


CCT

Columbia
College
Today 

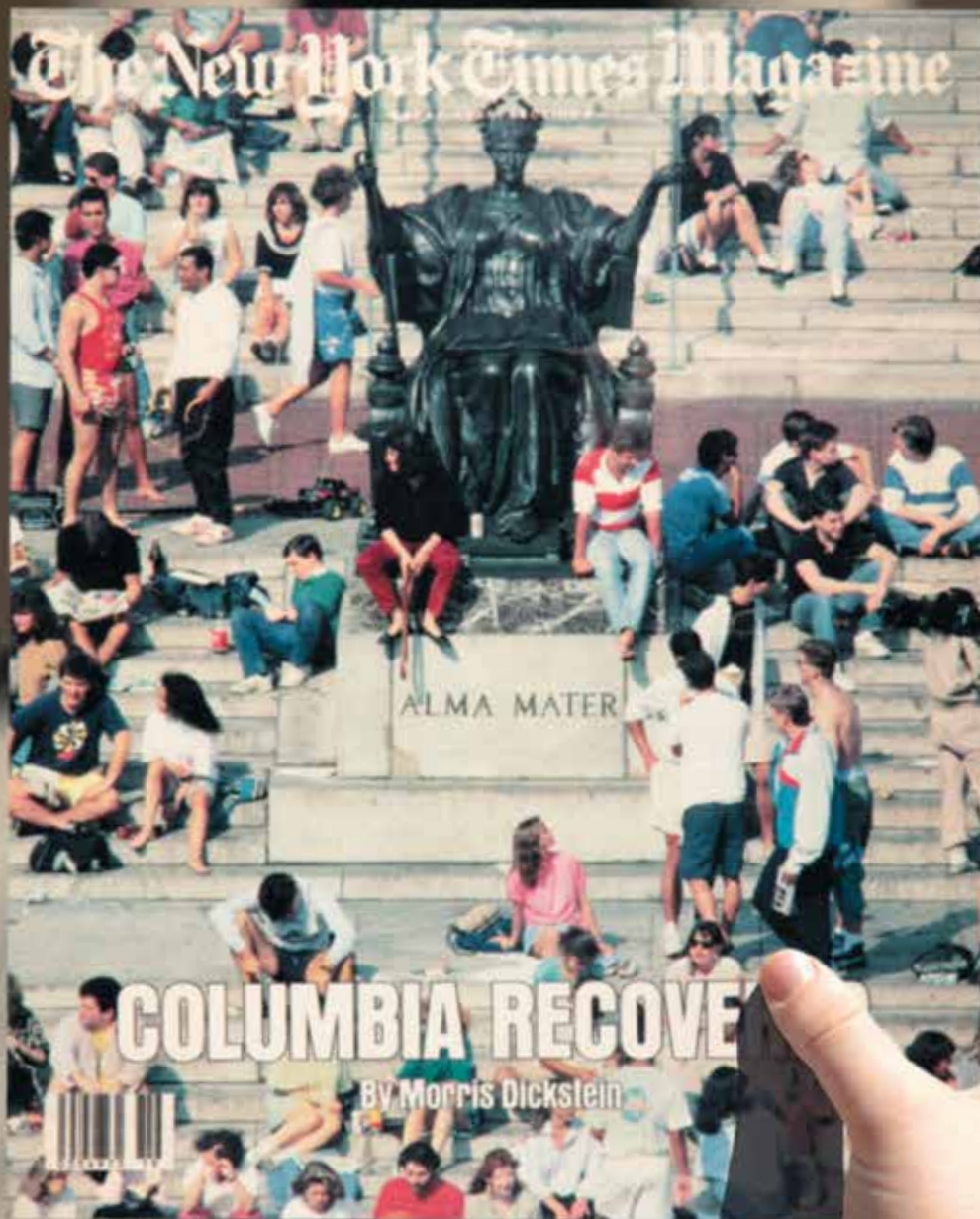
Summer 2023

STUDENT FICTION CONTEST WINNER

ABBY SIM '24 HAS THE
WRITE STUFF

DRIVEN BY DATA

HOW HAVE OUR LIVES
BEEN SHAPED BY
ALGORITHMS?



Blast From the Past

An iconic
moment
on campus,
relived
by the
alums who
were there

I had never experienced the diversity of people and thought that I did at Columbia. Everyone's different walks of life have uniquely shaped their ideas, journeys, passions and personhood. I've been so privileged to interact with, learn from and be inspired by my peers and professors.

— Sharara Kasem CC'23



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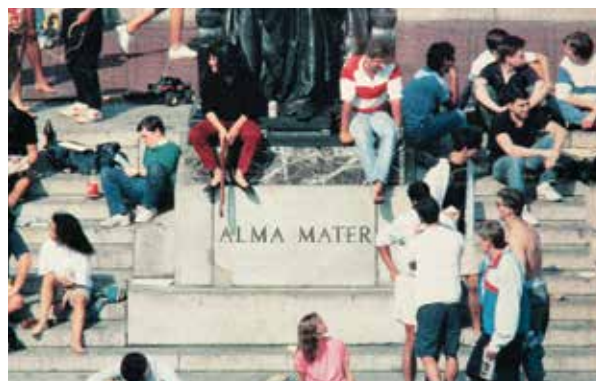
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May 16's Class Day ceremony included moving
speeches by Dean Josef Sorett and Katori Hall '03.



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Within the Family

One Last Class

For those who work in education, the rhythms of our year are tied more to semesters and academic ceremonies than to any turn of the calendar page. As I write this at the end of May, we have recently finished the season of the cap and gown — a joyful stretch marked by mortarboards and happy tears. This year, however, I found myself preoccupied with thinking about one particular rite: the graduation speech. It is a genre unto itself, added to every year by luminaries of all kinds. The speech essentially offers seniors one last class before they receive their diplomas — a mix of advice, reflection, humor, observation and inspiration.

Speeches of course operate on multiple levels. They move crowds and create collective experience; they also speak to an audience of one. Greatness occurs in the electric transmission when a passage strikes you, stirs you, stays with you. I have read author David Foster Wallace's words to the Kenyon College Class of 2005 once a year since discovering them over a decade ago. His call to exercise empathy by stepping outside the kingdom of our own minds always gives me a shoulder shake, a welcome re-centering in the midst of everyday life and routine.

This year, Columbia College graduates were addressed by several speakers whose messages will surely resonate beyond just the audience present at Class Day. I would urge you to set aside time to take in the speeches by Dean Josef Sorett and playwright Katori Hall '03, as well as by the class' student speaker, Wadzanayi Michelle Mayiseni '23. All can be viewed online (bit.ly/3oA2AIN), and Sorett's speech is also excerpted on page 6. His meditation on ethics and aesthetics aptly draws on authors and thinkers from the Core Curriculum, and his charge to the graduates to make space for beauty in their lives is, in fact, a meaningful message for us all.

Hall, meanwhile, shared stories from her own life to illustrate several potent pieces of advice. I've found myself lingering over her reminder to "never come up missing in your own mirror." That each of us has an obligation to find and use our voice, and to represent ourselves, is vital — tied to our sense of self as well as to how we contribute to the larger world. As Hall said, "Your reflection demands to be seen."

Graduation isn't the only thing on our minds this issue. Our cover story, "Blast from the Past," was the result of intense detective work, tracking down alumni who improbably found themselves on the cover of *The New York Times Magazine* 35 years ago. That photograph and the article that accompanied it were commissioned in connection with the 20th anniversary of the 1968 protests. And yet, the 1988 image has itself become iconic, capturing an idyllic Steps experience that has been shared by Columbia students across generations. We enjoyed the meta twist of layering anniversaries, and of putting together an oral history that documents how that day came to be and what it means to those who were part of it.

Elsewhere in the issue, we are thrilled to publish "Bone to Pick," the winning story from our student short fiction contest, by Abby Sim '24. (With thanks to our judges, the authors Danielle Evans '04, Adam Mansbach '98, SOA'00 and Yvonne Woon '06, SOA'10.) And we catch up with Professors Chris Wiggins '93 and Matthew L. Jones; their recent book was born from their popular undergraduate class about the past, present and future of data. It's essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how we came to live in a world ruled by algorithms — and how we might reshape our current trajectory.

Congratulations to our graduates! Have a great summer.

Alexis Boncy SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

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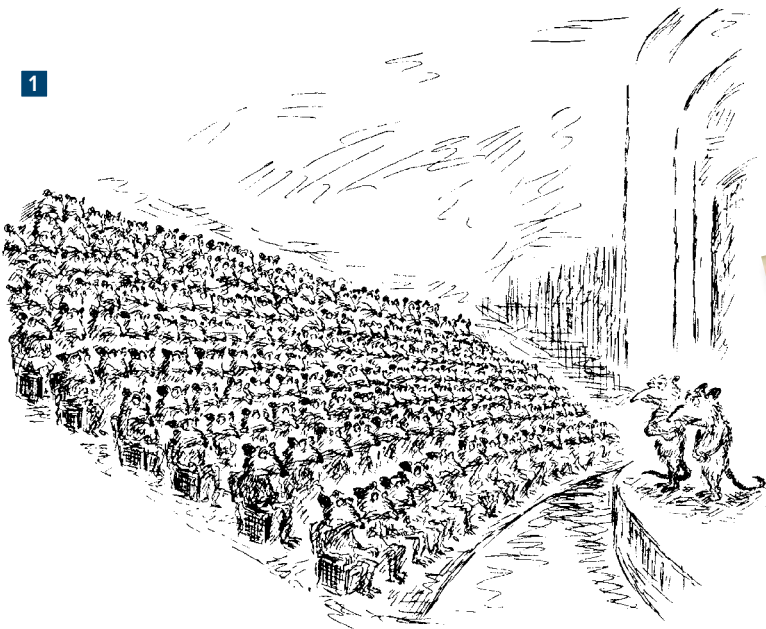
Remembering a Master Cartoonist



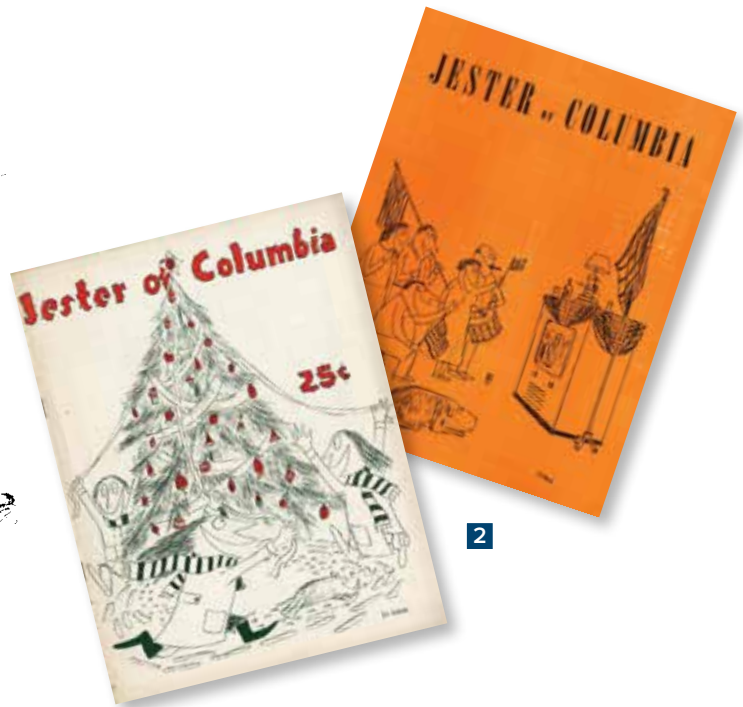
JÖRG MEYER

The incomparable Edward Koren '57, whose distinctive cartoons enlivened the pages of *The New Yorker* for upward of six decades, died on April 14, 2023; he was 87. In a 2021 interview with CCT, Koren credited Columbia's humor magazine, *Jester*, for launching him on his career path; he began contributing in his first year and as a senior became editor-in-chief. Here, we pay tribute with a selection of his work through the years. Read CCT's obituary at college.columbia.edu/cct.

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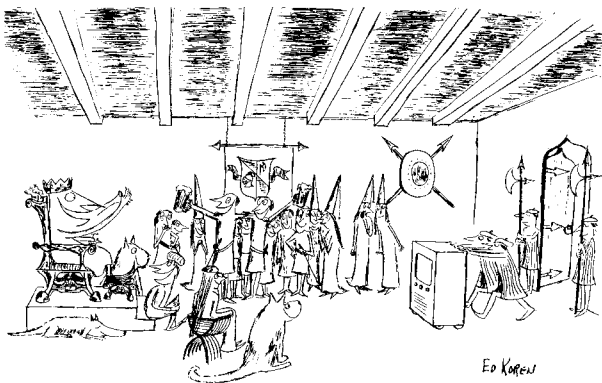


"Your father and I want to explain why we've decided to live apart."



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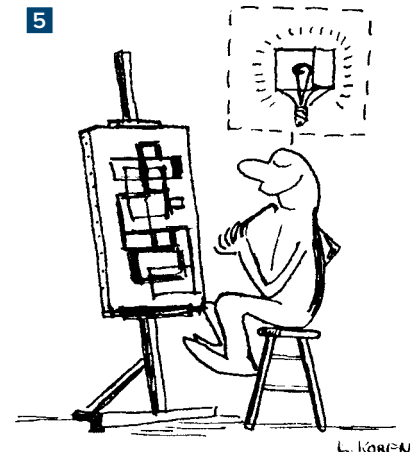


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"In the community garden."

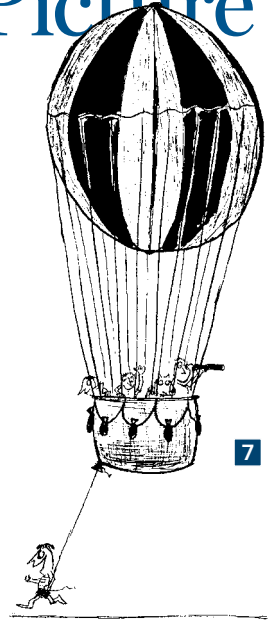
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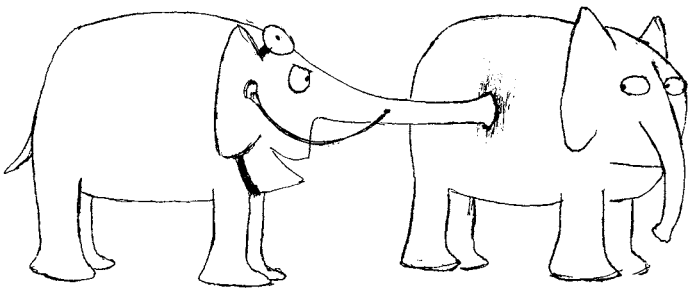
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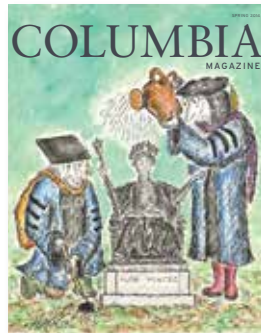
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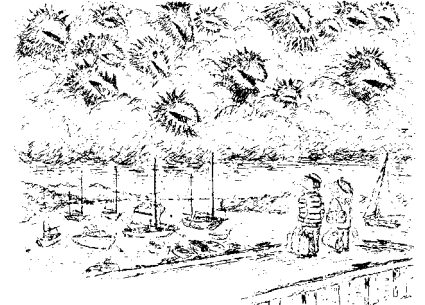
"Now, inhale . . . !"

KREN

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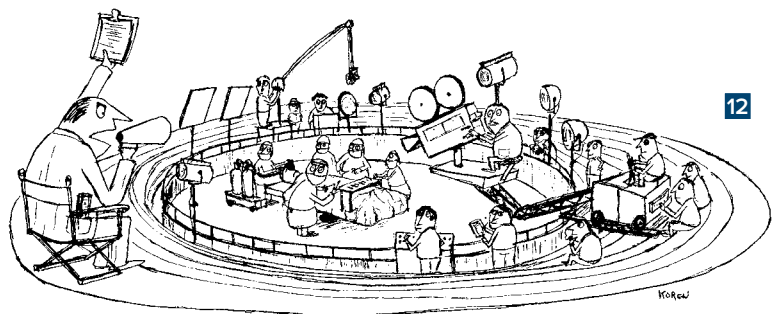
"The weather looks a little iffy."

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KREN

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"Cut!"

- 1. *The New Yorker*, February 6, 1995
- 2. *Jester* covers, December 1955 and October 1956
- 3. *Jester*, 1954–55
- 4. *CCT*, Spring/Summer 2021
- 5. *Jester*, 1953–54
- 6. *CCT*-commissioned cartoon for the Fall 2019 Core Cartoon Caption Contest
- 7. *Jester*, October 1955
- 8. *Jester*, October 1956
- 9. *Columbia*, Spring 2014
- 10. *The New Yorker*, August 31, 1987
- 11. *Jester*, 1954–55
- 12. *Jester*, November 1956

1, 10: COURTESY CURTIS KREN;
2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12: COURTESY COLUMBIA
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Message from the Dean

“Make Space for Beauty”

On May 16, at Class Day, I addressed the resilient and remarkable Class of 2023, which will always hold a special place for me as my first graduating class. What follows is an excerpt from my speech, in which I explore the relationship between ethics and aesthetics.

To bring to a close
What is to do
What is to happen

Appropriate to an occasion that is an end and a beginning at once, the above poem was penned by Korean-American poet Myung Mi Kim. “Lamenta 502” is taken from her 2002 book, *Commons*, which appears on the syllabus for Literature Humanities, a key part of your first year at Columbia.

Lit Hum is part of your unique heritage as Columbia College students; that is, the Core Curriculum and the rich tradition of liberal arts education it represents. You have developed habits of mind that will serve you for a lifetime, enabling you to interrogate and understand the world around you. Your majors and concentrations in the arts and sciences have deepened your knowledge and expertise. And, if we did our jobs right, the way you see the world has evolved, and you are graduating today motivated by the belief that you have the power — and obligation — to change it for the better.

The work of W.E.B. Du Bois is an important touchstone for me in this regard. Perhaps some of you will recall this passage from your time in Contemporary Civilization. In his 1903 classic, *The Souls of Black Folks*, Du Bois wrote the following: “The function of the university is not simply to teach breadwinning, or to furnish teachers for the public schools, or to be a center of polite society; it is, above all, to be the organ of that fine adjustment between real life and the growing knowledge of life, an adjustment which forms the secret of civilization.”

In this next phase of your life, the responsibilities you confront will often be ones you choose and define: your professional path, your family life and the communities you claim and that claim you. Others will exceed, or even frustrate, your choices and plans. In all of these instances — no matter what shape or form they take — you will have the opportunity to bring what you have learned to bear as you take action. Put another way, as current and future leaders, you will have the chance — and the responsibility — to uphold the values you cherish and to add value to the world around you. You will no doubt do well for yourselves. You are Lions, after all. Yet I exhort you to also do good, as complicated and naive as these two simple words might be.

In a 1993 interview with *The Paris Review*, the late novelist and Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, whom you read in Literature Humanities, shared the following: “I think of beauty as an absolute necessity ... I think it’s almost like knowledge, which is to say, it’s what we’re born for ...”



EILEEN BARROSO

It is in that spirit that I want to impart a final thought — a charge, if you will. Amidst the pressures and complications that will confront you in the years to come, and in the face of the ugliness that can intrude in our society, make space for beauty in your life. Help cultivate it in others and sustain spaces for it to flourish, as much as you are able. And take an expansive view of the places, things and people to which you ascribe beauty.

It can be found everywhere. In the arts to be sure — where your shared grounding in the humanities will serve you for a lifetime — but also in simple human interaction, in the routines of daily life, in your neighborhood, the workplace, in relationships and in the context of communities of every kind that surround you.

There is a kind of ordinary activism to be found in apprehending and amplifying the beauty around you. Seeking it, discerning it and striving to name it will enrich your lives, and the lives of those within — but also those beyond — your reach. Beauty is the great hope for our shared present and futures.

Each of you is now on a threshold; what’s next beckons. The great works, struggles and joys of the years ahead are waiting for you, but you’re not there yet. This time — the in-betweenness of it — can feel strange, and that is as it should be. You are embarking on the process of defining your place in a world that is often turbulent and unsettled. And that world calls out for your voice, for your ideas and for your energy. Trust yourself. Trust the questions that drove you as a student. Trust the sparks that ignite your interests and passions. Trust the impulse to ascertain what and where the good is. Trust beauty wherever you find it, and make beauty wherever you find yourself. And trust the hope it represents.

Your Columbia College education has imbued you with the skills to think critically, learn, debate and innovate. It is now your responsibility to use these tools in the service of building and leading a more beautiful world.

Josef Sorett

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

University Names Minouche Shafik 20th President

Nemat “Minouche” Shafik, an economist whose career has been focused on public policy and academia, will become the 20th president of Columbia University — and the first woman to lead the University — on July 1. Her election by the Board of Trustees concluded a wide-ranging and intensive search following President Lee C. Bollinger’s announcement that he would step down at the end of the 2022–23 academic year.

In a letter to the community, Jonathan S. Lavine ’88, chair of the Trustees, called Shafik “the perfect candidate: a brilliant and able global leader, a community builder and a preeminent economist who understands the academy and the world beyond it.”

Most recently, Shafik was president of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), a role she held since 2017. There, she oversaw vast improvements to the student experience, recruited talented academic leaders and managed significant expansion and infrastructure projects. She is a tireless proponent of diversity and inclusion and

a creative and thoughtful leader committed to cultivating and promoting service to the public good.

Shafik has edited, co-authored or authored numerous articles and books, including her most recent work, *What We Owe Each Other: A New Social Contract*. She was also the first female leader of LSE and was the first female permanent secretary of the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development. She began her career at the World Bank, and at 36 became its youngest VP.

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, Shafik earned a B.A. in economics and politics from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, an M.S. in economics from LSE and a Ph.D. in economics from St Antony’s College, Oxford University.

In an interview with Columbia News, Shafik affirmed her commitment to the Core Curriculum, which she described as providing the “foundation for citizenship” and cultivating in people the “capacity to think for themselves.” She added that she looks forward to engaging with students,



MARK BADER

whom she said are “important partners in thinking about how to improve the student experience, what their education should encompass, as well as participating in the research and the intellectual life of the University.”

New Trustees Co-Chairs

Claire Shipman ’86, SIPA’94 and David Greenwald LAW’83 will be the next co-chairs of the Board of Trustees, the University announced in May. The two are currently vice-chairs, and will assume their new roles on September 1, when



MARISSA RAUCH

Shipman

Greenwald

Jonathan S. Lavine ’88 concludes his five-year term as chair. (Lavine was co-chair with Lisa Carnoy ’89 from 2018 to 2022.)

Among their many contributions to Columbia, Shipman and Greenwald recently served on the Presidential Search Committee that oversaw the process of selecting Minouche Shafik as President Lee C. Bollinger’s successor. In addition, Shipman received the 2022 Alexander Hamilton Medal, the highest honor awarded to a member of the Columbia College community, which recognizes distinguished service to the College and accomplishment in any field of endeavor.

“It’s one of the great privileges of my life to serve Columbia in this role,” said Shipman, a journalist, author and public speaker who is an expert on confidence and wom-

en’s leadership. “My life was transformed by the University, as is the case for thousands of students each year. Today, Columbia’s dedication to cutting-edge research, to the pursuit of knowledge and to tackling the great problems of humanity makes it one of the world’s most vital institutions.”

Trilling and Van Doren Awards

Hamid Dabashi, the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature, and Achille C. Varzi, the John Dewey Professor of Philosophy, have been honored with the 48th annual Lionel Trilling Book Award and the 62nd annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching,



Dabashi Varzi

respectively. The awards are given annually by the Academic Awards Committee of the Columbia College Student Council.

Dabashi, the director of undergraduate studies for the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, was selected for his book *The End of*

Two Illusions: Islam after the West (2022). The committee noted that it appreciated “the multidimensional view provided by the remarkable balance between cogent analyses of contemporary phenomena and deep dives into history and culture.”

Varzi, who teaches an array of undergraduate and graduate classes in logic, metaphysics, the philosophy of language and the history of philosophy, was recognized as an “enthraling lecturer.” The committee further noted that he invests “significant amounts of time, thought and resources into creating an optimal learning environment for his students, paving the way for pedagogical exploration and unforgettable experiences during their time at Columbia.”



Honorees, clockwise from top left: Mohan, Stone, Lilly and Zappacosta.

West Coast Honors

The Columbia College Alumni Association and Dean Josef Sorett kicked off the inaugural West Coast Honors in March, introducing two awards that will annually celebrate members of the College’s West Coast community. The Trailblazer Award honors individuals for their pioneering and distinguished service or volunteerism to the College, and the Spirit of Creativity and Innovation Award is for exceptional professional achievement.

The 2023 Trailblazer Award went to Vijay Mohan ’01, co-founder and partner, Sixth Street; and James Stone ’90, head of West Coast Investment, PennantPark. The Spirit of Creativity and Innovation Award went to Courtney Lilly ’97, executive producer and showrunner of the ABC sitcoms *black-ish*, *grown-ish* and *mixed-ish*; and Marco Zappacosta ’07, co-founder and CEO of Thumbtack. The honorees were celebrated at two events: in San Francisco on March 15 and in Los Angeles on March 16. More than 150 alumni and guests attended.



SIRIN SAMMAN

Maya Villasenor SEAS’24 (center) made the winning presentation in the rapid-fire pitch competition; here, she receives her team’s prize from the judges and CCW executive board members.

CCW Celebrates Entrepreneurship

More than 100 attendees turned out for the annual Columbia College Women’s Signature Event, held this year on March 24 at Faculty House. The gathering, which celebrated entrepreneurship and empowerment, was headlined by an exclusive talk with Kathleen King, founder of Tate’s Bake Shop, and Nancy Pak ’90, BUS’95, CEO of Walden Local Meat and former CEO of Tate’s.

The event also featured a rapid-fire pitch contest, in which entrepreneurs and their teams from across Columbia’s schools competed *Shark Tank*-style. The entries were judged by King and Pak as well as Sherri Pancer Wolf ’90, president of the Columbia College Alumni Association; Professor R.A. Farrokhnia GS’00, BUS’04; and Roxann Smithers ’99, LAW’02.

The judges’ winner and recipient of a \$2,000 prize was Paper Planes, presented by Maya Villasenor SEAS’24. The audience-selected winner and recipient of private coaching sessions by the judges was Argonauts, presented by Elsa Johnson SPS’24.

The event concluded with a chance to network and visit pop-ups staged by Columbia entrepreneurs. Food, law, marketing, and health and beauty were among the industries represented.

Class of 2027 Admissions Decisions

A total of 2,246 students were offered admission to the Class of 2027 by Columbia College and Columbia Engineering. Undergraduate Admissions announced final application numbers in March, which reflect a combination of applications received during the early decision and regular decision cycles. The schools received a total of 57,129 applications, the third largest applicant pool in Columbia’s history. This year’s admission rate was 3.9 percent.

The admitted class hails from all 50 states (as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa, and the Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands and U.S. Virgin Islands) and 101 countries.



JILL SHOMER

Benjamin Steege '00

By Jill C. Shomer

Music Humanities chair Benjamin Steege '00 had a revelation about the course during a class visit to the Metropolitan Opera in November 2021.

Steege, an associate professor of music, historical musicology and music theory, recalls teaching Music Hum in Spring 2020, when classes went virtual amidst the outbreak of Covid-19 and trips to live performances were suspended indefinitely. "There were some very moving moments teaching this material online to students who were really scared," he says. "A lot of them told me they were grateful to just focus on listening to music. They found it reassuring."

When classes resumed attending performances the following year, Steege was aware that an evening at the opera had new significance. "It became extremely clear that we can no longer take the continuity of the arts for granted," he says. "I started realizing that what Music Hum is actually about is the survival of art forms."

Steege says he now tries to impart to students — who have grown up with the ability to download whatever tunes they

want — that having centuries of music to study is not a given. "How has music survived? And what is it that we have to do as a society to keep it alive?" he says. "It's important for the course to ask these big questions."

Steege joined the faculty in 2012, after earning a Harvard Ph.D. in 2007 and then teaching at Stony Brook University. He was a music major at the College and researched the history of music perception in graduate school. "I was looking at 19th-century physiologists who were figuring out how the ear worked, and were describing how people listen to and understand music alongside the development of the mind sciences," he says.

He recently finished his first year as Music Hum chair, which he says has largely been a learning stage, spent observing different sections and talking to faculty across the Core Curriculum to see what people are interested in before beginning next year's syllabus review.

Thinking ahead to that process, Steege would like to see questions about digital media foregrounded. "Students are ready to talk about things like who owns music

or what is considered stealing versus borrowing," he says. "It also feeds into cultural appropriation, which is a theme that instructors are already dealing with. I think there might be ways to make these conversations more programmatic."

He also thinks there's room for greater diversity on the syllabus. "We spend half the semester in the 20th century, but it's a very American 20th century," he says. "Some of the most exciting places for jazz or classical music right now are not in the Western hemisphere — Seoul, Tokyo, Cape Town, Accra. So I do think it's important for us to acknowledge a more global perspective."

A course-wide opera outing has long been a Music Hum tradition; this past semester Steege took 800 students (over three nights) to see a contemporary opera by a Black composer: Terence Blanchard's 2013 boxing tragedy *Champion*. "It was a gamble going to something that none of the instructors had seen before, but we thought it was a risk worth taking," he says. "Blanchard was the first Black composer the Met had ever produced [in 2021], and it allows us to ask questions about the roles of race and representation at a major institution like that."

Steege played the piano growing up in Massachusetts, but opted not to pursue conservatory or a career in performance. In addition to Music Hum, he also teaches music theory; he enjoys the unexpected in the classroom, "when students at any level have questions you just do not see coming," he says. "You have to think through your premises carefully and be prepared, sort of on the fly, to rethink them."

He returns to the subject of Music Hum: "Douglas Moore, the composer who helped create the course in the late 1940s, said something like, 'Music is a secret language.' And I think that is fantastically wrong," Steege says. "Students have a lot of understanding about what music is doing for them, that they maybe just can't articulate as clearly."

"I think the main thing the class should do is give students the opportunity to shape their thoughts, and give them a sense of confidence in forming judgments about music," he says. "We're not trying to teach them, 'This stuff is great, and you should love it.'"



JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

DidYouKnow?

Butler's Intricate Iron Gates Have a Long History

Since Butler Library opened its doors in November 1934, tens of thousands of students have passed through the two iconic iron gates that lead from the lobby to the first-floor hallways. The gates were forged in 1934 by Philadelphia-based master blacksmith Samuel Yellin. A prolific metalworker, Yellin designed pieces such as window grates, light fixtures and gates that are found in buildings across the United States, including The Cloisters, Harvard University, the Salt Lake City Cathedral and the Detroit Public Library.

Student Spotlight

Haroon Arain '24

Meet Haroon Arain '24 (he/him), co-president of the Columbia Culinary Society. A Washington Heights native who is dedicated to showcasing and sharing the amazing food in his hometown, Arain is a neuroscience major with a concentration in chemistry.

Do you have a favorite thing you've done with the Culinary Society?

The biggest thing so far was Columbia Restaurant Week [in late January]; that was a lot of fun. We modeled it after New York Restaurant Week; we reached out to local restaurants and partnered with them to offer discounts for students who showed their ID. It worked out great! One night [during Restaurant Week] I was at Anār, which is one of my favorite restaurants, and I overheard some students talking about how much they appreciated that it was happening!

What's been your favorite class at the College so far?

I really liked "Cognitive Neuroscience," taught by Mariam Aly; that was super fun. As a neuroscience major, I'm interested in philosophical ideas of the brain in addition to scientific ideas, and she really touched on that.

What do you like to do outside of class and the Culinary Society?

I enjoy playing guitar and trying to make music. I'm also a huge cricket enthusiast — I'm always trying to find people on campus who are interested in cricket!

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

I'm from Washington Heights, so I have the ability to pretend to know all about New York. I like showing people my



JILL SHOMER

favorite spots. I especially love to show off Washington Heights — that area is so peaceful and calm, and a lot of people don't go there, especially students.

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ROAR, LION, ROAR

Women's Wrestling Aims To Make History

The club team wants to be the first varsity program in the Ivy League *By Alexis Boncy SOA'11*

The Andrew F. Barth Wrestling Room in Dodge Fitness Center wears its history proudly. Banners proclaim championships; portraits of All-Americans are painted on the wall. Boldest of all is the blue-and-white sign that declares: The Nation's Oldest Wrestling Program, Established 1903.

These days, practicing in this same room, another wrestling team has served notice of its own historic intentions: the Columbia women's club program.

The team became the first of its kind in the Ivy League when it was founded in early 2020, and the women aim to lead the way again by being first of the Ivies

to reach varsity status. But the club is as much about education as elite competition, a duality that's given rise to one of its most defining characteristics: an all-comers culture that embraces athletes from novice to nationally ranked.

"It's nice to have the spectrum. So much growth happens quickly with people who are new, and the experienced women become mentors in addition to fine-tuning and challenging themselves," says Coach Emma Randall, who is also head coach of the New York City Regional Training Center (NYCRTC) women's wrestling program. "It's a cycle where we all feed each other — whether it's with energy and being fans of one

another, or with advice, maybe doing an extra workout together. I love the way they all lift each other up."

That lift was on display with the 15 women who turned out to practice one night in April — including in the "she just flipped her partner over her arm" sense. Maya Letona '24, a three-time All-American, frequently stepped to the center to volunteer pointers and help Randall demonstrate moves. Club president Talia Fine '23, spying two teammates having trouble with a drill, jogged over to offer encouragement. There was lots of laughter, but the intensity was no joke: push-ups, sit-ups, squat jumps, knee slides (imagine dropping to one knee like you were proposing marriage, then using your other foot to push yourself across the floor — repeatedly). Later, everyone paired off to spar. "I want your head and shoulder *glued* to your partner!" Randall shouted.

For the uninitiated, women's wrestling has been growing in profile for close to 35 years. The first World Championships were held in 1989, and it debuted at the Summer Olympics in 2004. At the high school level, 36 states have sanctioned the sport (meaning schools have teams with a full schedule and championship opportunities) — a total of more than 33,000 wrestlers in 2022. All that interest is translating to college; as of last fall, there were 132 women's collegiate programs nationwide. The NCAA, meanwhile, is set to consider whether to elevate women's wrestling from "emerging sport" status and begin sponsoring a national championship. (NCAA teams currently compete in the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championship.)

At Columbia, Fine was instrumental in launching the club, taking the reins from Brianna Csontos '20. (Kyra Tirana



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN HOCH

Three-time All-American Maya Letona '24 (right) at the Princeton Open.



The women's club wrestling team welcomed athletes and coaches from across the Northeast for their "Wrestle Like A Girl" event at Levien Gym.

Barry '87, a former team leader for the U.S. Women's National Wrestling Team, was also a key supporter.) A California native, Fine's passion for the sport stemmed from an experience with serious illness; afterward, she wanted to feel strong and connected to her body again. But Fine's high school didn't have a team, and she had to travel to a different school with a boys' team in order to access coaches and a gym. "There were only a couple of other girls for me to wrestle with; it was really inconsistent," she said. As a College first-year, she was eager for camaraderie.

The Covid-19 pandemic made for a bumpy start, however; the ink on the team's official paperwork was barely dry, so to speak, when the University shut down, and virtual workouts weren't exactly conducive to building momentum. When campus life resumed in fall 2021, Fine and other early club members undertook a major outreach campaign. "We talked to everyone who walked by," she recalled. "Anytime someone said 'no,' we said, 'We can teach you, help you be fit, help you get strong.'

"There can be a mental block," Fine added. "People see wrestling as aggressive — you're close to another person, it can be scary. Part of growing the sport is making sure people feel confident and safe enough to try it and discover if it's right for them." Their efforts were persuasive: 75 people came to their first practice, and about 25 signed on for the year.

Today, the club has roughly that same number of members. They hit the mats for practice 20 hours a week, plus one night a week of weightlifting. For those who want

it, there are opportunities to train with the men's team, as well as at the NYCRTC. The competition schedule is a mix of local tournaments and dual meets, with top-tier wrestlers traveling for national events.

Randall, who is a former member of Team USA's national coaching staff as well as a past head girls' coach and program director for Beat the Streets NYC, has been with the club since nearly the beginning. Along with Letona, other formidable wrestlers include Arian Carpio GS'28, a former representative for Team USA (she's in the midst of changing her citizenship with the goal of becoming the first Filipina wrestler in the Olympics); and Alina Antillon BC'26, who recently fell one match short of becoming All-American at her age group trials. Among the incoming first-years are Kaylie Musard SEAS'27, a two-time state finalist from Maryland, and Kira Pipkins '27, a four-time state champion from New Jersey.

Looking ahead, it's largely up to the administration to determine whether to grant varsity status; there isn't a formal checklist of requirements, Randall says. But the club needs to continue building out a clear competition schedule as well as fundraising to endow the program "so that we can build a locker room, cover equipment needs, things like that."

"We're also focusing on creating a community on campus where our women feel welcome and loved in the room, and also have a presence — going to men's tournaments, going to the women's basketball games, being supportive. Not just [at Columbia] but also watching New York



Coach Emma Randall

City high school girls wrestle at their events. And in turn we hope they show up at our ours."

As for Fine, moving on is bitter-sweet. After graduation she wants to stay involved with wrestling, perhaps by coaching or refereeing. She always knew that she wouldn't see the team become varsity, she says, but is confident it's in good hands. And she's proud to have gotten things off the ground.

"Every time I walk in the room and see girls chatting with each other, putting on their shoes, getting ready for this practice we're about to do together, I get really happy," Fine said. "Like I did something good for them and their college careers, and for their future. I really feel I found the team of women I always wanted."

The New York Times Magazine

THE WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

ALMA MATER

COLUMBIA RECOVERED

By Morris Dickstein



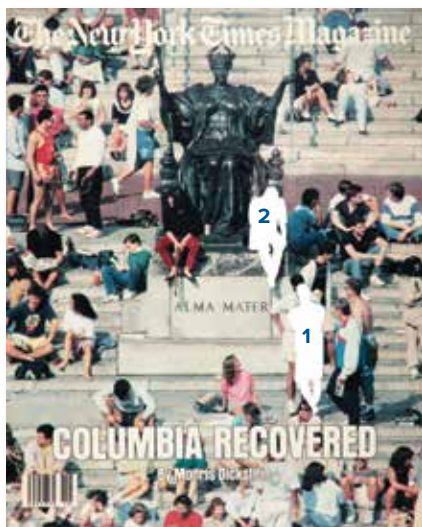
BLAST FROM THE PAST

ON MAY 15, 1988, *The New York Times Magazine* published a cover story under the headline “Columbia Recovered.” What it had recovered *from* required no explanation. The 1968 protests had been one of the largest uprisings in the history of American universities, and two decades on from that shattering event, cultural historian Morris Dickstein ’61 returned to the University to see what changes had occurred.

The sense of a community healed was perhaps most vividly captured by the magazine’s cover — a photo of the Steps on a sunny spring day, teeming with students relaxing, reading, talking, laughing. This was campus life at its most ordinary, but it was also emblematic of the Columbia experience: undergraduates coming together in the landmark space that every student calls their own.

And yet, for some people, the photo captured their specific experience. Filming for the video yearbook. Doing a crossword puzzle. Drinking a Pepsi. Who were the students arrayed outside Low Library that afternoon? Thirty-five years later, we decided to find out. From a literal long shot filled with half-obsured faces, we slowly chipped away at IDs. A few were surprised to see their younger selves in the image, but many more remembered the long-ago jolt of discovering they were on the cover of the *Times* magazine.

Ultimately, we found and interviewed 19 alumni, asking them to look back on the day the photo was taken, how they learned they were in it and what it means to them. We also sought out the photographer to get her behind-the-scenes perspective. Their recollections form a kind of oral history of this now-iconic image. Here’s what they said. >>

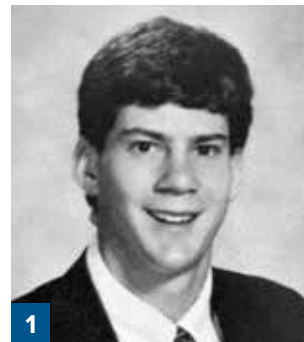


The New York Times Magazine, May 15, 1988, photographed by Jörg Meyer; issue supplied by Columbia University Archives.

An iconic moment on campus, relived by the alums who were there

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

Responses have been edited for length and clarity.



Michael Barry '89

It was warm out, and I was either taking a study break or relaxing shortly thereafter. A number of friends were enjoying the afternoon, which was very typical of us in April and May. I heard about the cover from my sister-in-law, Kyra Tirana Barry '87, who at the time was my good friend. I thought, “that’s fun, cover of *The New York Times Magazine*.” Wish I had been facing the camera.

The experience did make me think that the Columbia of 1988 was quite different from 20 years prior. Columbia in the late 1980s was a relatively healthy place. The school, the city, the future all felt good to me.



Michael Behringer '89

I was walking across the Steps before my afternoon lecture. It was overcast and they were fairly barren except for Nancy Yaffa Le Roux BC'88, who was sitting on *Alma Mater* (you can see her to my right). I asked Nancy what she was doing up there. She had a belt that she had to return to a friend (you can see it in the photo) and wanted to be easily found. Chatting with Nancy seemed more interesting than class, so I hopped up to help her and made myself comfortable on that perch. That was probably the first and last time I ever sat up there.

Then the sun came out, and it turned into one of those



**Stephanie Falcone
Bernik '89**

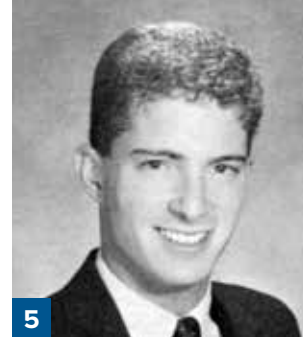
OMG — I'm sure I knew I was in the photo at the time but I'd long forgotten about it. My friend Diane Daltner '89 and I had started a video yearbook and we were constantly filming. Because much of the Columbia experience was centered on conversations on the Steps, there I was, with a HUGE video camera on my shoulder, dressed in the worst of '80s fashion ... Capezio shoes and joggers (which are unfortunately back in style). One could have only hoped that bad fashion wouldn't repeat itself. Seeing it now brings back so many great memories — it symbolizes the everyday “nothing” that played a part in making the time at Columbia so special.



