is a supervising public defender at Neighborhood Defender Services.

Tara Barrett-Olds says, "Fortunate to have entered into newlywed



BUFFY FELDMAN, LIFELONG PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

life! After one canceled wedding and a diagnosis that led to two total hip replacements in January, we made it!" [Editor's note: See "Just Married!"]

Jon Rocholl writes, "My wife, Alyssa, and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our first child, Chloe Kiva, born on March 12. Both mom and baby are doing great and we are loving life as a family of three!"

Valerie Sapozhnikova shares, "I never imagined leaving New York, but in 2020 I closed my New York chapter and moved to sunny Los Angeles. The weather is a major upgrade; taxes less so. I also left my job at Cravath in March 2021 and joined Cooley's capital markets practice. This has definitely been a year of change and self-reflection. If there are Columbia alumni in Los Angeles, it would be great to have a local reunion once the world returns to a bit more normal."

[Editor's note: Until a new class correspondent is in place, please send your news and updates to cct@columbia.edu, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
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Happy 10th reunion, Twenty Eleven! Can you believe it's been 10 years since Snoop Dogg traipsed onstage at Bacchanal smoking a blunt and wearing a Columbia basketball jersey? Neither can we. Like Snoop Dogg, our classmates have been on the up-and-up since then.

Jordan Katz GSAS'20 had been at Columbia for nearly the entire decade following our senior year. In June, she defended her dissertation on Zoom. Her completion of a Ph.D. in history marked the end of 11 years at Columbia, which is definitely too much time to spend in one place. In November, with masks on, Jordan and her husband, Ian, welcomed their daughter, Liana, to the world. In her parents' opinion (and the editors concur), Liana is by far the best thing

to come out of 2020. This fall, Jordan will start a position as assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Drop her a line if you're in the area!

Since 2018, **Eric Rosenberg** has been chief of cyber intellectual property law at the Air Force's 67th Cyberspace Wing in San Antonio. He advises 67 CW on cyberspace operations, intellectual property law, technology transfer, international law, contract and fiscal law, and ethics. Eric was honored as the Wing Staff Civilian of the Year for 2019 and was presented an Exemplary Civilian Service Award on June 25, 2020. The Exemplary Civilian Service Award was for his leading the effort to designate 67 CW as a federal laboratory with patent and software licensing authorities and for advising on 32 cooperative research and development agreements, worth an estimated \$37,922,746.64. He also recently negotiated 67 CW's first patent license agreement. Before moving to San Antonio, Eric was an associate

at DeVore & DeMarco, a boutique cyber and intellectual property law firm in New York City.

Similarly moving that dough, **Austin Cohen** BUS'16 has been working tirelessly as founder and CEO of FlexIt (along with his fraternity brother, business partner and FlexIt chief operating officer Justin Turetsky GS'11), a fitness company with a mission to make fitness more accessible. Last summer, the company launched its Virtual Personal Training platform, where clients can take live, 1:1 sessions with certified personal trainers from the comfort of their homes. FlexIt was recently named *Men's Journal's* top streaming platform for working out from home. The training sessions run through FlexIt's proprietary technology and allow two-way communication between client and trainer. In March, FlexIt closed its partnership with 24 Hour Fitness, just another milestone in the company's growth.

Speaking of new ventures, **Ola Jacunski** GSAS'17 recently

KNOW ANY GAME CHANGERS, TASTEMAKERS, WORLD SHAKERS?

LION'S PRIDE
 INSPIRING ALUMNI OF THE LAST 10 YEARS

Help us honor alumni from the Classes of 2012 to 2021 who are contributing to culture, making their mark in business or having a meaningful impact on the world. Nominate an inspiring young alum — or yourself — for "Lion's Pride," brought to you by *Columbia College Today* and *Columbia College Young Alumni*.

TELL US WHO THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE COMMUNITY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT.

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HONOREES WILL BE FEATURED IN CCT'S WINTER 2021–22 ISSUE.

founded *khôréô*, a new magazine of speculative fiction by immigrant and diaspora authors. Issue 1 was published February 15 to fantastic reviews. She also recently left Jansen, where she was a senior manager of product management and operations in data science and part of the team working on the Covid-19 vaccine trials, to pursue freelance consulting while completing an M.F.A. in fiction and non-fiction at the New School.

Keeping things interesting, **Karen Woodin-Rodríguez** decided to switch careers and pursue her lifelong dream of becoming an actress. This summer she'll graduate from a three-year program in Mexico City. She hopes you'll soon see her in a Netflix series ... she hopes not about narco!

And, finally, **Nicole Catá** has been feeling gratitude for moving on up while staying at her current employer. In March, Nicole turned 32, earned a retroactive promotion to senior staff attorney on the Immigration Intervention Project at Sanctuary for Families and received both doses of the Covid vaccine. She is grateful for her health, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and late-evening sunsets. She hopes everyone reading this note is safe, healthy and happy.

On that note, your editors also hope that 2021 has found you in good health. Though we met virtually this year for our 10-year reunion, we hope to see everyone in person for our 11- — 11 for 11? — year reunion!

2012

Sarah Chai
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Pat Blute writes that he and **Geoff Charles SEAS'12** did a podcast for Product Talk in March. He also wants to send shoutouts to his friends **Rohan Jotwani**, who took up watchmaking in the pandemic and made Pat a watch, and **Donia Abdelaziz**, who as of the date of submission had helped around 70 people book Covid-19 vaccine appointments.

Caitlin Burk sent an update: "I recently relocated to Boston to begin my allergy/immunology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. Highlights so far have been walking the Freedom Trail on the 4th of July,

trying as many lobster dishes as possible and regular Zoom game nights with Markrete Krikorian '11."

Jon Eisen and his wife, Lizzie, welcomed their first child, Alexander Neale Eisen, on January 10 in Nashville. Alex is named after Jon's baseball teammate **Alexander Aurricchio**, who passed away in summer 2020.

David Morgan recently moved to Vienna to serve with the U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna for the Department of State. David previously worked in the Investment Banking Division at Goldman Sachs. He married Courtney Morgan ('10 Vanderbilt) in Dallas in 2019.

After almost a decade of post-graduate education, **Erik Nook** graduated this year with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Harvard. His research examines how language — the words we use every day — shape how we experience, manage and communicate about our emotions. He also examines how emotion language develops across childhood and adolescence, as well as how patients and their therapists can best use language to recover from mental illness. Erik has secured a postdoctoral position in Professor Dylan Gee's lab at Yale for 2021–22 before he will start as a faculty member in the psychology department at Princeton in fall 2022. Erik says he is grateful to the many advisors and friends at Columbia who have contributed to his journey, as well as to his family, who has supported him through it all.

Cristina Ramos (née Cha) SOA'23 wrote from New York: "I finished my third and final year as an M.F.A. candidate in theater with a concentration in dramaturgy at the School of the Arts. I'm a Columbia alum twice over! Although it hasn't been the ideal time to be getting a degree in live theater (especially because my studies focus on intimacy and fight choreography), I'm still so grateful for this experience and excited for the possibilities of live theater as a space for gathering once it's safe to do so. Sending love and resilience to my fellow 2012 grads!"

Gillian Rhodes sent an update from Pakistan: "Fortunately, the pandemic is not quite to the same level of intensity here in Pakistan. It is severe, of course, but nowhere near the levels I see in the United States and Europe. The beginning of the

year was quite eventful. I received a grant from British Council Pakistan to create a performance video for an online edition of its annual Women of the World festival. I created a piece, 'More Than My Gender,' which challenges the natural reflex that a woman is described in relation to her gender. I worked with two amazing differently abled performers. The teaser is here: bit.ly/3sevkY. Finally, I did a solo performance for the first time in my career, showing three of my best solos."

2013

Tala Akhavan
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Your classmates have been up to a lot over the past few months, despite the pandemic.

Kevin Montiel SW'21 earned an M.S.W. from Columbia in May. He has interned in forensic and clinical social work settings at courthouses, jails and community mental health centers. Prior to getting his graduate degree, Kevin was a junior research associate in a woman-owned, minority-led consulting group. He also holds an M.S. in clinical research methods from Fordham. Kevin says that his dual interest in research and clinical work stems from his studies at the College, where he majored in psychology with honors and concentrated in statistics. Kevin is engaged to his partner, Miguel Camacho.

Genet Micael BUS'22 is an M.B.A. candidate. She'll start her career in consulting at Bain & Co. as a summer associate. Genet is also recently engaged to her partner of eight years, Senay Mekonen. Six close friends from CC'13 celebrated their engagement night with them. Genet and Senay live in Harlem and look forward to planning a post-Covid-19 wedding that celebrates their shared Eritrean culture!

Tracy Einstein, a movement specialist and Alexander Technique teacher, continues to work in private practice and at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. She says she spent the better part of the pandemic learning how to teach online, and getting into the outdoors as much as possible. Tracy's camping out in Northampton, Mass., with her husband, Richie. Learn more: tracyeinstein.com.

Ben Basche lives in Johannesburg with his South African-born wife, Talya. The couple gave birth last year amidst the pandemic to their second boy, Noah. Ben works at an African streaming video and satellite TV company, MultiChoice, as a senior product manager focused on content recommendations engines. He hopes to return to visit the United States with his family once the pandemic dies down.

Bhavna Chadalavada is a founding coach at Marlow, a professional development platform competing with companies like BetterUp. She has been working in the intersecting fields of coaching, leadership development consulting and strategy consulting since shortly after graduating, and is excited to have gotten her credential last year from the International Coaching Federation and to now coach and business-build full time. Bhavna coaches founders, C-suite leaders, VPs, directors and managers across various industries. She is based out of Orange County, Calif.

It is with sadness that I inform fellow alumni of the passing of **James "Jim" Pagels**, a wonderful student and writer, and a friend to so many Columbians across classes, on April 9, 2021. The Class of 2013 has gathered a few memories and words in tribute to Jim, a beloved member of our class. Longer tributes are in the online issue.

John F. Ready: "I met Jim in a floor hockey gym class our senior year. Rarely has there ever been such a genuine, warm teammate. We lost a great one, and I'll miss him."

