SHARING SCIENCE

BEN DUBIN-THALER '00 "VEHICLE" FOR TEACHING

HOUSING WORKS

WAH CHEN '92 IMPROVES LIVES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

EMOTION

CONGRATS TO THE GRADS!

A WARM WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2019

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Columbia College Today 🎡

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KICK OFF YOUR SUMMER READING WORK WITH INTER OF OUR THE WITH WITH INTER

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SAVE THE DATE

Celebration of the Core Centennial

September 27 — Opening Event

Join President Lee C. Bollinger, Dean James J. Valentini and others to kick off a year of celebration.

Invitation to follow. In the meantime, be a part of Core Stories, our community memory project, and join us in celebrating this historic moment. Visit us online to share your reflections on the Core and help give shape to this century-old shared experience. #CoreStories #CoreCelebration



core100.columbia.edu

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VOLUME 46 NUMBER 4 SUMMER 2019

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Now on **CCT Online**



PRINT EXTRAS

- Reunion Weekend Facebook album
- Class Day Facebook album
- Academic Awards and Prizes



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A Class of 1961 alum recounts his (gentle) revenge on esteemed professor and poet Mark Van Doren.

THE LATEST

TAKE FIVE | APRIL 12

"My roommate dropped out second semester so I became one of those fabled freshmen with a single, which helped make up for the daily 5:45 a.m. wake-up calls from the nearby Ferris Booth Hall trash collection. My room was also directly across the hall from a computer lab that was connected to some secret futuristic network, which ended up going live that summer as the World Wide Web. In hindsight, I was literally living next door to the digital future."

— Media executive Lavinel Savu '94

LION'S DEN | MAY 9

"My first experience with terrorism was when I was a senior, my floormates and I huddled around the TV watching the towers fall. It seemed incomprehensible to me at the age of 20. My children are, unfortunately, having to grapple with it at the tender ages of 5 and 7. Until this point, they have only seen the seemingly happy co-existing of faiths. In my home, all four of the major religions of Sri Lanka live happily under one roof, my own little melting pot."

> – CCT class correspondent
> Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani '02, from "Paradise Bleeds"



Within the Family

A Report on Student Affairs

watched Class Day from a new vantage point this year — by the main stage, facing the graduates, where I could take in the tent-covered scene as the seniors marched in. There they were, all smiles and Columbia blue, gowns festooned with meaningful touches: the gold aiguillettes of the senior marshals, the navy cords honoring commitment to Multicultural Affairs, the colorful stoles signifying membership in Greek life and other societies. More than 1,200 strong, together as they rarely are, the Class of 2019 talked and laughed and jostled about; they also shed a few tears, and no doubt all manner of emotions rippled below the surface. (Certainly, my own appreciation for the complicated feelings that come with college graduation only emerged in time.)

I'm moved every year by this ceremony, with its palpable pride and joy and sentimental expressions. I'll admit to a certain predisposition toward the art that is the graduation speech. The best are honest, inspiring, humble and not without humor. They speak to the feelings that course through anyone who has reached this rite of passage. And they are personal, born of the speaker's own experiences, driven by a desire to impart *this* final lesson or kernel of wisdom, to ask a mind-opening question, to offer something on this momentous day that might be carried forward.

Here I tip my hat to Brandon Victor Dixon '03, who delivered beautifully on this ideal. His was a moving appeal to the responsibility we all have to and for each other. Proximity is how we learn about each other, he said, and there is no such thing as "trickle-down empathy." "Change and unity are created from the ground up by coalitions of neighbors and friends. You can wield all the reason and logic in the world, but sometimes the only way to change someone is to literally touch their lives."

You can read more from Dixon's speech in our Class Day and Commencement coverage on page 26. There, you'll also hear from 10 seniors whom we asked for their plans and also for their big takeaway from the past four years. It may be a small sampling, but it gives a sense of the diversity of interests and experiences in the Class of 2019. We look forward to seeing what they do next.

The same could be said of the writers we met through *CCT*'s first student short fiction contest, the winner of which has her story featured in this issue. We weren't sure what kind of participation to expect when we conceived of the contest last fall; as an alumni magazine, we also weren't sure how well the current students knew us. Would they even respond to our call? But we wanted to bridge that

gap with our future readers, and to spotlight their talents in a way that felt suited to our pages. We were thrilled when the final submissions tally reached close to 70.

Winnowing that number to five finalists was a challenge. But the set that we sent to our alumni judges glowed, and they in turn were unanimous in their selection of Sophia Cornell '20 as the winner. Two additional stories, by Rachel Page '20 and Philip Kim '20, earned honorable mentions and will be posted on our website; I encourage you to read them, and I thank all the students who submitted a story. It was a pleasure to read your work.

Thank you as well to our judges, authors Kelly Link '91, Darryl Pinckney '88 and Jill Santopolo '03. They treated

their responsibility with the utmost care and respect. And I have no doubt that their participation and what it signaled — the possibility for students of having their work read by such a venerable trio — is what spurred our high number of entries.

Finally, if I may step outside the pages of this issue, I'd like to highlight another special student experience that *CCT* had this past semester — at the Senior Dinner, held every year on the last day of classes. For those who aren't familiar, the event is sponsored by the Alumni Office as a way to celebrate and welcome seniors into the ranks of alumni. It's always a festive night, and this year we set up a photo-op to create some extra keepsake moments your face on the cover of *CCT*! We loved it, and hope the seniors did, too.

I'm sure it won't be long before we see them again in our pages.

alizing Boney

Alexis Boncy SOA'11 Editor-in-Chief



CCT's newest class correspondents, Tj Aspen Givens '19 (left) and Emily Gruber '19, at the Senior Dinner.

the **Big**Picture CREATIVE KEYNOTE

School of the Arts associate professor Trey Ellis led a conversation about storytelling in TV and film with actress Maggie Gyllenhaal '99 and *House of Cards* showrunner Beau Willimon '99, SOA'03 at Reunion Weekend 2019 on June 1. "Put your drop in the vast river of the human story, and that's a worthwhile life," Willimon said. Find party pics, class photos and more reunion snaps at **facebook.com/alumnicc/photos.**

SCOTT RUDD





COLUMBIA COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Letters to the Editor



An Instructive Editor

Thanks to *CCT* and Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90 for the nice retrospective on the life and work of Theodore M. Bernstein CC 1924, JRN 1925 ["Hall of Fame"]. My father was one of Bernstein's closest friends and worked with him in writing and editing Bernstein's book *The Careful Writer: A Modern Guide to English Usage*. Bernstein greased the skids for me to get my first paying job in journalism, as a night-shift "copy boy" at *The New York Times*. It was very instructive to watch him at work: No matter how chaotic the news, no matter how outrageous the egos of all around him, Bernstein maintained an imperturbable calm and was never rude to anyone. Thanks to him and to the Jesuits who taught me Latin in high school, I got to be something of a grammar and usage guru myself: I was the editor of the Stylebook at *The Washington Post*.

> Tom Lippman '61 Washington, D.C.

Responsibility to Excellence

Regarding Thomas Vinciguerra'85, JRN'86, GSAS'90's excellent article on Theodore M. Bernstein CC 1924, JRN 1925 in the Spring 2019 issue: My SAE fraternity brother Bill Smith'57, who went to work at *The New York Times*, used to send me copies of Bernstein's *Winners & Sinners* newsletter. Bernstein picked out excellent work to praise, but he was also the defender of the proper use of language and the paper's resident grammar teacher.

I upbraided young Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr. at a conference some years ago about the *Times*'s failure to uphold those standards, pointing out that I'd counted nearly a dozen errors in the paper just that morning. He said, "We have bigger fish to fry." Perhaps, but I believe that as the selfproclaimed "newspaper of record," the *Times* should have a responsibility to be a paragon of excellence in the practice of its craft as well. Alas, that seems just another sign of decline in the once-great "Gray Lady."

Robert Lauterborn '56 Chapel Hill, N.C.

A Passion for Lacrosse

Sentimental. Inspired. Motivated. All words that describe my feelings as I read Matt Reuter '07's "The Last Word," in the Spring 2019 issue. I too was a proud member of Columbia's men's club lacrosse team during my student days, 1989–1993. Those teams were a diverse collection of men from a variety of Columbia schools. In addition to highly competitive lacrosse, the team provided us with great conversation, camaraderie and fun. And while an outside observer may have described us as a ragtag operation, we were passionate about the sport, and about Columbia.

Those passions endure — and perhaps burn hotter — today, as lacrosse alumni ponder the same question now as we did then: How could Columbia, which is located at the virtual epicenter of lacrosse in America (most club players hail from the tri-state area), be the only Ivy school without a men's varsity team?

Since the 1990s, lacrosse has continued to grow and thrive in America, and especially in the Ivy League. In just that time, the league has boasted an amazing seven national champions, 10 finalists and many, many qualifiers.

Put simply, the Ivy League may well be the nation's strongest lacrosse league with Columbia embarrassingly watching from the stands, year in and year out.

Today, I am proud to be part of a dedicated, organized group of alumni that is working to promote lacrosse at our fine institution and to ensure that the true "last word" is a men's varsity team at Columbia.

Matt DeFilippis '93 Bayville, N.Y.

Make It Eight

Thank you so much for Matt Reuter '07's essay in "The Last Word," Spring 2019. Reading his narrative helped me relive the excitement I felt playing for the men's lacrosse team 1992–96. I clearly remember

Contact Us

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

Holler at Us in Haiku!

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



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

walking from Carman to South Field with my lacrosse stick after seeing Eric Drath GS'94 throwing the ball around with a couple of his frat brothers (and his dog). I committed to the team that day and spent the next four years playing the game I love with a group of guys that continue to be some of my closest friends.

Special thanks to Matt for his research about the team and for leading a group of alums passionate about promoting men's lacrosse at Columbia. I love the fact that Columbia will host the Ivy League tournament again! I will be there, but as I sit in the stands my thoughts will wander to a future where our team competes in a complete Ivy League tournament — #makeit8. *Uchenna Acholonu Jr. '96 New Hyde Park, N.Y.*

The Thrill of Victory

What a joy to read "They Called Him 'Mr. Little" by Alex Sachare '71 in the Spring 2019 issue ("Roar, Lion, Roar"), particularly that whopping victory over Army in 1947. Now that I have reached the plateau of the 90s, memories fill the void of eyesight. That game was the big one for all of us, and especially for me. My uncle was a West Point graduate. The cadets were overjoyed when their score totaled 20. Out came their clean, square white handkerchiefs - the West Point visitors stands, waving us off. Undaunted, the Lion started to roar. Our secret weapon was our feet, pounding Baker Field's old wooden stands. Right after Bill Swiacki '49 made his amazing touchdown catch ... slowly but

surely, out came a sea of multicolored and rumpled handkerchiefs signaling "bye-bye, Army." Never sang "Oh, Who Owns New York?" as lustily. The corps surely heard that, clean up the Hudson to the Point.

Durand Harootunian '50 Ridgewood, N.J.

We Almost Lost Little

Alex Sachare 71's otherwise commendable profile in the Spring 2019 issue of Coach Lou Little fell short by just one extra point: Coach Little's near-defection to Yale in 1947–48.

Just months after Columbia's miraculous 21–20 victory over Army at Baker Field on October 25, 1947, Yale football coach Howie Odell resigned to become coach at the University of Washington. Mindful of Little's coaching genius, the Yalies tried luring Little to New Haven with a tempting offer to become not only head football coach, but also athletics director, for bigger bucks.

Little was torn. In early 1948, during a Columbia-Penn basketball game he was attending, Little told *The New York Times* that "it was a terribly difficult decision I had to make to choose between two of the finest schools in the country."

As Yale's president, Charles Seymour, began applying pressure on Little to depart Columbia after 18 years as head coach, Columbia's defensive team rose to the occasion. Ultimately, the job fell to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, then Columbia's president-designate.

Eisenhower, in his memoir *At Ease: Stories to Tell Friends*, recounted the meet-

ing with Little: "While I was still Chief of Staff [of the Army], and on the eve of my departure to take up my duties at Columbia, I was given the mission of saving Lou for the University. He had been offered the head coaching job at Yale. Columbia alumni panicked. They decided that only I could persuade Lou to stay on. A group of them, headed by Bill Donovan [CC 1905, LAW 1908], of the OSS in World War II, and Frank Hogan [CC 1924, LAW 1928], the New York District Attorney, escorted Lou to Fort Myer for a talk. I had no professional or financial arguments to offer. I was reduced to a personal appeal. It was not at all eloquent.

"Lou, you cannot do this to me,' I said. 'You're one of the reasons I am going to Columbia.'

"The coach seemed a little flustered. But he recovered quickly and, asking for time to consider the future, we talked football,



reminisced, and had a general discussion on the state of the game. For once all the years I spent coaching seemed to make sense. I continued to be uneasy about Lou's decision. And then I learned that immediately on his arrival to his hotel in Washington, he called his wife, Loretta, and said, 'Stop packing. We're not going [to Yale].""

And thus did Eisenhower recall his encounter with the man who would go on to become, in Sachare's words, "the winningest coach in Columbia football history." *Bob Orkand '58*

Huntsville, Texas

Message from the Dean

Interpreting "Beginner's Mind"

At Class Day on May 21, I spoke about how the hermeneutic analysis in Literature Humanities can be applied to the themes of Beginner's Mind and My Columbia College Journey. The latter is a framework designed to help students reflect on their growth and experiences at the College. What follows is an abridged version of my speech.

he method of interpretation that our students learn in Literature Humanities is called hermeneutics — trying to determine what the writer intended to say to us, assessing how the context of the time and place of both the writer and the reader influence how we understand what was written, recognizing that the writer might be conveying something not actually intended, even seeing how the chosen grammatical structure reinforces meaning. Hermeneutic analysis helps us understand everything from sacred texts like the Bible or the Quran to



products of classic popular culture. Today, I am going to focus on the hermeneutics of something that lies between wisdom and popular culture: Deantini themes.

Most prominent among the Deantini themes is something students have heard me say many times: "In the Beginner's Mind there are many possibilities, in the expert's mind there are few." The quotation is from the book Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind, by Shunryu Suzuki; though not my own words, I have adopted them and by doing so, have imparted my

own meaning. When someone in a college or university offers instruction, the advice or guidance usually begins with, "You must" or "You should." To offer these words in this imperative form distinguishes the person giving the instruction from the person receiving it and creates a hierarchy of a superior and an inferior.

I certainly could have expressed this guidance as an imperative, simply by saying: "You must have an open mind." Doing so would separate you from me, and place me in the position of the superior instructing you, the inferior. But to say, "In the Beginner's Mind there are many possibilities, in the expert's mind there are few" serves to unite us rather than differentiate us. It places us in the same position, sharing an aspirational behavior. Most importantly, by the absence of words like "should" and "must," it avoids entirely the sense of my judging you.

My using Beginner's Mind this way intends to encourage you to put aside the judgment of others as your guide, and to use self-

awareness and self-reflection to formulate your own assessments of the world. It reminds each of us to consider the possibility that we might be entirely wrong in an assessment about which we feel certain, and to temper our judgment of others who have made a different assessment.

On the *My Columbia College Journey* website (college.columbia. edu/journey/home), you won't find a single imperative sentence telling you what you must do or what you should do. Instead, you will find interrogative sentences. For example, if you click on one of the 13 Core Competencies, such as "Civic and Individual Responsibility," you are presented with three prompts: "How do you understand your own values, actions and words?" "What service projects, internships or other opportunities have you experienced that support these values?" "How might you imagine having an impact on your own communities?"

These questions are constructed to invoke Beginner's Mind. The questions can be asked of me just as much as they can be asked of you, emphasizing that we all strive to develop this competency throughout our lives. They recognize that there are many possible ways for each of us to develop civic and individual responsibility, and they encourage each of you to imagine all possibilities. We don't create a hierarchy of approaches and we don't assess what you are doing. Most importantly, we don't judge your progress; in fact, we don't judge you at all.

There is, of course, a particular context of time and place in which we use this interrogative form — a time and place dominated by social media, where self-awareness, self-reflection and Beginner's Mind rarely seem to enter. It is a world of self-satisfaction, selfcelebration and snap judgments. With names like Instagram and Snapchat that emphasize the instantaneous, the ephemeral, the facile, it's no surprise that the self-reflection and the modesty of Beginner's Mind can't even get on the platform. And social media is all about being guided by the judgment of others, via getting "likes" and having "followers." It is hard to consider the possibility that our supposed knowledge might be wrong — hard even to pose interrogatives that reveal genuine uncertainty — when we are marketing ourselves to others.

We need Beginner's Mind on social media as much as in our classrooms — in the classroom we are less at risk of being misled by "likes" and "followers," and more likely to learn the value of humility.

I hope the guidance of Beginner's Mind and *My Columbia College Journey* will continue to serve you well. Congratulations to you, the Class of 2019 of Columbia College.

Holentini

James J. Valentini *Dean*



Three Alumni Win Pulitzer Prizes

The 2019 Pulitzer Prize winners were announced on April 15 and three alumni were among the recipients. **Harriet Ryan** '96 (along with Matt Hamilton and Paul



Pringle, all from the Los Angeles Times) received the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Investigative Reporting for "consequential reporting on a University of Southern California gynecologist accused of violat-

Ryan

ing hundreds of young women for more than a quarter-century." According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the series "led to dramatic changes, including the resignation of the university President C.L. Max Nikias."

Ellen Reid '05 was awarded the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Music for p r i s m, "a bold new operatic work that uses sophisticated vocal writing and striking instrumental timbres to confront difficult subject matter: the effects of sexual and emotional abuse."

Michael Rothfeld '93, JRN'98 was part of the *Wall Street Journal* team that received



the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in National Reporting "for uncovering President Trump's secret payoffs to two women during his campaign who claimed to have had affairs with him, and the web of supporters who facili-

. .

Rothfeld

.....

tated the transactions, triggering criminal inquiries and calls for impeachment."

Faculty Laurels

The end of the academic year always brings a succession of faculty honors. Most recently, the Society of Columbia Graduates and the deans of Columbia College and Columbia Engineering bestowed the 71st annual Great Teacher Awards on



THE CLASS OF 2019 CELEBRATES AT THE SENIOR DINNER: On May 7, more than 900 members of CC'19 enjoyed dinner under a tent on South Lawn, marking their transition from students to alumni. The event featured a welcome from Columbia College Student Council President Mina Mahmood '19, as well as remarks from Dean James J. Valentini, Senior Fund co-chairs Jordan Cline '19 and Emily Gruber '19, and Senior Dinner co-chairs Chase Manze '19 and Krystal Molina '19. The evening closed with the Metrotones singing "Sans Souci" and "Roar, Lion, Roar."

.....

Professor of Music, Historical Musicology Giuseppe Gerbino and Professor of Biomedical Engineering Barclay Morrison.

In April, the students had their say, giving their yearly awards for faculty members who have contributed outstanding work to publishing and academia. The Alexander Hamilton Professor of American Studies **Andrew Delbanco** received the 44th annual Lionel Trilling Book Award for *The War Before the War: Fugitive Slaves and the Struggle for America's Soul from the Revolution to the Civil War.* Associate Professor of History and African American Studies **Frank A. Guridy** received the 58th annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching for his "humanity, devotion to truth and inspiring leadership."

Also in April, eight faculty members were given Lenfest Distinguished Columbia Faculty Awards for exceptional instruction and scholarship, an honor that comes with a stipend for each honoree of \$25,000 a year for three years. This year's recipients were **Taoufik Ben-Amor**, the Gordon Gray Jr. Senior Lecturer in Arabic Studies; Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature **Matthew Hart**; Associate Professor of Political Science **Kimuli Kasara**; Professor of Writing **Benjamin Marcus; Serena Ng,** the Edwin W. Rickert Professor of Economics; Assistant Professor of Italian **Pier Mattia Tommasino; Gray Tuttle,** the Leila Hadley Luce Professor of Modern Tibetan Studies; and Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology **Maria Uriarte**.

CCT Online Archives

History buffs and inquisitive alumni, take note! *Columbia College Today* has a new resource — our online archive, with access to more than 60 years of issues starting with 1954. Users can search using a keyword index, or browse individual issues as PDFs. The project was made possible thanks to a gift from the Columbia University Club Foundation in honor of former *CCT* editor-in-chief Alex Sachare '71's 18-plus years with the magazine, and completed in partnership with the Columbia University Libraries.

The archive is complete through the Summer 2016 issue, and will be updated with the latest issues every three years. For more information, go to library.columbia. edu/locations/cuarchives/cct.html.



Josef Sorett

By Jill C. Shomer

ot everyone feels comfortable discussing the most sensitive, hot-button issues of our national moment, but Josef Sorett is here to talk about religion and race.

An associate professor of religion and African American and African diaspora studies and the founding director of the Center on African-American Religion, Sexual Politics and Social Justice (CARSS), Sorett is interested in how ideas about religion inform broader culture and society, especially in black communities. "A deep engagement with the complexities of religion and culture can help us imagine what it means to be human," he says.

Religion has played a major part in Sorett's own life. He grew up in and around Boston, coming of age "on a diet of hip-hop and praise and worship music." At the same time he was enjoying the new sounds of The Sugarhill Gang and Doug E. Fresh, he and his parents began attending a Pentecostal Charismatic church that embraced an especially expressive form of devotion. "I spent my adolescence enmeshed in that context," he says. "The experience was formative for so many of the questions I try to answer in my research."

Religion and race came together for Sorett as a student at Oral Roberts University in the early 1990s. "On one hand, the college was organized around a particular set of religious tenets to produce a specific kind of Christian person; at the same time, it had a black student population of about 25 percent," he says. "The ways in which race was or was not addressed provoked questions that there wasn't space on campus to answer. I went for a master's in divinity [at Boston University], in part, to wrestle with questions of theology and race that had not been addressed."

Sorett continued his studies at Harvard and was in the first cohort of Ph.D. students in African-American studies in fall 2001. "My first week was 9-11," he says. "It was quite an intense time to be studying religion and race." After completing his classes, he and his wife moved to Brooklyn and Sorett taught at Medgar Evers College while researching his dissertation. Shortly after graduation a job opened up at Columbia that "fit exactly with my training," and Sorett joined the faculty in fall 2009.

He started teaching "Introduction to African-American Studies" in 2011, and has seen the class grow from being a small course within the major to becoming part of the Global Core requirement, enrolling more than 100 students per semester. At a time when racism has resurfaced among the biggest concerns in our country, Sorett aims to help students consider the present in light of a much longer history. "I was teaching African-American Studies at the same time that #BlackLivesMatter emerged, and watching groups of students who had come of age in Obama's aspirational America now wrestling with public incidents of anti-black violence with no legal accountability," he says. "Every week there was something going on that would seem to derail a nice historical survey.

"The responsibility is to slow students down from whatever the headlines are and challenge our faith in progress," he continues. "The way in which we narrate American history, especially around race, is often a story of chronological progress to an Obama presidency or through the achievements of the Civil Rights era. Now all the more with the Trump presidency, these things stand in the face of that neat narrative of progress."

The tension between the scholarly and the activist has long been central to African-American studies, Sorett says, and is at the heart of his work with CARSS. The center advances research, education and engagement around religion, race and sexuality with a focus on black churches and their communities. "It's very much about bringing together university and community, scholar and activist, theorist and practitioner," he says.

Sorett published his first book in 2016; Spirit in the Dark: A Religious History of Racial Aesthetics examines how religion has figured in 20th-century debates about black art and culture. He's now wrapping up his second book, The Holy Holy Black: The Ironies of an African-American Secular, and is editing a collection that grew out of CARSS's work, The Sexual Politics of Black Churches.

When not at work, Sorett enjoys being a soccer dad to his sons, ages 11 and 8. Sports has always been a big part of his life — he played basketball at Oral Roberts, and recently became a faculty fellow to Columbia's men's basketball team.

And in the classroom, Sorett says teaching keeps him on his toes. "You can come with a set agenda or anticipating specific questions, and the students will take you in a completely different direction," he says. "The classrom can help you see something about your research you hadn't seen those lightbulb moments of clarity, when you feel both older and younger all at once."



In Memoriam: Charles L. Van Doren GSAS'59, Professor of English Emeritus

Charles L. Van Doren GSAS'59, a

Columbia English professor emeritus and a member of a distinguished literary family who confessed to Congress and the nation in 1959 that his performances on a television quiz show had been rigged, died on April 9, 2019, in Canaan, Conn. He was 93.

Van Doren was born in Manhattan on February 12, 1926. He attended the



Van Doren speaking at reunion in 1999.

City and Country School and the High School of Music & Art, approaching concert-level talent as a clarinetist. At 16, he undertook the Great Books curriculum at St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., from which he graduated with honors in 1947, after a break to serve with the Army Air Forces in 1944 and 1945. Van Doren earned a master's in mathematics from GSAS in 1949. After studies at Cambridge University in England and the Sorbonne in Paris, he returned to New York and in 1955 began teaching at Columbia. He earned a Ph.D. in English literature from GSAS in 1959.

The family name carried weight: Van Doren's father was Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, literary critic and legendary Columbia professor of English. His mother, Dorothy (née Graffe), was a novelist and editor. And his uncle, Carl, had been a professor of literature, a historian and a Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer.

The younger Van Doren captivated audiences from November 28, 1956, to March 11, 1957, on the NBC quiz show *Twenty-One*. All told, he earned \$129,000 (equivalent today to more than \$1 million). He appeared on the cover of *Time*, received fan letters, brushed off marriage proposals and signed a \$150,000 contract to appear on NBC shows for three years.

In succeeding months, as rumors and skepticism over TV quiz shows grew, some contestants admitted the programs had been fixed. Van Doren denied it to the press, the public, family, friends and even a Manhattan grand jury. But on November 2, 1959, he told congressional investigators that he had been given questions and answers in advance and had been coached to make his performances more dramatic.

Van Doren, who was highlighted among the show's many participants because of his family's prominence, said he agonized to come to terms with his betrayals. Columbia accepted his resignation, NBC canceled his contract and, along with others who had lied to the grand jury about their roles, he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor perjury and received a suspended sentence.

Afterward, Van Doren became an editor and a pseudonymous writer, took a job with Encyclopædia Britannica and moved to its Chicago headquarters in 1965. He became a VP in charge of the editorial department and edited, wrote and co-wrote dozens of books. He also returned to education, teaching English at the University of Connecticut's Torrington campus, not far from his home in Cornwall. He retired in 1982.

For decades, Van Doren refused to talk publicly about the scandal. He declined to assist in a documentary for the PBS series *American Experience* in 1992, or in Robert Redford's 1994 movie, *Quiz Show*, of which he was the focus.

Van Doren is survived by his wife, Geraldine Ann Bernstein; their children, John C.L. '84 and Elizabeth; and three grandchildren. His younger brother, John GSAS'52, died in January 2019.

— Lisa Palladino

DidYouKnow?

The First New York City Subway System Was Designed by a College Grad

illiam Barclay Parsons CC 1879, SEAS 1882 was a pioneering figure in New York City's subway system. In 1894, Parsons became the first chief engineer of the New York Rapid Transit Commission; as part of his work he designed the original plan for the Interborough Rapid Transit subway — the city's first underground transit system. The original IRT line opened in 1904, and 116 Street - Columbia University (now a 1 train stop) was part of the first wave of stations that ran from City Hall to 145th Street at Broadway. At Columbia, Parsons was both a co-founder of *Spectator* and class president.



The Restaurateur Who Brought Celebrity Glamour to the Table

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

mack amid the Manhattan Theater District's riotous mix of boffo hits and broken hearts sits a restaurant called Sardi's. For decades, that spot at 234 W. 44th St. has been synonymous with premieres, celebrity spotting, caricatures of show-biz types and all-around entertainment razzle-dazzle.

And, for more than 45 years, it was Vincent Sardi Jr. BUS'37, the "Unofficial Mayor of Broadway," who owned and ran the place. He once called his family's namesake establishment "a message center, a lovers' rendezvous, a production office, a casting center, and even a psychiatrist's office."

He added, "We serve food, too."

Sardi's began life as a speakeasy that Vincent Sardi Sr. acquired in 1921, six years after his son, nicknamed "Cino," was born. Even as the younger Sardi studied on Morningside Heights — his first two years were spent at the College — he knew where his destiny lay. One day he told his father that he wanted to follow him into the business. His mother was appalled; her son, after all, was an Ivy Leaguer. But Papa Sardi said, "There is nothing disgraceful about being a restaurant owner if you are well trained and do it right."

So Sardi abandoned his pre-med track and transferred to the Business School. Outside of class, he toiled in the kitchen and behind the cigar counter ("Dad said the cigar counter was a job; I thought it was punishment"), as well as spending time as a busboy, waiter, captain, headwaiter, host, buyer and accountant. He formally purchased Sardi's in 1947.

Under the guidance of Sardi *fils*, who worked 14 hours a day, the restaurant became legendary. The Tony Awards were conceived there the same year that Sardi bought out his father, and for decades the nominees were announced at a luncheon ceremony. Traditionally, an opening-night cast and crew would adjourn to Sardi's to



Sardi, in the kitchen of his famed restaurant in 1966.

await the early reviews. "If they're good," said Sardi, "we start to hear, 'Captain, a bottle of champagne and the food menu. God, I'm hungry!' If the reviews aren't good, all we hear is, 'Check, please.""

Of course, Sardi's also earned a reputation for its gallery of hundreds of celebrity caricatures — a tradition begun in the late 1920s when Alex Gard, a poor Russian refugee, struck a deal to draw them in exchange for meals. (Stories are attached to many portraits, including that of James Cagney CC 1922, which someone stole off the wall on the day he died.)

Sardi liked actors; he had been one in his childhood, playing "Pietro the Little Wop" in 1925's forgettable *The Master of the Inn.* He also appeared in *Buckaroo* in 1929; the reviews were so bad that the producers cut all the extras after opening night, "including me."

Mindful, perhaps, of such misfortunes, Sardi was an indulgent host, often allowing patrons to run up large tabs. "I've learned to be awfully careful with an actor out of work," he said. "A table in a good location is simply my way of giving him a pat on the back." Along the way, he came to know many of his clients. He took Broderick Crawford's Doberman for a walk every night when the future Academy Award winner was starring as Lennie in Of Mice and Men. He washed dishes with actor/director Alfred Lunt, who told him, "You serve fine food at your place, and you know how to get people seated gracefully - but after this, I know you know how to run a restaurant!"

The Sardi's name has carried far beyond NYC; both restaurant and owner have featured on television and in numerous movies. For its 1976 turn on NBC's *Big Event* series, the producers wanted a dish not normally on the menu. "So we serve 200 people Scotch grouse, which has to be cooked practically raw," Sardi recalled. "And all of a sudden I hear, '*Vincent*! What is this crap?!"



LookWho'sTalking

Josh Lucas

Executive Director of Student Engagement

I see you have degrees from the Universities of Tennessee and Kentucky, and then worked at Kentucky for a few years. What drew you to Columbia?

I actually lived in New York City between undergraduate and graduate school to pursue acting. I loved the city and, after I decided to go to graduate school for higher education in student affairs, knew I wanted to make my way back one day. Fortunately, a job opportunity at Columbia brought me back. At the time, it was a position that allowed me to work on Orientation, student group advising and community building programs.



What's your typical day?

No day is the same. You can think you know what to expect, but something could arise that needs

immediate attention, whether that is a student group concern or supporting my team. Each day has meetings with students, staff and campus partners. And of course, lots of emails. Coffee is my constant in the day. I have it morning, noon and night!

What's the best part of your job?

Interacting with students. It's the reason I wanted to be in student affairs. I had incredible mentors in undergraduate and graduate school who provided me so many opportunities, and I wanted to give back. Whether that is conversations in my office or at campus traditions, retreats or fun programs, I love seeing students enjoy their College experience, and the fact that I get to help create opportunities for them is the best.

You have a lot of involvement with student group advising. How do you view the place of those activities within students' *My Columbia College Journey*? I believe many students find a home and community at Columbia within their student group, which then becomes a part of their Journey. The core competencies outlined in the Journey can all be found within a student group, from teamwork and collaboration, to oral and written communication, to civic and individual responsibility, to wellness and resilience.

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

That's a tough question, mainly because I feel I'm open with my students, staff and campus partners, but I'll try to name a few: I was a first-generation college student, I was a commuter in undergraduate, I've run the New York City Marathon, I have a full-sleeve tattoo (with plans for more), I love to travel, I am an uncle, I have been with my husband, Ryan, for over nine years and married for a little over a year, and I am extremely close to my family.

In *The Muppets Take Manhattan* (1984), "Cino" ejected Kermit the Frog after the ambitious amphibian tried to replace Liza Minnelli's caricature with his own. But two years later he sold the business for a reported \$92 million and retired to Vermont to play polo, tend to his German Shepherds and tinker with his collection of antique cars.

By that time, much of Sardi's luster had dimmed amid the 1970s decline of New York City in general and Times Square in particular. In 1988, *New York Times* critic Bryan Miller described the once proud landmark as "a bumbling parody of itself." The new ownership filed for bankruptcy and closed the doors on June 30, 1990.

And so, determined to rise to the challenge of restoring his family's name, the septuagenarian Sardi abandoned pastoral Vermont for bustling Midtown. Returning to his beloved restaurant, he found a crumbling, roach-infested building and water dripping from stained ceilings. "It was one of my saddest moments," he told *Crain's New York Business*.

Sardi responded by investing \$500,000 in refurbishments, bringing back some of the staff and in general being a reassuring face of the old days. The grand reopening took place on November 1, 1990, with a party for 400 guests to celebrate David Merrick's revival of the Gershwin 1926 musical, *Oh, Kay!* In just a couple of years, business was rebounding.

"We got through Prohibition and the Great Depression," Sardi said. "You can't just let a tradition like this go down the drain." And indeed, it has not. Satisfied with the turnaround, Sardi's longtime owner left West 44th Street for good in 1997. Today, the restaurant is as firm a fixture of the Theater District as ever.

When Sardi died on January 4, 2007, at 91, his peers saluted him the following evening as they long have other giants of his realm — by dimming for one minute the marquee lights of the Great White Way.

ROAR, LION, ROAR

In the Sweet Spot

Men's tennis coach Bid Goswami knows how to deliver a swan song — in his 37th and final year at the helm, Goswami guided the team to its sixth straight Ivy League title and was named both the Ivy League and the Wilson/ITA National Men's Tennis Coach of the Year. The Lions finished with a perfect 7–0 record in conference competition. Overall, the team went 17–3, falling only to teams ranked in the top 10 nationally.



Victor Pham '19 was named Ivy League Player of the Year for the second consecutive year. He bounced back from fall wrist surgery to close the regular season with a 15–3 overall record and, as

Victor Pham '19

the 37th seed in the NCAA singles tournament, advanced to the second round before getting knocked out. Meanwhile, Jack Lin'21, who entered the NCAA tournament as the 22nd seed, went one round further, falling in the Round of 16.

Pham and Lin also were among the players named to the 2019 first All-Ivy League singles team; Adam Ambrozy'20 was named a second-team singles honoree.

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

In addition, Lin was named to the first doubles team alongside William Matheson '19, and Pham landed on the second doubles team with Rian Pandole '21.

On the women's side, Jennifer Kerr '21 earned a spot on the first All-Ivy singles team. Akanksha Bhan '22 was named to the second team in both singles and doubles, and Paulina Ferrari '21 also to the second doubles team. The Lion women concluded their season with a 15–4 record, 4–3 in the Ivy League.

Batter Up

Lions softball had its strongest season in the program's 20-year history, finishing with a 24-21 record after going 15-6 in Ivy League play. Their effort earned them their first trip to the Ivy League postseason, though they lost in the first round to Harvard. Coach Jennifer Teague garnered Ivy League Coach of the Year honors her first in her five seasons leading the team. "This has been such an amazing year in so many different ways, but the things I'm going to remember most about Team 20 are their energy and



Fired up! Max Ortega '21 at the 2019 Ivy League Playoff Series.

spirit," Teague said. "They loved

each other and were great teammates to each other." Max Oretega '21, Maria Pagane '21, Sommer Grzybek '20 and Alexa Pinarski '22 all were named to the All-Ivy first team, while Madison Canby '20 earned a spot on the second team.

Lions baseball, meanwhile, fell to Harvard in the Ivy League Playoff Series, finishing its year at 19–23 and just missing a bid to the NCAA tournament. Joe Engel '19 earned a spot on the All-Ivy first team, while Chandler Bengtson '19, Julian Bury '20, Liam McGill '20 and Josh Simpson '19 landed on the second team.

Silver Medal

Columbia's lightweight coxed varsity four captured a silver medal on the last day of the IRA National Championships in Sacramento, Calif. They narrowly edged out Princeton and Cornell, with all three teams finishing within 0.8 seconds of each other; Navy took gold.

Elsewhere at the championships, the Lions' lightweight varsity eight took fourth place in the grand final, the lightweight varsity four earned eighth overall and the heavyweight varsity eight placed 15th.

From the Links

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After a three-round weekend that saw Columbia get stronger every time out, men's golf took second place in this year's Ivy League Championship, finishing just one stroke behind Princeton. Arjun Puri '21 was key to the team's Sunday surge, shooting five-under-par 66, the best round for an individual in the entire tournament. Individually, Daniel Core '22 and John



Robertson '21 were Columbia's strongest finishers, tying for seventh. The pair also earned All-Ivy League second team honors.

The women's team captured third place during its Ivy League championship

weekend, headlined by Jennifer Wang '22's second place individual performance. Wang shot a four-over-par 70-77-73-220, just two strokes behind the leader. Wang also earned All-Ivy First Team honors, only the third player in school history to do so.



The Write Stuff

Pour a glass of lemonade and find a nice, shady spot — it's time to get to know the short fiction of Sophia Cornell '20, the winner of *CCT*'s inaugural student writing contest. We launched the contest at the start of last semester, and Cornell's story, "Host," was chosen from an impressive 68 total entries. (The flood during the last weekend of the submissions period had us grinning — our breed are known procrastinators!)

So many stories, so many worlds. We couldn't wait to dig in.

Reading them all highlighted the range of interests that animate the College's creative writers. The works ventured into different genres, and explored themes both timeless and contemporary. In the end, we passed five finalists to our judges; their decision was unanimous. They praised Cornell for her ability to wholly inhabit a male psyche; for knowing how to conceal information and play with notions of truth; and for the momentum and sense of mystery that kept them engaged to the end.

A word on our judges: We were fortunate to enlist a panel that included some of our most talented alumni writers: Kelly Link '91, a 2018 MacArthur "genius" grant winner and author of *Get in Trouble*; Darryl Pinckney '88, author of *Black Deutschland* and the forthcoming *Busted in New York and Other Essays*; and Jill Santopolo '03, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Light We Lost* and her latest, *More Than Words*. Listening to their discussion — the care and respect that guided it, the insights that came from it — was a master class in how to talk about writing. The three were touched by the ambition evidenced in all the stories before them, and impressed that the writers had each in their own way stepped outside of personal experience and invented worlds.

The judges also awarded two Honorable Mentions, to "Until the Bell Tolls" by Philip Kim '20 and "Rats" by Rachel Page '20. You can find those published online in our Feature Extras.

Our winner, Cornell, hails from Boulder, Colo., and is a creative writing and economics-mathematics major. She is an editor for *The Eye*, the long-form magazine of *Spectator*, and a biking trip leader for the Columbia Outdoor Orientation Program. This is her first fiction publication. We're proud to set the stage for that debut, and look forward to seeing what comes next. >>



omewhere in Nicaragua a child is named after me. To be honest, I don't remember exactly where in Nicaragua. I only spent seven weeks there, and it was a decade ago. It's what you're thinking: I went on a program the summer after my sophomore year in high school, and I wrote my college essay about the experience.

I found out about the kid by accident when scrolling through Facebook on a lunch break. Girls from my high school are forever having babies and posting airbrushed pictures of them with cat ears. The kid — soccer jersey, missing teeth, maybe 8 years old — could have been one of theirs. Then I saw that my host sister from Nicaragua, Isabel, had posted it. I reread the text more closely and saw with surprise that the kid had my name.

My name is uncommon and involves sounds not endemic to Spanish. I'd rather not tell you what it is because a very famous and despised person has the same first name, and I find that after learning my name most people take a while to warm up to me. I stopped using the name in college. In my professional life and with baristas I've made an effort to use my middle name, Satchel. At home my girlfriend, Felicity, calls me Puck. My family still calls me by my real name, which is just one reason I don't like to talk to them.

This kid's existence rattled me. In the picture, he was in a backyard I remembered: enormous green leaves, coffee trees, two lazy cows under a thatch next to a shed. Nothing like where I live now, in Indiana. Now that I put on a suit, go to work, come home every day to a sweet person like Felicity, I've started to think I could someday be a godfather. Or maybe a dog owner. But the 15-yearold version of me, the only version Isabel ever got to see, wasn't namesake material. I guess he was a good person, but mostly he was angry, selfish, acne-infested.

On the day that I saw the picture, I got home from work to find Felicity making a chickpea coconut curry. Felicity is a good cook but she only makes about four things. Still, I like her curry and was happy to smell it bubbling away as I hung up my umbrella and my briefcase and slipped off my loafers. She doesn't want shoes in the apartment, which is understandable.

I went into the kitchen and kissed her on the forehead and asked about her day. Felicity works with special-needs children and often has things thrown at her at work.

She looked up from the stove. "Peyton took his shoelace off and tied it around his neck at recess. He turned blue."

"Oh, no," I said. I have a hard time remembering the names of all of her charges, and which ones have what problems, but I try to listen intently so that she feels heard.

"Peyton's mom told the school nurse she couldn't pick him up right away and offered to send a driver instead."

"Wow," I said. She picked up the pan and poured the curry into two bowls, controlling the flow of liquid with a spatula. We kept meaning to buy a ladle.

We sat at the table and held hands and ate. I was impatient to show her my namesake in the soccer jersey. I thought Felicity would find the picture charming, but when I showed her, she tensed up and let go of my hand. She took my phone and zoomed in on the kid's face until it was pixelated.

"When exactly were you in Nicaragua?" she asked. "Ten years ago."

"Puck, is there any chance he's your son?"

I almost laughed out loud. I was 15 that summer, all leaking pustules and overbite, every inch a virgin. I had not impregnated anyone.

Illustrations by Peter Strain



Her round, bulging eyes were like two searchlights on my face. I was a little turned on that she thought of even my 15-year-old self as virile and sexual. Maybe that's why I did what I did.

What I did was give the impression that I was searching through a vast archive of sexual experience, so vast that certain memories were buried under the sheer volume. "I don't think so," I said, "but I guess it's not impossible."

We'd had the conversation about past sexual partners, of course. I listened in agony as Felicity described the drummer, the surfer, the minor league baseball player, the tattooed chef, the boy next door, and the youth group pastor. She went in reverse order, and ended on a "friend" from high school whom she ran into on a ski slope at 9 a.m. and blew on the chair lift at noon and later spent a week with while her parents thought she was at a tennis tournament.