**Sandy Steinberg
Harris BC'90, JRN'98**

I associate my college experience with those unseasonably warm days when students would put on shorts and T-shirts and head to the Steps. It was so hopeful — spring was here! It was where Columbia most came together as a community. You never knew who you might see. Even today, on a day like that, I viscerally remember the Steps.

I remember when the magazine came out. I even saved a copy. I remember thinking it was cool to be in *The New York Times*. I vaguely remember feeling a sense of pride for being a student on the campus where there was an historic uprising, where students would go to such lengths to effect change. It was violent and scary, and it gave Columbia some street cred in the student revolt movement. When I was at Barnard in the late '80s, there was so much political passion and optimism about our ability to impact the world. I am sure it was related to being young, but at Columbia we were aware of the lore of the events of 1968. It felt like we had experience, a corner on the challenging-authority market. Depressing that 55 years later, we still find ourselves facing some of the same issues.



Michael Kanner '90

When the magazine came out, I had just moved back home for the summer after my sophomore year. My parents had home delivery of the *Times*. Spread out on the breakfast table that Sunday morning of May 15 was each section of the newspaper, with the cover of the magazine clearly visible. I immediately looked for people I knew. The first person I noticed was my friend Michael Behringer '89, who was sitting on the base of *Alma Mater*. I recognized some others, and then I saw what appeared to be half of my face, turning toward my left and about to throw a Nerf football. I think I still have those sunglasses.

I actually kept the magazine and still have it at my home. I enjoyed my years at Columbia immensely and have treasured my time there more and more as the years have gone by. I also am fortunate in that I was able to spend time on campus over the past four years — my daughter was a Columbia Engineering student. She just graduated in May.

unexpectedly glorious early spring days. As the temperature rose, a few friends, fraternity brothers and classmates who were also on their way to class asked what the hell we were doing up there. More than a few dropped their books and took a seat. It dominoed from there. Before long, the Steps were packed. I'd guess 90 percent of the people in that photo were supposed to be in class. There was this great energy.

My mother called me the Sunday it was published. She said, “Have you seen the cover of *The New York Times Magazine*? I think you're on it.” My first reaction was dread, as to what I did that landed me on the cover. I found it at the newsstand on the corner of 110th and Broadway, and immediately recalled the day [it was taken].

I thought it was the greatest thing. It captured us enjoying the best of residential life at Columbia: being surrounded by friends, enjoying one another's company and just living in the moment. To give a sense of how meaningful that photo was for me, there are about seven friends in it who were at my wedding. And I'm still in touch with many of them.

To this day, my friends refer to it as “The Photo,” and it quickly attained a special place in Columbia lore. My mother had it framed for me as a graduation gift, and it's held a prominent place in every office I've had. I glance at it nearly every day and it always brings a smile. My wife calls it my “Portrait of Dorian Gray.” Each year it grows a little more faded and tattered, yet every glance leaves me feeling reenergized, optimistic and a little younger.



6

Brian Kennedy '90

I've seen this a few times over the years. I'm in what appears to be an unnecessary wind-breaker :) Looks like there's a copy of *Spectator* in my left hand. I loved those seemingly infrequent days when the weather and schedules aligned — great memories.



7

Nancy Yaffa Le Roux BC'88

I was meeting a friend that day but it was crowded and I couldn't find them. I decided I would have a better view from *Alma Mater*. Michael Behringer '89 (next to me) decided to come have a chat and help me look.

I was away at a rowing regatta when the magazine came out and came home to an answering machine (remember that dinosaur?) full of people telling me I was on the cover. I was so surprised. I had no idea the photo was even taken.

The cover is framed and has always been prominently featured in my home. It reminds me of four of my favorite years — the phenomenal education I received, the incredible rowing experience I had and the inspiring people I met, most of whom I'm fortunate to say are still close friends.



8

Holly Turchetta Li BC'90

I didn't even know I was in the photo — ha! Ironically, I was just in the city yesterday visiting colleges with my daughter and staying with my college roommate, Sandy Harris Steinberg BC'90, JRN'98, who's at the bottom of the photo in the chambray shirt. She still has a copy of the magazine! And she is still one of my closest friends.

Any sunny spring day meant a gathering at the Steps. This day didn't stand out in particular, though I do recall a lot of chatter in general around the anniversary of the 1968 protests. For our year, that was also significant because it was the year we, my classmates — all sophomores at the time — were born.

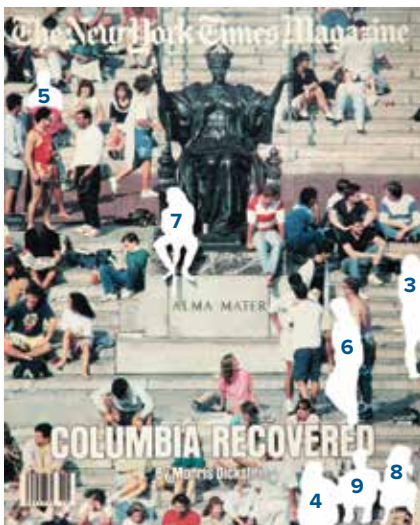


9

Andrew Levy '88

I have a vague memory of being in Cannon's bar at 108th and Broadway when this came out — obviously this was pre-internet, and if I recall correctly, the magazine hit newsstands either late Friday or Saturday night. Someone told me what it was and that I was on it. Needless to say, I rushed out to the corner, bought it and brought it back to the bar.

I don't know if the photo has a particularly special meaning for me, but on the other hand, I've kept it ever since. I actually got it framed several years ago because it was getting pretty worn, so it's definitely something that I wanted to preserve. It's absolutely a fun memento of that time in my life, and it's pretty cool to know that my time at Columbia is associated with a sort of rebirth of the school. I'm not claiming there's a connection between the two things, but I'm also not *not* claiming it.



BLAST FROM THE PAST



10

Jennifer Lebowitz London '90

I remember I got a call from a high school friend of mine. He said, “NO WAY — the cover caught my eye and I searched the photo and there you were! Unbelievable!” I immediately ran to the newsstand on Broadway and 116th and got a copy. What is funny is I have my own photos from the day in my scrapbook. Someone had pulled out their camera and taken snaps of the scene because the pervasive feeling was joy — and the light was great. (Keep in mind, they would have had to get the film developed and print multiple copies to share with friends, a little different from photo sharing today.) I had a slightly out-of-body feeling comparing those personal photos to the *Times* cover and considering that a *Times* photographer had been there all that time. I asked myself how the *Times* could have known that was the day to capture the magic of the Columbia Steps! It felt uncanny.

For me, the image celebrates something I absolutely loved about Columbia: the sense of a tight-knit community amidst a big university and an even bigger city. As college sophomores, we knew we had people. We had a place to meet without an invitation. We had a place to see and be seen. The Steps are the perfect space to socialize in a dynamic way.



11

Lynn E. Murphy '90

This was the spring of my sophomore year, and I believe I was going to French class. I think it was after lunchtime. I also spent a lot of time nearby at Dodge Fitness Center (I was on the women’s soccer team), so the Steps were a natural stomping ground for me.

I completely recall when the magazine came out: I was home on Long Island for the summer. We got delivery of the paper, so I saw it on the table and went to the magazine. It used to have real estate in the back that I loved to look at. Well, I pulled it out and was like, “Wow! Cool, Columbia’s on the cover.” Then I looked more closely and saw myself — I was pretty stoked! I remember feeling a huge sense of pride looking at the cover and reading the article. In fact, I have two copies of the magazine at my home here in California!

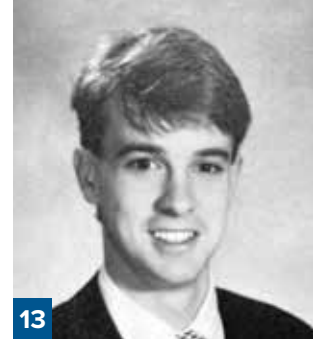


12

Patrick Murray '89

I remember when the magazine came out. I had stayed for a few days after the semester ended. I was in the Beta House and Steve Hasenfus '89 came home on Saturday evening and told us about it. I told my parents, and my father said, “I know you don’t have the money to frame it properly, so I’ll pay for you to do so.” I had it put on a wood plaque and laminated, but the color has still faded. I’d love to get a new version, and maybe have it protected to last a little better.

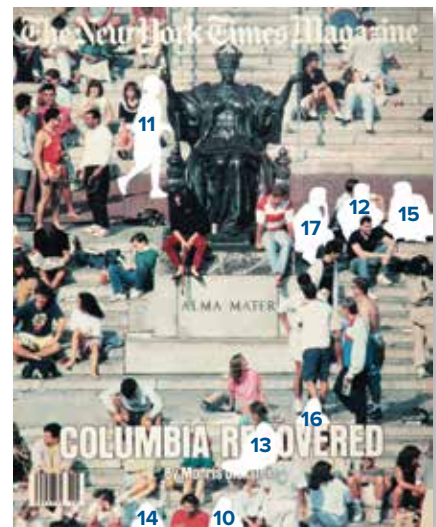
The cover reminds me of a great time in life when I was able to spend hours in deep (and not so deep) conversation with really bright and engaging people. The picture perfectly captures one of those moments and reminds me how lucky I was to attend Columbia at that time. In addition, it was cool to be associated with a university that was improving and evolving into something better.

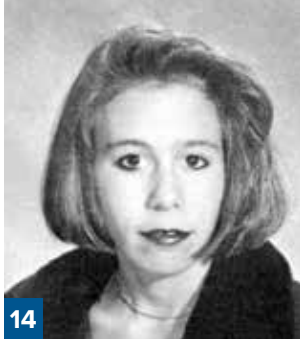


13

Rich Puttre '88

I am under the “ec” in “Recovered” actually doing a *New York Times* crossword puzzle. I always thought that was cool. My mom contacted the *Times* and purchased a different photo taken a split second before or after, and I was clearly visible in that one. I lost that photo in a move a few years ago.





14

Lauren Felton Roberts '90

I have zero memory of that day; all of college is one big spectacular blur. I would guess that I was trying to catch some rays while doing my best to look cool and also avoiding going to the library.

The truth is that I have seen this iconic photo many times since we graduated, most recently circulated by friends on social media, and I had no recollection of being in it! I must have known in 1988 (it's the kind of thing I would have gotten a huge kick out of) and then somehow mysteriously forgotten!

The photograph vividly captures life at Columbia in the late '80s — the clothing, the hairstyles, the mood. Looking back on it now, it strikes me as very *Less Than Zero*. Definitely the greatest time of my life.



PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

15

Patrick Ryan SEAS'89

I wasn't expecting a nice, warm day and was wearing a heavy sweater. I crossed the Steps on my way to class, saw most of my friends hanging out and decided not to attend. The cover says "May 15, 1988" but my guess is the picture had been taken a month or two earlier.

The magazine came out just as I was returning home for the summer. I learned about it right away, as my parents were lifelong subscribers. It wasn't entirely a positive for me, as I had been having some academic issues and my parents weren't too excited about seeing a picture of me hanging out with my friends on the cover of the *Times* magazine. But it always did have special meaning for me since in the picture I am sitting and talking with some of my closest friends, and a number of members of my fraternity (Beta Theta Pi) are also in the shot. It also includes a few people I only peripherally knew ("there's that guy I played cards with sophomore year!") and might not have remembered otherwise. I'm sure I could still dig out a copy or two of the magazine.



PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

16

Leigh Sansone BC'89

I cannot believe that picture was 35 years ago! My boyfriend woke me up, he was so excited — he had gone out for coffee and seen the *Times* somewhere. He kept shouting, "You're on the cover of *The New York Times*!" I had no idea what he was talking about, but then he ran to a newsstand on Broadway and bought a copy to show me. It was exciting to be a part of University history even in a small and peripheral way, and I was, technically speaking, a "cover girl." I went to Kinko's straightaway and had it laminated. The picture is framed and hanging in my house even now.

That whole part of campus is loaded with history, and it was (and is, probably) also a part of most University students' daily lives. The Steps and College Walk are both ordinary and extraordinary in that way. Plus being in that photo meant a lot to me personally. As a junior transfer student at Barnard and a southerner from Alabama, it took me some time to find my place in my class. When I saw this cover, I realized I knew almost all of the people. Quite a few were and are good friends. And it was just really cool having that moment memorialized.



PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

17

George Suarez '90

Knowing what my habits were, at the moment that photo was taken there was probably a classroom with an empty chair where my butt should have been.

My parents were devout *Times* readers, and my mother spotted me immediately. She called me at school and told me I was in the photo. My back was mostly to the camera but I recognized my shirt and glasses.

Around 2005 I was working at *Good Morning America* in New York. One of the executive producers had the cover hanging in his office. When I was introduced to him, the person ushering me into the office said, "This is George Suarez." I pointed myself out in the photo and said, "This is also George Suarez." The executive producer was a Columbia grad, and that led to a brief conversation about CU.

THE STORY BEHIND THE SHOT



TODD HEISLER / THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sara Krulwich,
photographer,
The New York Times

Kathy Ryan was the photo editor of the magazine — still is, actually — and she gave me the assignment. The idea was: springtime, there's a rebirth of Columbia University, it's doing so well ... I also had to shoot a

lot of people who were [in the article]. But we needed something iconic for the cover. And Low Library — I didn't go to Columbia, so I didn't know what the statue was — but it was so obviously the symbol. It was freezing when I first went, though. Nobody was out.

I went to the building across the way [Butler Library] and every single window was locked; but there was one window that looked perfect. I had to get permission from, like, a million people to get somebody to open it. "Let me go out on a terrace and look to see ..." I had to figure out what lens to use and what would look good. So it was many different levels of security to even get a chance to check out the view. Who could give me the person who could give me permission, and who could give me the person who had the key — it was so bureaucratic.

Then I had to wait for warm weather.

I made friends — I had to go through somebody's office to get to that window, so I deputized the person whose office it was to tell me when it got crowded on the Steps. I needed somebody to say: It's a spring day and there are a ton of people. So then we had this beautiful day and I got the call, and I had to bring a tripod and a huge, long lens. And I had to sneak through the person's office and through that window, and I had to time it with the guy who had the keys.

[The terrace] was tiny — one of those pretend balconies that makes a building look pretty. I sat there for a long time, taking pictures. The reason that frame was chosen was because there's a little teeny motorized car in it. If you look at it, kind of in the middle, above the "a" in "Alma," somebody was running that car back and forth. Kathy thought that was fun and added an element.



18

Dean Temple '90

My friends and I spent a lot of time on the Steps. It was no different from studying in Butler, which could be every bit as loud and social. If you had really serious work to do, something that demanded quiet focus, you could always go to the Law School library.

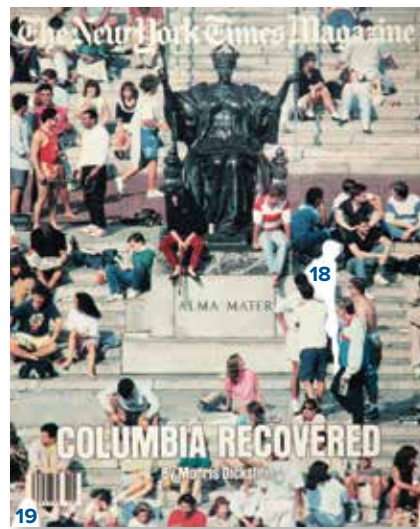
I saw the cover at University Food Market when I was getting coffee in the morning. I remember thinking, "Oh look, the Steps." And then, "Oh, hey there's [Michael] Behringer ['89] and [Brian] Kennedy ['90]!" And then thinking, "Oh shit, that's me." Pretty sure those are the exact words that went through my head.



19

Joanne Waage '90

Of course I remember! I mean, I was on the cover of *The New York Times Magazine*. Coming from Oregon, my home state, that's kind of a big deal. I also seem to recall teasing our friend who was hidden behind the barcode. Seeing it now reminds me of how vibrant and fun Columbia was!



19

**BLAST
FROM
THE
PAST**

Student Short Fiction

CCT's writing contest has become a biennial affair, and following our 2021 personal essay contest, we've brought back short fiction as the focus. Forty-four students submitted work this past winter, spanning an impressive range of genres. (We couldn't help but note the uptick in fantasy.) And while the prospect of weighing such disparate stories initially seemed difficult, we realized the most important criteria was universal: to deliver a complete reading experience — a distinctive and confident voice; characters that were vividly rendered; a plot that engaged us from start to finish.

Our winning entry, "Bone to Pick" by **Abby Sim '24**, did all that and more. The judges praised Sim's skill, along with her humor and attention to detail. They also selected an honorable mention, "Future Proofed" by **Charles Bonkowsky '24**, which can be found online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Speaking of our judges, we appreciate their efforts, as always. Even before the deliberations begin, their participation sends a message: that they believe in the College's writers and are interested in the stories they have to tell. This year's trio comprised **Danielle Evans '04**, the 2021 winner of The New Literary Project Joyce Carol Oates Prize and the author of *The Office of Historical Corrections* and *Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self*; **Adam Mansbach '98, SOA'00**, a novelist, screenwriter and humorist whose newest novel, *The Golem of Brooklyn*, is forthcoming in September; and **Yvonne Woon '06, SOA'10**, a recipient of a 2022 National Endowment for the Arts Prose Fellowship and the author of *If You, Then Me* and, most recently, *My Flawless Life*.

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to all who entered their work. We're grateful for what you shared with us.

— The Editors



Bone to Pick

By Abby Sim '24

Twice already Connie had told the old couple with the yappy, sweated terrier that, no, restaurant policy had not changed in the last five minutes so, yes, they really did need to take their dog outside even though it was mid-October and apparently far too chilly for Milo and his underactive thyroid. She forced her lips into the shape of a smile, aiming for sympathetic. Long silence. The woman shot her a dirty look with half a noodle hanging out of her mouth. Ugh.

Connie felt her smile slipping toward the frozen grimace of a taxidermied animal. Hold it, hold it. Hmm. Were these the kind of white people who taxidermied their pets after they died? Maybe that was Milo's destiny: eight more years of pampering and sweaters, followed by decades as, like, a furry little skinsuit with empty glass eyes gathering dust.

She repressed a shudder. Stay focused. Keep smiling ... one more apologetic head bob, and ... victory. Mr. Taxidermy made a show of dramatically standing up and yanking poor Milo out into the afternoon sun. Maybe luck was on her side today.

The lunch rush was slowing, but a few customers were still waiting to be seated. Three of Connie's empty tables were stacked with dirty plates. Where were the bussers when you needed them?

She swept up two armfuls of dishes to bring to the back of the house and eyed the vegan black bean spare ribs left unfinished on one of the plates. Greasy. Grayish. Seriously? That was the best they could do? She thought about her own lunch — leftover *pai gwat*, tender and a little spicy, the meat falling off the bone. Her dad's version, adapted from her *ngén ngen's* recipe. Waiting to be

resteamed in the microwave during her lunch break. Her stomach growled.

The bussers? she asked, handing the dishes to Carlos the dishwasher.

Smoking out back, he said dismissively, then leaned forward with a conspiratorial glint in his eye. But you know what? I heard Arielle's dropping by tonight.

Arielle's always dropping by, she said.

He snorted. I mean for downsizing. You know her. All about profit. She's gonna see who's not pulling their weight.

Hmm, she thought. The Big Lady on the lookout. A funny nickname because Arielle was one of those pretty, thin white women who went viral on Instagram for wearing yoga pants, drinking smoothies and having legs that looked like chopsticks.

You're welcome, huh? Keep it on the down-low, eh? Carlos called after her as she forced her way out of the chaotic hustle of the kitchen.

Downsizing didn't worry Connie. The Big Lady liked having her around. During the interview six months ago, she had told Connie, I can see you fitting in perfectly here. Her eyes had slid from Connie's face to the tasteful Oriental wallpaper behind her to the less tasteful prancing dragon statue in the corner and back again. The Big Lady had smiled somewhere to the left of Connie's eyes, and Connie had known exactly why she was hired. A little authenticity. You know, to bring the charade to life. Even though Connie had never been great at acting. Even though her little sister had stopped by last month to check out the restaurant and laughed herself hoarse at Connie's customer service face. Get your eyes checked, Allison had said. They're shooting laser beams. But none of the customers ever seemed to notice. Money was money, and tips were better here with prices triple whatever they were charging downtown.

She spotted a family of five sitting down at one of her tables.

Hi, welcome to Good Fortune. My name's Connie, and I'll be your server today. What can I get you started with? Anything to drink?

We're all on a gluten- and dairy-free diet, and I'm keto, the woman said. Your menu can accommodate us?

Nice to meet you, too.

Oh, yes, Connie said. Our entire menu is gluten-free, dairy-free, wheat-free, corn-free and peanut-, cashew- and pistachio-free. And we have plenty of options for vegans and vegetarians, too. We're very accommodating. That's Good Fortune. Clean Chinese.

Clean? the woman said, perking up.

Oh, yes, Connie said. Super clean and healthy. No MSG or refined sugar either. Our owner's a health and lifestyle expert.

Authentic, too? the woman said. Sounds too good to be true.

Haha, Connie said. Let me get you some water.

Allison was wrong. The laser beams did not come from Connie's eyes. They came from somewhere deep inside her chest, where she could feel all her unspoken words hissing and sizzling like garlic frying in a wok. Which was, funny



enough, a sound she never actually heard in the kitchens at Good Fortune. Authentic? What was she supposed to say? Yes: The owner spent three months in the Far East learning from, like, a wise Shaolin monk how to make the very best gluten-free lo mein and baked orange cauliflower?

But really, it was fine. She knew better than to get worked up. So maybe it was a little messed up that the Big Lady was making money off calling her bland, effed-up food cleaner, healthier, better than the real thing. But at least Connie was making money off it, too. Right? Didn't everything balance out in the end? If the Big Lady was taking advantage, Connie was taking advantage right back.

She distributed water and took orders from the Everything-Free Family. One paleo Mongolian beef, one sweet and sour tempeh, two orders of kung pao jackfruit and one grass-fed General Tso's chicken. Grass-fed General Tso's chicken or General Tso's grass-fed chicken? The Big Lady would probably like the idea of a grass-fed General Tso. So stupid. A grass-fed General Tso would have kicked the bucket in his first battle, back when he was just a little Private Tso. Way before anyone thought of naming a chicken dish after him.

And besides, wasn't this what her grandparents wanted when they immigrated in the first place? Wasn't this enough? Connie, able to make rent and afford decent groceries, able to write in her free time, able to support herself while still following her dreams? Survival by any means necessary. Didn't *po po* work 12-hour shifts at the factory when she first came to the U.S.? Didn't *gung gung* wait tables, too? What difference did it make if Connie was working on Madison instead of Mott? She was doing what she needed to do.

The table of three sitting by the tacky dragon statue signaled for refills.

Yeah, I just discovered this new dish, and look, it's here on the menu, one guy was saying to his buddy. You needed to try it. Ma-poo tofu.

She squinted hard. Focused on topping off their glasses without giving Christopher Columbus the side eye, sitting over there in his khakis and boat shoes surveying a whole new continent of undiscovered cuisine.

In any case, the mapo tofu here was nothing to write home about. Watery and colorless. Smelled more like soy sauce and red chili flakes than the savory, fermented *toban-djan* it was supposed to smell like. Mapo tofu was one of the first dishes she and Allison had managed to make for their parents back when they were 13 and 10, trying to find their way around the kitchen by themselves. Poor Columbus. He had no idea he was late to the party.

Katya the hostess was directing two women to an empty table in Connie's section.

From across the restaurant, she caught a glimpse of one of the women. A sharp little nose, pointy eyebrows and a thin, flat mouth — wait. Was that? That was — shit. The floor seemed to tilt sideways. Her heartbeat in her throat, the rest of the restaurant buzzing black and tunneling inward. All she could see was that face. Unmistakable, even after all these years.

She was standing frozen, she realized suddenly. Another server was trying to get around her. She needed to keep moving. One foot in front of the other. She jolted to a stop in front of their table. Cleared her throat. No way she would actually remember, right? Christ. Get over yourself.

Hi, she said, welcome to Good Fortune —

The woman blinked up at her. Faint recognition sparked in her eyes.

Annie? she said, brightly. Long, expectant pause. Taylor Cunningham, remember? You're from Benton. Jersey, right? We went to Our Lady of Peace together for middle school?

Uh, Connie said. Actually, it's Connie. But yeah, Our Lady of Peace.

Right, right! Sorry. Connnieeee, Taylor said. I knew I recognized you! That's so funny!

Was that all Taylor Cunningham remembered? Connie wondered what her 9-year-old face looked like in Taylor's memory. Tired? Mad? Expressionless? How exactly had she reacted in fourth grade every time Taylor compared her father's homemade *yuk beng* to dog food — or was it dog meat? Connie had forgotten the actual insults, but not the burning feeling in her chest. No, that had stayed with her, a searing, red-hot, decade-long shame. Taylor's face had stayed with her, too. The scrunched nose, the exaggerated gagging, the tongue limply dangling from her mouth like a piece of meat from a pair of chopsticks.

Connie would push the food around on her plate until the period was over and she could put everything back into her lunchbox. Appetite gone, but too proud to dump the food her father had cooked, not with her classmates watching. Too proud to bring PB&Js instead. She had snuck her lunches back home, where she could bury her food in the kitchen garbage in peace.

But even at home, she wasn't hungry. Not for all of fourth grade. Her family ate dinner together every night. Sat around a table filled with huge platters of rice, fish, pork, bok choy. She would fidget, picking at her food. Watching her parents eat with their faces down to the table, heads bowed. Listening to the sounds they made. Like a pack of starving beasts. Their loud slurps of relish, the meaty sounds of their chewing. Wondered what Taylor would say if she saw how they ate.

Not hungry. Never hungry. She had known, even then, that the act of refilling her dish was one of the few ways her father could show her his love. His tongs hovered over her plate, offering, offering. More meat, more vegetables? But her plate was always full. Her stomach, too. The weight of other people's disgust, like a boulder in her belly. Stinky — nasty — rat shit. No room for anything else.

Staring into Taylor's guileless blue eyes, Connie knew she remembered none of it. Was she smiling in Taylor's memory? Was Connie sitting in the cafeteria with the same blank, resigned smile that got her hired by the Big Lady — was that where she learned it first?

Wow, what a coincidence, Connie said. So crazy bumping into you. Can I get you anything to drink?

Oh, water would be great, Taylor said. How long have you worked here?

Six months, Connie said.

I can't believe I've never seen you, Taylor said. She turned to her friend. I just loooove this place. Everything's so good, but you don't feel all bloated and icky afterward, like how you feel after takeout. You like working here, Connie?

Love it, she said.

Yeah, Good Fortune's one of my favorite lunch spots, Taylor said. I'm on a health kick — vegan for the last three months. And this place has so many options.

Get through the shift, Connie thought. Just get through it, then ask to switch all your weekday lunch shifts for the dinner rush.

Are you guys ready to order, or do you need more time? Connie said.

I'll have the spare ribs, Taylor said. Marcie, you should definitely get the kung pao jackfruit. I swear, best stir fry you'll ever have. Oh, and Connie, the spare ribs are vegan, right? I haven't eaten animal byproducts in months now, my stomach probably can't even handle meat or dairy anymore! Haha.

They're literally called the vegan black bean spare ribs on the menu, Connie thought.

You're good, she said. I'll get your orders in.

A decade, she reminded herself, was a long time. Plenty of time to grow up, mature. Learn the value of different cultures and the importance of respecting —

And so much nicer than those dirty hole-in-the-wall spots downtown, Taylor was saying to her friend. Like, who cares if the food's cheaper down there? You could not PAY me to eat something that's been, like, infested with roaches and rats.

Infested? Connie ran the word over her tongue as she made her way back to the kitchen. Spotted the Big Lady chatting up Mr. and Mrs. Taxidermy with a gleaming smile, the famed restaurateur making her rounds. Infested. She picked up and handed out entrees to the Everything-Free Family. Anything else to drink? Cleared more tables while the bussers were apparently still outside smoking. Infested.

She looked at her watch. Nearly two o'clock and she hadn't taken her lunch break. She fumbled through the staff fridge. Found her Tupperware and microwaved her spare ribs, the ones her father taught her how to cook. A shame she wasn't hungry. A shame her stomach was one tightly clenched fist, a scorching mass right below her heart.

Table four, the line cook called. Order up.

Table four. Taylor and Co. Just get through the shift. Connie picked up the dishes. Stared at the saddest excuse for *pai gwat* she had ever seen. Swimming in gray sauce. Forced her feet to move, her face to smile. Delivered the food to the table. Enjoy.

What did I tell you? Taylor was saying. It's good, right? And it tastes even better because you know it's clean. Can't even tell it's meatless, right?

A five-minute silence. Chewing like cows.

Connie stood, watching. Invisible, 10 feet from their table. Holding her bag and her empty Tupperware. Her stomach, like cement, like 400 lunches and dinners packed into one kitchen trash can, weighing her down. Three ... two ... one ...



What is this? Taylor was saying, startled. Her voice, climbing rapidly in pitch, wavering like a police siren, morphing into a wail. Oh my god, what the hell am I eeeaaating?!

Flecks of spittle and half-masticated, stringy clumps flew from her lips. She was spitting food everywhere. Didn't even bother to cover her mouth with a napkin.

The Big Lady materialized at Connie's elbow, summoned by the chaos.

Katie, she said urgently, is everything OK?

Oh, yes, Connie said. Everything's great, Arielle. I think I'm quitting.

She turned and pushed her way toward the door. Past the Everything-Free Family, past Columbus, past Mr. and Mrs. Taxidermy, who were whispering furiously among themselves. The Big Lady was sputtering.

Is this? Is this?! Is this a bone?!! Taylor was shrieking from somewhere behind her.

Connie stepped out onto the sidewalk. The terrier from the restaurant looked up at her and yipped. Cocked its head, curious. She knelt to scratch behind its ears.

What do you think, boy? she said. Anything's better than being stuffed and mounted, right?

The sun shone overhead like a hungry, open mouth. Fit to devour the world.

Abby Sim '24, a double major in English and political science-statistics, is from New Jersey. She wrote this story for one of her favorite English courses, "Introduction to Asian American Literature and Culture," taught by Professor Denise Cruz. In her free time, Sim likes baking, playing volleyball and exploring the city.

DIGGING INTO DATA



TWO
PROFESSORS
DETAIL HOW
WE CAME TO
LIVE IN A
WORLD
DRIVEN BY
ALGORITHMS





Jones (left) and Wiggins in Jones' Fayerweather office. The professors have been teaching "Data: Past, Present and Future" since 2017.

BY JILL C. SHOMER

On a bright, chilly Tuesday in January, just after the start of the Spring semester, 100 or so College and Engineering students filed into a Schermerhorn lecture hall for their second week of "Data: Past, Present and Future," taught by Professors Chris Wiggins '93 and Matthew L. Jones. The two-part class has exploded in popularity since being introduced in 2017, fueled by the need for fluency in a culture increasingly saturated and shaped by data. Wiggins was speaking from the podium that day; Jones would take center stage on Thursday to lead a hands-on coding lab.

Sitting among the undergrads in a middle row, taking in what Wiggins was saying about the assumed superiority of numerical data, I quietly had my mind blown. I had always believed that math was sacrosanct, that quantitative information was king, that numbers equaled facts. But that morning, Wiggins, an associate professor of applied mathematics and systems biology and the chief data scientist at *The New York Times*, informed us that that notion was simply not correct.

"Data comes with truthiness that is unwarranted," he said. "With data comes power, including the power to shape what is perceived to be true."

In fact, Wiggins and Jones, the James R. Barker Professor of Contemporary Civilization, discuss truth and power all semester. The class aims to get students thinking critically about how mathematical analysis came to be the dominant way to understand — and control — the world; to investigate how data-empowered algorithms have come to shape our personal, professional and political lives; and to consider the ethical stakes of a data-mediated reality.

Later that week, during the first computer lab exercise, Jones demonstrated the shadiness of numerical objectivity. He had the class look at

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
JÖRG MEYER

data sets — lists of numbers or values that relate to a particular subject; in this case, the examples ranged from wine tasting to pharmaceutical use. Then they used coding tools to take the rows and columns apart and determine where the info came from. “The students see that numbers are artifacts of choices that people make,” Jones says. “Which doesn’t mean that they’re useless, or throw us into complete skepticism. But it’s where we begin building.”

Teaching students to think critically about data situates “Data: Past, Present and Future” in the timely intersection of science and the humanities — the techy and the fuzzy, to use an analogy Wiggins likes. And as a data scientist and a historian of science and technology, Wiggins and Jones offer fascinatingly complementary perspectives. The professors recently expanded on their course in the book *How Data Happened: A History from the Age of Reason to the Age of Algorithms*, released in March.

“Our goal is to provide a framework for understanding the persistent role of data in rearranging power,” Wiggins and Jones write in their introduction. “We hope to show how we collectively got here ... this will, in turn, help us picture how we can break and reset the bones of systems that sometimes empower the defenseless — yet have more often strengthened the empowered.”

Though the title might suggest a heavy math dive, *How Data Happened* is actually a lot about people. From Belgian astronomer Adolphe Quetelet to statistics pioneer Florence Nightingale (yes, *that* Florence Nightingale!) to the O.G. of algorithms, Alan Turing, Wiggins and Jones engagingly describe not only how data happened, but why and by whom.

“Scientists are human beings, and science is built of very human stories — it’s just we don’t usually foreground that because we think about ‘science’ as objectivity and ideas and technique,” Wiggins says. “We don’t

think about the people, and what their interests are in creating and arguing for those techniques.

“The point of the book — and what motivated the class — is that I really do believe it should be known that data is created by real people,” Wiggins continues. “It’s the recurring theme of subjective design choices and the way we make decisions about something that we then present as being objective.”

THE PROFESSORS MET IN 2013, after Wiggins attended Jones’ lecture on the history of machine learning (“His talk had a lot about the government mining of personal data — and then the Snowden revelations happened,” Wiggins recalls. “I said to him, ‘Oh my god, you skated toward exactly where the puck was going to go!’”); they collaborated for the first time a year later,

when they were invited by the Journalism School to craft a class for data journalists.

“It was a great experience,” Jones says. “It really contributed to our sense of the way in which you can teach people a set of tools, and at the same time, teach them the limitations of it.”

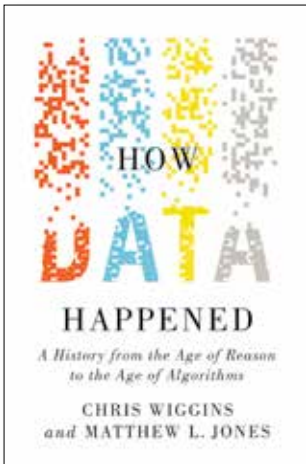
Wiggins and Jones launched “Data: Past, Present and Future” in January 2017, with support from the Collaboratory at Columbia, a joint initiative of the Columbia Data Science Institute and Columbia Entrepreneurship that aims to promote digital literacy by integrating data and computer science into other areas of study.

This was right after the contentious 2016 election; the course kicked off as President Trump was inaugurated, a time when narratives around data, information and reality were shifting significantly (remember, this was the first time we heard the term “fake news”). The course started as a small seminar, but blew up quickly in size and content at the same time Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg was being called to discuss data privacy before the Senate. “It became clear that the students did not just want a history of data science,” Wiggins says. “They really wanted to understand the relationship between data and truth, and data and power.”

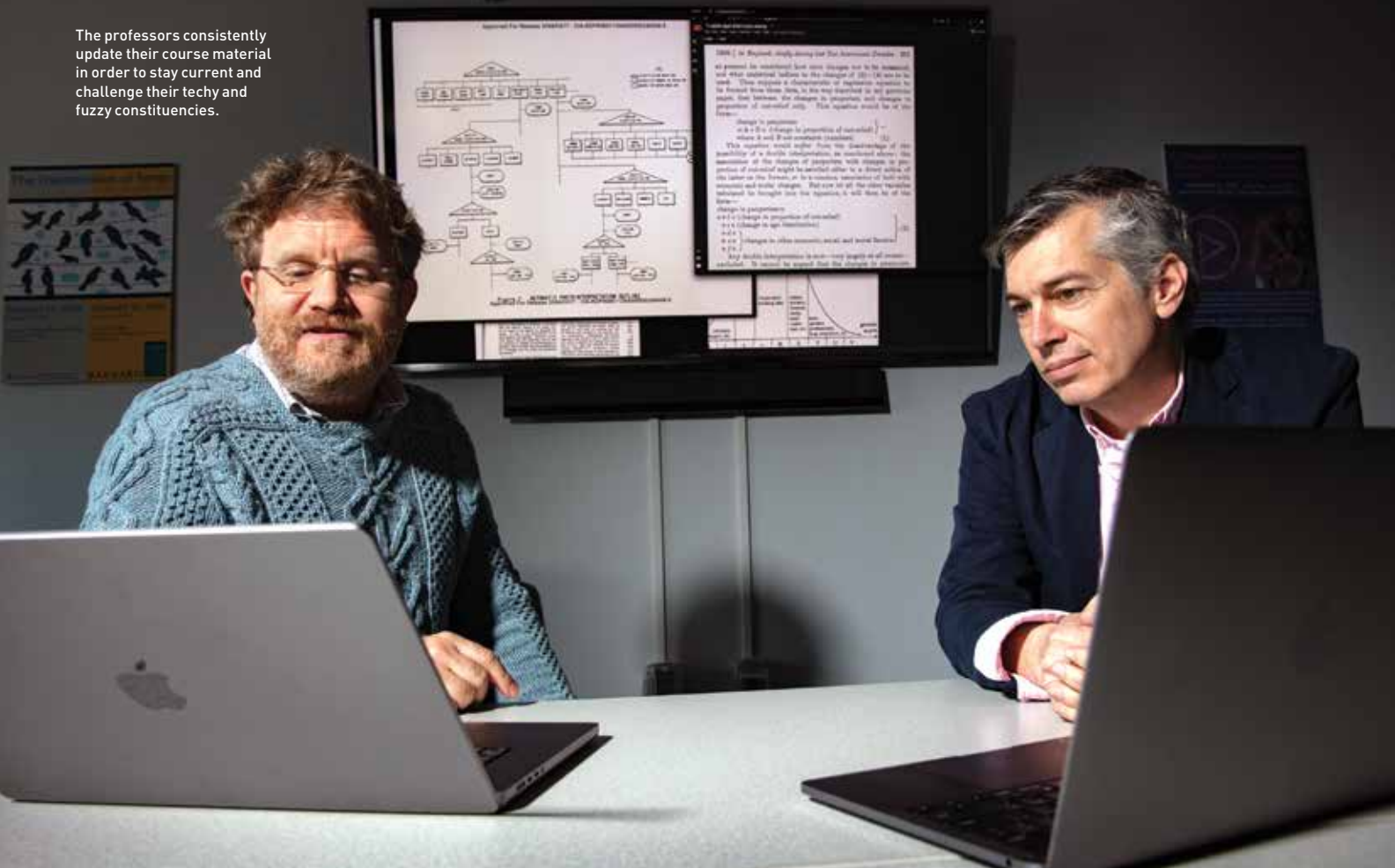
The professors say they consistently update their course material in order to stay current and challenge their two constituencies: students with a mathematical or computational background and those who major in the humanities. The duality of lecture and lab provides discussion one day (students read articles by computer scientists, social scientists and even some sections of *How Data Happened*) and hands-on learning with modern tools the next. Assignments are split on two tracks to get people outside their comfort zones: The techies get longer, more humanistic papers to write; the fuzzies do more technical problem sets. There’s also an unusually upbeat class Slack channel, with conversation flowing among the professors, students and alumni of the course (who are welcome to stick around) — some even opt to stay connected as coding homework graders.

The students were lively and engaged on the days I attended, and the rapport between Wiggins and Jones was palpable. Conversely, Wiggins, the scientist, gives the lecture, while Jones, the historian, teaches the coding. (Their professorial styles also differ notably: Wiggins is compelling and droll but stationary, while Jones is more animated, pacing and gesturing, dropping TikToks into his lab presentation. It was apparent the students enjoy them both.)

Though not limited to College students, “Data: Past, Present and Future” has deep connections to the Core Curriculum. The class satisfies a Core science requirement; Jones was chair of Contemporary Civilization from 2009 to 2012 and still teaches CC; and Wiggins is an alumnus who completed the curriculum. “I see a lot of continuity to CC and Lit Hum and other



The professors consistently update their course material in order to stay current and challenge their techy and fuzzy constituencies.



components of the Core in the way that we teach this class,” Jones says. “For me, it’s a particular privilege, because it allows you to think of the history of science as something that is deeply engaged with questions of knowledgeable citizenry.”

Wiggins doubles down on the subject of critical thinking. “I didn’t realize when we started teaching the class how much there is to know about how we know what we know,” he says. “What even is *science*? How do we collectively construct a consensus on what is true?”

THE WARM DYNAMIC Wiggins and Jones have in the classroom comes through in their writing, but when asked how *How Data Happened* happened, both authors are modest. They knew once they began the class that they had a good story to tell — for example, Jones says that the development of statistics up to WWII is well known among historians but less so outside those circles. “And the students were really gaining a lot from it,” he says.

Jones, however, says he had no idea how to write a non-academic book; Wiggins claims he didn’t know how to write a book, period. Jones’ colleague, historian and author Adam Tooze, suggested they take their inspiration from the genre of a great undergraduate lecture. “The right scholarly depth with expositional clarity,” Jones recalls. “And so the way we were teaching the lecture component of the class became the framework for most of the chapters.”

“I DIDN’T REALIZE WHEN WE STARTED TEACHING THE CLASS HOW MUCH THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT HOW WE KNOW WHAT WE KNOW,” WIGGINS SAYS. “HOW DO WE COLLECTIVELY CONSTRUCT A CONSENSUS ON WHAT IS TRUE?”