Graham Pupo: "I was Jim's roommate during our first year at Columbia as transfer students. Due to our busy and divergent schedules, I remember times when we would offer each other quiet greetings as I left early for rowing practice just as Jim was getting back from studying all night at the library, like two ships passing. And though we rarely got into the big topics, what I do remember about Jim were the seemingly more mundane conversations we had, such as bonding over the deliciousness of the John Jay cafeteria chicken fries or our shared appreciation for Donald Glover's comedy troupe. While these might seem trivial, they are reminders that despite all his academic and professional success, Jim was a person who enjoyed the little

things. I'm not sure what could be a better mark of a life well lived.

"Jim and I did not stay in touch after our first year at Columbia, but I admire his passion for life and commitment to everything he pursued. When I learned via LinkedIn that he was taking advanced studies in economics, a field he did not study at Columbia, I was surprised, but never in doubt that he would succeed. I am saddened to think that Jim passed away before he could realize his full potential. The lives of the people he would have touched later in life are at a loss without the richness he could have provided them.

"Goodbye, Jim. Thank you for teaching me so much about life. I am sorry I never told you so myself."

Jeremy Bleeker: "Jim was the type of person that you encounter all too rarely in life. He was funny, brilliant, curious, un-self-conscious, and utterly genuine and authentic. He did not change who he was based on people or circumstances. He was always just himself.

"I got to know Jim while we were starting out as staffers at *Spectator*. Invariably he was hard at work, writing or editing, or engaged in some passionate conversation about what that night's coverage would look like. His enthusiasm for whatever he was working on was infectious; he compelled you to care about the topic, and that passion came through as a hallmark of his writing.

"It was easy to become friends with Jim because he was so friendly

and outgoing — really, he became friends with you. During those times when we weren't in class or staying late at *Spec*, Jim was always down to hang out. Of course, one of his most fervent passions was board games. On rare occasions, Jim could convince a group to get together for games of Monopoly, which were simultaneously brutal and mesmerizing to behold.

"One of the memories I will cherish most from my time with Jim was the 2011 baseball playoffs, as our two beloved home teams, the Cardinals and the Rangers, finally met in the World Series. I had been watching the playoffs at Foley's Bar and Grill, well known as a Cardinals stronghold. In a spirit of fellowship and camaraderie, I asked Jim if he would be interested in catching some of the World Series games there. It was enemy territory, sure, but this was one of the great baseball meccas in the city.

"Well, true to form, Jim arrived at the packed bar fully decked out in Rangers blue and proceeded to loudly and unapologetically cheer for Ron Washington and his boys. And it was all very sociable: Being his usual chatty and outgoing self, Jim worked the room, sharing stories and stats, discussing the memorabilia lining the walls, but never once ceding an inch when the Rangers made a play in the field, got on base, scored or ended an inning.

"Jim Pagels was just a really fun hang. With his death, we have lost



DAVID BURSTEIN

Michelle Tew '15 (left) and May Thu Hnin '15 at the April 5 launch in New York City of Homiah, their direct-to-consumer business that brings Southeast Asian spices to America.

a brilliant voice, a sharp mind, a creative and dynamic thinker, and a person who contained the serious and the lighthearted in perfectly balanced measures.

"It is overwhelming to have to acknowledge that he is already gone."

David Fine: "I was truly saddened to hear of Jim's death. He was the exact sort of guy you'd hope that you'd meet at Columbia. He was super smart and opinionated, but he never went out of his way to make that evident to you. He had strong opinions about weird things like monetary policy, or whether or not defensive players should count toward points in fantasy football.

"Jim had a great sense of humor and possessed bottomless wit. I don't think he ever forgave me for writing a joke column for *Spectator* about 'becoming' a New York Giants football fan. We sparred with each other in the column's comments section, and he wrote to the editor-in-chief at the time, cc'ing me: 'I just think it's a massive journalistic injustice that *Spectator* isn't informing its readers that one of its biweekly columns is being penned by a clearly mentally deranged forsaker.'

"Though Jim will rightfully be remembered for his passions and for his loyalty to friend groups like those found at *Spectator*, it should also be noted that Jim possessed great range as an intellect and was a person with so many interests. He always had a well-founded position, but was happy to entertain that he could be wrong. No matter what, you were still friends with him at the end of any (sometimes heated) argument.

"It was no doubt to me or anyone else who followed him that when you checked in with him, Jim would

be doing something interesting and serious without an ounce of pretension in his professional life.

"Any young death is a tragedy, but his stings particularly so because Jim was destined to give so much back to our country and to our world. It's a cruel fate that the Class of 2013 faces a future without him."

John Kenney: "It's easy to say that Jim was one of the best people I met at Columbia. It's rare for someone to be so smart and so funny while also so down to Earth, so passionate while also so kind. But Jim was.

"I always admired that Jim seemed to view the 'breadth v. depth' dilemma as a personal challenge. He was interested in almost everything, and he knew a ton about everything that he was interested in. But Jim's brilliance was never proud or showy. Instead, it fueled his passion — and his willingness to bond over whatever you shared in common. No matter the topic, you knew that Jim was one of your most well informed and most opinionated friends.

"Fortunately, we overlapped in D.C. at various points after Columbia, which meant several nights of board games and beers. One of the last times that I saw Jim, we promised that we'd see each other again in D.C. soon. While I'm incredibly grateful that we stayed in touch after college, the fact that we were robbed of fulfilling that promise reminds me to never take anything for granted. In other words, I see it as a reminder to imitate Jim.

"Jim, you were a true friend. I'll miss you dearly."

We are deeply saddened by this loss and send our condolences and love to Jim's family and friends. We will miss Jim dearly.



SUSAN XIONG '15

Partying on May 31, 2020, at their Animal Crossing virtual five-year reunion on Low Steps on Karen Nan '15's island were (left to right) Nan, Michelle Lee '15, Susan Xiong '15 and Dorothy He '15.

2014

Rebecca Fattell
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I hope the Class of 2014 is doing well! Please feel free to send me notes for the future issues via the email above or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Please submit photos directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2015

Kareem Carryl
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Hello, Class of 2015! I hope you have been staying safe and healthy. Here are some updates:

Julian Brave NoiseCat was named to the TIME100 Next list of emerging leaders. He is writing a book about contemporary Indigenous life in the United States and Canada, tentatively titled *We Survived the Night*.

Alyssa Menz has accepted a Ph.D. position at the Yale School of the Environment. She will begin her studies within the Yale Center for Business and the Environment in

August. Any Lions in New Haven should feel free to reach out!

Rachel Hainline will start an internal medicine residency at Tufts Medical Center.

Faith Williams is returning to Columbia for a pediatrics residency.

Alex Ngan matched into the residency in orthopedic surgery at Northwell Health - Long Island Jewish Medical Center (2021-26) and graduated from the UCSF School of Medicine in May. Alex will relocate to Williamsburg, Brooklyn, for residency starting in July!

Many of our fellow College and Engineering alums graduated from the Business School this year: **Jessica Chi**, **Jocelyn Bohn**, **Tony Hung SEAS'15**, **Ross Basri SEAS'15**, **Elena Holodny '14**, **Malida Tadesse '14**, **Albert Kao SEAS'11**, **Nupur Sutaria SEAS'12**, **Jeremy Cooper '17**, **Katie Barrall '14**, **Josephine Wei '13**, **Chris Vandenberg '12**, **Darren Chu SEAS'14** and **Tanvi Bhaskar '17**.

Adrian Silver writes, "I've been living in Central Harlem since late 2019 and love riding my electric bike to visit all our old haunts: Milano Market, The Hungarian Pastry Shop, Thai Market, Pisticci and so on. I recently started a job as head of business development at CodeGreen Solutions, a real estate sustainability consultancy, and also started teaching a course at GSAPP. Since the pandemic started, I've

done lots of yoga and picked up making cocktails. Hit me up if you're in the neighborhood!"

Michelle Tew and **May Hnin** "took the plunge!" Michelle says, "We quit our jobs and fronted personal savings to launch our bootstrapped, direct-to-consumer food business bringing Southeast Asian spices to America. We're obsessed with good food (shoutout to those suitemates who survived pungent cooking smells in Hartley). But beyond that, we're pumped to increase AAPI representation as well as work directly and equitably with small producers in Southeast Asia, including contested regions of Myanmar. We launched on Kickstarter on April 5! For details and to support us, check out homiah.com." (See nearby photo.)

As always, classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates by email or by using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
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Hey, 2016. Quite a lot of updates this time around, so I'll keep my update short.

It's no question been a hard year for everyone and I have been super grateful to have amazing CC friends for support, inspiration and joy. I recently had a socially distanced meetup with **Peter Baillinson**, his boyfriend and **Lillian Chen '15** (see the nearby photo!). I also recently, with two Austrian friends and **Isabel Michaelides '17**, started a goulash food pop-up to raise money for Service Workers Coalition, a local mutual aid group helping essential workers during Covid-19. Follow us on Instagram at @heimwehny to support us or learn more about future pop-ups.

Without further ado, here is some news from classmates:

Angel Wang writes: "I'm thrilled to share that my partner, Ojas Mainkar, and I recently got engaged at the New York Botanical Garden in the presence of our families and **Bianca Capone** (see the nearby photo!). Who knew that a Coffee Meets Bagel date in Central Park would lead to a lifelong commitment more than three years later?

I'm a first-year Harvard Business School student after working in management consulting for two years and working on Facebook's Political Advertising team for the U.S. elections. I intend to continue working in tech, and trust and safety, after graduation, and am also considering entrepreneurship if my current startup goes well."

Anne Scotti writes: "I live in New York and have spent the past year DIYing, taking virtual Italian classes, baking (no banana bread or sourdough, however) and taking many a walk.

"Although the events of the past 12 months put a stop to things in so many ways, it also allowed me to reconnect with friends (there's really no excuse to not FT your friend in California when you also have to video call the ones who live a few subway stops away!), and for that I am grateful. Speaking of faraway friends, I was also lucky to get to see **Daniel Brovman** and **Peter Baillinson** in person over the holidays; both are doing well!

"Alongside my job, I've recently started work as a long-term substitute teacher at a public middle school and am considering graduate school.

"I had a lot of fun planning our late May/early June fifth reunion (can you believe?!) alongside fellow co-chair **Brandon Martinez Gonzalez** and the rest of the Reunion Committee. Please follow the reunion Instagram (@ccreunion2016). Stay tuned for follow-up!"

Jake Hoyle writes: "After graduation I decided to stay in NYC and pursue fencing full time. I qualified for the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. The last five years have been a steady, focused grind toward a goal that I've been eyeing for as long as I can remember. Along the way I won the USA Fencing National Championship, was ranked number 1 in the United States/top 10 in the world and have been regularly stopping by campus to go to Milano Market. I'm beyond excited to rep CU at the games this summer!