Then it was my turn. I had no choice but to embellish a little. I don't remember exactly what I said, since the whole conversation was extremely stressful and I've



since done my best to never think about it again. But I might have suggested that I was a bit of a Don Juan. Now I have to avoid the topic entirely so I don't get caught in a lie.

I **REMEMBER** the first time I saw Isabel, on my first day in Nicaragua. All the Americans were bused from the airport to a warehouse covered with murals of past revolutionaries. The host families stood in bunches, waiting for their "volunteers," and the kids reassembled into the cliques they had made on the bus.

The frizzy-haired coordinator woman pointed me to my family. I noticed Isabel right away. She was a little older than me, maybe 17, in a pink polo shirt, a small birthmark under her right eyebrow. I followed them to an old school bus that had once served Roosevelt School District. The day was hot and muggy. The bus was exactly like the school bus I used to ride with my older sisters. I felt like a child again and suddenly felt very relaxed, like I was floating in the warm water of the scene and going where the current called.

Isabel and I had a low-level flirtation throughout the summer. To be honest, I'm not sure it even registered with her, but she worked me daily into a frenzy I had to deal with in the wooden shed by the cows. I went there at night to take bucket baths and have privacy. The shed didn't have a roof, so I guess it was more of a stall. I liked to wash myself at night, especially when the fog hid the stars. I had never been in such total blackness.

The family consisted of Isabel, her parents and a toothless older man whose relation to the family I never got quite clear. The dad was very kind and had crinkly eyes. I liked him tremendously even though we didn't have much to say to each other. He once found a flier on the ground and asked me to read it out loud to him, which is how I realized he couldn't read. He left every morning to work on a coffee plantation, so I mostly spent time with Isabel and my host mom. I often walked with Isabel to the soccer field, where she liked to admire a spry little guy everyone called "El Negro." I joined in the soccer game exactly once.

The family and I ate rice and beans three times a day. On special nights, my host mom mixed them together so that the beans colored the rice. She called the dish Gallo Pinto, as if it were a different food. My host dad milked the cows every morning, but their milk was thick and yellow, like unmixed paint, and I couldn't bring myself to drink it. I'd spent the first half of the summer playing video games in my basement, drinking Coke and eating Girl Scout cookies by the sleeve. By my first week in Nicaragua, I went weak at the thought of sugar.

My host mom made money by selling vanilla cupcakes in the nearby town. She baked a new batch every few mornings. The kitchen had four plates and four forks and 15 cupcake pans. On baking days I hung about the dirt-floor kitchen all morning, offering to sweep or beat eggs. If I looked just hangdog enough, my host mom would offer me a cupcake. They tasted like wet Nilla Wafers.

But one cupcake a day wasn't enough. Isabel and I never talked about it, but we began to sneak more and more. The cupcakes rested on metal trays on a splintering table in the open air outside the kitchen. Isabel would walk by, arms swinging. She could snag two cupcakes on the downswing without stopping. She stuck them in her waist band and we hurried off to the shed by the cows. The smell of vanilla or cow dung still brings me back to those squished cupcakes, warm from her hip, eaten in two feral bites.

We were complicit. I was too scared to actually do the stealing, but Isabel and I both knew that I would be blamed for the sudden increase in disappeared cupcakes. I was pretty sure that as the American and the guest, I wouldn't get in trouble. I never got quite clear on the financial incentive for taking a volunteer through the program, but I think it was generous, because other people in the village often spoke longingly of getting their own volunteers. The money must have covered my portion of rice and beans and then some. I hoped it made up for the lost cupcake revenue.

The family often asked how much my Adidas shoes cost, how much plane tickets from the United States cost. I said I didn't remember, and when they pressed me to guess, I automatically halved or quartered the numbers. I didn't know how to be rich. At home, I was the only one of my friends who didn't have braces. My parents were always worried about money, actually far more worried than anyone in Nicaragua seemed to be. I was only on the expensive trip in the first place because my grandma saw it as her duty to evacuate innocent civilians from the war zone of my parents' impending divorce.

The family asked me for money only once, when they learned it was my birthday. My host mom said she could make me a cake, vanilla, the way I liked it, but maybe I could help out a little with the ingredients? I panicked. I had some emergency money my real mom had hidden in my backpack, but I didn't want to make the relationship with the host family as transactional as it really was. So I told her I didn't need a cake, but thanks anyway.

My departure was surprisingly teary. I had written thank-you cards to all the family members and I presented them on the last day with a flourish. I read my host dad's out loud to him. The whole family accompanied me to another yellow school bus, which took me back to the warehouse with the murals. I reunited with all the volunteers and spoke in English again. At the airport in Houston, I drank a milkshake and poured a family-sized bag of Skittles down my throat, and then I threw up on the plane to Chicago. My parents hadn't coordinated with each other and they both arrived in separate cars to pick me up from the airport. I don't remember who I chose. At home, I went back to the basement. Everyone in the family was in the process of marking their territory in the house and the basement was mine. I made a lot of deals with God, offering to sacrifice various family members for things I really wanted: a girlfriend, an Xbox, plans on a Friday night.

Isabel messaged me a few times on Facebook. I was lonely and bored, but I didn't see much point in talking to someone I would never see again. And I got nervous texting in Spanish. I waited a while before I responded to make it clear I wasn't trying to be pen pals.

FELICITY AND I didn't mention Isabel or the kid again. She went back to babysitting her screaming suicidal kids and I went back to the office. Every night we ate one of her four dinners and watched a movie or had sex. She seemed a little scared of me, which I was ashamed of but also liked on a primal level. She took to grabbing my hand as we went to sleep and pressing it to the underside of her upper arm where I could feel her birth control implant, like a matchstick under her skin. That was as close as we got to discussing pregnancy, or the kid with my name.

Around this time, the dictatorship fell in Nicaragua. Or maybe a democratically elected leader turned into a dictator. In any case, the situation was getting bad. At work, I saw a segment on CNN about the riots, the raided newspaper offices and the violence in the countryside.

One Sunday at home, I got up from my catatonic internet trawling and went to take a shit. I had just sat down when Felicity said "knock knock" at the door. She says that instead of actually knocking, a habit of hers I have always found disgusting. I told her I'd be out in a second, and settled in to take my time.

When I got out, Felicity was standing with her arms folded in front of my computer. She pointed at the screen where a Facebook message from Isabel had

popped up. I didn't even think Felicity could read Spanish. I walked slowly to the fridge, where I got myself a Coke, and then sat down to read the message.

Isabel said that everything now had to be bought off the black market at criminal expense. Her dad had moved to Costa Rica, but even the jobs there were disappearing every day. She wanted to move

to the United States. A lifelong dream, she said, now a necessity. She knew citizens of the United States could sponsor family members for a green card. She hated to ask, but maybe I could sponsor her. After all, weren't we basically family? Didn't she have a son with my name?

I could feel Felicity's searchlights on me. I shut my eyes, but the underside of my lids were red, as if I were looking at the sun. I remembered, fondly, the nights I had bathed in the shed and hid in the blackness of the sky.

Honor Roll

Read two more stories we loved, by Philip Kim '20 and Rachel Page '20: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/ feature-extras/fiction.







utside P.S. 133 in Harlem one rainy Monday morning, a squealy group of first-graders are jumping off a bus. It's not a school bus, or even a city bus — the excited students have just finished a 45-minute, hands-on science class aboard a solar-powered mobile laboratory called BioBus. Examining tiny crustaceans under powerful research microscopes is heady stuff, and several children linger. At the door, Ben Dubin-Thaler '00, GSAS'08 Ph.D. looks on, pleased.

"Dr. Ben," as he is known to students, started Bio-Bus in 2008 to test a hypothesis. While getting his Ph.D. in biology, he would invite friends and their kids to the lab where he did research, and the youngsters always loved it. Dubin-Thaler became convinced that, provided the tools and opportunity to do hands-on experiments, any young person could get excited about science. "All the research shows that lab experience is a huge predictor for people following STEM careers," he says. An activist as well as a scientist, Dubin-Thaler was determined to bring science education and engagement to underserved minority, female and lowincome K–12 students in New York City.

In the last decade, more than 250,000 students at 500 schools have gotten on a BioBus — 50,000 in the past year alone. There are two buses now in the fleet, a yellow 1974 Golden Gate transit bus and a retrofitted Airstream trailer, their interiors tricked out with \$100,000 microscopes and monitors that scan and display micro-content. Teams of scientists



give lessons onboard as well as at two BioBases, more comprehensive education centers located on the Lower East Side and in the Jerome L. Greene Science Center on Columbia's Manhattanville campus; the majority of the staff are from groups underrepresented in STEM fields, an inspiration to the primarily black, Hispanic and female students they work with. Ninety-nine percent of teachers at schools that host BioBus ask for return visits, because the kids are really that psyched.

Dubin-Thaler's hypothesis was correct, and he's proven it several times over.

Science runs in Dubin-Thaler's family. His father, stepmother and stepfather are all physicists (his mother, a rebel, is a lawyer), and Dubin-Thaler recalls being immersed in the subject while growing up in suburban Philadelphia. "I was definitely in and around labs when I was as young as these kids, and it was *very* formative for me," he says. His father taught physics at the University of Illinois, and an early seed for BioBus was planted when Dubin-Thaler, still in high school, interned one summer with physicist Mats Selen, a colleague of his father's. Selen had started an outreach program called the Physics Van, featuring whizbang experiments for kids (rockets! liquid nitrogen!). Selen also got Dubin-Thaler thinking about what he wanted to get out of college.

Three generations of Thaler men attended Columbia, so it would seem that he was destined to become

Students from a Bronx elementary school boarding the BioBus II Airstream.

ANDY CRIBB / CRIBB VISUALS





Observing a caterpillar aboard BioBus II at the World Science Festival. ANDY CRIBB / CRIBB VISUALS

CITY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING CLOSE TO THE

"Dr. Ben" before he even walked through the Gates. But Dubin-Thaler was open to having a College experience that would shape and potentially alter his path. "The really formative piece for me was the activism, both the legacy of activism and the activism that was happening on campus at the time," he says. "There were protests to diversify the Core Curriculum, and pushes for union rights for campus workers and tenants' rights in the Columbia community. That's what really changed me - the broader social thinking from the Core and the hands-on activism that I got to be a part of."

Dubin-Thaler also realized his privilege: "So many kids in the city didn't have anything close to the opportunities and exposure to role models that I had," he says. "I was thinking critically about society, and I was in New York City, where you have to confront those issues of poverty in the community. It set up a conflict for me between science and social activism that I really struggled with. But I didn't change my major [from physics and mathematics], because I didn't know what the alternative path for me was."

A collection of science mentors helped Dubin-Thaler find his way. As a senior, he interned with Nobel laureate Horst Stormer (one of the founders of Frontiers of Science), who helped him realize he had talent as a scientist and could be successful in the lab. Dubin-Thaler's transition from physics to biology also occurred at that time. Emeritus Professor Michael Sheetz, an interdisciplinary biologist and biomedical engineer, was being recruited by Stormer for the biological sciences department. He and Dubin-Thaler connected during a visit to Stormer's

lab, and Dubin-Thaler worked for Sheetz as a research assistant for three years after graduation. He earned his Ph.D. with Sheetz as his advisor.

Knowing that Dubin-Thaler was struggling with how to make a difference in the world, it was Sheetz who put Dubin-Thaler on an actual bus - albeit one with a slightly different purpose. Dubin-Thaler was sent on the road with Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir, a social activist theater troupe helping local communities engage with important issues such as First Amendment defense and Earth justice. "That tour was so audacious and inspiring! It gave me the opportunity to explore the social engagement side of science that I was still figuring out," he says. "One of Billy's teachings that I still carry with me is the idea of 'exalted embarrassment'- that often the right thing to do is also very embarrassing to do. Making a meaningful connection with students often means doing silly things, like pretending that I'm a shrimp." On tour with Reverend Billy in a 1970s transit bus, Dubin-Thaler finally put all the pieces together -he could create a bigger version of the Physics Van, a moving science lab that could get young people inspired about science and create some social change.

He didn't waste any time putting the idea in motion. After completing his Ph.D., Dubin-Thaler



Below: Dubin-Thaler readies micro-content before a class. WILLIAM WU

Opposite page, left: BioBus intern Eduardo Garcia helps a student from Girls Prep elementary school.

ANDY CRIBB / CRIBB VISUALS

Opposite page, right: A science class at BioBase Harlem, in the Zuckerman Institute's Education Lab.

PAULA CROXSON FOR COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S ZUCKERMAN INSTITUTE bought a bus off Craigslist. ("It turns out there's a large subculture of bus nuts in the U.S.," he says. "The bus nut community was happy to have a new member who was doing something different.") He drove the bus to Burning Man, then to San Francisco, where he had it converted to run on vegetable oil, before officially launching BioBus as a nonprofit and teaching the first class onboard in 2008.

"It was eight high school students from a GED program in Harlem," he recalls. "They were excited for the new experience and very patient with me as I showed them cells from goldfish scales *sloooowly* crawling across the screen. Then they saw an animal attached to one of the scales and that's what we spent the next two hours looking at — they were obsessed. They named it 'Two Lips."

He had zero business experience, but classmate and start-up expert Jeremiah Marble '00 was on hand for advice. "I didn't know what I was doing, but in retrospect my instincts were good enough," Dubin-Thaler says. "And the need was obvious."

From a philanthropic point of view, the 2008 economic crisis wasn't the best time to start a non-



profit, but BioBus got a lift from partners like Olympus, which donated lab equipment, and Columbia, which helped sign up volunteers and generate publicity at events with the bus parked on College Walk. Early, critical support also came from biotech company Regeneron, co-founded by Dr. George Yancopoulos '80, GSAS'86, PS'87. Dubin-Thaler connected with science teachers in the community through programming at CUMC, and began making school visits in the South Bronx with the assistance of the Department of Education program Gear Up. BioBus was on the road, and picking up speed.

What's more, Dr. Ben had found his calling in mobile teaching. "You have this chance to open a young person's eyes to an incredible experience they've never even imagined," he says. "I especially love rainy days on the bus, because students can collect puddle water before coming aboard. In there are paramecium, flagellates, small animals and microcrustaceans — it's a zoo right on the sidewalk. And that's the best, when someone leaves the bus thinking about their world in a very different way."

A fter a fruitful seven years, BioBus's mission was ready to expand. "The students wanted more, the teachers wanted more and the parents wanted more, but logistically it was difficult to do longer classes on the bus," Dubin-Thaler says. Enter the BioBases, where elementary-, middle- and highschool students can take classes in biological, environmental and material science after school, on weekends and during the summer. The first BioBase education center was created on the Lower East Side with the help of the LES Girls Club.

In 2015, the Simons Foundation provided a grant to launch a second bus and build a new base, and Dubin-Thaler approached Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. Building on the Manhattanville campus was underway, and the visionaries in the neuroscience department - including University Professors Dr. Richard Axel '67 and Dr. Eric Kandel - wanted to make an education lab that would be central to the Zuckerman Institute's new home in the Jerome L. Greene Science Center. "At that point we were working with about 30 schools in Harlem," Dubin-Thaler says. "We said, 'Let us use the education lab for free, give us a parking space for the bus and we'll reach thousands more students in Harlem and the South Bronx,'which was their target area. And it happened."

Senior Director of Scientific Programs Kelley Remole '04, GSAS'12 Ph.D. worked with Dubin-Thaler on the BioBase Harlem launch. "It was a very fortuitous time to bring on a partner in science education with different expertise," Remole says. "Our respect for Ben and what he's done is profound his ability to deliver science in an authentic way





and engage people who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to be engaged makes this a valuable partnership to us." The Education Lab opened in February 2017; the ground floor-level space is flooded with natural light and has rolling desks and lab equipment that can be flexibly configured for group study. In addition to the Lab's regular community programming, BioBase Harlem runs afternoon and after-school classes there three days a week and teaches advanced lab sessions on weekends.

As someone whose path was significantly shaped by mentors, Dubin-Thaler is keen to pass that on to BioBus and BioBase students. "I think it's important to have people in your life who are older but who aren't your parents, so you can talk to them a little more openly," he says. "So that's another thing we try to provide." BioBus has had 34 college interns just this year, most of them at BioBase Harlem. "And we have scientists in their 20s, 30s and 40s who can help the students appreciate the bigger picture and advise them on the next moves in their schooling and careers. It's so important for them to have that guidance."

b ioBus now has 30 employees, including a facilities team that manages the buses and equipment and the operations team that handles the logistics of having 50,000 students a year onboard. "I'm most proud of the pathways we've been able to build," Dubin-Thaler says. "I hear from former students a lot — there are dozens who have gone to college to study science, and they tell us it's partly because of their experience with us."

Dubin-Thaler believes that every student in New York City should have the opportunity to follow a science path. His number 1 goal is volume: more buses crisscrossing the city and a bigger network of community labs. "If BioBus can come together with city officials, scientific and education communities, and universities and hospitals, and make that a priority, I think we

would see an amazing shift in all areas of the city," he says. "I think we would increase the amount of trust between communities and science, and we could increase opportunity and start to address economic disparity. And we would also have more scientists, better science and more diverse representation in the science community."

Also, he says, science is just super fun. "I'm happy to help young people be more fulfilled and better able to follow their interests, whatever they are," he says. "Every class we have on the bus, there are three or four kids who you can see are ready to get on that path. They're the ones who want to skip recess to stay on the bus."

IF BIOBUS CAN COME TOGETHER WITH CITY OFFICIALS, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATION COMMUNITIES, AND UNIVERSITIES AND HOSPITALS, AND MAKE THAT A PRIORITY, I THINK WE WOULD SEE AN AMAZING SHIFT IN ALL AREAS OF THE CITY."



HATS OFF TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

THE SUN SHONE as more than 1,200 students joined the ranks of alumni at Class Day 2019. The ceremony, which took place on May 21, opened with the 16th annual Alumni Parade of Classes and featured remarks from Dean James J. Valentini (see page 8) and keynote speaker Brandon Victor Dixon '03. Dixon, an award-winning actor and producer,



is known for star turns in *Hamilton* on Broadway and the nationally televised live performances of *Rent* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Dixon opened with a walk down memory lane ("Is there still a Taco Bell in Wien?") before asking the graduates to raise a hand if they thought the world they were stepping into is heading in the right direction. Seeing the consensus was "no," Dixon nodded. "I set that up," he said. "Because I want to challenge the notion that things are getting worse.

"We receive much of our information and energy from so few sources," he continued. "The little boxes we stare into constantly funnel concentrated information to us, most of which is cultivated bits of fear, noise, anger and distraction — so much so that we begin to think that is all there is. We begin to believe that that is who we are. We lose hope, we shrink, we stop reaching for one another. We separate to protect what we already have instead of connecting to create what we all need and deserve. But we make a mistake when we accept the story that we are told, when we accept that as the truest reflection of ourselves and our neighbors."

Describing his travels and the diverse people he's met, Dixon offered a counternarrative. "I believe our circumstances are forcing us to recognize on a visceral level how connected we all are and must be, not just for our survival as a race of living beings but for the evolution of our individual and collective consciousness as a whole. ... The darkness is not what you fear. The darkness is the inability to see light in one another. In whatever you are about to engage in on this next step in your life, I encourage you to think expansively — more expansively than 'where do I want to work, how much do I want to make or what do I want to do?' I urge you instead to instill every decision with 'what am I trying to create, where do I want to go, who do I want to become and who around me can I enrich with those efforts?"

Dixon emphasized that he believes the Class of 2019 is graduating at an auspicious time: "Things are changing and change is hard — it's challenging because it requires a breaking of things, and that can look chaotic; it can feel stressful. But you must break what is known in order to form something new. And it is up to you to use the tools you've been given here to visualize the world in which you choose to live and the role you choose to play in it. Because I assure you, your vision does indeed have power. Your vision is possible."

The University-wide Commencement took place the next day, with President Lee C. Bollinger delivering his annual address. Armond Adams '06, Leslie Gittess Brodsky '88 and Tracy V. Maitland '82 were among the 10 recipients of Alumni Medals for distinguished service to the University of 10 years or more.

Photographs by Eileen Barroso, Sirin Samman and Killian Young / Columbia College



"I URGE YOU TO INSTILL EVERY DECISION WITH 'WHAT AM I TRYING TO CREATE, WHERE DO I WANT TO GO, WHO DO I WANT TO BECOME, WHO CAN I ENRICH?"

> — Class Day speaker Brandon Victor Dixon '03











CCT Print Extras View more photos from Class Day, plus a list of Academic Awards and Prizes winners, at college.columbia.edu/cct.

GRADUATION2019

SARA DOANE **MAJOR:** Anthropology

WHAT'S NEXT: "Still working on it!" THE CC TAKEAWAY: "One foot in front of the other; take everything one day at a time and know

that things will work out."



Sara



COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

WE PUT 10 VERY RECENT GRADUATES ON THE SPOT TO GET THEIR LAST WORDS ON LEAVING THE COLLEGE



SUMYA AKKAS

MAJOR: Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'm working at a law firm in New York."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Slow down and appreciate all the opportunities around you, not just the educational ones - go to panel events, go to events with friends. There are so many initiatives around campus. Really take the opportunity to explore what you're passionate about, and discover new passions."

ELLIOTTE JUN BEOM LEE

MAJOR: Economics and **Environmental Science**

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'll be incorporating my own game development and consulting business in New York."

> THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither will your business."



Elliotte

MARVIN D. CLARK

MAJOR: Political Science and African-American Studies

WHAT'S NEXT: "Teaching elementary special education in St. Louis, through Teach For America."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "We shouldn't let the accomplishments we all pursue so strongly distract us from developing as human beings and being able to empathize with each other."



NIKA BEDERMAN

MAJOR: East Asian Languages and Cultures

WHAT'S NEXT: "Attending the Law School."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Keep an open mind, but not so open that your brains will spill out!"



DEJAVIS BOSKET

MAJOR: English, with a concentration in Russian Literature

WHAT'S NEXT: "Working in publishing here in town — I hope with children's fiction."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Things are never really as they seem when you first look at them. Take the jump to get to know someone or try new material; it really opens things up."



KAI MORSINK

MAJOR: Earth Science

WHAT'S NEXT: "Working for the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming on geographic information systems.

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Love and spend time with the people around you, because that's the community that's going to come through for you when you hit tough times. When you're looking for greater meaning, you can find it in the community you've built."



RYLEE CARRILLO-WAGGONER

MAJOR: Comparative Literature and Society

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'm heading to Arizona to work on a farm and volunteer on the border. The farm harvests wild desert plants to support sustainable living in the desert — it goes back to traditional indigenous ways of living on the land. I'm Chicanx, so I'm excited to get back to that."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Try! Don't be afraid of failure. Everyone can do really cool things, and it's exciting to see what you can produce in spaces where you have exciting minds collaborating."



KAYA HANTSBARGER

MAJOR: Psychology

WHAT'S NEXT: "Moving to South Dakota to work at a residential treatment center for children who've been referred by child protective services. Within a couple of years I hope to either get my master's or doctorate so that I can continue working with kids in that kind of setting."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Don't be afraid to take a risk. Take a class you're not sure you'll do well in, or talk to someone that you might be nervous to talk to. Be willing to take those kinds of risks because that's how you build the best memories and make the best friends."

TAREK DEIDA

MAJOR: History

WHAT'S NEXT: "I'm still trying to figure that out, but I have two job offers — in Boston and New Orleans."

THE CC TAKEAWAY: "Being at Columbia, studying humanities, you get a good sense of how the world and society operates. But you also realize that you don't know everything and you can't figure it all

out - you have to just use what you

have to get you to the next thing."



SMART BUSINESS WITH A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

LIKE MANY SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE, the effervescent Wah Chen '92 zigged and zagged a bit before she found her career groove.

Her first job after the College was hosting a prime-time variety show on Singapore national television. For four years she was a reporter and producer for British Hong Kong's TVB News. She co-authored a children's book, *Sassparilla's New Shoes*, with her twin sister, Ming, and enrolled in UCLA's graduate business program, earning an M.B.A. in 2003.

And then it clicked. In Chen's final week of B-school, with her cap and gown still waiting in the box, she inked her first real estate deal: a plan to purchase a 12-story Howard Johnson hotel near downtown Los Angeles and convert it to 198 affordable apartments. "I literally wrote out the deal terms with my now-partners on a napkin; I have it framed," she says. The four-person team formalized their partnership, InSite Development, that same year.

Since then, as a real estate developer working in Los Angeles County, Chen's group has helped develop some 1,700 high-quality, low-cost housing units for the homeless and others in need. "Affordable housing development is my calling," she says simply.

Her efforts can't come soon enough. In L.A. County alone, a June 2019 government study reported, there are 58,936 homeless people, a 12 percent jump since last year. Neighboring counties experienced even sharper increases. Despite aggressive programs to alleviate the crisis, the study notes, it remains an enormous challenge, affected by economic forces and the interlocking systems of foster care, mental health, criminal justice and the housing market.

Chen's largest project to date is taking shape in Lancaster, Calif., a sprawling city of 160,000 in the Antelope Valley, 70 miles north of downtown L.A. In October 2017, Lancaster mayor R. Rex Parris invited Chen and her partners to develop transitional housing — essentially emergency shelters — and permanent housing for the chronically homeless, with extensive social services woven into the project. "They gave us a 14-acre piece of city-owned land and basically asked, 'Will you do it?"

The team swung into action, engaging with key leaders, planners and organizations, securing an array of tax credits, rent support, federal housing vouchers and other funding sources, keeping construction on track to open the first buildings this summer.

There was good reason for the city to place such confidence in Chen. "We have been helping develop Lancaster

for years," she says, "working to revitalize its downtown, microfinancing local businesses and building 1,000plus housing units, including artists' lofts, senior studios, and family and disability units for the chronically and mentally ill."

Chen recently guided a Columbia visitor through some of those successful downtown developments, beginning at Don Sal Cocina & Cantina, a popular Mexican restaurant. Don Sal was a key anchor business for The Boulevard, a once-decrepit nine-block

stretch that has been transformed into a thriving urban core graced by palm trees and plane trees reminiscent of Barcelona's Las Ramblas. The housing is attractive and humanscaled; the businesses as varied as a dog-grooming salon, a Brooklyn-style deli, an independent bookstore and a movie theater. "We really wanted to create a small-town vibe, where people could walk safely, and go to restaurants and the farmers market," she says.

CHEN'S BLEND of business creativity and social concern comes as no surprise to her College classmates and friends. Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93 met Chen freshman year in Carman Hall, and they remain close. He recalls the energy and joy she invested in community service projects they worked on together, such as Habitat for Humanity, the Harlem Restoration Project and Columbia Urban Experience.

"When Wah puts her mind to something, it gets done," Garcetti says, marveling at the range of her commitments, accomplishments and social connections. "I mean, she was involved in more causes, more clubs, more things on campus than anybody else." She even attained one-name status at Columbia, he says. "You didn't have to say 'Wah Chen,' ever. You just said 'Wah,' and everybody knew who she was."

Achievement and service are trademarks of Chen's family, too, going back to their roots in China. Her father, Tom,

WAH CHEN '92 TAKES ON THE HOUSING CRISIS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

VILLIAM WU





the Shanghai-born son of a high-ranking diplomat under Chiang Kai-shek, entered Harvard at 15; he is now a retired Veterans Administration pathologist. Chen's mother, Margaret GSAS'73, also Shanghai-born, earned a graduate degree at Columbia and went on to a career in hospital administration. They raised their four children in Millburn, N.J.

"We're all named for dynasties, except for me," says Wah, whose given name is Dehua — as in Zhong Hua, which means Republic of China. Her older brother Han's given name is Dehan, and sister Ming was christened Deming. Kid brother Detang rebelled — he prefers to be called Jay. "We grew up extremely tight-knit," Wah says.

At the College, Chen had a concentration in history and East Asian studies. As much as she enjoyed her academic work, her energies went in many directions, from playing tennis regularly on the John Jay court with astronomy professor David Helfand to, well, advancing the romantic prospects of fellow students.

"She was famous for setting people up," Garcetti says. "She essentially was a dating app — she would find you dozens of people to date, one after the next. She was the ultimate connector."

Connection with purpose remains Chen's greatest talent, suggests her longtime friend Lisa Carnoy '89, co-chair of the University's



Old friends Chen and Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93 are godparents to Matthew and Kaison Maruyama, sons of Yoshi Maruyama SEAS'92.

Board of Trustees. "Wah is brilliant, optimistic, a magnet for people," Carnoy says. "If anyone can bring people together for a cause that matters, it is Wah. She is a force for good in the world."

For Chen, that means providing shelter to people who need it. "I have a vivid memory of living in Furnald, looking out the window in the dead of winter and seeing people sleeping on the subway grates to

"Wah was involved in more causes, more clubs, more things on campus than anybody else," Garcetti says. "You didn't have to say 'Wah Chen,' ever. You just said 'Wah,' and everybody knew who she was."

stay warm," she says. "I thought, 'That looks wrong.' It's quite rewarding now, 25-plus years later, to have a small part in helping to alleviate that.

"What I love about real estate development is it rewards scrappy people," Chen adds. "You don't have to have gone to an Ivy League school or worked at Goldman Sachs to really have an impact in real estate. I feel like I've been nimble and creative, and resourceful enough to find financing. Now my partners and I are able to create something out of nothing."

Chen named the 14-acre Lancaster development Kensington Campus after her 8-year-old daughter. Wah and her husband, private equity and real estate investor Edward Renwick, have two other daughters, Wyeth, 13, and Rainey, 11; they live in L.A.'s Brentwood section. Chen plans to maintain and improve the properties she develops to keep them profitable and avoid public bailouts, and ultimately, to pass them on to her girls — along with her own forward-looking spirit.

"I certainly hope that my daughters are one day able to set aside any fears, doubts and anxieties and find joy in their work, earn their own privileges, and experience as much as I have been able to after college."

Former CCT editor Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80 has held senior editorial positions at People, Vibe and Latina magazines and contributes to Smithsonian Magazine and other publications. His feature "The Transformation of New York" appeared in the Spring 2019 issue.

Columbia Forum

Artists on Art

Jori Finkel '92 asks 50 creators about their objects of inspiration

In the early 1990s, Jori Finkel '92 was working shifts for Columbia's famed Bartending Agency. Students from the agency were staffed at birthday parties, after-parties and gallery openings, where Finkel got an early and intense insider's look at New York City's high-flying art world. At the end of one night at the Mary Boone Gallery, she watched as hundreds of empty champagne glasses were stacked into a kind of translucent sculpture. "You would basically pop open champagne bottles until your thumbs were bloody," she tells *CCT*.

Fast-forward to Los Angeles, 2010. Finkel was now part of the art world herself, as a lead arts reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*. Frustrated by standard coverage, she wanted to make the *Times*'s approach more vivid and accessible by getting the voices of art-



ists directly to the public. She conceived of a monthly column, "It Speaks to Me," in which an L.A. artist would be interviewed about an artwork from a local museum. The format was brief, the photo was (usually) black and white, but Finkel knew she was on to something.

Her column idea also stemmed from her love/hate reaction to standard museum wall labels. Known as "didactics," to Finkel's mind they were all too often wooden and scholarly, a type of text that distanced the viewer instead of bringing them closer and into the

work. What if, instead of art history experts, gallery-goers could interface with artworks through the words of art creators who are, as Finkel says, "experts in seeing"?

Finkel imagined turning her idea into a book, and began work on the project in 2015. Fifty artists participated in what became



It Speaks to Me: Art That Inspires Artists (Prestel, \$29.95). Some were emerging talents, others, like David Hockney and Marina Abramović, were already renowned. The artists were asked to choose their objects of inspiration from hometown museums — Finkel imagined the book could also function as a sort of travel guide that could accompany an art fan from museum to far-flung museum.

The project took about three years, with her time more often spent lining up the artists than interviewing them. And the artists' selections were not necessarily what she'd expected. Hockney, known for his "California modern" work, chose a copy of a French Baroque painting; Abramović chose a sculpture from the out-of-fashion Futurist movement. Asked which of her artists' choices was the most surprising, Finkel mentions the interview she did with the political dissident Ai Weiwei.

"Artists don't always play by the rules," she says. When he was asked to choose an artwork, Ai first suggested the New York City skyline. Then he zeroed in on an ancient piece of carved jade, and their hour-long conversation turned into "one of the most generous and eye-opening" exchanges Finkel had. Ai revealed that when he was growing up during China's Cultural Revolution, it could be dangerous to own jade. Now, years later, the artist had become a top collector of the luminous stone. Finkel adds, "It's a passion of his he rarely speaks about."

Now that the collection is published, Finkel is embarking on a series of summer talks and signings, from Toronto, to the Hamptons, to New Mexico, where she'll meet with contributor Judy Chicago. What's next? Maybe, she hopes, more of the same. "Working on this book has been so much fun, I am tempted to turn it into a series." — *Rose Kernochan BC'82*

AI WEIWEI

on a Shang Dynasty figure from the tomb of Fu Hao

1300–1046 BCE. China, Henan Province, Anyang Jade, height 2¾ in. (7 cm) National Museum of China, Beijing

My interest in classical Chinese artifacts started very late because I grew up during the Cultural Revolution, and the Communist Party was trying to erase ancient traces from Chinese history. They were trying to destroy the older culture to establish the new world. You couldn't have a jade piece at that time; it would be confiscated or you would be destroyed yourself.

Growing up I really only saw one piece of jade — a seal given to my father before he went into exile that had five characters on it: "If you know how to endure hardship, you might find the way." He later tried to smooth down the characters for fear the words would give him away. It wasn't until 1993, when I moved back to China from the U.S., that I really started going to antiques markets to buy jade. Beijing has an ocean of antiques. Now I probably have one of the largest jade collections.

This kneeling figure comes from the tomb of Fu Hao, the most complete archaeological discovery made by the Chinese government, undisturbed by tomb thieves. Fu Hao was a remarkable military leader, maybe the most powerful female ruler in that period of Chinese history. Archaeologists found 755 jade pieces in her tomb, which speaks to her status. Jade is a very hard stone, so think about the amount of time and energy needed to carve these pieces — this incredible manpower.

Some people believe this small carving represents Fu Hao herself, but I believe it's more mythological than memorial in function — a ritual object related to a higher power. The piece protruding from her back looks like a fishtail, which would mean she's a god or ghostlike figure. In the Shang Dynasty, you often saw depictions of humanlike figures with a dragon's head or a fish's tail. They are images of transformation. The kneeling position is common, but the tail and headdress are unique; they don't repeat in thousands of objects that come later.

Jade carries such weight in Chinese culture that every dynasty has used it. In the Chinese language, there are a few hundred words just to describe the qualities of jade, whether black, fine, small, or transparent. This figure is an example of white jade, so it has this feeling of translucency and softness. When you touch it, it's extremely smooth, like silk.
COURTESY NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CHINA, BEIJING

Shang Dynasty jade.



JUDY CHICAGO

on Agnes Pelton's Awakening: Memory of Father

1943. Oil on canvas, 22 x 28 in. (59.9 x 71.1 cm) New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe

Whenever I see an Agnes Pelton painting, I feel drawn to its mystery and luminosity. I always feel there is some deep symbolic meaning, but what that is isn't always clear.

Pelton was part of the Transcendental Painting Group of New Mexico, a shortlived group of painters in the 1930s and '40s who, influenced by Cubism and the Bauhaus, were primarily abstract. A peer of Georgia O'Keeffe, she was also brought to New Mexico by the great eccentric arts patron Mabel Dodge Luhan. I see a certain affinity between their work in the way they use color and form to convey an internal reality.

My reading of this painting is that it's a dreamlike scene: an abstracted landscape with both night and day present simultaneously. Stars appear in the dark sky to the left, while the small body of water is under the light sky to the right.

The form in the sky has been described as a golden trumpet, but that's not how I read it. If you look closely, underneath that shape and also on top of it is a faint texture that makes it feel like it's moving, spinning into a lighter sky. For me that form ascending into the sky and spinning away from the landscape is a luminous symbol of death.

Agnes Pelton's father died when she was ten years old. My father died when I was thirteen, and I also dealt with his death in abstract painting. If you rotate the painting to the left so that it's vertical, the mountain turns into what looks like a silhouette. The museum reads it as her father's face, but I think that's bizarre and literal.

Women like O'Keeffe and Pelton used abstraction to convey personal meaning, as opposed to just dripping paint on canvas or making circles like Ellsworth Kelly. One of my theories is that until the advent of abstraction, women artists were not free to convey their experiences directly. Abstraction opened up the visual landscape for us to invent forms to convey our internal reality.

Excerpt from "Ai Weiwei on a Shang Dynasty jade from the tomb of Fu Hao" and "Judy Chicago on Agnes Pelton's *Awakening: Memory of Father*" published in *It Speaks to Me: Art That Inspires Artists* (DelMonico Books-Prestel) © 2019 Prestel Verlag, Munich, Texts © Jori Finkel. Reprinted by permission of DelMonico Books-Prestel.



Agnes Pelton, *Awakening: Memory of Father*, 1943, oil on canvas. Collection of the New Mexico Museum of Art. Museum purchase, 2005 (2005.27.1)

PHOTO BY CAMERON GAY





HORAM EXPECTA VENIET

Gifted to the University by the Class of 1885 in celebration of its 25th reunion, the Sundial is a beloved campus landmark. A 16-ton granite sphere originally sat upon the base, but in 1946 it was removed after developing a crack. When functional, the Sundial was unusual in that it tracked the date rather than just time of day. A December 7, 1914, Spectator article reports that astronomy professor Harold Jacoby CC 1885 "designed the astronomical part of the memorial, which is the only timepiece of its kind in the world. As there are two shadows cast by the ball, one on either side, two plates are necessary. On these plates the days of each month are marked out. By means of the calibrations on these plates, the New York standard time is indicated once each day. The shadow will fall exactly at the date at noon."

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SCOTT RUDD

alumninews 😢

Reasons to Reunion

By Michael Behringer '89

always look forward to the Summer issue of *Columbia College Today*, with its photos of students and former students celebrating Class Day, Commencement and Reunion Weekend. This year, my classmates and I celebrated our (gulp) 30th reunion — although it still feels like yesterday that the Great Class of '89 was together on campus.

I love just about everything having to do with reunion and hope that everyone shares my passion for the weekend. I thought it fitting, then, to share for this issue my Top 10 Reasons to Attend Reunion Weekend. It's never too early to plan for it!

1. Reconnect with Old Friends. My College classmates are some of my closest friends, and there was a time when life without them nearby was unimaginable. Now we're scattered across the globe and don't see one another nearly as often as we intend to or should. Reunions are the perfect excuse to come together. And now, most reunion events are open to alumni from non-milestone years, too, so it's a great opportunity to bring all old friends together.

2. Relive the Past. Reunions are the one event where everyone shows up older and then grows young again. What is it about being on campus, surrounded by your friends, that reverses time? For just 72 hours, we put aside career, family and other cares to be 21 again. There should be a way to bottle this!

3. See Campus Today. College Walk. The Steps. Tom's. The Hungarian Pastry Shop. 114th Street. Nothing beats physically seeing these icons again. And Columbia is always evolving. In addition to the many changes to the main campus, the Manhattanville campus is an architectural gem that shouldn't be missed. Regardless of when you graduated, you'll be amazed at all of the restaurants, cafés and bars that have blossomed on Broadway and Amsterdam. The undergrads never had it so good. Still, I'll raise a glass in memory of our dearly departed The West End and Cannon's Pub.

4. Enjoy New York City. For out-of-towners, it's a three-day weekend in New York. For those in the tri-state area, it's still a three-day weekend in New York.

5. Meet Someone New. Even though we're the smallest of the Ivy League schools, I always meet classmates at reunion I didn't know when we were students and relish the opportunity to spend time with those I wanted to know better. Some of my best reunion memories are from these encounters.



SCOTT RUDD

6. Talk Face to Face. That's right, Facebook posts are not conversations. Don't get me wrong — we all love seeing photos from your latest ski trip and reading about your feelings on the *Game of Thrones* finale. But these are a poor substitute for seeing you in person, hearing your voice and sharing a real laugh.

7. Spend Time with Dean James J. Valentini. Have you met the ever-popular Deantini (as the students call him)? He's a fierce advocate for all things Columbia and has done a lot to expand the Core Curriculum, enhance the student experience and connect with alumni. If you've not met him or heard him speak in person, you should. You'll quickly realize why he's so beloved.

8. Reflect on the Past. A few reunion truisms you'll witness: No one's life turned out exactly as planned. Nearly all alumni are embarrassed by their younger selves. The older you get, the more you realize you have in common with your classmates, regardless of how you felt about them as undergrads. Having a drink with your first-year floormates gets better with age. And regardless of how old you are today, the best music *ever* made was whatever you listened to in college.

9. Debate: V&T or Koronet? More heated than any political debate, Columbians seem equally split and passionate on the question. If you're like me, your pizza palate has expanded since your days on campus. Are these two places as good as you remember? Only one way to know for sure ...

10. Just Have Fun. Whether it's your 5th or 50th, or even if it's not your milestone year, Reunion Weekend is a fun time. The job, family and to-do list will still be there come Monday. In the meantime, join the party.

I hope to see you at Reunion Weekend 2020! Save the date: Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6!







CHLOE AFTEL

Taking a (Graphic) Novel Approach to Her Life

By Jill C. Shomer

ould you want to relive your awkward younger years? *Really* relive, as an art form? Novelist and artist **Ariel Schrag '03** has made a career of turning her most uncomfortable, transitional life moments into relatable, award-nominated graphic memoirs. Her most recent work, *Part of It*, is a "painfully funny" recollection of her formative years growing up in idyllic, progressive Berkeley, through her early 20s in Brooklyn. But Schrag first made a splash with a series of graphic memoirs she wrote about her high school years, while she was still living them.

The High School Comic Chronicles comprises three books: Awkward and Definition (9th and 10th grade, combined in one edition), Potential (11th grade) and Likewise (12th grade). Schrag took a gap year to finish the series before starting at the College. "Nothing was more important to me," she says. "I knew if I started college [right after high school] I wasn't going to be able to finish."

Schrag created her first comic strip as a child; her father was a visual artist who read and collected various types of comic books and graphic novels. "I found *Maus* in the house when I was 9 and

thought it was amazing," she says. She attended a small private school for nine years before moving on to a public high school. "I went from being in a class of 13 to one of more than 1,000. It was one of the most significant changes of my life," Schrag says. She channeled her feelings into her artwork. "I didn't have a specific vision to begin with; I just wanted to write a book about my freshman year," she says. "But people really responded to it and I really loved doing it so I decided to do all four [years]."

Before starting her gap year, Schrag was obsessed with moving to New York — "for all the typical reasons," she says. Through comics connections she got a job at St. Mark's Comics (RIP), lived in Fort Greene for a year and, though it would take her a decade to complete the inking, finished writing her 400-page senior year memoir before starting at Columbia.