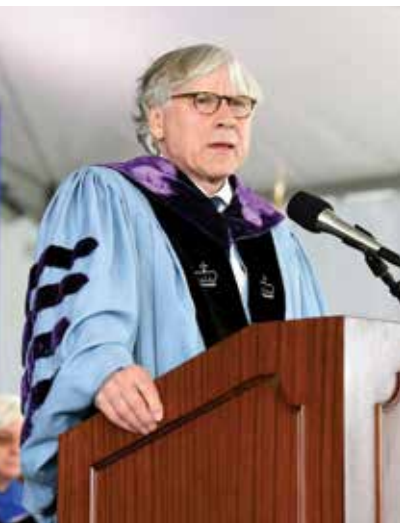
How Data Happened is laid out in three parts: the history of data, its evolution and finally, how we might bend data’s current trajectory to better ends. Wiggins and Jones had a lot to work with, in terms of the academic literature they had already assigned to their students. The later chapters include their own scholarly work; they discuss how data and power moved from a state concern to a corporate one, and close the book with a reminder that just because we can use algorithmic decision-making systems doesn’t mean we must (“ads based on mass surveillance are not necessary elements of our society”). Societal change may be slow, they say. But it’s possible.

“There are alternatives ... it can be done,” the book’s final pages read. “Many potential forces, large and small, are available to us, directly and indirectly, to shape the relationships among technology and norms, laws and markets, and data’s role in it all.”



COLUMBIA COLLEGE CELEBRATES A “REMARKABLE AND RESILIENT” CLASS

The Class Day ceremony included moving speeches by Dean Josef Sorett and Katori Hall '03



THE FORTITUDE AND FORMIDABLE achievements of the Class of 2023 headlined May 16's Class Day, as 1,259 College seniors joined the ranks of alumni. Speakers throughout the morning celebrated the students' resilience in the face of the pandemic, recognized their contributions to reinvigorating campus life and exhorted them to continue roaring like the Lions they are.

The annual ceremony took place under a blue sky, with the familiar strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” accompanying the seniors as they marched to their seats. Among the featured speakers were Dean Josef Sorett, presiding over his first Class Day; keynote speaker Katori Hall '03, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *The Hot Wing King* and *The Mountaintop*; and President Lee C. Bollinger, who is stepping down on June 30 after 21 years in the role.

Wadzanayi Michelle Mayiseni '23, the class' student speaker, took the stage early to enthusiastic cheers. Selected from more than 25 essayists, she delivered a moving speech that connected her experience — both as an international student who stayed on campus through the pandemic, and as a bone cancer survivor — to a larger message about not letting fear of the unknown hold you back. Reminding classmates of their first-year selves, she said, “We allowed ourselves to be newcomers, beginners who dared

trust they would make it to the finish line. ... And now we have made it to this beautiful end!”

Senior class president Nicolas Turrill '23 emphasized the lessons in perseverance taught by the Covid-19 crisis: “Our class is different in too many ways to count, perhaps even unrecognizable, from the class that was welcomed to this community at Convocation in the fall of 2019, but we persisted,” Turrill said. “The change we have faced together — throughout our time inside and out of the classroom — unites us.”

In his remarks, Sorett hailed the “resilient and remarkable Class of 2023.” He celebrated their ability to adapt and meet the challenges of the pandemic, and credited them for reenergizing campus life, “infusing it with the vitality, spontaneity and camaraderie it had sorely missed.”

Looking ahead, Sorett also spoke about the relationships between ethics and aesthetics, “our shared responsibility to make the world better and to make beauty in and of it.”

“As current and future leaders,” he said, “you will have the chance — and the responsibility — to uphold the values you cherish and to add value to the communities you join and create. You will no doubt do well for yourself. You are Lions, after all. Yet I exhort you to also do good, as complicated and naive as these two simple words might be.”



“MAY YOU STEP INTO YOUR FUTURE WITH PRIDE TOMORROW AND TOMORROW AND TOMORROW.”

— CLASS DAY SPEAKER
KATORI HALL '03



Photographs by
Eileen Barroso

Of beauty, he implored, they should take an expansive view: “There is a kind of ordinary activism to be found in apprehending and amplifying the beauty around you. Seeking it, discerning it and striving to name it will enrich your lives and the lives of those within, but also beyond, your reach. And beauty is the great hope for our shared present and futures.”

With ardor and honesty, and sharing stories drawn from her own experience, Hall delivered a master class on the importance of finding your voice and representing yourself; of digging in to do the work when opportunity arises; and of learning to view failure as a “blessing cloaked in a lesson.”

She concluded by summoning the “world of no” that the graduates are entering into: “You are walking into a world that throws its hands up at climate change, at gun control ... where lies are being peddled as facts, dismantling the very bedrock of logic your education is based upon.”

Against that background, she urged: “You cannot be replaced. Your unique experiences, your mistakes, your dreams, your solutions are what we need in this world oh so badly today. We need you to stand in your authenticity, stare failure in the face with no fear, because you all have withstood a darkness that nobody has ever gone through before.

“You, Class of 2023, are truly the resilient ones. May your wounds give you wisdom, and may your failures give you grit. May your faith withstand the test of time and may you step into your future with pride tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow. Demand today that this ‘world of no’ welcome you into your tomorrow of hellll yes.”

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

The celebrations continued on May 17, when graduates from all University schools came together for Commencement, the ceremony in which degrees are officially conferred by the University president.

Hall again had a seat on the dais, as she received the University Medal for Excellence.

The recipients of honorary degrees included Jonathan S. Lavine '88, Board of Trustees chair, and Minouche Shafik, who begins as the 20th president of the University on July 1. Two of the 10 Alumni Medals — given for distinguished service to the University of 10 years or more — went to College alumni: Carlos V. Cruz '88 and Richard E. Witten '75. A third Alumni Medal went to Diane McKoy TC'02, who recently retired as senior associate director of Undergraduate Admissions after 42 years of service.

Frank Guridy, executive director of the Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights, received a Faculty Service Award, recognizing full-time faculty whose extraordinary and creative voluntary service has contributed significantly to the University’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Guridy is also the Dr. Kenneth and Kareitha Forde Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies.



Bhoomika Kumar

MAJOR: Biology

FUTURE PLANS: "I'll be working on my carbon capture startup!"

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Working with people of different backgrounds brings in really cool perspectives for solving problems. It allows you to think of creative solutions for the biggest challenges the world is facing."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JILL SHOMER

Jae Joon Lee

MAJOR: History and Economics

FUTURE PLANS: "I'll be working at RAIN Group."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "All work is meaningless unless you do it with others. Your most important memories will be of the time you spent with other people."



WE ARE CC'23!

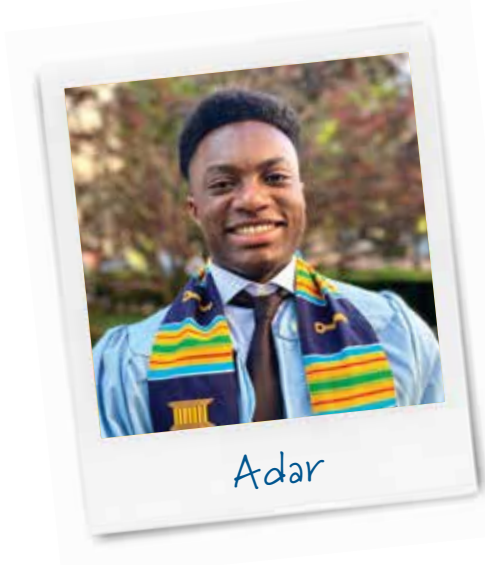
Our newest alumni celebrated Commencement under brilliant blue skies on May 17. We asked a few of them what life lessons they are taking away from their time at the College.

Adar Tulloch

MAJOR: Computer Science

FUTURE PLANS: "I'm doing software engineering at Walmart Labs in Arkansas."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "As a transfer student, for me it's about being open to trying new things. I was apprehensive about the courses and meeting new people, but once I immersed myself in the community I felt so at ease. Being open to new things and new experiences is a life lesson that will stick with me."



Aryana Swanson

MAJOR: Political Science

FUTURE PLANS: "I'm going to law school at Northwestern."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "You should pursue what you are passionate about rather than what you *think* you should do. During my time at Columbia I had the most fun taking the classes I was passionate about, even if they weren't directly geared toward my career."



Fidel Martinez

MAJOR: Neuroscience and Behavior

FUTURE PLANS: "I'm going to medical school in either Pennsylvania or Virginia."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Your time at Columbia is the perfect opportunity to grow and explore. Living in New York City, you can find where your people are and you can connect with your interests."



Aaron

Aaron Baez

MAJOR: Financial Economics with a concentration in Business Management

FUTURE PLANS: "I'll be in banking at J.P. Morgan."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "The greatest learning experience that an institution like this can provide is diversity of thought, and I think Columbia does a good job giving students the opportunity to encounter a variety of world perspectives."

Nathalie Rodriguez

MAJOR: Sociology and Business Management

FUTURE PLANS: "I'm working at Goldman Sachs."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "As a born-and-raised New Yorker, my biggest takeaway is that to be transformed you don't need to go to exotic locales or even change your neighborhood; the people you are with can transform you anywhere you are."



Nathalie

Marie-Josée "Josie" Bourelly

MAJOR: Anthropology

FUTURE PLANS: "I'm going to travel in East Asia with friends, then work as an actor at a theater in Ithaca."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "At Class Day, speaker Katori Hall '03 said, 'You have to nourish your tree, even if it's with your own spit,' which was so great. You need to make sure that you are your biggest champion, that you're always advocating for yourself and that you allow your curiosity for life and your passions to take the lead."



Josie

Adam Alvarado

MAJOR: Sociology with a concentration in Public Health

FUTURE PLANS: "I'm staying in New York City to explore my interests."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "It's OK to not be certain about things! There is so much to explore; things will work out in the end and you'll have great experiences along the way."



Elia

Elia Longyu Zhang

MAJOR: History and Philosophy

FUTURE PLANS: "I'm doing a two-year art history fellowship at Williams College."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Always be open to the unexpected! People, opportunities, perspectives, activities — they can all open your world and shape how you view your life."



Adam

Wanting Women to Win

Journalist Christine Yu '99 calls foul on gender bias in sports science

When we talk about gender equality in sports, the conversation tends to focus on opportunity or compensation. In the last 50 years there have been significant strides to level the playing field — the passage of Title IX in 1972 made room for women to compete; last year, the U.S. Women's National soccer team successfully argued for equal pay and benefits.

And yet, gender inequity still runs deep in the fields of biomedicine and exercise science, says **Christine Yu '99** in her new book, *Up to Speed: The Groundbreaking Science of Women Athletes* (Riverhead Books, \$29). Even as they have excelled in sports, there's an underlying resistance to understanding women's unique physicality, Yu argues. Despite a dramatic rise in the number of women participating in athletics — 3.4 million girls in the United States compete on high school teams; at the collegiate level, it's a 600 percent increase from the early 1970s — Yu says that male athletes are privy to vastly more information about their bodies, and the lack of comparable scientific

research has had an impact on women's roles in sports training, performance, rate of injury and long-term health.

"Men's voices continue to dominate research agendas, funding priorities and resources," she writes. "Male anatomy, physiology and biology inform standards for athletic development and progression, guidelines for training and nutrition, and blueprints for shoe, clothing and gear design."

In *Up to Speed*, Yu explains how gender bias came to be baked into biomedical research and dives into specifics about menstrual cycles, endurance, breast health and gear (the strategy of making men's apparel smaller and adding a frill or feminine color is known as "shrink it and pink it"). She also looks at the challenges women athletes face during adolescence, pregnancy and postpartum, and menopause.

Yu's interest stems from her experiences as a lifelong athlete — skiing, surfing and running top the list — and health journalist. After transferring to the College from Stanford, Yu planned to follow in the footsteps of her late father, who had been a neurosurgeon. But that didn't stop her from majoring in art history. "I felt like having the ability to think in a way that was different from science would be important to me as a doctor," she says. "And to be in New York and able to visit the artwork we were studying was honestly my favorite thing to do."

Yu never made it to medical school, but her interest in health care remained. She took a year off to volunteer in a public health program in South America, then worked as a consultant with Ernst & Young before going to the Harvard Kennedy School for a master's in public policy. She started blogging after she started a family "because I really missed connecting with people through stories and words," she says. She began freelancing for outlets like *Women's Health*, *Runner's World* and *espnW*, and her journalism career took shape.

An aha moment at a 2014 fitness summit led Yu to write her first book. As an athlete, Yu heard of friends who would sometimes lose their periods and assumed that was normal; at the summit, guest speaker Dr.



SYLVIE ROSOKOFF

Jennifer Ashton '91, VPS'00, HN'16 said that was not normal at all. Absent or irregular menstrual cycles can have repercussions for athletic performance, and more importantly, long-term health, especially bone health.

“My mind was blown,” Yu says. “Like, how do we not know this?! The way we think about sports and health is so siloed, and there are all these issues that women are just not educated about. It was a real lightbulb moment for me.

“I think that many of us have had times in which we aren't heard by doctors, or our experiences are brushed aside,” she continues. “Blind spots in science and medicine and sports exist because these systems weren't created to accommodate women.”

In *Up to Speed's* introduction, excerpted here, Yu becomes frustrated by her doctor's clueless response after she is waylaid by a torn ACL. “I was embarrassed and ashamed that I was injured ... and I couldn't stop thinking there was something wrong with my body,” she writes. “That it was written somewhere in my DNA that I wasn't cut out for certain activities and sports.”

Looking ahead, Yu is hopeful that the gender gap can improve, buoyed by the number of physicians and scientists who came of age during Title IX and are pushing for more research, as well as a new generation of girls and college athletes who are standing up for themselves and demanding better treatment.

“Some of the young girls I've talked to are so poised and so incredible — I get goosebumps just thinking about it!” Yu says with a laugh. “They are advocating for change in a way that is really tremendous.”

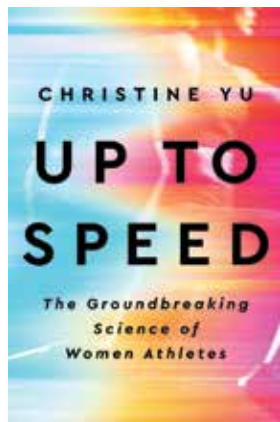
— *Jill C. Shomer*

Introduction: Mind the Gap

I thought I knew a fair amount about the human body, exercise and fitness. I come from a family of doctors — my dad, my sister, and countless cousins all practice medicine — and I was destined for the same path after college. I believed in science. I trusted it. I did everything by the book to rehabilitate my knee the first time around. I diligently went to physical therapy, did all my prescribed exercises (no matter how painful or boring), and rebuilt my strength. Leading into this half-marathon training cycle, I regularly lifted weights and gradually increased my running mileage. Yet following the rules didn't seem to matter. Even my orthopedic surgeon had no answers. I remember him saying, “Christine, I don't know what to do about you.” Two months later, I had surgery to replace my ACL again.

I'm not the only one whose body has had a fraught relationship with sports and exercise. As a journalist, I've noticed that even as women have excelled in sports, there's an underlying sense that women and their bodies are an anomaly in the athletic world. Women athletes are often led to believe that menstrual dysfunction is normal, stress fractures are a rite of passage, knee injuries are inevitable, disordered eating and body image issues are part and parcel of the athletic experience, and athletic careers are limited by puberty, pregnancy and age. When something goes wrong — injury, burnout, overtraining — women are blamed and shamed for it, despite doing everything they're “supposed” to do. But I couldn't figure out why the feeling was so pervasive and intractable. Why weren't we taking better care of girls and women? Did it have to be like this?

The pieces started to click together during the summer of 2018. At the time, I was reporting on an article



about the field of sports science and I was trying to understand why so much scientific research leaves out women. The bias against women in biomedical research was something I knew about on a subconscious level, but I admit, I never really thought about it explicitly. As a journalist who covers sports, science, and health, I regularly come across studies that involved men as participants. When I couldn't find research that included participants who were women, I gave scientists the benefit of the doubt. I assumed the lack of representation wasn't intentional. There had to be a perfectly reasonable explanation. Maybe women were harder to recruit. Maybe women weren't interested in participating in studies.

Then I fell down a deep rabbit hole.

As I read more papers and talked to experts, I began to understand that the exclusion of women was more than an oversight. It became clear how, for decades, scientists have worked under the assumption that women and men are biologically and physiologically the same, if you just ignore the reproductive organs. How so much of what we take as gospel about exercise training, nutrition, performance, and injury prevention is based on what's found in human participants who are men or experiments with male cells or animals. How scientists don't know for sure whether those recommendations apply to women. How they didn't see a need to address those data gaps.

But "women are not small men," as Stacy Sims, an exercise physiologist and nutrition scientist who studies sex, gender, and sports science, told me. Yet that simple proposition underpins the current system of sports and science. And ignoring important biological, anatomical, and physiological differences between women and men can have real, negative implications outside the laboratory.

It's a curious disconnect. The number of girls and women taking part in physical activity, from fitness classes and recreational leagues to professional sports, has risen dramatically over the last fifty years. In the United States, 3.4 million girls play high school sports. At the collegiate level, the number of women playing sports has increased 600 percent from the early 1970s. This groundswell is a global phenomenon. At the Tokyo Summer Olympics in 2021, women made up nearly 49 percent of the competitors, making them the most gender-equal Games in Olympic history.

But the fields of exercise and sports science haven't kept pace with this rising population of active women. Even in the twenty-first century, coaches, doctors, trainers, and athletes themselves know the bare minimum about women's health, and women struggle to find care and advice to help them feel their best. There isn't much research that looks at the factors that influence athletic performance or the effectiveness of different training and nutrition interventions among women.

There's another inherent, deeper contradiction embedded in the fabric of science and of sports. In the scientific literature and research laboratories, the features that make a body distinctly female aren't important enough to warrant additional investigation, but in the world of sports, that viewpoint is flipped on its head. The very characteristics that scientists cast aside as no big deal — the menstrual cycle, hormones, the uterus, ovaries, breasts — are the reason women were marginalized and presumed to be unfit for sports, or at least in need of a segregated competition category. The confluence of these two beliefs has had a huge impact on the athletic lives of women.

From *Up to Speed: The Groundbreaking Science of Women Athletes* by Christine Yu, published on May 16, 2023, by Riverhead, an imprint of Penguin Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House LLC. Copyright © 2023 Christine Yu.

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On April 1, students celebrated the arrival of warm weather with the always-popular Bacchanal Spring Concert. The multi-artist festival is held on Low Steps and brings out droves of students for good tunes and good times.

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Environmentalist Joshua Spodek '93 is living off the grid to encourage sustainability.



Welcome to Alumnihood, Class of 2023

By Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

One of Columbia College's most memorable traditions is Class Day, a special celebration filled with excitement, memories and a strong sense of Lion pride. We salute the professors who challenged and inspired us, the friends who became like family and the moments that shaped us.

Class Day is not just about the past, however; it's also about the future — a time to look forward to new adventures and opportunities as you step into the world as alumni. To our newest graduates, just as your time at Columbia has been transformative, being part of the alumni community will enrich your life. You automatically become members of the Columbia College Alumni Association, as well as Columbia College Young Alumni, which comprises the 10 most recent classes of graduates. CCYA offers different ways to connect with peers as well as opportunities to stay involved with friends, classmates and faculty. It provides a rich network of advisors, whether you are navigating a new career, graduate program or community. And it offers special programming that focuses on the interests of young graduates.

As you take your next steps as proud graduates, we want to introduce you to some of CCYA's talented and successful leaders. Here, they offer advice and share what's been the best part about being in CCYA.

Lab. It's a special joy to see our gatherings spark conversations between participants. The environment we help curate is a direct reflection of the board's collaborative dynamic. We always make sure to take time to celebrate each other's efforts and turn an alchemy of creative ideas and diverse interests into events/initiatives.



MARVIN CLARK '19

As a brand-new alum, you should get comfortable with being uncomfortable. The early part of your career is full of opportunities to make mistakes and learn from them. This process will repeat itself endlessly as long as you continue to take on new challenges. There will be times when the space between where you are and where you want to be will feel like a chasm; you should be kind to yourself as you make your way, and remain confident that you will make it and that you already are exactly who you need to be to continue. This is your path and no one else's. You contain multitudes waiting to be discovered, and the unearthing process can get rocky.

The most fun thing about being part of CCYA is reconnecting with my peers and the Columbia community, and making new friends through the programming we put on. I probably had more fun at Homecoming after I graduated than when I was a student. That's nostalgia for you, I guess! But more than that, I have enjoyed many run-ins with classmates at CCYA events and taking the opportunity to catch up with them. The pandemic definitely put things in perspective and has made me appreciate all of the communities I am part of so much more.

MICHAEL ITO EDMONSON '20



BRANDON SHI '22

If you're able to, I'd recommend taking some time after graduation to slow down and unplug before continuing on to wherever you're

going next — whether you're starting a job, going to grad school or pursuing some other passion. After four years of undergrad and reaching such a significant milestone, you deserve some time off to hit the pause button, recharge and relax!

It has been really rewarding to stay in touch with College friends and mentors through CCYA, especially those who work in different companies and industries, whom I feel I can turn to for advice and a sense of perspective. It's been a good experience going to alumni events and reconnecting with familiar faces.



RITA ZHANG '17

Here are some things I learned that help keep me in check when I'm nervous or unsure: People who inspire and better you are usually

the kindest ones you'll meet. Keep them in your circle. Savor the moments of private joy, seek feedback and don't believe every criticism you receive. Jot down quotations that move you as you are reading; they'll come in handy. Tell someone in person how much you appreciate them. Call your mother.

I'm on the Engagement Committee of the CCYA board, so I get to create fun social events for young alums. Recently, we organized a rooftop happy hour, a private museum tour at Neue Galerie and a tech social at The Columbia Startup

bookshelf



Healthcare Upside Down: A Critical Examination of Policy and Practice by Dr. Henry Buchwald '54. Buchwald, a surgeon and professor, and the author of hundreds of medical publications, offers critique on the current state of healthcare in the United States (Springer, \$44.24).

Science Goes to the Movies: From Black Holes to Killer Robots by Michael Franzblau '61. Could the subjects of sci-fi movies actually be possible? Franzblau considers the question by examining a variety of topics including artificial intelligence and alien life (Bowker, \$9.95).

Mission Possible: Getting Change People Want by Frank Stoppenbach '62. An account of Stoppenbach's history of advocacy and adventures in New York politics, as well as insights into recent changes in the computer industry (The Troy Book Makers, \$29.99).

The Theory and Practice of Reception Study: Reading Race and Gender in Twain, Faulkner, Ellison, and Morrison by Philip Goldstein '66. Goldstein's study shows how these four authors' novels forcefully undermined racial and sexual divisions in the South and contemporary culture in the 19th and 20th centuries (Routledge, Kindle edition, \$52.95).

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

Ruin: A Novel of Flyfishing in Bankruptcy by Leigh Seippel '68. After financial disaster, a young couple flees Manhattan for the Hudson Valley, where the husband takes up fly fishing with a charismatic and eccentric new friend (City Point Press, \$27).

Frank Costello: A Novel by Ronald K. Fried '77. In this historical novel, Fried uses Costello's own words to offer a reimagined, but historically accurate, first-person account of the notorious New York City gangster's life (Excelsior Editions, \$21.95).

Growing Up Getty: The Story of America's Most Unconventional Dynasty by James Reginato '83. The author offers a revealing look into the extraordinary lives of the sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of oil magnate J. Paul Getty. (Gallery Books, \$17.99).

Marcel Breuer: Shaping Architecture in the Post-War Era by John Poros '85. In each chapter, Poros studies a specific Breuer building and puts it into context alongside other post-war architectural movements such as Brutalism and Surrealism (Routledge, Kindle edition, \$52.95).

Vidding: A History by Francesca Coppa '91. A close read about the art form and subcultures of vidding — in which fans edit an existing film, music video, TV show or other performance and set it to music of their choosing (University of Michigan Press, \$29.95).

White Cat, Black Dog: Stories by Kelly Link '91. Link's previous book of short stories was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize; her new set of surreal fairy tales was

inspired by the works of the Brothers Grimm, 17th-century French lore and Scottish ballads (Random House, \$27).

Where Paralytics Walk and the Blind See: Stories of Sickness and Disability at the Juncture of Worlds by Mary Dunn '98. Dunn explores the time of early Catholic Canada under French rule and shows it to be a period rich with alternative understandings of infirmity, disease and death (Princeton University Press, \$29.95).

There Is No Place Without You: Poems by Maya Bernstein '00. This debut volume of poetry delves into the deep subjects of motherhood, contemplation, religion and the effects of illness on the body and spirit (Ben Yehuda Press, \$14.95).

Fit Nation: The Gains and Pains of America's Exercise Obsession by Natalia Mehlman Petrzela '00. Petrzela confronts contemporary exercise culture and answers the question of how fitness has become both inescapable and inaccessible (University of Chicago Press, \$29).

The Guide to Being a Dictator's Mistress by Cedric Mendoza-Tolentino '05. In this collection's title story, characters are trapped in the orbit of those ruling with an iron fist and must find ways to survive (Unsolicited Press, \$18).

The Great Reclamation: A Novel by Rachel Heng '11. Set in Singapore during the waning years of British rule, this love story is about a young couple caught in the tragic history of colonialism and occupation (Riverhead Books, \$28).

— Jill C. Shomer

Milka Milliance '05

Forward-thinking companies have learned that having a wide variety of life experiences and viewpoints in their workforce can boost creativity and provide better working environments. To that end, the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) consulting field has grown to meet the needs of workplaces looking for guidance; for **Milka Milliance '05**, co-founder of Different., inclusivity is not just a job, it's also a passion.

As an anthropology and Middle Eastern studies double major, Milliance has always been interested in multiculturalism and

identity. After earning an M.B.A. from Babson College in 2009, she began working as a consultant focusing on DEI. But after more than a decade in the industry, she felt something was missing in the typical approach. "After everything that happened during the pandemic — the Black Lives Matter movement, George Floyd's murder — the field was blowing up; there was just a huge demand," she says.

Her search for a new approach led her to co-found Different. with Grace Yi and Alex Suggs in 2022; each brings a unique expertise to their DEI work, doing everything from company culture assessments to leadership development to helping to implement best practices. "We wanted to do DEI differently; we didn't want it to be the cookie-cutter experience with everybody saying the same thing," she says. "We wanted to really bring in a fresh perspective and to go into the work to focus on building bridges, in addition to unpacking a lot of the historical narratives that have basically created the systems that we have now."

She continues, "We're making sure that we're building a future for the next generation that is beyond where we are today."



Rachel Silverstein '06

As an environmental biology major, **Rachel Silverstein '06** had a transformative experience studying the reefs of Western Australia. Her passion for coral led her to grad school in the Sunshine State, where she is now executive director of Miami Waterkeeper, a nonprofit that advocates for South Florida waterways.

Silverstein's Miami Waterkeeper work focuses on three primary areas — clean water, habitat protection and sea level rise — and she has had some major water wins during her nine years on the job. During the 2013 dredging of the Port of Miami, many endangered coral species were killed; the organization filed an Endangered Species Act suit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to stop the damage. As part of the settlement, Miami Waterkeeper was able to have 10,000 corals replaced in the bay; today, they are once again reproducing in the wild.

Silverstein scored another big achievement by highlighting how climate change will continue to affect the nearby Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Station (it is predicted to be underwater by 2040). Thanks to her organization challenging the extension of the station's operating license, all U.S. nuclear power plants will now be subject to a full environmental review before having their licenses renewed.

In January, Silverstein was awarded a prestigious Elevate Prize, which recognized her impact as a global leader and social entrepreneur, receiving a \$250,000 unrestricted grant to continue her work to protect waterways and educate the public.

Silverstein can now plan for the next decade, using what she has learned locally to shape the world. "Sea level rise resiliency is critically important in Miami because of our low elevation and porous geology," she says. "And if we can solve problems related to climate change here, we can scale our work to be applicable almost anywhere."

Jason Frazer '05

Jason Frazer '05's day starts while many of us are still asleep. As a meteorologist and the co-anchor of FOX Weather's 6:00 a.m. show, he gets up at 3:00 a.m. to make sure viewers know what to expect from our ever-changing climate. Frazer, who calls himself a lifelong weather fan, has had a career full of twists and turns but says he wouldn't have it any other way.

Frazer interned for CBS News and PIX11 while at the College but took a finance job after graduation. The political science major, however, felt called back to journalism and in 2008 he jumped back into reporting, working at stations up and down the East Coast. He later decided to

make a third big career change and went back to school for meteorology, earning a certificate in 2019 from the Broadcast Meteorology Program at Mississippi State University. He became a meteorologist for Cleveland's WKYC and, in 2021, took a plunge into the unknown to join FOX Weather, a first-of-its-kind, 24-hour digital streaming weather service. He became the face of the morning show when it launched in October 2021.

"I always approach weather from the perspective of making things applicable to people's lives," he says. "There is no greater feeling than when somebody says, 'Wow, I now understand weather because I watched one of your forecasts!'"

From hurricanes to tornadoes, ice storms to blizzards, Frazer keeps viewers abreast of major events that might be heading their way. "I love my job," Frazer says. "Every day, we're trying to figure out ways we can explain what's happening in the atmosphere and how it applies to your life."



Olivia Shih '11

"The way I think about it is, I make jewelry for soft-spoken people with a backbone," says jewelry designer **Olivia Shih '11**.

Shih approaches her design work with a careful, introspective attitude. Her creative process for her necklaces, rings and earrings draws from real life: "I start with a moment or something visual that really touches me, and then take that inspiration to make it into a reality," she says, describing her work as being both "calm" and "abstract." Her jewelry can be found in stores across the country.

Shih graduated from the California College of the Arts in 2014 with a B.F.A. in jewelry and metal arts, and founded her eponymous line the next year. Each collection has a distinct look: "Liquid Gold" focuses on gentle, bulbous shapes made of yellow gold; "Lumen" features hand-carved rock crystal that is polished to a glow; "Murmur" showcases delicately hammered mixed metals.

In October 2020 the Woman's Jewelry Association awarded Shih the Cindy Edelman Jewelry Design

Scholarship, which she used to take classes in lapidary (the cutting and shaping of precious stones). In 2022, Shih was chosen as one of 13 designers to create a capsule collection featuring diamonds with De Beers' Code of Origin (a way of tracing diamonds and ensuring they are conflict free) for the Radiance by Couture initiative.

"On the surface, my work might be very quiet, but it has its own point of view," says Shih. Going

forward, she plans to work more with semiprecious stones and minerals while continuing to find the joy in creating pieces that speak to her unique aesthetic.



classnotes



EILEEN BARROSO

College graduates were all smiles at Class Day on May 16.

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

1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to **Stanley Maratos** BUS'60, who shared a wonderful note:

"As I welcome the 90s, my mind drifts back to the great days at Columbia, both in class and on the basketball court. I have wonderful memories of Professors William A. Hance '38, BUS'41, GSAS'49, Bob Carey and all the other faculty who made Columbia a great place to learn. I also remember playing basketball alongside greats John Azary '51 and Bob Reiss '52 during our undefeated season, which eventually landed us in the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. But I especially remember my freshman year playing with fellow Stuyvesant H.S. classmates **Paul "Whitey"**

Brandt, Jack Molinas and Mike Langol; we were known as the "four horsemen."

"Upon graduation, I was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force through AFROTC, and married my sweetheart, Amaryllis, whom I had met at a Phi Kappa Psi party two years earlier.

"I spent the next 30 years on active duty, retiring as a full colonel. Some of my assignments included commander of the 54th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Pease AFB (N.H.) and the 67th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at RAF Woodbridge (U.K.).

"I spent two years in Vietnam. In 1975 I was selected for a diplomatic assignment to be the U.S. Air attaché to Greece, working from the U.S. embassy in Athens. My last assignment was as a Wing Commander of the 1100 Air Force Wing at Bolling AFB (D.C.).

"I retired as a command pilot, with more than 5,500 flying hours, including 127 combat missions. I was awarded more than 31 decorations, including the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses and four Air Medals. Also while in the Air Force I was able to return to Columbia to earn a master's from the Business School.

"When I retired from the AF I started teaching as a professor in the aviation management and business studies department of St. Francis College in Brooklyn. When I left St. Francis — as the department head for Florida in the late '90s — it had grown to the largest enrollment in the school.

"While in the AF my wife of almost 70 years and four children had multi-year tours overseas (France, United Kingdom and Athens, Greece). The kids went to five high schools in four countries.

We now spend most of our time at Treasure Island, Fla., although we maintain a home on Staten Island.

“We are active members of the Next to Last Rendezvous Club of all the Florida athletes of the early ’50s. We try to rendezvous every two years.”

Please send your news and memories to the email address at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Enjoy the summer!

1954

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Happy summer, Class of 1954! We heard from **Herb Zydney** SEAS’59: “Since retiring from AT&T Bell Labs in 1997, I have had many busy years dealing with retiree issues and helping assure the benefits they earned were received. For a time, I was president of the Lucent Retirees Organization, voluntarily serving more than 100,000 mostly salaried retirees. In many meetings with Lucent corporate staff, I found pension accounting troubling. There was much publicity, and I found a

weakness in Financial Accounting Standards Board accounting practices that reported pension data in annual corporate reports. In preparing a paper to submit for discussion, I was featured (in 2005) on the first business page of *The New York Times* commenting on ‘a murky pension rule’ (read it online: bit.ly/405CC6j). A few important accounting changes resulted.

“More recently I have been a supporter of the National Retirees Legislative Network. I was invited earlier this year to its annual meeting in Washington, D.C., and arranged to meet with the staffs of Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Jerry Nadler ’69 (D-N.Y.). I presented NRLN position papers on critical retiree issues, including pension de-risking and Medicare Advantage costs and shortcomings. For example, MA does not guarantee access to all Medicare doctors and hospitals. With Schumer’s staff, I coined the term ‘Medicare Disadvantage,’ which received a chuckle. There is optimism that some important changes will come during the rest of the legislative session. More when the results come in.”

We also heard from **Ron Sugarman**: “I was surprised and saddened to recently learn of **Bernd**

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

Brecher’s passing. He was a one-of-a-kind person, whom the Class of ’54 was fortunate to have as its leader.

“As to trip planning, my wife, Hisako, and I intended to take a late spring trip to see the Sugarmans of London (our son, his wife and our two grandkids). A side visit to Paris was included in our agenda.”

Please take a moment to send your news to us at cct@columbia.edu; your classmates want to hear from you!

1955

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

It was wonderful to hear from so many members of the class. Please keep it up! Email us at the address above, or use the online Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note) to send us your news, general thoughts or College memories.

Now, on to the updates from your classmates!

Gordon Silverman SEAS’57 writes, “Once again teaching a grad course at Manhattan College on artificial intelligence.”

Dr. **Allen Hyman** notes: “This year’s Commencement was especially auspicious. It was the 40th time that I have led the honorees

and assisted in hooding them. It was particularly rewarding because our granddaughter graduated from our college and our grandson received a master’s in art.”

Bill Kronick writes, “Apart from this long period of dramatic weather across the country, the maddening war abroad and the impending exit, one can hope, of our first and last wannabe emperor, I note that little has changed in my personal life. Am still on a novel begun before the pandemic and find myself, as I hit 90, living more vicariously each day in the life and concerns of my son, but 30! Hope my classmates, all, have rewarding days before them.”

Herb Gardner greets classmates: “Ahoj, members of CC’55. I noticed in the Winter/Spring 2023 issue that our Class Notes column was drifting toward the first column (1945–53)! We are not gone yet. So, let us know what is up with you. I believe that I have found the secret of useful longevity: KEEP BUSY! In my case, teaching as a volunteer in Palm Beach County, Fla., public schools, conducting my community orchestra, writing music for students and playing some good golf. I also vote! Keep in touch.”

Dr. **Sheldon “Shelly” Wolf** VPS’59 reached out: “I am 89, and my wife, Barbara BC’57, and I had



Gerard A. Forlenza ’43 was in good spirits celebrating his 100th birthday on March 25 with family and friends at the home of his daughter Grace Cosgriff and her husband, Stephen, in Glen Rock, N.J. Fellow alumni joining the celebration included, kneeling, left to right: Jerry McManus ’89 and Forlenza’s sons Michael F. Forlenza ’78 and Gerard A. Forlenza Jr. ’76; and standing, left to right, A. Mauricio Matiz SEAS’79, Joseph Cosgriff ’78 and Brian Altano ’78.

our 63rd wedding anniversary. I work part time as director of the memory disorder program at Olive View UCLA Medical Center. I love seeing patients and teaching residents. I suppose that I will retire in the near future. It is not easy to get old and this year was difficult for me with Covid-19 and a deep vein occlusion.

“The death of my dear friend Dr. **Mort Civan** VPS’59 was a big loss for me. I wrote this poem about him.”

Mort. April 21, 2022

Smiling and caring he would always
be around;
Today he is in a coffin and under
the ground
We shared our youth together,
you and I.
Never imagining that you might die.
O dear friend, flights of Angels to
speed thee to thy rest could I send
Instead I have a hole in my heart I
cannot mend
O death you can be a friend,
stopping pain that doesn't end.
But you grabbed Mort like a thief
in the night
And he is now only a collection
of atoms,
Nevermore in my sight.

[Editor's note: Read more about Mort in “Obituaries,” found online at college.columbia.edu/cct/.]

Warren Cohen has good news: “Still able to walk and talk, often at the same time. Have a new updated edition of my book *East Asia at the Center: Four Thousand Years of Engagement with the World* coming out this year. Columbia University

Press published the first edition in 2000. A couple of things happened in last 20 or so years that needed to be discussed.

“One delightful story is the reunion with my first love, Carol Shuffro BC’55, with whom I started a relationship at a Hanukkah party in John Jay in 1951. She came to a birthday party friends made for me in Cambridge last year. We exchange emails frequently and FaceTime occasionally.”

Stanley Corngold is publishing his book *Expeditions to Kafka: Selected Essays*. This book is intended to join the international celebration, in 2024, of Kafka's great distinction; that year is the centenary of his death. Stanley is still active after his retirement from Princeton's Department of German and Comparative Literature some 14 years ago, having recently given a number of Zoom lectures to places as far remote as South Africa and Georgia (the country!).

He adds, “In my freshman year, I lived in a double room in Hartley Hall with a roommate, **Harry N. Scheiber**; I spent the first half of my sophomore year in a double room with **Eugene Weiner** GSAS’70. Little did I realize what treasure I was privy to. These two young men were to become scholars and activists of the greatest distinction. Unlike myself, both had a plan: Harry, American history; Gene, Jewish rabbinical studies. For my part, I might have been the character played by Gérard Depardieu in the film *Loulou*, who, on being asked what ‘he knew how to do,’ replied, ‘Everything ... and nothing.’

“Perhaps I would define myself in opposition to these two great men; I cared more for science and novels than for history (I came in as a chemistry major and emerged with a degree in English and comparative literature). And I was, and remained, seriously secular. When Harry, in 1968, at 35, became a professor of history at Dartmouth, I was still at work on my doctoral thesis. Harry has had a most impressive career as jurist and legal scholar, dean and more. Gene died in 2003 at 70, a tragically young age by today's standards. A glorious obituary of this rabbi, sociologist and courageous activist can be found in Ha'aretz: ‘He was a giant of coexistence and of Jewish culture and society.’ (online at bit.ly/41nWsdT) It is finally thrilling to learn what splendid works and richness of personality would be achieved by two roommates whose latent powers, some 75 years ago, I could not divine.”

Stanley would be delighted to hear from classmates.

Ross Grumet sends “Greetings from Atlanta. Still enjoying my psychiatric practice here, adding telemedicine and e-prescribing. My wife is still writing and my son is still a nomadic retired attorney.

“Always being reminded of our class and our teachers; amazing to have talked to people like Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS 1932; Meyer Schapiro CC 1924, GSAS 1935; Ernest Nagel GSAS 1931; Tom Flanagan ’49; Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS’38; and so many more (including all of you out there) that I feel being in CC’55 was some kind of lucky break.”

CCT is sorry to report the April 27, 2023, death of Rabbi **Harold S. Kushner**, whom *The New York Times* called “a reassuring best-selling author” of books such as *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, in its obituary for him (read it online at bit.ly/3HNNZcN). *CCT* will feature an obituary in the Fall 2023 issue.

1956

Robert Sirotky
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Bob Lauterborn has been elected president of the Retired Faculty Association at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is

scheduled for a trip to Egypt and Jordan in late November. He reports his motto is, “As long as the wheels stay on, you’ve got to keep rolling.”

On a very sad note, I report the passing of **Alan Broadwin** SEAS’57, on December 17, 2022. Alan was a strong supporter of both his alumni classes, and will be missed. [Editor's note: See “Obituaries” online at college.columbia.edu/cct/.]

Otherwise, it's been kind of quiet, so if you have any news, please advise.

If you are reading this, and haven't gotten my emails, it is because we don't have your email address. If this is the case, please send it to me, and I will transmit it, with your permission, to the Alumni Office.

1957

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: *CCT* is saddened to report the passing of longtime class correspondent **Herman D. Levy** on May 7, 2023. We worked with him on this, his last column. Going forward, please send your news to us via the email above or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. An obituary will be published in a future issue if information is received.]

I was pleased to hear from several classmates for this issue.

Ludwig Gelobter GS’62 writes, “Unfortunately, I was not able to finish my education at the College (I went to GS, evenings, for several years). But I remember that year, though mostly from the extracurricular point of view: WKCR, the John Jay Lounge.

“Today, after traveling the world, I live in Lafayette, La., with my wife of 64 years while our children live in NYC, New Haven and Oakland.

“In the intervening years I met with Dr. **John Norton** in California as well as saw **Steve Fybish** on Broadway when we still lived in the city.”

Michael Ferragamo writes, “Recently lost my good friend and classmate from high school, the College, VP&S (the medical school) and internship, **Louis Ciardullo**. Will miss him! He passed away in January.

“I retired from general urological practice 26 years ago and recently from my urology coding talks that I gave throughout the United States.

Send Us Your News!



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

Recently spoke with **Neil Franze** and **John Norton**. Both seem healthy. Would love to hear from other classmates, especially those who played on the lightweight football team. How many of our class are still kicking? Call me at 516-741-0118 or 516-721-8149, or email me: liqgold2@aol.com.”