From **Ellie Beckman**: "I've spent the last five years since graduation mainly as a producer in reality TV. Some shows I've worked on are *Deadliest Catch*, *The American Farm*, and a special for History Channel about the history of Hot Wheels. Currently, I'm producing a show for Discovery, *Homestead Rescue*, set to



Clockwise from bottom left, Jessica Chi '15, Peter DeBlasi '15, Mihika Barua '15 and Jocelyn Bohn '15 caught up on November 5 at The Heights during an informal get-together for "Double Lions" from the Business School.

air later in the spring. After some soul searching and a stint in Paris as an English teacher, I've decided to switch careers and head to grad school to pursue a master's in marriage and family therapy. I'll attend The Wright Institute in Berkeley, Calif., this fall. Please reach out if you live in the Bay Area! I'll be new to the area and would love to connect."

Dani Lopez writes: "A little known fact about me is that I took a semester off between sophomore and junior year to live and work in China. CC made me question the meaning of life, of Columbia, of society, of 'success' and more. I thought a semester would be enough for me to figure that out, but five years after graduating, I still find myself grappling with those same questions."

"I've relied heavily on travel, eclectic classes and a nonconventional lifestyle to find answers to those questions. I've 'lived' out of a storage unit; pursued travel-centric careers; launched a side project to bring strangers together around intimate dinners; dabbled in the underground Brooklyn party scene; grappled with the carbon footprint and consumerism of my lifestyle; lived out of a van with four cross-generational adults; built a future of cities startup called Kibbo; found refuge from our scary, aggressive, judgment-filled culture through nonviolent communication; moved into an intentional co-living house in the Mission District; and SO.

MUCH. MORE. My grounding force through this whirlwind of change remains my family and Columbia friends, so thank you all!

"Even if we barely spoke back in the day, you're welcome to DM me to talk about those issues. You can also hit me up if you want to talk about carbon neutrality and how technology will reshape cities (the main focus of my career). Find me at @daniexplorestheworld."

News is welcome by email or by using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note!

2017

Carl Yin
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Here is the latest news from classmates.

In January, **Max Fiest** LAW'20 started a job as a litigation associate at Mayer Brown in its New York office. He was to be sworn in to the New York Bar in April.

Pegah Kamrani, a fourth-year dental student at UNC Chapel Hill, received a University Fellowship from The Ohio State University for her first year of orthodontic residency, which will start this summer. Pegah expressed gratitude for her academic and athletic experiences while at Columbia College, as they were instrumental in helping her get this award.



PETER BAILLONSON '16

Enjoying a socially distanced hangout on March 28, 2020, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art were (clockwise from bottom left) Peter Baillonson '16, Baillonson's boyfriend, Lillian Chen '15 and Lily Liu-Krason '16.

After helping to win the general election in NY-16 and successfully electing freshman Congressman Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) to office, **Bianca Guerrero** joined Make the Road New York, an organization dedicated to organizing immigrant communities, to run the statewide advocacy campaign Excluded Workers Fund. The campaign, backed by a coalition of 200 organizations across the state, is calling for the governor, Senate majority leader and assembly speaker to create a first-in-the-nation fund to provide comprehensive economic assistance for undocumented and formerly incarcerated New Yorkers who are excluded from state unemployment benefits and federal stimulus checks.

Bianca moved to Brooklyn in February and remains committed to organizing New Yorkers and electing progressive people of color to NYC's local, state and federal offices.

Ethan Wu shares, "Let me preface this by saying that I currently live in Dallas. More and more, I realize that the issues that impact our daily lives are issues that arise out of profound neglect and lack of care for each other. Case in point is the recent 'snowpocalypse,' in which much of the state was without electricity and running water for a week or longer due to lack of oversight or foresight by the state government. People in positions of power, frankly, do not care to set up an environment in which all of us can thrive, preferring to provide benefits and kickbacks to only those close to them. Is this a result of our societal

values? Is it a result of racism? Is it a result of capitalism? To me, it seems the only solution for the individual is self-protection."

Thanks to those who wrote in this time! Share your news with me via email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2018

Alexander Birkel and **Maleeha Chida**
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Antonia Georgieva and Kosta Karakashyan '19 collaborated recently on an immersive performance, *KITCHEN*, which combines dance, theater and cuisine and sheds light on what goes on behind the scenes in a professional kitchen. The show premiered at HRC Culinary Academy in Sofia, Bulgaria, in February and continued with limited runs in April, May and June. (See the nearby photo of the two at rehearsal.)

At the time of publication, **Alan Lin** said he might have been kicked out of the United States to spend a year in drizzling, foggy London, living near ... Harrods. Or he might have gotten that H1B lottery he had been blabbing about since his glorious days at John Jay 10.

It's easy to send in your news and updates: Shoot us an email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.



BOB WANG

Angel Wang '16 (center) became engaged to Ojas Mainkar (right) on March 20, 2020, at the New York Botanical Garden. Friend Bianca Capone '16 joined them for the special occasion.

2019

TJ Aspen Givens and Emily Gruber
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We hope that the Class of 2019 is well as we head into a brighter summer. It was great to hear from you, and we can't wait to reunite on Morningside Heights or on Zoom soon.

Zak Aldridge shares: "A two-week visit to Kathmandu has turned into a one-year stay with the help of the Covid-19 lockdown barring my exit. I didn't want to leave anyway. I'm happier than ever, working on the heart and following my bliss and the course of the river. Peace to everyone."

Michael Crapotta is an investment banking senior analyst in Citigroup's Transportation group. Since graduation, he has worked at the firm's Tribeca location, covering shipping and aviation (airline and lessor) clients across the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and Asia-Pacific regions. Most recently, Michael earned a coveted "Deal of the Year" award as an integral member of the deal team for an aircraft engine lease securitization completed at the onset of the pandemic.

Lindsay Kim and Jenny Wang are first-year medical students at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine (see the nearby photo!).

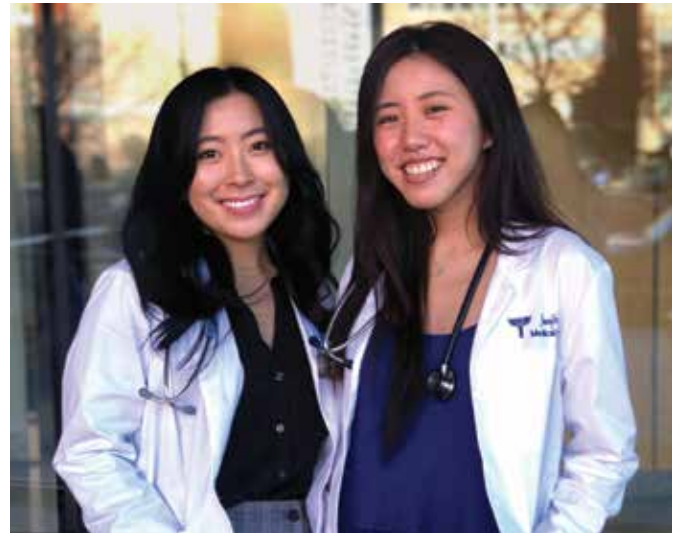
Itamar Klein joined the Army last year and is at the Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga.'s Bravo Company 005-21.

Brent Morden continues to chip away at his creative journey. In September he joined the team at From Stage to Screen Performing Arts Academy, on Long Island, where he teaches voice and musical theater classes. Most recently Brent composed and music-directed *INFERNAL*, a rock musical set in the world of Dante's *Inferno* (Lit Hum lives on!). See more at brentmordenmusic.com and get in touch with Brent at brentmorden@gmail.com.

Daniel Parks recently finished writing his first novel. Its theme contemplates the idea of adventure as it functions in modernity and draws inspiration from *Don Quixote*. As he seeks to publish, Daniel says that any advice from experienced writers, literary agents or publishers would be immensely appreciated (daniel.parks@columbia.edu). Daniel has been living and working in Australia and will matriculate at the Law School this fall. He continues his advocacy work through the Philanthropy Club for the CLS LEAD Fellowship Program.

Alexander Rabinowitz is a second-year at Harvard Law and will be a summer associate in the New York office of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett. One silver lining of taking classes remotely from Manhattan, he says, is that he regularly sees his Columbia classmates, albeit socially distanced and previously frigid from cold-weather outdoor dining.

Bonnie Schipper is pursuing a J.D./M.B.A. at Emory. She recently earned second place in the national John Lewis Racial Justice Case



SOPHIE ELDRED

Lindsay Kim '19 (left) and Jenny Wang '19 are both studying at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine; on November 20 they took a break to pose in front of its School of Public Health.

Competition; Bonnie recommended a revamped supplier diversity program at Hewlett-Packard that would create opportunities for minority-owned businesses to enter their supply chain. She will help the company implement the plan during the next few months and is excited to see the progress it makes towards racial justice.

Aaron Smithson started a dual master's in architecture and urban planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

We would be pleased to get your news and updates by email, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note!

2020

Stephen Cone and Santiago Tobar Potes
jsc2247@columbia.edu
stp2120@columbia.edu

Last fall, **Brianna Alico** started a Ph.D. in the Biological & Biomedical Sciences program at Harvard Medical School and will get married later this year to Rui Diaz-Pacheco '18.

Electra Williams is an associate analyst at Fitch Ratings on the Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities Team.

Alexis Lehmann has started a role as the strategic projects coordinator for Ed Farm in Birmingham, Ala., a transformational program dedicated to increasing K-12 and

postsecondary attainment, eliminating educational inequality, closing the tech skills gap and promoting innovation in education. Ed Farm is working alongside Apple and Southern Company to build the Propel Center, a physical and virtual campus that will revolutionize historically Black colleges and universities. Propel Center expands Ed Farm's mission throughout the HBCU network to build generations of Black leaders who advance equity and justice through technology, entrepreneurship, education and social impact. If you or your company are interested in learning more or getting involved with Ed Farm or the Propel Center, please send an email to alexis@edfarm.org or info@propelcenter.org. Alexis says thank you!

Christina Monnen lives in Boston and is an associate researcher for *NOVA*, the renowned science documentary program on PBS. Her team recently received the prestigious duPont-Columbia award for its timely and diligent reporting in the film *Decoding Covid-19*. Dr. Anthony Fauci described it as a "masterful hour" that explained the science behind how the virus works and how it could be fought with a vaccine: pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/decoding-covid-19.