"I adored the College," she says. "I really appreciated it after a rough year on my own. I felt really taken care of. To know I was going to be able to spend the next four years dedicated to studying felt like such a privilege." In addition to her classes, Schrag continued to ink *Likewise*, and *Potential* was just being published.

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(Her friend, composer Nico Muhly'03, made posters for a reading that they put up on campus and around town.)

After graduation, Schrag started teaching a graphic novel workshop at The New School (she stayed until 2017 and has also taught at Brown, NYU and Williams College) and began work on a novel, *Adam*, a sexual coming-of-age comedy, in 2007. It was published in 2014; based on a galley copy, a producer she knew, Howard Gertler, said he wanted to make *Adam* into a movie. Gertler got it in front of developer James Schamus (a faculty member at the School of the Arts), who bought it and hired Schrag to write the script. "They said they imagined it as a very low-budget movie and to me that meant that they were serious — it might actually get made," Schrag says. She was included in all the production steps and weighed in on the casting with director Rhys Ernst. "I was really happy with the final movie," she says. "It's really cool and surreal to see your work that way." *Adam* was shown at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival and opened New Fest, an LGBTQ film festival, on June 17. Schrag now alternates between living in New York City and Los Angeles with her partner, Charlie, a filmmaker, and their toddler son. (Schrag's comic "Pregnant on the Subway" is the mostviewed piece of original content on *CCT*'s website.) She's working on her second novel, about adults. "I'll just say it takes place in the realm of lesbians and fertility, and there's a slight science-fiction bent to it." She's also been writing for television, most recently for a USA Network series called *Dare Me*, based on the novel by Megan Abbott (Gina Fattore '90 is a co-showrunner). "I'm a big fan of Megan's books and her writing, so it was exciting to take on her voice and figure out how to express her characters. That's the fun of it, if you really love something, to be able to inhabit it."

As for her comics, Schrag plans to keep those autobiographical. Is she ever uncomfortable sharing personal details? "I'm more concerned now about representing myself in a certain way," she says. "As a teenager that wasn't on my mind — I just wanted to speak my truth. I have way more hang-ups as an adult."

Meet the Maine Maestro

By Eugene L. Meyer '64

hen Francis J. Fortier III '59 goes for a walk in his Upper West Side neighborhood, he says, the streets are alive with the sound of music: "I walk down West End Avenue and hear all the concertos coming out of the windows. You are fully aware a good 60 percent of the world's musicians live on the West Side between Lincoln Center and 125th Street. This is where it happens."

Fortier's ears are well tuned, as a violinist, conductor, and the founder and chair of the nationally known Bar Harbor Music Festival, now in its 53rd season under his direction. Since 1967, some 2,200 aspiring and accomplished musicians and composers



have been part of the monthlong festival in the town on Mount Desert Island, Maine.

Serious musicians had previously performed there, until a 1947 fire destroyed their theater. Some 15 years later, Fortier, then in his early 20s and spending summers studying music at a private school in Blue Hill, Maine, found his way to the town. "We went to Bar Harbor to have beer and find good-looking young women. I said, 'Any musicians?' They said yes, there's a great jukebox in the hotel. I decided we could bring ... back [musical performances] because we had this legacy in Bar Harbor."

Fortier's big break had come early, when he apprenticed in Britain with the great Yehudi Menuhin, a conductor and the violin soloist of the Bath Festival Orchestra. Inspired, Fortier not only founded the Bar Harbor festival, but also became artist-inresidence at more than 2,000 high schools, community colleges and arts councils throughout the United States, using music to inspire young people to turn away from drugs.

Music is in Fortier's DNA. His father, Frank J. Fortier Jr., a commercial artist and corporate headhunter, had earlier been in vaudeville, as a backup banjo player for Al Jolson. His mother and siblings all played instruments, and, when he was a child, his father happily drove him from their Scarsdale, N.Y., home to violin lessons at 72nd and Broadway.

At Columbia, Fortier majored in music and minored in history, and studied with such luminaries as James P. Shenton'49, GSAS'54; Moses Hadas; and Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38. Then came graduate studies — a year at Yale and four more at The Juilliard School, where, he recalled, "The jury exams were excruciating. Sixteen members of the string faculty elaborate on your weaknesses as you play. You learn to deal with that kind of pressure. It gives you muscle." But, he said, "I was very glad to get out of Juilliard because I could love music again." Now 81, Fortier fills his off-season months with rehearsing, and fundraising for and promoting the festival, which attracts tens of thousands who come to hear eclectic concerts ranging from Mozart to Ellington and top performers like pianist Murray Perahia and mezzosoprano Fenlon Lamb. "I've been given the gift of energy, the gift of vision, and I have some strong people with me," he says. Notably, that group includes his wife, festival associate director and secretary Deborah S. Fortier, herself an accomplished pianist, composer and teacher.

Fortier has two other passions: baseball — he's an avid Yankees fan and played first base in his younger days — and fly fishing, which he enjoys during his own brief off-season at Brookside, his Adirondack Mountain retreat. "I have good hands," he says. And, quoting Oscar Wilde, he adds: "I adore simple pleasures. They are the last refuge of the complex."

Eugene L. Meyer'64, a former longtime Washington Post reporter and editor, is the author, most recently, of Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army, winner of the 2019 award for Outstanding Biography/History book from the American Society of Journalists and Authors.

Anna Brockway '92 Makes Herself Comfortable in Online Furniture Sales

By Rebecca Beyer

nna Brockway '92 remembers the first items that sold on Chairish, the online marketplace for décor, furniture and art that she and her husband, Gregg Brockway, co-founded in 2013. The pieces were hers: slipper chairs in, as she describes the fabric, "the most beautiful cut yellow linen."

Brockway — a self-described compulsive decorator — was sad to let them go but didn't have room anymore; she isn't even sure her husband knew they owned them. A good price helped, but still, six years later, she says, "I'm a little homesick for them."

The chairs may be gone, but the company they helped launch is here to stay. Chairish debuted as a website for private individuals to buy and sell prized vintage pieces, and a solution to the problem Brockway herself faced many times: what to do with beloved but unnecessary home decor items. Since then, it has become a destination for professional buyers and sellers. In 2016, the company created another platform, DECASO, for modernist and antique furnishings, and earlier this year it acquired Dering Hall, which specializes in online sales of contemporary brands. Together, the sites have nearly half a million products and a monthly audience of more than 2.5 million.

Chairish was founded on the idea that quality is just as important as quantity, something Brockway and her husband argued over during the site's early days. For Gregg, whose background is in private equity and technology, "more is always better," says Brockway, who grew up going to furnishings trade shows with her father, who worked in design, including as VP at Baker Furniture.

"I felt very strongly from the beginning that if you don't have curation and an editorial perspective on what you're offering, there is no brand and there is no reason for being," she says. "If you want to buy junky stuff online, there are a million places to do that. I wasn't interested in competing with the behemoths."

Each piece on Chairish is personally approved by a member of the company's eight-person curatorial team, which turns away about 30 percent of submissions, Brockway says. The marketplace also stands out for its use of technology, or what Brockway calls the "secret sauce." In 2017, Chairish launched "View In My Space," an augmented reality app that lets people see what a piece will look



like in their home. And Brockway says Chairish logs everything from size, style and material, to maker and location, to create a "lightning-fast and super-specific search."

One of the company's goals is to expand the 10 percent of the furniture market that buys online. Brockway is sure that share will grow. "With millennials coming into home ownership and affluence, it's sort of a freight train you can't stop," she says.

Brockway credits the art history degree she earned at the College with helping her understand style and design, a talent she took with her to Levi Strauss & Co., where she worked for seven years pre-Chairish, including as VP of worldwide marketing. She also says engaging with top-notch faculty gave her a confidence she continues to draw on today.

"Columbia pushed me to find my voice and not be intimidated," she says. "That's so invaluable."

Rebecca Beyer is a freelance writer and editor in Boston.



Rich Juro '63 Takes On the World

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

his April, **Rich Juro '63, LAW'66** was preparing for a May cruise from Amsterdam to Dover to visit WWII sites, but he had an unusual stopover planned for the flight to Amsterdam: Equatorial Guinea. The small Central African nation, sandwiched between Cameroon, Gabon and the Atlantic Ocean, isn't exactly on the way, but for Juro the visit was part of a lifelong goal to visit every nation in the world — and Equatorial Guinea was one of the last on his list.

Juro began traveling the world in 1966 when he and his wife, Fran, celebrated Juro's graduation from the Law School by "doing Europe on \$5 a day" for three months. That trip, which included stops in Moscow and Tangier in addition to many traditional European tour capitals, sparked their passion for travel — and they just kept going. "Eventually," says Juro, "we realized we had visited about half the countries in the world and we said, 'OK, let's try to see all of them.' And we're getting there!"

With roughly 14 countries left to complete their goal, Juro acknowledges that most of the remaining locales present a challenge because of political unrest and/or personal safety concerns (the yetto-be-visited list includes Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen). However, Juro is optimistic those situations could change: In 2018, he and Fran traveled to Sierra Leone and Liberia, a trip that would have been impossible just a few years earlier due to the Ebola crisis.

Juro says that he and his wife — they've been together 57 years — have always approached travel with a can-do attitude, and have spent their lives trying to take advantage of opportunities when they present themselves. Juro, now in his late 70s, admits that he and Fran are more cautious now than when they were younger. "We don't go to countries ranked 3 or 4 by the U.S. Department of State [travel advisory], because they are too dangerous for us at an older age," he says. But they don't intend to slow down anytime



soon: They have plans for a cross-Pacific journey at the end of this year and will stop in the North Russian archipelago Franz Josef Land in 2020. Juro's travel philosophy: "Don't put it off. You never know when you can't do it physically or politically."

Globetrotting over the last six decades has brought the Juros to beautiful natural scenery and given them firsthand perspective on countries' histories, but most importantly, it has been an opportunity to enjoy cultural exchanges. "The more we travel and the more people we meet, the more we get a better feeling for what's happening in different parts of the world," Juro says. "And I hope, by meeting us, they will have a better feeling for Americans."

newsmakers

On May 6, **Ann Kim '95** won the James Beard Award for Best Chef: Midwest. Kim is owner of and chef at Young Joni, Pizzeria Lola and Hello Pizza; all are in Minneapolis.

On April 30, Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City announced the appointment of **Alicia Guevara '94** as its new CEO, effective June 10. Guevara is the nonprofit's first female CEO.

Father of the Bride, the new album from Vampire Weekend, was released on May 3 and debuted at number 1 on the Billboard Top 200. Ezra Koenig '06, Chris Tomson '06 and Chris Baio '07 formed the band while they were College students (co-founder Rostam Batmanglij '06 left in 2016, but appears on the album).

Playwright **Terrence McNally '60** was one of three Broadway luminaries honored for their lifetime achievements at this year's Tony Awards on June 9.

George Liu '17 and Jie Feng SEAS'17 took second place (and the \$15,000 prize) in the 2019 Columbia Venture Competition's Technology Challenge, sponsored by Columbia Engineering, for their startup, Serengeti, which "uses artificial intelligence to aggregate and share data."

D.D. Guttenplan '78 was named editor of *The Nation*, America's oldest continually published weekly magazine; he started on June 15.

Roy Altman '04 was confirmed as a federal judge on April 4 by the U.S. Senate; he serves the Southern District of Florida.

bookshelf

Andrew Martin '08 Redefines the Millennial Novel

By Yelena Shuster '09

ndrew Martin '08 does not reflect fondly on his 20s. "I'm grateful to have survived that period of my life," he says over a bottle of IPA at his beloved college bar, The Dead Poet (a bit on the nose for a struggling writer, he admits). Luckily for him, that era proved incredibly fruitful for his debut novel. *Early Work* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$16) follows the listless exploits of two writers in their 30s desperately trying to mold a career — and some kind of life — out of the haphazard gigs and romances of their 20s. The book focuses on Peter, a Yale English Ph.D. dropout supposedly working on his novel, but actually spending most of his time in an illicit love affair with Leslie, a fellow writer who ends up unraveling whatever sense of contentment he thought he achieved.

In the vein of Philip Roth (one of Martin's many literary heroes), the book was somewhat autobiographical. While writing the novel, Martin looked a lot like Peter: an aspiring writer who lived with his longtime medical student girlfriend in Virginia. But despite what readers — or concerned family members — might think, the simi-



larities end there: Peter is the anti-hero Martin manifested out of his darkest fears.

"I wanted to capture that sense of anxiety of being a writer," Martin explains. "Fear of failure was the biggest part of it, of having spent all this time on something and then it turning out that you can't do it. I really imagined that, at 23, I was going to publish the great American novel. I applied, quite arrogantly, to the top 10 M.F.A. programs, and thought, 'Surely one of them will take me."

None of them did.

The English major credits his Columbia mentor, the bestselling author and

chair of the Undergraduate Writing Program, Professor Sam Lipsyte, for inspiring him to persevere. "After I got rejected, he sent me an email that was really valuable, and said, basically, 'Screw them. Make your work good enough that they can't say no.""

Martin's persistence paid off. *Early Work* was named a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2018 and was included on *The New Yorker* and *Bookforum*'s "Best Books of the Year."

The same self-deprecating wit that won him accolades from the Los Angeles Review of Books ("wall-to-wall with erudite repartee") and the



Chicago Review of Books ("remarkable ear for natural dialogue and pitch-perfect, witty banter") also makes an appearance in real life.

"When I got turned down from every M.F.A. program I applied to, I was like, I went to Columbia. Do you know who I am? I worked for the *Columbia Spectator*," he quips. "In the scale of life lessons, it's not exactly like working in a coal mine, but that period of trying to figure out how to become good at something I desperately wanted was really hard. A lot of my friends were journalists publishing good work. So I thought, 'What am I doing with myself? Am I wasting my life?"

After the wave of rejections, Martin spent the next year workshopping his writing and got a full ride to the University of Montana M.F.A. program. It took five more years to publish his novel. In between, he taught English, edited magazines or worked in publicity while writing short stories and nonfiction for literary outlets like *The Paris Review* and *Tin House*.

His breakthrough came after receiving a paid one-month writing residency at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming. There, he sat at the computer 10 hours a day, averaging 1,000 words each session. He continued the practice after he left and wrote 450 pages in less than a year.

Martin credits all-nighters at *Spectator* for instilling the discipline to finish a novel.

"At the paper, because we were so crazy and self-obsessed, it was like, 'We have to put out this newspaper tomorrow, and it's worth sacrificing everything else in my life to do this, even if it takes till 2 in the morning," he recalls. "That work ethic was hugely important, that sense of 'I'm going to sit here till I get it done.' It was the best possible preparation."

His advice for future Andrew Martins? Bleary-eyed, sleepdeprived, uncompromising resolve.

"You have to acknowledge that it's going to take up years of your life, and you have to be willing to dedicate your life to it," Martin says. "It's really hard to follow through on a novel. It's easy to start. It's easy to be in the middle of one. It's really hard to end one. You're never going to get anything done unless you're willing to get rejected 100 times and keep showing up."

Yelena Shuster '09 has written for The New York Times, Cosmopolitan, InStyle and more. Her CCT Fall 2018 cover story, "Star Power," won the Folio Eddie Honorable Mention and a CASE Silver Award. She founded and runs TheAdmissionsGuru.com, where she edits admissions essays for high school, college and graduate school applications.





RICK WINSTON



Baseball SAME SAME PETER MENDELSUND



The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel

by Julie Satow '96. A juicy look at how this New York City icon has symbolized money, glamour and high society for more than a century (Twelve, \$29).

Becoming a Veterinarian *by Boris Kachka* '97. Part of the Masters at Work book series, journalist Kachka discovers how a popular childhood dream job becomes a real career (Simon & Schuster, \$18).

Ask a Native New Yorker: Hard-Earned Advice on Surviving and Thriving in the Big City *by*

Jake Dobkin '98. The co-founder of Gothamist spins one of the website's most popular columns into a book of original essays that offer practical information about the Big Apple (Harry N. Abrams, \$19.99).

Sounds Like Titanic: A Memoir

by Jessica Chiccehitto Hindman '03. An aspiring violinist from Appalachia joins a New York City classical music ensemble that turns out to be a sham (W.W. Norton & Co., \$25.95).

The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna: A Novel

by Juliet Grames'05. In Grames's fiction debut, an unusually unlucky Italian girl and her family emigrate to America on the cusp of WWII (Ecco, \$27.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

SUPER DEWERS CHINA, SILICON VALLEY, AUXA NOE CHINA, SILICON VALLEY, MEW WORLD ORDER KAI-FU LEE

The World I Live In by Lou

Paterno '54. A personal work of prose and pictures that spans three generations, featuring philosophy, whimsy and reminiscences (Infinity Publishing, \$18.05).

Recollections In Tranquility

by Jay Martin '56. The author, a professor and psychoanalyst, describes his epistolary history with writers he knew as a young man (Art Bookbindery).

Carter by David Schiff '67. The first biography of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Elliot Carter, written by his former student and close associate (Oxford University Press, \$34.95).

Britt & Jimmy Strike Out

by Stephen Salisbury'69. Salisbury, a longtime journalist for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, dives into fiction with this timely satire about a futuristic controlled society (Alternative Book Press, \$19.99).

Red Scare in the Green Mountains: Vermont in the McCarthy Era 1946–1960 by Rick Winston '69. In nine stories, Winston

explores how the small "rock-ribbed Republican" state handled the anti-Communist hysteria of the time (Rootstock Publishing, \$16.95).

Solito, Solita: Crossing Borders with Youth Refugees from Central America *edited by Jonathan* Freedman '72 and Steven Mayers. Fifteen young narrators describe how and why they fled their homes to seek safety and protection in the United States (Haymarket Books, \$19.95).

Infinite

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Latinxs, the Bible, and Migration

edited by Efraín Agosto '77 and Jacqueline Hidalgo '00. A collection of essays that examine the conjunction between migration and biblical texts with a focus on Latinx histories and experiences (Palgrave Macmillan, \$139.99).

Hearts Set Free: A Novel

by Jess Lederman '77. Characters develop their relationship with God in three interwoven stories that feature historic figures such as mobster Bugsy Siegel and boxer Jack Johnson (Azure Star, \$12.95).

Righteous Assassin: A Mike Stoneman Thriller

by Kevin Chapman '83. NYPD detective Stoneman and his partner, Jason Dickson, attempt to solve four murders that all occur on the last Saturday night of the month (independently published, \$11.99).

Al Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order *by Kai-Fu Lee '83*. AI expert Lee describes how significant advances in technology will affect human history (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$28). The Kenyan TJRC: An Outsider's View from the Inside *by Ronald C. Slye '84*. A definitive history of the Kenyan Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, established in 2008 to come to terms with systematic human rights violations in the region (Cambridge University Press, \$34.95).

Infinite Baseball: Notes from

a Philosopher at the Ballpark by Alva Noë '86. The author examines the unexpected ways in which America's Pastime is a philosophical game (Oxford University Press, \$21.95).

Life After Suicide: Finding Courage, Comfort & Community After Unthinkable Loss by Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91. Ashton, the chief medical correspondent at ABC News, opens up in a "heartbreaking, yet hopeful" memoir about surviving the suicide of a loved

Same Same: A Novel by Peter Mendelsund '91. The celebrated book designer's first work of fiction is a darkly humorous look at what it means to exist and to create (Vintage, \$17.95).

one (William Morrow, \$24.99).

So You're Going Bald!

by Jonathan Goldblatt '95. Written under the pen name Julius Sharpe, this comic "bald memoir" is a guide to appreciating life as you lose your hair (Harper, \$27.99).

classnotes



SCOTT RUDD

Although campus is quieter in the summer, the statue of Alexander Hamilton CC 1778 still keeps watch over Van Am Quad.

1942

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As I begin to write these notes in March, I'm pleased to report that I have kept in touch with five widows of our distinguished classmates: **Gerald Green, Robert J. Kaufman,** Dr. **Herbert Mark, Don Mankiewicz** and Dr. **William Robbins.** In order, they are Marlene Green in New Canaan, Conn., and Boca Raton, Fla.; Susan Kaufman in Scarsdale, N.Y.; Avra Mark in White Plains, N.Y.; Carol Mankiewicz in Monrovia, Calif., and Dagny Robbins in Mount Dora, Fla. I have had both phone conversations and mail correspondence with all of them, thus preserving the memory of these great and distinguished classmates for future generations.

The New York Times published, on February 25, a major obituary for our famous classmate **Donald Keene** GSAS'49, who was a world-class scholar and translator of Japanese culture and literature. After Pearl Harbor, Donald enlisted to study Japanese; the skill eventually led him to the bloody battle of Okinawa. He returned to Columbia for his doctorate and eventually published more than 25 books of academic analysis and personal philosophic commentary. He eventually moved to Japan, where he lived the rest of his life. I knew Donald casually, having met him through my longtime friend Philip Yampolsky (now deceased), who was also a scholar of Japanese literature. Phil and I were classmates at Horace Mann before coming to Columbia in 1938, and when Phil became a scholar of Japanese culture and literature, he introduced me to Donald. At his death, Donald left an adopted son, Seiki Keene.

Dr. Gerald Klingon (98) remains lucid and interested in Columbia athletics, especially football and baseball. We frequently talk on the phone, sharing our frustrations with short-term memory loss, a common deficiency in our age group (I am 96). Gerry lives by himself in his Manhattan apartment, with devoted attention and frequent visits from his daughter, Karen, and his son, Robert.

Politics: Two Columbia alumni are currently prominent. Beto O'Rourke '95, a candidate for President, rowed on the heavyweight crew and played in a rock band before graduation. William Barr '71, GSAS'79, the U.S. Attorney General, is the son of Donald Barr '41, GSAS'50 (now deceased), who was one of my friends at Columbia. Donald was a somewhat eccentric, brilliant scholar, and became headmaster of the Hackley School in Tarrytown, N.Y., before his retirement.

Sports: As I write this, Columbia football will soon begin spring practice. Our team returns 61 members who played in 2018, including eight starters on offense and nine starters on defense. Returning from injuries last year are star wide receiver Josh Wainwright '19 and place kicker Oren Milstein '20. This team could certainly compete for the Ivy League Championship.

Kind regards to all surviving members of our Great Class of 1942. Long May Columbia Stand!

1943

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

Bernie Weisberger shares, "Fellow members, another year ending in the number nine is here and reminds me that it was in autumn 1939, that fatal year, when we became

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. Columbia freshmen, immediately after WWII had begun on the 3rd of September. I no longer recall the exact date on which we were expected to show up for classes, but it was memorable to me; I'll pass it along since little of importance has occurred in my life in these last three generally wet and cold months in Evanston, Ill., and I don't want to deal here and now with what I see as the disastrous things going on under the reign of would-be King Donald. Going back 80 years in my mind is much-needed escape.

"I lived at the time in Queens, and was about to become a commuter student to the College's campus at 116th Street and Broadway. This involved taking an IRT subway to Times Square and from there a northbound train to that exit. I set out with a fellow freshman-elect but, inexperienced and excited as we were and both still in our teens, we bungled the job and failed to note that we had brought ourselves to the East Side, and emerged at 116th Street on the opposite side of Manhattan - with about 10 minutes before due hour. What to do? With an already-developing Columbia savvy, we pooled the lunch money we were both carrying, grabbed a cab that took up most of it and hit the deadline. We were a little hungry at lunchtime but contented with our 'escape.'

"Otherwise, a bit of family bragging — my granddaughter Miriam will take her doctorate in history at Harvard in May and proceed from thence to an appointment as lecturer in history of medicine at Yale. Her older sister, Abigail, continues valiantly to practice asylum law in San Francisco under the pressure of the President's open hostility. I am as proud of my other four grandchildren as I am of them, but can't resist the honorable mention temptation.

"Hope more of you in our dwindling roster will check in, too."

1944

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Share your news, life story or favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either the postal

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

address or email address at the top of the column.

1945

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

Please share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

1946

Bernard Sunshine 165 W. 66th St., Apt. 12G New York, NY 10023 bsuns1@gmail.com

Alan Berman GSAS'52 is "alive and well" and living in Valparaiso, Ind. "Last year," he reports, "I started to reread all of the books we read in our Humanities course."

While they may never appear on the Lit Hum syllabus, **Larry Ross** PS'51 has been writing poems musing on the travails of aging. Here's a sample: "Life effectively starts at birth / and how we live it may vary. / This is my view for what it's worth: / Demise doesn't have to be scary."

Norman Hansen SEAS'50 writes that he was originally part of our class, but his studies were interrupted in March 1944 when he was drafted into the Army. After his discharge in 1946, Norm resumed his studies at Columbia, graduating in 1950 with a B.A. and a B.S. in engineering. He went on to a long and distinguished career as an engineer for Mobil Oil. Today, he lives in Bothell, Wash.

The obituary of Harold Brown '45, GSAS'49 in the Spring issue "brought back some sweet memories of this extraordinary man," writes **Burton Sapin** GSAS'47. "Along with his education in the physical sciences and then his application of that expertise to government weapons and arms control ending up, amazingly, as secretary of defense, he was equally adept in the humanities. I got to know him when both of us took the advanced Humanities course that the College offered at the time."

We also mourn the passing of Dr. Herbert Hendin PS'59 on February 17. Herb, a professor of psychiatry at NYU and P&S, was an international expert in suicide and its prevention, working extensively with combat veterans. We extend heartfelt condolences to his wife, Josephine, and the entire Hendin family.

To end on a sweet note: I am thrilled to have joined the select ranks of great-grandfathers! In March, my granddaughter Hannah gave birth to Maya Sunshine Nee.

1947

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1948

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

Dr. Alvin N. Eden writes: "I am most fortunate to still practice pediatrics, teach medical students and play a bit of tennis doubles at my rather advanced age. I recently co-authored a chapter in a textbook on anemia about iron deficiency in young children."

Durham Caldwell "sorrowfully reports the loss of his beloved wife, Jean BC'47, with whom he had shared more than 71 years of marriage. The former Jean Connors died on January 19, 2019, in Springfield, Mass., after a brief illness. Theirs was a college romance, begun at campus radio station WKCR, where both were active. They met outside the station just before the start of classes in September 1946. They exchanged first winks in the studio two weeks later. And he proposed to her three months after that in Barnard's Hewitt Hall after she had opened the door to it by asking, 'I wonder what we'll be doing a year from now.'

"Jean was the mother of four, a 30-year correspondent for *The Boston Globe*, a dedicated school volunteer and a longtime volunteer educational and/or health care advocate for numerous families and individuals. A piece she freelanced for American Baby on a new procedure for preventing an especially deleterious form of mental retardation was named Best Magazine Article of the Year by the American Academy of Pediatrics. She received a number of civic awards, largely for her work with Somali Bantu refugee students and families. But probably the citation she appreciated most was hand-lettered by a group of Somali teens she had been working with: 'We may not remember everything you said, but we will remember how special you made us feel.""

Share an update on your life, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

1949

John Weaver 2639 E. 11th St. Brooklyn, NY 11235 wudchpr@gmail.com

I hope that those who attended our 70th class reunion had a marvelous time. Please take a moment to write about and share your experiences. Your classmates would be happy to hear from you.

1950

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

Wishing the members of the Class of 1950 a healthy and happy summer. Please take a moment to share your news or a favorite Columbia College memory with the class. You can write to either of the addresses at the top of the column.

1951

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

David Kettler GSAS'60 "has just completed a long-delayed study,

Learning from Franz Neumann: Law, Theory, and the Brute Facts of Political Life, which was to be published late in the spring. Neumann was a distinguished political theorist and inspiring teacher for our generation, although most of his classes were at the graduate level, where he was my supervisor. Since he came to Columbia late, after wartime service in OSS, and died in an auto accident in 1954, we were among the few to encounter him. His well-documented and productive career encompassed 10 years as labor lawyer for the Socialist labor movement in Germany, three years in London exile (where he earned a political theory doctorate from Harold Laski), six years with the Columbia-affiliated Institute for Social Research (headed by Max Horkheimer), four years with the OSS and the Nuremberg war crimes trial team and then the abortive but brilliant career in Columbia's Department of Government.

"This is admittedly an unusual sort of Class Note, especially among us few survivors, yet I regard it as the culmination of my Columbia years."

Merritt Rhoad writes: "I have been retired from IBM for 28 years. I worked 32 years, and my aim is to be retired at least as long as I worked. The years are converging. I have had to reluctantly give up skiing and sailing due to peripheral neuropathy in my feet. This causes a loss of balance, a necessity for both sports.

"I continue to do volunteer work for the Friends of the Wissahickon as leader of the Structures Crew. We now have 16 people on the crew, all retired.

"Life goes on and life is fun." Edward Hardy shared what

he titled "What If? A Farewell Memory": "For my four years at Columbia College, I was privileged to be a coxswain on the Heavyweight Crew.

"As a freshman, I participated in the 46th Regatta of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association (IRA) at Poughkeepsie. Out of a field of 10 we came in seventh after a two-mile race and were accorded some mild praise, as it was an encouraging performance compared to recent years. I returned to Poughkeepsie in my sophomore year but as a 'pickle boat' coxswain. No one realized at the time that the IRA would not return to the Hudson. In my junior year I was the JV coxswain for the three-mile course on the Ohio River at Marietta. After good weather and water conditions, none of us had anticipated the rain and flood conditions on the day of the race, except the citizens of Marietta. Despite the surprise to most of us and resultant poor showings, we went back to Marietta in my senior year. I was again privileged to be a coxswain, this time of the varsity rowing team. Once again, the weather and water conditions were very acceptable for the practice days. The coach slyly revealed to me that our time trials rivaled those of the top contenders. In fact, he said that Columbia and Syracuse had the best practice records leading up to the day of the actual competition. Then, the inevitable happened, again! Storms up-river led to flooding and Columbia was assigned to race in the second lane from the shore, where the currents would be slower than the middle lanes. Syracuse actually ran into a floating log, momentarily stopping their rhythm. We turned in a disappointing time despite the fact that our power and keel remained in harmony with our catch and run, as we had demonstrated in practice.

"And so, despite the great experiences that Columbia had afforded me over four years, the retrospective, 'What if conditions had not drastically changed the day of the race?" will pursue my thoughts for the rest of my life."

Share your news, life story or favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

1952

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

Summer greetings, CC'52! Howard Hansen writes: "As a Columbia basketball fan, I never felt that the 1950–51 undefeated and balanced team ever got the recognition it deserved. Think of it! The team went undefeated in 22 straight games and 31 straight victories over two seasons. They averaged 20 points per game more than their opponents. Their end-of-season national rank-

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From the record books: Men's basketball went undefeated in 1950-51.

ing was number 2 in the Dunkel NCAA Basketball Index and number 3 on AP. No team in history had a higher end-of-season ranking.

"Four of the top 10 players in the Ivy League (as voted by Ivy coaches) were Lions: John Azary, Bob Reiss, Alan Stein and Jack Molinas '53. The team had an unusual average scoring balance in that no more than one scoring point separated the top three scorers (Azary, Reiss and Molinas). The 1967–68 team, which was inaugurated into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame before the 1950–51 team, had a 16-point average victory over opponents!

"Post-Columbia, three of the starting five went to Harvard Business School. Three became lawyers. Four became entrepreneurs. One had a career as an Air Force colonel, one became an engineer, another a publisher of a major newspaper and one a dean at Columbia — need I say more? An impressive group!"

1953

Lew Robins 3200 Park Ave., Apt. 9C2 Bridgeport, CT 06604 lewrobins@aol.com

Allan Jackman recently completed a three-year memoir of his days as

the sports editor of *Spectator*. In this latest note for *CCT*, Al reports having framed autographed pictures of Columbia's great coach, Lou Little, and our quarterback, **Mitch Price**, hanging on his studio's wall in Mill Valley, Calif. Al writes, "Whenever I look at the pictures of Lou Little and Mitch, I think of Columbia's 'undefeated football glory days,' which only lasted 1930–34, when they won the Rose Bowl."

Al also sent along the following anecdote of what happened to him as a youngster: "I was born and raised in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, not far from Ebbets Field, where the Brooklyn Dodgers played since it was built in 1913. I lived so close that I could walk to the games. I remember on Wednesday afternoons I could get into the bleacher section in center field for free if I brought along a pound of scrap metal, which was melted down for reuse in tanks and trucks. I also remember one memorable day when the man sitting next to me, who was using a pair of binoculars, suddenly gave them to me and said, 'Look behind third base.' When I asked why, he said that Babe Ruth was coaching there. Sure enough, lo and behold, there was Old Bambino. Many years later, my son read that The Babe had indeed coached for the Dodgers in 1944."

Al has generously agreed to make copies of his memoir available to classmates who were members of the football team when we were undergraduates. If you would like a copy, please send me your name and mailing address.

I'll look forward to receiving data about what is happening in our classmates' lives for future issues of *CCT*.

1954

Bernd Brecher 35 Parkview Ave., Apt. 4G Bronxville, NY 10708 brecherservices@aol.com

Hello all, I write this column for CCT's Summer issue six weeks before our 65th anniversary reunion, which you are now reading six weeks after our reunion. So, all I write about is possibly fake news, but here goes: Our 11-member Reunion Committee worked at making ours the best attended 65th celebration ever at Columbia. Our code was "65 4 54," and the mantra was how members of the Class of '54-Columbia's Bicentennial Class, the "Class of Destiny" — individually fulfilled their own destinies from the perspective of 65 years later.

Our class dinner speakers — Dr. Henry Buchwald PS'57, Hon. Alvin Hellerstein LAW'56 and Saul Turteltaub LAW'57 — were planning to address this issue, as were other '54 attendees at an open mic session and a panel discussion of classmates and current students. More on our reunion will be covered in these Class Notes in the Fall issue.

At its annual meeting this April, the Academy of Political Science elected **Demetrios James Caraley** GSAS'02 to his 47th term as editor of the journal *Political Science Quarterly*. The *Quarterly* was established at Columbia in 1886 as the first scholarly journal in government, politics and international affairs. Demetrios is professor of political science emeritus at Barnard and Columbia.

(Forty-seven terms? Congratulations, Demetrios — was that by popular vote or electoral college?)

Edward Cowan and his wife, Ann Louise, continue to share their travel adventures, highlighting their late winter first trip to Switzerland in nearly 35 years. Of Zurich and Basel Edward writes, "We got around smoothly on local networks of trams, which invariably run on time. Or we walked, especially in Zurich, whose District One is compact and contains most of the museums, churches and restaurants a visitor would want to see. We especially recommend Fraumünster Church, a Protestant church with a first-rate audioguide for visitors. It stands a few hundred meters from the Grossmünster, bigger and more visible and a Protestant landmark ... we stayed in hotels close to the main rail stations, which adjoin Central, where tram lines terminate. The Kunstmuseums (fine arts) in

Zurich and Basel are worth several hours each.

"Blessed with uncommonly mild, sunny March weather," Ed continues, "we took a boat ride down the lake and disembarked at Rapperswil-Jona, where we strolled and climbed to the castle before taking a train back to Zurich. Switzerland is a tad expensive, but it is clean, orderly, safe and well maintained."

My own visits to Switzerland began at a winter resort in 1938; the last — with my wife, Helen, in 1988 — and in between several visits mostly to Geneva on World Boy Scouts business. I fully agree with Edward's take on the pleasures of that country. Note also the Cowans' take on walking and climbing: good mobility maintenance for all.

Our crusading correspondent and reunion stand-up speaker, Saul Turteltaub, reminisces about 65-plus years ago when "summer at Columbia was almost non-existent. It started June 21 when we were gone and ended September 21 when we were barely back. That time in between for most of us was necessary to raise money for the next year of school. I needed \$900 in 1953-54 and made it in the Catskill mountains as a social director, waiter, busboy or bellhop. I have no idea how the kids today can make \$50,000 tuitions in two months as a bellhop; that's approximately \$1,000 a day or a \$100 tip for carrying two bags to or from a room for each of 10 guests. The biggest tip I ever got was \$10 from a guest to open the swimming pool for his girlfriend at midnight, which almost cost me my

job when another guest woke up the boss and complained.

"Bottom line," Saul concludes, "today's tuition costs must come down. We don't need new, expensive professors every year — unless they tip \$100 each time for help with their luggage."

The New York Times in February printed a letter to the editor from Manfred Weidhorn GSAS'63, where Manny commented on the paper's graphic presentation "A Detailed History of Trump's Signature Promise, in His Own Words." He wrote, in part, "Did the president know that he was lying - that Mexico would never pay for a wall - in which case he has to be the greatest scoundrel in American political history? Or does he really think that he is uttering actual truths, in which case he is the most delusional person in American political history?"

Indeed, here is ongoing food for thought; Manny offered no answers, just a challenge: "Fellow citizens, choose your poison!" (I'm interested in our classmates' individual responses to his challenge. Email me at the address at the top of this column. Not at *The New York Times.*)

Our class valedictorian, Dr. Henry Buchwald, was scheduled to return to the scene of the crime to deliver Valedictory 2.0 at our Friday welcoming dinner reception; I will tell you more about him and the reunion in my next column. For now, some quick observations: He was coming in from Minneapolis with his wife, Emilie BC'57, and one of his four daughters, Amy, an

Holler at Us in Haiku!



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

A week after our reunion, Henry was slated to receive in Chicago from the American College of Surgeons the Jacobson Innovation Award for groundbreaking surgical development or technique. He is a professor of surgery and professor of biomedical engineering at the University of Minnesota.

Another '54 speaker, Judge Alvin Hellerstein, was slated for our closing banquet to make a widely anticipated presentation, tentatively titled "What Is Just Punishment? The Anguish of a Sentencing Judge." Over the last several years, Al has presided over some of the most diverse and challenging cases in the New York area — several detailed previously in this column — and was expected to cite them in his overview at our closing event.

I hope many of you reading this issue will have been at our 65th reunion and will be willing to share some of your own observations we can take it — for the Fall issue. You know how to get me 24/7; if not on the spot, I will always get back to you. Meanwhile, as always, be well, be good, do good, stay in touch, help cure the world, remember the past but look to the future. All my best, Excelsior!

1955

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

The Class of 1955 is spread across the country, although it appears that most alumni live in New England, Long Island, Florida and California. Despite poor weather, the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner was held according to plan in November and the John Jay Awards were given to five College alumni in March.

The fencing team won its 16th NCAA National Championship and 52nd Ivy League Championship. Despite some beginning losses, the men's basketball team finished strongly as the season came to a close. This should be exciting times for fans **Bob Bernot** and **Dick Kuhn**.

Elliot Gross is looking forward to enjoying the company of classmates at the baccalaureate ceremony. We have started planning for our 65th reunion. We hope to see **Herb Gardner** once again at the Saturday dinner, where he can tell tales of what it was like to be a member of the class. Meetings have been held outlining events and what will take place at reunion.

As they say, keep your sunny side up; your diet is most important to a happy life.

Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

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

Peter Poole writes, "I edited Jester in 1956. I am now a retired Foreign Service officer living in Sugar Hill, N.H., with my wife, Alice, and a rescued pooch from Puerto Rico. I have published 10 books on U.S.-foreign affairs, and recently finished editing the autobiography of my grandfather Ernest Poole, who won the first Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1918. I have the Columbia University certificate on my wall. The title of his book is The Bridge: My Own Story, and it was first published by Macmillan in 1940. With four other grandchildren, I have obtained a contract from Heritage Books in Maryland to reprint it this year with a new preface, table of contents and index. I hope to market it to people who run American studies courses at U.S. and foreign colleges.

"My grandfather was born in Chicago in 1880, attended school with President Lincoln's grandson and received good grades from Professor Woodrow Wilson at Princeton. He made his first trip to Russia during the war with Japan in 1905 and then became an active reporter on the social problems of immigrants in New York. Despite being a socialist, my grandfather supported Wilson's efforts to involve us in WWI and reported from the trenches of German and Belgian forces during the war. He returned to Russia in 1917. In 1915, he published The Harbor and in 1917 His Family. Each sold nearly 100,000 copies, including later domestic and foreign editions. During his career, my grandfather published 24 books, mainly novels and mostly with Mac-



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millan. The average sale was 20,000 copies. He died in 1950."

Had a great luncheon in Boynton Beach, Fla., on February 21. Wonderful guests accompanied Dan Link, Don Roth, Larry Cohn (in from California), Mike Spett, David Goler, Murray Eskenazi, Stan Manne SEAS'56 and me for a memorable afternoon.

Ralph Kaslick DM'62 writes, "During the last 12 years I have been the chairman of the visiting professor program at the College of Dental Medicine. Topics have ranged from the future of dental education, to the future of dental research and the economic issues involved in dental practice, including the large student loan debt. Visiting professors covering those topics have included the executive director of the American Dental Education Association, the director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at NIH and the president and membership chairman of The Lyceum Society, composed of retired and semiretired members of the New York Academy of Sciences. Since 2010, I have given presentations to the society on diverse and often controversial scientific subjects unrelated to dentistry.

"After retirement, memory of my college years provided me with a desire to once again pursue my nonprofessional academic interests in addition to professional endeavors. In January 2007, the Columbia College Alumni Association implemented the first Mini-Core Courses, and I began attending. In 2016, I enrolled in a series of mini-Core courses focused on the role of Contemporary Civilization. The first was 'Socrates and the Legacy of Conscientious (i.e. nonviolent) Citizenship' and included works by Mill, Gandhi and King. It was taught by former dean of Columbia College and professor of political philosophy and legal theory Michele Moody-Adams. In 2017, Professor Emmanuelle Saada followed with a discussion of 'State and Violence,' with reference to Machiavelli, Fanon and others. In 2018, Professor John McWhorter, in his course on 'The Ideal Society,' concluded the story of the development of contemporary civilization from Socrates to the modern day citing - among others - Hobbes (monarchy) and Locke (democracy) to present-day political philosophers.

"Other Mini-Core presentations have brought music and art into modern perspective. Professor Brad Garton, director of the Computer Music Center, conducted a course, 'Masterpieces of Western Music, Revisited,' which covered the entire spectrum from early Renaissance music to minimalist composers of today, such as Steve Reich, Philip Glass and John Adams. As a bonus, upon my request, I was granted a visit to the Computer Music Center at Prentis Hall (West 125th Street) founded in 1958 by Vladimir Ussachevsky, who was a lecturer in one of Douglas Moore's music classes in 1955. I saw his original RCA Mark II synthesizer and the latest advances in technology used by Professor Garton in the production of new computer music. This spring, I planned to



In February, members of the Class of 1956 met for lunch in Boynton Beach, Fla. Seated, left to right: Bob Siroty, Dan Link, Don Roth and Larry Cohn; and standing, left to right: Stan Manne, Murray Eskenazi, David Goler and Mike Spett.



Members of the Class of 1956 (and two Columbia staff members) enjoyed lunch at New York's Penn Club in March. Left to right: David Silver; Buzz Paaswell '56; Alan Broadwin '56; Steve Easton '56; Ken Swimm '56; Gordon Silverman '55, SEAS'56; Len Wolfe '56; Mark Novick '56; Jesse Blumenthal '56; Ralph Kaslick '56; Jerry Fine '56; Jennifer Alpert; and Bob Siroty '56.

attend Professor Noam Elcott '00's course, 'Modern Art/Modern Vision: Monet, Picasso, Warhol.'''