Alan Rosen, who lives in Woodmere (Long Island), N.Y., writes, “We are all doing well, although my wife is battling dementia, but living at home with caregiver support. I am alert and still doing some traveling to Jamaica, Scottsdale and Maine. Will be 88 in November. Go Lions! I can be reached by email: bosoxalan@yahoo.com.”

Eugene Wagner shares, “I regretfully inform classmates of **Herb Sturman** LAW’61’s passing on April 2, 2023. Herb and his accomplishments were featured in the Spring/Summer 2022 Class Notes column (college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/springsummer-2022/article/class-notes). A truly accomplished member of our class, loved and respected by everyone who was fortunate to have known him. Deepest condolences to his wife of 61 years, Beverly DM’57, and his incredible family. He will be missed.”

Erich Gruen writes, “Health and survival seem predominant themes in the reflections of our contemporaries. I look with dismay upon the fact that our class inches toward the beginning of the Class Notes section. We all know what that means. Survivor numbers dwindle. I have spoken at too many memorials and written too many obituaries in recent years. So far I have escaped any serious physical problems, and I plug along in the profession.

“Some places still invite me to speak, and I am occasionally asked to submit an article to a journal (by those who are aware that I am still alive). Topics like ‘ancient anti-semitism,’ ‘the diaspora in antiquity,’ ‘Greek myth and the Jews’ and ‘the retelling of biblical narrative’ are in my recent repertoire. One Zoom even had me addressing an audience in Shanghai. (I have never actually been to China). And I will be giving a Zoom class to an adult learning institute (that means mostly geezers) on Jewish humor in ancient texts.

“It was good to read about **Dick Berger**, with whom I have been out of touch for well over a half century, in the Fall 2022 Class Notes column

(college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2022/article/class-notes). Very sad to learn of the death of **Al Frommer**. This publication also allowed me to reconnect with my old friend **Ron Kushner**, a real gain for me. We have now exchanged several emails and a Zoom call. I strongly urge classmates to send their news to *CCT*— while they still can.”

Mac Gimse let us know, “In mid-April I had a 24-ft. stainless steel sculpture installed in Northfield, Minn., that is dedicated to Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, eight of whom have come to the St. Olaf College campus, where I am a professor emeritus of art. The poem ‘Striving for Peace on Horizon’s Brim’ was sung by the St. Olaf Choir in Carnegie Hall on February 7, 2020.

“There’s no way I can say how much the Core Curriculum has meant to me in life and in my teaching career. My English writing class set me free from the tyranny of rhyme. And the visual art course sent me to MoMA to sit for hours only a few feet away from *Guernica*, taking notes and drawing, and writing a major paper that set my compass to art that is dedicated to making peace all the way to age 87. The liberal arts drove me into a transformative aesthetic based on compassion. I remain obsessed.”

Sarah Kass ’87 sent news about her father, Rabbi **Alvin Kass**, who was honored by NYU (where he earned a Ph.D. in 1976) with the 2023 Eugene J. Keogh Award for Distinguished Public Service. Read more online: bit.ly/3n0s3nD.

I am sorry to note the passing of the following classmates: **Robert J. Lehner**, an attorney and justice official who lived in North Miami Beach, Fla., on January 15, 2023; **Paul S. Frommer**, a naval commander who lived in Alexandria, Va., on January 21, 2023; **Jerome H. Rettig**, an attorney who lived in Lake Worth, Fla., on February 5, 2023; **John B. Ahouse**, an archivist and librarian who lived in Long Beach, Calif., on April 3, 2023; **Edward R. Heiser**, a business executive and magician who lived in Savannah, Ga., on April 5, 2023; and **Edward B. Koren**, a renowned cartoonist who lived in Brookfield, Vt., on April 14, 2023. Read more about some of these classmates, as well as about **Herb Sturman**, in the “Obituaries” section of this issue, found online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

1958

Peter Cohn
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As this issue of *CCT* goes to press at the beginning of June, it is my sad duty to report the deaths of three classmates: **Bob Waldbaum** VPS’62, **Morris Amitay** and **Don Gonson**.

Bob Waldbaum was one of Long Island’s best known and most competent urologists, as well as one of the leading figures at metropolitan New York’s newest medical school (Hofstra/Northwell). He was also a close, personal friend of mine. I met him during Freshman Orientation Week in September 1954 when we were both 15 and Ford Foundation Early Admission Scholars. I was his classmate at VP&S, and after graduation kept in touch with him through the years. Over the last several decades, my wife, Joan, and I had the pleasure of traveling with him and his wife, Ruth, to interesting international destinations. Proud of his Columbia degrees, Bob was also active in College and Medical School alumni affairs and will be sorely missed by all those who came into contact with him.

My condolences to Ruth and to Bob’s extended family.

I met **Morris Amitay** on the freshman “B” basketball team (the equivalent of a freshman JV team). Morrie had been a very good player at Ramaz H.S. and mentored me on the intricacies of the two-handed set shot (old timers will remember that shot, no longer used in the modern game except for foul shooting). After playing JV basketball, Morrie went on to Harvard Law, and then to positions in the Foreign Service before becoming executive director of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), his life’s passion.

Don Gonson also went to Harvard Law. He stayed on in Boston and subsequently became a partner in one of the area’s most prestigious law firms.

Our condolences also go out to the Amitay and Gonson families.

On a less somber note, **Steve Jonas** is still writing about politics for web magazines. A collection of his columns was recently published in a six-volume set of reprints: *Trump’s Presidential Years: History as it Happened, 2011–2021* (Kindle Edition). No longer running in long-distance races, Steve says, “I

stay in shape with a well-equipped basement gym” that he actually uses!

Alan Tapper also added to our mailbox. After graduation he spent 34 years as a pioneering computer programmer for various “U.S. government intelligence agencies” during the Cold War. Too hush-hush for details. Alan now spends his retirement years following the exploits of his children and grandchildren.

Finally, a note of congratulation to the women’s basketball team. The Lady Lions won their first Ivy League championship in March. Alas, the men have not won a basketball title since 1968(!) and do not appear poised to collect another one in the near future. But that is not true for the men’s tennis and baseball teams, which were once again looking forward to highly competitive spring seasons as I write these notes in March.

1959

Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@hotmail.com

Paul Winick writes, “I am trying to stay physically and mentally fit by swimming 80 laps daily in my oceanside condo pool and by continuing to morph into my new writing career after retiring from my pediatric practice. I recently published my fourth book, *The Last Two Jews of Kabul*. It is about two men I read about in the newspaper. One was in his 40s, the other, his 60s, who return to their country after the fall of the Taliban in the early 21st century. They literally are the last two Jews of Kabul, and who now hate each other, blaming the other for their imprisonment by the Taliban. From there, I have created a fictionalized novel using these two characters as the main protagonists.

“My wife of nearly 60 years, Doty, has continued to paint and has become an accomplished landscape and animal painter. I need more wall space to hang all her beautiful paintings.

“My son, Chuck, and his wife, Maureen, both psychologists, live nearby.

“Their gifted triplet children are off to college. The boy is studying political science at Tufts. One girl is studying neuroscience at Tulane, the other is at the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU studying movie animation. I miss seeing them regularly. Thank God for texting and Zoom.

“My daughter, Ruth, and her husband, Frank, moved to Northern Florida to be near their children. They continue lawyering while dabbling in cattle ranching on the 40-acre property they purchased. Her adult children are quite successful in their chosen professions.

“Regards to all classmates. Would like to hear from as many as possible: pwinick10@gmail.com.”

Bruce Schlein wants us to know, “My wife, Alice, and I are doing well in our new digs, The Woodlands at Furman, a Continuing Care Community. So far we are living in a house on the Woodlands campus and have filled it with Alice’s looms and my stereo stuff, so we have loom clacking and music all day long.

“I am still doing lots of photography and have a small show at the hall-way gallery here at The Woodlands.

“I am still able to ride my recumbent sports trike 6 miles at least three times a week.

“Our older son, Willy, the architect, has designed an inflatable system of buildings and covered walkways for pop-up emergency health facilities for the WHO and will go to Italy to review submissions for construction with two other architects from Europe. Good stuff!

“Our grandson is in his junior year at Clemson, majoring in agribusiness and minoring in Spanish, and was looking forward to a summer internship with a large agribusiness company.

“Our granddaughter will be going to the University of South Carolina in the fall, to the Darla Moore School of Business.

“That is all the news there is, and it is good news.”

Richard Engelman lets us know, “Time flies when you are having fun. I can’t believe we are talking about our 65th reunion.

“I remain employed as chief of cardiac surgical research at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass. As I write this, my wife of 62-plus years and I are in sunny Boca Raton, Fla., until April, when we will return to frigid Massachusetts. Our son, Daniel, is also a cardiac surgeon and now president of a society called Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (Cardiac Surgery), which provides a template for improving care for patients having cardiac surgery. He has two daughters, both in the medical field. Our two daughters, Andrea ’94 and Margery, have five adult children, but yet no great-grandchildren [for us]. Our older daughter has a website and is a potter, which keeps her busy, and the younger is an attorney working out of NYC. All three, the boy and two girls, are happily married.

“While in Boca Raton, I play a lot of golf and attempt to keep up with the advances in cardiac surgical care. I write a bit and recently collaborated on a book describing the development of cardiac surgery. I am in the process of writing a chapter on the evolution of cardiac surgery at our hospital, the Baystate Medical Center. All told I am busy and enjoying myself.”

Steve Trachtenberg is still active and has not lost his sense of humor. “I recently had an Afib procedure. It worked. I’m feeling well. Going to the gym twice a week despite 24 inches of snow. I’m staying busy writing manuscript reviews for The Johns Hopkins University Press and am on the board of the Columbia University Press. Writing occasionally for *The London Times Higher Education* periodical. I’m also on the Bankinter Innovation Foundation Board of Trustees. If I’m up for it, the next meeting was to be in Madrid in June. As I write this, I’m going to Palm Beach in late March for a speaking engagement.

“So, I still chew my own food. Do you perhaps need some snow? We have extra. Organic. Natural. Locally sourced. Falls from the sky. Free. I will pay shipping.”

From **Luis Stephens** we hear, “My wife, Karen, and I celebrated

our only grandchild’s first birthday in February. She’s a gorgeous, energetic, bright redhead and we are ecstatic and blessed to have her. Our daughter, her mother, Phoebe Alejandra, wants to surprise us later this year with grandchild numero dos, God willing, another girl. Whoopee!

“I continue painting in my studio in Newburgh, and Karen writes there. Would that we could convert all this self-satisfying and, of course, supremely high-quality, aesthetic production into a little bit of moolah.”

I conclude with more of **George Mann’s** contribution. with apologies to George for having to spread his wonderful essay over so many issues of *CCT*.

“As we all know, the world has become a much more rapidly changing, populous and challenging place to enjoy and to live in since we graduated. We have been on quite an exhilarating ride, but not without many concerning social, political, divisive, extremist and violent trends, and problems including the very future of our threatened democracy and living on a habitable earth.

“I have been a professor of health facility design, School of Architecture at Texas A&M University, since 1966, almost 57 years.

“I have seen both the best of Texas growth, as well as the gap between the haves and the have-nots widen. The opportunities have been plentiful, and I have adapted, as the environment is quite different than the one in which I was raised, in the beautiful Fort Tryon area of northern Manhattan.

“However, the time and space dimension has its own beauty and majesty. I am still very much a Democrat!

“In 1963 I founded George J. Mann & Associates Planners and Architects, and in 1970 I founded the RPD (Resource Planning & Development) Group, in order to undertake larger projects with colleagues and interdisciplinary teams. I remain founder and chairman of both entities. These activities have allowed me to become a proponent of integrating teaching, research and practice by founding a unique research and design Texas A&M practice-based architectural design studio involving actual health projects, clients, architectural firms and sites and budgets.

“Much of this effort involved designing diverse health and hospital

facilities around the globe, from my 600-bed hospital in Imphal, Assam (now Manipur) state, India (an actual project obtained for my thesis project at Columbia) to children’s, behavioral, general, cancer and heart facilities; facilities for the elderly; and health science centers, including medical schools and healthy cities. A significant portion of my work involved disadvantaged communities in need both within the United States and in Africa, Central America, South America, China, India, Taiwan, Cambodia, the South Pacific and the United Kingdom.”

To be continued.

Columbia Reunion 2024 is scheduled for early June next year. We would like to investigate remote attendance at parts. More information, including exact dates once set, will follow from the Alumni Office and in this column. We look forward to getting together then.

1960

Robert Machleder
rmachleder@aol.com

Do you remember the Columbia lion? Remember how he would position himself at the head of the Marching Band and lead the standing crowd in a full-throated rendition of “Roar, Lion, Roar”? How were we to know that within that mascot costume was a lad who would emerge and grow to become the quintessential Columbia alumnus: intelligent, thoughtful, honorable, beneficent, enormously successful in his career and every endeavor, generous, blessed with a gifted sense of humor, and intensely dedicated to his classmates and to Columbia to a degree perhaps unprecedented?

That lion, **Bob Berne** BUS’62, died on January 24, 2023.

It’s hard to know where to start given the many aspects of Bob’s life that warrant attention, and hard to know how to end, as the limited length of this column could not possibly contain all that could be said.

Bob earned an M.B.A. from the Business School and embarked on a highly successful lifelong career in real estate development. This career began with his engagement at New York City and federal housing agencies and culminated in the founding and management of



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.

his own construction firm. He was instrumental in the site selection, design, financing and construction of more than 5,000 residential units in New York City in concert with the Milstein family, one of New York City's most prominent real estate agents. He constructed a 200,000 square-foot shopping mall, developed property in west Florida and was involved in numerous other significant developments.

But Bob's interests and skills transcended his financial successes. In the 1960s, while at the NYC Rent and Rehabilitation Administration, he assisted in the financing for renovations of low-income housing. In the 1970s he was at HUD, managing the financing of Operation Breakthrough, a demonstration program of modular housing. He was a member of the board at the Settlement Housing Fund, which that creates ethnically diverse affordable housing, and was treasurer of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council, a nonprofit research and education organization focused on advancing public policies in support of housing and neighborhoods. As an active alumnus he remained a member of the Business School's Real Estate Program Advisory Board.

Bob's devotion to and support of Columbia was extraordinary. In honor of his father, Gustave Berne CC 1922, LAW 1924, he endowed a professorship, the Gustave M. Berne Professorship in the Core Curriculum. He served on the College's Board of Visitors for 13 years. He chaired the Columbia College Fund for two years and was president of the Columbia College Alumni Association for two years.

Those were not titular appointments bestowed upon a benevolent donor: By all accounts Bob's involvement and leadership were intense and transformative. Peter Schweitzer noted, "Bob was an incredibly brilliant force in business and philanthropy." Larry Rubinstein, who worked with Bob on the \$4 billion Capital Campaign that Bob chaired, noted, "He was instrumental in changing the Columbia College Fund into the great success it is today."

But the chronicle of Bob's service to Columbia would be incomplete if no mention were made of what transpired in 2000. The Lion mascot of old had reached the age of retirement. Racing up and down Wien

Stadium's steps had taken its toll. A replacement needed to be obtained. In stepped Bob, and in early 2000, photographs appeared in Columbia publications showing Bob seated next to a new young Lion amid a host of cheerleaders, and beneath the photos the following explanation: "A new lion mascot costume was introduced thanks to the generosity of Robert Berne CC'60, BUS'62, who had been the mascot during his time as a student. The costume was unveiled on February 12, 2000, at a home game against Yale." [Editor's note: See the photo online, as part of the College's obituary, at college.columbia.edu/news/robert-berne-cc-60-bus-62-was-devoted-friend-and-supporter-columbia.]

On November 16, 2006, Bob was awarded the Alexander Hamilton Medal, which is presented to an alum or faculty member for distinguished service and accomplishment in any field of endeavor, and is the highest honor the College bestows. As his classmates gathered in Low Rotunda to sit with Bob and his wife, Steffi, the sense of joy and pride were palpable and we all felt honored and gratified just to be there, to witness the event and to listen to the accolades that recounted Bob's attributes and achievements.

A similar statement, which Austin E. Quigley, dean emeritus of the College and the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature, gave to the College for its obituary for Bob (the one referenced in the aforementioned photo link) was, "When I met Bob in 1995, the College was receiving the lowest number of applications in the Ivy League. It is now comfortably positioned among the finest colleges in the land. Many people helped this happen, but a much smaller number played an indispensable role in envisaging the transformation and bringing it about. Bob was one of them. He led by example, and no one who knew him will ever forget the example he set."

Finally, but perhaps most significantly, Bob was thoroughly committed to the class. Prior to every class reunion he served in a leadership capacity on the Reunion Committee that oversaw the arrangements and activities. And after our 30th reunion, he was instrumental in setting up the First Thursday of the Month Class Luncheons which, in the earliest years, convened in



WENDY ROBERTS

Don Roberts '61 (left) and Mike Gidos '61 got together in Miami on February 6.

various restaurants on the West Side until we moved to the Princeton/Columbia Club, and later the Penn Club, where we remained until these gatherings came to an end in 2020 with the onset of the pandemic and the closures of the club's dining facility and of any possible alternative location. On two occasions the luncheon group convened elsewhere. After Larry Rubinstein and Dave Farmer left New York for permanent residences in Maine, the luncheon group had lobster in the north. And when Bob was about to turn 65 in 2004 and decided that he would like the luncheon group and their wives to celebrate with him and Steffi, he issued such an invitation. As his guests, we all traveled to the selected location and dined with absolute delight. Art Delmhorst and Larry Rubinstein expressed fond memories of the event. Larry wrote, "I'll never forget that dinner, when we all stood up and sang 'Sans Souci' and the restaurant staff looked at us in amazement. We were the only ones left in the restaurant; it must have been close to midnight."

I can't remember the name of the restaurant but I can never forget that time, in Paris.

Thirty years of monthly gatherings; more than 300 marvelous get-togethers. It was there that we thoroughly enjoyed Bob's company. His demeanor, always upbeat and modest; his conversation, thoughtful, intelligent, informative, delivered with a radiant smile, and generously graced with the apt and hilarious anecdotes that characterized his warm, delightful, ever-present sense of humor. After his purchase of the new Lion costume was publicized,

someone raised the subject at the lunch table. Bob's face lit up — the inevitable signal that a witty remark was certain to follow. It did: "I told Steffi that I charged the cost of designing and producing the Lion suit against our budget allowance for her purchase of furs."

To Bob's wife, Steffi; his son, Alexander; his daughter, Lizzie; and all other family members, friends and associates, we extend our deepest condolences. He was unique — a very dear and treasured friend — and touched us all.

Yes, we'll always remember — with boundless affection — The Columbia Lion.

1961

Michael Hausig
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Mickey Greenblatt continues to manage the class monthly Zoom meetings. Class speakers discuss appropriate topics of interest and provide valuable insight. The meetings run about one hour. If you are not receiving Mickey's monthly emails about current meetings, please contact him: mickey@mgreenblatt.com.

Speakers and topics for July through October are as follows: Wednesday, July 19, Bob Pollack on 45 years at Columbia as professor and dean (title: "You'll Never Get a Job in America"); Wednesday, September 20, Steve Simring on the opera season; and Wednesday, October 18, Bob Salman on the 2024 election prospects.

John Learned was engaged in his Sunday morning ritual of reading

The New York Times when he heard something vaguely familiar on the local classical PBS station, which he slowly recognized. Turns out it was Britten's "Hymn to Santa Cecilia," of which the first recording was made in St. Paul's Chapel in 1961.

John sang in the St. Paul's Chapel Choir, which was great fun, and for which a group of musicians and others were paid for noontime and Sunday services. It was a good group, and members could sight read and perform Bach chorals a capella. They also played many pranks, such as putting grains of Nitrogen triiodide on the altar, which made the rotund and pompous priest try to walk without touching the floor (there was an inquisition following this but they were not found out.)

"It was a thrill to hear on NPR our Chapel Choir recording from 61 years ago!" John said.

Mike Gidos and **Don Roberts** had a mini-reunion in Florida in early February. (See the nearby photo.) Mike was snowbirding, escaping Maryland's chill while visiting his son, Chris, in the Miami area. Don and his wife, Wendy, flew in from California to see Mike. Following a leisurely lunch and a good deal of can-you-top-this lying about each of their indescribably talented and beautiful grandchildren, Mike headed back to his son's place, and Don and Wendy meandered south to catch a cruise ship through the Panama Canal, then back to San Diego.

About three years ago, Don and Wendy relocated from the little village of Mendocino, where they settled after retirement in 2009, to Santa Rosa, a grudging nod to the wisdom of being close to accessible and good medical care once one has waved goodbye to that 80th year. It's in the middle of California's wine country, and a beautiful area.

Allen Breslow LAW'64 retired at the end of 2022, closed his labor law practice and sold his house in Old Bethpage, N.Y. He and his wife of 59 years, Barbara, have permanently relocated to Hunters Run in Boynton Beach, Fla. **Arnie Intrater** LAW'64 and his wife, Karen, live there too. Anyone in the neighborhood, stop by and visit.

Gene Milone continues as an emeritus professor at the University of Calgary doing academic research projects. He enjoys attending research conference and other webi-

nars virtually, gratefully avoiding real-world travel and hassles!

Having survived a major water leak and ensuing room reconstructions, as well as the continuing pandemic, Gene completed *The Annotated Almagest*, of the major astronomical work of Claudius Ptolemy, for the third volume of a *Collection of Annotations of Ancient Science Books* for The Korean Science and Culture Agency. It was an interesting challenge, but he was fairly familiar with the material from contributing to the chapter on antecedents of western astronomy for *Exploring Ancient Skies* several decades ago. He is now editing the last paper in a series on mass exchange in very close binary stars for a colleague who passed away in 2022.

Gene and his wife, Helen, celebrated their 64th anniversary this year.

Bob Salman was reappointed to the Council on Local Mandates by New Jersey governor Phil Murphy. This is Bob's third four-year term on the council, a nine-member body established by a constitutional amendment that has jurisdiction to decide all county and municipalities claims that the Legislature has enacted a law mandating conduct by the county or municipality without providing funding for the mandate. Council decisions are final and not subject to court review. Four members are chosen by the governor, one by the chief judge and one each by the four legislative leaders.

Bob and his wife, Reva, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June.

Stuart Newman LAW'64's timely article, "The Attorney-Client Privilege," was published in the *New York Law Journal* on February 16. Stuart wrote that while there is general awareness that communications between clients and their attorneys are "privileged," the fine lines of those privileges are not often understood. Failure to understand those limits may cause forced disclosure of assumed confidential information that might have damaging and potential criminal consequences.

Alex Liebowitz, his son David Liebowitz '99, their wives and Alex's three grandchildren came to Copper Mountain, Colo., to ski in March. (My wife, JB, and I are volunteer ski hosts at Copper.) We get together with the family during their time here.

David Michael Wilson passed away on February 27, 2023, of natural causes. David was from Pittsfield, Mass., but loved the energy and feel of New York City and spoke fondly throughout his life of his time in Morningside Heights. He and his friends would go to Birdland, or to a deli on Sunday mornings, or to a jazz club in the Village, or to some odd event at Columbia or NYU, or they would get cheap matinee seats for a Broadway play.

David spent three semesters in law school before joining the Foreign Service with the United States Information Agency. During his 40-year career, he had postings in the Ivory Coast, South Africa, Canada, Switzerland, Belgium and Washington, D.C., and worked on many high-profile events, including the nuclear arms negotiations held with the Soviet Union in Geneva during the early 1980s. During his Washington postings, and after his retirement in the early 2000s and his wife's passing, DMW (as he liked to be called) lived in Bethesda, Md. He loved art, theater, classical music, wine and his class friends from the Columbia University Club in Washington, D.C.

David is survived by his sons, Whitney and Josh; their wives, Dawn and Stephanie; five grandchildren; and his sister Elizabeth Wilson.

Joe Rosenstein informed me that **Joseph Berke**, who was in our class for three years and left early to go to medical school, passed away in January 2021. Joseph was a psychotherapist, author and lecturer. He graduated from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and moved to London in 1965.

Here is a link to his Wikipedia page: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Berke.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct/.]

1962

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Andy Jampoler's daughter, Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.), was elected to her third term as a U.S. representative.

Bob Umans expressed his sadness at **Jim Balquist's** passing. "We were friends and chemistry majors at Columbia, and enjoyed reconnecting at reunions. I remember one 'Quantitative Analysis' lab where we

never had enough time, and decided to turn the clock back 10 minutes to give ourselves extra time. The clock was hung high on the wall so to reach it we had to hoist someone on our shoulders. Of course, Jim was our choice since he was the lightest! How sad to lose him!

"I've started teaching chemistry again, at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. I'm delighted to be back with students! Also still cooking for small dinner parties. Guess chemistry and cooking go together!"

According to Roger Low '66, his St. Anthony brother Edgar Dorsey Walter GS'65, who entered with us in 1958, passed away in February in Naples, Fla. Edgar was born in Tennessee and grew up there, on Lookout Mountain. He made his career in New York real estate as an investor and landlord. He is survived by his former wife, Ingela Walter, and their seven children.

Reminiscing about Columbia, **Ira Bloomgarden** wrote: "Best things were friends; then professors Trilling, Dupee and Bentley; getting a stack pass from 'Senior Seminar'; oh, and the Ivy League Football Championship."

After long careers in public health and epidemiology plus some time in industry, **Daniel Fife** and his wife have retired. They live in Wynnewood, Pa., near Philadelphia, close to their daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. For those with grandchildren, Daniel "heartily endorses proximity."

After a two-year Covid-19 absence, **John Kater** returned to Hong Kong in autumn 2022 to teach at Ming Hua Theological College. "The countless ways the United States uses its power to damage relations with China is appalling," he says.

While living quietly in Barton, Vt., **Charlie Morrow** makes recorded sounds worldwide. He and his wife, Maija-Leena Remes, won the Sibelius Prize for their comic opera *24 Hours in 48 Minutes*. It premiered in 2022 and will be presented at Helsinki Opera Summer 2023. Soundohm.com (Italy) describes Charlie as "a facilitator, collaborator, and singular artist, whose projects have included chanting, healing, and dream works, museum and gallery installations, large-scale festival events, radio and TV broadcasts, film soundtracks, commercial sound

design, and advertising jingles, performed using conch shells, cow and goat horns, Jew's harp, ocarina, and homemade electronics."

Armando Favazza is well but his wife recently contracted Alpha-gal Syndrome, a rare illness, caused by the bite of a lone star tick. There is no treatment, but one can avoid symptoms by not eating anything from a mammal! They live in Columbia, Mo.

Bernie Patten VPS'66 recently took his children, grandchildren and their spouses to Egypt. In preparation, he learned to speak, read and write ancient Egyptian. He asserts he can say important things such as: "Ptah is in the sky, and the alligator is in the river." Furthermore, he writes, "I'm able to read messages in the tombs of nobles," which led to him to observe: "Human nature hasn't changed. Most messages were brags about titles held and jobs done, such as safeguarding sacred secrets and supervising priests. Several men boasted of how many quail chicks they'd captured."

The Library of Congress selected Bernie's book *Neurology Rounds with the Maverick*, about his weird and wonderful patients, as a best book published during the pandemic. His *Tap Talk, Tidbits, and Tips for Dilettante Tappers* was for months, according to Amazon, the bestselling tap book internationally. The question most people asked on his book tour was, "What is a dilettante?" He hopes his masterpiece novel, *How Women Saved Civilization*, will be published soon. In March, Bernie was invited to read at the Texas Storytelling Festival (a slam competition). He recited three poems and placed fourth. After slamming for 32 years, Bernie claims, "Anything can happen at a slam, including nothing. Slams teach how to accept rejection."

In May 2019 **Charlie Nadler** and his wife, Hanna Weston (née Bergmann), moved to a retirement community in Highlands Ranch, Colo. She passed away in January 2021. Charlie and Hanna studied law at the University of Iowa and practiced together in Iowa and Colorado. She was the daughter of Anna and Gustav Bergmann, the youngest member of the Vienna Circle. Anna took Hanna from Vienna to England in 1938, and in 1939 all three went to the U.S. They

were able to enter because Albert Einstein provided an affidavit to Gustav, who had done mathematical work for him.

Dennis Wilder GSAS'63 continues working in mental health housing and has taken up screenwriting. His first film, *Beauty in the Broken*, dealt with second chances for people suffering from mental health issues, homelessness and childhood sexual abuse. He is now immersed in a more supernatural drama/thriller — psychologically oriented but biblically based — *Hell Hath No Fury*. Both are available on streaming platforms.

"As a Ukrainian American," **Roman Kernitsky** writes, "I am troubled about the number of Americans and politicians who feel we should not be concerned about the Russian invasion of Ukraine and must not spend more on its behalf. These people either do not know, or conveniently forget, the Budapest Memorandum of 1994. It states: 'The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America reaffirm their commitment to Ukraine, in accordance with the principles of the CSCE Final Act, to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine.'"

"If we weasel out of our pledge, no one will trust our word again. We made this commitment in exchange for Ukraine's giving up its nuclear weapons. Why would North Korea give up theirs if it sees that the United States and Russia betrayed Ukraine?"

In a recent letter to **Sandy Greenberg**, **Fred Modell** wrote: "A favorite moment of mine at Columbia was hearing you say, 'Hey Modell, is that you? Nobody else talks like that!' On so many occasions, I was with you; [your future wife,] Sue; **Artie [Garfunkel]**, **Jerry [Speyer]**; and **Burt [Lehman]**, and I remember them chiming, 'Sandy, you couldn't get that wrong! Of course, it's Modell.' But nothing prepared me for the uplifting experience of reading your book, *Hello Darkness, My Old Friend*. It is the greatest story of friendship I've heard. I'm honored to be your classmate."

In 1987, Fred and his wife, Vicki, established a foundation in memory of their son, Jeffrey, who died at 15 from complications of Primary Immunodeficiency. The Jeffrey Modell Foundation is devoted to early

and precise diagnosis, treatment and ultimately cures through research, physician education, patient support, advocacy and screening of newborns. It funds 386 Jeffrey Modell Centers in 307 cities and 86 countries across six continents. A full-length documentary, *Do Something: The Jeffrey Modell Story*, is available on all digital platforms.

Anthony Valerio is in Italy, assisting his wife in her university program and creating a mixed media project with two former students.

Activist and Wesleyan professor **David Adams** continues to publish his blogs: decade-culture-of-peace.org/blog and cpnn-world.org/new.

Carl Jakobsson SEAS'63 and his wife, Estela, celebrated their 35th anniversary. Their children and grandchildren live in the U.S. and Philippines. Carl is active in the Bremerton, Wash., branch of the NAACP, deeply involved in the Filipino-American Association of Kitsap County and tutors in math.

1963

Paul Neshamkin
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Well, I hope you all enjoyed our 60th reunion at the beginning of June. I'm writing this in late March and am being optimistic that we had a great turnout. Your Reunion Committee worked hard to make it a success. Please send a note to share your experience, and for those of you who could not attend, please send a note to let your classmates know how you are doing!

Lee Lowenfish writes, "Copies of my fifth book, *Baseball's Endangered Species: Inside the Craft of Scouting By Those Who Lived It* (April 1), arrived at my doorstep a few days before writing this note. To open that box was an amazing feeling, seeing years of work and doubt turned into a handsome hardback with legendary scout Tom Greenwade on the cover."

For more about the book, read Lee's blog online: bit.ly/3AqjF3V.

Late this past spring, Lee presented a paper, *The Enduring Value of the Original Angels in the Outfield Movie of 1951*, at the Cooperstown Hall of Fame's Annual Symposium on Baseball and American Culture. During the week of the Fourth of

July, he taught another class on the cultural significance of baseball at the Chautauqua Institution in southwestern New York State.

David Alpern writes: "I continue to enjoy turning out book reviews for the *East Hampton Star*, then arranging live or Zoom conversations with the authors. Hardest to stop laughing over was *Shy*, a snarky memoir by Mary Rodgers, the now-deceased daughter of Broadway songwriter Richard Rodgers CC 1923 (bit.ly/3mV09JO) and then chatting about it for local libraries with co-author Jesse Green, whose day (and night) job is chief theater critic at *The New York Times* (bit.ly/41TDOLm). Also looking forward to scheduled chats about *Against the Wind*, a monumental (in both senses) biography of the late Ted Kennedy by Neal Gabler (bit.ly/444ggW4) and Eric Alterman's *We Are Not One*, a history of ongoing debate over Israel — its politics and policies — among Americans, most notably among Jewish Americans (bit.ly/3oFZ4WA)."

Doug Anderson writes, "As they say in Palm Beach, where most of our friends are 10 or 15 years older than we are, let's limit our 'organ recital' to five minutes. That said, my medical adventure during the last two years has been focused on cardio and retina matters. I'm not sure what's worse, having a doctor tell you that he has to cut your chest open [to access] your heart or that he has to stick a needle in your eye, but here we are around 80, learning more about our bodies than we ever thought. And thank God for Medicare. Since our Class Lunches have become virtual (thanks, **Paul Neshamkin**) I've made 30-plus new friends. I was a commuter and most of my friends were members of my fraternity. This is terrific."

Gary Rachelefsky writes, "In October, **Peter Broido** and his wife, Eileen, and my wife, Gail, and I spent almost three weeks on an art tour of Belgium and Holland, concentrating on Brussels, Antwerp and Amsterdam. Peter was the tour guide and he did an outstanding job. I turned 80 on December 18. The whole family (Gail; three daughters; three sons-in-law; eight grandchildren and one significant other, i.e., totaling 17), celebrated in Mexico. What a great trip, and full of lots of memories. My highlight of the year was the UCLA

School of Medicine endowing a chair in allergy-immunology in my name. The \$2 million was raised from 88 prior patients, professional associates and friends. The goal is to recruit a faculty member interested in the science and cure of food allergy.”

Hank Davis writes, “[As I write this] I’m wrapping up and celebrating the publication of my book *Ducktails, Drive-Ins and Broken Hearts: An Unsweetened Look At 50s Music*. As some classmates know, I’ve been fortunate enough to combine a career in academic psychology with a continued interest in early rock ‘n’ roll that was in plain view during my Columbia years. The book collects about 45 years of album liner notes and magazine articles I’ve written. It includes the regular suspects like Elvis and Chuck Berry, but also delves deep into obscure figures who are no less typical of the era but represent stories that rarely get told. It’s chock-full of rare photographs and like the title says, I had no desire to glamorize any of this.”

Steve Barcan and his wife, Bettye BC’65, took their family to Italy in December to celebrate their 80th birthdays — 12 people including grandchildren, aged 14–23! They spent a few days in Rome and essentially filled a small hotel near the Coliseum. They then went to Cortona in Tuscany by train and stayed in apartments on a property that is the home of friends who own a walking tour company Steve and Bettye have traveled with a number of times. There they rented cars and drove to Sienna and the Hilltop

Towns in Tuscany and to Assisi in Umbria, where they saw the Basilica of Saint Francis with its walls of Giotto frescoes. Everyone agreed that the food and wine were always amazing, and Steve reports two particularly meaningful times on the trip. One was their visit to Florence and particularly the Accademia Gallery. There Steve spent time with grandchildren viewing Michelangelo sculptures, especially of course the *David*. Second was the visit to Saint Peter’s Basilica on the last day in Italy — they happened to arrive during a service with thousands of worshipers. Pope Francis gave the sermon — in Latin — and after the service left via a front door. Steve was 20 feet from the pope and has a picture to prove it!

Sadly, I learned of the January 31, 2023, death of our friend **Jerry Dwyer**, a longtime attendee at our Thursday lunches at the Columbia Club and later at our regular Zoom get-togethers. He was a true Columbia man and I enjoyed his company along with his wife, Jane, children and grandchildren as a regular at Robert K. Kraft Field and Homecoming. He will be greatly missed.

David Saxe writes, “I wish to report the death Dr. **Kenneth Master**, a retired internist and pulmonary specialist who lived in Florida. He leaves his wife, three grown children and a number of grandchildren. Ken and I stayed friendly through the years, often enjoying a round of golf together.”

Requiescat in pace, classmate.

By fall I hope we will be able to reconnect with our classmates at our second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club — stay tuned! Please email me if you are interested and I can confirm the next date. In any case, we will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. EST. Let me know if you’d like to join us, and I’ll send you an invite.

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

1964

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I have a backlog of notes because the editor shortened the word count last

year and *CCT* is no longer published four times a year. Trying to catch up (more next issue).

After the death of his younger brother Joshua in 1985, **Alyosha Zim** (formerly **Sheldon Zimerberg**) wrote a memoir that became a play, *Red Winged Blackbird*, and had a three-week run last year in “my hometown, Berkeley, and was very well received. Thank you, Eric Bentley and Robert Brustein GSAS’57. My wife, Liisa, a.k.a. ‘Sparkleplenty,’ with whom I’ve shared the last 35 years, has metastatic cancer. What a precious moment when she came to the opening along with friends from Europe and various parts of the country and the three children and five grandchildren we have between us.

“Yearly trips to Finland for 25 years to visit with Liisa’s extended family of 35 or 40 have been a regular part of our existence. The Finns, with their blend of the very modern and the very traditional, are all they’re reputed to be.

“I practice as a psychiatrist three days a week, recognizing that the best therapy for oneself is the deep satisfaction of helping others. For years, I’ve played a weekly backgammon match with Owen Renik ’62, a psychoanalyst and friend since we met during Freshman Week at the College, 63 years ago! And I’m back on the golf course trying to get down to double bogey.

“I’ve given up handicapping horses after years of enjoyment, and even ownership. Still, one monster win in 1991 gives me the unusual opportunity to say I’m a winner for life.

“I’m in touch with **Rich Appelbaum**, who retired as a sociology professor at UC Santa Barbara; with **John Anfanger**, who also lives in Southern California; with **Steve Rodner**, whose expertise as an entertainment lawyer was generously given for my play; and with **Ron Toby**.

“I grieve the deaths of **Art Bernstein** and my very dear friend **Chris Trumbo**.

“If I wasn’t nostalgic when I started writing this I certainly am now as I’m reminded how much my time at Columbia meant and is deeply embedded in my life.”

In a sad note, Alyosha reported later that Liisa has died. Our deepest condolences to Alyosha and his family.

Miles Orvell writes from Philadelphia: “Somehow the years have

slipped by without a note from me, so hello, dear classmates from another era. I came to Philadelphia in ’69, after graduate school at Harvard, to teach English at Temple for a few years — or so I thought. Still here, still teaching. I married Gabriella Ibieta 35 years ago, and amazingly our two grown children and their families live near us, and we have, so far, one unbearably cute granddaughter.

“Many articles and books during these many years, and most recently, last year, a book on time and change, *Empire of Ruins: American Culture, Photography, and the Spectacle of Destruction* — not exactly the most cheerful subject, I admit, though more cheerfully the book won two prizes (Prose and Atheneum). I’ve been writing a little about my own version of the Columbia years, impossible to put into a note, but I realize now that I left out an important detail about Broadway landmarks that does bear mentioning here — not the fabled The West End, but the inspiring lunch place that told me that I could do it, too — Prexy’s, The Hamburger with a College Education!”

Richard Walker writes: “I am a semi-retired internist, pulmonologist and internist; retired Army Reserve lieutenant colonel; fly fisherman; model railroad hobbyist; and history buff in New Hampton, N.Y. I have been married for 52 years and have four sons and four grandchildren. I was a zoology and government major and spent about 800 hours commuting by subway from Brooklyn. I learned how to sleep while standing, keep up with our Contemporary Civilization readings, write papers and study underground. I continued my subterranean existence in the asbestos-laden tunnel system beneath the campus. As a result of my years of light deprivation I became a quasi-Morlock with vestigial eyes and hyperactive hearing. I was member of the Glee Club for four years and finally slept in the dorms for the first time at our 50th reunion.

“My major regret was that my immersion in preparing for my career prevented me from paying more attention to the inequities embedded in our society since its inception and recognizing that despite being a minority from Brooklyn, I was the beneficiary of not just my widowed mother’s hard work and sacrifice, but also from being white and male in



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America at midcentury. It is most ironic that as I have come to reject completely racism, sexism and the attacks on the New Deal view of American government, my bias toward meritocracy, the occasional use of 'Oriental' instead of 'Asian' and refusal to accept gender-neutral pronouns render me an unrepentant and irredeemable example of an old, white, entitled, Ivy League male to my children and grandchildren. Despite not quite being canceled, I am not unaware that, often, as I enter a conversation with them, a polite pause opens while I speak followed by a continuation of the conversation as if I had said nothing. Our plight is not at all helped by the inability of the 'Silent Generation' to govern our nation through its current unrest. It is a function of aging that the old find comfort in the value in which they were raised and youth sees mostly the legacy of imperfection and the imperative for change. *Sic transit gloria mundi.* Regards to all."

Ivan Weissman: "I loved the classic rock cruise I sailed on in late January. It was five days of compelling nostalgia: hit songs from The Moody Blues, The Zombies, The Lovin' Spoonful, Starship, The Little River Band, Alan Parsons, Dave Mason and many others. These were the real groups, not tribute bands. There were Q & A sessions. We learned from Moody Blues lead singer Justin Hayward that while 'Nights in White Satin' was a huge success, it doomed him to having someone ask him what the song meant every day for the rest of his life. Our ship made stops on a private island off Belize and a region in Costa Maya, Mexico. But it was all about the music, which ran from morning to late night."

David B. Levine: "The Class of 1964 lost one of its finest this past fall with the passing of **Dan Press**. Dan's many achievements and his contribution to Columbia were chronicled by **Gene Meyer** in this CCT Fall 2015 short profile: college.columbia.edu/cct/archive/fall15/alumni_profiles5.

"Along with other Columbia graduates, I have been lucky to participate in a study group that Dan and I started nine years ago, in which we have been rereading the Lit Hum curriculum and exploring more recent and related literature under the guidance of Professor

Patricia Grieve, the Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Professor in the Humanities, Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures. (Other participants regularly include **Steve Case**, **Barry Shapiro**, **Jack Ventura**, Charlie Schwartz '65, Marty Blank '65, Neil Silver '65 and Elliot Wolf '65.)

"In our discussions, Dan always cut right through to the core issues. He especially loved Shakespeare, advocating that we read at least one Shakespeare play every semester.