Please send your updates to us by email or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and we will share them in a future issue!



GABRIELA ILIEVA

Antonia Georgieva '18 (left) and Kosta Karakashyan '19 rehearsing their immersive performance, *KITCHEN*, at the HRC Culinary Academy in Sofia, Bulgaria, on March 1.

obituaries

Editor's note: In recognition of the toll taken by the Covid-19 pandemic, CCT will continue to acknowledge those in our community who have died from complications of the virus in our online feature "Lions We've Lost" (college.columbia.edu/cct). Their obituaries are marked with a ♦ symbol.

1947

Stanley D. Robinson, attorney, White Plains, N.Y., on December 6, 2020. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, Robinson was editor of the *Law Review* and graduated from the Law School in 1949. He served as an ensign in the Navy, then attended Dartmouth College and Harvard Business School. Robinson was an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York before joining Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler, where he became a partner,

sat on the executive committee, and headed the litigation and antitrust departments. He successfully represented Xerox Corp. in what was, at the time, the longest civil trial in the history of the federal courts. His passions included global travel, wine collecting, baking bread, old movies, opera and the St. Louis Cardinals, as well as spending time with his family. Robinson was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Janet; and is survived by his son, James, and his wife, Jenny; daughters, Nancy and Susan; and one granddaughter. Memorial contributions may be made to the Equal Justice Initiative (eji.org) or Meals on Wheels America (mealsonwheelsamerica.org).

1955

Ronald M. Cowan, psychology and statistics researcher, Seattle, on

July 20, 2020. Cowan was editorial editor of *Spectator*, writing during his senior year about the Bicentennial, women in the dormitories, University research and more. He earned an M.A. in 1958 from GSAS. Cowan and his wife, Erica, moved to California after graduation, where he became a distinguished researcher in psychology and statistics. After many years in San Francisco, where he and his wife became close to intellectuals such as Lawrence Ferlinghetti, they moved to Seattle. Those who knew Cowan knew a person of grace, astonishing intellect and deep concern for roommates, friends and the community. In addition to his wife, Cowan is survived by his children, Maya and Mischa; and one grandchild.

Daniel P. De Palma, advertising and marketing executive, college professor, Spartanburg, S.C., on

November 26, 2020. Born and raised in Mt. Vernon, N.Y., De Palma earned an M.S. in 1956 from the Business School and a J.D. in 1960 from New York Law School. He served as a captain in the Marine Corps and worked for many years in marketing and advertising in NYC before becoming CEO of De Palma & Hogan Advertising in White Plains, N.Y. More recently he taught business administration at Pace University, Shepherd College, the University of Florida and City College (Gainesville, Fla.). He also served as Guardian Ad Litem, assigned by a judge to help anyone who cannot come to court, to protect their rights and interests in a case. De Palma was predeceased by his brother, Nicholas; and is survived by his wife, Kay; stepson, Scott, and his wife, Kim; stepdaughter, Tristram, and her husband, Carl; and two step-grandsons.

George Segal '55, Versatile Actor of *Virginia Woolf* Fame

George Segal '55 was a commanding presence on stage and screen in a career that spanned 56 years and myriad acting roles. His versatility was remarkable: Early in his career he was nominated for an Academy Award for an intensely dramatic role as a young professor in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*; decades later he was nominated for two Golden Globe Awards for portraying a rakish magazine publisher in the ensemble TV series *Just Shoot Me!*

Though he never rose to the pantheon of Hollywood actors, Segal was rarely out of work. In a 1998 interview with *The New York Times*, he observed, "I'm like a cork in the water, you know? I keep bobbing up in all sorts of places."

His longevity was no accident. Mike Nichols, director of *Virginia Woolf*, put it succinctly in a 1965 interview: "What you get with George is masculinity and sensitivity, plus a brain."

Segal was born in New York City and raised in Great Neck, N.Y. After transferring from Haverford to the College, he majored in theater and

dramatic arts. He died on March 23, 2021, in Santa Rosa, Calif., and was working on the TV comedy series *The Goldbergs* right up until his passing.

Segal was an unpaid ticket-taker, usher and vendor at Circle in the Square, a noted Off-Broadway theater, before appearing there in Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh* in 1956. He married his first wife, Marion Sobol, onstage on a Monday night when the theater was dark, and shortly thereafter was drafted into the Army.

After being discharged, Segal was cast in his first film roles in *The Young Doctors* and *The Longest Day* and appeared in an Off-Broadway production of *The Knack*. That comedy was directed by Nichols, who subsequently cast him in *Virginia Woolf* alongside Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor and Sandy Dennis. All four were nominated for Academy Awards, with both women winning.

Segal's gift for comedy and social satire took his career in a different direction shortly thereafter, and he was among Hollywood's busiest actors in the 1970s. He starred in

some of the decade's most noted films: playing a man trying to rid himself of his mother in *Where's Poppa?*; a nebbishy writer involved with a prostitute played by Barbra Streisand in *The Owl and the Pussycat*; a divorce lawyer who tries to win his wife back after she catches him in bed with his secretary in *Blume in Love*; a married businessman who takes up with a divorcee in *A Touch of Class*; a struggling gambler who keeps trying for the big score in *California Split*; and a man who loses his job and turns to crime (along with his wife, played by Jane Fonda) to maintain an upscale lifestyle in *Fun With Dick and Jane*.

During the next two decades Segal appeared in numerous lesser-known films, as well as made-for-TV movies and series. But his career took an upswing and he became known to a new generation of fans when he was featured in *Just Shoot Me!* (1997–2003) and *The Goldbergs* (2013–present).

Segal said of his lengthy and successful career: "I don't ever know how it happens. Sometimes it's being in the right place at the right time,



sometimes you're just the guy they want. It's impossible to explain. This is a real gambler's business, acting. It's a crapshoot, and you keep stepping up to the table and hope that your number comes up. Or it's like being a used car in a used car lot. You're just waiting for somebody to come over and kick your tires. You've got to be crazy to do this."

Segal's marriage to Sobol ended in divorce in 1983. His second wife, Linda Rogoff, died in 1996. In addition to his wife, Sonia, he is survived by his daughters from his first marriage, Elizabeth and Polly; and three stepchildren.

—Alex Sachare '71

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information.

- 1945 **John M. Khoury**, textile manufacturer, Harrington Park, N.J., on March 7, 2020.
- 1954 **Robert A. Weber**, entrepreneur, Kingston, Mass., on February 11, 2021.
- 1955 **Wallace M. Previ**, Naval officer, Alexandria, Va., on November 13, 2019.
- 1956 **Fred I. Lewis**, Great Neck, N.Y., on September 22, 2019.
Edward H. Schoenharl, plant manager, Freeland, Wash., on December 8, 2020.
Stanley D. Stier, physician, patient advocate and medical director, Delray Beach, Fla., on April 23, 2021.
- 1957 **Alan L. Gordon**, psychiatrist, New York City, on February 27, 2021.
Arthur T. Meyerson, psychiatrist, New York City and Shelter Island, N.Y., on January 27, 2021.
- 1958 **Sheldon B. Cousin**, engineer and chief information officer, Edgewater, N.J., on March 17, 2021.
Mark D. Luftig, retired investment banker, Chapel Hill, N.C., on May 1, 2021.
Howard Winell, market strategist, New York City, on December 29, 2020.
- 1959 **Clive Chajet**, designer, New York City, on February 3, 2021.
Georges L. de Gramont, retired executive, Cliffside Park, N.J., on March 20, 2021.

Jerry Goodisman, chemistry professor, Syracuse, N.Y., on May 2, 2021.

Frederick Lorber, Stockton, Calif., on February 24, 2021.

J. Peter Rosenfeld, psychology professor, Glencoe, Ill., on February 16, 2021.

Raphael "Ray" I. Schenk, engineer and furniture manufacturer, Menlo Park, Calif., on February 7, 2021.

1960 ♦ **Victor Chang**, Walnut Grove, Calif., on October 30, 2020.

1961 **Anthony W. Adler**, West Palm Beach, Fla., on May 4, 2021.

Nathaniel Reichek, cardiologist, Northport, N.Y., on March 6, 2021.

1962 **Stuart M. Case**, attorney and judge, Mystic, Conn., on January 12, 2021.

1966 **Frank B. Newell**, attorney, Little Rock, Ark., on May 9, 2021.

1967 **Justin C. Malewezi**, former vice president of Malawi, Lilongwe, Malawi, on April 17, 2021.

1968 ♦ **Frederick Allan Kneale**, Holiday, Fla., on December 18, 2020.

1971 **John W. Borek**, artist, bookseller and playwright, Rochester, N.Y., on April 2, 2021.

J. Hallock "Hall" Northcott, corporate advocate, Kensington, Md., on February 5, 2021.

1972 **Robert K. "Kayo" Hull**, attorney and mediator, Penn Yan, N.Y., on March 16, 2021.

1984 **Eric L. Hansen**, retired musician, New York City, on April 27, 2021.

1985 **George L. "Jorge" Martinez**, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on December 18, 2020.

1956

John C. Garnjost, businessman and rowing official, Bluffton, S.C., on January 5, 2021. After graduation, Garnjost was an Air Force pilot 1956–59, serving in Japan and Taiwan, then earned an M.B.A. from the Business School in 1961. He spent 24 years at the NYC corporate headquarters of Bristol-Myers before becoming the company's managing director, Malaysia, and president and general manager, Taiwan. Garnjost was a member of Columbia's heavyweight crew 1954–56 and maintained a life-long devotion to rowing, officiating in the United States and internationally, including at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. In 2013, he received the Dick Alcock Award for 50 years of Service and Dedication to U.S. Rowing. He also received the prestigious Olympic Order from the International

Olympic Committee for outstanding merit in the cause of world sport for his work on behalf of rowing in Taiwan. Garnjost is survived by his wife of 47 years, Janet; and daughters, Alison, and Valerie and her husband, Matthew Lacy. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force (mightyeighth.org) or to USRowing (usrowing.org).