Alan Broadwin; Leonard Wolfe; Jesse Blumenthal; Ken Swimm; Jerry Fine; Ralph Kaslick; Steve Easton; Buzz Paaswell; Mark Novick; Gordon Silverman'55, SEAS'56, SEAS'57; and yours truly had a wonderful lunch at the Penn Club on West 44th Street, embellished by the presence of David Silver and Jennifer Alpert (our class reps in the Alumni Office). They marveled at the attendance. We started looking at favors for our 65th reunion in two years. So far we came up with walking sticks with a Columbia logo on its head. Any suggestions? Look at the pictures. We haven't changed much! Stay strong. Stay busy. See you soon.

1957

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

Herman Levy: In January 2019, yours truly went on another European trip, spending three days in England and a week each in Copenhagen and Amsterdam.

Based in London, I made day visits to Reading and to Oxford. In Reading I had lunch with the widow of an old friend from Glasgow. She moved to Reading to be near one of her daughters. The following day I went to Oxford. My older nephew, Paul, spent a semester at St Catherine's College there in 1988, and asked me to make a return visit. I spent a vacation visiting him at Oxford; I still have notes I took during some of his classes. A quarter century later, when Paul's son, Noah, spent a semester at the University of London, I took him up to Oxford for a day; we called his folks from Christ Church College, which Paul and I had visited. This time I also revisited St Edmund Hall, where I completed a four-day summer course on the English Country House, which followed the 2000 American Bar Association meetings in London.

The next day I flew to Copenhagen. I had been there in 1968, 1969 and 1971, and was most pleased to return. I noted some physical changes in the city, especially more foreign restaurants, notably my favorite, Indian. The friendliness of the people has remained; English remains widely spoken. I felt quite comfortable asking directions to my hotel from people I encountered on arrival at the railway station from the airport at night.

Across from the station is the Tivoli, an elaborate amusement park complete with rides, pavilions, pagodas and boating lakes, among others. It was closed for the winter on this visit; I visited it in 1968. On the opposite side of the park is H. C. Andersens Boulevard, with a tophatted statue of the beloved children's author. Down the boulevard is the monumental rådhus (city hall), with its astronomical clock. Inside is its ornate reception hall. Leading from the Rådhuspladsen (city hall square) is the Strøget, the famous pedestrians-only shopping street.

From the Tivoli, in a northeast line, are the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek collection, the National Museum, and Christiansborg Sløt (palace). The Carlsberg exhibits comprise antiquities and 19th-century French

Class Notes

and Danish paintings donated by members of the Carlsberg family (the brewers). The National Museum houses collections on Danish history throughout the centuries.

Christiansborg is a complex of several buildings, including the palace itself, the parliament house and the Royal Library. At one end of the library is the Jewish Museum, which houses a collection of Torah crowns, pointers, Chanukah menorahs and other Jewish art objects. In the midst of the complex of buildings is a statue of the Danish philosopher and author Søren Kierkegaard. Now the ceremonial rather than actual residence of the Danish Royal Family, the palace has, among other things, the magnificent royal reception rooms.

Unfortunately, The Museum of Danish Resistance, which commemorates Danish resistance to the German occupation during WWII, was closed for repairs following a fire. Notably, the Resistance Museum commemorates the evacuation of all but a small number of the approximately 7,000 Danish Jews to Sweden during the war. Well do I remember from a visit there in 1968 a photograph of King Christian X on horseback, giving the "cold shoulder" to German soldiers saluting him. The evacuation is recalled in the novel A Night of Watching.

Again following the northeast line, one finds the canal-like Nyhavn, lined on one side with quaint old gabled houses turned into restaurants, bars and cafes with both indoor and outdoor tables. Continuing northeast from Nyhavn is Amalienborg Palace, the present royal residence. I saw the



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. changing of the guard there. The ceremony was much less elaborate than the ones at Buckingham Palace I have seen. There were about a dozen foot guards, wearing a black busby, black double-breasted jacket with red piping and white cross-belt, light blue trousers with a white stripe down the side and black shoes; there was no band. Overlooking the scene is Frederik's Church, aka The Marble Church (Marmorkirken), with its splendid dome similar to those on St Paul's in London and St. Peter's in Rome.

West of Amalienborg Palace is the towered baroque Rosenborg Castle, which houses the Danish Royal Collections, including the crown jewels.

I conclude my comments on Copenhagen by recalling a social services tour I took on my 1968 visit, which featured a daycare center for children and housing for the elderly. Those were quite advanced for that time.

From Copenhagen I flew to Amsterdam; I have lost track of the number of times that I have visited it. It is primarily the 17th-century Dutch art and the quaintness of the canal scenes, with their gabled row houses, that have been the drawing cards for me; there also are the friendliness of the people and the prevalence of English.

The center of historic Amsterdam is the monumental so-called Royal Palace, on Dam Square; recent royals, however, have not lived there, preferring to live in The Hague. Sometimes it is called the Town or City Hall. It was designed and built in the 17th century on numerous piles driven into low-lying marshy ground. The front of the palace is neoclassical.

A fairly short walk from the palace is the Amsterdam Museum, which traces the city's history from a small fishing village to a major commercial center. It also has a number of paintings and other art objects. A few steps away is the quaint *Begijnhof* ("Bechayenhof"), an enclave of small gabled houses, formerly a lay nunnery and now providing housing for elderly women.

Another short walk brings one to the innermost of the five concentric canals, the Singel. Following it for a short distance, one encounters Leidsestraat (Leiden Street), a shopping street that crosses the Herengracht (Gentlemen's Canal), the Keizersgracht (Emperor's Canal), and the Prinsengracht (Prince's Canal), and ends at the Leidseplein (Leiden Square), in former times a farm market and in recent times primarily of commercial buildings and restaurants. There also is the ornate Stadsschouwburg (municipal theatre). At the far end of the Leidseplein is the outermost canal, the Stadhouderskade. Many of the canal scenes are quite picturesque, with gabled houses and small bridges. Across the bridge over the Stadhouderskade from the Leidseplein is the Museum District.

The principal museums are the Rijksmuseum (the 17th-century Dutch school), the Stedelijk Museum (modern art) and the Van Gogh Museum. The Rijksmuseum houses many of the familiar works of Rembrandt, Vermeer, de Hooch, Hals, Van Ruysdael, Hobberna, Potter and Steen. Probably the standouts are Rembrandt's "Night Watch" (actually the "Company of Captain Frans Banning Cocq and Lieutenant Willem van Ruytenburch") and the "De Staalmeesters" (the old Dutch Masters Cigars ad). The Van Gogh ("Van Hoch") Museum has a comprehensive collection of Van Gogh's paintings. Many if not most are from his French impressionist period; for some years he lived and worked in Paris.

Also in the Museum District is the Concertgebouw, famous for its orchestra.

On my last day in Amsterdam, I walked down the Stadhouderskade to the Amstel River, saw the posh Amstel Hotel and the "Skinny Bridge" (somewhat reminiscent of Van Gogh's "Langlois Bridge at Arles") and made my way to the Rembrandtplein (Rembrandt Square). The square has a statue of Rembrandt; in front of it are metal figures from the "Night Watch." It is appropriate to honor Rembrandt with what probably is his greatest work, even though in his time it was not well appreciated. He was ahead of his time to paint Captain Banning Cocq and company in action rather than in one or two straight lines or seated around a table.

I conclude my comments on Amsterdam by noting that there are many places of interest that I did not cover on this visit; I had covered them on earlier trips. They include among others The National Maritime Museum, the Tropen-



Members of the Class of 1958 met for lunch. Clockwise from left: Shelly Raab, Bernie Nussbaum, Tom Ettinger, Paul Herman, Art Radin, Henry Kurtz, Bob Waldbaum, Peter Gruenberger, Dave Marcus, Eli Weinberg and Harvey Feuerstein.

museum (tropical museum), the Biblical Museum, the Anne Frank House and the Jewish Quarter, with its comprehensive museum, the magnificent Portuguese Synagogue and the Rembrandt House.

David Kinne reports that Tony Antonio SEAS'57 died in Roanoke, Va., on March 28. Tony's widow, Carol, has asked that checks for memorial contributions be made payable to the Trustees of Columbia University and indicate "IMO Anthony Antonio/Taub Institute" on the memo line. The Taub Institute includes Alzheimer's disease research. Checks should be mailed to Columbia University Medical Center, Office of Development, Attn: Matt Reals, 516 W. 168th St., 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10032. Alternatively, memorial contributions may be made online at givenow.columbia.edu.

1958

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

Chuck Golden writes: "Barry Pariser '55 and his wife, Deborah, met me and my wife, Sheila, at Matthew's Beachside Restaurant in Aruba on January 14 to break bread and talk about the good old days of Columbia fencing. We have been doing this for the past several years once we learned that both families owned timeshares in Aruba. Barry was NCAA sabre champion in 1955."

To which we would just add that the good old days of Columbia fencing are now the good new days

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of Columbia fencing! The combined men's and women's team dethroned Notre Dame, the reigning NCAA champion, to regain the title they lost to the Fighting Irish in 2017 after Columbia's NCAA championships in 2015 and 2016. Columbia's return to fencing prominence comes despite the awarding of athletics scholarships by Notre Dame and other national powers such as Penn State and Ohio State, not to mention the intense competition from within the Ivy League.

While we are on the subject of athletics, how did my basketball predictions turn out? We predicted four or five league wins and that was right on the mark. The good news is that the team played much better as the season progressed, especially in two overtime losses to Harvard (the eventual league co-champion) and an upset of Yale (the other co-champion) in New Haven, Conn. We are only losing one starter to graduation and — with the return of injured players and new recruits - we should have a good shot at a top-four finish and qualification for the league playoffs. As I write this column in April, our perennial winning teams (baseball and tennis) are gearing up for the start of their Ivy League seasons. Tennis had a very good out-of-conference start and will be the favorite to add another league title to its record of five in a row. Baseball had a slow start but has a history of competitive league play so we are hoping for the best!

Just before this issue went to press we received a note from **Joe Dorinson:** "I would like to share two of my recent publications. They



Barry Pariser '55 and his wife, Deborah, enjoyed lunch with Chuck Golden '58 and his wife, Sheila, at Matthew's Restaurant in Aruba on January 14.

are, in order of publication, 1) "God, Jokes, Pamusseh and Tsores," which appeared in *The Languages of Humor: Verbal, Visual, and Physical Humor*, and 2) "Humor from the Edge," which appeared in *Humor and Politics: A Transcultural Perspective*, on pages 291–322."

Joe submitted this entry while recuperating from gallbladder surgery and noted that his recovery was being helped by "welcoming laughter along with painkillers."

Speedy recovery, Joe!

In the Fall 2018 Class Notes we reported on the recognition that **Joe Klein** received for his work as a Broadway musical director, and for his dedication to Columbia undergraduates interested in pursuing musical theater careers. Unfortunately, we now have to report that Joe passed away earlier this year.

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

1959

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

As I collect your submissions for this edition of our Class Notes, our Reunion Committee is actively organizing our 60th reunion. But by the time you read this, our reunion will be over. I hope that those who were able to attend had a good time. I encourage those who attended to share their comments about reunion with classmates.

Some of us are still working at our old trades. Jerome Charyn is the author of a new book, *In the Shadow of King Saul: Essays on Silence and Song.* (Thank you, Steve Trachtenberg, for bringing this to my attention. I don't know how you had time to find this gem with all that you do: traveling, giving lectures and publishing books.)

Others have moved on to other activities. **Roald Hoffmann** writes, "I have just retired for the second time, meaning that the last postdoc



Norman Gelfand '59 shared a photo of the freshman wrestling team from 1955. Front row, left to right: Dave Clark '59, Ben Miller '59, Pete Kadzielewski '59 and Gelfand; and back row, left to right: Rich Donelli '59, Ed Mendrzycki '59, Jerry Perlman '59, Bill Deely '59 and Coach Frank Russell.

has gone (but hasn't found a job ...). I have been a theoretical chemist at Cornell University - I usually say from before you were born, but I know that won't work with you - since 1965, essentially my only job. There are still several long papers to write — one, just done, is borderline readable, perhaps the title tells you its subject: Simulation vs. Understanding: a Tension, and Not Just in Our Profession. That will cause a ruckus. I continue thinking and publishing in quantum chemistry - with work done in Belgium, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Japan and other places, to which I contribute interpretation and ideas. But I miss the structure of the research group meetings I built up.

"Some of you might know that I have another career as a writer. We had a fantastic production of an autobiographical play, *Something That Belongs to You*, in Tokyo last year, selling out a 400-seat theater for its 10-day run, with NHK broadcasting the entire play. A new collection of poems will be published this year. A second poetry collection has been making the rounds of publishers for two years; no luck yet. A shared fate — even ante-Trump — of writers, not scientists."

Frank Wilson informs us, "Last year my wife and I spent a few days in the city with our daughter (who had signed up for a half-marathon in Brooklyn) and our grandson, whose 10th birthday it was. This trip was just my speed and the perfect moment to help guide a California kid setting foot in The Big Apple for the first time. There were iconic visits to the dinosaurs at the American Museum of Natural History: a sunny-afternoon stroll across the Brooklyn Bridge; two eye-popping hours at Tannen's Magic Shop (right out of Hogwarts!); a dash thru MoMA near closing-time; earsplitting, rocketing subway rides; a make-it-yourself pizza; and a reverent tour of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. We stayed at an Airbnb in Brooklyn right across the street from the best bagel shop I've ever visited and am satisfied that my grandson now understands the difference between a bun and a bagel. Tons of people never find out.

"So if we don't make it [to reunion], it's not because I don't still love the city and certainly not because I've developed amnesia over waking up to the world and its possibilities as a member of the incomparable Class of 1959 at Columbia. How was I so lucky?"

I sent the following request to classmates on my email list. If you would like to be on the list, please send an email to me at nmgc59@ hotmail.com. I will not share your email with anyone without your permission: "Usually I ask you to send in a summary of your current activities, which I would appreciate now, too, but this time I would like you to think back nearly 65 years, to the time when we first entered Columbia. What are your recollections of the time we spent in the College? Would you do it again? How did the time that we spent together affect your views and future life? Any thoughts and recollections that you would like to share are welcome. If you want to keep them anonymous, I will respect that.

"The responses to this solicitation should appear in the Class Notes that appear at about the time of our 60th reunion. If I don't have space to include them all in one issue, I will publish them in subsequent issues."

I have received some responses, two of which I have included in these Class Notes. More will follow.

Jim Thomas SEAS'60 writes, "There are so many things, most very positive, that I remember about Columbia and NYC. I was from a small city in Ohio — Alliance where I was a straight-A student and captain of the football team that finished second in Ohio. I thought I had the world under my thumb. Boy, was I in for a surprise at Columbia.

"I found that I was well prepared in some subjects (chemistry, physics and math), and completely unprepared for just about everything else. While I virtually never had to study at home in high school, I was up the first year at Columbia about every night until midnight preparing for the next day's classes. It was a struggle that, thank goodness, I was able to improve my learning skills and reduce my long nights.

"I also was on the freshman football team, which consumed four to five hours per day, as compared with the three when I was in high school. The oddity of the two is we only won one game at Columbia, while in high school we were number 2 in the state of Ohio. The difference turned out to be a good lesson in the facts of life.

"In my first year at Columbia, I was in a three-room palace in the dorm with three other freshmen. They were a pleasure, but two of them did little or no studying, so they could be a bit of a bother. Because we had the big room and had two guys not far from home, we had things (big bowl of fish, large couch and a TV) that attracted other students. On weekend nights, we were the center of the dorm.

"I got married my second year, so I lived in apartments from there on. Also, I had part-time jobs the last four years: a men's clothing store and babysitting, each for one year, and a drugstore at Amsterdam and 120th Street for two years. While they took some time out of my days, they were extremely useful when I was preparing to find a permanent job in the real world.

"My oldest son was born in NYC so he lived in NYC for two years and was a source of fun, especially on the weekends. He was spoiled by neighbors who would fuss over him when we were outside, but he turned out very well, as did my other son and my daughter.

"Columbia was absolutely great in my opinion. The three years in the College led me to interests I have today. One was history, which I choose many times when getting a library book, purchasing one for my collection or taking classes at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Cincinnati. The other is live theater, which my wife and I subscribe to most of those that Cincinnati offers. Of course, I was introduced to live theater while in NYC. The last year in NYC, I went to five shows and now we subscribe to three theaters in Cincinnati. The other interest is music, which also was a NYC intro. I am the longest subscriber to Cincinnati's POPS, the number 1 POPS orchestra in the USA, and we go to a few operas each year.

"I am proud to be a Columbia grad and am thankful that I went there. There is nothing that has been more important in making my professional and personal lives as wonderful as they have been."

From Arnie Offner we hear: "I still appreciate my Columbia College education, which fostered critical thinking about the world and inspired my undertaking a career as an historian that ran for five decades at Syracuse University, Boston University and Lafayette College. James 'Jim' Shenton '49, GSAS'54 was my role model as a teacher and advisor, and I also benefitted from the erudite lectures of Walter Metzger GSAS'46, Joseph Rothschild '51 and Fritz Stern '46, GSAS'53. I officially retired from Lafayette in 2012 as the Cornelia

F. Hugel Professor (Emeritus), with the explicit purpose of completing my book, *Hubert Humphrey: The Conscience of the Country*. [See "Bookshelf," Spring 2019.] I believe the work restores Humphrey to his rightful place as the most successful — and liberal — legislator of the 20th century regarding not only civil rights but also government sponsorship of a good education, gainful employment, health care for all and a nonimperial foreign policy.

"The book also demonstrates that Humphrey likely would have won the crucial 1968 presidential election over Richard Nixon had President Lyndon Johnson not favored Nixon's harder negotiating stance toward North Vietnam and refused to reveal the Republican's 'treason' (Johnson's word) in colluding with South Vietnam's government to stymie the Paris peace talks.

"A series of book tour lectures in Boston, New York and Washington, D.C., has led to interesting encounters with several people connected to Humphrey and many who were politically engaged in 1968.

"My wife, Ellen BC'61, and I have been married for nearly six decades and enjoy having our children and grandchildren living nearby in Newton, Mass."

1960

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

Horrific winter weather swept much of the continent from the Pacific rim to the Atlantic beaches; record snowfalls, blizzard conditions in the Midwest, strong cold-waves, a polar vortex from the north, tornado outbreaks in the southeast and a bomb cyclone in mid-March. In consequence, or so one might surmise, classmates went into hibernation, and incipient Class Notes remained embedded in an embryonic state and ceased to flow timely for this issue of *CCT*.

The islands of Hawaii, however, were not afflicted by the mainland's winter, and although volcanic eruptions had wreaked havoc in paradise, **Paul Nagano** was not within the zone of danger. He has continued to produce marvelous watercolors at a prolific rate, and now — in his 80th year — has found a new form of inspiration and expression, his third.

The landscapes of his earliest years were inspired by actual sites, wherever he lived or traveled.

About 20 years ago he found a new form of expression, which he dubbed "Symbalist." As he describes it, the landscapes were "more imaginary, even fantastic, often inspired by Balinese subjects or ideas, connected to, but apart from, the visible world."

And now, his new work "is perhaps more symbolic, with some connections to Bali, but reaches out into new territory, for me, having 'emerged' not from an initial sketch (my usual method), but painted directly, developing into its images sometimes by random placements of color and form that slowly evolved into the final work — which surprised me, considering that I had begun with no idea of what my brushstrokes might lead."

It is notable that First Republic Bank has on display in its office in Honolulu more than two dozen pieces executed by Paul across several decades. A visit to Paul's website (flickr.com/photos/ptnagano/albums) is uplifting and an absolute delight.

This note is submitted as spring makes its entry. The migratory birds have returned and the trees are beginning to bud. Arise lads, be in good health and send me your Class Notes!

1961

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

Bob Salman LAW'64 was reappointed to New Jersey's Council on Local Mandates by Gov. Phil Murphy (D-N.J.) in February. Bob's term is for four years. He was first appointed to the council four years ago by Gov. Chris Christie. The nine-member council has jurisdiction over any municipal, county or Board of Education complaint alleging that the legislature has enacted mandatory action without providing funding for implementation.

Bob's granddaughter Sydney is completing her dietetic nutrition internship and will be looking for a permanent position in either Connecticut or Boston. His granddaughter Taylor is completing her

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junior year in Barcelona. Taylor is in Maryland's business school and is interested in brand marketing. Taylor and Sydney are greatgrandnieces of Columbia icon Sid Luckman '39. Bob's grandson Jack received early decision admittance to Wharton. His granddaughter Mackenzie is finishing her second year of high school and is on the school's dance team. Bob and his wife, Reva, celebrated their 56th anniversary in June. Bob co-chairs the Jersey Shore region for Columbia's Alumni Representative Committee.

Joe Wisnovsky, whose remembrance of Mark Van Doren appears on the last page of this issue of *CCT*, and his wife, the former Mary Strunsky BC'61, recently celebrated their 80th birthdays at a family gathering in California with their sons, Robert (the James McGill Professor of Islamic Philosophy at McGill) and Peter (a software architect at Salesforce), as well as with their grandchildren, Simon (a postdoc in biochemistry at Stanford) and Jasmine (an undergrad in physics at McGill).

Marty Kaplan and his wife, Wendy, have been married for 34 years, second marriages for both. They share five children, three of whom graduated from Columbia: Marty's daughter Shira '89, LAW'94, and Wendy's sons David Topkins '94 and Andrew Topkins '98. Marty's sons Jon and Ben went to Harvard. All are married, and there are 11 grandchildren.

Wendy is an art curator and she and Marty have worked together on two major international ceramic exhibitions since moving to New York, both opening at The Museum of Arts and Design. They moved to New York two days before 9-11 ... and stayed.

After Columbia, Marty graduated from Harvard Law, clerked for a Federal Appeals Court judge and then spent his entire legal career at Hale and Dorr (Boston and New York), which became WilmerHale. Marty may be one of the last attorneys to have a wide-ranging career, managing corporate and real estate deals and litigation, as well as estates and trusts. He has represented Art Garfunkel '65 for more than 50 years; helped get Mick Jagger and Keith Richards out of the Warwick, R.I., jail; served as Gov. Bill Weld (R-Mass.)'s chair of the Massachusetts Board of Education during the height of the

education reform movement; helped organize and sell an oil funding business and organize a bank (all successful); and managed a foundation that contributed more than \$15 million in grants to Columbia.

Marty was president of the Columbia College Alumni Association, organized the Committee on the Future of Columbia College (1993) and was on the College's Board of Visitors. He was chair of the International Interreligious Affairs commission of the American Jewish Committee and gave the AJC response to the Vatican Statement on the Shoah (1998) in Washington, D.C., with Cardinal Edward Cassidy. He served on the board of The Boston Foundation, as well as nonprofits in the environmental, human rights and arts fields.

Politics continued in Marty's life after his Columbia experiences. He was on the finance committees of Mike Dukakis, John Kerry, Bill Weld, Fr. Robert Drinan and several other Massachusetts state officers and members of Congress.

Marty and Wendy are retired, living in New York and Lenox, Mass. (the Berkshires), and this past winter — for the first time — renting in Naples, Fla. (two months). After returning to the cold, and getting colds, they plan on three months this year. Their passions are family, politics, travel, good food, music and art, and they look forward to the next reunion!

Max Cohen was awarded U.S. Patent 10166290 for intralesional (intratumoral) dinitrochlorobenzene and associated compounds co-administered with checkpoint inhibitors for cancer treatment including treatment of metastatic cutaneous cancers. Commercialization will require licensing and perhaps more clinical trials. Max is in Potomac, Md., in the shadow of the National Institutes of Health.

Tony Adler set up a class Facebook chat group in March. He has sent invitations to all who have expressed interest in the group. Please contact Tony if you want to join.

Group chats are a way to have real-time conversations in groups you are a member of. When you create a chat in your group, it will automatically create the same group chat in Facebook Messenger. Keep in mind that anyone in the group can see and join a group chat. If you



Members of the Class of '61 and their spouses enjoyed lunch at 10 Mile Tavern at Copper Mountain. Left to right: Alex Liebowitz '61, Bob Rennick '61, Mike Hausig '61, Lisa Rennick and JB Hausig.

create a group chat, you become an administrator of the chat.

My wife, JB, and I finished our sixth year as volunteer ski ambassadors at Copper Mountain, Colo. **Alex Liebowitz** spent a week skiing with us in February. During that time, **Bob Rennick** and his wife, Lisa, drove up for the day from Colorado Springs, and we all met for lunch at Copper.

1962

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

Allen Young recently sent news about Howard Levin, his Livingston Hall roommate (along with Eric Levine, now deceased). Howard lives in Stockbridge, Mass., near Allen's home in Royalston, Mass. Although the two had not been in touch for years, they reconnected over dinner in Northampton with Howard's wife, Judith (of 50 years), and Allen's partner, David (of 39 years).

Howard graduated from NYU Medical School and practiced internal medicine, then rheumatology. Between 1974 and 1988 he was a member of the San Jose Medical Group in California. He then became a clinical professor at Stanford University and a senior staff fellow in the National Institutes of Health. Howard published the results of his research in many prestigious publications, and his medical career expanded into the administrative and business aspects of health care, including several executive positions at managed care organizations.

Recently Howard merged his medical knowledge with his entrepreneurial instinct to create LympheDIVAs, and that makes a wonderful, poignant story.

In 2004, Howard and Judith's 34-year-old daughter, Rachel, developed breast cancer. Although treatment helped her, three years later she was diagnosed with lymphedema, a lifelong side effect of her treatment. As it often does, lymphedema caused a permanent swelling in Rachel's arms, and she was told to wear compression sleeves. At that time, all compression sleeves on the market were uncomfortable and ugly. So Rachel and a fellow breast cancer survivor decided to create a compression sleeve that was not only medically correct, but also elegant and comfortable. LympheDIVAs was born to serve the needs of all similarly affected women, and the company quickly became successful.

Rachel died on January 22, 2008, at 37, but her legacy of enabling women with lymphedema to feel beautiful and confident became a passion and continuing source of joy for the Levin family. Initially Howard was president of the company, but in 2010 he turned leadership over to his son, Josh. In Josh's words: "Rachel's dream has become my life work and passion. Our father, Dr. Howard Levin, remains our chief medical officer, ensuring that our garments are as medically correct as they are beautiful."

In 2011 the Levins moved their business to Pittsfield, Mass., a small, old manufacturing city where industry had been in decline. The city welcomed the new business, and it has continued to grow and increase the variety of its products. LympheDIVAs now employs 14 women and men. It has brought style and comfort to the medical equipment industry, and developed products using whole garment knitting machines that enable the firm to manufacture complex garments without seams. Last year it sold 35,000 garments in 100 countries.

A tad more news about Charlie Morrow from his friend Bart Plantenga: "I finally put together my radio show on Charlie — a very intricate three-hour soundscape, probably the most difficult of the 1,220 programs I've done. I am guessing some of you might like this and won't mind my sending it along. It comes ahead of an article I wrote on Charlie, which I hope to publish (words as well as sound) at a deserving magazine or online platform. The description is: 'Wreck Morrow Now 1222: Charlie Morrow, madcapped transcendentalist, animalfriendly avant-gardist, conceptual Dr. Doolittlist, Fluxus artist, avant la lettre, and laugh-inducing maximinimalist is a fascinating artist/ conceptual provoker of mass art actions who has collaborated with many of the 20th-century's leading artists: John Cage, Allen Ginsberg, Charlotte Moorman, Philip Corner,

Nam June Paik, Simon & Garfunkel, Young Rascals, James Tenney, Paul Dutton, Malcolm Goldstein, Joan LaBarbara, Alison Knowles, Jerome Rothenberg, Vanilla Fudge, Glen Velez, Sten Hanson, Derek Bailey, Jean Jacques Lebel, Ken Russell and many, many more. He also wrote the earworm jingles 'Hefty Hefty Hefty' and 'Take the Train to the Plane,' among others. Listen online: bit.ly/2IRv3gu."

1963

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

In February and March, I attended two of my favorite events. In February, the Dean's Scholarship Reception, where scholarship donors and recipients have a chance to meet and get to know each other. I saw **Phil Satow** and **Don Margolis** with their scholars, and I joined my fellow board members from the Columbia University Club Foundation and several of the 10 scholars we fund. In March, Phil graciously hosted **Henry Black** and his wife, Benita, and me at his table at the John Jay Awards Dinner, and it was a wonderful night.

I recently asked for news and requested that it be kept brief so that we could include more classmates. Some of you took me too literally, for example:

Michael Hassan writes, "Nothing newsworthy (and that's good) other than living life is wonderful

Holler at Us in Haiku!



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

We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku.** Send your 5-7-5 recollections to cct_centennial@columbia.edu, and we'll run our favorites in the next four issues' Class Notes. and to this day, I appreciate my education at Columbia more every year. Oh, to go back."

Ed Coller writes, "Hello. My life remains unremarkable."

Allen Frances writes, "I have a good life on beach, but no real news of interest to anyone else. We are all of us on borrowed time, playing with house money."

And some of us say they are repeating: Jim Rodgers writes, "My news is the same as I sent last year: I practice law here in Brattleboro, Vt., work full-time, busy with some litigation but primarily solving problems without a trial. My wife, Carol, is an associate professor at SUNY Albany, who is contracted to publish a book with Teachers College Press and is also busy advising a unique charter school in the Bronx. My children all live on the West Coast: Melissa in San Francisco, and Jon and Liz in Los Angeles. We will be getting together the third week of April when we fly to San Francisco for a family celebration. Our chocolate lab, Mozart, would have loved to attend Columbia but did not get a scholarship."

And of course, we have some CDs to plug.

Hank Davis and Scott Parker '64, GSAS'74 have co-produced a major retrospective of Fats Domino's music for Bear Family Records in Germany. The boxed set contains 12 music CDs, a PBS documentary on DVD and a large-format hardcover book with musical commentary and vintage illustrations from the '50s. "This was a total labor of love for Scott and me. Fats's music will never be treated with more appreciation than this," says Hank.

Paul Reale announces that MSR Classics has released *Children's Palace*, a collection of his music for winds and piano. MSR is also preparing *Caldera with Ice Cave*, which contains "Piano Concerto No. 3" and assorted works for string orchestra. I am glad to hear from each and

every one of you!

Richard Goldwater writes, "I am delighted to have joined Columbia College's Core Conversations [online book club; college.columbia. edu/alumni/learn/coreconversations] on Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and *Othello*. I am happy to think that the liberal arts might survive at Columbia College, even if it is Amazon that makes this discussion possible. Good for Amazon. "The Varsity Show from 1963 was *Elsinore!* (exclamation point courtesy of *Oklahoma!*), a musical comedy version of *Hamlet*. Inside its *Playbile* (sic) was an 'ad' that expressed great affection for our Shakespeare maven, Professor Andrew Chiappe CC 1933, GSAS'39.

"I have retired from 50 years as a psychiatrist and psychotherapist. Chiappe's Shakespeare course is my only academic experience to affect my life every day. His critiques taught me to see each play as a world, and the world as a play best understood as a composite of two points of view. Kenneth Burke called this idea a 'perspective by incongruity' comparable to the need for binocular vision to see the world in depth. In The Merchant of Venice, for example, we see the emotional, magical world of Belmont in opposition to the logical, rulebased commercial world of Venice. I have found in my work as a marital therapist that intimate partners often polarize exactly this way. Never wrote about it, though."

Richard, I think that is worth an article.

Ken Ostberg writes, "I read your note while sipping a late-afternoon beer in Bairro Alto, Lisbon. My spouse of 35 years, Andrea ('Andi'), and I are here enjoying Portugal and Northern Spain for the month until Easter. It reminds us that one year ago now we were touring ruins in Sicily and finishing a four-week trip with a friend on Malta — a wellkept secret for most Americans but now too popular with Europeans and even Asians.

"Meanwhile, in the distant past (last October) our older daughter, Kristen, married. She and her spouse live in Washington, D.C., where her spouse is in the Secret Service. And they are moving into their first home, ahead of the Amazon-inflated housing prices. Our younger daughter, Adrienne, and her husband relocated from Seattle to Charlotte, N.C. We now see them more often, being 75 miles away in Winston-Salem. Adrienne will become a mom, and we grandparents, in July. Health continues good. All's right in the Ostberg world."

Lee Lowenfish continues to indulge his passion for baseball on many levels. He'll again teach his popular "Baseball and American Culture" class in late July/early August at the deservedly legendary Chautauqua



Institution in southwest New York State. As a Branch Rickey biographer, Lee will be part of a new documentary on Jackie Robinson that started streaming on the Fox Nation website on April 15, the 72nd anniversary of Robinson's breaking the color line in major league baseball.

Lee's working on a book about the history of — and as an homage to — the profession of baseball scouting. He blogs regularly about baseball, other sports and the cultural life of NYC at leelowenfish. com. Lee followed in person as much as possible the 2019 Columbia baseball season as it sought its fifth Ivy League title in seven years under Coach Brett Boretti.

Robert Shlaer writes, "Over the 2018 winter holiday my wife, Susan, and I had my entire family here in Santa Fe for an extended visit — and I do mean entire. Leah, daughter; Ben, son; Marie Goeritz, daughter-in-law; Milo, grandson (5); Fritzi, granddaughter (2); Lidian King, ex-wife; Jessie Monter, Lidian's daughter; Tomas Monter, Jessie's husband; and Tzayuli and Kean, their daughter and son. The group stayed sometimes here, and sometimes in rentals in the Historic District of Santa Fe, where they could walk to everything. From the first arrivals to the last departure it stretched out to more than a month and a half in December and January. I cannot count how many hikes we did, restaurants we tried or concerts we attended, but the high point was a flamenco performance ('flamingo,' if you ask Milo) by Entreflamenco. The lead female dancer and codirector is Estefania Ramirez, a friend of Leah's from college.

"To back up a bit, ever since I took up the pipes I have been thrust into more and more interesting social connections than I could ever have anticipated. On Veterans Day, I was unable to march in the parade because of a leg injury, so I arranged to ride in an antique fire engine owned by the Santa Fe Fire Department."

If you visit cc63ers.com, you will find a picture of Robert with Mayor Alan Webber of Santa Fe right behind him.

Stephen Honig writes, "I am continuing the private practice of corporate law with the Boston office of Duane Morris, concentrating on life sciences/biotech, which as an industry has seized Greater Boston

and is our wave of the future. I had to go back to school to understand which molecules were the big ones; somehow I seemed to have missed that chapter as a history major. I also have decided to publish some of my writings which have accumulated since the '70s. To now, my 'publishing' has been in the business press and via my blog, cleverly named honiglawblog.com. But in January I published my first nonbusiness writings since Spectator days - a poetry collection, Messing Around with Words. Those interested in following my obvious decline through the decades will find pieces on love, aging, death, poverty in Africa and rusting tanks on the Russian tundra; just look on Amazon or at Barnes & Noble. Undaunted by the presumptuousness of this effort, I am now editing a short story collection that discerning readers will likely avoid, but I am having a great time with it.

"On a personal note: Having children at various junctures throughout my life, I am now nurturing (in our Newton, Mass., home) the (I hope) last, a 15-year-old boy with seemingly limitless interests; in January he is off to high school for a semester in Beijing, having studied Chinese for five and a half years while thinking ill (at least until now) of the father who suggested it. My three older kids are well out in the world, although the two who are lawyers still have to work for a living while my artist son seems to have avoided that trap and manages to hang out in Paris a lot. My daughter's son, my eldest grandchild, is applying to colleges but, alas, only where there are tall mountains and lots of snow. Skiing College Walk did not catch his fancy. My wife, Laura, continues the solo practice of law in nearby suburban Wellesley; lawyering seemingly has become a family contagion. We travel a bit. A few years ago I taught entrepreneurship in a Russian law school (note: it cannot actually be done), and in my spare time I bemoan the lack of spare time. Finally, those who know me will be shocked to learn that I am involved with Boy Scouts, which means I get to sleep on cold dirt with my son's troop, something that is decidedly not my style to the extent I have any.'

Phil Satow writes, "I am proud to inform you of the publication of my daughter Julie '96, SIPA'01's first book, *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel.* It has received rave reviews from multiple Pulitzer Prize winners and *New York Times* bestselling authors. It is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and theplazabook.com."

If you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (for now, we are still gathering at the Princeton Club). The next are September 12 and on October 10 (we take off August).

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

1964

Norman Olch 233 Broadway New York, NY 10279 norman@nolch.com

I posed two questions to the class: What do you wish you had known when you were 18, and what advice do you have for the members of the College's next graduating class as they face becoming "adults"?

I have received two responses so far. First, **Jerry Oster** writes from Chapel Hill, N.C.:

"1) I wish I'd known many, many languages. I scored 800 on my French college boards and thereby somehow fulfilled Columbia's language requirement, except for one semester of French conversation. From my mid-20s on, I've taken stabs at Latin, Greek, Spanish, Italian, German and Irish. I can ask directions and order a meal in the living languages among that array, but not much else. College would have been the time to learn more of them.

"2) To future grads: Be a generalist, not a specialist; study what interests you, not what's recommended. When and if you begin a career, be entirely ready to begin another."

In line with his advice, Jerry adds: "I've had three 12-year careers newspaper and wire service news and feature writer; novelist and playwright; and higher education development and news writer."

Next, Jack Kleinman writes: "Your questions and my passing a significant life milestone impel me to write. I have ascended/descended to emeritus status at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where I was active faculty for 43-plus years. This change involves giving up the active practice of internal medicine and nephrology, although I will still collaborate with some colleagues in publishing research and will do some medical student teaching. At 75, after a long career of taking care of others, I find that I have to spend more time and energy taking care of myself, and I want to take more time to enjoy pursuits such as photography and travel, as well as spending time with friends and family.

"At age 18, I wish I had realized how much there was to see and do in the world other than to get good grades and advance toward career goals. I don't regret much, but I often wish I had had more adventures when I was young. As for advice for graduates, I guess I would stress the importance of finding good mentors not just in their careers but also as models for how to live their lives, especially as parents, members of their communities and citizens."

I am writing this note in April and it will appear after our 55th reunion. I hope to report in the Fall issue about reunion, and I hope more of you will respond to the questions I posed.

1965

Leonard B. Pack 924 West End Ave. New York, NY 10025 leonard@packlaw.us

Space limitations forced me to interrupt Mike Friedman's submission in the Spring issue. Here's the rest: "Since retiring from Honigman [law firm], I have been working for the nonprofit Center for Community Based Enterprise, which I joined as a board member when it began in 2007. C2BE is committed to economic development in Detroit's underserved neighborhoods through developing networks of cooperative, worker-owned businesses. Inspired by the example of the Mondragon Corp. in the Basque region of Spain, our shorthand description of our mission is to build Mondragon in Detroit. We see the development of cooperative, worker-owned companies as a crucial way to lessen economic inequality, build community wealth and stabilize local job markets.

"My wife, Barb, is winding down her sole-practitioner labor law practice. We are active in Jewish Voice for Peace, and were recently involved in working for the successful election of Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), a Palestinian-American Muslim woman, as our congressional representative.

"Not too long ago, Barb and I purchased a coop apartment east of downtown Detroit, right on the river, and have been remodeling it for far too long, but plan to sell our current Detroit house and move this year. We also purchased a house in the Hudson River valley — in Glenfort, N.Y., not far from Woodstock. Our plan is to spend summers at our New York house — Barb is an inveterate gardener and could not bear the thought of high-rise living without a vegetable garden — and the rest of the year in Detroit, where I will continue my work with C2BE. I hope we will be able to see Bob Caserio and many other classmates who will be in, or near, the NYC area during our summer sojourns. Everyone is also welcome to stop by if and when they come to Detroit. We'd love to see you and show off the new and emergent Motor City."

I got a nice update from **Dean Gamanos** BUS'67: "Twe been living in Greenwich, Conn., for nearly two decades and enjoying it totally. I do get into Manhattan frequently, as I teach a course on entrepreneurship at FIT. Do a little marketing with my boutique ad agency (reteleco. com) and am involved with town government, as a representative on the RTM (Representative Town Meeting; it's Greenwich's town council). There are about 230 of us



Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct. and we all attend a lot of meetings but don't get paid. It's an interesting endeavor and although somewhat time consuming it helps keep the town well governed (at least we like to think so). I also started a wine club (GreenwichWineSociety.com), which has been holding tastings and other events for 10 years.

"Having served in the Navy after business school, I also serve on the Town's Veterans Council. At a November 11 Veterans Day event I gave a talk, 'Causes and Consequences of World War I' (this year was the 100th anniversary of the armistice). Even though I'm not a professional historian, the CC history course taught by Professor Noyes left me with a strong interest in the subject.

"On the personal side, I'm having a great time being a grandfather with four grandsons. My daughter, Carolyn, and her husband live in nearby Cos Cob with two boys, both under 4. My son, Michael, isn't as geographically close. He and his wife live in Montreal. They also have two little boys. Fortunately, they like to come to Connecticut rather frequently, especially in the warmer months (I suspect our nice beaches are part of the draw, especially versus the colder climes in Canada!).

"I'm in touch with **Rick Shuart** BUS'67 and **John Sullivan** but miss our class lunches in the city, which were a popular thing leading up to our last reunion. **Mike Cook**, or somebody, let's try again at least once in a while (or put me back on the list if I've somehow fallen off!)."

I got a great letter from Tom Gualtieri PS'69. If you attended our 50th reunion you will remember his entertaining lecture on aging (yes, it was entertaining!) at our class lunch. Here is more from Tom: "Last night, my wife, Frances, and I saw The Mikado by our local Savoyards. They did it in their own way and I remembered having dinner with you in John Jay on our first night at Columbia. We had a shared interest in Gilbert and Sullivan and you asked, 'Are you a G&S purist?' I didn't know what the hell you were talking about. [Neither does your class correspondent.] I got a sinking feeling that I was out of my league, a feeling that didn't leave me until we graduated.

"Anyway, in May I'm making the trek to NYC for our 50th P&S anniversary. It reminds me of our 50th in 2015. I'm finally putting a



Ed Malmstrom '65 (left), John P. White SEAS'68 (right) and Head Football Coach Al Bagnoli at a golf outing for football alumni.

book around the talk I gave, *Why We Live As Long As We Do*. Writing is what I do now, when I'm not growing flowers and tomatoes for Frances's famous restaurant, La Résidence, or when I'm not at work. Last year my book *Obsessive Compulsions: The OCD of Everyday Life* came out. Not a little is about some characters at Columbia. None of us would have made it if we weren't a bit OC.

"After I left New York, I lived in Montreal and then in Mound Bayou, Miss., where I was a family doc and delivered 500 babies. It diminished my zeal for any medical specialty that might keep me up at night, so I came to Chapel Hill to be a research psychiatrist for a while, and then a neuropsychiatrist. After 40 years, I am finally getting the hang of it. Good thing, too, because our children have all chosen the most expensive colleges to attend. I shall have to work forever.