"The presence of the leader of the Council for Tribal Employment Rights, which Dan helped to organize, at Dan's funeral was just one example of the esteem in which Dan was held by the Native American community. And the emails to Dan's wife, Joyce, from Columbia members involved in the AlterNATIVE program validate the impact that he had on their lives.

"Every Columbia graduate should love Columbia and love justice like Dan Press. He was a shining example of the best of us." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Please go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to read a note from **Steve Rock**.

1965

Leonard Pack
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I got a wonderful note, his first, I believe, from **Robert Argand**.

"I've been following [this] column in for years, and I've been constantly amazed at the distinguished achievements of so many classmates. My claim to fame at Columbia, at the time, was on stage with the Players, doing a few plays under the direction of David Rubinson '63, including *Guys and Dolls*; *Elsinore!*, which was a musical play of *Hamlet*; and *The Threepenny Opera*; as well as some plays with Barnard's Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

"I mention this because all of the above gave impetus to an important part of my life, which was acting. I remember being a pre-med at Columbia and therefore feeling somewhat intellectually scorned at the time. It seemed as though if one wanted to be a physician, one was thought of as just going to trade

school. (Not that there's anything wrong with that!) My path, however, was greatly influenced by the courses I took that had nothing to do with science. I remember with great love sitting in the classes of Eric Bentley, Frederick W. Dupee, Charles Warren Everett GSAS 1932 and Lionel Trilling 1925, GSAS'38, all of whom opened my eyes to the world of literature, adventure and poetry.

"My career turned out to be that of an internist and emergency physician over 50 years, after attending SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn with another cast of extremely distinguished characters. Through the years I frequently found my literary education at least as important as my science education in treating patients. Molly Bloom's 22,000-word soliloquy in *Ulysses* cracked open the world with a wound that thankfully, would never heal. Dupee's class on T.S. Eliot, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Robert Frost revealed a sanctuary that I have always carried with me.

"I remember in my senior year sitting one night on Low Plaza and thinking of how great a gift I had been given to spend those years at the College. I had no idea how much better it was going to get. It was David Rubinson's acerbic humor that propelled me to continue acting even as I pursued my career as a physician (or should I say, as it pursued me?). My life has been one of great good fortune, allowing me to perform Mitzvot every day and essentially live on a spiritual path that was not evident at first. (I was one of the doctors helicoptered into Woodstock, but that is another story.) An emergency physician stares into death's eyes, and the gift is to carry the patient away from that confrontation. Life's other gift: Playing Prospero in *The Tempest* outdoors in a summer theater on the shore of Lake Tahoe: 'We are such stuff as dreams are made on.' Greetings from the California Coast."

Well, of course, I rose to the Woodstock bait and asked Robert to tell us that other story. He responded:

"Since you asked, I'd be delighted to talk about Woodstock, or at least what I think I saw or remember. I was hardly a rock 'n' roll maven at the time, and indeed my musical tastes ran to Big Band stuff from the '40s, since I had my own band throughout college and played

numerous weddings and bar mitzvahs. And, oh yes, I also was a big fan of The Mamas and the Papas. My experience of Woodstock was as follows: I had thought of going, and then I heard all the reports on the radio about the nightmare traffic on the roads leading to it, so I decided to forgo that particular adventure. Nevertheless, on the Friday night, that being the second night, I got a call from my best friend in medical school saying that there was a sudden emergent lack of physicians at Woodstock, since they had not considered how many people would actually show up. He said all we had to do was go to LaGuardia Airport and we would be flown to Kingston and thence helicoptered into the festival. So he and I put on our white intern suits, stuck our stethoscopes in our pockets and drove to LaGuardia. Sure enough, there was a plane waiting for us and within about an hour we were on a helicopter airborne over this vast untamed crowd taking up the better part of Max Yasgur's farm. The helicopter did a swooping turn, and the door burst open. Had we not been buckled in, we would've joined the crowd much sooner than expected. It was a sight never to be forgotten.

"Moments later we landed in a field behind the main stage. We jumped out of the helicopter and walked to the so-called medical tent.

"There was no organization whatsoever. There were, however, a variety of afflicted youngsters being brought into the tent both on foot and on stretchers. Some had cuts and bruises, one young woman was giving birth, and my friend and I in our white suits and stethoscopes started to wander around. It was then that I became aware that in fact we were in the presence of the 'Hog Farm' (a hippie commune) from California, who were doing the lion's share of the emergency work because most of it dealt with people who were too high on LSD and marijuana, or utterly flattened by alcohol and downers of every variety. Most importantly, in the 48 hours we were there, there was no evidence of any altercations whatsoever. It was indeed a festival of peace, to which I can attest, having been at Ground Zero for observation of any evidence of malign behavior.

"When I finally got my bearings, I noticed that the Hog Farm, led by

Hugh Romney, otherwise known as Wavy Gravy; his beautiful wife, Bonnie; and their acolytes were all talking people down from LSD trips. At this point I might have heard of LSD, but I certainly had no experience of it. Therefore, I had no idea what I was seeing. I do remember one exceedingly distraught, very beautiful 16-year-old girl, naked, running into the tent screaming, 'I'm a human being! I'm a human being!' She was immediately taken aside by Wavy's wife, who took her hand and sat with her for the next 4–6 hours until she calmed down. It was fantastic.

"I also remember one boy who was brought in face down on a stretcher, whose face was covered with mud. That is to say, the mud was not only external. But rather he had mud in all his orifices, including his eyes, mouth, ears, and nose. I had never seen anything like it, and to this day I have never seen its equal. I've seen much worse, but never its equal. It did, however, give me a complete understanding of the phrase 'Here's mud in your eye!'

"Thanks for the opportunity to remember that part of my life and to share it with you."

Finally, sad news of the deaths of **Nicholas Pingitore**, a distinguished geoscientist and analytic geochemist; **Peter Herman LAW'70**, a prominent real estate lawyer who spent his entire career with the firm Milbank, including as head of its real estate department; and **David Sard**, a psychologist and playwright. More information can be found in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

And a recollection of **Richard Taruskin** by **Dan Waitzman** can be found in the online version of this column.

1966

Martin Lee
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[Editor's note: *CCT* welcomes **Martin "Marty" Lee** as the new class correspondent! Share your news and updates with Marty going forward at the email above or via the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos featuring at least two College alumni (or one for "Just

Married!" as long as a member of the couple and featured) are welcome, too. Send those right to *CCT* via the online Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.]

Peter Crain, a psychiatrist, retired from his practice in Paramus, N.J., in 2014 and moved with his wife, Linda, to Boca Raton, Fla., where he teaches at Schmidt College of Medicine, Florida Atlantic University. He is doing research on couples' "chemistry" and works with "more than 116 couples in the United States and 88 in China." He hopes to make comparisons. If classmates would like to enroll, the site is cpresearchassociates.com. Peter has two daughters.

Neill Brownstein lives in Park City, Utah, and hopes to do one uninterrupted pushup for each year he has been alive, which he has done yearly since age 20. Neill is the proud parent of five children who live in various parts of the world, and 10 grandchildren aged 3–24. His first wife, Karen Osney Brownstein BC'66, passed away in 1989. He has been happily married to Linda Snyder Brownstein since 1994.

Mark Amsterdam expressed his gratitude to me for taking on the class correspondent role. It's my pleasure and an honor. We recalled a recent Homecoming when we discussed *The Iliad* during the game. Mark's son, Matt Amsterdam '10, LAW'13, recently opened a restaurant, Bird in Hand, on Broadway and West 146th Street.

Tommy Harrold is the proud parent of Dr. Elizabeth V. Ratchford, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Vascular Medicine. She specializes in Peripheral Artery Disease. Tommy works full time at the International Practice Group of Miller and Martin Law firm in Atlanta. He has traveled four million (that's right) miles during the last 30 years. His grandson is named Finn.

Neal Hurwitz is on LinkedIn as Neal H. Hurwitz and on Facebook as Neal Hugh Hurwitz. He offers commentary on a wide range of topics that unfortunately, space does not allow me to print.

Tsun-Nin Lee and I conversed recently. He is a physician living in San Francisco, a city he loves, and has taught more than 1,000 clinicians acupuncture. Tsun-Nin, how-

ever, does not perform acupuncture on patients. He has a physician son and a non-physician grandchild.

Bob Lautin is a full-time radiologist with whom I recently exchanged memories of our undergrad days. Bob lives and practices in Manhattan.

I work full time as an internist at South Beach (not Miami) Psychiatric Center on Staten Island, where I walk 2.5 miles per day as part of my duties on the 44 acres, which have wild turkeys and Canada geese. I have been married for 53 years to Annette Stowe Lee BC'71. We have three children and five grandchildren. My dad, Milton C. Lee CC 1926, went to school with Lou Gehrig.

Since much of the news deals with our children, I congratulate all

tronic media • spent a year writing a paper for Encyclopedia Britannica, *EB and the Intellectual Tools of the Future* • 18 months in the Atari Research Group working on the idea of an intelligent encyclopedia • founded The Criterion Collection, a continuing series of important classic and contemporary films • founded The Voyager Company, early multimedia publisher, where among other things, we published the first electronic book in 1992 • thanks to a significant five-year grant from The MacArthur Foundation, founded The Institute for the Future of the Book • currently heading up The Tapestry Project at the Internet Archive with the goal of making its vast collection more use-

Neill Brownstein '66 hopes to do one uninterrupted pushup for each year he has been alive, which he has done yearly since age 20.

of you as fine parents and even finer classmates. All of you deserve praise and admiration, and on behalf of our class, continued success, health and prosperity to all of our children and classmates. As the overused cliché goes: "The apple doesn't fall from the tree."

If you are in touch with classmates, please ask them to send their contact info to *CCT* via the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info so we can be sure to include them in this column.

Enjoy, and please stay well.

1967

Albert Zonana
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We heard from several classmates for this issue.

Bob Stein submitted a series of brief notes: "master's at Harvard in education • taught briefly at P.S. 145 on 105th Street • headed to Seattle for more graduate school; dropped out after one week to become a full-time anti-war organizer • a dozen years as a radical activist / bookseller, including a visit to China during the Cultural Revolution • pivot at 33 to exploring the potential of new elec-

ful. • raised six wonderful kids (two biological) along the way • eight grandchildren and a brilliant life-time companion • been inordinately lucky for all the privilege that's come my way."

Peter Schneider SOA'72: "Bruce Kawin, Janet Kaplan GS'91 and I have joined to create a small press, PB&J Books, to publish our work and, eventually, the work of others. Our first two books are *FBI 1970*, Bruce's first collection of short stories, and *In the Field of Unintended Consequences*, my second collection of poems (cover art by my wife, Linda Goldstein Schneider BC'67). Janet will follow with her as-yet-untitled fifth collection of poetry. Bruce is Emeritus Professor of English and Film Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he taught for four decades. I am emeritus from my practice of 40 years as a clinical psychologist/psychoanalyst. Janet has recently retired from her position teaching in Hofstra's creative writing program. Linda and I live half the year in Vermont and half the year in Brooklyn. Our sons live with their respective families in Champaign, Ill., and Brookline, Mass. They are both academics. This is the first time I have written in; shoutout to old Columbia friends."

Walter Blanco: “I obtained a Ph.D. in English and American literature from Harvard and found employment as a professor of English at CUNY Lehman, from which I retired after 45 years. Unable to get the names on the entablature of Butler Library out of my head, I translated the histories of Herodotus and Thucydides for the *Norton Critical Editions* series. My marriage to my now-late wife, Ingrid Leopold GS’68, lasted for 55 years. Everything about me says ‘lifer.’ We had one child, Gabriella, who lives near Boston with her husband and three children. I now live in Brooklyn.”

Bruce Burgeson: “I have been living on City Island in The Bronx for seven years. I live in a condo and have beautiful water views. During the pandemic I decided to relearn Spanish and am continuing this pursuit. I have lunch during the week at our local senior center and walk daily along the boardwalk at Orchard Beach. I also enjoy reading, and watching shows on PBS. I started taking virtual adult learning courses during the pandemic and continue to do so.”

Aristos Christou: “I earned a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from Penn in 1971. In 1969, I married Kalirae Thomas BC’68. Together we raised a son and daughter and now have five grandchildren. We have lived in Alexandria, Va., since 1974. After a 20-year career at the Naval Research Laboratory, I became professor of materials science at the University of Maryland, College Park and head of the materials science department for 10 years. I still have an active research program in microelectronics materials and have published six books and more than 300 journal articles. My plan is to retire and become emeritus in 2025 and just travel with my wife and enjoy the world.”

Stuart Schlang retired from the finance world and reports he is “enjoying high-end catering.”

Richard Lorber: “Through the years, while reading this column, I’m always surprised how few of those reporting I knew. I was a commuter from the projects working my way through Columbia with scholarships and jobs. Those of you I was close to then remain important to me, even if not in my life now. No day passes when I don’t think of Meyer

Schapiro CC 1924, GSAS 1935, an intellectual beacon my whole life.

“On the heels of graduation, at 20, on a lark, I co-wrote *The Gap* with my uncle in 1967. It became a bestseller after *LIFE* picked it up and pasted my face on the cover in 1968. I found myself juggling scholarship and book promo schedules and hanging at The West End pondering a literary future and the politics of the day. In 1968, while occupying Fayerweather and getting clobbered in campus busts, I was also on a TV tour, trying to reconcile in my head book promotions with SDS.

“After a few academic adventures, including a doctorate at Teachers College, I decided the academic track was not to be my path about the time it was decided for me. The world of new media was emerging, and I wanted in as a founding citizen. By the early ’80s I had started a company, Fox Lorber, and spent the next couple of decades figuring out a business.

“So how did Columbia get me to now? A crucial Freshman Week encounter in 1963 forged an enduring friendship with that same year’s beanie wearer **Don Krim LAW’71**, an outstanding human being. I eventually acquired his brilliant arthouse film distribution company, Kino International, which became Kino Lorber in 2009. We ran it as partners until his untimely death a couple of years later. Getting to meet him was a major gift from Columbia.

“These days friends from the College remain few: my oldest and closest, writer Francis Levy ’69, and also Paul Auster ’69, GSAS’70, with whom I’m working on film projects.

“Fast forward 60 years, here I am, at 76, still a beginner, loving the game. Kino Lorber is the leading independent arthouse film distributor in North America with 50 employees, releasing 40 films a year to arthouse theaters everywhere, a library of more than 4,000 film gems, many award winners, available soon on our own subscription service.

“The love of my life, Dovie F. Wingard, and I have been married 40 years. Our daughter, Lola, is expecting her first. I’m also a painter and spend lots of time in Paris and Cannes. We happily live in NYC and on Fire Island, where I never have to drive a car. From the 52nd floor of our downtown glass tower, helicopter views of skyline and rivers stretch to the Atlantic ... and I can

see out my window the projects in Rockaway where my commute to Columbia began.

“Roar, Lion, Roar.”

Be well, all of you, and do write. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top to ensure your photo is eligible for publication.

1968

Arthur Spector
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Greetings from Miami Beach. I heard from **Fred Smith**, who still resides in Portugal and enjoys the beach and world there.

I received a long note from **Peter Janovsky**, who sent in a piece for the reunion book. He has retired from his long journey as a teacher, principal and then lawyer dealing with commercial litigation and bankruptcy. His twin daughters are in college. Peter has been focused on non-partisan groups to promote high school voter registration and active participation in our world.

Sounds like a great way to spend time!

Jon Kotch was deeply concerned with the status of Columbia’s Marching Band (Peter was too). Things are going in a good direction, and Jon sounds spirited and energetic. One of our renowned professors, Jon is the public health chair at UNC.

Larry Susskind is still teaching at MIT; I think for 52 years or so. Amazing! He recently co-authored a book, *Judicial Dispute Resolution: New Rules for Judges in Ensuring Justice*, which was due to be out in mid-May.

Art Kaufman LAW’71 is still teaching at the Law School, 20 years or so. He has gone to Columbia women’s basketball games with his grandkids and like me is a big fan of the coach and team.

Buzz Zucker, our resident expert on Broadway and Off-Broadway shows, recently went to 11 shows in one week. When I spoke to him I told him he needs to write a book.

Heard from **Ted Spiro**, who was planning to attend our 55th reunion.

Ted, I believe we met way back when.

Bob Nordberg retired from a long career as a surgeon after Tufts University School of Medicine and, a long time ago, a residency at Albert Einstein in the Bronx, including rotations at “Fort Apache.” He sounds great. He spent many years in Western Pennsylvania and then Canton/Potsdam, N.Y. His children went to St. Laurence, a wonderful school, and is working on the grandkids for Columbia. Bob likes the country and the fresh air there. He knows I grew up in Arlington, Mass., then the number 1 hockey town in Massachusetts and all of New England. And his family is related to my high school buddy, as it turns out.

I heard, too, from **Michael Haggiag**, a talented artist, who was planning to attend reunion (he will be in London for a couple of months and will have an opening there but will make it!). He reports that two of his photo-art installations were accepted at Cotswold Sculpture Park in the United Kingdom. That’s great news! I have become so interested in art during the last few decades. I was hoping to see Michael in Miami at Art Basel along with **Tom Sanford**, who has a son who is a talented artist.

I was visited by **Paul de Bary** and his wife, Stefana, in Miami Beach. We went to a Wagner opera performed by the New World Symphony. Wagner was a bad human being and an amazing composer. We were joined by Peter Hiebert ’71, who lives in Miami Beach. He and his wife, Elaine, are special neighbors. Elaine grew up in Miami Beach and went to Princeton ... imperfect judgement, it seems.

I received a long note from **James Charney** (known at the College as **Jim Schwartz**; Charney was the original family name). His first book, *Madness at the Movies*, is out. It’s based on a course he taught at Yale for 10 years. Jim has been on the faculty of the Yale Department of Psychiatry for more than 40 years. He and his wife, Diane, live in Italy eight months a year and in New Haven for the remaining time, where Jim teaches at the Yale School of Medicine.

Jim’s son Noah Charney, a much-published author, and his wife live with two kids in Slovenia — a

seven-hour drive from their home in Italy.

"In my book I talk about how extraordinary my Columbia education was," Jim writes. "The Great Books classes; the first introductory course in film, which started my love of movies; seminars with Kenneth Koch and Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38 and Moses Hadas. God, were we lucky."

Jim's note was longer; I edited it with limited skills. We all should visit Jim in Italy. My mom's family started in the 1450s in Padua — the grand rabbi. I suppose I could move back.

I also heard from **Robert Brandt**, who was on his way shortly to New Zealand; he sounded great and was returning from his place in Vermont.

I have been writing about the women's basketball team for several years. Congratulations to the team and coach Megan Griffith '07 for winning the Ivy League championship this year and going to the Women's National Invitation Tournament! The Classes of 1968 and 2023 both have winning basketball teams!

Stay well, everyone. I hoped to see you at reunion.

1969

Nathaniel Wander
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Francis Levy reports: "I've published three novels: *Erotomania: A Romance*; *Seven Days in Rio*; and *Tombstone: Not a Western*. A series of parables illustrated by Hallie Cohen, *The Kafka Studies Department*, will appear late this year.

"About 31 years ago I began studying traditional Japanese karate. I'm now a Godan, or fifth-degree black belt. Karate involves a rather broad syllabus, not just kicking, punching and fighting. To advance, you attend (or are invited to) promotions that can go on for days. It's demanding physically and emotionally, but that's the point."

Jonathan Schiller LAW'73 was recorded comparing the 2023 women's Ivy League basketball championship team to the 1968 men's Ivy League championship team, on which he'd played (online at bit.ly/43vN2Pn). He observed that both teams had been taught "New York toughness" by coaches

Megan Griffith '07 and Jack Rohan '53, respectively. "Defense defines this Columbia team of '23, and this is what defined the team of '68."

Phil Manfield writes: "I have been a psychotherapist since 1976, and six years ago, about when I started wondering if it might be getting near the time to retire or severely cut back, I happened upon a rapid and virtually painless technique to treat trauma. I called it the Flash Technique, and have been researching and writing about it since (flashtechnique.com/wp). It is being used around the world, particularly in Turkey and Ukraine, and there are currently 12 peer-reviewed papers published about it. So much for retirement."

David Sokal notes, "Despite getting older (74), with various aches and back problems, I am getting more active with Citizens' Climate Lobby. We are lobbying the North Carolina legislature to approve a state building code that includes better insulation in new construction. And check out methaneaction.org if you want to hear some encouraging climate news."

Bill Sleeper, in his 12th year of retirement as president of Georgia-Pacific Professional, NA's 'away-from-home' business, writes: "This last year has been eventful. My wife, Margie (née Rosa) BC'69, and I celebrated the marriage of our granddaughter, whose father is our oldest son, Bill Sleeper Jr. SEAS'91. The wedding was held in Texas last July, and we were joined by my fraternity brother — and best man at our wedding — **Rick Prouser** and his wife, Nancy. One month earlier we were blessed with grandchild number nine, so they now run the age gamut from infant to 25. Our house was full (and loud!) when our children and their families joined us in Roswell, Ga., for the holidays, as they do every year. What a wonderful time!"

Bill adds "It is great to be able to travel again, and we celebrated our 55th anniversary with a cruise from Los Angeles to Miami through the Panama Canal. In Guatemala, we visited the extensive Mayan ruins at Iximche, built starting in 1524. I had no idea the Mayans were still building so recently. Now to plan some more trips!"

Irv Ruderman, recovering from shoulder surgery at the time of

this writing, reported that a group of nine classmates reunited "on November 4 for a first get-together of any sort like this. We had lunch at the Bryant Park Grill."

Attendees were **Rich Rapaport**, **Bill Giusti**, **Rod Reef SEAS'69**, **Steve Valenstein**, **Nick Garaufis**, **John Fogarty**, **Irv Ruderman**, **Dick Menaker** and **Jerry Nadler**.

An enthusiastic supporter of Columbia Athletics, Irv has been attending the games of the defending men's Ivy League baseball champions and the women's Ivy League basketball champions. He was excited to see the women beat Syracuse in the Super 16 and Harvard in the Elite Eight, and was looking forward to their play in the Final Four. Irv also visited "the tennis center at Baker Athletics Complex, and it looks great. It's right on the river with great views."

"Yesterday was Purim," Irv added, "and I chanted the Megillah in my synagogue at one of the services before about 150 people. I have done it every year since we were undergraduates, and in the special style that I have been known for (different voices, numerous special melodies, etc.)." Irv also noted that he had been "guest cantor at two Upper West Side synagogues recently."

Rick Winston writes: "My new book, *Save Me a Seat! A Life With Movies*, will be out this summer. Mainly a history of the Savoy Theater, the one-screen cinema I founded and managed for many years here in Montpelier, Vt., it's also a story of my lifelong passion for films, with a stop at Columbia along the way. I write about trips to the Thalia and the New Yorker, and also showings at McMillin Theater and Casa Italiana. You can order a copy online at bit.ly/3zWfKLV."

John T. Herbert VPS'73 observes that it is "nice to see a 'Bollinger Effect' this year, as many senior University positions have been filled with minority faculty. Also, a reunion of the Black Students in Hamilton Hall should be most enlightening for students and alums."

Alan Senauke "never imagined I would be getting a Columbia paycheck, but this semester I am filling in for a friend, teaching a course on engaged Buddhism at Union Theological Seminary as an adjunct professor." He is "very much enjoying the challenge and the

diversity of students, and expanding my understanding of a field I have been living in for 35 years.

"Two years ago, with the death of my old Zen teacher Sojun Weitsman Roshi, I was invited to become abbot of Berkeley Zen Center, where I have lived for nearly 40 years. I am honored to take this position, but confess that it is hard getting a full-time job at the age of 74, when most of my friends are retiring. Still, I take it day by day.

"In early March, **Hilton Obenzinger**, I and other friends organized a long-delayed memorial poetry reading at the Beat Museum in San Francisco for our late comrade Les Gottesman '68, GSAS'69 (go online to bit.ly/3UB11IU). Les died in October 2019, but he is very much alive in our hearts and mind. His poetry continues to surprise and baffle us. Hilton, Bill Crossman (a poet, jazz pianist and writing teacher) and I are working on a volume of Les' collected poems, which we hope will be published by the end of the year. Stay tuned.

"I am pleased to announce the Shambhala has published my latest book, *Turning Words—Transformative Encounters with Buddhist Teachers*."

Nathaniel Wander continues to paint and slowly, slowly, to sell some work. He recently began posting some of his best pieces at fineartamerica.com/profiles/nathaniel-wander.

"My father," he writes, "who ended up a house painter and paper-hanger in the United States, had some talent and desperately wanted to be a fine artist. He ran away twice to Warsaw from his Orthodox Jewish family's Ukrainian/Polish border *shtetl*, and twice was hauled back by his father's *shtarkers* — the 'strongmen' of his father's rabbinical court. Despite regularly repeated surprise at seeing my father looking out from my own mirror, I never imagined I would end up following in the footsteps he never got to take."

Please send me your latest news, and I'll include it in a future issue. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top to ensure your photo is eligible for publication.

1970

Leo Kailas
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I am still at this after more years than I can remember and must admit that getting and reporting the news of my Class of 1970 classmates has its own rewards. Hearing about your successes and accomplishments enables me to vicariously share your joy.

First, my friend Professor **David Lehman** GSAS'78 wrote an essay on censorship of the great literary classics that I highly recommend: online at bit.ly/3zTJVmU. David is also the editor of *Best American Poetry* and periodically writes essays that I thoroughly enjoy. His essay

blog available to all the members of the class. When you read the final paragraph, you will learn why it is of direct relevance to something that all of us did in May 1970."

Jeff's blog is available on the website referred to in his note.

My old friend **Dan Feldman**, whom I discovered grew up in Far Rockaway (when I was "summering" in Rockaway Beach), sent me his news: "On the weekend of October 15, Far Rockaway H.S. (the late; in 2007 its site became the campus for several 'learning communities') celebrated its 125th anniversary with an all-classes reunion. That Sunday morning, October 16, those of us who had been editors of *Chat*, our student newspaper, joined in our own mini-reunion. Three

worrying about the current and future state of the world."

My freshman week suitemate Professor **Sam Estreicher** LAW'75 writes: "After my wife, Aleta (Bryn Mawr '70), passed after 51 years of blissful marriage, the heavenly authorities allowed me a second soulmate in one lifetime, Abby F. Burman (Yale '87). We were married January 29 at (forgive me) the Yale Club in the city. I teach at NYU Law and run its Center for Labor and Employment Law and Institute of Judicial Administration."

During Freshman Week, Sam engaged in a spirited and fascinating debate with a suitemate about one of the classics on our summer reading list. It did not surprise me that Sam became a distinguished professor of labor and employment law at NYU.

Ralph Allemanno reports: "Life seems to roll on quite uneventfully for me. I'm enjoying retirement, still living in rural Wales. I'm a late starter as a grandparent: My first grandchild, Margot, was born just a bit more than a year and a half ago. I was scheduled to head to London in April for her first birthday party!"

Finally, Professor Bill Stark '69, emeritus professor of biology at Saint Louis University, asked me: "Could you please convey my greetings to **Richard Yospin**?"

Richard, Bill can be reached at starkwks@mac.com.

Jeff Sheehan '70 is currently in Phnom Penh, where he is a volunteer teacher for the Cambodian Children's Fund.

on *The Wild Bunch*, Sam Peckinpah's ode to a dying breed, is exceptional — he captures everything I thought about the movie in such an amazingly articulate style!

My Bronx Science classmate **Michael Klekman** wrote: "I was so pleased to see that you included the best parts of my note to you in the Winter/Spring 2023 issue. Thank you."

You should all know that I really do try to publish all the notes that I receive but occasionally must condense the text.

Jeff Sheehan, after commenting on my visit to Paros last summer — he was there in 1967 — reported the following: "I am currently in Phnom Penh, where I am a volunteer teacher for the Cambodian Children's Fund. If you are curious about how this happened and what I am encountering, I have been blogging on my personal website, jeffreysheehan.com. On March 18, I marked an obscure but important anniversary with a blog that has relevance to Cambodia and to the Class of 1970. For your reference, I attached a pre-release copy of that blog. Although my readership is growing through my postings on LinkedIn and Facebook, I wonder if there is any way to make this

of us who graduated from high school in 1966, **Marty Newhouse** GSAS'79; Howard Lemberg '69, our editor-in-chief, who started with us at Columbia but earned a chemistry B.A. in three years; and I had an absolutely delightful time catching up and exchanging memories. Marty and I stay in touch fairly regularly, but we hadn't seen Howard — who had brilliant careers both in chemistry and in systems engineering — in decades, so it was an extraordinary pleasure for the three of us to get together. By the way, FRHS had its own interesting history, graduating physics Nobel prize-winner Richard Feynman in 1935; Nancy Lieberman in 1976, perhaps the greatest female basketball player in history; and Bernie Madoff, not so good, in 1956."

Ralph Bradburd GSAS'76 writes: "After 47 wonderful years as an economics professor at Williams College, I retired in June. I plan to spend more time with my wife, Zelda BC'70, and my children and grandchildren, and to make a dent in the pile of books and magazines that have been accumulating in my 'read when I get a chance' pile. I will no doubt continue to spend a great many hours of the day and night

1971

Lew Preschel
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Stephen Baxter TC'93 states he was the only doctoral student in both science and art education at Teachers College. He entered the College to become an engineer, but the atmosphere of campus in the late '60s turned his trajectory toward the arts. He exhibited his pottery at the Christmas craft fair at Wollman Auditorium in the 1980s and created sculpture works as well. Stephen was a co-principal investigator in a research project that generated two patents. He is an expert in the field of pyramidal cement and its uses.

Peter Hiebert reports that **Greg Wyatt** was to be awarded an honorary doctorate in the humanities this past May from Bridgewater State

University in Massachusetts. Greg is known and respected for his sculptures, which stand on sites around the world. He is the sculptor-in-residence at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City.

Rocco Commisso SEAS '71, BUS'75 was profiled on CBS' classic news broadcast *60 Minutes* on March 19. The captain of our 1970 soccer team, which reached the NCAA tournament, looked well as he was interviewed concerning his involvement with soccer. He spoke of his lifelong passion to be involved specifically in Italian soccer (football). Rocco has been the owner and chairman of the New York Cosmos soccer team since 2017. On *60 Minutes*, he was profiled as the owner of the Italian Series A football club ACF Fiorentina. However, the interviewer failed to note that he has also won The Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The Ellis Island Honors Society tries to recognize those individuals who share their wealth of knowledge, indomitable courage, boundless compassion, unique talents and selfless generosity with the less fortunate while acknowledging their debt to their ethnic heritage. They uphold the ideals and spirit on which America was founded. Medalists include U.S. Presidents, world leaders, Nobel Prize winners and leaders in other aspects of our great democracy, such as the arts and sciences.

I met with Dr. **Tony Kestler** this past spring for lunch, as he lives near me in central Jersey. He was quite proud of the Columbia fencing team winning back the Irving Martin Preschel Trophy from NYU this year. Tony remains very involved with fencing. He teaches it at a local academy and gives lectures in the regional school systems. We discussed the fencing team from the late '60s, which included **Mark Haselkorn**, **Harris Knecht** SEAS'71 and Bruce Soriano '72. Those teams were very successful in the NCAA tournaments.

On a personal note, I self-published the second in the Sam-Cat murder series, *One More Dead Doll*, in February. My pen name is L.A. Preschel.

This column cannot exist without your help. Let classmates know where your life's path has led you. We have many people who live unique lives, interesting lives and lives that have changed the world as we know it. Your classmates and

friends from college would be glad to learn about yours. Send your brief biography to me at the email address at the top of the column. We would love to know how you have changed the world. Thank you.

1972

Paul Appelbaum
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Steve Migden asks, “So, what have I been doing these past 50 [or so] years? Quick recap, for those who might be interested: After graduation, I worked for Columbia University Press as an associate editor on the *New Columbia Encyclopedia*. I then got a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from NYU and began a rewarding career as a clinician, supervisor and administrator. I taught and supervised in the doctoral program at St. John’s and the post-doctoral program at Adelphi’s Derner Institute for Advanced Psychological Studies; for about 25 years, I also directed the psychology internship program at MercyFirst, a social welfare nonprofit serving disenfranchised kids and their families. Quite coincidentally, one of my colleagues at MercyFirst was **Sandy Landsman**, also a psychologist at the agency.

“Here and there, I stole some time to publish, mainly on the intersection of neurodevelopmental disorders and emotional problems, in journals such as *Annals of Dyslexia and Psycho-analytic Study of the Child*. About 15 years ago, I pivoted somewhat and entered a related field, developing a practice as a therapeutic placement consultant. Again, lots of rewarding work, including writing the ‘Best Practices’ document for my professional organization (Independent Educational Consultants Association) and, last May, just before retirement, receiving the Distinguished Service Award at the organization’s semi-annual conference. Along the way, I had two sons, a divorce, two stepsons and, for the last 22 years, an extremely rewarding second marriage.

“I’ve kept in contact with a few classmates, most consistently **Rich Halperin** and **John Schwartzberg**, each of whom I consider among my dearest friends. In September, I attended the memorial service at NYU Medical Center for another old friend, **Mariano Rey** (who had

a wonderful career in academic medicine); there, I had a chance to reconnect with **Emilio Carrillo**, and I enjoyed a leisurely lunch with him and **Rich Halperin**.

“Now my retirement has begun, and I’m looking forward to devoting more time to my non-remunerative interests, including learning biblical Hebrew; hanging out with my dog, Jack; tending my vegetable garden; trying to do some bird watching (very difficult for someone with eyesight as bad as mine); enjoying time with family; and continuing to do the little I still can to make the world just a little less troublesome for future generations.”

I have the sad duty of reporting that **Jim Sabella SEAS’73, LAW’76** passed away from cancer on March 11. Jim and I were partners on the debate team at Columbia, and before that at Stuyvesant H.S. He was enrolled in the joint program between the College and SEAS, followed by the Law School. Given his outstanding grades, Jim could have gone to law school anywhere, but I remember him telling me that he never saw the point of leaving New York. And he never did. Jim spent his career with a series of major New York law firms, finishing up at Grant & Eisenhofer before retirement in 2018. He and his wife, Julia, had three children and three grandchildren. I will miss him.” [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries,” online at college.columbia.edu/cct/.]

1973

Barry Etra
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Not much response, despite two follow-ups. Such is scribe life.

Michael Vitiello retired in November 2022 from the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington after more than 40 years. He was known for brilliance, good humor, great feedback, and an affinity for shorts and Hawaiian shirts. He began there in 1980, collaborating on sleep research; he became an expert in sleep, circadian rhythms and sleep disorders, and is the author of nearly 700 scientific articles and other academic pieces. Michael is the editor-in-chief of *Sleep Medicine Reviews*, and plans

to continue in that role. He and his wife, Mary Baroni, intend to catch up on years of missed travel.

On a backward-looking note, our 50th(!) reunion took place June 1–3. Please send comments to me at the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, as I will not have been there. Please send photos directly to *CCT* using

For five years, Steve Migden ’72 directed the psychology internship program at MercyFirst, a nonprofit serving disenfranchised kids and their families.

the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of that form before submitting. Let’s show all our no-shows what they missed!

Can’t print what I’ve never had.
Be fruitful, troupe. Hasta.

1974

Fred Bremer
fbremer9@gmail.com

We’ve experienced milestones during the last 50 years. First may have been leaving the comforts of home to come to Columbia. A short four years later we had to leave our friends when we moved on to professional school, graduate school or a real job. Somewhere along the line most of us left solo life and got married and had kids. Now many of us are facing leaving our professions (and identities?) for a new life in retirement. Coming in a year is another milestone: your 50th College reunion (early June 2024; exact dates not yet set). Like the other milestones, it is something to celebrate with your friends of half a century.

You may have seen **Abbe Lowell LAW’77** (living in a Washington, D.C., suburb) on the news. Following his role guiding (Republican) Jared Kushner, he is now the lawyer guiding (Democrat) Hunter Biden in the criminal investigation into what happened to Hunter’s laptop after it was abandoned at a Delaware computer repair shop in 2019.

Last January, **Mark Rantala** (living in Cleveland) wrote to catch

us up on his busy life. He recently started his 14th season of his podcast, *Baseball PhD*, and recorded the 665th episode. He tells us he was also recognized by the Parkside Masonic Lodge for 50 years in the fraternity. Mark continues both his consulting practice (Economic Development Opportunity Advisors), which supports port authorities in their economic

development initiatives and is still doing commercial real estate work in Cleveland. Mark and his wife, Mary Anne, have been married 31 years and have two daughters.

Sorting through some unopened mail, I saw a notice from Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan that the Mark Lebowhl Center for Neuroinflammation and Sensation opened in January 2022. It brings together experts in skin biology, immunology and neuroscience to uncover novel treatments for chronic itch and other sensory disorders. The center honors Dr. **Mark Lebowhl** for his role as past department chair and current dean of clinical therapeutics and is one of the first centers of its kind on the East Coast.

We learned that the “quick to pack” **Patrick Dowd** has moved from the greater Portland, Ore., area to the greater Portland, Maine, area. We now have three classmates there, as Dr. **Steve Blumenthal** and **Bob Adler** also call this place home.

It is hard to follow the careers of **Will Willis BUS’76** (who lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.). He tells us he has gone from managing the operations of Sun Chips to tampons to Chinet Paper Plates to Jen’s Frozen Foods to Mennen to Dole. Now he tells us that after three years commuting to Dole in California, he retired on a Friday. The following Monday he took a president’s position at Agilis Engineering, which has 300 engineers designing jet engines for the DoD. Will says, “I guess I just like to be intellectually challenged.” He adds, “This is definitely my last stop!”

An email came in from **Garrett Johnson** (living in Los Angeles) saying, “While I enjoy reading about the retirement or pending retirements of our classmates, I don’t see that on the horizon for myself in near future. My entertainment law practice keeps me invigorated and I continue to enjoy the camaraderie, collegiality and intellectual challenge of working and colleagues.” Garrett tells us that his tenure as president of The California Copyright Conference has come to a close, but he has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles chapter of the Association of Independent Music Publishers. He says, “This group provides a unique medium for those in the music industry to discuss with their colleagues various issues of the ever-changing music business.”

Among our not-even-semi-retired classmates, Dr. **Steve DeCherney** PH’98 stands out. He is working half time at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill teaching endocrine fellows and internal medicine residents. He also started a company (Helios Clinical Research) with backing from Grant Avenue Capital (where he is an operating partner). Steve continues as a board member and chief medical officer of KNOW Bio and is an executive advisor of several other startups. He still manages to find time to serve on the board of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. Steve adds, “So I’m certainly not retired yet.”

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of **Bill Meehan** (a resident of Palo Alto, Calif., and New York City) in January. He graduated from the College with a B.A. in comparative literature. Bill retired from a 30-year career at the consulting firm McKinsey & Co. in 2008. He had held many senior roles, including chair of the firm’s West Coast practice and managing director of its San Francisco office. After retirement he joined the Stanford Graduate School of Business as a professor focused on strategic leadership and nonprofits. Bill was involved with a wide-ranging list of nonprofits (from the United Way to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival). A life well lived. [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries” at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

There you have it. Classmates involved in music, biotech, politics and more. While retirement must

have started for many, all I hear about is continued activity. See you at our 50th reunion! (Not written by ChatGPT!)

1975

Robert Katz
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Fellow members of the Class of 1975, herewith my first installment as your class correspondent.

Doug Letter is alive and well in Washington, D.C., where he practices law. In 1978, immediately after law school at UC Berkeley, Doug joined the Department of Justice (DOJ), where he was a career public servant for 40 years. He handled civil and criminal appellate litigation, including appearances in the U.S. Supreme Court. Doug represented the United States in many important cases, specializing in national security and various constitutional issues. He was presented with awards by the President and Attorney General, among others. Doug also served in the Clinton administration White House Counsel Office as an associate counsel to the President, and as senior counselor to Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. ’73, LAW’76.

Doug left the DOJ, and in 2019 he was appointed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi as the general counsel of the House of Representatives, where he spent four years advising House leaders and litigating numerous cases for the House, appearing before the U.S. Supreme Court three times. Following that, in early 2022, Doug became the chief legal officer of Brady United Against Gun Violence.

Doug is married, has two daughters living nearby and is an extremely happy grandfather of two. You can catch him on the tennis or basketball courts, or on long bike rides with his friends.

Robert Sclafani GSAS’81 has been retired from the University of Colorado School of Medicine for about five years and still enjoys it. He keeps busy with skiing, fishing and golf. He started ukulele lessons, which he says is amazing, “as I never played an instrument.” (Perhaps his background from Music Hum will help.) He also consults for the craft brewing industry. Bob’s latest news is that he was to become a grandfather this past March, courtesy of



Celebrating at V&T on March 26 after the Lions women’s basketball team victory at the Women’s National Invitation Tournament against Harvard were, left to right: Lisa Davis BC’76, Doron Gopstein ’63, Cindy Cohen, Russ Behrman ’77, Ken Howitt ’76, Tom Mariam ’78, Fred Rosenstein ’78 and Liz Rosenstein.

his son, Michael, who is in IT. His daughter, Maria, is an assistant professor of library science at Wichita State University.

Bob stays connected with **José Cheo Díaz** on LinkedIn and enjoyed reading his book, *From the Streets of New York City*. He and José were roommates in Carman with **Edwin Vega** and **Henry Woo**. Bob also occasionally hears from Fred Bremer ’74, **Rich Eichler**, **Chet Pielock**, **Ray Falcon** and **Steve Messina SEAS’75**. Steve and Ray went to Archbishop Molloy H.S. with him.

Michael Dulberg lives in Phoenix. He writes, “For the 10th year in a row, 2014–23 editions, I’ve been recognized by *Best Lawyers* as one of the top attorneys in America for Construction Law and Construction Litigation. I am a partner in the Phoenix law firm of Burch & Cracchiolo.”

Robert Schneider retired from the practice of law in 2019. He and his wife, Regina Mullahy BC’75, live in Rockville Centre and enjoy visits to their three grandchildren in Houston and two grandchildren in New Jersey.

Sadly, we have recently lost several of our classmates: **Howard Blatt**, whom many of us remember as sports editor at *Spectator* (college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/winterspring-2023/article/obituaries); Rev. **C.J. “John” McCloskey III**, a Catholic priest; and **Guy Golembiewski**, who was in my first-semester freshman-year Contemporary Civilization class.