Peter Andrews Poole, foreign service officer, professor and writer, Sugar Hill, N.H., on October 4, 2020. Born in NYC, Poole grew up in Weston, Conn., and graduated from Holderness (N.H.) School. He earned an M.A. at Yale and a Ph.D. at American University. Following service in the New York National Guard, Poole was appointed a foreign service officer in 1959 and was posted to Cambodia and Thailand. He then taught political science at

Howard, the Naval War College and Old Dominion before joining the CIA as an analyst. Poole was also a prolific writer, publishing cultural and political studies of Southeast Asia, China and Eastern Europe as well as *The Silver Heron*, an audio book based on his foreign service experience. He was predeceased by his first wife, of 49 years, Rosemary Sullivan. He is survived by his second wife, Alice (née Bowdoin), with whom he enjoyed retirement in Sugar Hill; twin brother, Frederick King Poole, and his wife, Marta Szabo; and numerous cousins, step-children and step-grandchildren.

1957

Anthony G. Lubowe, engineer, San Marcos, Calif., on January 20, 2020. Born in the Bronx on December 21, 1937, Lubowe earned three degrees

from Columbia Engineering: a B.S. in mechanical engineering in 1958, an M.S. in engineering mechanics in 1959 and an Eng.Sc.D in engineering in 1959. He had a long and distinguished career with AT&T Bell Labs, where he worked on Telstar 1 communication satellite projects, *Apollo* missions and microelectronics research. Lubowe was a member of Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society and Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society. He is survived by his wife, Joan BC'59, GSAS'61; son, David; daughter, Jennifer; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org).

Edward A. Weiner, pathologist, Bethesda, Md., on April 20, 2020. After graduation from the Boston University School of Medicine, Weiner served as a pathologist at Fort Benning, Ga., 1963–65. He was

chief resident of pathology at NYU Medical Center and a fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center's cytopathology department under Dr. Leopold Koss. Weiner founded the cytopathology department at NYU Medical Center and was its first chief, and also was chief of pathology at Beekman Downtown Hospital. He was one of the most effective advocates of non-smoking laws in the 1980s as VP of the New York Board of the American Cancer Society. Weiner is survived by his daughter, Meredith Cardenas, and her husband, Eduardo; son, Jed '95, and his wife, Veronique; and four grandchildren.

1958

William Esberg, teacher, Long Branch, N.J., on December 10, 2020. After graduation, Esberg returned to Asbury Park H.S., his alma mater, where he was a popular English teacher 1963–90. He taught with honesty, humor and a sawed-off plastic baseball bat that he pounded on a desk if he deemed an answer particularly subpar. He received letters from former students literally until the day he died, describing his impact on them in their development as writers and as a personal role model.

A noted bridge player and teacher, Esberg fulfilled a lifelong dream in 2005 when he won the Silver Ribbon Pairs at the North American Bridge Championships and thus achieved the American Contract Bridge League's highest rank, Grand Life Master. Predeceased by his sister, Carol, Esberg is survived by several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Literacy New Jersey (literacynj.org).

David J. Rothman, history professor, New York City, on August 30, 2020. Born on April 30, 1937, in Brooklyn, Rothman earned a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1964 and joined the faculty at Columbia as an assistant professor. He became professor of history in 1967 and was presented the Albert J. Beveridge Award in 1971 for his book *The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic*. In 1982, Rothman became the Bernard Schoenberg Professor of Social Medicine at P&S and director, Center for the Study of Society and Medicine. He published many books, including *The Willowbrook Wars: Bringing the Mentally Disabled into the Community* (1984) with his wife, Sheila Rothman GSAS'60, and *Strangers at the Bedside: A History of How Law and Bioethics Transformed*

Medical Decision Making (1991), as well as numerous articles in medical journals and the popular media. In 2003, Rothman became president of the Institute on Medicine as a Profession. In 2018, he was appointed chief of the newly created Division on Social Medicine and Professionalism, a position he held until 2020. Rothman is survived by his wife of 60 years; son, Matthew GSAS'94, and his wife, Nancy Katz; daughter, Micol PS'98, and her husband, Salim Haj; and two grandchildren.

Albert J. Sabatini, psychiatrist, New York City, on October 29, 2020. Born in the Bronx, Sabatini served in the Army at Fort Bliss, Texas, and earned an M.D. from the University of Bologna, Italy. He began his career at Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital with a psychiatric residency and rose to become medical director, a position he held for eight years. Sabatini was associate attending psychiatrist at NYU Medical Center, staff psychiatrist at the Manhattan VA Hospital and research associate professor of psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine. He also maintained a private practice in NYC for more than 50 years and was recognized for his work treating the city's homeless mentally ill. He

sat on many committees, including the New York State Commission on Quality of Care Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Health. A connoisseur of opera and musical theater, Sabatini was a lover of crossword puzzles, Italy and a good Negroni. He is survived by his sister, Olga Welsh; one nephew; and three nieces. Memorial contributions may be made to the Floating Hospital, Attn.: Sam Lamont, PO Box 3391, New York, NY 10163-3391, or floatinghospital.org.

Arthur H. Siegel, accountant, New York City, on August 11, 2020. Siegel was president of the Pre-Engineering Society until he changed his major to economics. He also was advertising manager of *Spectator* and a member of Phi Sigma Delta, where he made lifelong friendships with Fred Knauer '59 and Ira Jolles '59. Siegel graduated second in his class at the Business School in 1960, was a Newington Scholar, a member of Beta Sigma Gamma and the treasurer of *Graduate Business News*. Siegel joined Pricewaterhouse (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) in 1960 and worked in its New York, Long Island and Boston offices. He was an engagement partner in Boston, became national director of accounting services and then vice chairman of audit. Siegel was a

Public Health Pioneer Julius Schachter '57

For six decades, **Julius Schachter '57** studied chlamydia-related diseases and the bacteria that cause them, as well as their diagnosis and treatment. Thanks in large part to his work, trachoma, an eye infection that until 1990 was one of the world's leading infectious causes of blindness, is expected to be eliminated as a public health issue by 2030.

Schachter, who closed his laboratory at UC San Francisco last summer, says he came upon the focus of his lifelong work largely by circumstance.

"I hadn't planned to do research on STDs," he said in a Class Note sent to *CCT* last year, "but serendipity always plays a role, and living in San Francisco through the Summer(s) of Love provided plenty of opportunity. Chlamydial infections were relatively new, and

this gave us chances to make real contributions to public health."

Schachter, who lived in Corte Madera, Calif., with a second home in Nussloch, Germany, died on December 20, 2020, due to Covid-19.

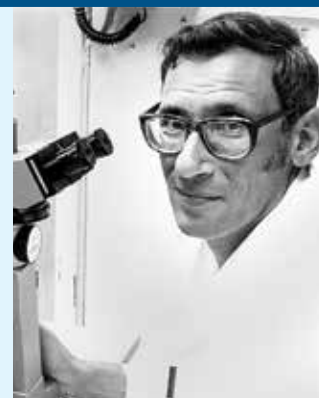
Schachter was born on June 1, 1936, in the Bronx and was the first in his family to attend college. A chemistry major, he earned a master's in physiology from Hunter College in 1960 and a Ph.D. in bacteriology from UC Berkeley in 1965. His first academic job was as an assistant research microbiologist at UC San Francisco, and he stayed there for 55 years.

Studies in Schachter's laboratory focused on the epidemiology and clinical manifestations of chlamydial infections. Schachter recognized that chlamydia was not just an ocular or sexually transmitted disease,

but also a systemic one that caused pneumonia in newborns. As a result, screening pregnant women for chlamydia and treating the infected women has become the standard of care in the United States and many other countries.

His laboratory also produced a proof of concept study showing the effectiveness of community-wide treatment of trachoma with azithromycin. This is now the linchpin of an effort sponsored by the World Health Organization at eliminating the disease.

After closing his research lab, Schachter kept his academic appointment and planned to continue analyzing data and writing up his last few studies. "Looking back, I recall the usual academic frustrations, getting funding and so on, but



all in all, it has been a blast," he said of his career.

Schachter was predeceased by his first wife, Joyce Poynter. He is survived by his second wife, Elisabeth Scheer; daughter, Sara '91, and her husband, Brent Bessire '91; sons, Marc and Alexander; brother, Norbert '60; and three grandsons.

— Alex Sachare '71



Arthur H. Siegel '58

member of the U.S. and World Firms' Management Committees. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Eleanor Novick; daughters, Joan and Linda; son, Mark '89, and his wife, Shana Schiffman BC'89; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the National MS Society (nationalmssociety.org).

1959

Thomas P. Bilbao, retired banker, Maryville, Tenn., on December 21, 2020. Born in New York City on February 21, 1938, Bilbao played football at Stuyvesant H.S. and for the Lions, where he made lifelong friendships with teammates Ted Graskie '59 and George Spelios '59, with whom he enjoyed many Homecomings and reunions. A member of Naval ROTC, he was commissioned as an ensign and promoted to lieutenant, stationed in San Diego. After leaving the Navy, Bilbao began a career in banking while earning an M.B.A. from NYU. In 1975 he was admitted into the Advanced Management Program at Harvard, after which he worked at the Connecticut Bank and Trust, Buffalo Savings Bank, Albany Savings Bank and Westport Bank and Trust in positions from chief operating officer to president. He retired in 2004 and moved with his wife, Kathleen, to Maryville, where they enjoyed living in the mountains. In addition to his wife, Bilbao is survived by his son, Christopher; daughter, Kathy, and her husband, John Walker; and five grandchildren.

Robert M. Burd, physician, Lakewood Ranch, Fla., on October 31, 2019. After graduation from P&S in 1963, Burd joined with Dr. Milton Cooper and built a thriving practice,

now known as the Medical Specialists of Fairfield (Conn.), and was a distinguished physician in Bridgeport and Fairfield for 48 years. As well as caring for internal medicine patients, he specialized in hematology and oncology, was chief of the Department of Hematology at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport for more than 20 years and was affiliated with Bridgeport Hospital. Burd is survived by his wife of 55 years, Alice; sons, Russell and Stephen; two granddaughters; and brother, Murray. Memorial contributions may be made to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (lls.org).

Vincent C. Gerosa, sales executive, Garden City, N.Y., on November 20, 2020. Born on May 18, 1937, in New York City, Gerosa grew up in Inwood and graduated from Manhattan Prep H.S. At the College, he was a member of Naval ROTC and Beta Theta Pi, and a varsity swimmer. After serving on the *U.S.S. Waldron*, he earned an M.B.A. in 1963 from the Business School. Gerosa was a sales executive with the New York Telephone Co., NYNEX and Verizon for more than 35 years. He remained active in the Naval Reserves, working in Naval intelligence, before retiring as a captain in 1997. Gerosa is survived by his wife of 50 years, Joan; daughter, Patricia, and her husband, Michael O'Brien; son, Vincent, and his wife, Chris; sister, Maria Gerosa Bulis; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (michaeljfox.org).