"In 1977, I married Frances, a Tar Heel born and bred, and we had three boys. The youngest, Tony PS'16, is an orthopedics resident at NYU. The older ones, Dieter and John, run Frances's restaurant, and if anyone from CC'65 visits Chapel Hill, come to LaRes and we will share a bottle of champagne. Frances works there, too, when she isn't taking care of the grandchildren. Since we obviously couldn't engender female children, we adopted Geni from China in 1997, then Nora in 2001 and Dia in 2005. Dia wants to go to medical school. Did I tell you I was going to have to work forever?

"I'm trying to finish *Why We Live As Long As We Do*, although I'm still struggling with the *why* part. I think it has something to do with ... I keep changing my mind. My *raison de vivre* is exorbitant tuition payments.

"My best memory of Columbia College? It's the same as P&S: That they let me through, young and stupid as I was. Meanwhile, keep well. Eat plenty of fruit and vegetables, drink green tea, exercise, keep studying and stay happy."

Don Shapiro sent this dispatch from Taiwan: "This October will mark half a century since I arrived in Taiwan, expecting to stay 10 months under a joint Journalism School and East Asian Institute graduate program from Columbia. I'm still there.

"Aside from Taiwan's great food and wonderful people (I married one of them in my fourth year here), what's kept me in Taiwan for so long? For more than half that time, I was a partner in a publishing company that produced magazines and business directories for the reference of importers around the world interested in Taiwanese goods. At the same time, I was a regular but part-time contributor ('stringer') for major international publications — first *The New York Times* and later mainly *Time* magazine.

"There was a lot to report on. It was a period of vibrant growth for the Taiwan economy, which developed in just a few decades from a primarily agricultural base to its position today as a world-class producer of semiconductors and other high-tech products. Starting in the 1980s, the political story was equally exciting. After years of oneparty authoritarian rule, Taiwan has become one of the most open and democratic political systems in Asia.

"In 2002, after the publishing venture was bought out by Singaporean interests, I joined the staff of the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei as senior director and editor-in-chief of the monthly publication, *Taiwan Business TOPICS* (accessible online at topics.amcham.com.tw). The chamber's annual *Taiwan White Paper* is a respected source of practical



recommendations on how to improve the local business climate.

"AmCham Taipei is an autonomous organization rather than a branch of the United States Chamber in Washington, D.C., and we stay out of politics, both Taiwanese and American. But as a journalist and chamber staff member, I've had the privilege to get to know the leading figures in the Taiwan government (including every president since 1975), as well as the foremost American government officials and scholars dealing with U.S.-Taiwan relations.

"Tm still enjoying the job too much to retire, and there are challenging times coming up for Taiwan that I look forward to following. The growing trade and security tensions between the U.S. and China are creating increasing uncertainties in the East Asian region that will present Taiwan with both risks and opportunities.

"Outside of work, I've greatly improved my table tennis game and for years was president of the small Taiwan Jewish community. I've also been chair or co-chair of the Alumni Representative Committee for interviewing applicants to Columbia from Taiwan. We typically get 80-some applications a year.

"Tm usually back in the United States for much of June, mainly for a week of meetings in Washington, D.C., and then catching up with relatives in the Chicago area. I rarely get to New York City any more, but my absentee ballots make their way to Erie County.

"After years of living in the U.S., our daughters are now closer to home. Younger daughter Laurie works in Singapore in intercultural training, while older daughter Debbie recently moved back to Taipei to take a position with the Shangri-La hotel group.

"If any classmates should make their way to Taipei, please look us up."

Derek Wittner had a blistering letter published by *The New York Times* regarding the college admissions scandal that broke in March 2019: "As [*Times* columnist] Frank Bruni suggests, no one should be surprised at the indictment of 50 parents, college administrators and test prep counselors. Financial aid, athletics recruitment, gifts, legacy admissions — all these and other devices are used to perpetuate the disparities of wealth in higher education.

"And make no mistake, the unindicted co-conspirators here are the schools themselves and the leaders of our educational institutions who conspire to promote a system that rewards these 'nonprofit' administrators so generously.

"Reform will not come internally. That would take courage. Rather, this corruption of our notions of fairness and merit must be dealt with by responsible, as opposed to partisan, oversight. These multibillion-dollar institutions enjoy their nonprofit status and tax exemptions at the public's expense. Given their abuse of our trust, they must be held to account."

1966

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

From **Roger L. Low:** "Many of us are turning 75 this year. In celebration of that event, Roger Low, together with his children and grandchildren, went skiing in the French Alps. It was a great opportunity for the 10 of us to spend time together (and for Roger to show the others that 'he's still got it' on the slopes). Best of all, lift tickets were free to 75-year-olds. We made up for that with excellent French food and lots of wine."

From Paul Hirsch: "I have written a memoir, A Long Time Ago in a Cutting Room Far, Far Away: My Fifty Years Editing Hollywood Hits - Star Wars, Carrie, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Mission: Impossible and More. It will be published in November. It is neither a tell-all nor a how-to, but rather, a personal account of my five decades as a professional film editor, the extraordinary people I collaborated with, and some of the aesthetic challenges we faced and the solutions we devised. It is for readers with any curiosity about Hollywood filmmaking and what goes on in the privacy of the cutting room."

From **Geoff Dutton**: "Mostly I'm running our household of three, soon to become two. When I'm not being a gofer, I'm doing what I can to market my novel, *Turkey Shoot*, and researching and writing nonfiction. Having become a generalist in my dotage, my expertise knows no bounds. I particularly enjoy biting the hand that used to feed me, the technological industrial complex under neoliberalism. Good thing most of us are retired, so we won't get the boot from robots. So as not to be taken as a Luddite, I try to take care not to conflate technology with capitalism, but it's the one that ails the other, dontyaknow. Currently polishing an essay on the contradictions of recycling that might become a serial and a book review of Team Human by Douglas Rushkoff, the NYC-based media critic and all-around humanist who does enlightening podcast interviews at teamhuman.fm. Expect both items to appear in The Technoskeptic, a 2-year-old web and print magazine. Also assembling my contributions to CounterPunch over the past five years into a book of essays.

"Don't get to see too many fellow alums, but am in touch with Jerseyite **Dan Gover**, an English professor at Kean University. Have touched base with **Andy Levine** and **Mike Harrison**, the former a retired but prolific political thinker out Delmarva way, the latter still hacking for the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. It gets 'Tennessee Williams Songs' were premiered at the Song Collaborators Consortia by tenor Robert Hansen and soprano Loraine Sims. At Dorland, Bruce set poems of Maxwell Anderson (of course you all remember him for valiantly trying to revive verse plays!).

"His 'Robert Frost Songs' were premiered at Columbus State University in May. His 'Mennonite Songs' will be performed next year for the 75th Anniversary of Fresno-Pacific University and his 'Two Invocations' will be performed by choirs and orchestras in Montreal and Germany. His composition studies at Columbia with Otto Luening and Jack Beeson have finally proved fruitful!"

Joe Lovett shares that his "latest film, *Children of the Inquisition*, is a documentary revealing the secrets of what happened to the people who were forced to convert or flee Spain and Portugal during the Spanish Inquisition. The stories are told through their contemporary descendants, many of whom are just discovering their problematic Jewish roots. The film was shot on four continents over the last 10 years. *Children of the Inquisition* premiered

Composer Bruce Trinkley '66's "Tennessee Williams Songs" were premiered at the Song Collaborators Consortia by tenor Robert Hansen and soprano Loraine Sims.

lonely here sometimes in the Boston 'burbs, so say hey if you're up to it at geoff@perfidy.press and I'll get back at ya. Have a cool summer, keep doubting and carry on!"

From Bruce Trinkley GSAS'68: "In February and March, Bruce Trinkley returned to his yearly composer residency at Dorland Mountain Arts Colony in the beautiful wine country of Temecula, Calif., where he has been inspired to write operas, cantatas, choral works and songs since his first residency 25 years ago in March 1994. On his way to Dorland, he was a participant in the first Composer Fair at the ACDA National Conference in Kansas City, hawking his published octavos and manuscript choral cycles and cantatas, and then traveled on to Baton Rouge, La., where his

in March at the Seattle Jewish Film Festival to a great reception. Other festivals and community screenings are planned. See childrenofthe inquisition.com for more."

From Bob Meyerson: "Bob is hopeful that his luck is finally turning around. After being evicted from the nursing home when his pet English python, Monte, escaped down the drain, only to resurface in the Commons Room jakes, scaring the shxx out of a stall occupant, Bob recovered enough to resume his exercise regimen after a long winter's sabbatical. Unfortunately, what some generously refer to as his 'jogging' was going so slow that he actually started to lose ground, to the point where he had to run backwards to go forwards, confounding vehicles and roadside coyotes alike."

1967

Albert Zonana 425 Arundel Rd. Goleta, CA 93117 az164@columbia.edu

David Bessman PS'72 writes,

"At P&S, I did house training and fellowships in hematology and spent 30 years as hematology-oncology faculty at the University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston. At 60, I had a myocardial infarction, which should have been fatal. I was lucky to have a cell phone at hand, emergency personnel two minutes away and a catheter lab nearby. I retired two years later after Galveston was torn up by Hurricane Ike, in favor of the 'less stressful' life of being a physician at the State MR facility, nine years so far. Since I'd beaten the odds of surviving the myocardial infarction, I decided to go after getting in physical shape, a work in progress. I'm married to Joan, 45 years. She is a nurse practitioner and able to keep me in line. We have three kids, all married and doing well. They grew up in Texas and refused all suggestions from Dad that Columbia might be a college to look at. We have six grandkids.'

We heard from Leigh Dolin: "After 41 years in Oregon, my wife, Leslie BC'68, and I have moved to Burlington, Vt., and Montreal to be near our grandchildren, who live in Montreal. Since we have no official status in Canada yet, we also have to have a United States residence for at least six months a year. Other than being a lot smaller than Portland, there's not much culture shock related to our Burlington move. Burlington is Bernie Sanders country and marijuana is legal to possess and smoke, although not to buy or sell! Pot is legal in Montreal, as in all of Canada, but Quebec politics are otherwise very strange. The Quebec government is introducing legislation to ban the wearing of religious symbols by public officials, including teachers and policemen. But Montreal is a wonderful cosmopolitan city with many superb restaurants and lots of bike paths. Leslie and I are taking French classes but finding it a bit of a challenge at our advanced ages. It's a bit weird living in two places but it's great being near family. Burlington is an easy two-hour drive from Montreal. And I'm closer to Columbia - maybe I'll be able to get to more alumni events!"

Robert Schulzinger writes: "I had a stroke in 2010 and I retired as a professor of history at the University of Colorado. My wife, Marie, and I had just moved in to our dream house, which is ADA compliant. Our daughter, Elizabeth, lives in Phoenix where she practices dentistry. She married another dentist, Alan Ewell, in 2016."

Tom Werman BUS'69 writes: "After college I went for an M.B.A. in marketing ('advanced common sense') at the Business School and, not knowing what I was doing at the tender age of 24, I spent an unrewarding year at Grey Advertising, marketing soap and peanut butter for Procter & Gamble. I escaped to CBS Records as an A&R (artists



Former Roger Lehecka Summer Fellowship recipients gathered in the Columbia Alumni Center in December to celebrate 15 years of the program with Roger Lehecka '67 (center), and hosted by Janet Lorin '95 (far right) and Lisa Carnoy '89 (far left).

and repertoire) man at the Epic label, and discovered and signed REO Speedwagon, Ted Nugent (mercifully, we never discussed politics), Molly Hatchet, Cheap Trick and Boston to Epic. I gravitated to the recording studio, where I produced more than 50 LPs, 20 of which were certified gold or platinum. I did most of these in Los Angeles, where we raised three wonderful children. We spent much of each summer in Nantucket, so that the kids were fully aware of East Coast culture. After 23 years in Laurel Canyon, Calif., I felt too old to make records for teenagers - the music had changed drastically and I had had enough of the studio. We came back east, bought a 10-acre gentleman's farm in the Berkshires and opened a small luxury all-suites bed and breakfast, Stonover Farm. It's heavenly in the Berkshires, and we travel easily into the city for museums, theater, real delicatessen food and Columbia friends like David Zapp and Gregg Geller '69. I still cook breakfast and mow the lawns, but I've outsourced all other labor, so I have sufficient time to write and play golf. Full retirement isn't too far away, but I still enjoy sitting down with guests in the late afternoon for wine and cheese. I'm very fortunate to have had two gratifying careers, and no boss since 1982."

Travis T. Brown writes: "I am a geologist in the oil and gas industry, now some 45 years and still working. After Columbia, I went to graduate school, was in the Air Force, did a tour in Vietnam working in munitions and EOD, came back to graduate from school and then worked in Denver for my entire career. My wife and I have two grown children, one working in New York and the other here. My pastimes include gardening, woodworking and fly fishing. I was back for the 50th reunion but disappointed at not seeing more classmates."

Herbert Broderick GSAS'78 writes: "I am a professor of art history at CUNY/Lehman College, still teaching in my 41st year. I recently published a book, *Moses the Egyptian* in *The Illustrated Old English Hexateuch.* I am an elected fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London."

Richard Friedman gave us a succinct update: "Retired in Alabama with one wife, four kids, two grandkids, two dogs, 11 chickens, and two ducks." And finally, **Harold Koenigsberg** GSAS'69 writes: "I am a professor of psychiatry at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City and director of the mood and personality disorders program there. I do brain imaging research on emotion, and I see patients in my private practice. My wife, Elizabeth, and I have a 17-year-old daughter, Sylvie, who is a junior at Bronx Science."

Be well all of you, and do write.

1968

Arthur Spector 4401 Collins Ave., 2-1417 Miami Beach, FL 33140 arthurbspector@gmail.com

Greetings from Miami Beach, a short distance from the University of Miami's Alex Rodriguez Park at Mark Light Field. A few weeks ago I witnessed the Lions baseball team beating Miami (a great national baseball franchise) 4–2. A shocker, but even more amazing was the coach — he is a superstar — used nine different pitchers, one for each inning. A great win and a wonderful crowd of Columbia people, too. It was a perfect night for baseball and a great night for Columbia.

Speaking of baseball, **Paul Brosnan**, our record-holding pitcher, emails me periodically with clever stories. I believe Paul shares a record with Lou Gehrig CC 1923.

Continuing with sports, Nigel Paneth, our distinguished public health professor at Michigan State, recently was in high spirits, as his basketball team slipped by Duke by one point. I hope they will go all the way. I am looking forward to our basketball season - we lost too many games by two points this past season. But I have hope with Mike Smith '20 back as our brilliant point guard, Patrick Tapé '20 as our superb forward center (at the end of the season no one in the Ivy League could defend him; he scored nearly at will) and the great Gabe Stefanini '21, a superstar from Italy. And there is more talent on the team, for sure. Try to see a game this coming season!

One more thought on Columbia sports: Don't miss football. It is going to be a fantastic season. I am thinking of organizing a special Homecoming event for the Class of 1968. Let me know if you are interested. I know of

alumninews 😢

at least 10 classmates who will be at Homecoming and another group that is likely to be there.

I saw Columbia Athletics Director Peter Pilling in Florida and chatted with him. He is impressive and clearly doing a great job, as all the sports teams are making progress.

I received notes from Art Kaufman and Tom Sanford related to *The Wall Street Journal*'s story on admissions rates in the Ivies. It appears that Columbia has moved up to second, behind Harvard and ahead of Princeton and Yale. Our Admissions Office is doing an amazing job, with more than 42,000 applications and a 5.1 percent acceptance rate even lower than last year.

Some classmates — **Barry** Wick, for example —have said that interviewing prospective students is a worthy activity and quite fulfilling. I hope you will volunteer with the Alumni Representative Committee if you can.

I hear from **Robert Brandt** regularly; today he told me he had his birthday this past weekend, but I forget the year — go figure, right?! But I don't report numbers anyway. Robert is in great humor and we are overdue for dinner.

I recently saw Seth Weinstein, Art Kaufman, Buzz Zucker, Paul de Bary and the entertaining and quite talented Bernie Weinstein '65, an affiliate member of our class. We had a great dinner before a basketball game and then saw a tough loss to Harvard, the second of the year losing by two. But we had a very good time! The night before we beat Dartmouth, and the team did beat Yale, Penn, Cornell and Brown, so it was a strange season.

Peter Janovsky has sent out info on the bios that we put together for our 50th reunion. I hope you received it.

Peter, thank you for your devotion to the class on the bio front and, of course, as a Marching Band supporter.

On March 19 it was announced that **Kenneth Tomecki** was elected president of the 2019 American Academy of Dermatology, following Mark Lebwohl '74. I have known Mark for years and he has told me many times that he is a fan of Ken. Mark chairs the department of dermatology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Ken is a star at the Cleveland Clinic. Quite impressive, these two talents. Ira McCown and I heard the New World Symphony and Mahler's "Symphony No. 1" (known as "The Titan") here in Miami, and had a beer afterward. Ira is in good shape and seems to be enjoying spin class and swimming.

For Neil Gozan and Frank Dann, among others, I am happy to report that I now swim almost every day. Barry Wick, our Colorado classmate, says that his swimming is constant.

The last movement of Mahler's "Symphony No. 1" seems a fitting way to think about the next few years — I hope they are exciting, and full of spirit, energy and good health. I also hope you are all doing well and enjoying the summer.

1969

Michael Oberman Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel 1177 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036 moberman@kramerlevin.com

I had an April 1 deadline for this Summer issue, which will appear several weeks after our reunion, so I am unable to report on reunion before the Fall issue. I could predict, but I will report instead when I can write in the past tense.

There is news of one event to share. On March 14, Jonathan Schiller hosted a pre-reunion kick-off event at the brand-new offices of his firm (Boies Schiller Flexner) in Hudson Yards, the very evening before the official opening when celebrities gathered below for a special gala. The views are tremendous, and we got to witness what is billed as the largest private real estate development in United States history, arguably ranking ahead of the Manhattanville campus in scope and impact of a project (or maybe not — our other campus is decades away from completion). Apart from practicing law and co-managing his law firm, Jonathan was chairman of the University Board of Trustees. We had 27 classmates and 13 spouses/guests for the reception, and we got to visit with (among others) Jerry Nadler, whom many of us see on television regularly. It was a very promising start, for it showed how easy it is to reconnect with or to meet classmates less known when we were at the College.

As this is written, we are preparing another blast email encouraging classmates to attend, and the event details are available in a mailing and online. The following classmates were on our Reunion Committee: Jonathan Adelman, Ron Alexander, Scott Anderson, George Baker, John Bernson, Michael Jacoby Brown, Steve Conway, Bill Giusti, Martin Konikoff, George Lindsay, Joe Materna, Richard Menaker, Michael Oberman, Fred Pack, Hart Perry, Richard Rapaport, David Rosedahl, Mike Rosenblatt, Irving Ruderman, Mike Schell, Joel Solkoff, Stephen Steindel, Alan Sullivan, Steven Valenstein, Eric Witkin, Richard Wyatt and Joel Ziff. (Roy Feldman was an active and valued member of the committee who passed away in March.) I hope you planned all along to attend, and did so, or I hope you were persuaded to attend, and did so. I expect those who do not attend this milestone will live with some regrets. In the meantime, a few items came in prompted by my March 4 blast email.

From Arn Howitt: "I continue to work at Harvard Kennedy School, where I'm the founding co-director of the Program on Crisis Leadership, which conducts policy research, leads several annual executive programs and develops curriculum materials on emergency management, crisis response, disaster recovery and resilience. With a close colleague, I have developed a suite of four intensive HKS executive education programs for first response and humanitarian aid leaders, higher education executives, and National Guard generals and colonels. Since 2002, we have had more than 2,500 participants in these programs.

"In addition, my professional life has frequently taken me to Asia, where I've done research and lectured extensively at universities and to government officials in China, Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Nepal and others. A recent book, Public Health Preparedness: Case Studies in Policy and Management, followed several others on a range of emergency management issues. Since our four children - two daughters, two sons - are now educated, three are married (with four of their own children among them), and all are independent, this past fall, my wife, Maryalice, and I were able to take a semester's leave to live in Beijing. There I was the

Johnson and Johnson Chair Professor of Leadership at Tsinghua University's Schwarzman College in a master's program intended as a Chinese analog of the Rhodes Scholarship program for students this year from 29 countries. Retirement may loom sometime in the future, but I'm still enthused about my work in general and the enriching opportunities for international engagement. The rocking chair can wait a while longer."

"I, John Van Dusen Lewis, continue to accumulate grandchildren: A sixth (the first girl) was due just before our 50th reunion. They are all residing nearby in the Washington, D.C., area. Their grandmother, Faith, whom I met in December 1966 (while a sophomore at CC) at her parents' apartment in the Dakota on Central Park West (in which we were married a stormy seven and a half years later), continues to practice psychoanalysis down here on the Potomac. A long-since retired (2001) Foreign Service Officer (USAID), I remain a principal with the 12-year-old San Francisco-based landscape carbon asset development company Terra Global Capital. In the past year, RainTrust has asked me to serve as its director of partnerships for building, on behalf of the African Union, its impact investors and the planet, the 'Great Great Green Wall' of 'forest gardens' across semi-arid Africa. This Rain-Trust, 'climate smart' agribusiness initiative integrates (a.) precision agriculture, remote sensing assisted land-use decision support technologies, (b.) transactional blockchain transparencies and (c.) international e-commerce commodity export links into combatting accelerating desertification and, therefore, reversing compounding food, economic and political insecurities in Africa."

From Peter Behr: "My wife and I continue to work part time, as we love our work. We are registered massage therapists in British Columbia, Canada, which means mostly M.D.-referred patients with disabilities such as post-stroke, sciatica and whiplash injuries. I continue to hike, work on my organic vegetable garden and travel. Went to Africa in January to see wildlife; it was amazing. I am in touch with Steve Marx '63 and Jan Marx GSAS'69, both CU grads. He was a popular English instructor in the 1960s at CU."

Mark Brodin LAW'72 writes: "I am in my 39th year of law school teaching, the past 35 at Boston College. I have published 25 law review articles, with about the same number of readers. I am editorial consultant to the six-volume *Weinstein's Federal Evidence* and co-author of a treatise on Massachusetts evidence, as well as a civil procedure casebook and a constitutional criminal procedure text. I have also published a biography of iconic Boston criminal defense and civil liberties lawyer William P. Homans Jr.

"But as for the important stuff, we have four grandsons, two each in Madison, Wis. (where our sonin-law is on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin Law School), and two in Portland, Maine (where our other son-in-law is overseeing the Medicaid expansion project). Our older daughter is an attorney who was previously with Children's Rights in Manhattan, litigating foster care class actions, and is now with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Our younger daughter taught for 10 years in Manhattan at the Town and Churchill Schools before moving to Maine. My wife is a retired teacher of the deaf in Boston and Newton, Mass. No plans for retirement yet!"

Ron Alexander writes that "his retirement 'job' is being a docent at the Supreme Court. Tuesday mornings at the court, if the justices aren't sitting in oral argument, you can find Ron either giving courtroom talks about the court and the Supreme Court Building, or leading private tours

around the building, including the two conference rooms containing portraits of all 16 prior chief justices, which are used as props to structure commentary on the history of the court and the United States. Ron bemoans Rutledge, has kind words for Ellsworth (much underappreciated) and Marshall (the great chief justice), sneers at Taney, laughs at Chase for overruling himself on Greenbacks, scowls at Waite and Fuller for subverting the Reconstruction amendments, wonders how White (Confederate) and Holmes (Union) sat together on the bench, thanks Taft for the building, praises the Columbia men (John Jay CC 1764, Charles Evans Hughes LAW 1884 and Harlan F. Stone LAW 1898 - Korematsu notwithstanding), shrugs at Vinson, celebrates Warren for fulfilling Lincoln's 'new birth of freedom,' passes quickly over Burger and regales his audience with tales of Rehnquist's gold stripes derived from Gilbert and Sullivan's Iolanthe. Then there's the justices' dining room and, for the select few, the highest court in the land: the Supreme Court basketball court, which sits above the courtroom. And, when the court is hearing oral argument, Ron may be found in the bar section of the courtroom, listening to the rapid-fire questioning of counsel, under the watchful eyes of the overhead frieze sculptures of Marshall and Blackstone, frozen in quizzical contemplation of the folly, or wisdom, of their current descen-

From Henry S. Jackson: "I remember how seductively beautiful

dants on the bench."

Holler at Us in Haiku!

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

We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku.** Send your 5-7-5 recollections to cct_centennial@columbia.edu, and we'll run our favorites in the next four issues' Class Notes. the campus was in spring, just at the time when term papers had to be written and there were exams to study for. I also remember my mother's mantra at that time of year: 'Don't work too hard, but get it all done.' Somehow, most of us did."

Peter Clapp writes: "I was an Asian studies major. Apart from the politics, evenings at The West End and some lasting friendships, my best memories of school are of a few inspiring teachers, including Ken Winston (CC), Fred Grab PS'63 (especially his one-semester class on Ulysses), Hans Bielenstein (classical Chinese) and Burton Watson '50 (Chinese poetry). If I knew then what I know now, I would have paid a lot more attention and learned a lot more from all of them. Now I'm a happily married (30-plus years) semi-retired lawyer. I teach business-law classes at JFKU School of Law, a state-bar-accredited law school in Pleasant Hill, Calif., and I volunteer at the consumer justice clinic of the East Bay Community Law Center in Berkeley, where I advise on debtor-creditor issues and, where appropriate, prepare Chapter 7 filings for the clinic's clients."

I hope to have seen you at reunion and that it was a grand success in every conceivable way.

1970

Leo G. Kailas Reitler Kailas & Rosenblatt 885 Third Ave., 20th Fl. New York, NY 10022 Ikailas@reitlerlaw.com

I am happy to report that I completed a major arbitration in January and received a favorable result in March, which led to a week of vacation in London with my wife. The Churchill War Rooms is a must-see for any student of history, and I felt extraordinarily privileged to be able to tour the Houses of Parliament. London is an architecturally beautiful city and you can't avoid encountering important historical places on virtually every street corner.

A number of classmates wrote very touching tributes to Professor Edward W. "Ted" Tayler, who passed away in April 2018. Professor **Michael Aeschliman** GSAS'91 writes, "I knew Ted Tayler for exactly 50 years, 1968–2018, initially as an undergraduate, and then as a graduate student, as a great teacher, then as a valued advisor and loval friend. He was my chief dissertation advisor. The depth of my debt to him, and fondness and respect for him, is impossible to state in brief compass. A constant source of encouragement, he was writing important, unforgettable things to me within weeks of his death. As a teacher, scholar and writer myself, I think the shortest, simplest, truest and best thing that I can say about him is that he was a man of great nobility and loving-kindness, with a profoundly orthodox sensibility, living in a confused, miscellaneous, noisy era of promiscuous, vehement self-expression. He articulated and incarnated the central Columbia humanistic tradition descending from John Erskine CC 1900 - or, ultimately more to the point, from the Scriptures, Plato and the subsequent Western literary canon, which he loved and taught superlatively well. With his death a very brilliant, even celestial, light has gone out."

Professor **David Lehman**, editor of *The Oxford Book of American Poetry*, invited me to the Tayler memorial service and added his tribute: "Ted taught Elizabethan 17th-century poetry, Shakespeare and Milton to many of us. A course with Tayler was a life-changer."

Martin J. Newhouse GSAS'79 sent his news: "Most newsworthy: My wife, Nancy Scott, and I have a new grandson, Herman Katz Newhouse, born October 3 and residing in Philadelphia with his parents, our son, a journalist, and his wonderful wife, an artist. Everything else pales in comparison."

Victor Hertz GSAS'75, who founded, and runs with his daughter, Accredited Language Services (I have used them and they are excellent), said he had no news to report but sends regards to classmates.

Samuel Estreicher LAW'75, a professor of law at NYU Law School, proudly reports: "On February 4, Brooklyn Technical H.S. and its Alumni Foundation presented me with the Distinguished Alumnus – 2019 Award."

Congratulations, Sam, on a well-deserved honor.

I often read Sam's *New York Law Journal* articles on labor law developments and always walk away from them better informed.



alumninews 🧐

1971

Lewis Preschel L.A.Preschel@gmail.com

[Editor's note: *CCT* welcomes new CC'71 class correspondent **Lewis Preschel**, who will write this column going forward. He shares:]

"Before I introduce myself, I thank Jim Shaw for his long-term service to our class. Jim listened to our stories and made them available for the class to enjoy. We should thank him for his energy and spirit. It's not as if he were retired during that time, and had nothing else to do. Jim practiced law. He raised a family (including a Columbia graduate). At the same time, he was an active Philadelphia head of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary is a member of the Class of 1969. Our alumni are having an impact in our present historic times within the government of our country. Not to mention, a gentleman educated at Columbia College recently spent eight years leading our country as President.

"We should also include in the notable people from our class those who were involved with Columbia College, such as **Alex Sachare**, who was editor-in-chief of *CCT* for many years.

"Doctor, lawyer, tinker, tailor, CEO and president; no matter what, your life holds interest for your classmates, so let us know where your path in life has led, and what surrounds you today, as well as what

Eddie Goldman '71 is a journalist, covering the combat sports, in particular boxing, wrestling and mixed martial arts.

sports fan and follower of Columbia College sports. He donated his hard work and energies. We are grateful for all his labors.

"I will endeavor to continue bringing news and information about our class to you. I will try to be as energetic as Jim was for all those years. I am retired and have nothing else to look forward to other than your news. Please excuse my beginner's enthusiastic hyperbole.

"Our college, and in particular our class, have changed the world, so why not talk about where that road led you personally? We were educated at a hub of national events, during a time of incredible political and social activity. Almost a half-century ago, we swam in Columbia's educational whirlpool and survived, holding buildings and deans [hostage], protesting the Vietnam War, championing civil rights causes and acknowledging gay rights. We flashed fervent politics across the spectrum — Democrats, Republicans, Socialists, Communists, Liberals and Conservatives. It led to a member of the Class of 1971 being U.S. attorney general twice and a member of the Class of 1973 being it once. (BTW - both earned graduate degrees from Columbia, too.) The

surrounded you in the past. We are closing in on our 50th reunion. The Grateful Dead said it best: *What a long, strange trip it's been.*

"Your classmates are interested. Let's all stay in touch; build a community. To paraphrase the intro to the old TV show *Naked City*: There are hundreds of stories in the class of 1971. Tell us yours.

"I am Lewis Preschel, and after we graduated, I continued my education at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. I became a boardcertified orthopedic surgeon and practiced for almost 25 years in Central New Jersey before retiring. I have a master's in library and information science from Rutgers and have morphed into an author of mysteries - short and novel length. I had a short story published in an anthology. I am about to self-publish my first novel. I am a member of the Columbia Fiction Foundry, an association of writers who support each other. It is maintained through the Columbia Alumni Association. I remain married to the woman I met on a blind date that Mark Haselkorn set up my senior year. Carole and I have two adult daughters, Sara and Jill, and three grandchildren.

"Where did life take you? What are you doing there? We cannot know unless you communicate to us. The class email address is listed at the top of the column; drop your classmates a line."

Below are the notes that *CCT* collected during the spring:

Fred Lowell: "After 43 years, I have retired from the practice of law and as chair of the political law practice at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman in San Francisco."

Mark Davies LAW'75: "Retired in 2016 after 22 years with NYC's ethics board. Nice to have that government pension. Now in second year (half-time) of seminary near Columbia (Union Theological Seminary), this semester taking Paul and fourth semester of Greek (insane and insanely difficult, at least at 70). Love it, though."

John Kuhn Bleimaier SIPA'73: "Recently was named a trustee of the Princeton Bar Association after having practiced law in this town for 43 years. FYI, I am the author of more than 100 articles dealing with theoretical jurisprudence, classic automobiles and sporting shotguns. Icing on the cake, yours truly is both a poet and farmer by avocation. I live at *Falkenborst* in Hopewell, N.J. Why not have a picnic at my spread after the next Columbia vs. Princeton game here out in the sticks?"

Eddie Goldman: "Since the early 1990s, I have mainly been working as a journalist covering the combat sports, in particular boxing, wrestling and mixed martial arts. That has encompassed work on websites, newspapers, magazines, radio, internet radio, podcasts, film and TV. In 2006 I started the 'No Holds Barred' podcast, for which I am still host and producer. In 2008, I was presented by Gladiator Magazine with its first-ever Journalism Lifetime Achievement Award, and named 'The Conscience of Combat Sports' for my work combining reporting on the combat sports with discussion of the social and political issues in them.

"In addition, I contributed a chapter to the book You Say You Want a Revolution: SDS, PL, and Adventures in Building a Worker-Student Alliance, which is written by former members and supporters of the once-Maoist Progressive Labor Party. My chapter, largely about why I joined, and left, this group, and my experiences with it at Columbia, is titled 'PLP, The Struggle at Columbia, and The Road to Irrelevance.'

"I'm not covering many live fights anymore, but still watch lots of boxing on TV and online. My blog, www.eddiegoldman.com, is mainly about my combat sports media work.

"I occasionally pass by the Columbia campus, usually either to join a demonstration or just use the bathroom. I am curious to see what a suite looks like these days inside Carman Hall, my abode for three years, so perhaps someone could organize a tour."

Donald York: "The Golden Anniversary of Woodstock has special meaning for me, Alan Cooper and Richard Joffe '73, all of whom performed at Woodstock in 1969 before managing junior and senior years alongside a showbiz career beginning to take off big. This summer The Gold Label will be releasing a commemorative record album in both CD and 'old school' vinyl editions!"

Donald also shared a press release from the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, the historic home of Woodstock: "Sha Na Na is celebrating their 50th anniversary as well as the 50th anniversary of the Woodstock Festival at the original site in Bethel, N.Y. Rock & roll doo-wop legends Sha Na Na combined their love for the classics of rock & roll with a dynamic theatrical approach as fellow college students at Columbia University in New York. In 1969 they appeared just before Jimi Hendrix (who helped get them the gig) at the Woodstock festival in their eighth professional show."

1972

Paul S. Appelbaum 39 Claremont Ave., #24 New York, NY 10027 pappel1@aol.com

Samuel Gladstone writes that he's been happily retired from a solo independent family medical practice since 2014, and stepped down as the medical director of the local physician hospital organization in 2017. Retirement seems to suit him: "I'm recently back from an 11-day vacation to the Yucatan, with my wife, Joyce Duncan, also a retired family doc. We explored Mayan ruins and cenotes, and kayaked most days to a lovely barrier reef for snorkeling. Today I got to go cross-country skiing from our wonderful house."

Their oldest son, Peter, lives in an adjoining town with his wife and two children and they see one another frequently. Samuel adds, "Our middle son, Joshua, has applied to the industrial engineering program at UMass Amherst, where we live, so it'll be great to have him home. Our youngest son, Gabriel, has moved to the Denver/Boulder area and is looking for work. He has an M.B.A. from the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst. (Any help would be appreciated.) Life is great."

Looking back on his years on campus, Samuel says, "I'm forever thankful for the education I received at Columbia. I hope to see you at our 50th reunion."

Marty Edel has made some transitions, too, but it doesn't sound as though he'll be retiring anytime soon. He writes, "A lot of changes this past year. After running a boutique litigation firm for more than 40 years, I and my partners moved to Goulston & Storrs, a Boston-based firm, in its New York office. Also, starting this year I will be teaching sports law at the Law School, joining Jerry Lynch, Mike Gerrard and Steve Shapiro on the faculty.

"Our son, Charlie, had his second book published, *The Lessons of Tragedy: Statecraft and World Order*. On his book tour, he appeared on *Morning Joe* and spoke at Harvard and Yale. Charlie teaches at the University of Sydney and is a senior fellow at the United States Studies Centre in Sydney. Most importantly, we have four adorable grandchildren."

Also enjoying being a grandfather is Alan Ducatman, who was a professor in the School of Public Health at West Virginia University, where he was the interim founding dean. Alan was also chair of the WVU department of community medicine for 15 years, and director of WVU's occupational medicine residency program. "I am now professor emeritus (as in, 'control my own time'), but continue to consult and to publish actively in my areas of clinical research interest. These include environmental health, especially health aspects of exposure to the perfluoroalkyl substances, and clinical quality improvement."

But now for Alan's really important stuff: "The big news is our first grandchild arrived in December."

As long as we're talking about grandfathers, John Miller reports that his fourth grandchild was born recently. And he pointed out how his Columbia education helped shape his new email address - which contains his name and the word "why." John writes, "I remember it as if it were yesterday. I'm sitting in a small classroom with a dozen students in Contemporary Civilization. Our professor told us, 'You will not remember many of the facts we teach but we will have succeeded if we have taught you how to reason, how to always question and never accept anything as truth without first questioning it. Never stop asking why.' A bit late, but 50 years later I changed my email to honor him. And I've never stopped asking why."

Bill Flynn BUS'74, who spent more than 30 years working in advertising before retiring in 2006, sent a note because he's "usually disappointed by the few comments in our Class Notes. Having never contributed, I too am responsible. Our reunions also seem sparsely attended but that might be due to my having known so few of the attendees. The years 1968-72 were not great for Columbia. They left few uplifting moments for this grad, who continued to live on Morningside Heights through 1981 while I worked on Madison Avenue. I often wondered if the experience was so bad for most of our classmates that they put those years out of mind. Those few who attend reunions appear to be the cream of the crop, having excelled academically and professionally; I'm disappointed that I knew so few of them as undergraduates. My Columbia days, academically, athletically and personally, were tough on and for me, but I learned, and learned and learned, even getting some of it right. Unfortunately, my biggest takeaway was to never put yourself in a position where you can't win. With my arrogance developing in this period, I was smug, quickly determining a winning and losing opportunity. Avoiding such situations, I missed opportunities and somehow made my own losses. Some say tough times are where wisdom is found. While I don't believe I found it in those years, the seeds were planted. I hope more of our classmates share in the future."

I hope so, too.

Jocko Marcellino sends word of the latest achievement of the legendary group in which several of our classmates played leading roles. He writes, "As part of a summerlong concert series, Sha Na Na will perform June 1 at Bethel Woods," a return to the glory of their performance at Woodstock. In the words of the press release: 'Rock & roll doo-wop legends Sha Na Na combined their love for the classics of rock & roll with a dynamic theatrical approach as fellow college students at Columbia University in New York. In 1969 they appeared just before Jimi Hendrix (who helped get them the gig) at The Woodstock Festival in their eighth professional show.'The band rose to stardom with four seasons of their own worldwide television series, The Sha Na Na Show, and their portrayal of Johnny Casino and the Gamblers in the movie Grease (the highest grossing musical film of all-time). Sha Na Na performed six songs on the Grease soundtrack and the song 'Sandy,' sung by John Travolta, was co-written by the band's piano man, Screamin' Scott Simon '70."

Dare I suggest that rock and roll is here to stay?

<u>1973</u>

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Need more notes, troops. Tough job without 'em.

Don Jensen is editor-in-chief and a senior fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis. He is also an adjunct professor at the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences at Johns Hopkins, where he teaches Russian national security policy. In his spare time, he writes about and analyzes baseball.

Paul Kaliades lives in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., with his wife, Jude; they have five children. Paul is president of Renters Legal Liability, a property damage liability insurance program for real estate portfolios nationwide; he is also a partner in Milestone Development Group, builders of multi-family apartment communities. Paul enjoys hanging out with Don Jackson BUS'80 and Frank Dermody, "telling blurry fables of our football adventures, Forlini's, Johnny Balquist CC 1932 and undergraduate life at 400 W. 118th."

Henry Rosenberg retired after 35 years of practicing internal medicine and pediatrics in Northampton, Mass., and is spending more time on Physicians for Social Responsibility. His quotation: 'When we talk about nuclear annihilation, it's hard not to sound psychotic. Check out preventnuclearwar.org for a straightforward five-step plan to save the world."

That's a sentiment of nobility I can get behind. Hasta.

1974

Fred Bremer 532 W. 111th St. New York, NY 10025 f.bremer@ml.com

After years during which it seemed that College alumni were out of the Washington, D.C., spotlight, there has been a dramatic change. The 2008 election of Barack Obama '83 as President and his choice of Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76 as U.S. Attorney General certainly turned up the wattage on Columbia. Then there was the 2017 appointment of Neil Gorsuch '88 as the Supreme Court Justice who succeeded Antonin Scalia. As I write this in early April, the evening news is filled with pictures of House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler '69 battling with Attorney General William Barr '71, GSAS'79 over the release of the Mueller report, and we see a lot of the youthful face of presidential hopeful Beto O'Rourke '95. Our own Abbe Lowell LAW'77 gets a fair share of coverage in his role as attorney for Jared Kushner.

My apologies to the alumni I have left out of this short summary. We heard from **Will Willis**

BUS'76 (who lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla). His email started with, "Life really hasn't changed much." Then he said he is selling the skincare company he started three years ago and is off to the West Coast for a six-month consulting project with a Fortune 100 company. He adds, "Man, do I love the action!" Then came the personal news. "Overcame stage IV cancer



seven years ago and haven't looked back. Loving life more than ever." He tells us he has six grandchildren (four girls and two boys). What followed was the real surprise, "You may not know this, but I am a twin, I have twins and one of my twins had identical twin daughters. Three generations: The Willis family are ever overachievers!" He also says, "Trying to finish my third book, but it is difficult finding time ... I wonder why?"

There have been several Facebook posts from **Barry Klayman** (an attorney with Cozen O'Connor in its Wilmington, Del., office) about the latest documentary (*The Brink*) by his daughter, Alison. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in March. *The New York Times* described it as "a fast-moving, tightly packed, at times unnervingly bit more conservative. In any event, it should be a blast!"

Two classmates in Maine had news to report. **Bob Adler** tells us that his son, Jacob, was formally installed as the rabbi for the reconstructivist Congregation Kehilat Shalom in Belle Mead, N.J., (near Princeton). When asked what "installation" means, Bob said it means the members of the temple watched Jacob for a year and he passed probation.

Pediatrician **Steve Blumenthal** claims to have retired, but admits he is still "on call" for 10 24-hour shifts per month for Mercy Hospital. By my calculations, that still looks like well over 40 hours a week! Steve reports that his eldest daughter, Kelsey, was married last August. She is in the first violin section of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Mark Rantala '74 is coming up on the 500th episode of a podcast (@baseballphd.net) that he does with two lifelong friends.

entertaining documentary about Stephen Bannon."The film is the result of Alison following the former Trump chief strategist around Europe for a year as he tried to unify the far right ahead of the May 2019 European Parliament elections. Barry said in his Facebook post, when asked why she took on the project, that Alison said she wanted to study the nature of evil and the nature of people behind policies that damage our country.