Obituaries for John and Guy are in this issue’s “Obituaries,” found at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Please let me hear more news from more of you. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top to ensure your photo is eligible for publication.

1976

Ken Howitt
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Inspired by the telecast of Joni Mitchell receiving the 2023 Library of Congress Gershwin Award, I have the *For the Roses* album playing on the turntable. Not that inspiration is needed after the incredible season that the women’s basketball team had under Head Coach Megan Griffith ’07 and her staff’s guidance. As a TrueBlue season ticketholder, I will conclude this column with reflections on that team for the ages!

Had a few updates through emails, phone calls and texts. **Toomas Hendrick Ilves** reached out with links to incredible columns about the world situation from his vantage point in Estonia. Search

his name and you will find some very insightful thoughts that have appeared in *The Washington Post*.

Gordon Kit had another successful Kit Noir Film Festival on the first weekend of March. The theme was “Seventy Years of Women in Crime.” The events were not only terrific films that explored women’s contributions to film noir from behind the camera, but also panels and discussions about the roles of women as producers, screenwriters, novelists and in one instance, director. No firm plans are in place for 2024, but I will get the word out as soon as it is available.

Clyde Moneyhun (one of my predecessors as class correspondent) checked in: “I’ve been a busy literary translator this last year. In March 2022, I published *El volcà/ The Volcano*, the complete poetry of Anna Dodas i Noguera, a Catalan-language poet who died far too young in 1986. Then in January of this year I published *Bruixa de dol/ Witch in Mourning*, by Maria-Marcè Marçal, a giant of 20th-century Catalan literature. This 1979 book is her masterwork. A sabbatical in spring of last year freed me up to launch the book and do readings in Barcelona, London and Edinburgh. Retirement from teaching looms in the near distance, but the translation work never ends.”

Steve Goldstein GSAS’58, Columbia’s Higgins Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, was one of two 2022 recipients of the Great Teacher Award by the Society of Columbia Graduates. Steve says, “I was really pleased that

my kids, Emily Cooperdock ’11, an assistant professor of earth sciences at USC who is moving to Brown next summer, and who came with my granddaughter Razia, and Sandra Goldstein Lehnert ’19, in the English literature Ph.D. program at the CUNY Graduate Center, came back to campus to attend the ceremony during reunion.

“One of my favorite activities is to foster a new appreciation for the world around us, and so if anyone who reads this would like to spend a couple of hours learning to ‘read the rocks’ and see how they reflect the history of NYC, they should get in touch, as I’m happy to take small groups on the same Central Park field trip that I take my students.”

Sounds to me like a 50th-reunion activity!

The group that was centered first on Two Livingston and then in an apartment on Morningside Drive is constantly sending emails: **Nick De Monico, Terry Corrigan, Richard Cohen, Fred Masters, Tom Motley, Barry Smiley** and Frank Motley ’70. Golf, old stories and just stuff brings smiles every time. A good portion of this group was sitting on College Walk with a supply of adult beverages on July 13, 1977, when the blackout occurred, and one of them asked the immortal question, “Why is New Jersey glowing?” I have lived in Hoboken, N.J., for 35 years and I still have not found that answer.

Steve Davis had some news as well. On the same June weekend that Steve and his wife, Lisa BC’76, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary, they celebrated the wedding of their oldest daughter, Rebecca BC’07, in Prospect Park in Brooklyn. **Doug Neuman** and his wife, Katie, attended. Less than a month later, Steve’s son Jason Davis BUS’10 and his daughter-in-law, Maryl, welcomed home Steve and Lisa’s third grandchild, Evelyn Grace Davis (CC 2044), who joined Madeline (CC 2038) and Alexander (CC 2040). Steve is still practicing law in NYC and will keep practicing until he gets it right!

Steve’s update brings me to the final part of this column: my thoughts on the women’s basketball season. For years, I have sat by my WKCR broadcast partner, Russ Behrman ’77, JRN’78, BUS’84. Our group, in Section C of Levien, also includes Kevin DeMarras ’64,

sports information director in the ’70s; Jim Miller ’70, Tom Mariam ’78, Shari Teitelbaum BC’79 and three non-WKCR sports group members, Doron Gopstein ’63, Bruce Birns ’75 and Fred Rosenstein ’78. We have been going to both football and basketball games for years, and almost always end up at V&T post-game to refill our cholesterol (see the nearby photo!). In addition to this cast, we get our families, now into the third generation, as I bring my granddaughter to games and dinner.

When the team got to the Women’s National Invitation Tournament (WNIT) post-season tournament, the population of this group went off the charts for the four home games and the championship watch party. Steve and Lisa were there for the whole ride. In addition to Steve, I heard from other Columbia graduates, who ultimately joined us. During the six games of the tournament, we had no less than 16 people at dinner, and our top number was 22.

What a great journey for the team, but also for all of us! Some of these people have always gone to games and been season ticketholders, and all of us wanted to share the group experience. In addition, my email inbox volume was off the charts with classmates and Columbia friends wanting more information about the team and tickets.

Watching the talent and execution of this team consistently inspired us all season long. This team was demonstrably thrilled in the performance of each player and the execution of each play. They never stopped encouraging and teaching each other. It was almost like the learning skills that the Core Curriculum teaches in small class settings translated into court performances that stymied our opponents. Under Griffith and her staff, this team finished the season with 28 wins and 6 losses, as co-champions of the Ivy League and a WNIT finalist team that lost to the champions from Kansas.

I enjoy being inspired by youth. I enjoy seeing alma mater creating the same feelings inside today’s 20-year-olds that were formed inside me during our college days. And most of all, it is thrilling to see that a group of under-30 players, coaches and staff brings an important group (my classmates, friends and family)

closer together. Friendship has always outweighed the final record, but when there are wins, the experience is so much fun. This team created a Lions pride beyond compare.

To the team and the athletics department, a simple thank you.

I hope our 50th reunion will recreate those same feelings in all the ’76ers. Please get involved, stay involved and continue to feel young!

1977

David Gorman
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There is very little news to share this column. My son got married in November, and it was nice to see family members get to Illinois after the break in travel that so many people have experienced during these Covid-19 years. I hope to return to traveling myself this year.

I still work, at Northern Illinois University, though that will not be much longer. I would be curious to hear about people’s retirement gigs, if any. It strikes me that most of the retirees who have written in seem to be taking it easy, but maybe I’m wrong about that.

One person who is a long way from lounging is **Jon Lukomnik**. “Somehow,” he writes, “I keep adding to the portfolio rather than slowing down.” Indeed. Recently Jon became one of two inaugural SIRI fellows at SIPA. (Ack, the acronyms are flying!)

Seriously, though, the Sustainable Investing Research Initiative addresses what is described as “system-level investing” in the face of environmental, social justice and human rights challenges. Reviewing Jon’s bio, I am reminded that he is well qualified to serve in this role. I also learned that he has a podcast.

I would love to see a list of people in our class who have podcasts; it might be a long one.

Please share your news, updates, and College memories and stories with me for inclusion in a future issue. Contact me at the address at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos must be sent to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure the photo is at least 750 kb in size and features at least

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two CC alumni (or one for Just Married! as long as that alum is a member of the couple and is featured).

1978

Matthew Nemerson
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As you're reading this, we will have just finished our reunion, so please be sure to send in pictures (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo; check the parameters at the top of the form) and remembrances (send to me) from our 45th. We will have a full recap in the next column.

Is there anyone alive who has a better understanding than **Tim Weiner** JRN'99 of what the Russians' goals are in Ukraine or how

Ukraine and related topics for the Quincy Institute's series of papers and issue briefs, as well as a column at Forbes and TomDispatch, which is posted at thenation.com."

Ed Ferguson, of Brooklyn, has been cleaning up the city since graduating from law school. "I worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York, on cases involving mobbed-up enterprises like the Teamsters Union and the Fulton Fish Market; ran what is now the NYC Business Integrity Commission, whose goal is to get the mob out of the private carting industry; and for 21 years, have run litigation and investigations at IAC, an internet/media holding company.

"I'm married to Simone Procas, an IP lawyer at *The New York Times*, and we have Caleb, who works in the

at keeping up with old friends. I will have enjoyed reunion.

"I want to see how Columbia addresses campus issues concerning free speech and antisemitism."

"All good," exclaims **Bennett Caplan** from Bethesda, Md., "if the aim is to love and work well. I have had good fortune, with a terrific family and a winding career in which I worked with many great colleagues on a lot of fascinating topics."

Anthony Dellicarri is in Congers, N.Y. "I practiced law for 35 years, then spent four years in the mental health field and now, as I'm not one to sit around, am working my way through a master's in criminal justice."

Fellow Connecticut resident **John Flores** LAW'81 notes, "I have stopped working full time ... my last job was as general counsel with the last state treasurer. I spent a month with the new one and retired. I'm looking for a board position, but I'm busy with my six grandchildren."

My Reunion Committee co-chair, the Hon. **Joe Greenaway**, is hanging up his robe. "After 27 years on the federal bench, I sent a letter to the President to tell him. Serving our country as a federal judge has been the thrill of a lifetime. Back to private practice in the fall."

Not all notes are cheerful and happy. Many of us have endured the sadness and toughest challenges of life. Few are brave enough to share with the class. **Mark Axinn** wanted us to know what happened to him. "My wife, Becky Akers BC'83, was diagnosed with metastatic adenocarcinoma in January 2022 and died three months later, on April 18, 2022, in Ohio. In December 2021, we were hiking on the Appalachian Trail and went ice skating on New Year's Eve, all with no indication of what lay one month ahead.

"A slight pain on her side became intensely acute and we thought her gall bladder had ruptured. At that point, she already had stage 4 colon cancer, which had metastasized to her liver and lungs. The next day, I met with palliative care and things rapidly got worse from there. On Good Friday, April 15, we went to the emergency room. Her brothers and I stayed with her through the weekend. On Easter Sunday, April 17, at 5 p.m., I authorized moving her to hospice. I sent her brothers home and read the Bible to her, prayed and

kept talking to her, as I was told that hearing is the last sense to go. At 1:07 a.m. on April 18, Becky made a beautiful little sound of goodbye, a tear formed on her eye and she stopped breathing. Becky was 62. We had 41 years, one month and 18 days. It was not enough.

"As opposed to many people, the pandemic was terrific for us. Becky and I had renovated and rebuilt our house in Ohio 10 years earlier. The house already had an office in which to work remotely so the transition from mostly NYC to suburban Akron was easy for us. Most days we both worked until 3 or 4 p.m., then went on a bike ride or took a walk around the lake, and sat on the front porch and had peanuts and wine while we watched the sun set. We spent about 80 percent of our time in Ohio, and our marriage had never been stronger.

"Becky died in the middle of Passover, which she loved; my devoutly Christian wife made the world's best matzo balls.

"Since then, I have been working full time at a midtown law firm and traveling constantly. It's easy to stay busy; it's much harder to stay focused. Sometimes when I am in Ohio, I think, should I clean out this closet, or do bills or go for a bike ride? I always choose Door No. 3.

"I refuse to be defeated by adversity. I will miss Becky every day of my life, but also know that she wants me to carry on, which I will do, just not as well."

Thanks, Mark.

Please keep writing.

1979

Robert C. Klapper
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Gilead "Gil" Lancaster shares this update: "First, my physical ties to Morningside Heights were cut when my mother, Deborah Lancaster LAW'68, passed away just before the pandemic. She was still living on Claremont Avenue in the apartment where I grew up. It was a sad goodbye, full of memories of her; my father, economics professor Kelvin Lancaster '74; and my own ties to Columbia.

"I am the medical director of non-invasive cardiology at Yale New Haven Health/Bridgeport Hospital.

The Hon. Joe Greenaway '78 is hanging up his robe after 27 years on the bench: "Serving our country as a federal judge has been the thrill of a lifetime."

likely our intelligence agencies will get it wrong? For us he reports, "I've been happily married for 28 years to Kate Doyle, a courageous fighter for human rights, and blessed with two amazing daughters, Emma and Ruby, who are full of artistic and culinary creativity. Gainfully employed for the foreseeable future writing books (and some journalism on the side), and grateful to be alive and well. Every day you're above ground is a good day."

A writer of award-winning books on the U.S.-Soviet Cold War, the CIA, FBI and Aldrich Ames, Tim adds, "I seek to illuminate what is secret, hidden or disguised in American foreign policy, national politics, military programs and intelligence operations."

Probably on similar wavelength to Tim is **Bill Hartung**. "I continue to promote a more progressive U.S. foreign policy, now based at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

"I live 10 blocks from campus with my wife, Audrey. Daughter Emma lives in San Jose and works at Stanford.

"I write mostly about Pentagon spending and strategy, the global arms trade, the costs of the war in

blockchain/NFT/etc. space on things I don't understand; Elias, a junior at Georgetown headed to law school; and Leila, a freshman at UC Berkeley headed wherever her muse takes her.

"We've lived in Park Slope, Brooklyn, for 17 years. As with probably more than a few classmates, I think about retiring but wonder what exactly I'd be doing every day!

"I keep up with **Allen Rothman**, **Ric Michel**, **Michael Glanzer** and **Mark Thompson** '79. We have vigorous email discussions not unlike those late-night sessions in the dorms, though now we grumpy boomers lament the rise of illiberalism and the tyranny of the woke!"

Another lawyer is **David Margules**, a *Spectator* veteran. "I moved to Center City Philadelphia last summer. My wife, Michelle BC'77, BUS'81, and I are blessed in that all of our children and our one grandchild live within walking distance. I can't say that aging has been an unmitigated pleasure, but being a grandparent makes up for a lot of the aches and creaky joints.

"I practice law at Ballard Spahr. It's been a great ride so far. My major regret is that I've been terrible

In July, I became our hospital's Cardiology Fellowship Program director, when Dr. Craig McPherson '72, the current PD, retired. But before that happened, in March, Johns Hopkins University Press published my book, *Building a Unified American Health Care System; A Blueprint for Comprehensive Reform*. The book is a three-year project that lays out the details of a health care system reform plan, centered around the creation of a 'National Medical Board' that is modeled on the Federal Reserve. Among the many features of this proposal are mechanisms to achieve universal coverage, access to basic health care services and a modern user-friendly health system infrastructure" (bit.ly/3GpOWHr).

Joseph Ferullo is the "new CEO and publisher of the *National Catholic Reporter*, a progressive independent (not church affiliated) news organization. Begun in 1964, NCR has broken several stories, including, in the mid-'80s, the priest abuse scandal. This *Los Angeles Times* profile of NCR and me published in January has more info: bit.ly/3UewuW."

Paul Sonnenschein BUS'83 writes, "I read with great interest and deep sadness the entry in the Spring/Summer 2022 *CCT* by **Allan Hoving** and the obituary of **Robert Richman**, who died on May 2, 2021.

Joseph Ferullo '79 is the new CEO and publisher of the National Catholic Reporter, a progressive independent (not church affiliated) news organization.

"I arrived at CC in summer '77 and struggled to get to know many classmates, living off campus as a transfer. During summer '78, when Bob I were both 'fishing' in the Gotham Book Mart on West 47th Street, we recognized one another, and our friendship commenced. Both English majors, we had classes together (Marcus, Said, etc.) but it was our off-campus experiences that were perhaps most meaningful.

"When Bob decided to start *Some Other Magazine*, I jumped at the chance to help out, by doing the typesetting and production work for the first issue. (I had a summer and part-time job at a legal printer, so had access to the equipment, primitive as

it was.) It was, in effect, my first stint on the business side of a 'content' enterprise and set the stage for most of my professional life. I spent more than 15 years in the magazine and book club business when I lived in New York, and for more than 25 years have been in a variety of business roles in digital enterprises, after moving to Oregon in 1997.

"After many moves in and around NYC, across the country and then around the Portland area, I recently came across a copy of *Some Other Magazine*, Number One. It brought back many fond memories of Bob. ... I have the last stanza written by Bob in *SOM* #1, which makes all the difference:

"Ah reticence! you may make for a bad situation. But I will say this:

that with the courage of reveries we can traverse a latitude of storm holing up in the beaten sculpture of a ship, saying, Now we may begin."

Andrew Coulter writes, "I was very pleased to be with our class correspondent, Dr. **Robert C. Klapper**, who is an eminent orthopedic surgeon in Los Angeles, a surfer and a sculptor. I fractured my hip in 2022 while skiing, and the solution

was a full hip replacement. I sought out Dr. Klapper for this procedure knowing that he had helped many athletes, and am glad to say that I believe that I will ski again!

"Thank you, Dr. Klapper. I love my metal hip."

See a photo at college.columbia.edu/cct!

Jose Abete and his partner of 23 years, Fabrizio Ruspoli, have opened a hotel, Olinto Atlas Mountain Retreat, in Morocco. Jose reminds us, "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."

Robert C. Klapper: "Today's Columbia thought comes from the O.R. here at Cedars-Sinai, where I have spent the last 33 years doing orthopedic surgery on more than 16,000 patients. I give full credit to my four years at the College for steering me into the world of art history, for exercising my right brain to be creative and pursue many patents and to design unique surgical instruments that are used all over the world. Marrying the world of art and science has been my passion — one that would not have occurred if I hadn't entered the College with all of you 45 years ago.

"One of the more common operations I do is for arthritis in the knee and involves changing the worn-out cartilage for a new smooth titanium surface. The titanium implant is affixed to the bone with an acrylic cement that begins as a liquid and a powder, becomes doughy and ultimately becomes like concrete, serving as grouting between implant and bone. While it's in its doughy form, the excess cement between the bone and the implant is carefully removed with a tool. The tool I prefer to use is not specifically designed for removing this excess cement. I actually prefer to use what's known as a tonsil clamp. This allows me to scrape the cement as well as pick the excess cement up with this pliers-like tool. Recently a young resident asked why I do not use the traditional scooper curette and prefer to use this clamp. He quickly appreciated the value of being able to scrape as well as pick up material with the same tool, which the curette or scooper do not allow. This is when the Columbia thought came flying into my head.

"We all remember with great fondness V&T's eggplant pizza, Mama Joy's roast beef hero sandwiches, the croissants from The Hungarian Pastry Shop, Amir's Falafel and so many other delights. But what I remember most — and forgive me, I do not remember the name of the place and hope one of you gentlemen will remind me — is a hamburger place on Amsterdam Avenue, a real hole in the wall. In this tiny establishment (by the way, the word 'establishment' was bigger than the entire restaurant), I'd watch the owner/cook take from his plate a

mountain of freshly ground beef (I'm certain this preparation is illegal in 2023) and create the perfect burger. The tool he used to create the greatest burger I've ever eaten from the freshest meat was an ice cream scoop! You know, the one with the handle, and the button you press that delivers the perfect hemisphere of material from the belly of the scoop.

"I remember the first time I witnessed this culinary operation, asking myself the same question the student asked me in the O.R. The tonsil clamp, like the ice cream scoop, was not designed for this fantastic application and yet, in my hands, and in that cook's hands, it is the perfect tool!

"We learned many things during our four years at the College. Who knew I would learn cross training of equipment and it would be so rewarding?"

"Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

Michael C. Brown
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

Welcome to your life
There's no turning back
Even while we sleep
We will find you acting on your
best behaviour
Turn your back on Mother Nature
Everybody wants to rule the world.
— *Tears for Fears (1985)*

As we enjoy summer, for most of us our 65th year on this fine earth, I wish the Class of '80 happy birthday and best of luck filling out the Medicare application!

Congratulations are in order for the women's basketball team, which made us all proud with their play in both the Ivy League Tournament and Women's National Invitation Tournament. Coach Megan Griffith '07 has done a wonderful job building a top-quality program. Baseball had a stellar season under the leadership of Coach Brett Boretta, and the program continues to shine.

It should be noted that both teams had victories against the highest level of competition, like the ACC, Big East and SEC. We can play with any team in the nation!

We traveled to Nashville for the wedding of John Hall '81 and Dixie Pepper at the Brentwood Coun-



Together at the CC'80 Football Golf Outing at the Hackensack Golf Club in Oradell, N.J., on May 1 were, left to right: Scott Ahern, Brian O'Hagan, A.J. Sabatelle, Shawn FitzGerald, Joe Ciulla and Mike Brown.

try Club. The colorful contingent included **Scott Ahern**, **Joe Ciulla**, **Shawn FitzGerald** and Greg Staples '81. The guest list included everyone who is anybody in the high-altitude social circles of both cities. The highlight of the event were Jim Tulia (a.k.a. **Joe Ciulla**)'s anecdotes about John's college days! See a photo from the wedding in our column online, found at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Best wishes to John and Dixie! **Dennis Costakos** was awarded the Karis Award, Greek for "caring," by the Mayo Clinic. Dennis has always put his patients first and was recognized for his exceptional care. He chairs the pediatrics department.

On a sad note, **Geoff Stoner**, captain of the '79 football team, passed away after an extended illness. Geoff was from Ohio and worked in New Jersey and Georgia in the social services field. He was a heck of a good tackle and great friend to us all.

I look forward to seeing you at a football game this fall. Drop me a note. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos must be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top to ensure your photo is eligible for publication.

1981

Dan Albohn, Kevin Costa and Rich Gentile
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The Great and Ongoing Careers of Gary Cohen and the Columbia Business and Economics Society: **Gary Cohen** might be one of the most well-known alumni to graduate with us. Since 1989 he has been a stalwart member of the New York Mets baseball broadcasting team. The trio of Gary, Ron Darling and Keith Hernandez is widely considered one of the best in the business. Gary was profiled in these pages in the July/August 2006 issue (college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/jul_aug06/features2.html), but we thought it would be a good time to catch up with him because he has recently had his own "triple crown" of achievements.

First, Gary was immortalized with his own bobblehead (bit.ly/3GF42ce) at the Mets game on September 17. The doll magnetically connects to the ones for Ron and Keith, which were also featured last season. (If you missed the game, \$50 on eBay will get you one, with the set of three for \$250. We know that someone's birthday is coming.) Later last September, the MTA featured

Gary's voice on a humorous 7 train announcement — the train that goes to Citi Field (bit.ly/408dc7U). But Gary's biggest honor came on June 3, when he was inducted into the Mets Hall of Fame. In a note to your correspondent (Kevin), Gary said: "I am beyond amazed to be inducted ... Bob Murphy, Lindsey Nelson and Ralph Kiner [the Mets' original announcing trio] were the soundtrack of my youth, and I was overwhelmed just to have spent 15 years by Bob's side in the Mets radio booth. But to join them in the team's Hall of Fame was not even on my radar."

Part of what makes the Mets announcers such a pleasure for people our age is that the trio intersperse the play-by-play with clever riffs, puns and jokes relating to the music, literary and pop culture of our times. I tried to get Gary to tell us his favorite and/or most obscure exchange over the years, but alas, he was coy. "Ronnie, Keith and I are all in our 60s, so we share certain cultural touchstones, but diverge on others. My favorite references are ones we don't explain," he said. "IYKYK."

For those not up to the moment on texting acronyms, that last bit translates, "If you know, you know."

Ron played on the Yale baseball team 1979–81, so I asked Gary if he knew him back in the day. "I was done broadcasting Lions games when Ronnie came along," he said. "But Rolando Acosta '79, LAW'82 was Columbia's version of Ron, and all of us who enjoyed Columbia baseball in the '70s will treasure him."

Gary maintains his Columbia connection with Tom Mariam '78, Lloyd Carroll '79 and Jordan Sprechman '83, LAW'86, whom he regularly sees at Citi Field.

Congratulations to Gary, whose inimitable style has brought joy to legions of Mets fans everywhere. When you hear Gary on TV, you don't see the amazing physicality he expresses in his work. Check out this video of Gary, Ron and Keith's best calls of 2022: bit.ly/3KwKVSV.

We last checked in with **Dave Cook** at the beginning of the pandemic. He brought us up to date: "While continuing my work as a food-focused photojournalist — many of my recent assignments have been for an online publication, Culinary Backstreets — last year I also began leading gastronomic tours of Manhattan's Chinatown.

The company that enlisted me, Context Travel, recruited me several years ago and booked my initial tour for the second week of March 2020. You won't be surprised to learn that it was canceled.

"Lately, however, I've been leading small private groups through Lower Manhattan and, by special request, through the newer and faster-changing Chinatown in Flushing, Queens. Manhattan's Chinatown isn't as large, but it has a richer history, and there's certainly no shortage of rice rolls and roast meats for us to sample as we wind our way through the streets."

Daniel Gordis writes: "I've been living in Jerusalem for 25 years and am beginning to retire from Shalem College, which I helped found. Shalem is Israel's first liberal arts college, with a core curriculum closely modeled on the College's. So even though I'm half a world away, my memories of class in Hamilton Hall shape many of my work days. My 13th book, *Impossible Takes Longer: 75 Years After Its Creation, Has Israel Fulfilled Its Founders' Dreams?*, was published in April. The college and the book writing have been a wonderful ride, but with all our kids married and all of them with kids of their own, we're anxious to have more time as grandparents and to travel, including back to campus."

And speaking of the campus, one gloriously sunny day last September, I (Kevin) found myself back there during "Activities Day." There were students from every imaginable extracurricular activity, recruiting from small tables stretching from Butler to the middle ranges of the Steps. This year's total student enrollment at the College is about 4,760, almost twice as large as in our time. It is also primarily residential now, and I got a sense of how large, and how different, the College has become by witnessing the hundreds of students in attendance.

One of the tables was staffed by a cheerful young woman promoting the Columbia Economics Society. I mentioned that the organization's founders, **Jim Moglia** and **Vin Bailey**, are in our class, and both had gone on to successful careers in finance. I let Vin know that their creation was still thriving.

Vin writes: "We started the Business and Economics Society in 1979 because there was no pre-

business dean, as there was for law and medicine. I was heartened to hear that it was still going strong, and along with Jim, we met with the current leaders of the group. While the society has since dropped the word 'business' from its name, business and economics is still a part of what it does, and the group has since broadened its focus to include banking and consulting. Forty years later, it is now the largest and oldest pre-professional group on campus. After a lively conversation, Jim and I suggested they add a fifth focus, on public finance, for those interested in working in, or with, government."

These days Vin lives on the Rhode Island shore, where he plays in the local beach band while his wife, Maud, manages planned giving at the Mystic Seaport Museum. Jim has retired from a 35-year career as an investment banker to pursue full time his apparently closeted passions for music, visual arts, architecture and writing, and has formed The MAD Studio (an acronym of music, art and design) to organize those efforts. Vin and Jim still get together to play at The Barn, a performance space Jim designed and built in the Hudson Valley.

1982

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1983

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My son David '26 and I attended the women's basketball Ivy League Championship game against Cornell as well as most of the Women's National Invitation Tournament

games. I've spent time at the games with **Ed Joyce, Andy Gershon, Andy Barth**, Mike Schmidtberger '82, Jim Weinstein '84, David Filosa '82, Marc Mazur '81 and Joe Cabrera '82. It was a magical season, and the Empire State Building was lit in Columbia blue to celebrate the Ivy championship.

Kevin Cronin "reported from Cleveland, where he returned after a decade of work in Congress and teaching master's students at Catholic University. For the record, he was appalled to see rioters in the Capitol, 'places I wandered in my personal commitment to democracy.' While not playing tennis anymore, he helped to create cycling safety and advocacy organizations, now with more than 1,000 members. Kevin is primarily a lawyer helping families in juvenile court. He was pleased to report on his work to create a museum in University Circle, Cleveland's higher education, culture and medical services/research center. The Cozad-Bates House Interpretive Center repurposed the only pre-Civil War building in the area to tell abolition stories of northern Ohio, those who risked everything in fleeing slavery, northerners who helped and, in some cases, some who hindered. Bordered by Virginia and Kentucky, the Department of the Interior has identified more abolition routes through Ohio than any other state. With Covid-19 shutting down live theater, he also produced two videos telling an important abolition story, that of the 'Oberlin-Wellington Rescue,' in which a community rose up and challenged the southern slave catchers and the northern marshals who were assisting, intent on proving to the south that they need not secede and that the north could be a loyal partner in enforcing slavery. The fugitive escaped to Canada and the marshals were stuck. What to do? They attempted to convict the more than 30 Ohio residents who assisted in the escape, dubbed 'The Trial of the Century.' Take a virtual tour of the Cozad-Bates House (bit.ly/3MY8sPF). For those wanting more, he can offer video showings where we are presenting through a network of participating libraries."

Ed Koral: "I was hoping to shlep the 12 blocks north to campus to attend the 40th reunion. I remain a big fan of Ken Jackson, and would

have loved the chance to say hello and shake his hand.

"I live on the Upper West Side ('SoCo') with my wife, Leah, and our children, Isabel and George. Given our location, both kids refused to even apply to Columbia, even with the assurances that they'd be living in the dorms ('But I might see you on the street.') So it goes. The generational streak ends at three. I've recently joined the Strategic Risk Consulting group at Willis Towers Watson in NYC, enjoying getting back into the office after all the isolation and helping clients solve increasingly vexing problems coping with emerging natural and human-caused catastrophes. And, I've resumed my classical piano training, working on Chopin, Brahms and other pre-retirement projects.

"One last thing: We had dinner with **Henry Cutter**."

Dan Dean: "It's hard to believe that it is our 40th reunion. I intended to be there, barring anything unforeseen.

"I live outside of Philadelphia with my wife of 30 years, Ellen. My children, Andrew (25) and Jennifer (23), are gainfully employed. I am an operating partner in a real estate fund focused on the parking business and am a capital markets advisor (debt and equity) on corporate and commercial real estate matters. I serve on a few boards and am looking to increase my board involvements at this point (private or public). I've established The Dean Family Fellowship Grant to provide small business grants to agricultural students from all over the world who come to the Arava Region of Israel to learn agronomy at the Arava International Center for Agricultural Training. It is very rewarding qualitatively, and it is my hope to have it scale once we get further up our own learning and experience curves.

"I am in touch with **Danny Schultz, Rich Pressman, Mark Warner, Joe Sullivan, Tony Solomons** and **Jeremy Fingerman**, as well as Jamie Miller Seligsohn BC'83 and Alison Davis BC'83.

"They are all, to varying degrees, doing very well, and are, to varying degrees (lol) contributing members of society. My fondest memories of Columbia revolve around The West End, lightweight crew and the general but benign mischief for which

I had a bit of a reputation. I have good memories of Professors Len Davis, Karl-Ludwig Selig, Joseph Bauke GSAS'63, Charles V. Hamilton SW'82, Jay Schechter GSAS'78 and Frank Kermod. I am sure there were others, but these are the folks who left an impression on me."

Dan Ferreira: "I am involved in another startup venture. The Blue Stage is an art gallery with a performance space located in Andrews, N.C. [At this writing, we were] bearing down to open in April, and I hope to take a break once that is done."

Kevin Berkowitz (then Berk): "I live in Thessaloniki, Greece, with my family; I have been in the region for 20 years. I am a teacher of English, history and robotics for primary and secondary grades. I also lead tours of Thessaloniki and northern Greece. If you would like more information on visiting Greece and the southern Balkans, please contact me at +30 6930 777 237 or kberkowitz3@gmail.com."

Steve Holtje: "One of the bands I'm in, Caterpillar Quartet, put out an album during the pandemic (caterpillarquartet.bandcamp.com/album/threads). My work running the ESP-Disk label was covered twice this spring, first with an article about some of the albums it has released during my tenure (bit.ly/3zVbQTT), for which I was interviewed, and then with a three-hour radio show on which I was a guest, talking about and playing both ESP releases and my own music (bit.ly/3KzF8Mj)."

Roger Blumberg: "My wife, Cristina Mitchell '89, and I have been living in Providence for the last 10,700 days, or so [as of March]. After teaching at Columbia in the '80s, I went to Brown when Cris got into medical school there, and have been in the computer science department since '98. Our terrific daughter, Ellie, finished her junior year at Brown, and I've taken to staying out of her way by nearly retiring. Lately I'm feeling especially grateful to have been a student when the model for undergraduate education was the university, rather than the luxury hotel, and I'm in awe of my Columbia teachers who taught successfully for more than a single generation. I was spared having to teach via Zoom and instead worked on a book about technology and responsibility, and a novel about fugitive Leo Burt. This year I've been splitting my time between



Dennis Klainberg '84 (left) and James Weinstein '84 celebrated Klainberg's 60th birthday — the last in his class to become a sexagenarian! — on January 28 at the Hard Rock Cafe in Miami.

Providence and New York; I would be happy to have a drink or a meal with classmates in either place.”

Don Steinberg: “After more than a year of spare time, I am amazed that my first comic book, *Cereal*, is available at boinkcomix.com. I collaborated with the great cartoonist Richard A. Harrington (Syracuse U). *Cereal* might be the first comic book thriller/business satire/drama series set in the breakfast cereal industry! Our hero, indie cereal inventor Tracey Colorado, is nearing an explosive innovation that could upend the industry. But she questions her own sanity when she starts receiving desperate pleas for help from the cereal box cartoon characters, who in their Cereal Mascot Universe are being stalked in a series of violent attacks. We've had positive early response. Issue number 2 is in production. This probably is an unconventional use of a Columbia degree.” [Editor's note: See college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/online-spotlights.]

Love to all! Everywhere!

1984

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Spotlight this month on two remarkable classmates and — as the Great Professor would say — “treasured friends.”

First up, a fellow participant each day for three years in the Barnard Meal Plan; the man who introduced

me to a band called Blotto (“I, I, I, wanna be a lifeguard”); the dude who invited me, **Peter Markson** and a few others (you know who you are!) to see this one-hit wonder band in concert, only to meet Tiny Tim walking out of the venue as we walked in; the hockey fan who insisted we attend the premiere Rangers game of the 1980s, when their famous enforcer Nicky Fotiu returned (and did not disappoint!); the champion who invited us to great parties at his fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta (aka FJII); “hey now,” it's **Bruce Skyer**.

“I recently left the world of full-time employment and have resumed my consulting business in the nonprofit sector. At the present time, I am focused on being interim executive director or other consulting engagements that assist nonprofits in navigating change. My focus is on ensuring an organization has the right strategies, structures and systems to optimize its impact and ability to fulfill its mission.

“With an empty nest, my wife, Lori, and I have downsized, town hopping from Trumbull to Stamford to, as of now, Fairfield, but all in the Nutmeg State. My older son, Ray, is a first-grade teacher at a charter school in Boston and my younger son, Ben, works for a tech startup in NYC. Ben lives on the Lower East Side, not far from McSorley's and a short walk to Wo Hop, so I can relive my college days when I visit him.”

Batting second, a great tuba player; CU Marching Band mate;

and helluva stylish dancer at the Pub; need we say more? It's **Bill Maxwell!** (Or more formally, **William J. Maxwell**, professor of English and African and African-American studies, Washington University in St. Louis).

“I'm writing this note, inspired by **David Cowan's** news in the Winter/Spring 2023 issue, among other items.

“In fall 2022, our son shipped off for his freshman year at William & Mary in Virginia, and I returned to Manhattan on sabbatical as a visiting scholar in the NYU English department. I found a walkup on the Upper West Side (the West Village, but for old people) and did research for a new book in the James Baldwin papers at the Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem. Since 2009, I've taught modern American and African-American literature as a professor in the English department at Washington University in St. Louis, where my friend Claudia Swan BC'85, GSAS'97 — a fellow habitué of the Sylvia Plath Room in the Barnard cafeteria — has recently taken up a chair in art history. While in the city, still my favorite place of any kind, I enjoyed visiting with classmates including Kyran Cassidy '85; Joseph Chu '85, BUS'97; **Mark Garbowski** LAW'87; Saul Fisher '86 and **Michael Sexton**.”

Many thanks to Bruce and Bill for giving me an opportunity to share my affection for the great friendships and experiences during those four remarkable years. Hoping to hear from more of you, especially those who've never contributed.

Roar, Lion, Roar. And let's start gearing up for our 40th next year!

1985

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Thanks for the updates. Several of you noted the “changing seasons” and life choices that folks are making at this point in their lives.

After 30 years with The Royal Bank of Scotland, most recently as CEO of the U.S. region, **Paul Stevelman** is taking a break and spending time working on establishing an organic fruit orchard at his and his wife's home in South Salem, N.Y., and working with Make-A-Wish

Connecticut, as board vice-chair. He writes, “My wife is a fashion designer in New York City, and my oldest daughter will attend and play volleyball for Ursinus College in Pennsylvania. I have great memories of college and my terrific classmates; I would love to hear from people.”

Good to hear from **Sal Giambanco**, who had not written in a while. “I am in overall good health and in better shape than when I graduated. I have the blessings of having been able to ‘retire’ from paid employment more than five years ago and recommend retirement as soon as you can — the world slows down and life is enjoyed with full personal agency. I do maintain an active gratis set of portfolio organizations, as a founding board member and a Board of Directors chair of the Global Innovation Fund (two of my fellow founding board members won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2019). I rolled off after seven years in 2021; we lifted 100 million out of poverty.

“I am a longtime board member of iMerit, out of Kolkata, where we train women in AI software development. We're up to more than 6,000 employees and empower women who often would otherwise be sold as child brides to be the major breadwinners of their families (and they are then not sold). I continue my gratis advising at Fordham GSAS, at CARE and for a range of other executives through my gratis executive coaching process.

“I remain great friends with my College roommate of three years, **Ben Carroccio**. He, his wife, Brenda, and I and my husband, Tom, have traveled across Sicily, Spain and Portugal in recent years. We plan to celebrate our all turning 60 together in my adopted home of New Orleans (we split our time between Nola and San Francisco). And my best friend, Mr. Seneca, our black and white German Short-haired Pointer, celebrated his 16th birthday in January!”

Tom Wheeler and his wife practice medicine and negotiate four parents in their mid- to late 80s. “Evan, my son, returned from Okinawa, married an Argentine woman and is headed back to Camp Pendleton to train Marine recruits.”

Jon Reich has written a book that will be released this summer. Stay tuned for details.

It was also great to get notes from my Stuy classmate **Rob Ripin**, who continues to practice law at Hogan Lovells (and whose memory about a bus ride we shared from a certain day in high school was far greater than mine) and from my GleeCo cohort **Leslie Smartt**.

I suffered a second detached retina in January, which one of you so accurately stated is an unwelcome reminder of the aging process. I had a detachment nine years ago in my lesser-seeing eye. This time it unfortunately occurred in my better-seeing eye, let alone when I was out of town on a business trip (navigating multiple airports when you can't see signs is a real challenge). Aside from surgery, the recuperation includes an initial period of looking down at the floor for several weeks for the vast majority of the day and the insertion of a nitrous oxide bubble in my eye to help with healing (this precludes one from flying, as the air pressure would burst the bubble and take one's vision out with it). Fortunately, after several months, my vision, albeit not as good as it was prior to the detachment, has returned to sufficient functionality so I can read, drive and write this column. Make sure you take care of your eyes.

Happy milestone birthday this year, and I hope that the inevitable signs of aging are manageable for all. Please let us know how you are marking this milestone, how your life is changing as you look to the future and any "grand reflections" you might have as you celebrate this auspicious event.

Best to all, and enjoy the summer!

1986

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Sam Abrams sent us a nice note from Finland. "Anyone from CC'86 passing through Finland, recently ranked the top country for the sixth consecutive year by the UN's World Happiness Report, should be in touch. I'm here with my family until September as a Fulbright visiting professor at the University of Turku, teaching courses in comparative education policy and researching the evolution of vocational education in Finland and neighboring countries. Turku is not typically on

a tourist's itinerary but should be. It's the Paris of Finland, steeped in history, anchored by a cathedral at one end and a castle at the other, both built in the 1200s, and bisected by the Aura River, the city's Seine, flanked by cobblestone promenades, towering lime and linden trees, and countless cafés."

If you email me, I will send you Sam's email. We have classmates living all over the world, and they often say, "If you visit my city, please look me up." We rarely get in touch because we don't know that classmate, we don't remember they live there and/or we don't have their contact info. The solution is a list of our classmates by city, which I am happy to send to you. So for example, if you happen to be visiting Finland, why not connect with Sam, a super guy who would be happy to meet up with you? It's great to meet up with someone your age who is smart and shares the CC'86 connection. Just email me if you'd like a copy of this list. And then when you travel somewhere, check this list beforehand to see if there's a classmate living there, and reach out to them. Another use for the list is to contact classmates in your own city and meet for lunch or drinks. You're never too old to make new friends or reignite old friendships. Don't be shy!

Marin Gazzaniga, one of the few women in our class, sent us a first-time update. "My play *The Unbelieving* premiered Off-Broadway at 59E59th Theaters this past fall, and I was touched to have many CC and Barnard alums in the audience. The play was based on interviews with non-believing clergy and was a fascinating project that took eight years to bring to life, but it was worth it. The original interviews were conducted for a study by Daniel C. Dennett and Linda LaScola, and I did additional interviews for the play. When not working on niche, documentary plays I write for *The Young and the Restless* on CBS. It turns out the Core Curriculum is the perfect training for soap opera writing — knowing something about enough topics to churn out a script a week. I still see many friends from BC'86 and CC'84-'87."

Jamie Berger also emailed us a first-time update. "Recently celebrated my 15th anniversary with my wife, Anja Schütz. We live in

Turners Falls, in western Massachusetts (where I landed in 2005 after 14 years in San Francisco) in an old brick house that's getting grouchy, with two old dogs, Mario and Kono, and one young cat, Mink. I host a podcast, 15 Minutes: A Podcast about Fame. that's lying fallow as I work on a writing project TBA. I work with students locally, regionally, and as far and wide as Hong Kong and France as an independent educational consultant, helping high schoolers and their families with all aspects of the college application process, but without any of the sordid behavior that people with that job title recently went to jail for in Southern California. There's no way I can possibly be 58."

You might be wondering whatever happened to Angelo and Angela, the famously named Columbia/Barnard couple. They lived happily ever after, as we learned from **Angelo Cuonzo** LAW'89's recent email. "Last year, Angela Mazzaferro BC'87 and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. We live in New Jersey and I practice law there as a partner at Slowinski Atkins. Angela is a property casualty actuary at Verisk/ISO, where she has worked since graduating. We are essentially empty-nesters. In September, our older son, Anthony, married his longtime girlfriend, Sydney Wess, and they live in Alexandria, Va. Our younger son, Andrew, is in his second year at Carnegie Mellon, studying electrical and computer engineering. He is interning this summer in the Philadelphia area."