Peter F. Muehlbauer, retired cardiologist, Somers, N.Y., on November 9, 2020. Born on August 14, 1939, in Brooklyn, Muehlbauer graduated from P&S in 1963 and served as a physician in the Air Force based in Michigan during the Vietnam War. He cared for patients in private practice for many years before joining Westmed in White Plains, N.Y., from which he retired. He lived in Ossining, N.Y., and Chappaqua, N.Y., for many years before moving to Somers in 2017. Muehlbauer is survived by his wife, Judith; son, Matthew; daughter, Lisa Oraziatti; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association (heart.org).

1960

Gary A. Hershendorfer, retired economist, Aventura, Fla., on October 28, 2020. Raised in Syracuse, Hershendorfer majored in history and spent four years as an officer in the Navy aboard the *U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt*. He earned a master's in economics from UC Berkeley and spent 30 years as chief economist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in San Francisco. He transferred to the Corps's New York office in 1996, where he retired as chief economist of the North Atlantic Division, and four years later moved to Florida.



Gary A. Hershendorfer '60

Hershendorfer's passions were skiing, tennis, yoga, painting, Broadway theater, art, politics and his involvement with the Columbia College Alumni Representative Committee and alumni events. He is survived by his daughters, Alexandra Colacito '92 and Mary; brother, Victor; and three grandchildren.

♦ **Stephen C. Lerner**, rabbi, New York City, on January 27, 2021. A graduate of Bronx Science, Rabbi Lerner majored in history, was editorials editor at *Spectator* and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He studied ancient history at the University of Iowa before attending The Rabbinical School at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Ordained in 1967, Rabbi Lerner increased the Hebrew school hours at Temple Israel of Riverhead, N.Y., and brought the synagogue into the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Rabbi Lerner was a leader of the movement to make Conservative Judaism egalitarian, expanding women's roles starting in the early 1970s at Town & Village, where he also founded the Center for

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Conversion to Judaism, converting more than 1,800 students. He later was rabbi at the Jewish Community of West Hempstead, N.Y., and Temple Emanuel of Ridgely Park, N.J., now known as Kanfei Shahar. He endowed a fund at the Spectator Publishing Co., some of which will be used for an annual Stephen C. Lerner Award for a student reporter for outstanding investigative or data journalism. Rabbi Lerner is survived by his wife, Anne; brother, Irwin LAW'57, and his wife, Doris; son, Rabbi David, and his wife, Sharon Levin; daughter, Rahel Lerner '00 and her husband, Adam Greggerman; and five grandchildren.

Donald F. Patterson, textile manufacturer, New York City, on June 27, 2020. Born on August 31, 1938, Patterson attended the High School of Performing Arts, where his parents were teachers, and played tennis at Columbia. After serving in the National Guard, he owned and operated Desire Mills in Paterson, N.J. Following a long career in the textile industry, Patterson started a career in furniture sales and then in commercial real estate. Predeceased by his brothers, George and Jerry, and his son, Michael, Patterson is survived by his wife, Sherry; son, Dan; daughters, Gena Krug and her husband, Mike, and Chrissy Anderson and her husband, Jack; sister, Lynn; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (mskcc.org).

♦ **Eckehard P. Simon**, professor of German, Lexington, Mass., on May 2, 2020. Simon entered the College as a recent immigrant from East Germany with a far better command of German and Russian than English, yet was awarded Phi Beta Kappa. He earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Harvard before joining its German department, where he taught for 45 years and became the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures. His special interests were medieval European literature (1100-1250). Simon's teaching of both undergraduate and graduate students

focused on two fields: the German medieval court and its literature, and the emergence of theater and performance in medieval German settings. He published six books and numerous essays and did extensive work identifying medieval manuscripts at Houghton Library, Harvard's primary repository for rare books and manuscripts. Simon is survived by his wife, Eileen BC'58; sons, Anders, Matthew and Frederick; and sisters, Hannelore Rogers and Gundula Lee. Memorial contributions may be made to research on aphasic language disorders, which afflicted Simon following a 2014 medical procedure.

1962

John A. Istvan, petroleum engineer, Spring, Texas, on September 28, 2020. Born on May 23, 1939, in McKeesport, Pa., Istvan was an Eagle Scout and an altar boy who lettered in football, basketball and baseball at East McKeesport H.S. A geology major, Istvan drilled and fracked oil, gas and salt wells in New York, Virginia, Ohio, Alabama, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona and California; other projects took him to Saudi Arabia, Armenia, the Republic of Georgia, Thailand, Venezuela, Mexico and Canada. Istvan and his wife of 60 years, Frances, were founding members of Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Spring, and he also was involved in community service organizations. In addition to his wife, Istvan is survived by his sons, Ron and his wife, Eva, and Bruce and his wife, Alicia; daughter, Monica, and her husband, Erik; sisters, Virginia, Mary Jo and Kathy, and Kathy's husband, C.J.; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society fund in Istvan's name (bit.ly/2JXJlCP), or Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church (cgsc.church).

✦ **Ralph D. Kopperman**, mathematics professor, Pearl River, N.Y., on February 6, 2021. Born on February 17, 1942, in New York City, Kopperman graduated from Forest Hills H.S. and earned a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1965 from MIT. He also earned an M.A. in 1984 in psychology from CCNY. Kopperman began his teaching career at the University of Rhode Island and in 1967 joined the faculty at CCNY, where he stayed until his 2013



Ralph D. Kopperman '62

retirement as mathematics department chair. He started in academia as a logician but changed disciplines to topology in the late 1970s and wrote or co-authored more than 75 academic papers and a graduate textbook, *Model Theory and its Applications*. In addition to his wife, Constance, Kopperman is survived by his brother, Paul; son, David, and his wife, Yesenia; and daughters, Susan Picciano, Leah BC'89 and her wife, Valerie Lieber, Amy Picciano and her husband, Mark McIntyre, and Gail Picciano. Memorial contributions may be made to CCNY (giving.ccny.cuny.edu/page.aspx?pid=298); select "Division of Science" in the designation menu and note "for the Math Department Discretionary Fund in memory of Prof. Ralph Kopperman" in the Comments box), or mail to The Foundation for City College, 160 Convent Ave., Shephard Hall 154, New York, NY 10031 with the same comment.

1964

✦ **William M. "Bill" Davis**, social justice activist, New York City, on January 23, 2021. Davis grew up on a 49-acre farm in rural Pitcher, N.Y., the oldest of seven children who all worked the farm to supplement the family income. After graduating with a degree in psychology, he worked for the NYC Department of Welfare but was soon drafted into the Army and stationed at a military hospital in Germany. After discharge, Davis returned to the Department of Welfare and became a caseworker, working with adult, family and homeless populations. Upon his retirement in 1995, he was the tuberculosis unit supervisor at the Bellevue Hospital men's shelter. Davis was a fixture in the trade union movement and an active member of

the Communist Party USA, where he was elected to the National Board and National Committee. He was also active in the Working Families Party, Left Labor Forum and Veterans for Peace. Davis was predeceased by his first wife, Joan Feder SEAS'65, and is survived by his second wife, Esther Moroze; daughter, Angela '92; stepsons, Marc Auerbach and Dan Auerbach; as well as six siblings. Memorial contributions may be made to People's World (peoplesworld.org), Veterans for Peace NYC Chapter 34 (veteransforpeace.org) or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (michaeljfox.org).

1966

Nicholas R. Weiskopf, attorney and educator, New York City, on January 19, 2021. A lifelong resident of Manhattan, Weiskopf graduated magna cum laude in 1969 from the Law School and was an editor of the *Law Review*. He practiced with several major law firms, concentrating on commercial litigation, but his real passion was teaching. Weiskopf joined the faculty of St. John's University School of Law in 1981 and for 32 years taught classes on subjects including contracts, commercial arbitration and legal writing. His teaching style, informal manner and dedication to students made him a memorable and popular professor and mentor. Weiskopf is survived by his former wife, Joyce; daughters, Phoebe and Nicole; and two grandchildren.

1967

Michael Josefowicz, printer, Quogue, N.Y., on January 19, 2021. Born to Holocaust survivors who emigrated to New York when he was a small child, Josefowicz majored in sociology and was deeply influenced by the work of C. Wright Mills and Karl Mannheim. He co-founded SDS at Columbia, and with his wife, Linda BC'69 (née Kaytes), was active in the anti-war movement during graduate study at Wisconsin and afterward. Josefowicz and his wife co-founded Red Ink Productions, a tech and printing firm that worked with leading NYC nonprofits and graphic designers. He also was an advisor to the CEO of Grow Networks and taught print produc-

tion at Parsons School of Design. In addition to his wife, Josefowicz is survived by his son, Matthew, and his wife, Diane; sister, Sally Schwartz; and three grandchildren.

1968

Gregory T. Lombardo, psychiatrist, New York City, on August 18, 2019. Lombardo majored in English and comparative literature, and earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in 1970 and 1980, respectively, from GSAS, and an M.D.



Gregory T. Lombardo '68

in 1984 from P&S. He was a prominent psychiatrist and literary scholar who authored two books, *Understanding the Mind of Your Bipolar Child* and *The Character Within: A Study in the Development of Shakespeare's Techniques of Characterization*. He is survived by his former wife, Joanne Intrator PS'81; and son, Ben '08.

1969

✦ **Joseph A. Materna**, attorney, Staten Island, N.Y., on January 27, 2021. Born in Garfield, N.J., Materna earned a J.D. from the Law School in 1973 and focused his legal career on trusts and estates planning. He began with Chadbourne, Park, Whiteside & Wolff in 1973 and moved to Finley, Kumble, Wagner, Heine, Underberg, Manley, Myerson & Casey in 1980. Five years later Materna was named partner and head of the Trusts and Estates Department of Newman Tannenbaum Hearn Syracuse & Hirschtitt. In 1990 he moved to Shapiro Beilly Rosenberg Aronowitz Levy & Fox and in 2004 to Solomon Blum Heymann before launching the Law Office of Joseph A. Materna, Esq., in 2014. On May 17, 2005,

Morris Dickstein '61, Literary Critic and Cultural Historian

Morris Dickstein '61 was a public intellectual who was passionate about reading and helping his students to appreciate books to their fullest. A noted literary critic and cultural historian who taught at Columbia during the tumult of the late 1960s before a distinguished career at the City University of New York, he died on March 24, 2021.