There were two Facebook posts from Ed Berliner GSAS'80 (who lives in West Orange, N.J.). One said he has been promoted to become the dean of science management/clinical professor of physics at Yeshiva University in northern Manhattan. He writes, "This is likely the last title of my career," but would keep working "as long as I enjoy it and am enjoying my colleagues." In another post Ed tells us he is registered for the August 4 Long Island Bike Challenge: Bikes Battle Cancer. He says, "Just have to decide if I am doing the century (100 miles) or the metric century (62 miles). A few years ago I know what I would have chosen! Now maybe I should be a

After 23 years as a commercial real estate broker, most of these years with CBRE in Cleveland, Mark Rantala (who lives in Rocky River, Ohio) is in the midst of a new career. He is now in his sixth year as the executive director of the Lake County Ohio Port & Economic Development Authority. Mark emailed: "Last year I was instrumental in the construction of a Miracle League baseball field for children with special needs. The project included a baseball field designed for wheelchairs, walkers and scooters so every kid can play baseball. I consider it one of the greatest achievements of my career."

Mark is also coming up on the 500th episode of a podcast (@baseballphd.net) that he does with two lifelong friends. On the family front, Mark says his daughter Shannon graduated in 2015 from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, and is teaching high school math in rural southeast Ohio. Daughter Kerri graduated in 2016 from Cleveland State University and is selling real estate in Huntsville, Ala.

An email came in from **Chris Hansen** in London. It included a picture of him signing the bylaws of the new Freemason lodge for Columbians (officially Columbia Lodge #1754 of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York). He writes, "As a signatory of the bylaws, I formally became a founding member of the lodge."

Chris adds that he hopes to be able to attend occasionally. He wrote that membership in the lodge is open to any male student 18 or older, faculty member or staff. He says women in those categories will be directed to a lodge of female Freemasons.

It is rare that I get to report a "twofer" (that is, a single Class Note that reports on the chance crossing of two classmates). Mark Mogul (who lives in Port Washington, N.Y.) tells us how his wife, Laura, ended up helping Anna Quindlen BC'74, wife of Gerry Krovatin, promote her latest book, Nanaville: Adventures in Grandparenting. Laura is the executive director of the Landmark on Main Street Community Center in Port Washington. It seems that Anna's speaker's bureau selected the Landmark as a venue for her to speak about her book. Nanaville is based on her experiences with son Quin and grandson Arthur. I gather the book recommends not so much doing as hanging back and respecting the parents' choices.

There you have it. Some classmates are quasi-retiring, while others are "shifting gears" to start new careers in their 60s. There seems to be a strong spiritual engagement among both classmates and their children. And across the board there is creativity that is ever-present. There will be a lot more to report from classmates who attend our 45th reunion. Stay tuned!

1975

Randy Nichols 734 S. Linwood Ave. Baltimore, MD 21224 rcn2day@gmail.com

Operation Varsity Blues, no Columbia Blue included. As someone who has worked in college admissions, and interviewed applicants to Columbia through the Alumni Representative Committee, I found this whole affair fascinating. Was Yale the only Ivy "elite" enough, or what? Starting with *carnivale* in Rio, Fernando Castro has been dancing, eating, drinking, sightseeing and shopping while on an extended trip through South America.

The trailer has dropped and *The Dead Don't Die*, the latest from **Jim Jarmusch**, "looks as if it will be some sick fun! With a dream cast!" reports fan **Jim Dolan**. It will be in theaters June 14.

Bob Schneider and Regina Mullahy BC'75 have a new granddaughter. Maddalena Rosarina Patane Schneider ("Lena") is the daughter of Claudia Patane and James Schneider, Bob and Regina's older son.

1976

Ken Howitt 1114 Hudson St., Apt. 8 Hoboken, N.J. 07030 kenhowitt76@gmail.com

The Class of '76 seems to have been real busy in the spring, since there were very few updates. But you are going to have to plow through this column anyway. I did flip on the turntable and listen to an album that WKCR inspired me to purchase in the '70s: the Columbia Records issuing of the three-volume (each volume a double album set) The Billie Holiday Story. Appropriately enough, I started with Volume 3 and the song "Mean to Me" - not that the paucity of updates indicates that my classmates are being mean to me. No, you are only being mean to the whole class, since you have to read my meandering thoughts without a lot of news.

I did get one update, from author Bill Minutaglio JRN'78, whose ninth book, *The Most Dangerous* Man in America: Timothy Leary, Richard Nixon and the Hunt for the Fugitive King of LSD, will be published this summer. Bill says, "It's been optioned by the producers for Steven Spielberg's The Post."

No column would be complete without an update from the Linda and **Dennis Goodrich** household in Syracuse. Mika the dog reports that the couple is still traveling, Dennis is still angling for a 2019 retirement and that another dog has been added to their son's household in New Mexico.

I am planning a trip on July 4 to Cooperstown to celebrate Birthday 65, and will make a Syracuse swing to see Mika, and also tune the Goodrich piano.

By the way, my last trip to Cooperstown was in summer 1968 and as much as I remember the Hall of Fame — my dad got me an autograph from Bill Terry, the last .400 hitter in the National League, who happened to be there — the most memorable part of the trip was the evenings, when we watched the Democratic National Convention in the motel. Hard to believe it was 50 years ago!

The Kit Film Noir Festival was terrific for the second consecutive year. I saw Gordon Kit, who is the driving force. This year was dedicated to movies based on the stories of Cornell Woolrich, who took some classes at Columbia and was a longtime Morningside Heights resident. The festival was held at the Lenfest Center for the Arts on the Manhattanville campus and again featured lectures from professors across the country. New this year, each film had a detailed introduction, which made the event much more than moviegoing. The festival will occur every March for another eight years, and I will highlight next year's festival in the Summer 2020 CCT.

On Sunday night of the festival, I saw François Truffaut's *The Bride Wore Black*. Also in attendance was **Joel Silverstein**, with his family. After the film, we went to Pisticci on La Salle Street, a few blocks away, and enjoyed a terrific dinner and great conversation about the movie, our families, children and so on.

As a result of some emailing, Derrick Tseng and Michael Shaff, from 10 Carman, and Randy Trowbridge and Frank Jacobyansky also replied, but they have been featured in columns recently. Thanks to them for staying in touch.

That's it with updates, but I still have room to write, so I have some reflections on completing my fifth year as the class correspondent. I started in spring 2015, as my wife was continuing her cancer battle. All of you saw me through those dark days in January 2016, and our 40th reunion that June was a terrific way to get back a sense of balance (if I ever had any to begin with) due to the kindness of the '76ers in attendance.

I'll always remember the incredible caring and feeling that our class had during our student years, and now, so many years later, it is wonderful to still share with all of you. This column concentrates on mainly the good news, but I have had many emails and in-person conversations about hip and knee replacements, the number of daily pills, employment issues, career switches, family experiences and so much more. Amazingly, the one common thread for the '76ers is our resiliency. No matter what cards we have been dealt, each of us works with what we have and makes the best of it.

I am truly amazed at the width and breadth of our journey since Columbia — scientists, doctors, lawyers, judges, professors, authors, musicians, philanthropists, religious leaders, government officials, nonprofit executives and so much more. And, we all have one thing in common: We enjoy talking about how we shape the next generation.

So, there are still so many more stories to tell and share. I will keep sharing them in this column. If you had told me five years ago that I would enjoy this more now, I would have thought you were all nuts. Instead, I now know that I am nuts!

Billie Holiday just started "Nice Work If You Can Get It," appropriately enough, so I am going to kick back in my living room and only get up when the record has to be turned over! Enjoy the summer! Keep sending in those updates, and most of all, keep smilin'!

1977

David Gorman 111 Regal Dr. DeKalb, IL 60115 dgorman@niu.edu

John Santamaria retired from pediatric emergency medicine in 2005. He says, "That was a great time to do part-time consulting, pursue hobbies and spend more time with my young family." But still he felt something missing, an "anchor activity," as he calls it. Eventually, as "the youngest headed off to college and my wife stayed busy growing her new business, I decided to pursue a very different specialty by entering fellowship training for pediatric palliative and hospice medicine."

Never too late, right?

"My wife teases me that I was the only fellow who already had cataract surgery," John adds. After that, John became medical director of the PedsCare program and took a position at the University of Florida, where he is "still surprised to know that Homecoming Day is an official holiday for university faculty."

David Friend, senior VP of news for CBS, was recently inducted into the Silver Circle by the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. "Television professionals are inducted into the Silver Circle to recognize significant contributions made to the industry and the community for 25 years or more," he says. "Among this year's inductees were Diane Sawyer (Gold Circle), and Chuck Scarborough, Sue Simmons and Dr. Max Gomez (Silver Circle)."

In a recent column, the new book of poetry by **Harry Bauld** was mentioned; to update, Harry has been on the road doing readings in the New York area, including at the Columbia Alumni Center in November.

I missed the last column, or I would have mentioned this: Last fall, **Dave Gorman** published his first book, a coedited Norton Critical Edition of Aristotle's *Poetics*. If his Lit Hum instructor could see him now!

1978

Matthew Nemerson 35 Huntington St. New Haven, CT 06511 matthewnemerson@gmail.com

Just when I thought Columbia had established itself firmly in the very top echelons of America's most competitive colleges, with a huge number of applications, consistent high rankings in all the surveys, and voracious demand at local high schools for me to use my influence as a class correspondent to get people in, my sense of our arrival was dashed by the sobering revelation that Morningside Heights was in no way involved in the great pay-to-play scandal of the New York and Hollywood elite. No coaches were bribed, no imaginary women's hockey stars recruited and no cash was slid over desks in Low Library. But then I remember the disdain that Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882 had in the first half of the 20th century for things like the Ivy League, undergrads, the College and even alumni associations. And I remember

the reality going back to 1754 — we really are in our own league ...

I had a fun lunch with **Jeff Klein** in the Theater District a few months back, and then this note arrived on Jeff's birthday, which coincided with our column deadline: "In the fifth decade since graduating from Columbia, I've finally achieved something I'm unreservedly proud of - I'm a playwright! In April A Work Break Downtown, my 10-minute, one-act play, debuted at the Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo, having won the Maxim Mazumdar New Play Competition. If you didn't see it maybe you'll catch it on its national tour, details of which are ... being worked out. Move over, Tony Kushner."

Peter Triandafillou, from the Huber Resources Corp. in Old Town, Maine, writes, "I'm a forester and business manager who looks after 700,000 acres of timberland in Maine, the Midwest and Oklahoma. My spouse is in the same industry, and my two girls are successfully wending their way through grad school. Looking back on New York in the '70s with a healthy dose of rose-colored glasses, we were more gritty and less politically correct in '74. Still, I'd think it's more fun and safer today."

Chuck Callan, of Broadridge Financial Solutions, is a frequent contributor to these columns and this month has a more personal fact to report, as he notes: "I've switched to a full-on plant-based (largely whole food) diet to atone for past sins, including, especially, the roast beef sandwiches from John Jay."

He is predicting another Ivy baseball championship for the



Send in Your News

Share what's happening in your life with classmates. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct,** or send news to the address at the top of your column.

alumninews 🚱

Light Blue 9 and cautions all of you to steer clear of the things that might bring you down before our next reunion: "Avoid collusion with foreign governments and steer clear of day spas."

Good advice for all Columbians out there, I suppose.

So, who better to discuss the impact of our relations with those various unnamed foreign governments than **Jeffrey Combs** BUS'80 of NCI/Pond Mobile, who has been "living in Moscow, Russian Federation, since 1998, where I am engaged in the telecom industry and also some private equity. I married a local woman 11 years ago, and we have two daughters. I have not been back to Morningside Heights since the mid-1980s, but I am sure it must be better than when I was there last."

Back to the regulars, **Joe Schachner**, who often graces *CCT* with his notes, is still at Teledyne LeCroy, but he is beginning to think not forever: "TII turn 63 this year. Thinking about retirement in a few more years. My lovely wife will retire at the same time, and we should travel much more than we can while working."

When commenting on our question of the month ("What do you think about the Columbia neighborhood these days?") Joe notes, "Absolutely better! If you remember, when we were there we were always told NEVER to walk into Morningside Park, be careful to always take the Number 1 subway and to even be very alert and with friends in Riverside Park."

As someone who has frequently taken walks from the Harlem-125th Street Metro-North station to campus in good weather, things have certainly changed!

A sweet addition from **Sigmund Hough**, a psychologist in Boston: "We continue to enjoy and appreciate life as a family with good friends. Giving back to others, helping those in need, continues over the years. I thank Columbia for being a part of my strong foundation in life and, as we look forward to the next five years, I hope to continue to be a 'positive footprint' for as long as I am given the opportunity."

Last column we heard of the farreaching plans of **Rob Blank**, who had traveled with his wife to Sydney, Australia, and we have a quick update: "Sue and I are settling into life in Sydney, now three months in. She is at the University of New South Wales and I am at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research. Happy to report that our daughter Deborah is a sophomore at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh."

If you are in the market for furniture over the internet, chances are you will happy to hear that **Amittai Aviram** GS'06 is applying his considerable technical know-how to a new subject: "I recently left the Medtronic surgical robotics project and am a senior software engineer at Wayfair, developing software to predict and analyze supply shipping problems. Got a condo unit in Dorchester, Mass. (Fields Corner), and am still bicycling to work. Still in touch with **Alex Demac** and **Dan Coulter**.

"When I think of New York today versus when we were in college it seems less fun and less educational, but certainly much safer, which is always something.

"Looking ahead, I'm hoping to rise to become a team technical lead at the new company. I plan to continue teaching computer science part-time, and write more fiction and poetry. I hope to find a partner and get to know my grandkids, if and when they arrive."

And, I'm thinking maybe Amittai can hire Rob's daughter to help him automate their warehouses one of these days.

We asked folks to let us know their predictions for local baseball success, and the Yankees won out over the Mets and one reluctant Red Sox fan. As I write this, the standings don't quite reflect that but we will be back with one column (the Fall issue) before the World Series.

Ted Faraone, who is paid to put words into people's mouths as the president of Faraone Communications, and is always to the point with us here, when asked to tell us his number 1 goal for the 45th reunion, he mentioned being "breathing."

And on that optimistic note, I close out yet another column. Spring is back, and with the good weather I urge you to stop by campus and take a look at the continuing transformation of the Manhattanville campus across 125th street. Other than a confoundingly "creative" renumbering of the streets, you will be delighted by the emergence of a world-class new piece of our beloved institution.

1979

Robert Klapper 8737 Beverly Blvd., Ste 303 Los Angeles, CA 90048 robertklappermd@aol.com

David Friedman PS'83 writes, "I enjoy your columns immensely; they certainly capture our time (now centuries ago) at CU in a very literary and moving fashion. Here is my update: I'm professor of radiology and co-director of the division of neuroradiology at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University. I've spent my entire professional career at Jefferson, and I was the fellowship director for 18 years.

"I've been married to my amazing wife, Elizabeth, for 33 years. She is a pediatrician and did her residency at Babies Hospital (now Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of NewYork-Presbyterian) 1985–88, and was an ED attending there for an additional and I are now empty-nesters with our son, Alexander, having recently graduated from Carleton College in Minnesota. All in all, life is good (as long as we don't read the newspapers)."

Robert C. Klapper: This issue's Columbia thought is related to a blue pin I wear on my white doctor's coat when I see patients in my office and make post-surgery rounds at my hospital, Cedars-Sinai.

The pin is a miniature version of what the Circle Line Cruise sees emblazing the granite rock wall across from the boat house on the Harlem River at Baker Field. I wear my blue 'C' pin proudly on my lapel. It's a gift from Victor Spinelli, a key player in the Athletics Department who was instrumental in arranging for football coach Al Bagnoli to appear on my ESPN radio show.

I didn't imagine that a little blue pin (pin, not pill) would give me this much pleasure. I enjoy explaining to patients and colleagues here in Los Angeles when I'm asked, "What

Peter Triandafillou '78 is a forester and business manager who looks after 700,000 acres of timberland in Maine, the Midwest and Oklahoma.

two years. Our son, Daniel '16, has completed more than half of his joint M.D./M.B.A. program at Columbia. We encouraged him to have some additional arrows in his quiver of skills as he embarks on his medical career, hence the M.B.A. As someone very wise has said, 'Healing is an art, medicine is a profession, and healthcare is a business.' Our lives will always be inextricably linked to both Morningside and Washington Heights. Our family owes a great deal to the education and opportunities afforded to us by Columbia. We wish all of our CU friends well."

Jeffry Frieden continues to "teach about international politics and economics, and political economy more generally, at Harvard." He adds, "My most recent (academic) book is a dense tome, *Currency Politics: The Political Economy of Exchange Rate Policy.* A book for a more general audience, *Global Capitalism: Its Fall* and Rise in the Twentieth Century, will be coming out in its second edition next year. My wife, Anabela Costa, is the 'C' for on your coat?" My response is always the same: "It's from the Columbia athletics department; I rode on the crew team my freshman year."

I have spent the last 30 years practicing orthopedic surgery here in a city 3,000 miles away from the Harlem River, but the look on the face of the UCLA or USC alumnus/a who asked me that question is priceless. I have so many memories of rowing my freshman year, but one stands out more than any other. My parents never watched sports on TV or in person, but one day in April 1976 they came to watch me row in New Haven, Conn., at the race with Navy and Yale. Do you remember the scene in My Fair Lady where she screams at her horse during a race to 'move its bloody arse,'embarrassing all those folks around her? Well - and this is according to teammate John Sharp, whose parents relayed to him the following anecdote - apparently (with my father hiding behind a tree, scared to death at what my mother might

scream out), as we neared the finish line, with only 12 inches separating Yale and the Columbia boat ... we lost. My mother was heard to yell, "They should put him in a boat by himself; he's better than all of them!"

Forty-four years later, when I wear my Columbia pin, it makes me think of that race and how proud my mother was on that day.

Roar, Lion, Roar!

1980

Michael C. Brown London Terrace Towers 410 W. 24th St., Apt. 18F New York, NY 10011 mcbcu80@yahoo.com

It has been a wonderful summer here, we are taking in all the city has to offer. Congratulations to our baseball team, which had another stellar season under the leadership of Coach Brett Boretti. We are really looking forward to Coach Al Bagnoli's Lions, and this football season looks to be one for the record books!

It is a little early to be thinking about reunion, but 40 years will be upon us before you know it. To that end, **Milton Diaz Perez** SEAS'81 reached out, and we have procured The Diks for our event. I am looking forward to hearing the boys play their classic '70s music. More to Connie Shears and is called *The Sci*ence of Screenwriting: *The Neuroscience Behind Storytelling Strategies*.

Please drop me a note at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

Kevin Fay 8300 Private Ln. Annadale, VA 22003 kfay0516@gmail.com

Very pleased to hear from **Eric Daum**, who established his eponymous architecture office in Andover, Mass., during autumn 2017 after ending a 10-year partnership in Merrimack Design Architects. Eric received a Bulfinch Award in 2019 from the New England Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art for the design of a private chapel on an estate outside of Boston. He attributes his love of Classicism to years spent on the "Morningside Heights Acropolis" of McKim, Mead & White.

Eric writes, "It was enormously satisfying to have the opportunity to design a building partially inspired by the dark slide-illuminated rooms of Hamilton and Avery during Art Hum and architectural history classes at Columbia."

Eric's son Karl '15 has followed his muse from Brooklyn to the Left

Paul Gulino '80 has been an associate professor at Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts for the last two decades.

follow in this column, and I will be updating the Columbia College Class of 1980 Reunion Facebook page regularly.

I received a nice note from **Paul Gulino** SOA'83, a longtime resident of California living in Santa Monica. Paul has been an associate professor at Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts in Orange, Calif., for the last two decades. He recently married a colleague from the religion department, and the early reviews are positive! Paul had his second book on screenwriting published last year; it is a collaboration with psychology professor Coast, where he is a first-year at the San Francisco Art Institute M.F.A. program. Eric has seen his Art of Dating bandmates **John Leland**, who spoke last year in Andover about his wonderful book *Happiness Is a Choice You Make*, and Dan Zedek '83, who remains a rock god with his new band, Field Day.

On a personal note, I learned of the passing of a very dear friend and mentor, Eugene Kisluk '71, GSAS'91, from Bob Alpino '80, SIPA'85. Mr. Kisluk was the director of Columbia Student Enterprises, an organization that fostered student-led businesses, providing an opportunity to develop real-world management skills. Mr. Kisluk was devoted to Columbia University and its students; he was a scholar and gentleman; and he had a profound influence on my life (as much as any professor). [Editor's note: See Obituaries.]

1982

Andrew Weisman 81 S. Garfield St. Denver, CO 80209 ColumbiaCollege82@gmail.com

Greetings for summer, CC'82. Hope you're all having a wonderful time. Please take a moment to send a note — travel, work, family, favorite Columbia memories, anything you want to share. Your classmates want to hear from you!

1983

Roy Pomerantz Babyking/Petking 182-20 Liberty Ave. Jamaica, NY 11412 bkroy@msn.com

My wife, Debbie, and I attended the 2019 John Jay Awards Dinner. We sat with Ed Joyce, Michael McCarthy, George Fryer and Dave Filosa '82. George is director of AEW Capital Management. Michael's son, Oliver, is a standout pitcher at Duke. Ed's son, Adin, will attend the University of Michigan in fall 2020 after spending a gap year in Israel, starting this fall through spring 2020. The crew table was celebrating teammate and awardee James Brett '84, BUS'90. I was the lone representative of the Columbia University Juggling Club at the table.

My sons, David and Ricky, and I once again attended every Columbia home basketball game. We spent time at the games with Ken Howitt '76; Michael Schmidtberger '82; Gerald Sherwin '55; Dennis Klainberg '84; Jim Weinstein '84; Columbia College Fund Chair Raymond Yu '89; Senior Associate Director of Admissions Diane McKoy; Jeremy Feinberg '92, son of physics professor Gerald Feinberg; Athletics Director Peter Pilling; Director of Principal Gifts Jim McMenamin; former basketball stars Richie Gordon, Kevin Chapman and Andrew Gershon;

Howard Rappaport '85; former basketball star Alex Rosenberg '16; Rita Pietropinto Kitt '93, SOA'96, whose husband, Tom Kitt '96, was a 2019 John Jay Award recipient; filmmaker Dan Klores, father of basketball guard Jake Klores '21; Brian Krisberg '81; Irving Ruderman '69; Dave Filosa '82; Marc Mazur '81; and Joe Cabrera '82.

Eddy Friedfeld: "On September 29, 2018 I had the honor of performing the wedding ceremony of Tracy Klestadt to Esther Duval in Bridgehampton in a sunset wedding on the beach. Since graduating from Columbia, I have also had the privilege of alternatively officiating, being best man, groomsman, toastmaster or writing about the weddings of Adam Bayroff, Paul Ehrlich, Neal Smolar, Danny Schultz, Roy Pomerantz, Len Rosen, Steve Arenson, Jon White '85 and Allison White BC'86 (née Breitbart), and Judy Landis BC'85 (née Enteles), honors I hold dear, and all of whom remain close friends."

Howard Guess: "After graduation, I moved to a small town near Morgantown, Pa, where my parents own an 18th-century fieldstone house, which was being modernized and fully renovated at that time. The house is registered as a national historic place and can be found on Wikipedia. I helped oversee and manage the renovations while taking accounting classes at Villanova and getting a paralegal certificate from Penn State. I worked in Philadelphia in a big law firm as a paralegal for several years before moving to San Diego, to attend law school.

"I graduated from law school, passed the California bar and went to work as a paralegal for the San Diego City Attorney's Office, assisting with civil litigation as well as municipal advisory for a decade. I was elected president of my labor union and served a full-time two-year term before returning to the City Attorney's Office. After returning, I was hired as a deputy city attorney and was a criminal prosecutor handling misdemeanors committed in the city for another decade before retiring in September 2017 after 22 years of public service. I was cross deputized by the San Diego DA, too. Currently, I'm a fulltime caregiver for my mother. We split our time between our East and West Coast houses.



"I was married for 10 years (divorced) and helped raise my ex's daughter. While she is not my biological child, she is my heart's child. I'm in a long-term relationship now with a wonderful lady, Becky S., and am learning about being a grandfather to her grown children's kids (five at this time). She is the love of my life. I competed in ballroom dance in the late 1990s and early 2000s dancing with my teacher like on Dancing with the Stars. I did well but gave up my bliss for my ex. I practice Tai Chi and have a few hobbies that keep me occupied.

"My Columbia journey began many years earlier than my application to the school. My parents and I (age 8) were visiting the University of Virginia campus when my father asked if I'd like to go to a school like it. I said yes, and he promised to help me go to the best school I could get into; it was Columbia. I have fond memories of long walks on Sundays from campus to the Met and back, as well as exploring NYC. A friend and I climbed up the bell tower of Riverside Church one Sunday afternoon to see the park only to hear the little bells start ringing. For a Quasimodo moment we looked at each other before running down the tower steps as fast as we could, before the bigger bells starting to chime, yelling 'the bells, the bells.'

"I have been in touch with a few fellow swim team members and frat brothers. I attended the 25th and 35th reunions and plan on more. Many thanks to **Ed Joyce** and others on the Reunion Committee. Living full-time in California and working for the last three decades made attending events difficult. I hope to attend more events now that I'm retired and live on both coasts.

"I'll share one other story from my undergraduate days. It was a warm, sunny, spring Friday, freshman year. It was the first really nice day after the winter. I was supposed to go to Lit Hum that afternoon but found myself instead sitting on the steps of Low Library next to a keg and sipping cold beer. Professor James Mirollo GSAS'61 stopped and asked if I was coming to class. I looked at the keg, looked around and then looked at him. I said, 'No I don't think so, Prof,' but invited him to join us. He declined understandably and headed toward Hamilton Hall and class. As he walked away, the breeze carried a soft voice saying 'I wish I was still an undergraduate.' While I seized that fine day - carpe diem - I didn't seize all of the educational opportunities I might have as a Columbia undergraduate. I could have partied less but that too was part of my college experience. C'est la vie."

Michael Granville GSAPP'92: "I am a practicing architect and furniture maker in New York City. I live in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with my wife, Patricia Mena (who is a NYC public school teacher), and our kids, Juliana (16) and Diego (12). I'm in touch with Michael Hickins — we met at freshman orientation and have become true brothers. He and I will catch the Yankees tomorrow night in the Bronx! After graduating I worked for a few years, eventually in construction, which led to my returning to Columbia and getting a master's from GSAPP.

"We are looking at colleges now for Juliana, which brings back memories of my own search decades ago and reminds me of my great good fortune in having been accepted to Columbia. Sitting in college info sessions now with my daughter and hearing about the large class sizes and the absence of anything resembling the Core has renewed my appreciation for our college — without any context at the time I think I took its fineness a little for granted. Fresh out of high school I found myself sitting around a colloquium-sized table with at most (at most!) 20 other kids and a brilliant Contemporary Civilization professor who showed me with fierce but not unkind clarity in his markup of my first paper exactly why what I thought passed for critical thinking just simply wasn't. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't draw upon the intellectual training I received at CC - how to read, how to write, how to question, how to think. I feel very lucky to have attended the College; it is a sustaining enrichment of my life."

Michael Hickins: "My memoir, *I Lived in France and So Can You*, was published this February. It's a recollection of running an American restaurant, managing baseball teams and having children in France. It's my fourth published book, and first nonfiction book.

"I have incredibly fond memories of three CU professors in particular: David Damrosch, who was kind and sharp and took an interest in me personally, as well as in my writing; Richard Kuhns GSAS'55, who encouraged my ardor to find meaning in literature — he was brilliant and often churlish with undergrads, but for some reason tolerated my inferior intellect; and Wallace Gray, who was my thesis advisor and with whom I studied Joyce, and whose kindness was legendary.

"After spending more than a dozen years as a journalist, including a fair number at *The Wall Street Journal*, where among other things I was the founding editor of *CIO Journal*, I was offered a position as senior director of strategic communications at Oracle Corp., where I now work. I am constantly amazed at and indebted to my Columbia education, which gave me the intellectual foundation to follow my various dreams wherever they have led me, from Paris to New York, from the restaurant business to journalism, and from the business world to fiction writing — which has always been my North Star."

I look forward to seeing you at Columbia football games!

1984

Dennis Klainberg Berklay Cargo Worldwide 14 Bond St., Ste 233 Great Neck, NY 11021 dennis@berklay.com

After seven years in Hong Kong working at Sotheby's, **Richard Buckley** transferred back to New York. He writes, "Great to have been in Asia for so many years, and great to be back in New York. One of the best things about living in Hong Kong was rowing again, so many years after freshman lightweight crew. Nothing beats ocean rowing and the views of Hong Kong from the water."

Kudos to Jon Abbott and his family for honoring his parents by establishing the Forrest and Marian Abbott Endowed Scholarship at Teachers College. As described in a newsletter issued by TC, Jon's mother, Marian, studied for her master's at TC and met Forrest, who rose from purchasing agent to superintendent of operations at TC, where he also earned a master's. Some years later, Jon's father joined Barnard College as treasurer and controller, and his mother as "one of the elders in a community of teachers and teaching advocates who connected generations of families in a life of common purpose."

For more about the Abbott family and Jon's life growing up at Columbia (including a graduation picture!) go to tc.columbia.edu/articles/2019/march/ still-giving-back.

Last but not least, my better half, Dana Klainberg TC'89, and I must share our *naches* (pride and joy). By this publication, daughter number 1, Emma Lauren Klainberg TC'19, will have graduated from Teachers College with an M.A. in higher and post-secondary education, while daughter number 2, Sydney Anne Klainberg, will have commenced her studies in the Ph.D. program in psychology at Penn State.



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

Holler at Us

in Haiku!

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

1985

Jon White 16 South Ct. Port Washington, NY 11050 jw@whitecoffee.com

On one of my recent visits to the Columbia neighborhood, I went to the Manhattanville campus. These buildings are now fully operational and both help to transform the area and update the entire Columbia experience. Don't miss it on your next visit to campus.

Larry Rogers has been a reference librarian at the Begley Library in Schenectady, N.Y., for more than four years. He writes, "Making the transition from a print library to a digital media center has been both exhilarating and challenging. SUNY Schenectady is a community college that focuses on workforce development, and we serve new and returning students from a wide variety of disadvantaged backgrounds. Recently I had the opportunity to lead two guided discussions on Between The World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Student response was very gratifying, and the energy reminded me of the spirited conversations we used to have in my Lit Hum section about Homer's Iliad and Plato's Republic.

"On a less elevated note, my latest romantic thriller, *Santiago's Secret*, was released last year and sold quite well. When people ask me if I'm putting my Columbia B.A. in English literature to good use I remind them that *Ulysses* by James Joyce and *Studs Lonigan* by James T. Farrell



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct.** were both once considered 'dirty books' and were actually banned by the Catholic Church for many years. I can only pray that such an honor will someday come my way. In the meantime, interested classmates can find my books on Amazon Kindle

under the name Carol Storm." Congratulations to **Pace Cooper** — see the photo in this issue's "Just Married!" section that features seven CC/BC alums in attendance at his son's wedding!

I was at a Columbia event in April and sat next to **John Phelan** PH'19. I think that John gets the prize (although that is clearly not the word for it) for paying the most Columbia tuitions simultaneously. Until recently, John was on board for three enrollments (himself included); he graduated from the School of Public Health in May. I also had a great time this past winter catching up with another fellow Glee Club singer, **Leslie Smartt**.

Over the last few months, for all of the classmates whom I saw, I also saw a bunch of what I like to call "neighboring classmates," who are those who attended the College when we did, but graduated just before or after we did (please feel free to send updates on those folks, too). In Delray Beach, Fla., I had a beer with Phil Donahue '84, who regularly commutes from Philadelphia to Delray for work. I also attended my third NYU film class with Professor Eddy Friedfeld '83. Other '83ers I have crossed paths with include Mike Silver '83 (another longtime coffee industry veteran) and enjoyed the amazing Mets with the ever-enthusiastic Jay Lippman '83, the man who stood on College Walk for me many years ago in his propeller hat. And I shared a ride home with fellow class correspondent Dennis Klainberg '84 and got my latest update on art and motorcycle shipping trends.

And speaking of updates, it's time for my annual update: My coffee pursuits continue unabetted (29 years this summer). Our company, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary, was featured last spring in *The Wall Street Journal*. I have recently joined the board of the National Coffee Association, which enables my thoughts to percolate (sorry) with larger industry leaders. On the same Board of Directors is John Fortin SEAS'84, who works with a prominent roasting machine company (we only realized the connection over dinner, and shared many a fine Columbia tale).

My extracurricular activities this year have brought me back to the Madison Square Garden stage to sing in support of Andrea Bocelli (everyone was there to hear him, not me — as well they should have). I also continue my passion for the Mets as a season ticket holder for 33 years now. I suppose I must accept some responsibility for their decade-long failings, as I purchased my tickets for the first time in 1987, and they have not won since. I share those tickets with Leon Friedfeld '88, Corey Klestadt '86 and several Law School classmates.

My oldest son, Isaac '14, continues his good work as a senior software engineer at *The New York Times* (I hope you saw **Tom Vinciguerra** JRN'86, GSAS'90's great column in the Spring 2019 issue of *CCT* about *Times* editor Theodore Bernstein CC 1924, JRN 1925). Isaac has been repeatedly cited in the *Times*, mostly for the projects he has worked on (most recently a discussion on electronic filing), and on one occasion featuring his home-baked sourdough bread emblazoned with the famous "T" from the masthead.

My middle son, Noah, graduated from Duke last spring with a double major and spent much of the winter and spring climbing throughout the Southwest and Far West. He has scaled some famous and breathtaking rock formations.

My youngest son, Josh, will graduate from the University of Miami next May and is planning a repeat summer stint in the Cape Cod Baseball League (if you've never experienced this, it is baseball at its purest). He has worked for local colleges and appeared on ESPN and the ACC network and hopes to pursue this career path professionally.

My wife, Allison BC'86, was recently inducted into the Town of North Hempstead Women's Roll of Honor, and continues her political and social activism for multiple educational and immigrant rights groups across Long Island.

And by the time you read this, less than 12 months remain until our 35th (no, that's not a typo) reunion. Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 4–Saturday, June 6, and plan to join us. There will be meetings this fall in New York to plan the class-specific activities, and anyone's physical and/or virtual attendance is most welcome.

1986

Everett Weinberger 50 W. 70th St., Apt. 3B New York, NY 10023 everett6@gmail.com

After being off the grid for 12 years, **Barry Whittle** is coming back home. He writes, "After 12 years abroad (five in Guatemala and seven in Myanmar), we are moving back to the United States this June and I'm heading back to Population Services International headquarters — the organization I have worked for in a variety of capacities during the last 23 years. Although we are already feeling wistful about our time in Myanmar (without actually having left), we are also excited about getting back to Washington, D.C.

'Our oldest daughter, Anna, is already in the U.S., attending UCLA, and our two youngest, Zoe and Sam, will attend high school and middle school in Falls Church, Va. In my new role, I'll oversee a group of our larger country offices (India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa). My wife, Elke, will take a break from teaching and architecture for several months while she goes through the laborious process of reapplying for her Green Card (which we are both approaching with a strong dose of fear and loathing during these troubled political times). I am taking three months off this summer, mostly just being lazy, but hoping to attend a weeklong guitar camp in San Diego and to spend a couple weeks in a camper van with Elke in Utah and its environs. Otherwise we are shacking up at our place on Moose Pond in Bridgton, Maine, for the rest of the summer. Looking forward to reconnecting with fellow Columbia grads now that I'll be closer to the action."

Speaking of international travel, Jonathan Rutchik and his clan continue their adventures: "My son, Rex (12), wife, Beth, and I visited Madagascar this winter and had an adventure full of culture, lemurs and birds; good food; and learning about the history and anthropology of this


biodiverse land. With government politics threatening, we ventured south and west to many national parks and towns for baobab, bamboo jungles and villages with a culture of French and Malagasy language, witchcraft, handcrafts, fruits and vegetables, and sapphire mining among others. Travels through Paris added a cosmopolitan touch.

"At home in Mill Valley (Marin County), Calif., just north of San Fran, my occupational neurology practice is bustling but continues with the administrative challenges of a small practice. I am to add electronic health records and some virtual staff this year to help. I continue to evaluate and treat many patients with complex industrial neurological injuries; teach nurses, doctors and students through UC San Francisco; and write on neurological disorders in safety-sensitive job positions, such as commercial drivers, police and firefighters, as well as the neurotoxicology of metals and solvents.

"Rex continues his athletic development in tennis, baseball, flag football, basketball, skiing and golf, and is preparing for his bar mitzvah in 2020, likely during a trip to Israel. Beth, spends her time running and hiking Mount Tam, playing guitar and supporting local nonprofits at the Mill Valley Library and Rex's school, along with other projects. I too am performing — Steely Dan this week! I also enjoy interviewing applicants to CU each winter and spring with the Alumni Representative Committee. All the best to Columbia alums. Don't hesitate to reach out at jsrutch@neoma.com."

Thank you for writing, Harry Lipman LAW'90! He says: "I've been a litigation partner for two decades at Rottenberg Lipman Rich, a small, Midtown-based law firm, and thought some classmates - perhaps only because of the proximity to alma mater — would be interested to know that I recently led the legal effort for the Upper West Side condo that sued DJT Holdings for a declaratory judgment that the condo board could remove the 'Trump Place' signage on the façade of its building without violating a license agreement with Donald J. Trump dating back to 2000. Aside from its political symbolism, the case is notable for having resulted in a final judgment in under four months, from the filing of the complaint, in

January 2018, to the court's decision, in May 2018. The signage came down in October 2018."

Thomas Yanni is serving his second term as vice chair of Palm Springs's Public Arts Commission and was recently selected as a grant reviewer for the California Arts Council's Youth Arts Action grant program. Another volunteer activity he enjoys is interviewing applicants to Columbia as part of the Alumni Representative Committee.

Dave Nachmanoff put down his guitar to update us. He shares, "The big news for me at the moment is that my most recent album, *Cerulean Sky*, was released on May 10 (after a long recording process set that was delayed by a vocal injury last year)! For more info, see davenach.com. I'll also lead a songwriting retreat in West Virginia in May, which was open to people of any experience level: mountainsongwritingretreat.com.

Dave adds, "Recently visited campus for the first time in years, taking my daughter Sophia to look at Barnard College and Columbia College! It brought back so many great memories. I also joined the College's online book club, Core Conversations (college.columbia.edu/alumni/ learn/coreconversations), through Goodreads, revisiting *Democracy in America* and *Julius Caesar*. If you haven't checked it out, it's worth a look!"

James Mitulski recently relocated to Berkeley, Calif., from Boston to take two jobs, as major gifts officer of the Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion at the Pacific School of Religion, and also to be the pastor of Island United Church UCC in Foster City, Calif.

When we last left **Goran Puljic**, he and his wife, Melinda, were entering Stanford University as fellows at Stanford's Distinguished Careers Institute. He says, "The DCI is a one-to-two-year program for people who have had a 20- to 30-year successful career and are interested in immersing themselves in academia again in order to do a career pivot or just to reengage with learning.

"We have the privilege of taking virtually any course at Stanford, and find ourselves in class with undergrad and grad students every day. It's exhilarating! It's also our first time living on the West Coast, and that is a huge part of the experience. We finish our program in June, and will be back on the East Coast then. Our oldest son, Nick SEAS'19, graduated with a B.S. in computer science, and our younger son, Tucker, is studying culinary arts at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I. So yes, all four of us are in school at the same time."

Film editor **Eric Pomert** told us about a documentary he produced and edited during the last three years. "Directed by Audrey Rumsby and shot in London, *Barry and Joan* (barryandjoan.com) is an untold British story about a quirky and delightful stage and screen couple who have spent 75 years performing and teaching. Barry was a dancer in *The Red Shoes.* This inspiring story traces their play-filled lives as they built a repertoire of performance spanning from commedia dell'arte and Music Hall to drag and nude theatre."

1987

Sarah A. Kass PO Box 1006 New York, NY 10113 SarahAnn29uk@gmail.com

When I joined the sports staff of Spectator in fall 1983, my first assignment was to cover men's tennis. I knew little about tennis except for a few bad games I had played with my brother on the rare occasions we were even near a court. I knew how the game worked but I did not know the subtleties. Nevertheless, I dutifully scheduled an appointment with Coach Bid Goswami and wrote a profile of him for my first Spectator article. Soon after, as I learned more, I was tasked with the assignment of profiling three first-year tennis recruits, whose promise was going to guarantee the success of men's tennis at Columbia: Matt Litsky, Phil Williamson and Howard Endelman.

When I met Howie, we bonded over our mutual friends back in Roslyn and, of course, proceeded to talk tennis. And the three first-year recruits went on to accomplish amazing feats for the men's tennis team, as promised, as Columbia won two Ivy League championships, in 1984 and in 1987.

Now we come full circle with the wonderful news that Howard is taking over as men's tennis head coach and director of tennis operations with Goswami's retirement following the 2018–19 season. Howard spent the last nine years as Columbia's associate head coach. Previously, he had been the head coach for the women's team, as well as having a successful business and legal career.

Congrats, Howard! And Roar, Lion, Roar!

Equally wonderful is the news I received from Ed Weinstein '57, classmate and dear friend of my father, Alvin Kass '57, and father to my dear friend llene Weinstein Lederman. He wrote, "December 13 turned out to be a special day in our family. On that day, Ilene's daughter, Hannah Grace, was admitted to the Class of '23 at Columbia. In addition, Ilene's nieces, Grace Naomi Weinstein and Miriam Rose Weinstein, were admitted to the Washington University in St. Louis and Columbia Classes of '23, respectively. It was also very special and exciting for the grandparents of the three girls."

So thrilled for all of you! This could be my happiest Class Notes column ever!

1988

Eric Fusfield 1945 South George Mason Dr. Arlington, VA 22204 eric@fusfield.com

Congratulations to Mónica Byrne-Jiménez TC'03 for being named executive director of the Charlottesville, Va.-based University Council for Educational Administration. "Established more than 60 years ago, UCEA has been committed to the advancement and improvement of educational leadership preparation, research, and policy," according to the organization's website. From the press release: "With her experience in both K12 and higher education, Dr. Byrne-Jiménez will lead the organization and continue the work of UCEA member institutions."

Monica, a Teachers College doctoral graduate, has most recently been on the faculty of Indiana University, where she has taught educational leadership and school community relations. "Her scholarship focuses on Latina/o identity and school leadership, social justice leadership preparation, faculty diversity and doctoral student experiences, and the role of alternative epistemologies in research and leadership," UCEA's website says.

Maria Roglieri also represents our class in academia. "I'm a professor of modern languages, literatures and cultures at a small college outside NYC, St. Thomas Aquinas College," she says. "I've been teaching there for 24 years (Italian language, literature, culture and music). I'm also an advocate for the gluten-free community and I've spent 14 years counseling, writing and presenting to and for the gluten-free community. I have a series of specialized travel guides (theglutenfreeguides. com) and most recently I've written a good health and weight-loss book especially for those who are gluten-free. The Gluten-Free Skinny gives you the skinny on healthy GF food to eat instead of eating the store-bought products that are full of sugar and rice ... I'm very happy and proud to be working with the gluten-free community, and it is a way for me to pay it forward after my daughter and I got so much support when we were diagnosed with celiac disease 15 years ago.