Congrats to **Morris Hartstein**, an oculoplastic surgeon practicing in Israel. Last year he received the Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology at its annual meeting. The award was on behalf of the work he does through his nonprofit, Operation Ethiopia, along with his wife, Elisa BUS'94.

After a family trip in 2014, Mo and his family returned to Ethiopia many times to provide quality eye care and prevent blindness to people who otherwise have no means or access. To date, Mo has examined and treated more than 8,500 Ethiopian patients and overseen more than 1,400 sight-restoring surgeries, all free of charge. He has also brought 19 Ethiopian ophthal-

mologists to Israel for training. They continue to facilitate humanitarian aid to the Jews in Ethiopia, which was their founding cause.

Congrats to **Adam Cohen**, an associate professor of art history at the University of Toronto, on the publication, after many years of hard work, of *Art and Architecture of the Middle Ages: Exploring a Connected World*. This intro survey was co-written with Jill Caskey and Linda Safaran. There is a free, complementary website that everyone is welcome to check out: artofthemiddleages.com. Adam hopes this brings back good memories of Art Hum :-)

Congrats to **Scot Glasberg**, whose son Alex '23 will start a job in July with Goldman Sachs in West Palm Beach, in its Hedge Fund Strategies Division. Scot was recently installed as president-elect of The Plastic Surgery Foundation of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. He previously was president of ASPSP.

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1987

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One of the real joys of doing this column is hearing from old friends. I was so happy to hear from my Carman 5 neighbor and dear friend **Tom Lester**, who sent in this update: "My son, Philip, graduated from high school in May and it is a joyful reminder of the fifth floor of Carman Hall our freshman year. Philip will probably stay close to home here in Oklahoma, as he is quite the homebody. My daughter, Char, finished her sophomore of high school and will probably venture as far away as possible in two years' time.

"I have been a history, math and science teacher for the last 25 years in Los Angeles, Maine and now Oklahoma, having spent the last



Left to right, Nikos Andreadis '88 and his wife, Yvonne Knapp '90, joined Melissa Raciti-Knapp '90 and her husband, Jon Knapp '91, at a Lions men's basketball game at Levien Gym on February 18.

16 years teaching math at a small private school."

Peter Ross announces the birth of his fifth child, and fourth daughter, Wilhelmina "Willa" Penelope Ross, with his new wife, Arabella Cuneo, who is from Australia.

And last but certainly not least, I'm celebrating news close to home: my father, Rabbi Alvin Kass '57, has been honored by NYU (where he received his Ph.D.) with the 2023 Eugene J. Keogh Award for Distinguished Public Service. Needless to say, my whole family, including my brothers, Danny Kass '95 and Lewis Kass, are thrilled for him.

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1988

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Ed Cespedes shared some warm memories of late classmate **Michael Kennelty**. "To members of the Class of '88, he was known as the 'Grim Reaper' or just 'Grim,'" Ed wrote. "To me, the nickname was always a misnomer. There was nothing scary about Grim at all. Grim loved people and people loved Grim. He

was that big, strong, funny guy to whom people gravitated. He was fun to be around. To a bunch of us, he was as much a part of the Columbia experience as a spring day on the Steps. Stories related to Grim always come up when we reminisce about our time at Columbia. We will really miss him."

Adrienne "Rennie" Brodeur, who splits her time between Cambridge and Cape Cod and is executive director of the literary nonprofit Aspen Words, has written a novel for release on July 11. *Little Monsters* is "an absorbing, sharply observed family story by a writer who knows Cape Cod inside and out — its Edenic lushness and its snakes," according to the publisher's website.

Leslie Gittess Brodsky wrote in the run-up to our recent 35-year reunion that she was looking forward to seeing classmates there. "I hear there are many great events lined up, so I hope this is our best and most attended reunion yet!" she said.

To those who participated in reunion, held June 1–3, please share your updates with us about whom you caught up with and how it went. Stay in touch! We're looking forward to hearing about it.

1989

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I'm happy to announce our latest guest columnist, **Renny Smith**, who will represent the Carman Mez-

zanine level for this issue. For those of you who don't remember the Mezzanine level, it was a compact half-floor one floor up from the main lobby. My Carman 11 roommate, **Elisabeth Socolow**, and I would sometimes visit the Mezzanine; we'd push the elevator button and jokingly ask, "Going down?" when the door opened. It was very funny when the elevator was full of hurried classmates because our question about going down half a floor caused indignant outrage from those riding up, which sent us into hysterics.

Many thanks to Renny for volunteering to help with our column:

"The Mezz," one of the most memorable and enigmatic parts of our Columbia experience, sat at the top of the staircase just inside the entry vestibule, or, as every person who lived in Carman eventually found out, at the stop the elevator made when you pressed "M." And press it you did, because not a day went by without a curious group peering out of the elevator car. And we always came out of our rooms to greet you — we were at risk of harm if we took the elevator up half a floor, so we knew that if we heard a "ding" it probably meant intruders were arriving. Some of you were bold, some hesitant, and you always came in groups, never alone. Often the visitors impulsively pressed "M" just to see what was there; other times it seemed to be a car full of first-timers led by someone who had previously visited and wanted to share their discovery with their friends from other floors in Carman, or even John Jay.

Bob Ozello is the central character in this Mezzanine edition. In conversations with other residents for this piece, the first thing anyone remembered about the space had something to do with Bob — his energy, charisma and playfulness. And, his lack of boundaries. His confidence led to a career as an equities trader in New York, Atlanta and back in New York, following a meandering path through the financial system. Bob's fearlessness let him trade successfully through what he describes as "the turbulence of many historic markets." For the last few years he has been trading independently.

Bob lives in Massapequa, N.Y., in the house where he grew up, with his extended family a close part of his life. Bob remembers other students wandering up the half-flight

of stairs from the Carman lobby and looking into the Mezzanine common area through the skinny window in the door "like a fishbowl."

Kirk Ruddy BUS'98, Bob's roommate, is a fixed income trader and moved from New York to Michigan and back, then to California, Texas and Hong Kong, finally living for the last decade in Connecticut.

Along the way, he earned an M.B.A. from Columbia while being a coach for the golf team; survived a brain aneurysm, and the recovery from surgery to repair it; and was a single dad to three boys now aged 18–21.

Kirk's optimism was remarkable to all of us in 1985 and I'm happy to report that it's as strong today as it was then. Kirk doesn't remember who owned the throwing knives, but that the Mezzanine's short hallway made a perfect place to throw them.

Reporting on the Mezzanine gives us the honor of bringing our Engineering siblings into the picture.

David Adelberg SEAS'89 split his first years after college between working in New York and earning a master's from Stanford. Job opportunities on the West Coast subsequently got in the way of his returning "home" to Long Island, and he has enjoyed a long career in construction management, primarily overseeing large public works projects. David has four children and lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, Michelle. He remembers his amazement that while other floors had resident advisors, seniors or grad students living among them, there wasn't anyone supervising us on the Mezzanine.

David's roommate, **Kyle Loudermilk SEAS'89**, SEAS'90, stayed at Columbia to get a master's in chemical engineering. He worked for a large oil company in the United States and in Germany, spent a dozen years as a sales engineer for a chemical engineering software company, worked for the next 10 years in varied technology jobs and now sits in the CEO chair at a small publicly held engineering and software company. Kyle has one son entering law school and one in college, and lives in the Washington, D.C., area with his adorable 10-year-old daughter. Kyle remembers that we managed to watch an enormous amount of television, despite that fact that someone had stolen the common-room TV during Orientation.

Stephanos Bibas lived in the suite across from David and Kyle. Stephanos continued his education at Oxford and Yale Law, followed by two judicial clerkships and a stint as a prosecutor in New York. In 2001 he entered academia and in 2006 took a professorship at Penn Law, where his scholarship focused on criminal justice policy and wrongful convictions. In 2017 he was nominated and confirmed as a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, a position he retains while also teaching part time. Stephanos lives in the Philadelphia area with his wife and four children, aged 10–15. He remembers, fondly, how loud it was on the Mezzanine, how much fun it was and how it lacked any personal space. (Sadly, I was unable to locate Stephanos' roommate.)

Jonathan Sturt GSAPP'95 earned an M.Arch. from Columbia, worked in New York long enough to get his professional licensure, then lit out to see the world. If one were tracking Jon's path across a globe with sections of yarn, then one probably didn't bring enough yarn. He met his wife, Cassie, while backpacking in Africa. They traveled the world together while working internationally for several years, living in Calgary, Houston, New York, Baku and London before settling in Chamonix a decade ago. Jon reports spending more time parenting than working, which forces him to be outside skiing, biking and mountaineering with his kids, aged 9–13. Jon doesn't remember who owned the clubs, but that the Mezzanine's short hallway made a perfect place to hit golf balls.

I (**Renny Smith**) shared a room with Jon. I spent a few months working at Columbia and starting graduate school before abruptly moving back to Kentucky to begin a career operating my family's business — making tombstones plus pretty much any other thing that can be made from rock. It was supposed to be temporary, but it turned out to be challenging and fun, and while there have been plenty of headaches, at least I never had to dress up for work. I'm still here and trying to shepherd myself and my three sons, aged 18–24, further into adulthood. I remember (along with everyone else) very clearly how immature we were when we showed up in late summer 1985, but managed to find our way forward.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
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Spanning the country from way west to east, let's say aloha to **Bennett Cale**. "After 16 years of living on Maui, my wife, Gabby, and I are returning to the Bay Area for our son, Izzy (14), to start high school in the fall at The College Preparatory School. Izzy and his sister, Sabine (12), are somewhat open to the idea of the move, but we are all a little nervous about returning to 'the mainland.' Wish us luck. And for any of you who have wanted to visit but never did, the clock is ticking!"

Jeffrey Berk sent me this note in March: "I left line producing in the movie and television industry three years ago to teach in Los Angeles' public (unified) school district (LAUSD). I taught a third-grade class last year and a fifth-grade class this year. I have never been happier in a job. I committed two years to this endeavor and will head back to the entertainment industry or some other industry at the end of this year. I strongly encourage classmates to take at least a one-year career break to step into public education."

In the spring, **Max Bachrach**, a resident of The Woodlands, Texas, joined the patent law boutique firm Viksnins Harris Pady's Malen as a partner after almost 18 years at Lexicon Pharmaceuticals, where he was VP of intellectual property. Max's practice focuses on the biotechnol-

ogy and pharmaceutical fields, and on small molecules in particular. He says, "It all began in Havemeyer Hall, so long ago ..."

Nancy Pak BUS'95, CEO of Boston-based Walden Local Meat, conducted a spectacular interview with Kathleen King, founder of Tate's Bake Shop, at the Columbia College Women Signature Event 2023, held at Faculty House in March. CC'90 had solid representation, in the form of CCW president **Margaret Robison** as well as **Arlene Hong**, **Judy Shampanier** and **Sherry Pancer Wolf**, who since January is our Columbia College Alumni Association president! Fun fact: Her husband, Doug Wolf '88, also was a CCAA president.

Sadly, I end this column with the news of **Chris Choi's** death in November from pancreatic cancer.

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
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Hi everyone! Please keep submitting your news and information to me throughout the year! I really appreciate all the updates! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

On April 5, Dr. **Jennifer Ashton** VPS'00, HN'16 was honored with the American Heart Association's 2023 Woman Changing the World Award. Jennifer is the chief medical correspondent for ABC News. See "Just Married!" for a photo from her November wedding.

Yours truly, **Heather Brownlie**, is now a grandmother of four, having welcomed granddaughter Teddie Lane Fisher on January 15.

Dr. **Grazie Pozo Christie** writes: "I live in Miami with my husband and our fifth child, who is still in high school. The rest have flown the coop, the two oldest married. We are hoping to become grandparents very soon. I practice radiology in the Miami area. I am also senior policy advisor for The Catholic Association, which is dedicated to the defense of religious liberty and other Catholic values. I am a regular columnist for *Angelus News* and write for other national publications with regularity. Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) appointed me to the Florida Board of Education last year and I'm enjoying helping him and

the Florida Legislature implement sensible and needed reforms to Florida education."

Christopher Front GSAS'93 writes: "After 21 years at John Burroughs School in St. Louis, I will move in July to Indianapolis to become the next head of Park Tudor School, a PK–12 independent day school. If there any alums in the Indy metro area, I'd love to connect with them."

Joel Rubenstein writes: "I still live in Malmö, Sweden, but changed jobs in April. After five years running Niconovum AB, British American Tobacco's nicotine replacement therapy business, I moved to Fertin Pharma, which is Philip Morris' NRT business, as VP, global strategy and business development, based in Copenhagen. If anyone finds themselves in Copenhagen (great city) or southern Sweden, I'd love to meet up."

Noah Elkin shared some devastating news: "**Rachel Porter** died on February 27, 2023, from a rare and incurable cancer, leaving her two wonderful boys, Sasha and Ulisse; family (Manlio Narici, Joan Porter and Josh Porter); and a large community of CC and other friends.

"After Columbia, Rachel was actively engaged in a variety of public policy, community and cooperative efforts. These included the Vera Institute of Justice; the Park Slope Food Coop, where she was working on a book to help spread and scale the model for communities around the world; and New York City Public Schools. She was a special education teacher at Edward R. Murrow H.S. in Brooklyn — a job she especially loved.

"A beloved mother and friend, during the last 30-plus years, Rachel was an anchor for a wide-ranging collection of CC friends. She loved cooking and hosting large and frequent gatherings, including a beautiful early spring brunch in Brooklyn just three weeks before she died. As always with a Rachel event, her baked goods were astounding, and rich philosophy, politics, arts, science and citizenship conversations abounded throughout.

"Rachel faced death with stunning clarity and honesty, sharing deeply personal letters with her community as her health worsened. In one of her last, she said, 'Be as happy, as good and as smart as you



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can be. It makes me smile to think of so many good lives stretching out into the world.”

Please take a moment to send me your latest news and happenings, and I’ll share them in a future issue. It has been so wonderful to hear from everyone! You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to check the photo parameters at the top of the form.

1992

Olivier Knox
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Greetings, CC’92!

Louise Dubin wrote from South Orange that she was first cello for the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* in December. “And this spring I started work as the solo cellist in the Broadway play *Room*, which opened in April.

“My daughter continues to light up my life and is enjoying outdoor school,

I’ll be seeing this. My mother, now deceased, was born in 1940 in the south of France. I first heard about Fry from my grandparents. Also, I’m a Gillian Jacobs fan. Fry’s archive can be found at Butler Library.

Anna continues, “My daughter Isabella ’26 loved her first year. She lived in Carman, along with the kids of many of my College friends, including Isaiah Levy ’26,” son of **Noah Levy**.

Belated congrats to Isabella and Isaiah!

In more news-that-isn’t-news, **Eric Garcetti** won Senate confirmation as U.S. ambassador to India.

Peter Hatch wrote from the John Jay Awards Dinner, held on March 1, to declare CC’92 “appropriately overrepresented” with two of the five awardees.

Honored were **Anna Brockway**, founder and president of Chairish, the world’s leading online marketplace for exceptional vintage home furnishings and art, and **Dr. Ashish Jha**, President Biden’s White House COVID-19 response coordinator.

“Anna’s cheer section included **Sarah Silverman Aibel**; **Rachel Nover Benevento**; my Reunion Committee co-chair, **Wah Chen**;

bound kid tells you they don’t feel old, odds are they’re lying.

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

1993

Neil Turitz
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God bless you band of miscreants. I got a ton of submissions for this issue even *before* I made any email and Facebook entreaties to send in your updates. So buckle up for a fun ride, a prelude to next issue’s post-30TH REUNION COLUMN! It’s gonna be wild! But then, so is this one! Read on! See for yourself!

I heard from **Jack Chen**, who filled me in on a fascinating tech startup he co-founded a few years ago, Loud-Hailer, which has taken on a decidedly Columbia-esque bent. “Former suitemate **Jay Lessler SEAS’93** and his wife, **Joelle Saad-Lessler GSAS’03**, are investors, and Jay sits on the Board of Directors,” Jack said. “**Marielena Villar**, Shannon Halkyard ’94 and Jonathan Sroka BUS’08 are all advisors.”

Jack helped invent the company’s proprietary technology on two-way Bluetooth and co-authored the company’s patents. During the pandemic, companies used its position intelligence technology to keep their workforce safe. Next up is the eldercare space.

Jack met **Harlan Malter** for the first time while they waited to board a flight to Albany from Chicago’s O’Hare. “Harlan had a horse racing at Saratoga from his Ironhorse Racing Stable venture,” Jack says.

Old pal **Yon Okorodudu** reached out again to say that his son Tse is finishing his freshman year at Howard and interning for the NAACP. Daughter Amira lives in Brooklyn, is going to college there and is a clothes designer, creating them by hand and selling them all over New York City. Yon and his wife, Jana Bailey GS’94, TC’97, are teachers in Redlands, Calif., where

he’s the varsity boys basketball coach at Citrus Valley H.S.; teaches American government, Black history and ethnic studies; and is an advisor for the Black Student Union. Jana is the director of the award-winning AVID program at Redlands East Valley H.S. “Her program has achieved ‘National Demonstration School’ status,” Yon said proudly. “Only a few hundred schools in the nation get that honor.”

Two other old friends reached out to give updates and invite people to visit. **Yumi Koh** spoke at the Women on Wall Street conference in October, works at J.P. Morgan Private Bank and lives in Atlanta, where she’s neighbors with **Thad Sheely** and **Isaiah Delemar** and says, “Come visit us!” **Molly Sellner Harris**, meanwhile, is now an empty-nester, and so she and her husband spent most of the winter skiing in Jackson Hole, Wyo. “Hope to do it again next year,” she said, “so reach out if you are coming to the mountain to ski!”

See you there, Molly!

My old Carman 11 floormate **Yael Swica PH’06** has “three kids, one husband and zero pets; lives in a rambling pre-war apt on the UWS; and is a happy doctor in private practice downtown, specializing in women’s health. Columbia feels like forever ago but always makes me happy when I think of it.”

I told her about the reunion happening a few blocks away from her apartment. Cliffhanger alert! Check out the next issue to see if she decided to come!

Daniel Ehrenhaft is a book editor in New York and acquired the YA illustrated novel *This Terrible True Thing*, from author Jenny Laden BC’92, in a deal brokered by book agent (and my pal and co-op leader from oh so many years ago) Kevin O’Connor ’92. The book hits stores in September.

I also heard from a bunch of first-timers. **Laura Albritton** says that five years ago, she moved from Miami to Thomasville, Ga., with her husband and daughter. “Small-town life has been an adjustment,” she said, “but we now have a busy social life and know most of our neighbors!” Her daughter attends Georgia Tech, and on top of working remotely for the University of Miami’s Writing Studies Program, Laura recently was the writer on

Screenwriter and producer Anna Levine Winger ’92 has a new Netflix drama series, Transatlantic, about the Emergency Rescue Committee in Marseille in 1940.

ballet, watercolor painting, and making up stories with me,” said Louise, who is married to Hugh Cushing ’87. “We met after college. Not news anymore, but a good thing!”

A good thing indeed! And it illustrates what I keep trying to get across to classmates: It may not be news to you, but fellow Columbians love getting updates like this.

I also heard from **Anna Levine Winger**, who is a screenwriter and producer and sends her very best from Berlin.

“My last series was *Unorthodox* and my new series, *Transatlantic*, premiered April 7 on Netflix. It’s a drama inspired by the story of Varian Fry and the Emergency Rescue Committee in Marseille in 1940, starring Gillian Jacobs and Corey Stoll,” she wrote.

Alyssa Coller Shapiro; and Denise Apicella BC’92,” Peter reported.

“Ashish also had his stans lining up, grateful for his public-health leadership. I finally got the chance to thank him in person on behalf of my colleagues and I, who led the Covid-19 response for NYC and appreciated his wise data analysis and clear public communications during the worst of the pandemic,” he added.

“Rounding out the night,” Peter continued, “it was great to catch up with **Maria Ramirez Jurgens**, a Reunion Committee member; and **John Marciano**, one of **Hilary Rubenstein Hatch** and my daughters’ favorite authors.”

That’s all for now. By the time you read this, my teen will have toured Columbia as a likely applicant. And if the parent of a college-

a feature-length documentary, *The Florida Keys: 200 Years of Paradise*, produced by South Florida Public Television. The film aired in January and will be broadcast on 249 public television stations. Next up for Laura and her husband is a conservation documentary about longleaf pine habitat. She added, “I haven’t seen friends from CC in a long while, but I enjoy following their adventures on social media.”

Jon Sorid has been at Johnson & Johnson for 21 years and enjoys his role in the pharmaceutical supply chain. “I recently met up with my roommate and friend, **Matt Strem**,” Jon said, “and he looks exactly the same as he did years ago.”

As a good pal and fantasy baseball competitor with Matt, I can second this. It’s uncanny. Sorry! Digression! We were talking about Jon, who still plays his saxophone on occasional gigs in Philly, and whose daughter just finished her first year at Columbia, living in Carman.

“The dorm looks great but has the same two slow elevators!” Jon noted.

The more things change ... et cetera.

Vicky Virnich was very excited to share that, after being a high school English teacher, then an assistant principal at Denver South High School Newcomer Center, she recently became the principal of Compassion Road Academy, a small alternative Denver public high school with a unique programming model: every student at CRA has access to 1:1 mental health support built into their school day. “As you can imagine,” Vicky explained, “the need for this in post-pandemic education is significant and is growing. When students have to leave school to go to therapy appointments, they can get further behind in school, which can lead to additional stress.” Vicky has also been a guest speaker and panelist at numerous conferences, and asks you to get in touch if you’re interested in learning more or collaborating with her on mental health access and social-emotional learning in public schools (vickyvirnich@msn.com).

And then there’s **Jin Song Montesano**, who wrote from Tokyo, where she lives with her husband and their two dogs. Jin took a circuitous path to Japan. She earned a master’s in public affairs from Princeton, had a short stint in congressional affairs in D.C., then joined the corporate workforce and spent

12 years in Singapore. She moved to Brussels in 2012, work brought her to Tokyo in 2014 and she has been there since. She is pretty vocal about loving it there, calling it “extraordinarily interesting and fun.”

Jin also mentioned something else that I thought was great to share: “Reflecting on 30 years since graduating from CC, I would say that today’s focus on STEM and the push for students to go into tech education seems to overshadow the power of a liberal arts education. For me, there’s no question that the Core and my major in English served me very well in life.”

Well said, Jin.

And with that, we come to the end of another CCT Class Notes column. Fear not, though, dear readers. Next issue will feature more updates than you could ever hope to read. Your humble correspondent will be reporting from OUR 30TH REUNION! That’s right. Thirty years. We’re old. Get over it. Until then!

1994

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“*London calling!*” as three classmates from the capital of England have written.

Kathryn Zally shares that “after 17 years living in London, my husband, 6-year-old daughter and 9-year-old cockapoo are moving back to the United States — South Carolina — which is not ‘back,’ since I grew up in New Jersey, but will let us be closer to family. I’m looking forward to outdoorsy fun, and maybe new professional challenges still to be discovered. Wishing you all the best.”

Architect **Tala Mikdashi** GSAPP’98 updates us: “I have been in London for 18 years with my husband and three kids. I left NYC in 2000, spent some years in Paris and then set up my own practice in Greece designing island villas.”

Raphael Grunschlag SIPA’95 writes, “I live in London and am a partner at William Blair, advising technology companies and private equity investors. My daughter Maya finished her first year at the Huntsman Program at Penn while my son finished his junior of high school. I continue to interview for the Alumni Representative Committee



CHARLES GRAY '94

Charles Gray '94 (left) and Adam Brothers '94 had lunch on March 6 at Tavern on Jane in NYC.

and find it inspiring to see the talent of students and Columbia going from strength to strength.”

Back on this side of the pond, another ARC interviewer (alumni interviewers who voluntarily meet with high school applicants to Columbia College and Columbia Engineering), **Adam Brothers**, looks back on his Morningside Heights days: “I really loved my time at Columbia ... I think that one of the benefits of the school is that it breeds a survivable student. Anything you wanted to gain, you had to hunt down.”

Adam works in finance and lives in Wycoff, N.J., with his son and daughter. He spent time with **Charles Gray** in March when Charles visited NYC from the west coast. (See the nearby photo!)

From Charles: “After a storied career in media, I then did 15 years in local TV news. I am now a web developer in Mesa, Ariz. Still in media, technically — I work for Kim Komando, a radio host who does a weekly tech show. I have lots of nieces and nephews, collectively ‘niblings,’ a neologism inspired by siblings.”

In *New England*, **Michael Cervieri** JRN’02 has found peace (if not necessarily prosperity) along the Connecticut/Rhode Island border, where he’s converting 30 acres of woodland into a forest garden and cultural retreat. While he continues to indulge technological solutions for clients both large and small, he prefers spending his days running after two daughters, who debate

whether and where unicorns exist. More about him can be found at his eponymous website.

I hope you saw notice of the John Jay Awards Dinner, held on March 1 at Cipriani 42nd Street. **Alicia D. Guevara** was fêted for her work and commitment to Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City as its CEO.

Celebrating at the dinner was **Phil Winiacki** and his wife, Yumi, who live in Bronxville and have two tween daughters. Phil thought “the John Jay dinner was a terrific event — great venue, delicious food, amazing speakers and excellent opportunity to catch up with fellow Columbians!” including **Amy Ahn '93**, who was at their table.

Orly Mishan attended the gala with her daughter, Tamara Crawford '26, and caught up with her friend **Jennifer McNeely** GS’99, who is an associate professor and researcher at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

As I write this in March, at this time next year we will be gearing up for our 30th College reunion. I didn’t attend reunions for the first two decades, but went to the 20th and 25th. The events were well stacked with engaging events, and entertainment for alumni, spouses/guests and children young or old. Instead of a dreaded “note-comparing attitude” of life milestones, our class gathered in a welcoming way ... altogether, *collegial*. The weekend was a blast and I have encouraged all my grown children to attend their respective college reunions as much as possible.

Looking forward to seeing you there next year, especially you who have not attended a reunion in a while — or ever!

1995

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Please send me your latest news, and I'll include it in a future issue. You can reach me through the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top before submitting to ensure your photo is eligible for publication!

1996

Ana Salper
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Happy summer, classmates!
Ben Davies is a professor of urology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and chief of the Urology Section at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Hillman Cancer Center. Committed to addressing inequities in health care, Ben co-founded the Urology Health Services Division at Pitt last year in an effort to recruit, develop and retain students who belong to traditionally underrepresented groups in urology, as well as to bolster resources and increase research capacity to improve the delivery, access and quality of urologic treatment. Ben is also leading a study examining how urologists can improve treatment experiences for rural patients.

Avi Green lives with his wife and daughter in Annecy, France, outside Geneva, and runs his consulting business serving universities, researchers and philanthropies around the world. Avi writes that he is having a great time meeting new people, learning new things and eating the food in Europe. He would love to connect with classmates: avi@avigreen.org.

Caleb Weinstein writes that after more than six years of living

in Palo Alto, working at Google, spending much time with **Humberto Galleno**, Lareina Yee BC'95, Hilton Romanski '95 and the father of a neighbor, Harry Saal '63, he and his family have returned to London, where they lived 2008–16. Caleb's 14-year-old daughter, Charlotte, is remaining in boarding school in Boston. At Google, where he worked until the end of 2022, Caleb focused on sports and media tech across Cloud and Search. He says he is looking forward to getting season tickets to women's football (or as we still call it here in the United States, soccer), but as dual U.S./U.K. citizens he and his family are debating who to root for in this summer's World Cup: the defending World Cup U.S. National Team or the defending Euro champs, the England Lionesses.

Gregory Peck lives in Sherman Oaks with his family and 12-year-old son, Otis, who is in sixth grade. Gregory owns and operates the Crescent Hotel in Beverly Hills and is otherwise a real estate developer and investor. He spends a lot of time these days coaching his son in Little League, which he says can be a lot of work but is also incredibly fun.

Yannis Macheras earned a degree from Tulane Law and in 1999 began crafting a career in the wireless communications infrastructure ecosystem. He was an executive with American Tower Corp. until 2013, when he was recruited to run a startup communications tower development firm, Parallel Infrastructure. From then until November 2022 Yannis was the CEO of that enterprise, selling it three times, to Lendlease, Apollo and most recently to Harmoni Towers, a portfolio company of Palistar Capital. He is an executive in residence with Palistar, supporting the integration of his business into the acquiring company's operations. Yannis has two daughters and lives in the Charlotte, N.C., area.

Since August 2019, **Abigail Lewis** has been director of The Capitol Applied Learning Labs at Georgetown, an experiential undergraduate program downtown focused on working with students to hone their professional discernment skills. Abigail writes that she credits Columbia for all of her successes, so she happily mentors Columbia students every summer (and observes

that they are “way smarter and more amazing than any 20-year-old should be”). Abigail lives in Baltimore with her family.

Taariq Lewis lives and works in Berkeley with his family of “two Taariq clones, aged 3 and 1, causing much drama.” He sends out a special thanks to **Bryant Jenkins** and Enrico Marini Fichera GS'95, SEAS'96, who are giving him a lot of fatherly advice as great dads themselves. In addition to Bryant and Enrico, Taariq also sees neighbor Darrell Cohn '97. Taariq writes: “Columbians are everywhere in the Bay Area!”

Ian Lendler has become the creative director at McKinnon Literary, a literary agency that happens to represent a number of Columbia professors and alumni. He is always on the lookout for children's books (writers and illustrators) and adult non-fiction.

Ravi Iyer recently left Meta, where he worked for four and a half years “on pretty much every controversial thing imaginable” to go back to academia. He is the managing director of the

Rosenberg '97, Ed Teng SEAS'97 and Mitch Gelber '97. Dave writes that he and Matt can be found on golf courses all around L.A.

Elie Levine and **Jody Levine**, a plastic surgery and dermatology duo, are thrilled to share that after opening their private practice, Plastic Surgery & Dermatology of NYC (35A E. 84th St., New York, NY 10028) in 2011, they have since expanded to two new locations: Dermatology, Laser & Surgery of Flatiron (928 Broadway, Ste 204, New York, NY 10010) and Dermatology, Laser & Surgery of Carnegie Hill (1095 Park Ave., Ste 1A, New York, NY 10128), offering cosmetic surgery, as well as medical and cosmetic dermatology, for all ages.

Cetywa Powell, a photographer and filmmaker, is busy working on a TV series (more when it comes out) and raising her teenage son. Check out Cetywa's beautiful photography: ten8photography.com.

Kunal Jajoo is clinical director of gastroenterology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He and

Ravi Iyer '96 recently left Meta, where he worked for four and a half years “on pretty much every controversial thing imaginable,” to go back to academia.

Psychology of Technology Institute at USC Neely Center. Ravi recently did a podcast that some of you might be interested in: bit.ly/3Aswuut. He went back to Columbia in April to take part in a symposium, where he discussed the algorithmic management of polarization and violence on social media. Ravi writes that he would love to hear from classmates working on or who have an interest in making technology a better force for good in society. He also writes regularly on Substack, in case folks are interested: psychoftech.substack.com. Ravi and his wife have three children, aged 10, 8 and 1.

After living in Brooklyn for more than 20 years, **Dave Hahn** moved with his wife to Los Angeles three years ago so that he could join a private hedge fund based in Orange County as its lead talent acquisition expert. During the pandemic, Dave reconnected with many fellow alums during a regular online poker night he hosted, including Matt

his wife have two children, Ellora (15) and Devan (13). He remains in touch with his Hogan 2D suitemates **Marcel Agüeros**, **Edmund “Eddie” Griffin** and **John Scott**.

Amanda Filley and her husband, Chef Marco Canora, are excited to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their East Village restaurant Hearth this coming November. Amanda writes: “Thanks to our loyal customers and dedicated staff, this little business has weathered a bunch of storms, both literal and figurative, and a pandemic to boot. We hope you'll stop by sometime in the next few months and raise a glass to the health of Hearth with us!”

I hope you are all enjoying summer, finding time to relax and enjoy life in whatever way you can. Thanks for sending in your notes. Please keep them coming! I leave you with this:

“If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution.”

— Emma Goldman

1997

Kerensa Harrell
kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope that you are enjoying summer, and that everyone is in good health. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class.

The ever-lovely **Leslie Kendall Dye** lives in New York City with her husband, Kerry; their daughter, Lydia, who is at Professional Performing Arts School; and their opinionated dog, Albert. Leslie is an actress, dancer, freelance essayist, journalist and editor. Her writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Salon*, *The Millions* and others. She is a member of the American Renaissance Theatre Company and is at work on a play and a novel.

Rushika Conroy writes: "I am a pediatric endocrinologist and have a strong interest in childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes. During Covid-19 we saw, and continue to see, an increase in the number of children and adolescents with obesity, and the cases of diabetes, both type 1 and type 2, have increased tremendously. Our type 2 diabetes cases have doubled and across the nation there was a 77 percent increase in pediatric type 2 diabetes in the first year of the pandemic. Type 2 diabetes, when it develops in children, is a much more aggressive disease than when it develops in adults; the rate of complications is higher and they occur earlier, and the progression to needing more and more medication is quicker and higher.

"I wanted families to have a good understanding of the disease and I looked for resources to help them but couldn't find any. I found lots for adults with type 2 diabetes and for families of kids with type 1 diabetes but could not find anything for families of kids with type 2 diabetes, so I made one. It is a quick and easy-to-read guide to what pediatric type 2 diabetes is, how it happens, how you treat it and how we monitor it. I am hoping this will help families better understand the disease and be well equipped to manage their child who has it (type2parentsguide.com)."

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I have been volunteering at my

daughter's school here in Florida, both in her kindergarten classroom a few times per week and at all the special events her school organizes for the students (parties, field trips, fundraisers, obstacle course, etc.). Her school has a strict dress code, but on Wednesdays it's always "college T-shirt day," so I get to gleefully dress her in her tiny Columbia University T-shirt!

As I wrap up this column, it is late March and she is rehearsing for her two spring dance recitals: one is a group jazz dance routine to the song "Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now," from the Broadway musical *Hairspray*, and the other is a group acrobatics routine to "Raining Sunshine," from the animated film *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, which is such a bright, sweet and uplifting song that I will now cue it as I sign off!

"When you think all hope is gone,
there's a place somewhere beyond.
Take a chance and realize — it's
right before your very eyes.

It's raining sunshine, it's raining
sunshine!

All over mankind — it's raining
sunshine!"

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

I was sent this note through the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Give it a try!

"Building on three years of service as executive director and seven years in her role as chief operating officer, **Kate Krauss** took over as CEO of Fair Food Network, a national nonprofit and investor, in January 2023. For more than two decades, Kate has dedicated her professional life to pursuing transformative, actionable solutions to deeply rooted problems. In her new position at the helm of Fair Food Network, she will continue to guide the organization in its commitment to grow community health and wealth through food.

"Kate's career is marked by her efforts toward building a fairer future — one that provides equal access to healthful food, economic

opportunities and a sustainable planet. Her work is inspired by her belief in food as a source of joy, a path to justice and a powerful way to create common ground.

"Kate has significantly expanded Fair Food Network's impact during the course of her tenure. Under her leadership, Fair Food Network's Double Up Food Bucks program amplified its reach in Michigan, translating into a tenfold increase in families served, from 30,000 in 2015 to more than 300,000 in 2021. Kate oversaw Fair Food Network's partnership in the launch of the USDA-funded Nutrition Incentive Hub, which supports nutrition incentive programs like Double Up

Author and chef Jen Lin-Liu '99, JRN'00 has settled in Washington, D.C., and is the events director for Chang Chang, a new Chinese restaurant in Dupont Circle.

and produces prescription projects across the country. Additionally, she played a critical role in the evolution of Fair Food Network's Fair Food Fund, which redresses racial and gender-based inequities by providing catalytic capital and business assistance to entrepreneurs who are often overlooked by traditional investors. She was a key part of expanding the fund's focus from supporting small regional farms in the Northeast to investing in a more expansive range of food-related businesses around the country. Kate's leadership has also transformed Fair Food Network as an organization: Her work has grown the organization's budget nearly fivefold, developed critical operational infrastructure and diversified funding sources."

Congratulations to Kate on her promotion, and kudos for all her great work.

I wasn't able to attend our 25-year reunion, held on campus June 1–3. If you were there, please send me your stories via email or the Class Notes webform mentioned at the top of the column. Photos should be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top before submitting to ensure your photo is eligible for publication.

1999

Lauren Gershell
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Many thanks to all of you who have submitted news recently; I was delighted to receive the following updates.

Jen Lin-Liu JRN'00, an author and chef, moved back to the United States after almost two decades based overseas (mostly in China, but also in Havana, Cuba). She has settled in Washington, D.C., and is the events director for Chang Chang, a new Chinese restaurant in Dupont Circle. She's also working on a new

book about a Chinese-American chef who gained prominence in the 1940s and invented the phrase "stir-fry." You can follow her Instagram feed @jenlinliu for updates on her writing and cooking life.

Renee Jackson is the chief legal and people officer at Clutter. After more than 10 years in San Francisco, she and her partner, Jamie, recently moved to New Hampshire to be closer to her family. Along with **Emily Roller**, **Rose Jackson** and **Trinke VonBrinton** (née Vaughan), Renee visited Columbia earlier this year for the annual women's basketball alumnae weekend. She noted that the teammates remain best friends after all these years and were thrilled with the success of this year's Lady Lions basketball team!

Ramzi Kassem LAW'04 is on leave from his teaching and clinical practice at the CUNY School of Law for a period of service as a senior policy advisor for Immigration at the White House Domestic Policy Council. In this role, Ramzi works to support the Biden-Harris agenda across a range of immigration issues.

Erika Jaeggli (née Moravec) teaches art at the University of Texas at Dallas. Her work was selected for the most recent issue of *New American Paintings*.

Congratulations to all of you on these impressive accomplishments and updates!

Please share your news, updates, and College memories and stories with me. Contact me at the address at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure the photo is at least 750 kb in size and features at least two CC alumni (or one for Just Married! as long as that alum is a member of the couple and is featured).

2000

Kavita Shah Bafana
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[Editor's note: CCT welcomes **Kavita Shah Bafana** to the role of class correspondent!]

Hello, fellow members of the Class of '00! For those who don't remember me, I majored in art history and economics and went to work in advertising. Much has evolved in the last 23 years, and I now live in New Jersey and work in admissions at Trinity School in New York City. I plan to contact you periodically to collect news and updates about your personal and/or professional lives. I am excited to reconnect with everyone! Thank you!

Veronica Deleon tied the knot with Jeffrey Warmke in 2022 and is now known as Veronica Deleon-Warmke. She has also started a job in the Operating Room in Texas, and she absolutely loves it.

Congratulations, Veronica!

Natalia Mehlman Petrzela, an associate professor of history at the New School in New York, has been making waves as a scholar in 2023. She is not only publishing her work in peer-reviewed publications but is also presenting her research through podcasts and other media outlets. Natalia is also a fitness instructor and her latest book, *Fit Nation: The Gains and Pains of America's Exercise Obsession*, was recently published.

Lauren Hay (née Feldman) writes, "In May 2022 I accepted the position of chief information officer of a national mental health-focused

nonprofit, Fountain House, which pioneered the clubhouse model of psychosocial rehabilitation for people living with serious mental illness. It will celebrate its 75th anniversary later this year.

"**Bob Hay** and I have been married for almost 15 years and have two daughters, Audrey (12) and Molly (9). We have been living in Kew Gardens, Queens, for 10 years and love being so close to woody Forest Park but just a subway ride away from Manhattan."

Since this is my first time doing this column, I don't have much more to share. However, I encourage all of you to send your updates via email or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. The more, the better! Please don't hesitate to share your stories, news about travel and/or thoughts on experiences you would like to share with classmates, whether small or big.

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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Please send me your latest news so I can include it in a future issue. You can contact me via email or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top before submitting to ensure your photo is eligible for publication!

2002

Sonia Hirdaramani
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Emily Erstling was named partner at her entertainment law firm, Levine, Plotkin & Menin, where she focuses mostly on representing clients in the Broadway theater industry.

Rena Scott is an international arbitration practitioner and co-leader of Orrick's Geneva office, where she recently joined the global partnership. An ardent supporter of the Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge, she is also the Geneva Ambassador for the

Arbitration Lunch Match initiative, supporting women in arbitration.

After eight years at the UC Investments Office, **Albert Lee SEAS'02** joined APG Asset Management US in December as a senior portfolio manager on the Americas Infrastructure team. He shared more big news: "Welcomed our daughter, Colette Yuna Joanie Lee, on December 20. Big brother Aidan (5) is taking his promotion very well."

Please share your news and updates via the email address at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple and featured, for "Just Married!" — are welcome, too! Send those right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2003

Michael J. Novielli
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We thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many of you at our recent 20th reunion. A big thanks to our former class president **Kimberly Grant** and former University Senator **Tamar Simon** for co-chairing our Reunion Committee with me. A shoutout also to the entire committee: **Sam Arora**, **Jennifer Baskin**, **Sabine Bejori**, **Katie Benvenuto**, **Marva Brown**, **Nadege Fleurimond**, **Michael Foss**, **Amy Greenstein**, **Marjorie Hernandez**, **Claudia Huerta**, **Scott Hunter**, **Kimberly Kalmanson**, **Cristina Monterrey**, **Rachel Neuhut**, **Carter Reum**, **Nicole Washington** and **AnnaMaria White**. Special thanks to Sam for lending us his strategic communication expertise to help with outreach.

A few updates — and more to come in the next few issues:

Francis Lora writes, "Not only does this year mark our 20th college reunion, but also this year, on August 1, my wife, Jennifer Guerrero BC'03, Mercy College '07 and I celebrate our 15-year wedding anniversary: We met as freshmen during Orientation on the Circle Line cruise and have been inseparable ever since — a real Barnard/Columbia couple! Now we celebrate

our anniversary with our children, Alejandro (12 in August) and Gabriel (7) as we look forward to many, many more years! Our family thanks Columbia for the fateful chance meeting that set us on the course of the adventure of our lives!"