Dickstein was a man of Manhattan. Born on February 23, 1940, he lived on the Lower East Side until his family moved to Queens when he was 9. He majored in English at the College, where he also was an editor at *Spectator*. After earning an M.A. and Ph.D. at Yale and studying at Clare College, Cambridge, Dickstein returned to the Upper West Side and began a rich teaching career that spanned more than four decades.

His love of books was stoked as an undergraduate, when he read the work of two of Columbia's most distinguished scholars: Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932's *Teacher in America* (1946) and

Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38's *The Liberal Imagination* (1950). Having originally considered a career in journalism or law, those books changed Dickstein's thinking and he found his calling as a literary critic and teacher.

"The idea of teaching others to love books as a career was a gift," his daughter, Rachel, told *The New York Times*. "Reading and writing about what he was reading was his passion."

After earning a doctorate in 1967, Dickstein taught at Columbia before moving in 1974 to Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center. He was a distinguished professor of English, theater and performance, and liberal studies and founded the Center for the Humanities in 1993. He retired in 2013.

Dickstein published a book review for *Partisan Review* when he was 22, and throughout his career frequently wrote for *The Times Literary Supplement* in Britain and *The New York Times Book Review*, *Partisan Review* and others. He authored

numerous influential books including *Gates of Eden: American Culture in the Sixties* (1977); *Double Agent: The Critic and Society* (1992); *Leapards in the Temple: The Transformation of American Fiction, 1945–1970* (2002); *A Mirror in the Roadway: Literature and the Real World* (2005); *Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression* (2009); and a memoir, *Why Not Say What Happened: A Sentimental Education* (2015). *Gates of Eden* was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award and *Dancing in the Dark* was a finalist for that award.

In his writings, Dickstein was careful to avoid what he considered the hyper-academic style that he felt was driving many readers away from literary criticism. Instead, he developed a style that was erudite but accessible.

Dickstein saw his responsibility, and that of any critic, to reveal the "sea of hype" that surrounded many books, films and other works of art. "Only when you read a serious review do you see the issues under-



neath," he told *The New York Times* in 1998. "Criticism plays a very important role in keeping people honest. Otherwise, things will be hyped out of sight and reduced to the lowest common denominator."

In addition to his daughter and her husband, Blake Eskin, Dickstein is survived by his wife of 56 years, Lore Willner; son, Jeremy '88, and his wife, Jill; sister, Doris Fineberg; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Temple Adas Israel in Sag Harbor, N.Y. (templeadasisrael.org).

— Alex Sachare '71

Materna marched in the Alumni Parade of Classes in full academic regalia, then attended the graduation of the third of his daughters, Janine '05. Materna, accompanied by his wife, Dolores, and daughters Jodi '99 and Jennifer '02, became the first alumnus to have three daughters graduate from the College. In addition to his wife of 45 years and daughters, he is survived by his brothers, Thomas and Kevin; and son-in-law, Tad Davis.



Joseph A. Materna '69

1971

Richard S. Milich, retired clinical psychology professor, Lexington, Ky., on November 7, 2020. Milich was born on June 26, 1949, in NYC and grew up in New Jersey. He played varsity soccer at Columbia and earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Washington University in 1976. From 1985 until his retirement in 2018, Milich was a professor of clinical psychology in the University of Kentucky Department of Psychology and one of the country's leading experts in ADHD. He was a beloved mentor of both undergraduate and graduate students at Kentucky and considered himself "an adopted Wildcat." A prolific researcher, Milich authored and co-authored more than 120 professional articles. After surviving lymphoma, he volunteered with the Markey Cancer Center Patient Advisory Board and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night. He is survived by his twin

brother, Henry, and Henry's wife, Katherine; and two nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to GreenHouse 17 (greenhouse17.org) or the Psychology Development Fund at Kentucky (uky.edu).

1973

John Keating Willcox, radio executive and teacher, Manchester, Mass., on July 16, 2020. Born on August 2, 1951, in Washington D.C., Willcox graduated from Milton (Mass.) Academy in 1969. He entered with the Class of 1973 but did not graduate, transferring during his senior year to Boston University, where he earned a B.S. and M.S. in computer science and a master's of divinity. He was working toward a Ph.D. in mathematics and a doctor of ministry at the time of his death. Willcox assembled a network of radio stations in New England and taught computer science at BU. He was a lifelong member of St. John's Epis-

copal Church in Beverly Farms and also attended Christ the Redeemer in Danvers. Willcox was an avid polo player who also played kayak polo and bicycle polo, and learned how to luge and bobsled. He purchased and restored square-rigged tall ships and was a chef who created cookbooks about blue food and fish sticks and believed in four major food groups: chocolate, chocolate cake, brownies and chocolate ice cream. Willcox is survived by his former wife, Robin; sons, Clark and Reinhold; daughters, Barbara and her husband, Jonathan Fisk, and Alexandra; two grandchildren; brothers, William, Thomas and Douglas; sister, Mary Willcox Smith; and numerous nieces and nephews.

1976

Nicholas P. Sgammato, musician and teacher, Ossining, N.Y., on October 19, 2020. Born on November 15, 1954, in Peekskill, N.Y., Sgammato was salutatorian at Ossining H.S.,

where he developed his love for music. He then attended the University of Miami and earned a master's from SUNY New Paltz. Proficient in nearly every musical instrument, Sgammato spent more than 30 years as a music teacher at Round Hill Elementary School in Washingtonville, N.Y., Purchase Day Camp in Purchase, N.Y., and St. John the Evangelist Parish in Beacon, N.Y. He was a lifelong fan of jazz, blues, coffee and often to his dismay, the New York Mets. Sgammato and his wife, Linda (née Sellick), were active members of the Community of Sant'Egidio USA. In addition to his wife, Sgammato is survived by his sisters, Sue and Theresa SEAS'84; son, Joseph; and daughters, Jessica and her husband, Paul, and Ali and her husband, Robert; and four grandchildren.

1978

Thomas T. Soter, journalist and improv producer and teacher, New York City, on August 14, 2020. Born and raised with his two brothers on Morningside Heights, where he was a lifelong resident, Soter wrote for numerous magazines and newspapers including *Entertainment Weekly*, *Diversions*, *Backstage*, *The New York Observer* and *Empire*. He was the managing editor of *Firehouse*



Thomas T. Soter '78

magazine 1978–81 and editor of *Habitat* 1982–2019, when he retired from full-time work at the real estate magazine. He authored several books, including *Bond and Beyond: 007 and Other Special Agents* (1992); *Investigating Couples: A Critical Analysis of The Thin Man, The Avengers, and The X-Files* (2001); *Some Thoughts and Some Photos* (2010), a memoir; and *Bedbugs, Biondi, and Me* (2014), a collection of essays on real estate. But mostly, his life revolved around improvisational comedy. He produced and hosted improv shows on the Upper West Side every Sunday night for more than 30 years, taught improv to generations of students and was part of the genesis of several troupes including The Chainsaw Boys and Burn Manhattan. In 2005, Soter was

diagnosed with Parkinson's disease but continued to work at Habitat as well as on his improv productions.

1979

Manuel R. Garcia III, oil and gas executive, San Antonio, Texas, on November 4, 2020. Born on February 23, 1957, in San Antonio, Garcia graduated from Harlandale H.S. He worked for a moving and storage company before moving into the oil and gas industry. Garcia was a member of the Columbia Alumni Association of San Antonio, where as a member of the Alumni Representative Committee he interviewed prospective students, represented Columbia at college fairs and attended admitted



Manuel R. Garcia III '79

students' events. He is survived by his wife, Graciela; sons Manuel and his wife, Jessica, and Gabriel and his wife, Kassandra; daughter, Mindy Howell, and her husband, William; four grandchildren; brother, Mario, and his wife, Linda; and sister, Monica Munoz, and her husband, George.

1983

George Poon, financial officer, Brooklyn, N.Y., on September 23, 2020. A graduate of Brooklyn Tech H.S., Poon earned a master's from NYU and worked in the financial services industry in the banking, trading and insurance sectors. He was a devoted family man who loved traveling, especially to national parks to hike and enjoy the landscape. Poon is survived by his wife, Helen; sons, Mitchell and Evan; mother, Mary; sisters, Lillian, Linda and Janet; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cancer Research Institute (fundraise. cancerresearch.org/georgepoon).

2008

♦ **James R. Williams**, writer, New Delhi, India, on April 28, 2021. Born on June 30, 1985, in Florence, Ala., Williams lived in nearby St. Florian

Hon. Paul G. Feinman '81, First Openly Gay Judge on New York High Court

When **Hon. Paul G. Feinman '81** was named by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D-N.Y.) to the State Court of Appeals in 2017, he was asked about becoming the first openly gay jurist to ascend to that position.

"My entire career has been about promoting equal access and equal justice for all," Feinman said. "I hope I add to the diversity of perspectives that the court considers." He was sworn in on June 21, 2017, during Gay Pride Month.

Feinman, who learned he had leukemia in 2015, died on March 31, 2021, in New York City. He had resigned from the bench just eight days prior to his passing.

Feinman was born on January 26, 1960, in Merrick, N.Y., and graduated from John F. Kennedy H.S. in nearby

Bellmore. At the College, he majored in French literature and was a legal intern in Upper Manhattan before earning a J.D. from the University of Minnesota, where he helped found an association for gay students. Feinman also studied in France at the Université de Paris VII (Jussieu), the Université de Paris II (Assas) and the Université de Lyon III. He remained a lifelong Francophile and treated his nieces and nephews to trips to Paris for their 16th birthdays.

He worked for the Legal Aid Society in Nassau County and was a law clerk to Justice Angela M. Mazzarelli of the New York Supreme Court in New York City before being elected to the Civil Court from Lower Manhattan in 1996. Eight years later, in 2004, Feinman was made an acting

justice of the State Supreme Court, was elected to the court in 2007 and elevated by Cuomo to the Appellate Division in 2012.

Feinman was active in the New York State Bar Association, serving as the presiding member of its Judicial Section in 2012–13 and a member of its House of Delegates 2013–14. He also chaired the New York State Justice Task Force, and was a past president of the International Association of LGBT Judges and the Association of Supreme Court Justices of the State of New York.