"Otherwise, lots of travel to Italy for business (my own, and for my school, where I run trips for students and alumni) and pleasure. Three kids (two in college; one who just graduated from high school) and a husband who is a research manager at IBM."

My former roommate **Lee Haddad**, a father of four, continues to teach Judaic studies and pursue entrepreneurial endeavors in Israel and the West Bank. He reports that our former floormate **Philip** "Shraga" Levy, who also lives and teaches in Israel and has grown children, is now a grandfather several times over. That's right, my friends, we're in our 50s and some of us are grandparents now. It was only a matter of time, of course. I'm not saying that Philip is the first one, but he's the first grandparent I've had the opportunity to write about in this column. Of course, my own kids are still making their way through elementary school, so life has a way of keeping its own schedule.

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to hearing from you.

1989

Emily Miles Terry 45 Clarence St. Brookline, MA 02446 emilymilesterry@me.com

I lost an email last fall from **Peter Saint-Andre**, who had kindly sent an update. I finally found it, but let me know if anyone else has emailed me and hasn't seen his/her update. Clearly my Class Notes system is fallible.

Peter writes from Colorado: "Despite majoring in philosophy and classics, I've been working on Internet technologies since 1996 for small startups and large companies like Cisco; currently I'm a principal engineer at Mozilla, nonprofit makers of the Firefox web browser. I stay intellectually active by writing short books on philosophical topics (in the last five years I've published on Epicurus, Thoreau and Nietzsche, and now I'm deep into research on Aristotle)."

Holler at Us in Haiku!



We're celebrating the Core Centennial this year and would love to hear your memories of the Core Curriculum! But there's a catch — **you need to tell us in haiku.** Send your 5-7-5 recollections to cct_centennial@columbia.edu, and we'll run our favorites in the next four issues' Class Notes. Peter and his wife, Elisa, celebrated their 20th anniversary last year by building a house on five acres outside of Denver. Peter also writes, "I had the pleasure of meeting **Mi-Kyoung 'Mitzi' Lee**, who is a professor of philosophy at the University of Colorado, Boulder. I subsequently presented a talk to undergraduates there on philosophy as a foundation for success in life and I've been invited to give the departmental commencement address next May."

In addition to Peter, there is a cluster of classmates in Colorado enjoying mountain air and with whom I've been in touch over the last few years, including **Elana Amsterdam, Paul Childers, Ed Hamrick, Jody Collens Fidler,** who is a more recent Colorado resident, and prior to his moving to Washington, D.C., Neil Gorsuch '88.

I also heard from Russell Glober SOA'00, who married Amy Becker last September at Kailua Beach Park, a mile from where Russell grew up on Oahu, Hawaii. Russell and Amy have lived in the Little Osaka area of West Los Angeles for three years, and he has been a Westsider since moving from New York to L.A. in August 2000. Russell has been self-employed as a certified personal trainer and iOS/macOS consultant for years. Since 2014, he's also been the logistics manager for jengagiant. com, the official manufacturer of oversized Jenga brand games. Amy grew up in the San Marino/Pasadena area and has worked in public health/ healthcare for many years, currently as a solutions consultant for Kaiser Permanente. She has also been the master planner of the amazing vacations she and Russell have taken to Kauai, Vancouver, London, Iceland, New Zealand, the Big Island and, later this year, Sicily.

For those who had a scheduling conflict and were unable to attend our 30th reunion, consider attending the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner every November, or the John Jay Awards Dinner every March, as there's always a contingent of classmates there to celebrate. This past March several CC'89ers convened at the John Jay Awards Dinner to listen to the captivating speeches and celebrate this year's recipients: Erik Feig '92; James Brett '84, BUS'90; Jodi Kantor '96; Tom Kitt '96; and Alisa Amarosa Wood '01, BUS'08. In attendance from '89 were me, Amy Weinreich Rinzler, Donna MacPhee, Stephanie Falcone Bernik, Steve Metalios, Bonnie Host, Frank Seminara, Lisa Landau Carnoy, Victor Mendelson and Michael Behringer, plus Tony Calenda '88; Joy Kim Metalios SEAS'90; and Michael's wife, Nisha Kumar, whom we like to pretend are CC'89, because in spirit they are.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs youngrache@hotmail.com

Dean Temple brings his solo comedy show, "Voice of Authority" — the true story of the Department of Justice coming after him for \$19 million he doesn't have — to 59E59 Theaters in New York July 17–21, and to Surgeon's Hall at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe August 2–24. Dean recently had successful runs at the Kraine Theater on East 4th Street and the Pittsburgh Fringe, where he won a Best of Festival Award. He and his wife, Alex, still live in Millbrook, N.Y.

Chris Alexander, who was active in Columbia's musical theater society both as a director and a performer, pursued a career in television as a publicity executive, first at ABC Entertainment and ABC News in the '90s, and then moving to Los Angeles and joining 20th Century Fox Television 19 years ago. During his original tenure at ABC, Chris's company was acquired by the Walt Disney Co., and now it seems history is repeating itself. He writes, "Yes, once again, it seems we are being acquired by Disney. For those who are wondering how the merger will affect me, I am happy to report that I will continue in my role of head of communications for the studio, which continues to produce some of the most distinctive programming around, from This is Us to Modern Family to the longest running series ever, The Simpsons. I'm also four years into a serious relationship with a horse named Benjamin, whom I ride regularly on more than 50 miles of trails in Griffith Park in the hills above Hollywood."

Isaac-Daniel Astrachan reports from his March weekend in Las Vegas for the Modular Building Institute World of Modular Confer-



alumninews 🔮

ence: "I spoke at the conference about our citizenM NY Bowery Hotel project, the world's tallest modular hotel. At the closing banquet, we won first place in the Permanent Modular Hotel category for that project. The rooms were built in Poland and shipped to NYC (300 hotel rooms on one ship crossing the Atlantic). The building is 19 stories, including 15 floors of modular guest rooms. Modular construction is ideal for many different permanent and temporary building types including hotels, student housing and affordable housing. I look forward to working on many more modular projects."

Josh Masur LAW'99 checked in from Redwood City, Calif.: "It's been a numerically significant year here. In 2018, I turned 50, and my wife, Shelly (she is on city council and running for State Senate), and I celebrated our 25th anniversary, the 21st birthday of our daughter, Julia, and the 18th birthday of our sons, Noah and Jacob. Then, in early 2019, I left my professional home of 10 years to start the Silicon Valley office of Zuber Lawler & Del Duca, a Los Angeles-based firm started by my Law School classmate Tom Zuber LAW'99. In addition to my intellectual property litigation practice, I'm a ski patroller at Alpine Meadows, and in the final year of my term on the Board of Directors (and as national treasurer) of the National Ski Patrol. Alpine Meadows is one valley north of Tahoe City. Gabriel Kra and Sean Ryan have both had kids on the team there as well. Sean's son was a teammate of my sons, and Gabe's kids have been coached by my daughter. And Julie Bibb has taken her family there to ski."

Saving the best for last — the dog news! Jennifer Lee GSAS'98 and her dog, Kaia, have joined the #ProtectPetsToo campaign with People and Animals Living Safely (PALS). Victims of domestic violence often must make the impossible choice of leaving behind a pet in order to seek safe shelter, as only 3 percent of shelters allow pets. PALS has created shelters in NYC that allow victims of domestic violence to bring their pets with them. Learn more about PALS: urinyc.org/program/uripals.

In March, my family became the happy forever family of Ethel, a 1-year-old Standard Poodle we adopted from Mid-Atlantic Poodle Rescue. After two years of not hearing the jingle-jangle of dog tags and clickity-clack of nails on the floor, our home feels complete again. For all you dog lovers and owners out there (hoping you are one and the same), you know what I mean. For the rest of you, if you've been contemplating getting a dog, do it!

1991

Margie Kim margiekimkim@hotmail.com

It's summer, CC'91! Hope you're all having a wonderful time. Please take a moment to send a note — travel, work, family, favorite Columbia memories, anything you want to share. We want to hear from you!

1992

Olivier Knox olivier.knox@gmail.com

Are you there, classmates? It's me, Olivier.

This column only works when you send in your updates — big news, little news, fun news, seeing old friends, welcoming new family members. The world beyond your Facebook friends wants to hear about what you're doing, where you're doing it, how, why, etc.

Please write to me at olivier.knox@ gmail.com! I won't even mind if you call me "Oliver."

Not, much, anyway.

1993

Betsy Gomperz betsy.gomperz@gmail.com

Greetings classmates!

As I write, it is Patriot's Day in Boston, the day of the Boston Marathon. I live about 100 yards from the course. Amanda Schachter (a Carman 11 floormate) reached out to tell me she was running for the first time! Amazingly, she qualified for Boston with her NYC Marathon run in 2017 and "wanted to give a shout-out to freshman roommate Kate Kerkering, who was on the running team at Columbia and put in all the hard work waking up super early every morning — now I get it! And to Patti Lee, who first turned me on to running in Riverside Park sophomore year, though I didn't start taking the sport seriously, and couldn't run more than two miles, until about eight years ago."

I did my part and tracked Amanda, and looked for her in the sea of qualifying runners (it is a fast race). I wasn't able to see her but did see she finished with a great time.

Congratulations, Amanda!

In March, there was a Columbia women's soccer alumnae game Julie Davidson Hassan, Sandi Johnson, Ali Towle, Molly Sellner, Joan Campion '92, Kristine Campagna '94 and Tania Cochran Secor '94 gathered at the field to play the current team. The alumnae won! Everyone went out for dinner afterward and were joined by Robyn Tuerk for a great NYC night out (that I heard included karaoke!). Speaking of alumni back on campus, some of you may be aware that Lauren Apollaro '22, daughter of Tony Apollaro and Penny Schneider Apollaro SW'95, finished her freshman year and played softball. Penny and Tony have been getting lots of time back on campus and cheering for the Lions!

I made a trip to Atlanta in February for Super Bowl LIII. **Ali Towle** is the senior director of brand and joined Thad at the Post Malone/ Aerosmith concert at the arena. In addition to a great show, Thad gave us a tour of the renovated space and innovative seating options for fans. I also visited the Sheely family home, where Thad, his wife and two sons have settled in to life in Atlanta.

Please continue to submit updates to the email address at the top of the column!

1994

Leyla Kokmen lak6@columbia.edu

Let me start with a sincere apology to avid readers who might have missed seeing robust CC'94 content in the Spring 2019 issue. Life got in the way of the *CCT* deadline, I'm afraid. But let me catch up ...

Jeremy Workman's documentary *The World Before Your Feet* premiered in theaters in November. It then went on to play in theaters for more than 125 days in the United States and Canada, playing in nearly 100 cities. The documentary, about Matt Green's mission to walk every street of New York City, was produced by actor Jesse Eisenberg and currently sits at 100 percent

Dean Temple '90's solo comedy show, "Voice of Authority," is about the true story of the DOJ coming after him for \$19 million he doesn't have.

fan experience for the New England Patriots and I was able to attend all of the team's pre-game/post-game events with her, which was beyond amazing — particularly because the team won its sixth title (yes, I went there!). I also had a pre-game "Go Lions" exchange with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93, who was at the game with his father and was clad in a Los Angeles Rams jersey.

But my weekend in Atlanta was also fun because we spent time with **Thad Sheely** and his family. Thad was recently profiled in *CCT* (see "Lions," Winter 2018–19) for his work with the Atlanta Hawks, where he oversaw the massive State Farm Arena renovation and is the team's chief operating officer. Ali and I on Rotten Tomatoes. Jeremy is in production on a documentary about 20-year-old domino-toppling artist and YouTube star Lily Hevesh.

In other media news, Janet Balis works at EY, where she is a partner serving as global advisory leader of media and entertainment, and also leading the marketing practice. "I've been there for four years and find the role to be ideal after spending almost two decades in media and technology companies since business school," Janet writes. "After receiving an M.B.A. at Harvard Business School in 1999, I joined Time Warner, where I spent more than eight years. My later roles took me to places like Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, where I led the

media side of the business, and then to The Huffington Post, where I was publisher. After leaving HuffPost, I went to an incredible technology incubator called Betaworks, where I ran the innovation lab. The most endearing highlight of my career relative to Columbia is undoubtedly my cameo appearance in the documentary *Radio that Changed Lives*, about Stretch and Bobbito and their hip-hop show on WKCR (where I was station president), which aired on Showtime and is now on Netflix."

Janet lives on the Upper East Side with her children Jared (14) and Julia (11). She sees Brad Stone '93 and **Orly Mishan** often.

Karen Ortiz writes that after being an attorney in city, state and federal government for two decades, she became a federal administrative judge for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in August 2018. She presides over cases involving allegations of discrimination in the federal sector. On the personal side, Karen got married on October 6 in Central Park, where the College's a capella group Non Sequitur performed its rendition of "In My Life" as a surprise for the groom and guests.

In October, Karthik Ramanathan headlined the CFA Institute conference in Boston to discuss geopolitical issues and investment management. He shared insights into global investor flow gleaned through his travels abroad.

After running in the 2017 Democratic primary for New York City public advocate and receiving 23 percent of the vote, **David**

Columbia College Alumni on Facebook

facebook.com/alumnicc

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more. **Eisenbach** GSAS'06 ran in the special election for the same office in February.

And finally, I got a nice note from Dy Tran, who offered an update of what he's been doing since graduating from Columbia and heading to Tübingen, Germany. "After my detour through Germany, some years in graduate school and a brief dalliance with academia, I raised a son mostly in Brooklyn," Dy writes. "Some years ago, we moved to the 'Brooklyn of the West,' otherwise known as Oakland, and my son has now gone back east to Phillips Exeter for high school. I'm working on a novel, which I hope will be ready in a year or so; it has been long in the making. And in the middle of life's way, I have discovered the path of yoga, which I highly recommend as a salve far preferable to the sports car for midlife crisis."

Lovely to hear from everyone, and thanks for the updates!

1995

Janet Lorin jrf10@columbia.edu

I hope this finds everyone well, as we are now in the countdown to our 25th class reunion! If you are interested in becoming involved in the planning, please drop me a note.

Hilton Romanski writes, "After 18 years at Cisco (the full span to adulthood), I left my role as chief strategy officer to join the private equity firm Siris Capital Group. The firm takes publicly traded technology companies private and has about \$7 billion under management. I'm a partner at Siris and have built a West Coast practice out of Palo Alto over the last eight months. I think we are bringing something exciting, unique and needed to the Silicon Valley and technology markets. Cisco was an awesome ride and is one of the greatest companies ever built, in my opinion."

In his last position as chief strategy officer, Hilton helped transform the company from an almost exclusively hardware and network infrastructure business to one that has about one-third of its business generated by software and recurring revenue.

"The stock price and value of the company more than doubled in the three and a half years that I was part of the new Cisco management team



Members of the Class of '96 attended the John Jay Awards Dinner in March, which included among the honorees Jodi Kantor '96 and Tom Kitt '96. Left to right: Uchenna Acholonu, Bernice Tsai, Kitt, Bich-nga Nguyen, Mila Tuttle, Rose Kob, Pete Freeman and Kantor.

appointed in 2015," he writes. "This felt like the perfect time to start writing a new professional chapter and pursue my first passion of dealmaking and helping other public companies make tough transitions."

Hilton, his wife, Emily, and kids (ages 10 and 8) live in Palo Alto and spend time enjoying the beaches and mountains and are often found surfing, skiing or snowboarding.

Congratulations to **Dan Petroski**, who is celebrating the 10th anniversary of his wine company, Massican.

And we'll all be watching our most famous classmate, **Beto O'Rourke**, who as of this writing is running for President of the United States.

If you've never written into Class Notes, consider our 25th reunion a good time to send an update!

1996

Ana S. Salper ana.salper@nyumc.org

It's summertime, classmates! I hope you are all finding time for some rest and relaxation, spending quality time with friends and family, and diligently composing the Class Note you plan to send about your lives to your one and only class correspondent.

I want to kick off this issue's notes with congratulations to Julie Satow SIPA'01, who recently published *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel* (listed in "Bookshelf" this issue). Julie's book has been described as the definitive biography of the iconic Plaza Hotel in New York City, and as a thrilling, unforgettable history of how the illustrious hotel has defined our understanding of money and glamour, from the Gilded Age to the Go-Go Eighties to today's Billionaire Row. Julie is an awardwinning journalist who has covered real estate in New York City for more than a decade, and is a regular contributor to The New York Times. She lives in the West Village with her husband, Stuart, and children, Sophie (8) and Jonah (6).

Julie writes that for the past three and a half years she was buried in the stacks of hotel archives, sifting through out-of-print books and interviewing everyone from Plaza bellmen, to Eric Trump, to a disgraced Indian tycoon who owned the hotel while serving a prison sentence in Delhi. She says that one of the coolest things was uncovering stories that had been long forgotten or were never previously known, like a brutal murder perpetrated by the construction workers in charge of building the Plaza, or the eccentricities of the woman who wrote the Eloise books. Julie's research even took her back to Columbia, which she says she really enjoyed, spending time at Butler and exploring the collections at Avery. Julie says that it was the best job she ever had.

Uchenna Acholonu attended the John Jay Awards Dinner in March, which honored five alumni,

alumninews 🔮

including Jodi Kantor and Tom Kitt, and said that it was a heartwarming, pro-Columbia event that he thoroughly enjoyed. He caught up with classmates in attendance, including Bich-nga Nguyen, Mila Tuttle SIPA'05, Pete Freeman, Rose Kob and, of course, Bernice Tsai, associate dean, Columbia College alumni relations and communications, who writes: "It was so much fun to see the small crew of '96ers and to see two of our classmates being honored for such amazing work!"

In addition, Uchenna writes that he is "ridiculously excited" for the return of the Ivy League Men's Lacrosse Tournament to Columbia's campus. "Lacrosse was such an important part of my Columbia experience. Even though we still do not have a varsity men's team I look forward to sitting in our stadium to watch elite-level lacrosse. I'm happily involved with a group working to strengthen our current program. Matt Reuter '07 spearheaded a successful effort to raise more than \$50,000 for the team. I hope a varsity program is on the horizon," writes Uchenna. [Editor's note: See "The Last Word," Spring 2019, and online at bit.ly/2IQqB0D.]

I leave you with this bit of inspiration from a man this country was truly proud to call our President:

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." — Abraham Lincoln

1997

Kerensa Harrell kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope you are all doing well and enjoying your summer! I am delighted to present the following updates from our class.

Swati Khurana received a New York Foundation for the Arts grant in fiction to support her novelin-progress. She was recently on a feminist art panel with Emma Sulkowicz '15 at C24 Gallery and will be speaking at Yale University and BRIC Rotunda Gallery in Brooklyn about her creative practice. Her Tarot card reading was featured in *Teen Vogue*, and she has done individualized Tarot-based affirmations for friends at events for tequila companies, private equity firms, boutique hotels and feminist zines.

Rachel Goldenberg writes: "My husband, Jim Talbott '98, and I and our two kids recently bought a place and moved to Jackson Heights in Queens. We are so happy to be making our home back in New York, and especially in this amazing neighborhood. My start-up progressive Jewish spiritual community, Malkhut, is flourishing, as are our kids, Amina and Ziv."

Mike Pignatello and his husband, Yang Gao, are now the proud parents of twins James and Jeremy, born last September in Nevada. Mike and his family are concluding a five-year assignment in Taipei this summer with the United States Department of State, and will work in Washington, D.C., for the next few years.

Sari Rosenberg is a U.S. history teacher and writer. She is writing the new 11th grade U.S. history curriculum for the New York City Department of Education with a small team of educators. Sari is also a frequent curriculum consultant at the New-York Historical Society, recently contributing as the teacher developer for the "Hudson Rising" (2019) exhibition.

Sari teaches U.S. history at the High School for Environmental Studies, a public high school in NYC. In 2015, she co-founded the Feminist Eagles, a feminist club for teens, which frequently hosts highprofile guests such as Alyssa Milano, Audrey Gelman and Jessica Valenti.

Sari's most recent media appearances include TheSkimm's back-toschool series and the Travel Channel's *Mysteries at the Museum*. Last year, she wrote the #SheDidThat series for A+E Television Networks/Lifetime, and did daily women's history posts and videos.

Sari shares her recent good news with us, writing: "I have two updates, both professional in nature. I have been teaching U.S. history at a public high school in NYC for the past 17 years, so it's nice to be recognized! I received two awards this March. The National Council for History Education awarded me with the prestigious 2019 Paul A. Gagnon Prize, and I was celebrated as one of the #DOESheroes by the New York City Department of Education, recognized for my work as a U.S. history teacher and cofounder of the Feminist Eagles. The campaign ran on the @NYCSchools social media channels."

John Dean Alfone recently attended South by Southwest, where he was credentialed press and wrote this article about musicians from his home state of Louisiana (online at bit.ly/2vkFBvz).

The Business School also hosted a SXSW event during the weeklong conference at Attabar, which John attended.

Amanda Pong PH'10 recently moved to Gothenburg, Sweden, with her husband and children. They are busy adapting to the lifestyle, language and culture, including daily adventures for their energetic children. They extend a warm welcome to anyone traveling their way in 2019.

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, as I wrap up this column in late March, I've been thinking about how lucky I've been to get to be a stay-at-home mom for my daughter, Amara (2.5). In today's world that seems quite a luxury. It is such a joy and an honor to watch her grow.

She is doing a great deal of talking now, and enjoys correcting my statements. A couple of months ago we were strolling past a body of water in our neighborhood, which is a gated golf community that is 51 percent nature preserve (sounds nice, although in Florida that also comes with alligators, coyotes, bobcats, snakes, ants and mosquitoes). As we passed by the water, I said to her, "Look, baby, there's a nice pond." To which she replied, "It's not a pond, Mama it's a lake." Hahaha, they grow up too fast! She has also developed a stock of standard responses for when I need her to do something:

Me: "It's bath time." Her: "No, thanks!" Me: "It's bedtime." Her: "Not yet!" Me: "It's time to get into your car seat." Her: "Not today!" Me: "It's time to brush your teeth." Her: "I do not like brushing my teeth!"

We've also been going through a big transition in our family life, unfortunately, and I've been doing my utmost to try to mitigate the disruption and stress that it inevitably causes for a child. Luckily the weather has been cooperating by not being too hot, so I have been taking Amara on frequent jaunts to the Magic Kingdom, where she revels in riding the spinning teacups, the flying elephants, the flying carpets, the carousel horses, the Small World boat, the people mover and the seashell journey to glimpse the life of a mermaid. It's only about a 15-mile drive from our house, so we can easily drop by any weekday for a couple of hours before or after her midday nap (she still takes a daily nap that lasts a couple of hours, and I am encouraging her to keep that up because that's the only time she lets me get housework done!).

As I sign off now, let me cue the *It's* a *Small World*, along with a few lyrics:

"It's a world of laughter "A world of tears "It's a world of hopes "And a world of fears "There's so much that we share "That it's time we're aware "It's a small world after all"

Blessings to all, and please do send your updates. Feel free to keep in mind that your updates needn't be just about the usual topics like career/marriage/birth announcements — they could also be on your exotic travels, your exciting adventures, your fascinating hobbies, your philanthropic endeavors, your charming children, your daring projects, your poetic musings and/ or your flowery reminiscences. Or simply tell us about some delightful local event that you just attended or a family vacation that you went on. If nothing else, you can always write us just to say hello! It would be splendid to hear from as many of classmates as possible. I look forward to hearing from you. In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen sandie.chen@gmail.com

Greetings, Class of 1998. Short and sweet notes this issue.

Congratulations are in order for Julie Yufe, who was named VP of global marketing at Anheuser-Busch InBev and lives in Belgium (AB InBev's corporate headquarters) with Just Married! class_note_photo. Congratulations!

2

FOREVER TOGETHER (RYAN)

1. Stacy Wu '02 shared a photo from her 2017 wedding reception in Brooklyn that featured Durier Ryan SOA'13, Liz Berryman '02, the bride, Susan Schwarz '02 and Andrew

2. Pace Cooper '85 and Aileen Cooper BC'85 at the wedding of their son Jeremy '17 to Ellin Mitchell BC'19. Also pictured are Jeremy's brothers, Ethan '18, Dylan '18 and Elan '22, and sisters, Yael and Serena.

Russeth '07.

3. Russell Glober '89 married Amy Becker at Hawaii's Kailua Beach Park on September 23.

4

4. Juneyoung L. Chavez (née Yi) '05 married Javier Chavez Jr. on January 19 at New York City's Daedong Manor. Left to right: Young Choi (née Jeong) SEAS'05, Pamela Wong (née Lee) SEAS'05, Helen Lee '05, Carol Park '05, the bride, the groom, Jacky Tong SIPA'10, Suanne Lee (née Chen) '05, Jinyuan Jin '05 and Lili Lee '05.

5. John Myles White '04 and his wife, Heather McKinstry, outside City Hall after their May 10 wedding.







CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_



her husband, Michael Dreyer, and their daughter, Zoe. If you're in the Brussels area, feel free to get in touch.

Chris Perkel wrote in with his first update. Chris and his partner, Carinna, had their first baby, Edison, last year. They live in the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles. A documentary filmmaker, Chris is directing a documentary exploring the 20-year history of the Coachella music and arts festival. In 2017, he won the Critics' Choice Award for Best Music Documentary for Clive Davis: The Soundtrack of Our Lives. Other films Chris has made include a five-part primetime docuseries, Phenoms, about the best young soccer players in the world, and Foreman, about George Foreman's miraculous heavyweight comeback, for Epix.

Congratulations on all of your accomplishments, Chris!

Have a wonderful summer, and please do take a moment to send a note to the email address at the top of the column!

1999

Adrienne Carter and Jenna Johnson adieliz@gmail.com jennajohnson@gmail.com

Greetings, Class of 1999! Write in to let us know how the 20th reunion was! Who did you see? What did you talk about? We want to hear all about the connections and reconnections that happened at this milestone event. Write to us at either of the addresses at the top of this column, and have an excellent summer!

2000

Prisca Bae pb134@columbia.edu

Amir Arison is in production on his sixth season of the Sony/NBC series *The Blacklist*, in which he portrays FBI Agent Aram Mojtabai. Season 6 premiered on January 3 on NBC. Amir resides in Brooklyn, but divides his time between NYC and Los Angeles. He is also directing and producing a documentary focused on the artistic process of a young girl battling cancer who is making a short film: tatithedocumentary.com.

Mira Lew and Jonathan Schwarz welcomed Thomas Minsuh Schwarz-Lew to the world on February 6. In addition to her new parental duties, Mira is completing production on a short documentary about the Taipei hip-hop dance scene.

Jasmine Dreame Wagner was a CSG Fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in March, and then headed to Michigan for a residency at Villa Barr at Michigan Legacy Art Park through the beginning of May. She shares, "I'll also be giving readings in Washington, D.C., Columbus, Ohio, and Hudson, N.Y., and would love to meet up with any Columbia alums along the way."

Dana Maiden and Malcolm McVay are enjoying raising their



Jasmine Dreame Wagner '00, Yong-Kyoo Rim '00, Mira Lew '00, Prisca Bae '00, Dana Maiden '00 and Alex Klein '01 gathered in January for Lew's baby shower in Brooklyn.

children, Leo (5) and Carolyn (2), in Los Angeles. Dana juggles work as an artist, part-time photography professor, and interior design and art consultant. Malcolm spent several years working in environmentally focused tech companies before leaving his last "real" job in 2015. He is now an independent consultant working primarily on clean transportation and mobility projects, and says "Hi!" to everyone, especially Carman 11.

Nathaniel Farrell published his second book, a long poem titled *Lost Horizon*. Nathaniel is a lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis.

L.A.-based artist **Ragen Moss** is featured in the Whitney Biennial. According to *The New York Times* (nyti.ms/2JbWtNe), she "makes hanging, transparent sculptures that she embeds with layers and paints and that are evocative of human forms. For the Whitney Biennial, she made nine sculptures representing types, including a lawmaker, a laborer and a rule breaker, that were her answer to the question, 'What are the characters or ways of being that our particularized moment are forcing us to reckon with?'"

In 2011, Alex Klein '01 relocated from Los Angeles to be a curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia. She is working on an exhibition of sculptor Michelle Lopez BC'92, a forthcoming publication on artist Suki Seokyeong Kang, a collaboration with the Kunsthalle Lissabon in Portugal and an exhibition of her own artwork at Grice Bench gallery in L.A.

2001

Jonathan Gordin jrg53@columbia.edu

So much baby news this time around! It's so much fun to share this stuff.

Robin Fineman (née Lefkowitz) wrote in with exciting news: "My husband, Evan, and I are overjoyed to welcome a baby girl to our family, Sybil Eden, born on September 21. She joins big brother, Ezra (9), who adores her. We live in Fair Lawn, N.J. I am a partner in the litigation department of Hartmann Doherty Rosa Berman & Bulbulia."

Congratulations to Robin and Evan!

Reema Kapadia told me that she and her husband welcomed

Samay Parekh on December 11: "Big sister Rhea is ecstatic." Congratulations!

alumninews

Akhill Chopra and Camille DeLaite were delighted to welcome their son, Arthur DeLaite Chopra, on March 1. Arthur joins sister June.

Congratulations to Akhill and Camille!

Finally, I, like so many of you, recently celebrated a milestone birthday. My amazing wife, Jamie BC'01, threw me an incredible party at our house in Los Angeles. The list of alums who attended (many from the East Coast) was impressive: It was a gift to see Dina Epstein, Annie Lainer Marquit, Rachel Bloom BC'01 and Erin Fredrick BC'01 all in one place, and not on the Low Steps. I had the most incredible night - many of you might remember the specific night, because we all watched the lunar eclipse. In my case, an ice cream truck pulled up at that exact moment the dramatic timing was impeccable!

I hope everyone else enjoys their milestone birthdays as much as I did.

Please let me know for a future issue what you did this summer, and share information about *your* "reunions" with CC friends.

Be in touch! It's always great to hear from all of you.

2002

Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani soniahird@gmail.com

Hi Class of 2002! Exciting updates all around; please keep them coming to soniahird@gmail.com. Thank you!

Hannah Selinger lives in East Hampton, N.Y., with her husband, Dan Palmer; their two dogs; and their two sons, Nathaniel and Miles (born in 2016 and 2018). Hannah is a freelance food and wine writer, with content regularly appearing in *Edible Long Island, Edible East End, Sag Harbor Express, The Southampton Press* and *The Independent*.

Lenny Braman and his wife, Annie Green, celebrated the birth of their third child, Quincy Miles Braman, on August 5. Quincy and his siblings — Gwendolyn and Spencer — are getting along famously. Lenny and his family live in Fairfield, Conn., and he is a partner at the law firm of Wofsey Rosen Kweskin Kuriansky in Stamford. **Stacy Wu** started a solo IP law practice (stacywulaw.com). She and her husband, Arturo, recently welcomed their first child, Delia Maxene. These days they split their time between NYC and Italy.

Jill Santopolo '03's second novel, *More Than Words*, was published on February 5.

2003

Michael Novielli mjn29@columbia.edu

Another academic year has passed, and it's hard to believe that it's already been a year since our 15th anniversary. It's never too early to parents of three boys and a girl. Morris is also celebrating his 10th year at Triangle Capital Group, a company he founded in 2009 to invest in commercial real estate debt and equity opportunities across the country.

Belén Fernández, author of The Imperial Messenger: Thomas Friedman at Work, had a new book out in April: Exile: Rejecting America and Finding the World. Historian Greg Grandin calls it a "fascinating memoir" and a "must-read how-to guide for surviving on the periphery."

Leah Bailey (née Davis) writes: "I live in Walla Walla, Wash., with my husband and three kids. I'll be receiving a living donor kidney transplant from a friend in a couple of weeks and I'm switching up my

Jonathan Ward '06's first book, China's Vision of Victory, reveals the full scope and scale of China's global ambitions.

encourage everyone to attend our next major reunion, our 20th, in 2023 — and, of course, you are also welcome to attend reunion every year. In the meantime, please send along your personal, professional and family updates so that we can keep updated on what's new in your life.

Brian Hansbury writes, "For the last 13 years I have been a commercial actor in New York. I make my living doing voiceovers for both commercials and promos. My great love is improv. I wrote and performed a one-man show about it for a few months in 2016 and have been doing musical improv (making up half-hour musicals with the help of very talented musicians) around New York City and at festivals around the country for the last several years. NYC-based alumni can see me most Tuesdays at the Magnet Theater with my team, Warm Blooded. In my spare time I despair at America's (and the world's) slide toward autocracy that not enough people seem to care about and as a result study the physics of information, media, psychological biases and politics with an eye toward fixing everything (WINK)!"

Morris Doueck recently celebrated his 10-year anniversary with his wife, Jamie. They are the proud career path. I'm finishing a master's of arts in teaching through Seattle Pacific University and I have been hired to start teaching high school English at a rural high school in nearby Oregon. There's much good in the world."

Lindsay Dunn LAW'06 and her husband, Cameron Walker-Miller TC'15, welcomed their first child, Isidore William Miller, on February 22.

Our classmates continue to excel in academia, and I'm happy to share updates from some of them:

Harold Braswell's book *The Crisis of US Hospice Care* will be published in August. Harold is an assistant professor of health care ethics at Saint Louis University.

Ebony Dix is a lifelong learner and psychiatrist at Yale.

Justin Assad writes, "My wife, Emily Taylor ('04 Brown), and I welcomed our second daughter, Meris Pease Assad, in November. Meris is happy and healthy, and our 2-year-old is learning how to be a big sister! We live in Hanover, N.H., where I am the head sailing coach at Dartmouth College. Emily is the program director at Nantucket Community Sailing, so we spend our summers on Nantucket teaching kids how to sail. We would love to hear from classmates who are up north or on the island during the summer!"

2004

Jaydip Mahida jmahida@gmail.com

Nuria Net JRN'11 moved to Barcelona last year and writes, "Keeping myself busy. Currently teaching at the University of Barcelona journalism program and launching my own podcast production company, as well as hosting my own Latin music radio show on Radio Primavera Sound. Would love to meet up with anyone in the area!"

Please to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share news about trips you may take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates via the email at the top of the column or the *CCT* Class Notes webform: college. columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Have an excellent summer!

2005

Columbia College Today cct@columbia.edu

Happy summer, CC'05! Thanks to everyone for writing in, and congrats on all your big life changes!

From Aisling Peartree: "Hi Columbia friends! I'll be living in NYC again until December of this year and would love to reconnect. I've been loving being a writer about addiction and mental health, working remotely so I can travel to my heart's content. I'm still singing (always!); I put out two projects this past year — my album *Aisling* and a mixtape, *Angels in the City*, which you can find on smarturl. it/aislingpeartree and smarturl.it/angels inthecity, respectively. More music, including a ton of covers, can be found on youtube.com/aislingpeartree.

"I've been quite nomadic; roadtripped cross-country twice last year and lived in five cities, including several months in Los Angeles to record new music. I'll be in Spain and Ireland for a month this spring, then I'm planning to buy a home in Florida this winter with my partner. I'd love to hear from you (aisling. peartree@gmail.com). Be in touch!"

There is also lots of new baby excitement for CC'05.

Natasha Shapiro shares, "My husband and I welcomed our third daughter on August 19."

Jennie Magiera (née Cho) writes, "My husband, Jim Magiera, and I welcomed our first child, Lucy MiKyoung Magiera, on August 31."

From Andy Rios: "My wife, Puja Patel Rios, and I welcomed our first son, Matias Bodhi, in June 2018. More recently, I took a new position at Facebook to become an industry manager for the eCommerce vertical."

Daniella Ross shares, "We welcomed our first child this past December and we are smitten!"

2006

Michelle Oh Sing mo2057@columbia.edu

Here are some updates from our classmates — exciting milestones for many!

Meredith Moll (née Humphrey) BUS'12 recently welcomed a daughter with her husband, Tommy Moll LAW'11. She also recently became a partner at Foundation Resource Management, a value-oriented investment management firm based in Little Rock, Ark.

Seth Wainer started a job with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, focused on strategic planning for advanced infrastructure around renewable energy and autonomous vehicles.

Jonathan Ward recently published his first book, *China's Vision* of Victory. It brings together vast amounts of evidence, revealing the full scope and scale of China's global ambitions, and what it means for all of us. It is readable, succinct, meant for a wide American and international audience, and available on Amazon.

Justin Ifill writes, "I had the honor and pleasure of spending three weeks in India this past February for a yoga teacher training. It was amazing and transformative. I am teaching yoga more than ever now in eight locations among Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens, so I hope to catch more CU alumni in class!"

Dan Elkind is busy putting the finishing touches on a documentary history of feminist anarchist Emma

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Goldman. Democracy Disarmed, 1917-1919 is forthcoming, and will be the fourth and final volume of the acclaimed series Emma Goldman: A Documentary History of the American Years, which features Goldman's fight against the Espionage Act of 1917, her imprisonment in Missouri State Penitentiary, the Russian Revolutions, Helen Keller, radical-hunter J. Edgar Hoover and much more, culminating with Goldman's deportation to Soviet Russia in December 1919. Dan is the associate editor for the project, assisting the founding editor, Candace Falk, who (re)wrote the Goldman story in Love, Anarchy, & Emma Goldman: A Biography, being reissued this summer. They hoped to have the book out in time for Goldman's 150th birthday celebration on June 27.

2007

David D. Chait david.donner.chait@gmail.com

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your exciting updates!

Samantha Feingold-Criss writes, "It is with incredible love and joy that my husband, Dr. Jonathan Criss, and I welcomed to the world our beautiful son Hunter Maddox in March. Miles (4) loves his new role as best big bro! Come visit us in Delray Beach, Fla."

Carolyn Braff shares, "I am thrilled to share that my husband and I welcomed our second child to the family on January 11. Emily Sophia Herman joins big brother Graham Robert Herman in proudly wearing the Columbia blue all over Chicago. We look forward to having them both visit campus soon!"

Daniel Simhaee is finishing up his final year of medical training and will begin practicing as a vitreoretinal surgeon in NYC starting in August. The road has been long and arduous, he says, but Daniel is looking forward to putting his skills to use and helping improve and save people's vision.

Kasia Nikhamina and her partner, Ilya, are looking for bright, passionate, hardworking folks to join their team at Redbeard Bikes. Redbeard is a bike fit studio and full-service bike shop in DUMBO, Brooklyn. If you love to get people on bikes, please drop Kasia a line at kasia@redbeardbikes.com.

After spending two years clerking for a federal judge in Miami, **Lauren Zimmerman** has returned to New York City to join Selendy & Gay, an elite litigation firm that is majority owned by women. Among her active cases, Lauren is working on behalf of public servants against a student loan servicer that misled them about their loan forgiveness options.

John Estrada SEAS'07 and Kori Estrada welcomed their son, John Leonardo "Leo," into the world on July 17, 2018. After years of research they are launching their company, RiseWell, a natural oral care company with truly effective ingredients, with the hopes of revolutionizing the products people use at least two times a day. With the help of Kori's brother, Dr. Derek Gatta, they developed a toothpaste formulated with a natural mineral that makes up 90 percent of tooth enamel (hydroxyapatite), which has been an active ingredient in toothpaste in the Japanese market for decades. RiseWell's ingredients are clean and backed by real science.

Kori continues to be the co-CIO at Axon Capital and John is CEO of RiseWell. They reside in NYC and spend the weekends on Long Island's North Fork.

Aditi Sriram shares, "I recently had my first book published and would love to share that with the Columbia community! Beyond the Boulevards: A Short Biography of Pondicherry is a nonfiction book about a coastal city in South India called Pondicherry. I trace the city's historical, cultural and spiritual evolution up to present day, which I access through multiple languages — English, Tamil and French. The book is the latest in a series on Indian cities published by Aleph Book Co., a publisher in New Delhi. You can find details about the book on my website, aditisriram.com/ beyond-the-boulevards.

"Beyond the Boulevards was launched in Pondicherry in February at its annual Heritage Festival. On the 6th, I gave a presentation on the book, and on the 7th, I was part of a discussion about cities with other authors and academics. I was lucky to have my dad and my aunt in the audience — actual Pondicherrians — not to mention some extended family and close friends."

Aditi's book is available online on Amazon U.S. and Amazon India.



Several Columbia soccer alumnae celebrated the U.S. Soccer Foundation's 25th anniversary and U.S. Women's Soccer in Los Angeles on April 8. Left to right: Lexi Nichols '13, Catherine "Cat" Troup '15, Drew Effler '09, Shannon Munoz Kelly '07 and Ashley Mistele '10.

2008

Columbia College Today cct@columbia.edu

CCT thanks **Neda Navab** for being such an amazing class correspondent! She has stepped down, so in the interim, while we search for a new correspondent, *CCT* will handle this column. Please take a moment to send in a note — travel, work, family, favorite Columbia memories, or anything you want to share. We want to hear from you!

2009

Chantee Dempsey chantee.dempsey@gmail.com

Summer is finally here, Class of 2009! I hope you all had an amazing time at our 10th reunion; write to me about what you did and who you saw! And with that, here is our summer update:

David Cooper proposed to his girlfriend, Subrina Moorley, while they were visiting Venice, Italy (she said yes!). They are planning a wedding in Trinidad and Tobago in summer 2021.

Please send your updates so that I can share them in an upcoming issue!

2010

Julia Feldberg Klein juliafeldberg@gmail.com

Congratulations are in order for Benjamin Velez! He shares, "My musical, *Kiss My Aztec*, co-written with John Leguizamo, Tony Taccone and David Kamp, premiered at Berkeley Repertory Theater in May and will be at the La Jolla Playhouse in September! It will be my first professional production since writing the 114th Varsity Show in 2008, and I couldn't be more excited. I'm also getting married to Brice Loustau this September in Bordeaux, France, his hometown!"

Chris Yim writes, "Chris Yim is being."

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell nurielm@gmail.com sean.udell@gmail.com

Happy, happy summer, CC'11! Your physician correspondents hope that the new season is filled with lots of time outside — re-up on that vitamin D! — and minimal annoyance with seasonal allergies. And, yes, you read that correctly: physician correspondentsss. In May, **Sean Udell** graduated from Penn Med and joined **Nuriel Moghavem** in taking the Hippocratic Oath. Now, Sean is a first-year psychiatry resident (aka intern) at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, Nuriel has moved into his third year of his neurology residency at the Stanford Medical Center. He continues to write his quarterly newsletter, *Informed Consent CA*.

In other medical updates, Erin Conway graduated from her ob/gyn residency at St. Barnabas Hospital in June. She is now gainfully employed as an attending physician at an ob/gyn practice in Red Bank, N.J., Riverview Women's Health. Meanwhile, Erin Adams recently finished her second year of medical school at Howard University. There, she is the president of the International Medical Group and teaches sexual education to sixth-grade boys and girls. In a rite of passage for all medical students, she will be taking her first licensing exam (Step 1) this summer; we wish her the best of luck on this important step. After traveling to Peru last summer for a medical mission trip, Erin caught the global health bug. She is planning a trip to Ethiopia, where she will be working at the University of Gondar, providing care to the country's most underserved population.