Kambiz Eli Akhavan writes, "I joined the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson as a partner in its renowned Tax & Private Client Group. My practice focuses on representing domestic and international ultra-high-net-worth individuals and families in their tax, estate and asset protection planning."

Katherine Haenschen writes, "I live in Brookline, Mass., with my husband and two kids, aged 3 and 1. I'm an assistant professor in the communication studies and political science departments at Northeastern."

Renowned mixologist **Don Lee**, formerly of PDT, has created cocktail and wine menus for the intermission and main lobby bars at David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center.

Please send me your news by email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Please send photos right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top before submitting to ensure your photo is eligible for publication!

2004

Jaydip Mahida
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Heather Kompanek (née Otrando) got married in early June 2022 at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, and later that month she and her husband, Chris, moved from Hell's Kitchen to Harlem, just east of Morningside Park. "It's fun being so close to Columbia," Heather writes. "I've definitely walked across campus more times in the last nine months than any other time since graduation!"

Julia de Roulet and **Dan de Roulet Jr.** are moving from San Francisco back to New York. Julia recently became licensed as a marriage and family therapist in California and will get her license in New York. Dan will work at the software company he founded, Knowify. They look forward to reconnecting with other New York alums!

Marina Severinovsky writes, “I am now into my second year as head of sustainability, North America, for Schroders Asset Management. It is an exciting and interesting time to be leading environmental, social and governance investing in the United States for a U.K./Europe-based firm, given all the things going on in the world. I am proud of Columbia for having many strong sustainability programs now, at the undergraduate level as well at the various graduate schools, and I have given my time as an alumna for networking and mentoring with students in those programs.”

“On the personal front, my husband and I are planning to take our son (12) and daughter (8) on a family trip to Kenya this summer!”

Lindsey Harding’s first novel, *Pilgrims 2.0*, will be out this fall: “... [a] novel following four passengers on a luxury cruise line that promises complete reinvention through plastic surgery.”

Sushil Cheema JRN’06 co-wrote a mid-grade children’s book with Broadway star Mandy Gonzalez, whose credits include starring roles in *Hamilton*, *In the Heights* and *Wicked*. The book, *In the Mix*, is the third in a series called *Fearless*; each book features one of four young friends who star in their own Broadway show and who go on adventures together. *In the Mix* features Hudson Patel, an Indian-American boy who loves baking as much as he loves Broadway. It’s a story about friendship, family and following your passions.

That’s all for this issue. Please continue to send in updates, as we

want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always great, but please reach out to share fun anecdotes, memories or any other fun updates! You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Please send photos right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top to ensure your photo is eligible for publication!

2005

Sallie Touma
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Hi, Class of 2005! Happy 40th birthday to those celebrating! I would love to hear about your latest professional and personal updates (ChatGPT helped me write this sentence!). Please text me at 516-368-6001 or email me at the address above.

Kunal Gupta has an app that helps businesses launch their own subscription box clubs: Withfriends. He also helps run a kung fu school and is helping his friend start a ChatGPT-like thing for patient onboarding at health care practices. It is going surprisingly well, he says.

Jackie Sergie (a.k.a. **Jacqueline Kamrath**) has embarked on a new chapter in life! Though she’s played the violin and sung from a young age, she says she put a lot on hold for residency and to start a family. With the pandemic and everything

going on in the world, she recently decided that life is just too short for dreams deferred. So, she is pursuing a longtime wish, writing and recording her own songs. For her 40th birthday, she hopes to release a folk EP. Her second single, “Liberal Cowboy,” dropped on streaming platforms this past spring.

On April 3, **David Pullins** opened the exhibition “Juan de Pareja, Afro-Hispanic Painter” at The Met, where he is associate curator, responsible for 17th- and 18th-century Spanish, Italian and French painting.

Brianne Bergson and her husband lead a thriving film and music production company, BriGuel. She says she feels so grateful to create daily and to do what she loves. Their films are award winning and have played around the world, and their music has millions of streams and plays within the films they produce. They have two daughters. “Life is really beautiful!”

Evette Stair writes. “Celebrated my 40th birthday in Negril, Jamaica, with friends and family including my husband, Gordon Radlein ’06.”

See the nearby photo of Evette and Gordon!

As for me, I was excited to recently tutor students remotely in math in Milan, Paris and Dubai. I also compiled nature photos in a booklet, *Nature Through the Lens of a Mathematician*.

2006

Andrew Stinger
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As the months get warmer, I often find myself thinking back with fondness on the summer before our final year as undergraduates. I spent the weeks between semesters as a summer RA in Schapiro Hall, braving a commute to White Plains for an internship. The trek every Monday–Friday was worth it, if only to ensure I might kick back on a restaurant patio with **Rob Sorabella** for a catch-up over dinner (and, most likely, margaritas at The Heights afterward) or to support my friends as they staged a production of Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure* in Riverside Park. It brings me similar joy to hear all the lovely updates and successes from our class, which I’m privileged to share.

Emily Hawkins has joined the Corporate Communications team at Google, leading diversity, equity and inclusion public relations. She shares that it is a dream opportunity in alignment with her experience, passion and purpose. Prior to commencing her new role, Emily made a trip to Los Angeles, where she reunited with several other Lions, including **Adrienne Moran Gurley ’02**, **Aaron Edmonds ’09**, **Cat Miles ’04**, **Maud Arnold ’08**, **Angelo Pullen ’05**, **Simone Gaines** and **Ronald Chatters ’04**. (See the nearby photo!) I had the privilege of grabbing a quick dinner with Emily in March, and her joy for her new career chapter was absolutely radiant.

Sam Schon shares: “I’m still in Houston, wrapping up my second annual Energy Outlook with the Exxon Mobil team. Working on the Outlook this year has brought back many memories of Professor Mark von Hagen’s wonderful class ‘The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union’ (and sitting near **David Plotz** and **Morgan Sellers**).”

Mohammad F. Ali is a gastroenterologist practicing in Upstate New York. He recently joined Oswego Health as its director of endoscopy and associate medical director of gastroenterology.

Teddy Diefenbach continues to make waves in the videogame industry. They founded a videogame studio and recently released their game *We Are OFK* on PlayStation and Nintendo. The game stars a virtual indie pop band, for which Teddy is also the lead singer on recordings and in stage shows.

Rachel Silverstein has been named a 2023 Elevate Prize winner. The Elevate Prize recognizes Rachel as a global leader for her impact as a social entrepreneur with Miami Waterkeeper. Rachel is one of a dozen nonprofit leaders who will be aided by the Elevate Prize Foundation with funding, visibility and other resources. [Editor’s note: See “Lions.”]

Francesca de Quesada Covey has been appointed chief of economic innovation and development officer for Miami-Dade County. In this role, Francesca (known to many of us as Cesi) will leverage her track record of engagement in the public sector and success in the technology industry to champion innovation, nurture local workforce talent and support small



LAUREN STAIR

Evette Stair ’05 celebrated her birthday at a party with her husband, Gordon Radlein ’06, on March 24 in Jamaica.



Left to right, Adrienne Moran Gurley '02, Aaron Edmonds '09, Cat Miles '04, Maud Arnold '08, Emily Hawkins '06, Angelo Pullen '05, Simone Gaines '06 and Ronald Chatters '04 had a casual gathering in Los Angeles on January 15.

businesses in the county. Cesi and I spent some time together on the partnerships team at Meta several years ago, and I'm thrilled to see her continue building bridges through technological innovation.

Rachel Lesser has been a classics professor at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania since 2016. Last fall, she achieved two wonderful milestones: She was awarded tenure and published her first book, *Desire in the Iliad: The Force That Moves the Epic and Its Audience*. Rachel and her wife, Elana, have a lovely son, Isaac (3), and welcomed their second child in March.

On December 3, **Jay Wong** married Shawn Lamb at the Lanikuhonua Cultural Institute on Oahu, Hawaii. The new husbands split their time between Toronto and Denver, and were recently the subjects of a beautiful profile in *The New York Times* (bit.ly/3ZLM3rd).

I wish all of the spectacular members of the Class of 2006 a lovely summer and autumn, and send gratitude to the classmates who took the time to share their latest and greatest. We love to see you thrive!

2007

David Donner Chait
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I hope everyone is doing well, and thanks so much to everyone who shared updates.

Lauren Zimmerman shares, "I was elevated to partner at my law firm, Selendy Gay Elsberg (a litigation boutique firm) in December."

Peter Luccarelli and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed their second

son, William Luccarelli, this past fall. Big brother PJ is thrilled with the new addition ... so far. In 2021, Peter, Stephanie and the family moved to Tampa. Peter is a partner at Sisco-Law, where he works in litigation defending businesses and professionals in civil, criminal and administrative matters. Stephanie is writing a book with designer Natalie Papier, *Home Is Where the Art Is*, due out in fall 2024. The entire family looks forward to seeing friends in Central Florida and on their return trips to NYC.

As co-founder and president of ettitude, **Kat Dey BUS'14** (née Vorotova) is excited about her company's continued innovations in the next-gen material space. Ettitude has released plant-based silk and plant-based cashmere, which save 82 percent of CO₂ and 71 percent water versus conventional textiles."

Kasia Nikhamina writes, "My essay 'What Else Can I Give You' — about losing my mom to Covid-19 — was published in Roxane Gay's *The Audacity* in October: bit.ly/3KzchYC. A second essay, 'COVID: Theme and Escalations,' was published in the Fall 2022 issue of *INTIMA: A Journal of Narrative Medicine*: bit.ly/3AeHDPD. I also write a TinyLetter, 'Extraordinary Time.' You can read recent ones, and subscribe, at kasianikhamina.com."

Ritwik Banerji recently started a position as assistant professor of anthropology at Iowa State University. He says, "If for some reason you find yourself embarked upon a long journey on I-80, don't hesitate to get in touch."

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

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

2008

Bradley Blackburn
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Hope you're having a great summer, Class of '08, and that you were able to make it to Morningside Heights for our 15th reunion! We welcome your reunion stories and other news for the next issue. In the meantime, some updates from classmates:

Lauren Fornoles (née La Torre) TC'11 tied the knot with Ed Fornoles on July 17, 2022, at The Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. In attendance were her sister and matron of honor, Jacquelyn Ravichandran '10, TC'12; brother-in-law Arvind Ravichandran '09, LAW'12; and best friends **Irina Ikonsky**, **Chris Harris SEAS'08**, **Amber Moorer** and Beth Greene. Lauren's mother and father, Elaine and Jack La Torre, who visited their daughters often at Columbia for delicious brunches at John Jay, were proud to walk Lauren down the aisle among family and friends. See nearby, and "Just Married!", for photos.

Mark Clemente recently moved back to New York City after living in Singapore for seven years. He says he's looking forward to being back in the city and reconnecting with alumni friends. Mark has been working mainly in the sports business and entertainment space, with experience in brand marketing, event management and client/account management. Now that he's back stateside, he's exploring job opportunities and would love to get in touch with other Lions who have worked in similar fields.

Marissa Lalli was elevated to partner at the law firm WilmerHale at the beginning of the year. She practices in Boston focusing on intellectual property litigation and complex commercial disputes.

After nearly a decade spent on the high seas working on sailing yachts in the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Baltic, **Ian Mactavish** has

come ashore and put down roots in Victoria, British Columbia, where he and his wife are raising a baby boy, Leonidas. Ian is a captain with BC's oil spill response organization, Western Canada Marine Response Corp., and a crew member with the Pacific Pilotage Authority, helping to ensure the safe transit of commercial ships through BC's marine environment. Ian says he is always happy to reconnect with classmates who might find themselves in the area: "Look me up if you are ever on Vancouver Island. I love showing off this special corner of the world."

Carmen Thoms (née Ballard) also wrote from Canada with news. She lives in Toronto, Ontario, and on July 9, 2022, gave birth to a girl.

Wishing you and your little one all the best, Carmen, and congrats on joining the parent club!

2009

Shira Burton
shira.burton@gmail.com

Hope everyone is having a relaxing summer! Here are some updates from classmates.

Lucy Chen writes from Paris: "I came here to work in solar in 2011, then quit my job and started training to be a chef. Worked for Frenchie Hospitality Group from line cook to sous chef, was hired to open the second restaurant of the Bao Family (called Gros Bao) and then was the executive chef of the Bao Family for a year. I left earlier this year and am an aspiring restaurateur."

In addition to recently becoming a French citizen, Lucy is buying a café, which she hopes to open in the next year. She is also doing restaurant consulting, mostly regarding the interfacing of immigrant cooks and the French restaurant system, with the goal of changing some of the fundamental issues of running restaurants (low pay for and poor treatment of cooks, limiting food waste, making food affordable and so on).

Cindy Horowitz welcomed a daughter, Charlotte, in December 2021.

Chantee Dempsey Morin and her husband, Nicholas Morin, welcomed their second child, Nathaniel "Nate" James Morin on August 29, 2022. Madeline "Maddie" loves being a big sister.

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum and is featured. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



1 RACHEL BUCKLEY



2 JOSEPH HALL PHOTOGRAPHY



3 ALYSSA MALOOF



4 JENNIFER MIHALYI



6 JUSTINE BERGES

7 ANDREAS & NICO

1. Nathan Berger '04 and Joe Anderson were married at The Barn at Flanagan Farm in Buxton, Maine, on July 23, 2022. Joining the grooms (center) were, left to right: Jon Sabatini '04, Chira Cassel BC'04, officiant Pooja Agarwal '02, Matt McAndrews '04, Sofia Berger '01, Kate Cortesi '01 and Ben Wheeler '01.

2. Joining Sue Yang-Krochmal '10 and Gabriel Krochmal at their September 3, 2022, wedding in Senglea, Malta, were, left to right: Elina Kanak, Daniel Kanak '10, Matthew Harold '10, Kunaal Sharma '10, Alex Yagoda '10, Valerie Sapozhnikova '10, Andrew Gallina, Tanvi Gupta '14 and Nirav Shah SEAS'09.

3. Nikki Bourassa '13 and Noah Whitehead SEAS'13 married in Philadelphia on August 13, 2022.

4. Lauren Fornoles '08 (née La Torre) and Ed Fornoles married at The Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco on July 17, 2022.

5. Natalie Ambrose DeMuth '18 and Turner DeMuth '18 celebrated their July 23, 2022,

wedding at Long Hollow Ranch in Sisters, Ore., with Zach Dansby SEAS'18, Mark Flynn '18, Dave Donovan '18, Harrison Egly SEAS'18, Tyler Schonewol '19, Lord Hyeamang '18, Adam Cline '16, Liam Talty '18, Reid Stables '18, Maddie Gott '18, Ryan Marks '17, Natalie Neshat '18, Holly Neshat '18, Maeve Doherty '18, Ava Ligh '99, Peter Ligh LAW'01, Carli Topping '19, Xi Bovell '18, Emily Johnson '21, Laine Parsons '19, Zach Morant '18, Alex Bangerl '18, Zach Adler SEAS'18, Kynan Rocks '19, Amaris Hemmings '19, Anjuli DeWakar DeMuth '15, Garrett DeMuth '15, Ike Muzikowski '15, Emma Anderson '19, Kerry Manion '18, Gil Hong '18, Clarissa Macias BC'19, Jim Black and Caroline Militello '18.

6. Cecilia Sturt '22 (néé Lee) and Edward Sturt '22 married in Miami Beach on January 27 at Saint Patrick Catholic Church.

7. Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91 married Tom Werner on November 5 at The Harmonie Club in NYC. With them were her daughter, Chloe Ashton, and her son, Alex Ashton '20.

Maria Insalaco writes, “My husband and I welcomed our son, Theodore (Teddy!), in October! We’re having a blast getting to know the little guy!”

Naomi Grewal (née Sparks) is married to Gurpartap “Sunny” Grewal BUS’13. Naomi writes: “Sunny and I met at Columbia in 2009. We had our third child, Nora, in December. She joins sister Sonia (6) and brother Ronan (4). I work in tech at Workday as director of research and am on the faculty of the University of Southern California’s Department of Psychology. Sunny is an entrepreneur. We live in the Bay Area with our family and enjoy keeping in touch with classmates!”

Finally, **Brendan Ballou** is a federal prosecutor and served as special counsel for private equity at the Department of Justice. In his new book, *Plunder: Private Equity’s Plan to Pillage America*, Brendan explains what private equity firms are and how they’re transforming America by buying everything from nursing homes and mobile homes, to veterinary clinics, retailers, for-profit colleges and prison phone companies. These firms often create terrible crises, and without intervention, they are poised to reshape America in this decade the way that “Big Tech” did in the last decade, and the way subprime lenders did before that. Brendan’s book lays out the dangers that the industry poses and, importantly, a specific agenda for how we can stop its worst abuses. *Plunder* was released on May 2.

As always, send me news by email or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple and featured — for the “Just Married!” section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2010

Billy Organeck
william.a.organeck@gmail.com

Hi, Class of 2010! I hope you’ve all had a nice start to the summer.

Jehan Sparks started a position as a senior user experience researcher at Meta, working on Instagram.

She says is looking forward to connecting with alumni in the San Francisco area.

Congratulations, Jehan!

We also received a nice wedding photo from **Sue Yang-Krochmal**, along with a promise from her for a future text update. As Sue was president of the Class of 2010, I think we can count on her word. See “Just Married!” for the photo.

Thanks for sharing, Sue, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please send me your news by email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Please send photos right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top before you submit to ensure your photo is eligible for publication!

Keep on doing great things, CC’10, and if you can spare a few moments, share with the rest of the class what you’ve been up to! Even if you share on Instagram, where you know the UX will be great because of Jehan, please also share here — consider CCT the old-fashioned social media!

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
nurielm@gmail.com
sean.udell@gmail.com

Sun’s out, Twenty-Eleven! We hope your summer is off to an excellent start. We’ve got a short list of updates this season, so we hope everyone is OK! (Your class correspondents get a little worried when we don’t hear from you. Call, email, text ... OK? Anytime works for us, really. Just say hi. You know, classmates really want to know how you’re doing. Even just a hello — it’s fine to just say hello! OK, we’ll stop now, but you get the point. Say hi!)

For our co-correspondent **Sean Udell**, life is sweet, as he has finally completed his medical training! After one year of post-baccalaureate coursework at Bryn Mawr, four years of medical school at Penn and four more years of psychiatry residency at Penn’s health system, Sean has been released into the world as a full-fledged physician! Sean and his husband, Jonathan Jenkins, are moving to Park City,



CHRIS HARRIS SEAS’08

Irina Ikonsky ’08 (left) and Jacquelyn Ravichandran ’10 (née La Torre) flanked Lauren Fornoles ’08 (née La Torre) at Fornoles’ July 17, 2022, wedding at The Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco.

Utah, this summer in order to live their full *The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City* fantasy. There, Sean will be a staff psychiatrist at Intermountain Health. When he is not at work, Sean looks forward to spending time with his family — who have all somehow relocated to Utah — and restarting all the outdoor hobbies he had enjoyed when living in Denver more than a decade ago.

As residency was wrapping up, Sean had a little extra time on his hands for reading, and he was thrilled to see **Rachel Heng**’s piece in *The New York Times*’ Modern Love section on February 24 (bit.ly/3muqv4W). The incredibly moving essay inspired Sean to read Rachel’s first book, *Suicide Club*, and he is excited to dive into her newest work, *The Great Reclamation*, which was published in March.

We are very happy for Rachel’s success in her literary endeavors!

Our classmates’ creativity abounds. **Lety ElNaggar** won the UK Songwriting Competition in the R&B/Soul category with the song “Tell Me Again.” The track was a team effort from back2prod, which supports artists to write and produce genre-blending music with a focus on sonic quality.

Congrats, Lety!

In her own year of writing, **Annie Tan** participated in the VONA Writing Winter Intensive, Tin House Winter Workshop and a Vermont Studio Center writing residency. This July she will be in Portland for the Tin House Summer Workshop to revise her memoir. In March, Annie was featured on the

PBS show *Stories from the Stage*, telling a story about her immigrant family hustle. You can see her on the episode “Defining Moments,” online now. Annie says she is excited to keep telling her family stories and to see you all in New York City.

Nicole Catá — another literarily inclined classmate who was an English major — continues to thrive as an attorney. She started a role as legislative counsel at New York City Council in February. Prior, she and her husband took a long-awaited trip to Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. She says she was particularly excited to visit the Temple of Literature in Hanoi.

We wish you the happiest summer, friends. And don’t forget to email with updates! And call your mother!

2012

Pat Blute
pblute@gmail.com

Liz: “What a year, huh?”
Jack: “Lemon, it’s February.”

Well, it’s officially been more than a decade since *30 Rock* ended and we all took swag from the Hulu reps in Lerner. And throughout all that time, from successful legal petitions to thriving careers in editing, tech and beyond, the Class of 2012 has had a significant impact!

Chuck Roberts, now of Falls Church, Va., has authored a successful pro bono petition for certiorari in the Supreme Court and upgraded with U.S. Soccer as a regional referee.

Anna Cooperberg JRN'13 has created her happiness as a senior editor at Hay House, where she edits books and card decks in the meta-physical space, from astrology and tarot to psychic mediums and channeling — and everything in between!

John Nordin is thriving in Brooklyn with his wife, Amanda, and Henry (1), working in tech and enjoying beautiful Prospect Park on bike rides.

Kenny Durell has embarked on adventures that he had only dreamt about before getting laid off from Google Maps in January. His message to us is simple: "I hope you don't wait too long to take the trip, start the project and so on that you've dreamt about. Life moves fast. And we're technically no longer young alumni, so if you have the means and will, get out there! I haven't regretted it yet. These days, the only place I seem to reconnect with classmates is on Instagram (or on the G or L train). A very millennial sentence, but do reach out if it's been a while and you want to catch up!"

As we move forward into the next era, it's important to stay connected. Don't forget your other millennial superpower: that you can still use the phone to call an old friend. Look forward to keeping in touch. :)

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

After spending her pregnancy in California and Michigan, **Bhavna Vashisht** and her husband welcomed their first child — a girl — and moved back to the city.

Congratulations, Bhavna!

John Kenney married his wife, Amanda, on July 9, 2022. They live in Washington, D.C., where John is an attorney for Wilson Sonsini in the Appellate Litigation Group.

Shannon Lee recently moved to Amsterdam and released a CD in Japan of music for violin and piano with pianist Jessica Osborne from NYC, the Sendai International Music Competition on the Fontec recording label.

Last August, **Nikki Bourassa** and **Noah Whitehead** SEAS'13 exchanged vows in Philadelphia, surrounded by family, friends, their dog Pan and Ben Franklin, who was able to make it in person. Almost

two 8s worth of the Columbia crew attended, with honorary coxswain **Serena Bose** (née Dasani), Sylvie Krekow BC'13, Lily Keane BC'13, **Becca Long** (née Randall), Natalie Rutherford BC'13, **Caitlin Shufelt**, **Samantha Warren**, John Clapp SEAS'14, **Mike Donohue**, Connor Jones SEAS'14, Dan Kolbe '14 and **Alexander Simmonds**. See "Just Married!" for a photo of the couple. Congratulations!

After nearly a decade as a freelance journalist, **Garnet Henderson** has joined Rewire News Group as the publication's senior multiplatform reporter, covering reproductive and sexual health with a focus on abortion access. In addition to writing, she will be developing a podcast for Rewire. Last year, Garnet was one of the inaugural grantees of the International Women's Media Fund's Reproductive Rights Reporting Fund for an investigative project that was co-published in *The Nation* and on her independent podcast, ACCESS.

Phillip Jerez was recently hired as deputy director of engagement for the 21st U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy. Previously, Phillip served as political director for the last two Democratic nominees for governor of Florida, as an aide to Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) and began his career as a high school teacher in Miami with Teach For America.

Emmanuel Arnaud recently joined the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law as an assistant professor on the tenure track. There, he teaches courses on criminal law, race and the law, and the U.S. Territories. Prior to joining Cardozo, Emmanuel spent several years in practice having been an appellate public defender in big law, and served as a judicial law clerk at both the federal district and court of appeals level. Just before joining Cardozo, he spent a year as a visiting assistant professor at Cornell Law School.

On a personal note, my husband, Andrew Wood '14, and I welcomed our second child — a boy — in January. We're enjoying this phase as a family of four and looking forward to spending warmer days at the beach this summer here in Los Angeles. I am still chief operating officer at Pietra, a venture-backed, Series B tech company focused on e-commerce for the creator economy.

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2014

Rebecca Schechter Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

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2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello Class of 2015! Hope you find time to take advantage of the good weather during the next few months! Here are some updates.

Percy Stubbs and Molly Lo Re BC'17 were to be married in May. They met doing a production of *Titus Andronicus* at Columbia with the King's Crown Shakespeare Troupe in 2014. While perhaps not Shakespeare's most romantic work, it started a relationship that has led to nearly a decade together.

Kang Kang has been pursuing a Ph.D. in comparative literature at Northwestern since 2020.

Samara Trilling writes, "**Ben Barg** and I moved to Boston last summer when I started law school. If you know any great hiking spots in the area, hit us up!"

As always, classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the *CCT* Class Notes webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple and featured, for "Just Married!" — are welcome, too! Send those right to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
lliukrason@gmail.com

Hey CC'16. This past year I co-wrote and produced a film with **Sophia Horowitz**, and we were blessed that



At a February 2 film screening at the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco were, left to right: Jules Horowitz '11, Lily Liu-Krason '16, Eli Haims '16, Sophia Horowitz '16, Chloe Shih '15, Maud Arnold '08 and Sonya Clark-Herrera.

so many Lions came out to support our San Francisco screening in February (see the nearby photo!). We're hoping to have screenings in Los Angeles and New York later in the year so please do reach out if you're in either of those cities. I would love to see you there, share what we've been working on and reconnect.

It's always really nice to reunite. I saw **Sonya Li** and **Angel Wang** in L.A. recently. They both live in San Francisco and said they would love to meet up with any of you!

Speaking of reuniting, please submit your Columbia Reunion photos to CCT using the webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting to ensure your photo is eligible for publication!

Lastly and most importantly: **Jenny Liu** recently attended **Amar Dhingra SEAS'16's** wedding. See the photo online in "Just Married!" (college.columbia.edu/cct).

Please continue to write in when you see classmates (email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note), submit your photos to CCT using the webform noted above, and as always, send me your updates, big or small. This column is infinitely more interesting and only possible with your voices. I've also heard success stories from a few of you who shared an update and a connection happened after!

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Chris George and **Jonathan Kopyev** recently matched into dermatology residency at Stanford University and Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell respectively. Chris was to graduate from SUNY Downstate, and Jonathan from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, this past May.

Max Fiest LAW'20 shares: "For the last two years, my firm (Mayer Brown) has defended 10 family members from a predatory investor who is trying to steal the family's home, property that has been in our clients' possession for four generations. I've led the defense of this action: I've written some 15 briefs, performed four oral arguments,

negotiated with opposing counsel and communicated with our clients. So far, we have secured several orders commanding the investor to produce evidence he wrongfully withheld, and a court order prohibiting the investor from unilaterally demolishing the property.

"For nearly four years, the investor has locked our clients out of their family home. Months back, we discovered that the investor had demolished and renovated the property without our clients' knowledge or consent. Recently, we learned that the investor has allowed his employee to live in the renovated portions of the property, and had actively concealed this tenant's presence from our clients. On March 30, I was to co-lead a proceeding (i.e., a mini-trial) to hold the investor in contempt for his actions. If we succeed, the investor could be fined, forced to pay the reasonable value of our attorneys' fees and/or imprisoned for a period of time. [As I write this,] we should know the judge's ruling by mid-April.

"In October, I was selected to receive the City Bar Justice Center's Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award. I was selected, alongside 11 other recipients, from more than 1,800 volunteers with the CBJC.

"In April, my law firm was to be co-honored [with The Bank of New York Mellon Corp.] by the CBJC as a pro bono firm of the year, in large part because of the work I've done for our clients.

"Before the summer is out, we hope to have briefed and argued our motion for summary judgment and — finally — get a court to declare that our clients own their family home."

Karisma Price shares: "My debut collection of poetry, *I'm Always So Serious*, was published in February and was reviewed in *The New York Times* twice: first in the article 'From Newcomers and Veterans, Four New Poetry Books Worth Your Time' on March 7 (bit.ly/3Mnyifn), and second, as one of the books in *The New York Times Book Review's* 'Editor's Choice' on March 23 (bit.ly/40XVTYe)."

Classmates want to hear from you! Please submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two



Julia Zeh '18 (left) and Briley Lewis '18 on vacation in Maui on February 18.

CC alumni — or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple and featured, for "Just Married!" — are welcome, too! Send those right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2018

Alexander Birkel
and **Maleeha Chida**
ab4065@columbia.edu
mnc2122@columbia.edu

In the last few months, **Richard Nederlander** graduated from Vanderbilt with a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering and started work at Blue Origin as a specialty sciences engineer for radiation testing.

Congratulations, Richard!

Briley Lewis and **Julia Zeh** reunited in Los Angeles, where Briley attends grad school, and Maui, where Julia was doing fieldwork on whales, this past spring. They are both in their fifth year of grad school — finally almost to the Ph.D. finish line! See the nearby photo!

Skye Grayson, who studied sociology, is a comedian and runs a show called *Mishegoss Comedy*. Skye and co-producer Lily Lester, an NYU alum, were recently selected for the Reykjavik Fringe Festival. This opportunity, Skye notes, is "my first international festival." Congratulations! More information: mishegosscomedy.com, [instagram.com/mishegosscomedy](https://www.instagram.com/mishegosscomedy), [instagram.com/skyegrayson.lol](https://www.instagram.com/skyegrayson.lol) and timeout.com/newyork/comedy/mishegoss-comedy.

Tiffany Troy's poetry chapbook, *When Ilium Burns*, is out now. Noted poet Donald Revell writes, "I had never realized, viscerally, the havoc at the heart of piety nor felt, on my own flesh, the loving burden borne by Aeneas as he carried his father away from the burning towers, until I read [*When Ilium Burns*] ... There is a new kind of heroism here, and it is thrilling."

Please stay connected! You can send updates to Class Notes by emailing us at the addresses at the top of the column or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent through the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before hitting that "submit" button to ensure your photo is eligible for publication!

2019

Tj Aspen Givens and **Emily Gruber**
tag2149@columbia.edu
emilyannegruber@gmail.com

We join the class in mourning the unfathomable loss of Jon Carlo Dominguez '21, a campus leader and cherished friend. Jon Carlo's contributions to Columbia ranged from musical groups to the Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights to mentorship programs. In addition to this deep engagement in our community, Jon Carlo extended kindness to all on campus, always remembering to

wave or say hello on College Walk. He made us feel that he was glad we were at Columbia, and that will be forever remembered. We are thinking of Jon Carlo's loved ones and all of you during this difficult time.

Members of the Class of 2019 have shared the following updates:

Sarah Fornshell GSAS'20 recently completed her 2L year at The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law and has been elected editor-in-chief of OSU's flagship law review, *The Ohio State Law Journal*. She is a summer associate at Sullivan & Cromwell.

Eleanor Pressman, Connor Moore and **Nick Rio** all moved to California after graduating, where El is in grad school at UC Davis, Nick lives and works in San Francisco, and Connor recently moved from Long Beach to Los Angeles and works in Burbank. El notes, "We enjoy getting to see each other lots, especially last summer, when we completed a section of the John Muir Trail together. (See the nearby photo!) We're looking forward to more adventures this summer!"

Ryan Schweitzer will start a master's in theological studies at Harvard Divinity School this fall. "Would enjoy meeting with anyone from the class of 2019 in Cambridge!" he says.

Miguel Tapia Colin has been selected as the next editor-in-chief of *Rutgers Race & the Law Review* and has a forthcoming publication in Volume 25.

Congrats to Miguel!

Please send us your latest news via the emails at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top to ensure your photo is eligible for publication.

Be well, Class of 2019.

2020

Stephen Cone and **Kyra Ann Dawkins**
jsc2247@columbia.edu
kad2196@columbia.edu

Kyra Ann Dawkins is publishing a serial, *First-Person Archer*, a companion piece to her debut dystopian novel, *The We and the*

They, on Kindle Vella. She will also pursue an M.F.A. in creative writing this fall in New York City.

Dimitri Godur, a first-year at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, led a new study that could increase the use of cochlear implants to treat patients with severe hearing loss. More specifically, he and a team of other medical students discovered that a compound, taurodeoxycholic acid, can help retain residual hearing during cochlear implant procedures.

Thank you to Kyra and Dimitri for submitting a note. We look forward to hearing from more of you soon enough.

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2021

Mario A. Garcia Jr.
mag2329@columbia.edu

Hey Class of 2021! I can't believe it's already been a year since we were all together on College Walk, finally being able to walk the stage after such a tumultuous time. I hope all is well and look forward to hearing more about what's been going on in your life and what you're up to!

I finally got a New York Public Library card and have been reading voraciously since the start of this year. It's been a great way to unwind and embrace new perspectives outside of the required reading the Core Curriculum provided.

Cesar Ramos Medina recently got engaged to Sam Simpson BC'21. They've adopted a cute cat and are enjoying their time in the Bay Area together. Cesar is a data scientist at Facebook (although there might be changes on the horizon!).

Congratulations, Cesar and Sam!

Matthew Pitcock is on his way to Princeton this fall to begin a Ph.D. in economics.

Zhouyao Xie recently published a memoir in China, 晨边那抹微蓝 (*Morningside Blue*). The book



TRISTAN ADAMS

Backpacking at Muir Pass, Sierra Nevada, Calif., on July 4, 2022, were (left to right) Nick Rio '19, Connor Moore '19 and Eleanor Pressman '19.

includes a collection of essays and poems and details her experience as an international student at Columbia.

If you would like to share your own Class Note or update, please feel free to reach out to me at any time by email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos must be sent to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top to ensure your photo is eligible for publication!

2022

Mark Anthony Torres
mat2223@columbia.edu

Hey CC'22! My name is **Mark Anthony Torres**, and I am the class correspondent. As we begin to make our mark in this world, whether in graduate school or in the workforce, I hope we continue to stay connected. I will always be grateful that I got the opportunity to attend this university and make lifelong memories with you.

What better way to stay connected than to share our milestones and successes with one another? If you would like to share what's been happening with your life, please submit a Class Note via email or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. I will make sure to incorporate it in a future CCT.

Now on to our Class Notes!

Ethan Abelar is a research assistant for the Metropolitan Opera. He is in charge of researching patrons who donate to the Met so that they can fund new productions and educational programs.

Adam Kluge has been continuing his education at the University of Oxford in England, hoping to obtain an M.S. in criminology and criminal justice. He is expected to graduate this year with distinction. Recently, Adam became a legal assistant for Turpin and Miller, near his university, where he is doing research on incarcerated immigrants in the United Kingdom. After earning an M.S., Adam will remain at Oxford to pursue a Ph.D. in criminology.

Andrew Sullivan started a physics Ph.D. program at Stanford. He is continuing the research he started while an undergraduate on neutron stars and black holes. Recently, he coauthored *The Evolution of Compact Symmetric Objects — A Possible Connection with Tidal Disruption Events* (bit.ly/3KkFMNA).

Ricardo Mercado is a master's student at Williams College in Massachusetts, studying art history. As part of his thesis research, he is visiting art museums throughout the country. He will submit his thesis and graduate by 2024.

Virginia Ignelzi will graduate from NYU with a master's in art history in May 2024. Currently, she is researching Renaissance art and is deciding whether she will write about this art period for her thesis.

obituaries

Columbia College Today has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. You can read more about their lives and find featured obituaries for **George S. Zimbel '51**; **Edward B. Koren '57**; **Robert Berne '60**, **BUS'62**; and **John Prados '73**, **GSAS'82** online at college.columbia.edu/cct. To submit an obituary for a Columbia College graduate, please use the online web-form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_obituary.

- 1951 **Robert Cowen Jr.**, manufacturer, Morristown, N.J., on January 11, 2023.
- George S. Zimbel**, documentary photographer, Montreal, on January 9, 2023.
- David H. Zinman**, journalist, Point Lookout, N.Y., on February 12, 2023.
- 1952 **George I. Gordon**, attorney, Bronx, N.Y., on January 8, 2023.
- Aldo F. Ippolito**, entrepreneur, Toronto, on December 3, 2022.
- 1954 **Joel J. Belson**, English and humanities professor, Jamaica, N.Y., on July 10, 2022.
- Stanley Friedman**, English professor, Hingham, Mass., on November 18, 2022.
- 1955 **Mortimer M. Civan**, professor of physiology, Philadelphia, on April 17, 2022.
- Harold S. Kusher**, rabbi and author, Canton, Mass., on April 27, 2023.
- 1956 **Alan Broadwin**, mechanical engineer, White Plains, N.Y., on December 17, 2022.
- H. Michael Grant**, psychiatrist, New York City, on March 26, 2023.
- 1957 **John B. Ahouse**, archivist and librarian, Long Beach, Calif., on April 3, 2023.
- Lewis V. Ciardullo Sr.**, urologist, Sun City, Ariz., on January 16, 2021.
- Alan I. Fine**, primary care physician, Warren, N.J., on February 18, 2022.
- Paul S. Frommer**, naval commander, Alexandria, Va., on January 21, 2023.
- Edward R. Heiser**, business executive and magician, Savannah, Ga., on April 5, 2023.
- Edward B. Koren**, cartoonist, Brookfield, Vt., on April 14, 2023.
- Robert J. Lehner**, attorney and justice official, North Miami Beach, Fla., on January 15, 2023.
- Herman D. Levy**, attorney, Falls Church, Va., on May 7, 2023.
- Jerome H. Rettig**, attorney, Lake Worth, Fla., on February 5, 2023.
- Herbert D. Sturman**, attorney, Los Angeles, on April 2, 2023.
- 1958 **Morris J. Amitay**, political advocate, Rockville, Md., on February 10, 2023.
- S. Donald Gonson**, attorney, Cambridge, Mass., on February 18, 2023.
- Robert S. Waldbaum**, urologist, Manhasset, N.Y., on January 29, 2023.
- 1959 **Stephen A. Kallis Jr.**, public relations executive, Temple Terrace, Fla., on March 29, 2023.
- Sheldon Perry** (né Pedowitz), television executive, Chicago, on January 4, 2022.
- Norman Vieira**, law professor, Myrtle Beach, S.C., on August 11, 2022.
- 1961 **Joseph H. Berke**, psychotherapist, London, on January 11, 2021.
- Andrew L. Gelfand**, engineer, Silver Spring, Md., on March 3, 2023.
- Irwin M. Wall**, history professor, New York City, on January 27, 2023.
- David M. Wilson**, Foreign Service officer, Bethesda, Md., on February 27, 2023.
- 1962 **Walter B. Hulse**, organist and composer, New York City, on December 31, 2022.
- Howard R. Relin**, district attorney, Canandaigua, N.Y., on December 7, 2022.
- Theodore C. Salomon**, sales executive, Great Neck, N.Y., on December 23, 2022.
- 1963 **Barry M. Austern**, biochemist, Cincinnati, on April 11, 2023.
- Gerald P. "Jerry" Dwyer**, attorney, New York City, on January 31, 2023.
- Kenneth M. Master**, internist, Boynton Beach, Fla., on March 2, 2023.
- Michael D. Nolan**, community organizer, San Francisco, on April 8, 2023.
- 1964 **Jay M. Portnow**, rehabilitation physician, Rockville, Md., on July 25, 2022.
- Daniel S. Press**, attorney and advocate, Rockville, Md., on October 5, 2022.
- Daniel P. Schechter**, attorney, Millerton, N.Y., on March 12, 2023.
- 1965 **Peter W. Herman**, attorney, Scarsdale, N.Y., on February 19, 2023.
- Nicholas E. Pingitore Jr.**, geoscientist and professor, El Paso, Texas, on October 24, 2022.
- David P. Sard**, psychologist and playwright, West Orange, N.J., February 28, 2023.
- 1966 **Edwin L. Doernberger**, attorney, Woodbridge, Conn., on May 21, 2021.
- Michael E. Feingold**, theater critic, translator, lyricist, playwright and dramaturg, New York City, on November 21, 2022.
- 1967 **Mark S. Golub**, rabbi and media innovator, Stamford, Conn., on January 31, 2023.
- 1968 **Klaus E. von Stutterheim**, banker and cowboy, Seeley Lake, Mont., on March 1, 2021.
- 1969 **R. Bruce Dickson**, attorney, Chevy Chase, Md., on November 11, 2022.
- 1972 **James J. Sabella**, attorney, Hillsborough, N.J., on March 11, 2023.
- 1973 **John F. Prados**, critical historian, Silver Spring, Md., on November 29, 2022.
- 1974 **William F. Meehan III**, strategic manager, Palo Alto, Calif., and New York City, on January 26, 2023.
- 1975 **Guy Golembiewski**, family physician, Boyne Falls, Mich., on January 22, 2023.
- C. John McCloskey III**, Catholic priest, Reston, Va., on February 23, 2023.
- 1981 **Paulsen "Paul" K. Vandeventer**, attorney, Dearborn, Mich., on March 14, 2023.
- 1991 **Rachel J. Porter**, special education teacher, Brooklyn, N.Y., on February 27, 2023.
- 2006 **Ansel W. Lurio**, editor and disability rights activist, Yonkers, N.Y., on September 28, 2022.

Joshua Spodek '93
swimming across
the Hudson River in
August 2018.



JOSHUA SPODEK '93 FOUND CONNECTION BY DISCONNECTING

On May 22, 2022, **Joshua Spodek '93, GSAS'99, BUS'06** disconnected the electricity in his West Village apartment. A year later, it's still off.

For Spodek, an environmentalist, executive leadership coach, motivational speaker, author, professor and podcaster, living off the grid is the latest effort in his mission to encourage personal and corporate sustainability. "You can't influence others to live by values you live the opposite of," his website reads.

He hasn't flown in six years. This is Spodek's second year with his fridge unplugged; he's a vegan, and favors fresh, local produce (not much of a novelty — he stopped eating packaged food a decade ago). He charges his essential electronics via portable solar panels, bought used on Craigslist, on his building's roof. Still, he unplugged as an experiment, not knowing how he'd make it past a few days. "Nobody is more surprised than I am that I made it this long," he says.



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