Asked what type of judge he considered himself — a traditionalist or an activist — Feinman replied: "I decide each case based on the law and the facts. If others want to characterize it, that is up to them."



Feinman is survived by his husband, Robert Ostergaard; mother, Judith Wale Feinman; brother, Philip; and sister, Fran Beilinson.

— Alex Sachare '71

Thomas J. Vinciguerra '85: Inimitable Writer, Colleague and Friend



SAM ROE JRN '86

The death of longtime *Columbia College Today* editor and frequent contributor **Thomas J. Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90** on February 22, 2021, left his myriad friends and colleagues grieving and his beloved Columbia diminished by the loss of one of its most singular figures. A witty, eccentric and altogether charming presence, Vinciguerra enriched the life of the University for some 40 years, primarily through his stellar reporting and writing, his warm relationships with a century's worth of alumni and faculty, and his tireless involvement in Philolexian, the ancient literary and debate society he singlehandedly resurrected as an

undergraduate. A longtime resident of Garden City, N.Y., he was 57.

Vinciguerra distinguished himself beyond the campus gates as well. After leaving *CCT*, he was deputy editor of the newsmagazine *The Week* and then executive editor of *Indian Country Today*. He contributed hundreds of pieces to *The New York Times* and also wrote for *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal* and other publications. Vinciguerra earned critical acclaim for his meticulously researched, elegantly written book, *Cast of Characters: Wolcott Gibbs, E. B. White, James Thurber and the Golden Age of The New Yorker* (2015). He also edited three volumes: *Conversations with Elie Wiesel*, by Richard D. Heffner '46, GSAS'47; *Backward Run Sentences: The Best of Wolcott Gibbs from The New Yorker*; and most recently, *A Community of Scholars: Seventy-Five Years of The University Seminars at Columbia*.

When he joined *CCT* as associate editor in 1987, I wrote, "This is the inaugural issue for Tom Vinciguerra '85, veteran of *Spectator* and Philolexian, graduate of Columbia Journalism School, and an excellent writer and editor. Soon we'll teach the whippersnapper how to make a decent pot of coffee."

The good-natured office needling seldom relented during our decade working side by side and nurturing a lifelong friendship. He likened us to Kirk and Spock from the original *Star Trek* series, one of Tom's many cultural obsessions. Our strong rapport was grounded in shared interests and values, especially a fascination with Columbia in all its aspects and a commitment to journalistic excellence. That was the mission.

A regular at *Spectator's* Blue Pencil dinner, the Varsity Show, Homecoming, and the Alexander Hamilton and John Jay awards dinners, Tom relished campus traditions and rituals; the quaint or more absurd, the better. Among his favorite *CCT* assignments was a 1991 report on the rescue of one of the College's most unusual degree requirements, the swim test. "To some alumni it must have seemed pretty incongruous," he wrote, "that in addition to mastering the intricacies of Aristotle, Beethoven and Rembrandt, they were asked to strip naked, plunge into deep water, and then traverse — be it with graceful Olympic strokes or grotesque failings — the perilous lanes of the University pool."

Closest to Tom's heart was the Philolexian Society. He presided over the annual Joyce Kilmer Bad Poetry

Contest and devoted endless effort to guiding, supporting and otherwise celebrating the organization, which grew into a parallel-universe alumni association. He never married or had kids, but became a big brother or father figure to countless members, who reciprocated by officially dubbing him the "Avatar." Few things pleased Tom more than unearthing the Philo connection of yet another interesting alum, an eclectic list that includes Secretary of State Hamilton Fish CC 1827; historian and Columbia eminence Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932; theologian and author Thomas Merton '38; and poet Allen Ginsberg '48, the cover subject of Tom's one glorious issue (Fall 1997) in the captain's chair as acting editor.

Toward the end of our last conversation, just days before he died, Tom reiterated his intention to press the University Trustees to honor a 19th-century pledge to provide Philolexian with suitable quarters — this on a campus where finding more space has become a universal project. He told me they had promised an actual building. He wasn't kidding. Had he another lifetime like this one, I believe he would have succeeded.

— Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80

until his mother died in a car accident in 1992 and his father died by suicide three years later. Williams and his older brother, John, went to live with their aunt and uncle, Sharon and Bill Alexander, in East Amherst, N.Y. Williams majored in English, wrote observational essays and especially admired Joan Didion. He edited *Inside New York*, a guidebook to the city; sang for Notes and Keys; wrote and edited *The Blue and White*; and co-wrote the 2008 Varsity Show. He became a personal assistant to writer Daphne Merkin and, in order to better understand his childhood, began an oral history project by interviewing his parents' friends in Alabama. Passionate about traveling, Williams met Ayush Thakur in India in 2017 and moved there to live with him. They became engaged and were trying to get a visa for Thakur so they could be

married in the United States. Williams was trying to change the way homosexuality is portrayed in India, as he believed that positive portrayal of gays and lesbians on American television contributed to their recent increased acceptance. Williams is survived by Thakur; his brother; his sister-in-law, Eliza Borné; and the Alexanders. Memorial contributions may be made to UNICEF's Covid-19 Indian Relief Effort (unicef.org/india) or GLAAD (glaad.org).

2013

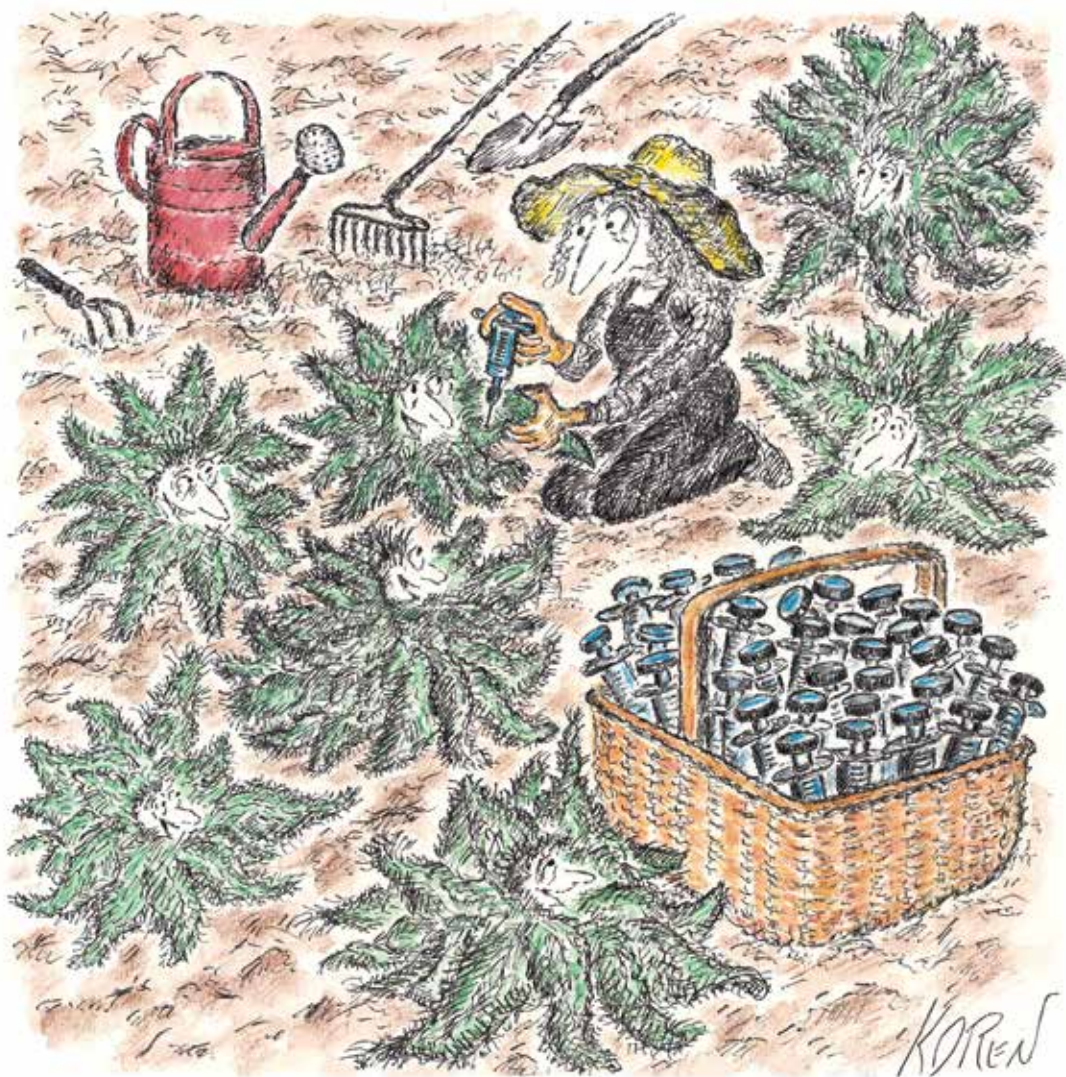
James W. Pagels, writer and research assistant, Washington, D.C., on April 9, 2021. Pagels was born on July 28, 1991, in Los Angeles and grew up in Coppell, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. He double-majored in English

and American studies, was sports editor and a columnist for *Spectator* and also worked for WKCR and the CU Film Program. He earned an M.S. in mathematics and statistics from Georgetown in 2019 while working for the Federal Reserve studying trends in global markets, and was in the second year of a Ph.D. program in economics at Michigan. Pagels continued his journalism career as an online editor for the *Dallas Morning News* and freelancer for ESPN, Slate, Bloomberg, FiveThirtyEight, Deadspin and *The Atlantic*. He also was a research assistant for the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and a regular contributor to *Forbes*, where he wrote about sports economics and prediction markets. Pagels is survived by his parents, Bill and Diggy; and sister, Laura, and her husband, Troy Menendez.

2016

Yeabsira B. Tigistu, marketer, Brooklyn, on November 14, 2020. Born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tigistu came to the United States as a young child and graduated from Pioneer H.S. in San Jose, Calif. He majored in political science at the College and was a member of the Men of Color Alliance, Black Students Organization and Sigma Nu fraternity. Upon graduation, he joined Walmart eCommerce as a category management associate and was promoted to category lead in October 2019. An avid reader, Tigistu had an encyclopedic mind and was knowledgeable about myriad subjects. He is survived by his parents, Tigistu Gebre and Elisabet Beyene; and younger brother, Samuel.

— Alex Sachare '71



“In the community garden.”



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— Lexi Young CC'21



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