Some classmates have been working in other, non-medical careers, and that's fine. **Jachele Velez** LAW'17 passed the New York bar! Then she worked for a year at Covington and Burling in Washington, D.C., where she focused on antitrust and sports law. Back in the tri-state area for this year, Jachele is clerking for a federal judge on the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She often catches up with **Shana Yearwood** and Stephanie Grilo '13, PH'18, who are pursuing Ph.D.s at Columbia.

Also pursuing a Ph.D. at Columbia is Jordan Katz GSAS'16, who is studying history and living in New York City. At times, it can seem like a never-ending process for Jordan, but she assumes there's light at the end of the tunnel. This is unconfirmed, however. It's definitely too much time with alma mater, though.

Last October, Jordan married Ian Franzen. The couple met online, so Jordan wanted you to know that sometimes internet dating actually works! **Michal Cohen, Miriam Schachter, Miriam Wiseman, Doug Yolen SEAS'11,** BUS'16; Eric Bressman '10, GS'11; and Chris Jo '10 helped represent Columbia at last fall's matrimony.

Congrats to Jordan and Ian! Melissa Im is back in New York after a long jaunt in Asia (most recently, Singapore). She brought back her husband, David, whom she married in the Willamette Valley (Oregon Wine Country) last summer. Their wedding was featured in Style Me Pretty (see it at bit.ly/2GBWZT9), an industry planning guide and inspiration curator for weddings. The article is incredibly titled "Subtle pops of Cambodian culture, stunning Tuscan-inspired designs and one seriously crazy-in-love couple!"

Congrats to the newlyweds!

Holler at Us in Haiku!



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



Adrian Silver '15 hosted a mini Columbia reunion in Lake Tahoe with several classmates. Shown here, with other guests, are Silver, Gabriel Blanco SEAS '15, Nancy Zhang '15, Malini Nambiar SEAS'15 and Griffin Whitlock '15.

Bracha Waldman TC'15 and Benjamin Waldman GS/JTS'08 welcomed their second child, Theodore Max, in March. Mom, Dad and big brother Samson are all doing well.

Meanwhile, Austin Cohen BUS'16 launched FlexIt at the Consumer Electronics Show earlier this year! FlexIt is the mobile app that quickly and seamlessly enables users to access gyms where and when they want and only pay for the amount of time that they are in the facility. FlexIt is in partnership with more than 400 gyms across the United States and is live in eight markets - New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, Florida, Arizona and Washington, D.C.with another dozen coming in the next few months. You can download FlexIt on iOS and Android platforms in their respective app stores.

Check out flexit.fit for more information, and a huge congrats to Austin for this big next step!

With Dhruv Vasishtha being boring and married these days, we're left ending our column with the nextbest-thing, Kurt Kanazawa. Kurt recently appeared butt-naked (and speaking only Italian) as Galileo Masconi in David Hare's The Judas Kiss at Boston Court Pasadena, which was met with rave reviews in Broadway World and utter confusion elsewhere. Kurt also produced a 90-second web series, Cooking Show, with co-writer David Meyers in May. You can also check out Kurt's latest appearance on broadcast TV as Tad on Grey's Anatomy (bit.ly/2Pt4peo)! After losing his yacht, Tim Nesmith also moved to

Los Angeles, and Kurt is thrilled to finally have a friend again.

It is always such a pleasure to hear about the great things that CC'11 is doing in the world. Continue to keep your correspondents posted, and enjoy the sunshine!

2012

Sarah Chai sarahbchai@gmail.com

Thanks for all the awesome updates, CC'12! Here we go.

We can all keep an eye out for Emily Kwong's stories, which were published on NPR in June. She writes, "The first radio [story] I ever made was at Columbia (WKCR!) and that love affair has only deepened since graduating. In December, I was chosen for an international reporting fellowship by NPR and The John Alexander Project. My story is based in Mongolia, where I was all winter, looking deeply at how climate change is altering rural and urban life.

"Prior to that, I spent four years in Alaska as a public radio journalist at KCAW in Sitka, an island town in the middle of the Tongass National Forest. That small, mighty radio station was a true community hub and creative home to me. I loved my time there. If you're looking for recommendations on Alaskan travel, email me at eka610@ gmail.com. Also, find me on Twitter @emilykwong1234."

Cristina Ramos SOA'23 writes from our old stomping grounds:





"I finished my first year back at Columbia, as an M.F.A. candidate in theater (concentrating in dramaturgy) in the School of the Arts. It's been a trip being back on campus. I especially got a kick out of seeing the new baby freshmen during NSOP week while I was in a very different kind of orientation! If you're in NYC (or close by) and want to stay in the loop about the work I'm doing in the theater, both on campus and off, I'd be happy to add you to my newsletter, which I send roughly two or three times a year. Or check out cristina-ramos.com."

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Chu**, who by the time of this writing will have graduated from medical school! She writes, "While I have enjoyed medical school for the last four years, I am looking forward to graduating in June and am excited to start my residency training in ophthalmology in Queens, N.Y., in July. I am also excited to celebrate the upcoming weddings of my East Campus suitemates **Lisa Lian** DM'18 and **Shalini Thareja** in October!"

Congratulations are also in order for **Chuck Roberts**, who was recently admitted to the Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He is a law clerk to Judge Thomas M. Hardiman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Pittsburgh and has been selected for the 2019 class of the Attorney General's Honors Program at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Last, but certainly not least, Matthew Siegfried shared an exciting update: "In 2018, after purchasing my 100th pair of the Asics Gel-Kayano, I was asked to become the brand's first fashion ambassador, helping to spearhead the company's efforts to edge closer into the world of high men's fashion. It's an exciting opportunity and I look forward to representing Asics in some really cool ways this fall at its physical retail locations across the United Sates."

2013

Tala Akhavan talaakhavan@gmail.com

In March, **Richard Sun** was named to the Next Generation Committee of Family Promise, the national leader addressing the issue of family homelessness. From the press release:

"Founded in Summit, N.J., in 1988, Family Promise comprises more than 200 affiliates in 43 states and engages 200,000 volunteers. The organization's comprehensive model keeps families together and addresses all the issues that contribute to poverty, giving families the skills and tools to succeed independently. The organization serves more than 90,000 individuals each year. ... Recognizing the potential impact younger generations can have in the battle against family homelessness, Family Promise has formed the Next Generation Committee. 'I'm excited to serve on Family Promise's NextGen Committee and help broaden the organization's reach, volunteer base, and impact. Our generation is incredibly active and vocal and can bring great value to this cause,' says Sun.'

I hope that all of you are having an excellent summer. Please take a moment to send in a note!

2014

Rebecca Fattell rsf2121@columbia.edu

Happy spring, everyone! As I write this in April, I am looking forward to seeing you all at our five-year reunion (!) in a few weeks and catching up in person. I look forward to the reunion recap notes classmates will submit for the Fall issue — send them to me at rsf2121@columbia.edu!

2015

Kareem Carryl kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

This year marks four years since we graduated — where did the time go?! As we start to see more graduations, new jobs, engagements and other life happenings, please write to me, or feel free to nominate someone for me to reach out to! We would love to have more stories and photos for our Class Notes! With that said, here's what some of our friends have been up to lately:

Stephen Raynes and Michelle Snyder are engaged to be married and are moving to San Diego for Stephen to begin his Ph.D. in psychology at UC San Diego. They lived on the same John Jay floor their freshman year, when they met and started dating. Thank you, Columbia Housing!

Adrian Silver recently had a mini Columbia reunion in Lake Tahoe with Gabriel Blanco SEAS'15, Nancy Zhang, Malini Nambiar SEAS'15 and Griffin Whitlock.

As always, your classmates want to hear from you. Please be sure to submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the *CCT* Class Notes webform, college.columbia. edu/cct/submit_class_note. Have a great summer!

2016

Lily Liu-Krason lliukrason@gmail.com

Hello, CC'16! What sort of adventures are you getting up to this summer? Write in and share about all the new stuff you're doing. Your classmates want to hear from you!

2017

Carl Yin carl.yin@columbia.edu

Evan Tarrh is releasing his debut EP, *Present*, under the name Luckbox on April 12. It'll be streaming everywhere (Spotify, Apple Music, etc). Artwork is by Elly Rodgers '18.

Keenan Piper writes, "A case report that I first authored, 'Fatal Balamuthia mandrillaris brain infection associated with improper nasal lavage,' which was published in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases, went viral last December/ January. It was first picked up by The Seattle Times and then subsequently nearly all major news networks (CBS, CNN, TIME, People, FOX, etc.). It was a huge shock to me to get such a response. I guess people get really wigged out about brain-eating amoebas! The story ended up being the second-most-read story of The Seattle Times in 2018 and resulted in a formal CDC announcement regarding proper neti pot usage."

Laney McGahey continues to enjoy San Fran life with other Lions, including Auriane Stone, Christine Wang, Matt Piccolella SEAS'17 and Terry Li. Laney left investment banking last fall to pursue her passion for baking. She invites Lions in the Bay Area to drop in for coffee and a pastry at Neighbor Bakehouse if they're in the Dogpatch area.

Ethan Wu adds, "It's been more than two years since graduation, and every day it strikes me that life continues to change in ways that are unexpected. I have quit two jobs and found meaning in friends, family and self, and a new joy in conversation. Life is more than a career — it is the sum total of our experiences, and if the experiences you are not having on a daily basis are meaningful to you, then your sum total will feel unfulfilled. I encourage meeting up with your fellow classmates - I have greatly enjoyed not only reminiscing but talking about growth and futures with people I knew only tangentially during school. Don't be a stranger!"

Madeleine Steinberg recently started a role in business development at Intersection, and lives in Flatiron with Chris McComber and Carl Yin.

2018

Alexander Birkel and Maleeha Chida ab4065@columbia.edu mnc2122@columbia.edu

No news this time, CC'18! Did you attend the one-year reunion? Write in and let us know who you saw and what you did! And keep us up to date on all your summer adventures as well — travel, work, favorite Columbia memories. Anything you want to share, we want to hear!

2019

Emily Gruber Tj Aspen Givens tag2149@columbia.edu eag2169@columbia.edu

CCT congratulates all the members of the Class of 2019 on their graduation from the College! This is *your* magazine, where you can share life updates, recaps of exciting adventures, plans and more! We are happy to welcome **Emily Gruber** and **Tj Aspen Givens** to the role of class correspondent. To share your news in future columns, just email them at either of the addresses at the top of this column. We can't wait to hear from you!



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obituaries

1946

David H. Beyer Sr., retired military officer, Hillsboro, Texas, on April 12, 2018. Born on October 28, 1922, in Portland, Ore., Beyer was the son of John Andrew Conrad and Martha Emily (née Schulze) Beyer. On September 1, 1945, Beyer married Elaine Janice Miller in St. Paul, Minn. They lived in many places while Beyer served in the Air Force, eventually moving to San Antonio, where they raised their children. Beyer was honorably discharged as a lieutenant colonel, and he and his wife lived in Austin for three years, Beaumont for 30 years and finally Hillsboro. He was a member of Christ Lutheran Church. Beyer was predeceased by his sisters Marie Schmeidel, Ruth Courtney and Dorothy Nelson, and a granddaughter, Sherri Solleder. He is survived by his children, Janice C. Solleder, David Jr. and his wife, Carol, Mark, and Nancy Keene and her husband, Gary; sister Carol Deitrick; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Lutheran Church, 915 Corsicana Hwy, Hillsboro, TX 76645.

1948

Frederick R. Messner, retired advertising and marketing communications professional, Woodcliff Lake, N.J., on February 18, 2018. Messner was born on July 1, 1926. He earned both a B.A. and B.S. in chemical engineering from Columbia the same year. Messner served at the VP level for a number of major New York agencies including McCann Erickson and the Poppe Tyson arm of Bozell, Jacobs, Kenyon & Eckhardt. He was a past president of the Business/Professional Advertising Association at the international level, and was voted agency executive of the year by both the New York and New Jersey chapters. Messner was also a member of ASCAP and composed music ranging from pop standards to classical chamber music. In his later years, he employed his significant musical talent teaching piano students of all ages. Messner and his wife, Vye, were frequent theater and concertgoers throughout the greater New York area, and he served on the board of Palisades Virtuosi, a classical music ensemble. He is survived by his children, Steven '73 and his wife, Jill, Lynne, Kenneth GS'87, and Kate and her husband, Stu.

Herman Wouk CC 1934, Prolific Author Known for Epic Wartime Novels

Herman Wouk CC 1934, an author whose sweeping novels won him both popular and critical acclaim — including the Pulitzer Prize for his bestselling shipboard drama, *The Caine Mutiny* — died on May 17, 2019, at his home in Palm Springs, Calif. He was just 10 days shy of his 104th birthday.

Wouk's career ranged from the novel *Aurora Dawn*, a satire about radio admen (1947), to nonfiction such as *This Is My God* (1959) and *The Language God Talks* (2010), to his memoir, *Sailor and Fiddler: Reflections of a 100-Year-Old Author* (2016). More than 30 years after graduating from the College, reflecting on his experience in the essay, "A Doubled Magic," Wouk wrote, "All my writings, such as they are, trace back in one sense or another to my four years at Columbia."

Wouk was born on May 27, 1915, in the Bronx, the middle child of three, to Abraham and Esther (née Levine). At the College, where he majored in comparative literature and philosophy, he studied with Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920, a philosopher whose conservative skepticism temporarily led Wouk away from the Orthodox Judaism in which he was raised. Wouk wrote a humor column for *Spectator*, edited *Jester* and dreamed of a career writing comedy for the Broadway stage. Through a classmate, he found work after graduation as an apprentice radio gag writer, and in 1936 became a staff writer for radio comedian Fred Allen.

Immediately after Pearl Harbor, Wouk enlisted in the Navy, entered midshipman's school and was posted as a radio officer to the U.S.S. Zane. While on board he read Don Quixote, which turned his ambitions from the stage to novel writing. He sent four chapters of Aurora Dawn to Edman, who placed it with Simon & Schuster. The book sold reasonably well, as did his semi-autobiographical novel The City Boy (1948).

With *The Caine Mutiny* (1951), Wouk struck gold. A drama on the high seas leading up to a riveting courtroom scene, it sold more than three million copies in the United States alone, won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1952 and was made into a movie in 1954. Wouk adapted the courtroom scenes into a hit Broadway play, *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial*, also in 1954. He had already made his Broadway debut in 1949 with *The Traitor* and returned to Broadway with *Nature's Way* in 1957.

In the book *Marjorie Morningstar* (1955), the heroine is a middle-class

Jewish girl who dreams of becoming an actress, but learns to settle, happily, for life as a wife and mother. The novel inspired the 1958 film of the same name. Wouk delivered another blockbuster with *Youngblood Hawke* (1962).

By 1958 Wouk had moved to the Virgin Islands, and began planning an epic-scale novel dealing with WWII. In 1964 he moved to Washington, D.C., to do research, and also traveled the world to interview military leaders. In the end he wrote two novels: The Winds of War (1971), which covered the signing of the Nazi-Soviet pact in 1939 to the attack on Pearl Harbor, and War and Remembrance (1978), which carried the story forward through the liberation of the concentration camps and the dropping of the atom bomb. The first TV mini-series installment of The Winds of War, broadcast in 1983, attracted 80 million viewers; War and Remembrance was broadcast in 1988.

After writing the autobiographical novel *Inside*, *Outside* (1985), Wouk applied his epic formula to modern Israel in *The Hope* and *The Glory* (both 1994). A conversation with his brother, Victor, an electrical engineer who had worked on the Manhattan Project, provided Wouk with the subject matter for *A Hole*



in Texas (2004). For his comic novel *The Lawgiver* (2012), Wouk told his tale in a modernized epistolary style, furnishing letters, memos, emails, Twitter posts and text messages written by his characters.

Wouk's wife, the former Betty Sarah Brown, who represented him after founding the BSW Literary Agency in 1979, died in 2011. He was also predeceased by his brother in 2005; sister, Irene Wouk Green, in 2004; and son, Abraham, in 1951. He is survived by his children Iolanthe Woulff and Joseph Wouk '75, LAW'79; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. — Lisa Palladino

1951

Andrew P. Siff, retired attorney, New York City, on September 24, 2018. A 1953 graduate of the Law School, Siff had a general practice that included trust and estates law and entertainment law. He was the longest serving board member in the history of East Side House Settlement. Siff is survived by his wife, Julie; daughter, Maria; son-in-law, Philip Yang Jr.; and two granddaughters. Memorial contributions may be made to East Side House Settlement, 337 Alexander Ave., Bronx, NY 10454.

1953

Gordon G. Henderson, retired, Spencer, W.Va., on April 24, 2018.

Henderson was born in Galetta, Ontario, Canada, on October 19, 1931. At graduation he won the Hardie Scholarship in Greek to York College but chose instead to accept a scholarship to Columbia; he earned a Ph.D. in 1962 from GSAS. Henderson was predeceased by his brothers Lorne, Earl, Clifford and Harold; sister, Dorothy Grummett; and infant daughter, Abigail. In addition to his wife, Mary Ann BC'53, he is survived by his children Eve Bostic and her husband, Jim, Sara Scheuch and her husband, Jonathan, and Martha Bennett and her husband, Joe; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia College Fund, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10025; or college.

columbia.edu/alumni/columbiacollege-fund.

Alfred E. Ward, retired dentist, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on November 26, 2018. The president of his senior class, Ward earned All-Ivy status as a wide receiver and place kicker, setting records for receptions (42) and most consecutive extra points. At the Dental School, from which he earned degrees in 1958 and 1962, he met his wife, Sheila Paquette; she predeceased him after 58 years of marriage. Ward founded four Coach Lou Little football scholarships, and loved opera, sailing, golf, the Giants and everything Columbia. He is survived by his son, Sam '82, and Sam's wife, Beverly; twin daughters, Nicole NRS'87 and Tara, and Tara's husband, Tony; and two grandsons.

1955

Gordon I. Kaye, professor emeritus, former chairman of the board and CEO, Waquoit, Mass., on February 9, 2019. Raised near the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Kaye credited that institution for introducing him to the excitement of laboratory research when he was 7. In 1963, he was named assistant professor in surgical pathology and director of the F. Higginson Cabot Laboratory of Electron Microscopy at Columbia. In 1976, Kaye moved to Albany Medical College as a professor in and chairman of the anatomy department and as a professor of pathology; he retired as the Alden March Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. In 1993, Kaye and a colleague founded WR2, which developed and

Donald L. Keene '42, GSAS'49, Japanese Literature Translator, University Professor Emeritus

Donald L. Keene '42, GSAS'49, a Japanese literature translator whose prodigious academic output helped define the study of the subject, died on February 24, 2019, in Tokyo. He was 96. Keene spent more than 50 years at the University, which opened the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture in 1986.

Born on June 18, 1922, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Keene was a child prodigy. Entering the College on scholarship in 1938 at 16, he studied the classics of Western literature and honed his talent for languages on French and Greek. In 1940, Keene encountered the literature that would define his life: a 49-cent translation of Murasaki Shikibu's The Tale of Genji, an 11th-century story of courtly love affairs and other intrigues, often described as the world's first novel. The translation "was magical, evoking a beautiful and distant world," he wrote in a 2008 memoir of his relationship with Japan. For Keene, who described himself as an "intense pacifist," Murasaki's romance was "a refuge from all I hated in the world around me." Shortly after Pearl Harbor, however, Keene enlisted in the Navy, where he volunteered to

study Japanese and traveled to California to enter the Navy Japanese Language School.

Keene's first work as a translator came in Hawaii, where he worked on military reports captured from Japanese units, and his first visit to the country began on a beach in Okinawa on April 1, 1945, one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific campaign. After the war, Keene returned to Columbia, earning an M.A. and Ph.D. from GSAS in 1947 and 1949, respectively. Keene spent a year as a visiting student at Harvard and five years as a student and lecturer at Cambridge.

In 1953, Keene received a Ford Foundation fellowship to study at Kyoto University. He returned to New York in 1955 to teach at Columbia, where he played a key role in the development of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures into a national standard bearer and taught classes on Japanese literature and cultural history for decades. He was named the Shinchō Professor of Japanese Literature in 1981 and became a University Professor in 1989. Keene retired in 1992 and was named University Professor Emeritus, but taught a graduate seminar every spring for the following two decades; his final class at Columbia, in spring 2011, was widely covered by the Japanese media and commemorated by a public symposium. Columbia awarded him a Litt.D. (Hon.) in 1997.

Keene had translated many of the most important works of Japanese literature into lively and eminently readable English, and his scholarship quickly became the foundation of the study of Japanese literature and culture in the English-speaking world. He published around 25 books in English and many more in Japanese and other languages, ranging from academic studies to personal reminisces. In 1985, Keene became the first non-Japanese to receive the Yomiuri Prize for Literature for literary criticism for his historical survey of Japanese diaries.

Keene decided to become a Japanese citizen in the aftermath of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster that followed a deadly earthquake and tsunami. The next year, he moved to Japan and adopted Uehara Seiki, a traditional shamisen performer and bunraku puppet theater narrator, as



his son and heir. Now known as Seiki Keene, he is Keene's sole survivor.

The Keene Center has established a scholarship fund in Keene's honor. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture, Columbia University, 1140 Amsterdam Ave., 507 Kent Hall, MC 3920, New York, NY 10027, or given online: bit.ly/2XDZaeZ. The center will host a memorial service at Columbia on Friday, September 27. Read more about Keene on the center's website: keenecenter.org/donald_keene.html. — Lisa Palladino



Joseph A. Sirola '51, Actor, Voiceover Artist

Joseph A. Sirola '51, an actor and voiceover artist who played regular roles on TV and the stage but had an even more successful career behind the microphone in hundreds of commercials, died in New York City on February 10, 2019. He was 89.

Sirola acted on Broadway, in small theaters, on TV soap operas and dramas, and in the occasional movie; he even produced on and Off Broadway late in life. But his vocal flexibility made him far richer. In the 1960s he began doing voiceover work and soon found himself in high demand. A 1971 article about Sirola said he could be heard in 40 different commercials at that time and speculated that Americans who listened to the radio or watched TV probably heard his voice every day. He took considerable pride in the vocation, and said in the same interview, "The day is long past when a person who is merely a good announcer can do an effective commercial."

Sirola was born on October 7, 1929, in Carteret, N.J., to Anton and Ana (née Dubrovich); both had emigrated from what is now Croatia. Sirola grew up in New York City and graduated from Stuyvesant in 1947. He earned a business degree from the College.

After service in the Army, Sirola took a job as a sales promotion manager at Kimberly-Clark. When a girlfriend told him, "You're much more than a salesman," he took some courses in the arts at Hunter College, one of which was in acting. His first Off Broadway credit was in 1959 in the play Song for a Certain Midnight, and he made his Broadway debut the next year, playing the proprietor of a bar in *The Unsinkable Molly* Brown. Later Broadway acting credits included Golden Rainbow in 1968 and a revival of Pal Joey in 1976. At the same time, he was getting an increasing amount of TV work, playing roles on '60s and '70 shows like Get Smart, The Man from U.N.C.L.E., Hawaii

Five-O, The Magician and The Montefuscos. In 1989, Sirola played the father of the title character in Wolf.

Sirola was also known for the rooftop garden he kept at his penthouse on the Upper East Side. His roses were legendary: He generally sported one in his lapel when he attended Broadway openings, and each June he hosted a storied "Champagne and Roses" party.

While filming the 1984 TV movie *Terrible Joe Moran*, Sirola found a fellow gardener in the film's star, James Cagney CC 1922. Just a few years ago, Sirola invested \$100,000 in the Off Broadway biographical musical *Cagney*, which he produced and which played more than 500 performances. It wasn't Sirola's first job as a producer; he worked on the Broadway musical *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, which won the Tony for best musical in 2014.

Throughout his performing and producing careers, Sirola continued voiceover work. He was still working



when webisodes arrived: In 2010, in a series of fake mini-documentaries for Volkswagen, he played a fictional codger named Sluggy who was said to have accidentally invented a game of punching someone in the arm any time a VW was spotted.

Sirola is survived by his longtime companion, Claire Gozzo; daughter, Dawn Bales; and three grandchildren. — *Lisa Palladino*

marketed equipment to perform alkaline hydrolysis, the most effective method for the treatment and disposal of infectious biological waste. Alkaline hydrolysis destroys pathogens including the prions that cause mad cow disease, scrapie and Chronic Wasting Disease. A loyal alumnus, Kaye, who earned a master's in 1957 and a Ph.D. in 1961, both from GSAS, was for years an active admissions interviewer. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Nancy GSAS'60; daughters, Jacqueline Kaye Dufresne and her husband, Keith, and Vivienne Kaye West and her husband, Rick; and three grandchildren.

Robert Loring, retired orthodontist, Hopatcong, N.J., on February 25, 2019. Loring (née Lifschutz) was born in 1933 in Brooklyn, N.Y. He completed his doctoral and postdoctoral studies at the Dental School in 1958 and 1963, respectively. While at the College, Loring was a heavyweight oarsman. After dental school, he entered the Army and was stationed at Fort Monroe, Va.; he achieved the rank of captain. After his discharge,

Loring and his wife, Barbara, settled on Staten Island, where Loring established his orthodontics practice, was president of the Staten Island branch of the Alpha Omega dental fraternity, was active in Kiwanis, volunteered in the Staten Island Hospital dental clinic and raised two daughters. Upon retirement, Loring and his wife relocated to their summer home in Hopatcong. He enjoyed attending lectures and traveling, was an avid classic movie buff and science fiction reader, loved boats, automobiles and car racing, and enjoyed building electronics and home construction projects. Loring is survived by his wife of 61 years; daughter Robyn Specthrie and her husband, Leon Specthrie '85, PS'90, daughter Susan Crane '89, LAW'92 and her husband, Hugh Crane '88; and three grandchildren.

1956

Barry M. Beller, retired cardiologist, Santa Fe, N.M., on October 2, 2018. Born in NYC, Beller graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. and P&S (1960). His postdoctoral training in cardiology was at the University of Chicago. Beller served in the Air Force as head of the cardiac catheterization lab at Wilford Hall Medical Facility,



Dr. Barry M. Beller '56

Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas. After teaching at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he returned to San Antonio to help start the University of Texas School of Medicine San Antonio, as head of cardiology, and he held the Freeman Endowed Chair professorship. While in private practice, Beller sat on the boards of the San Antonio Symphony, the Heart Association and the Southwest School of Art in San Antonio, and on the boards of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and Performance Santa Fe. He was one of the founders of KPAC, the 24-hour public classical music station in San Antonio. Beller enjoyed music and art, was a prolific photographer and restored antique autos. He is survived by his wife, Natalie Mayer Beller BC'59; and children, Jonathan '85, GSAS'88, and Valerie, and their families.

Maurice S. Easton, Southport, N.C., formerly of Birmingham, Mich., on October 31, 2018. Born in New York City, Easton loved his family, skiing, tennis and all dogs. He entered with the Class of 1955 and graduated in 1957 with a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Columbia Engineering. Easton is survived by his wife, Cynthia; children, Rachael, and Matthew and his wife, Lauren; twin brother, Stephen '56, and Stephen's wife, Elke; and one grandchild. Robert Markowitz, retired health care administrator and risk management expert, New York City and Kent, Conn., on February 17, 2018. Born in New York City on September 16, 1935, to Lottie and Harry, Markowitz earned an M.S. in 1958 from the School of Public Health and enjoyed an esteemed career at The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Long Island Jewish Medical Center and FOJP Service Corp., and served on the boards of the New York Organ Donor Network and New York Blood Center. He and his wife, Susan Forbes Markowitz, spent time in New York City and Kent, Conn. After retirement, they spent most of their time in Kent, where Markowitz volunteered at the town library, photographed special events and mentored entrepreneurs at SCORE. He was an athlete and sports fan, and a New York Times crossword enthusiast. Markowitz is survived by his wife of 23 years; daughters, Randi Udelson and her husband, Don, Julie Abod and her husband, Cornell, and Lisa Markowitz and her husband, George Carson; four grandchildren; brothers Gene Martin and Jerry Markowitz; and former spouse, Robin Pollack (née Elsen), mother of his daughters. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kent Memorial Library (kent memoriallibrary.org) or the New York Organ Donor Network (liveonny.org).

1957

George H. Betts, retired farmer and social worker, Worcester, N.Y.,

Obituary Submission Guidelines

Columbia College Today welcomes obituaries for College alumni. Deaths are noted in the next available issue in the "Other Deaths Reported" box. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that *CCT* receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at the editors' discretion. Click "Contact Us" at college. columbia.edu/cct, or mail materials to Obituaries Editor, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th FI. New York NY 10025 on October 2, 2018. Born on June 30, 1934, in Highland Park, Ill., Betts met his future wife, Regina, while both worked in the theater in New York City, where they had their four children before moving upstate in 1971. A 1969 alumnus of the



George H. Betts '57

School of Social Work, Betts was a dedicated civil rights activist and social worker. He was a member of the NAACP and Temple Beth El in Oneonta, N.Y., until his death. He also became a sheep farmer soon after moving to Worcester in 1984. Shown in the above photo are Betts with his son Christopher '84 and grandson Joseph '15 at Joseph's graduation.

1958

Joseph Geller, retired physician, East Patchogue, N.Y., on September 24, 2018. Geller was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1936. He was 16 and his wife, Edyie, was 14 when they met at John Adams H.S. in Queens, where Geller was valedictorian of the Class of 1954. At Columbia, Geller was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He and Edyie were married in 1961 and he graduated from the NYU School of Medicine in 1962. Geller was a captain in the Air Force 1963–65, stationed in Bangor, Maine. After



Dr. Joseph Geller '58

his honorable discharge, the family settled in East Patchogue. Geller was a partner in the Patchogue Medical Group, 1965–2001, from which he retired. A dedicated, passionate and patient-centered family physician who until retirement continued to make house calls, Geller and his wife delighted in worldwide travel after he retired, visiting every U.S. state and every continent. They celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in August 2018 during a family tour of Italy. Geller is survived by his wife; children and their spouses, Mitch and Mary, Pam and Steve, Robin and Brian, and Gregg and Debra; and six grandchildren.

1959

Maurice R. "Rudy" Brody, physician, La Canada Flintridge, Calif., on January 6, 2019. Brody grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., playing stickball in the streets with classmates from P.S. 181 and walking to Ebbets Field to see the Brooklyn Dodgers. After graduating from Poly Prep, he excelled at the College and the NYU School of Medicine. Brody did a pediatric internship at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, but returned to New York for his residency at Bellevue Hospital. It was there that he met an occupational therapist, Jill; they were married in March 1966. Although Brody was passionate about his work, his true love was for his family. He and his wife moved to La Canada in 1971 with their young sons. Brody is survived by his wife of almost 53 years; son Steve and his wife, Melanie, son Jon and his wife, Holly; and three grandchildren.

1965

Costas "Gus" Hercules, psychiatrist, Rapid City, S.D., on January 21, 2019. Hercules was born on March 28, 1944, in New York City to Nick and Hope (née Menicon) Hercules. He graduated from Bronx Science, and later the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. After earning an M.D., Hercules completed his medical residency and became a boardcertified psychiatrist. He moved to the Black Hills of South Dakota in 1973, started a private psychiatric practice and served the greater Rapid City area for decades. In his book, Selfishians, Otherishites and Fairishers: A Guide to Harmonious Relationships, Hercules provided the tools and guidance necessary for restructuring unfair and hurtful relationships. He was playfully, but appropriately, dubbed "Costas, the Greek God of Harmonious Relationships." Hercules is survived by his sister, Thea Hercules Geotas; nephew, Jordan Geotas and his wife, Christyann; and their daughters. He was predeceased by his parents; sister, Anna Hercules; and nephew Eric Hercules Geotas.

Peter Mound, attorney, Santee, Calif., on November 3, 2018. Raised in New York City, Mound graduated from the Trinity School and Cornell Law School. He practiced law with the New York City Corporate Council Office until the 1990s, when he moved to California for private practice.

Michael R. Sesit, retired journalist, New York City, on January 24, 2019. A native New Yorker, Sesit was a second-generation Columbian, following his father, Myron Sesit CC 1927, and like his father, played football for Columbia. After earning a master's in modern European history from NYU, Sesit returned to Columbia to briefly work in the Provost's Office before beginning a long career in journalism. He worked for Businessweek, The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg, covering international finance in New York, London and Paris. Coworkers knew him as a dogged and dedicated journalist, a loyal colleague and an ardent sports fan (still following the Lions), as well as an accomplished military historian who never missed a chance to sneak in a sports or military analogy. Survivors include his wife, Susan Blackwell. Sesit had battled Parkinson's disease for nearly 20 years; memorial contributions may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation.

1967

Christopher P. Kirk, Cambridge, Mass., on October 31, 2018. Kirk was born on January 24, 1945, and grew up in Seattle. He earned an M.F.A. from Washington University. Kirk is survived by his wife, Karen Dorn; and sister, Hannah. He was predeceased by a son, Spencer, and an uncle, B. Kirk.

1968

Ronald M. Pristin, IT professional, New York City, on October 27, 2018. Pristin was born in 1947 in New York City and spent his entire life on the Upper West Side. His Columbia friends knew him for his commitment to moral causes, including human rights and civil liberties. Pristin taught elementary school for many years before becoming a successful IT professional in both the financial and public sectors. He was a lover of music, photography, film and the New York Mets. He will be remembered first and foremost for his sense of humor and his love and devotion to his family. Pristin was married to Pauline Lee-Pristin for 42 years. She survives him, as do his children, David and Steven; daughters-in-law, Catherine and Jazmyne; and two grandchildren. Pristin was predeceased by his parents, Irving and Sina, both Holocaust survivors. Memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (themmrf.org).

1971

Eugene "Gene" J. Kisluk Jr., independent appraiser of books and manuscripts, New York City, on November 19, 2018. Born in Poland, Kisluk went to New Britain, Conn., in 1961 and graduated from New Britain H.S. He earned both a master's and a Ph.D. in history, in 1977 and 1991, respectively, from GSAS. Kisluk's dissertation, Brothers from the North: The Polish Democratic Society and the European Revolutions of 1848-1849, was published in 2005. Kisluk was known for his facility in languages and his evaluation of books and autographs, as well as the personal papers of important 20th century literary and political figures. Among his more celebrated projects was the appraisal of a trove of letters written by Pope John Paul II, which became the subject of a BBC/ PBS documentary in 2016. Many knew Kisluk as an erudite man,



Eugene "Gene" J. Kisluk Jr. '71

with a gift for engaging people on countless subjects. He was a devoted husband and father, coaching his son Eugene's soccer team and never missing an event in which his son participated. His son survives him, as does his wife, Daniëlle Grosheide. Memorial contributions may be made to the New York Public Library (nypl.org/kisluk).

Paul J. Kulkosky, retired professor of psychology, Butte, Mont., on January 20, 2019. Kulkosky was born in Newark, N.J., on March 3, 1949, and attended St. Cecilia Elementary and Saint Peter's Preparatory in Newark. He earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1972 and a Ph.D. in 1975 from the University of Washington, Seattle, where he met his future wife, Butte native Tanya Weightman. They married in 1978. Kulkosky was a past president of the Rocky Mountain Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. After 35 years of science and university teaching, Kulkowsky and his wife left Colorado State and Pueblo to retire in Butte. They enjoyed traveling, camping and hiking, and loved New York City but also Montana cowboys, thanks to their family friend Roy Delmoe. Kulkosky is survived by his wife; mother-in-law, Gracie Gillette; brothers and sisters-in-law, Chris and Mary Anne Kulkosky and Peter and Elaine Kulkosky and their sons, Mark Kulkosky and Steven Stein; uncle, Ed; cousins, Victor, Daniel, Michael, Gregory, Lucy Leonetti Pipitone and Dominic Leonetti; brother-in-law, Kerry Weightman, and sister-in-law, Rita Casagranda Weightman, and their children, Cassie Weightman Wick and her husband, Jon, and Ryan Weightman. — Lisa Palladino

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that *CCT* receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear.

- 1936 Solomon Fisher, retired attorney, Pleasant Hill, Calif. on March 26, 2019.
- 1941 Arthur D. Taplinger, retired engineer, Fort Lee, N.J., on February 12, 2019.
- 1945 George T. "Ted" Wright, professor emeritus, Louisville, Ky., on May 1, 2019.
- 1946 Herbert M. Hendin, physician and expert on suicide, New York City, on February 7, 2019.

Baruch S. "Barry" Jacobson, retired professor, Wynnewood, Pa., on February 29, 2019.

- 1947 William Citterbart Jr., Melville, N.Y., on August 30, 2017.
- 1949 **Dominic P. Purpura**, physician, professor, researcher and academic administrator, New York City, on May 16, 2019.
- 1951 Arthur S. Verdesca, retired physician and corporate medical director, Morristown, N.J., on August 11, 2018.
- 1955 **Ronald P. McPhee**, retired insurance executive, Somers, N.Y., on June 25, 2018.

Neil D. Opdyke, geologist and professor emeritus, Gainesville, Fa., on April 7, 2019.

- 1956 Robert Cabat, retired educator, Staten Island, N.Y., on June 5, 2019.
- 1957 Anthony I. Antonio Jr., retired chemical engineer, Christiansburg, Va., on March 28, 2019.
- 1960 Paul M. Wolsk, retired attorney, New York City, on March 2, 2019.
- 1961 Norman A. Kurnit, physicist, Santa Fe, N.M., on February 6, 2019.
- 1967 **Robert G. Segel,** retired investments executive, Key Biscayne, Fla., on September 6, 2017.
- 1969 Ronald J. Dronzek, financial advisor, New York City, on March 18, 2019.

Roy S. Feldman, retired professor of dentistry, Jamison, Pa., on March 8, 2019.

Ronald R. Rosenblatt, retired financial executive, West Des Moines, Iowa, on February 24, 2019.

- 1973 Zachary C. Husser, community activist and college prep counselor, Hackensack, N.J., on October 29, 2018.
- 1999 **Tokunboh S. Rose,** physician, Charlotte, N.C., on June 9, 2019.
- 2006 Brian J. Creeden, San Francisco, on August 21, 2016.

the*last* word

Getting Even with Mark Van Doren

By Joe Wisnovsky '61

uch has been written, in CCT and elsewhere, about the deservedly Lionized teacher, scholar and poet Mark Van Doren. Here's a recollection of an unusual encounter I had with him near the end of his long and distinguished career on Morningside Heights. After nearly 40 years as a member of the English faculty, Professor Van Doren (who received his Ph.D. from Columbia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 1920) finally taught his last course a perennial student favorite titled "The Narrative Art"—in fall 1959. The curriculum was simple: We met in class once a week, at which time Van Doren would return the previous week's graded homework, give a lecture on that week's reading and introduce the next week's reading. The assignments encompassed a range of cultures, periods, formats and lengths. Most were entire books. What they had in common was that they were all forms of storytelling he held in especially high esteem. In general, the assignments proceeded in chronological order, from antiquity to the 20th century.

One of our first readings that year was a biblical excerpt, from the Book of Kings, featuring the story of King David and his son Absalom, wherein it is written that the father, lamenting the murder of his son by Joab's henchmen, memorably exclaimed: "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" [2 Samuel: 19:4].

Our assignment was to write something, anything, of any length or style — essay, poem, critique, parody, etc. — inspired by this reading, and to hand it in by the start of the next class, a week later.

I regret to say that whatever I wrote in response to this assignment has long since been lost and forgotten. When the time came for our graded work to be returned, however, I was surprised to find that my paper was missing, as were those of several others in the class. Van Doren then explained that, owing to a spate of suspiciously slick course papers recently submitted by Columbia undergrads, he and other department members were taking special pains to make sure that such works were not being produced and sold to students by professional ghostwriters. Accordingly, he added, students whose papers were not returned should make an appointment to meet with him in his office at our earliest convenience to discuss the matter.

More bemused than upset, I dutifully made my appointment for a few days hence and went back to my studies, which included my reading of the next assignment in the course: *The Castle*, by Franz Kafka.

On the appointed day, I made my way to Van Doren's office in Hamilton Hall and introduced myself as one of the presumed culprits. He greeted me noncommittally and gestured for me to sit down opposite him. He then looked me straight in the eye and asked, point blank: "Did you write this paper by yourself?" "Yes, I did," I replied. Whereupon, with no further ado, he said, in words I'll never forget: "Well, I guess I'll have to take your word for it." As I walked out the door and back down the long, empty hallway, I became more upset than bemused. Was that it? No small talk about this or that? Not a hint of praise about my paper, however faint? Before long, my upset turned to anger, and I began to think about what I might do to return the favor.

And then it hit me: K.! I was just like K., the hapless protagonist in *The Castle*, which I had just finished reading. As I descended the steps of Hamilton Hall and crossed Van Am Quad, a devious scheme began to form in my mind. Like K., I had just met with an inscrutable denizen of a castle of sorts, the epitome of unresponsive, unaccountable authority, and I had been brushed aside like a fly! Before, I was just reading about the evils of an arbitrary, soul-stifling bureaucracy. Now, I was confronting it myself — complete with the crushing punchline: "Well, I guess I'll have to take your word for it."

I made straight for Butler Library, settled down in the main reading room, took out my yellow legal pad and started scribbling.

As I descended the steps of Hamilton Hall and crossed Van Am Quad, a devious scheme began to form in my mind.

By the time I stood up, late that evening, my screed completed, I felt much better, relieved of my anger and, I must confess, a bit giddy about what I had done. I turned in my wickedly barbed parody, mimicking K.'s humiliating ordeal, shortly thereafter and looked forward nervously to its effect.

When Van Doren arrived for the next class, he took a bunch of papers out of his briefcase and, as always, spread them out on the table in front of the lectern, for students to pick up after class. Then he did something astonishing. He announced that he owed someone in the room an apology. Referring to the issue of supposed ghostwriting, he explained that in explain for his poor judgment, he would now read aloud a falsely suspected student's paper on *The Castle* to the class, in full, which he did.

At the end of the class, I retrieved my paper, smiled at the brief, red-penciled comment at the top — "Revenge well taken!" — and left the room, beaming.

A great man, and then some — a real mensch.

Joe Wisnovsky'61 worked for more than 50 years as a science writer and editor for various publishers, including Scientific American, W.W. Norton & Co., Princeton University Press, and Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

My interdisciplinary experience was my first outside of the U.S. and only possible because of College Fund support.

This summer was both personally and professionally transformative, giving me insight into who I am and what I hope to accomplish with my environmental science degree.

- Grant Pace CC'20

Gifts to the Columbia College Fund support internship stipends for College students, allowing Grant to spend his summer at the Runa Foundation in Tena, Ecuador.

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